



THE  
N'WEST  
TENNESSEE

# VOLUNTEER

JANUARY 2021



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## Corteva Agriscience donates \$35,000 worth of retired drones to UT Martin

MARTIN, Tenn. – Corteva Agriscience, of Union City, donated 35 retired drones, valued at approximately \$35,000, to the University of Tennessee at Martin to supplement three new courses premiering fall 2021 that will teach students the fundamentals of unmanned aerial systems and its emerging importance in the field of agriculture and natural resources management.

Dr. Philip Smartt, professor of natural resources management and certified unmanned aerial systems pilot, will instruct the new courses and is excited to teach students how to utilize the drones in a protected, hands-on environment. Smartt will teach students the fundamentals and operations of flying drones, how to maintain and repair the equipment, as well as prepare them for the FAA pilot certification exam.

“This is a real significant gift to be able to have drones we can utilize,” said Smartt. “We are really as a society just starting to use this technology. There are a lot of opportunities in ag and natural resources, and especially in the field of agriculture; the opportunities are incredible. I think there is going to be a lot of demand for (drone technology) in the future.”

Smartt fully expects drones and unmanned aerial systems to become important aspects of agriculture to benefit the environment and economy. Of their many uses, the drones will primarily

be used on the UT Martin Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources Teaching Complex to take photos of the fields in order to analyze and improve crop production.

“We talk a lot about giving our students tools for their toolbox so that when they go out, they’re going to be decision-makers, they’re going to be managers. We’re wanting them to be able to go into the workforce and be leaders, so this is something that they are going to need to know,” said Smartt. “What the drone does for us, it helps us to have what is called actionable data. It allows us to have information that we can make decisions with that is cheaper and quicker.”

The fleet of drones is comprised of fully functional drones, as well as inoperable units that can be used for spare parts to repair the working drones.

“In keeping with the spirit of UT Martin, we’re all about experiential learning, and without this donation, we couldn’t afford to buy units in order to let the class tinker with (the drones),” said Dr. Sandy Mehlhorn, professor of agricultural engineering. “This donation is huge, and we appreciate it very much.”

The donation was spearheaded by Corteva Agriscience employee and UT Martin alumnus Harlin Wilkin who graduated from the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences in 2011.

For more information about the drone donation, contact Smartt at psmartt@utm.edu



Discovery Park, Union City, TN

Website photo

## Discovery Park announces exhibits and events for 2021

“Children free in January” returns

Union City, Tenn.— Discovery Park of America has announced plans for 2021. While the year will be very different than it would have been without the challenges brought on by COVID-19, the organization continues to implement tactics that allow it to enthusiastically continue its mission of inspiring children and adults to see beyond.

One popular opportunity that will return in 2021 is free admission for children 17 and under for the month of January, thanks to the generosity of our annual gallery sponsors ATA Accounting Firm, Magnolia Place Assisted Living, Simmons Bank and Southern Machinery Repair.

The most recent addition to Discovery Park, “AgriCulture: Innovating for Our Survival,” opened Dec. 5, 2020 and is located in the Simmons Bank Ag Center. This one-million-dollar permanent exhibit tells the story of farming innovation in the past, present—and especially—future. Guests experience how food, fuel and fiber get from the farm to the family as they learn about the role of innovation in the field of international agriculture today.

There will be several temporary exhibits in 2021. “Southern Artist Showcase: The Caldwell Collection, Works by Southern Self-taught Artists” can be seen March 4 through Sept. 27.

The exhibit showcases some of the art from the collection of the West Tennessee Regional Art Center. Included will be works of art by Jimmy Lee Sudduth, Helen La France and Sulton Rogers. “Self-taught Southern artists have in common a powerful belief that they simply are artists. Most seem driven to express themselves visually. Some work within established traditions, while many others create their own distinct art forms,” said Bill Hickerson, executive director of the center.

“40 Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World” will be on display July 21 through Sept. 6. This powerful exhibit features 40 photographs by philanthropist and farmer Howard G. Buffett that document the world hunger crisis. Traveling to more than 137 countries, Buffett turned his camera lens on the powerful forces that fuel hunger and poverty. Buffett believes that each of us has about 40 chances to accomplish our life goals, just as farmers have about 40 growing seasons to improve their harvests.

“The Fascinating World of Murray Hudson’s Globes and Maps” opens on Dec. 2, 2021 and will be on display through March 1, 2022. It features globes and maps on loan from Murray Hudson’s collection of more than 40,000 objects. He has collected for many years and currently

owns and operates Murray Hudson Antique Maps, Globes, Books, & Prints in Halls, Tenn. The exhibit will include examples of vintage globes and maps from different eras that reflect what the world was like at the point in time in history when they were produced.

While some of the live concert events and indoor programs are postponed until they can be held safely, a number of events that can be held while adhering to recommended health and safety guidelines remain on the calendar.

“The leadership team of Discovery Park takes very seriously the challenge of providing a safe experience for our guests who come to northwest Tennessee from literally around the world,” said Scott Williams, Discovery Park’s president and CEO. “Although the schedule looks a little different than in previous years, we’re excited about the exhibits and events we are able to host in 2021.”

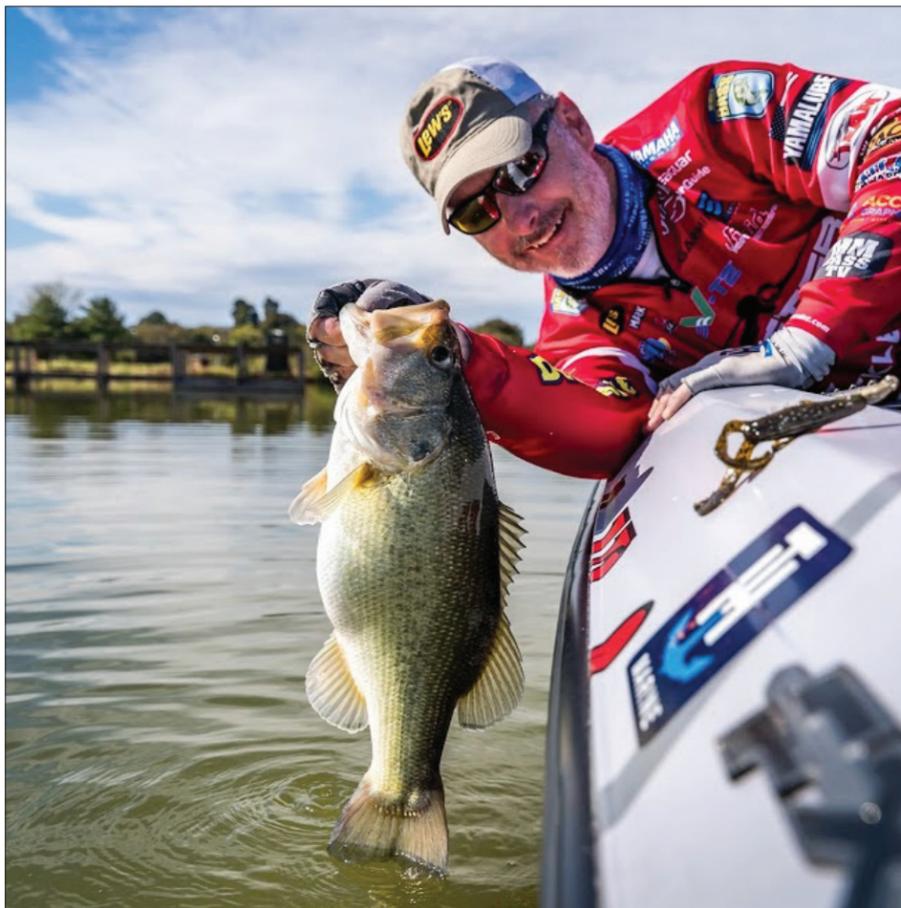
The events at Discovery Park in 2021 will take full advantage of the 50-acre heritage park and 100,000-square-foot museum that provide plenty of room for social distancing. One popular display, “Pumpkin Village,” will return in 2021 throughout the month of October and

see PARK page 4



Corteva Agriscience donated 35 drones to the University of Tennessee at Martin. Pictured (l-r) are Dr. Philip Smartt, professor of natural resources management; Dr. Sandy Mehlhorn, professor of agricultural engineering; and Harlin Wilkin, Corteva employee and UT Martin alumnus.

Photo submitted



Mark Menendez doing what he does best, catching fish.

Photo submitted

## Hometown Pro Fisherman Mark Menendez joins Paducah Open Season Sportsman's Expo

PADUCAH, Ky. — Mark Menendez will bring a hometown feel to the Paducah Open Season Sportsman's Expo, January 15-17 at the Paducah-McCracken County Convention & Expo Center in Paducah, Ky.

The Paducah native has spent the majority of his career as a Pro Fisherman, travelling the country for tournaments. Menendez, who is a three-time Bassmaster Champion, will share insight on bass fishing and his career on the Pro Tour. He will also educate show attendees on crankbaits through water temperature.

Menendez has career earnings of more than \$1 million, along with success in individual tournaments and season-long point standings, a testament to his passion and skill for competition. The 47-year-old is a fan favorite wherever he goes, thanks in large part to always being accessible to fans and interacting with them.

"This is such a great event for Sportsman to attend," said Menendez. "Hunting season is winding down for some, while fishing is just around the corner. Getting the family out to the show

is fun for all. As part of the Seminar Series, it is my hopes to extend 30 years of Bassmaster experience to help anglers catch more Bass."

While he thrives on the competition, Menendez has also worked diligently to remain available for public appearances, big and small, alike. He makes sure to always have time for outdoor writers, photographers, as well as radio and television hosts. That effort leads to Menendez and his sponsors being visible to millions of consumers each year.

Menendez will part of fishing demos taking place at the Hawg Tank as part of the Seminar Series. He will make one appearance on Friday, January 15, three visits to the Hawg Tank on Saturday, January 16 and one visit on Sunday, January 17.

Attendees can save money, expedite show entry and enjoy a contactless transaction by purchasing advance tickets online at [www.OpenSeasonSportsmansexpo.com](http://www.OpenSeasonSportsmansexpo.com).

New this year, Open Season Sportsman's Expo Merchandise is also available for purchase online when buying tickets or on-

site at the Expo. All online orders MUST be picked up at the Expo.

Please Note: In an effort to ensure that the Kentucky Open Season Sportsman's Expo provides both a safe and enjoyable environment for all our guests, participants, sponsors/exhibitors, partners, building and event staff and the local community, a specific set of guidelines have been mandated by the State of Kentucky, McCracken County and the Paducah-McCracken County Convention & Expo Center.

These guidelines will be enforced throughout the event and cooperation from Open Season Sportsman's Expo vendors and attendees is paramount to ensuring that the event is able to continue as planned. All guests will be required to have a face mask to enter the venue. All guests will be required to wear face masks at all times while walking around the show. All guests must practice social distancing.

The Kentucky Open Season Sportsman's Expo in Paducah is sponsored by Hutson Inc. and Little Tractor and Equipment Company.

## An evening with Travis Tritt coming to Owensboro Sportscenter

Owensboro, KY – Spectra, the providers of Venue Management to the Owensboro Sportscenter, are excited to announce CMA and Grammy award winning country artist, Travis Tritt will perform on Saturday, February 13 at 8PM.

Enjoy a special evening featuring the multi-platinum artist in an intimate solo-acoustic setting performing some of his biggest hits, including "T-R-O-U-B-L-E," "It's A Great Day to Be Alive," and "Best of Intentions." The Grand Ole Opry member will also share personal stories and anecdotes about his life and musical influences. It's a perfect date for Valentine's Day!

Tickets start at \$49 and will go on sale on Friday, January 15 at 10am. Event parking will be \$10 in the Owensboro Sportscenter parking lot. Tickets and parking passes will be available online at [OwensboroTickets.com](http://OwensboroTickets.com) or at the Owensboro Convention Center Box Office. Additional processing fees apply to all ticket sales.

Attendees will need to stay in their seats unless using the restroom or purchasing merchandise or food/beverage.

Masks or facial coverings are required unless eating and drinking while in your seat.

Hand sanitizing stations will be located throughout the venue.

Capacity has been reduced to allow for social distancing.

Seating has been assigned in groups

of 1,2,3,4,5, or 6 seats. Each group must be purchased in its entirety.

Social Distancing lines will be marked for concessions, ticketing, and merchandise.

Doors will open 1.5 hours prior to show to allow for more time to get in and find your seats.

Pre-Event emails will be sent out closer to concert date with further instructions on more safety protocols on entering/exiting the building.

*More About Travis Tritt*

More than 25-years after Travis Tritt launched his music career, he continues to sell-out shows, top sales charts and stay true and relevant to Country music fans across the globe. On the heels of sold-out shows throughout his solo acoustic tour and amid a heavy tour schedule that takes Tritt and his band across the country to play for packed out crowds, the Southern-rock influenced Country artist topped the SoundScan Top 200 Catalog Country Albums chart for multiple weeks.

A Marietta, GA native, Travis Tritt is dubbed one of "The Class of '89," which included Country music superstars Garth Brooks, Clint Black and Alan Jackson; all of whom dominated the charts in the early '90s. Among his eleven studio albums and numerous charted singles are nineteen Top 10 hits, including "Modern Day Bonnie and Clyde," "Love Of A Woman," and "T-R-O-U-B-L-E." His

twenty-five year career has produced millions in album sales, two Grammy award wins and multiple No. 1 singles on the Country radio charts. For more information on Travis Tritt, visit his website [TravisTritt.com](http://TravisTritt.com) and follow him on Twitter and Facebook.

*About the Owensboro Sportscenter*

The Owensboro Sportscenter, one of the city's most historic buildings, opened in 1949. It is a multi-purpose 5,000 seat arena that hosts graduations, concerts, sporting events, trade shows, meetings, and receptions. The Owensboro Sportscenter is home to the Owensboro Thoroughbreds of the TBL (The Basketball League), Division II Kentucky Wesleyan College Panthers Men's and Women's Basketball of the Great Midwest Athletic Conference, and the Owensboro Catholic High School Aces Basketball. Learn more at [OwensboroSportscenter.com](http://OwensboroSportscenter.com).

*About Spectra*

Spectra is an industry leader in hosting and entertainment, partnering with clients to create memorable experiences for millions of visitors every year. Spectra's unmatched blend of integrated services delivers incremental value for clients through several primary areas of expertise: Venue Management, Food Services & Hospitality, and Partnerships. Learn more at [SpectraExperiences.com](http://SpectraExperiences.com).



Country music legend Travis Tritt.

ticketmaster.com photo

## AGRICULTURE

## With no successor to till the land, farms days are numbered

By KRIS B. MAMULA  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

ROCHESTER, Pa. (AP) — Ten years of planning, ten years of want ads and hope and worry ended one day in October when Don Kretschmann realized it wasn't going to work; no one was going to step in.

This was going to be the last harvest at Kretschmann Family Organic Farm.

Come spring, the Beaver County farm will be idle for the first time since he first turned the soil there in the spring of 1979. Mr. Kretschmann is retiring after failing to find someone to take over his 80-acre operation.

"I just thought somebody would come," the 71-year-old self-taught farmer said. "Nothing worked out there — unless some miracle happens."

The inability to find a successor surprised him. He was offering a turnkey operation, an opportunity for an entrepreneurial farmer to simply start growing and harvesting by leasing the land. Access to land is the biggest barrier for beginning farmers along with the cost of equipment — which Mr. Kretschmann also offered for lease along with his house.

His only requirement is that the land be farmed organically.

"We ran lots of ads" in agricultural publications, he said. Maine, New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, Minnesota, Iowa, California. "We went all over."

A woman from Santa Fe was interested but wasn't suited to the rigors of farm work. A Kretschmann neighbor expressed interest, but later backed out. And the guy from Ithaca, New York, sounded promising, toured the farm and Downtown Pittsburgh — but later said he didn't want to leave his extended family.

"A couple of times he was so close," said Hannah Smith-Brubaker, executive director of the Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture, a Harrisburg-based trade group, who has known Don and his wife Becky, 73, for years. "It's very sad. It's such an important farm and he's been a mentor to so many farmers."

And there's money in organics.

Direct-to-consumer farm sales is a \$439 million industry in Pennsylvania, according to PASA. In a U.S. Department of Agriculture study, organic food products generally commanded a premium exceeding 20% over conventionally grown vegetables. And the popularity of organics continues to grow.

"There's really a great future in organic farming," said Carolyn

Dimitri, associate professor of food studies at New York University. "I'm surprised they weren't able to find people to take over that farm. A farm like that could have so much potential."

### CORN AND TOMATOES. AND CABBAGE.

Potential was on Mr. Kretschmann's mind when he met his future wife, a native of Arnold, Westmoreland County, and University of Pittsburgh graduate, at a greenhouse in Latrobe where she worked in the 1970s.

By then, Mr. Kretschmann, a New York City native had graduated with a degree in psychology from St. Vincent College in Latrobe after switching his major from physics. The switch came after he worried that studying physics could lead to a career in "military defense systems," Mr. Kretschmann said.

The owner of that Latrobe greenhouse had some advice that proved prescient: "You could make a living growing corn and tomatoes."

The young couple took his advice. "We rented a farm — and started growing corn and tomatoes."

They began farming organically in 1971 on leased acreage in Latrobe and Greensburg and were married in 1974, about the time that farm markets were regaining popularity. The Kretschmanns also sold vegetables to Strip District vendors, restaurants and the supermarket chain Giant Eagle.

Organic farmers rely on natural substances and insect repellents to grow vegetables. A preferred soil fortifier at the Kretschmann Farm is processed feather meal — chicken feathers.

In December 1978, they bought the first parcel of land on Ziegler Road in New Sewickley Township in what would become the Kretschmann farm, which includes a pond for irrigation and solar panels along the road out front.

By the 1990s, the idea of consumers making down payments early in the growing season for produce that would be harvested and delivered later was getting traction. The couple bought into the community-supported-agriculture idea early, becoming among the first farms in Pennsylvania to be certified organic and starting what was among the first direct-to-consumer sales operations in the state, farming experts said.

### COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

The Kretschmanns began by selling shares in their harvest in 1993



with 85 people who signed up for vegetable-filled boxes ranging between \$12 and \$18. The summer of his first year — which brought a dry spell with only 1/2 inch rain falling in five weeks by mid-August — Mr. Kretschmann wrote a note to his customers.

"I might bring a little discussion of what is Community Supported Agriculture," he wrote in a newsletter. "It's what we're doing. It started with the realization that we all need one another."

He told them he would be digging the remainder of the early potatoes within a week and that he would soon have fresh oregano, thyme, chives and spearmint. "Later, I'll have dill and cilantro. We also have peppers and tomatillos," he wrote, with produce deliveries matching whatever was being harvested.

By the second year, the Kretschmanns had 185 customers and eventually the farm would serve 1,000 customers in the greater Pittsburgh area — from Moon to Zelienople to Bridgeville, Baldwin and Gibsonia. The prices for the last season ranged between \$20 and \$30 a week.

Buoyed by the early success, the Kretschmanns quit selling at farm markets in the early 2000s and shifted the business completely to the CSA. Supermarkets began catching up by then, too, sprucing up produce aisles and adding organic and locally grown products that consumers increasingly wanted.

Long hours and studying organic farming methods in books made the Kretschmanns successful. But there were also failures: fava beans, edamame, shell beans, artichokes, peaches, plums, cherries — none worked out.

Organic produce had gone mainstream by 2006 when retailing giant Walmart began expanding its line of organic vegetables. Instead of cutting into Kretschmanns' business, the rise of supermarket organics only made the farm's delivered vegetables more popular, he said.

### 'BEST ALL SEASON'

The last harvest at the Kretschmann farm began as a brisk November wind raked fields of ripe cabbage, kale and lush rows of feathery dill.

Helping the farmer in the fields were his nephew, Hans Kretschmann, and three Mexican brothers, the second generation of a family to work Kretschmanns' land.

Look at that dill, Mr. Kretschmann marveled, whistling under his breath and cutting hand-sized bundles with a knife. It's the "best all season," he said.

Kale, too, was plentiful, with deep green leaves quivering in a cold wind. "Wow, that's beautiful," Mr. Kretschmann said. "It may be the grace of the final year."

Hans Kretschmann, 35, was among family members who considered taking over the farm along with the couple's three daughters. For different reasons, none of them worked out, although daughter Maria Kretschmann will continue tending the apple orchard after the farm closes.

The vegetables that will be planted will just be for family use.

Harvesting organic apples from the orchard, Maria began brewing hard cider for retail sale last year. Her cider, called After the Fall, features a label with a woman atop a ladder reaching precariously for an apple on a tree, a label she said was intended to allow multiple interpretations.

Her plans include converting part of a barn basement into a tasting room, but the COVID-19 pandemic popped the hard cider bubble for now.

"It's a messed up time to start a business," said the 39-year-old sculptor who does large scale art installations and lives in Wilkinsburg. She had to shelve plans for rolling out a line of premium hard cider in 2020. "Everybody has a situation."

Still, the farm will not be her life.

"I feel a connection to the orchard; I feel a connection to the land; I feel an obligation to the farm," she said. "But I have a lot of other things I want to do with my life."

### A NEIGHBORHOOD BATTLE

Maria Kretschmann, who studied ceramics as an undergraduate at Rochester Institute of Technology, had been living in Philadelphia for 10 years when her parents told her about an energy company's plans to build

a natural gas compressor station next to their farm.

She said she grew obsessed with stopping it, commuting between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to take up the battle before moving back to Pittsburgh in 2017, a city she hadn't lived in since leaving at age 17.

In 2014, Cardinal PA Midstream LLC filed plans with the local municipality to build a gas compressor station on a 46.6-acre site just beyond Kretschmann's cabbage field. The station would connect to four natural gas wells and condensate, a type of ultralight oil from the gas, which the company would then pump to market.

The family had hints something like this might happen. The Kretschmanns had turned away "umpteen gazillion landmen" who approached them about signing gas leases, Mr. Kretschmann said.

The family lobbied neighbors, worried about the station contaminating their crops, and spoke out at standing-room-only municipal meetings where many people wore buttons reading Kretschmann Farm. Mr. Kretschmann's appeals extended to Cardinal PA Midstream partner Richard Weber, chairman of PennEnergy Resources LLC, who befriended Mr. Kretschmann — each trading books they felt the other should read and chatting about the future of energy.

At a municipal hearing in July 2014, Mr. Weber testified that the township was on the verge of developing its natural gas reserves in a way that "will generate significant royalties to the residents for decades," according to a later court ruling.

New Sewickley Township approved the plans for the compressor station, which continues to hum and occasionally flare across a valley from the Kretschmann home.

After the plan approval, the Kretschmanns turned to the courts, first Beaver County Common Pleas Court, then Commonwealth Court and finally the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, running up tens of thousands of dollars in legal bills and losing every step of the way.

"We were all furious," Maria Kretschmann said. "It's just a completely incompatible use of land."

What the family didn't know then was that by the time Cardinal submitted its municipal application for the compressor station, oil and gas leases had already been signed with 678 landowners in the municipality, representing about 71% of New Sewickley Township. Mr. Kretschmann said he was surprised when he found out, but daughter Maria said the family knew the odds from the start.

"We knew out of the gates that we couldn't win," she said. "We did it because it was the right thing to do."

The family has since become a resource and "refuge for people who come to their senses" about fracking and natural gas production, she said.

The experience drove a wedge between Mr. Kretschmann and some of his neighbors.

"I still feel really bad," he said, years after the state Supreme Court declined to hear their appeal. "They were really good neighbors."

In the end, pursuing the case against long odds was "part of the environmental message, our philosophy," he said. "Let's put it that way."

### STILL GOING FORWARD

All that will be left after harvesting the cabbage, kale and dill will be "little tail-end things in closing down the farm," Mr. Kretschmann said.

In a few weeks, he would drive the three Mexican brothers to the airport for their flight home for the winter, but not before having made arrangements for them to start new jobs in the spring for a nearby landscaper.

Mr. Kretschmann had also seen to it that his CSA customers would be taken care of by selling his customer list and associated computer programs for what he called a "modest price" to Who Cooks for You, an organic farm in Bethlehem, Pa., with the understanding they will contact each customer about a new CSA service come spring.

The last of Kretschmanns' boxes for consumers were filled to overflowing.

Nephew Hans Kretschmann planned to return home to Maryland after the harvest. With farm work at a standstill and the hard cider enterprise on hold, daughter Maria Kretschmann would take a job with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

Mr. Kretschmann said he will continue to help his daughter cultivate the apple orchard and spend the coming months finishing work on a family trust he created to protect his land from ever being used for anything but organic farming.

"It's the sun that feeds everything," he said. "People don't really think the sun shines in the winter, too."

Mr. Kretschmann said he will continue to help his daughter cultivate the apple orchard and spend the coming months finishing work on a family trust he created to protect his land from ever being used for anything but organic farming. For now, most of the land will lie fallow.

**PARK**

*continued from page 1*

will feature more than 5,000 pumpkins in a creative display created by Discovery Park's landscape designers. The popular "Let It Glow" drive-through light show returns in 2021, with a new component where guests can walk through a light show on part of the grounds.

**Discovery Park 2021 Calendar**

New in 2021 "AgriCulture: Innovating for Our Survival"

The new million-dollar permanent exhibit on farming innovation

**January**

All children 17 and under get in free

**March 4 – Sept. 27**

"Southern Artist Showcase: The Caldwell Collection, Works by Southern Self-taught Artists"

**Fri., April 2 and Sat., April 3**

Easter eggs with candy presented to ages 12 and younger

**Fri, April 23 – Sun., April 25**

Military Living History

**May 15**

Cardboard Boat Regatta

**June 12**

Cruise-in

**July 4**

Independence Day Celebration

**July 21 – Sept. 6**

"40 Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World"

**Aug. 6 – 7**

Antique Tractor Show

**Sept. 18**

Pediatric Day and Discovery Dash

**Sept. 25 - 26**

Southern Heritage Arts and Crafts Festival

**Oct. 1 - 31**

Pumpkin Village

**Nov 12 – Dec 31**

"Let It Glow" Light Show Drive-Through and—new for 2021—Walk-Through

**Dec. 2, 2021 – March 1, 2022**

"The Fascinating World of Murray Hudson's Globes and Maps"

Discovery Park is following all health and safety guidelines and requires guests ages three and older to wear a mask when visiting. For those who do not have one, a mask will be provided at no charge.

A complete calendar of events can be found at [discoveryparkofamerica.com/calendar/](http://discoveryparkofamerica.com/calendar/).

About Discovery Park of America

The mission of Discovery Park of America, a premier world-class museum and 50-acre heritage park located in Union City, Tennessee, is to inspire children and adults to see beyond. Included is a 100,000-square-foot museum featuring 9 interactive exhibit galleries with additional space for temporary exhibits from around the world and a 50-acre heritage park. Discovery Park of America is a 501(c)(3) public charity funded by generous individuals, corporations and foundations including its principal funder, the Robert E. and Jenny D. Kirkland Foundation. For more information, visit [DiscoveryParkofAmerica.com](http://DiscoveryParkofAmerica.com), Facebook, Instagram and Twitter



**UT Martin student named UT Board of Trustees Student Trustee**

MARTIN, Tenn. – Growing up in Flushing, Michigan, the only connection Leighton Chappell had to Tennessee was watching Pat Summitt coach the Lady Vols on ESPN. Now as the student trustee for the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, Chappell, a UT Martin senior management major with a concentration in sport business, proudly advocates for the thousands of UT students and says he is trying his best amid the COVID-19 pandemic to present their needs to the board.

While Chappell serves in a non-voting role on the board, he knows how important his position is as a representative of the student body and hopes he can help make a difference for the University of Tennessee System.

"I would just really like to ... leave the UT System better than when (I) first joined," Chappell said. "As student trustee, I realize it's not like I'm the president; I can't just make things happen (just) like that. But if I could just make it slightly better in some way or some form, whatever that could be, that'd be awesome. That'd be successful for me."

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver says he is excited to have a Skyhawk representing students on the board.

"It is an honor to have a UT Martin student chosen to represent the University of Tennessee student body, and I am proud of how Leighton has served in this position so far," Carver said. "I am confident he will continue to represent the more than 50,000 UT students statewide in a positive and professional manner."

Selections for the UT Board of Trustees student representative rotate between campuses each year and must be nominated by the provost. The student



Leighton Chappell was sworn in as the student trustee of the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees by Obion County and Weakley County Circuit Court Judge Jeff Parham.

Photo submitted

trustee serves on the board for a year, beginning July 1.

Since his term began, Chappell has enjoyed connecting with students from each campus in the leadership position to understand what improvements he can help make for the UT student experience. One benefit he has advocated for is including breaks during the accelerated semester to help students, faculty and staff receive relief during an already stressful time.

"I try to pride myself on always listening and just making sure that I'm being objective, and I'm doing whatever's best for the students," he said.

Chappell is also using this opportunity to learn life lessons and professional skills from the trustees to help him succeed in his future career. While pursuing a degree in management and a focus on sport business, Chappell hopes to serve in an administrative leadership position in the future and knows having the chance to learn from statewide leaders will benefit his career.

"What I want to do is understand why leaders make their decisions, the processes, all of that behind the reasoning," Chappell explained. "Being the student trustee allows me to be

around all of these other trustees who are very successful people, very successful professionals and absorb their knowledge. To me, that's pretty invaluable. I think I can ... apply that with sports management later on."

Chappell will be the first to say that he never expected to be chosen as the student trustee, much less attend college in Tennessee, but he is thankful to have the opportunity to serve the system he has grown to love. As a triplet, when his sister committed to UT Martin to play soccer in 2017, he and his brother were excited to find programs at the university for them as well.

Just as his family took a chance on UT Martin and he took a chance with the student trustee position, Chappell encourages students to make the most of the opportunities they have while in college.

"Just make the most of your opportunities," Chappell said. "Go embrace people; go embrace your opportunities; just make the most of it. ... UT Martin is definitely going to prove to you that it's worth the experience."

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.



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EDUCATION

# Jovante Moffatt gives back

Jovante Moffatt clearly hasn't forgotten where he came from.

And he's already giving back to those who helped him reach his current great heights.

Moffatt, an All-Stater on Union City's back-to-back state football championship teams in 2013-14 and now a member of the Cleveland Browns, has donated Under Armour cleats and other goods to the Tornado high school and middle school programs, as well as the Jr. Tornado League.

A semi trailer unloaded 13 pallets filled with boxes of cleats of various sizes and colors, football gloves, masks and hand sanitizer Wednesday at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Northwest Tennessee, where Moffatt was also a member during an influential time in his life.

The Golden Tornado program, as well as several others in the area, will benefit from Moffatt's kindness, as will the local B&G organization, which will put to good usage the masks and hand sanitizer.

UCHS head football coach Nick Markle, along with NTB&G Clubs Chief Executive Officer Tracy Boucher, helped sort through many of the boxes Wednesday, while members of the Tornado program also assisted with that task and will do so with distribution of the goods in the next few days.

Former Northwest CPO Ron Green – now the chief executive officer of Boys and Girls Clubs of the Tar River (NC) Region – helped Moffatt navigate the gesture and has continued to mentor him through his journey from Union City to Middle Tennessee State University and now the pro football ranks.



Jovante Moffatt, left, a former member of the Union City football team, and now a member of the Cleveland Browns, donated shoes and other goods to the Tornado High School, Middle School, Jr. Tornado League.

Photo submitted

Green's Under Armour contacts helped make Moffatt's wish become reality quickly, the deal finalized this past Monday night before the Browns faced Baltimore in a nationally televised game.

"(Jo) Vante called me and told me he wanted to give back to the places that were instrumental in him getting to where he is now," Green said. "Obviously, the Union City football program and Boys and Girls Club and the coaches and people in those organizations kept him on the right track to realize his dream.

"I told him, 'The (UC) football program gave you a platform to advance to the collegiate level and the club was always there for you.' That makes it a natural reaction for anyone to want to give back when you're in the situation he is right now."

Moffatt went undrafted out of MTSU, but quickly was signed by Cleveland to its practice squad soon after the draft was completed last spring. He was promoted to the Browns' 53-man roster in late September, becoming the first UCHS graduate ever to make the pro

ranks, and has been a member of Cleveland's special teams unit since arriving on the big stage.

He enjoyed a stellar career on the prep level for the Purple and Gold, widely considered the best pure athlete on a pair of teams that won 29 straight and back-to-back Class 1A state titles. He followed that up by shining in the MTSU secondary for three years after signing with the Blue Raiders.

Soft-spoken but with a contagious smile, Moffatt was noted by pro scouts to have great hips – a trait synonymous among NFL defensive backs.

His giving nature comes naturally, too, according to Green.

"He (Moffatt) was so excited to be able to do this," Green insisted. "He knows that when you can give back, you give others the chance to live out their dreams like he is.

"First and foremost, he remembered his own situation and just wanted to make sure all the kids had their own cleats. He knows that if it weren't for some generous men in the area, he wouldn't have had any back when he first started playing." Understandably,

Markle was grateful for Moffatt's generosity.

"When one of your own does something like this, it really makes you swell with pride," the Union City skipper said. "It says so much about the size of Jovante's heart, his love for his alma mater and his willingness to share his good fortune.

"It'll truly be a case of Christmas coming early for some of our kids because of him doing this. It's a very generous gift, and it will help our program at every level for years to come. And it just gives me another chance to say what I say every day: It's great to be a Golden Tornado."



## Fine Arts building phase II renamed Northwest Tennessee Arts Center

MARTIN, Tenn. – Phase II of the University of Tennessee at Martin Fine Arts Building construction project has been renamed the Northwest Tennessee Arts Center.

The facility will be used by the fine and performing arts programs at UT Martin, as well as host guest performers, academic speakers, fundraising events, conferences and regional competitions.

Construction for the Northwest Tennessee Arts Center will cost \$40 million and requires a six percent match, or \$2.5 million, raised by the university to receive state funding. Currently, the university has raised over \$600,000 for the performance center.

"I believe this facility will bring a new level of performers to Northwest Tennessee, enriching the lives of students and community members,"

said Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, in a letter to donors.

The Northwest Tennessee Arts Center is projected to bring more than 26,000 visitors to campus annually, provide new jobs on campus and in the community and is expected to contribute over \$400,000 annually to the Northwest Tennessee economy through programs and partnerships in music, visual arts, children's programming, dance and film.

Phase I of the Fine Arts Building construction was completed in 2013.

To donate to the Northwest Tennessee Arts Center, visit [alumni.utm.edu/ntac](http://alumni.utm.edu/ntac).

For more information, contact Laura Suiter, UT Foundation director of development, at [lsuiter1@utm.edu](mailto:lsuiter1@utm.edu).

## UCES 3rd grader explore African culture



Third grade students at Union Chapel Elementary School recently studied the African culture with teacher experience and projects.

Photo submitted

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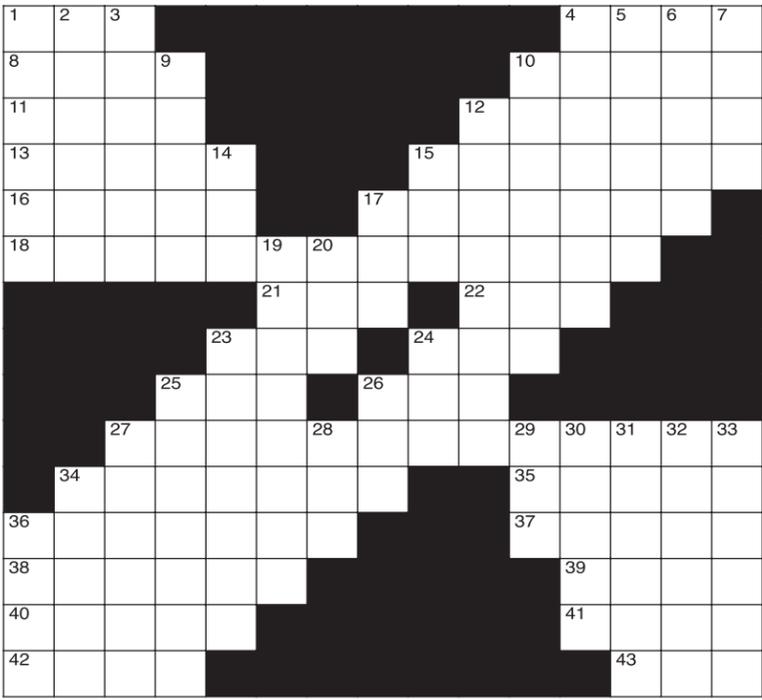


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# PUZZLE PAGE

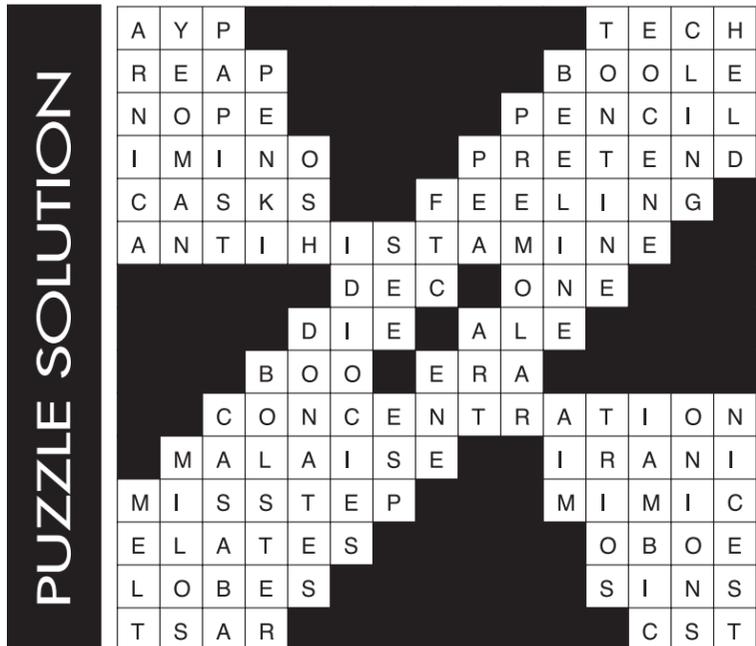


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Adequate yearly progress (abbr.)
- 4. Silicon Valley's specialty
- 8. Gather a harvest
- 10. Famed mathematician
- 11. No (slang)
- 12. Students use one
- 13. Type of molecule
- 15. Play make-believe
- 16. Large barrel-like containers
- 17. Touching
- 18. Treats allergies
- 21. Calendar month
- 22. Single
- 23. Cease to live
- 24. Brew
- 25. What ghosts say
- 26. Geological time
- 27. Focus
- 34. Discomfort
- 35. A citizen of Iran
- 36. Trip
- 37. Imitate
- 38. Makes happy
- 39. Double-reed instrument
- 40. Body parts
- 41. Transgressions
- 42. One-time emperor of Russia
- 43. Time zone

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Used in treating bruises
- 2. One who cultivates a small estate
- 3. One who supports the Pope
- 4. Annuity
- 5. Geological period
- 6. Grab onto tightly
- 7. Kept
- 9. Chinese city
- 10. The most direct route
- 12. Type of tooth
- 14. \_\_\_kosh, near Lake Winnebago
- 15. Popular veggie
- 17. Supervises interstate commerce
- 19. Foolish behaviors
- 20. Witness
- 23. Gives
- 24. Expression of creative skill
- 25. A way to prop up
- 26. Midway between northeast and east
- 27. Winter melon
- 28. Supernatural power
- 29. Target
- 30. Threes
- 31. A type of poetic verse
- 32. They make some people cry
- 33. Kindest
- 34. Forman and Ventimiglia are two
- 36. A way to liquefy



## PUZZLE SOLUTION

## GIFT GIVING WORD SEARCH

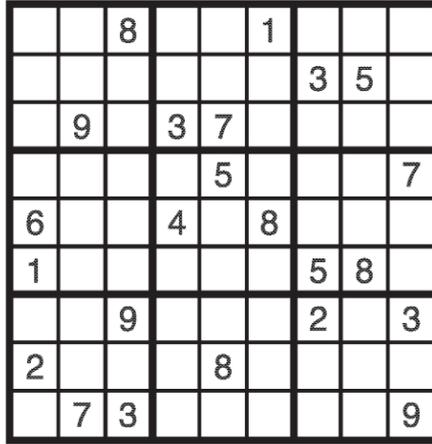


Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

### WORDS

- BAG
- BOX
- BUDGET
- CONSIDERATE
- COWORKER
- DECORATE
- FAMILY
- FRIENDS
- GIFT
- GREETING
- HOLIDAYS
- IDEA
- LIST
- PRIZE
- PURCHASE
- RECEIPT
- RECIPIENT
- RETAIL
- RIBBONS
- SHOPPING
- STORE
- TISSUE
- UNWRAP
- WRAPPING PAPER

## SUDOKU



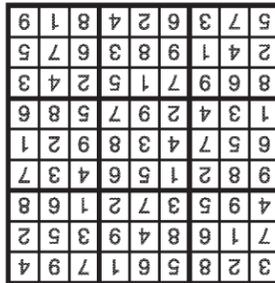
### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Advanced

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



ANSWER:

## Guess Who?

I am an actor born in Australia on January 13, 1990. Before I became an actor I worked in construction. I made my big screen debut in 2009, and I was in the popular "Hunger Games" trilogy.  
Who am I?

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to gifts.

BNIRRSBO

Answer: Ribbons



## CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to gifting.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 16 = E)

A. 23 9 16 13 16 8 25

Clue: A gift

B. 6 9 11 23 23 16 10

Clue: Covered in paper

C. 16 2 16 8 25

Clue: An occurrence

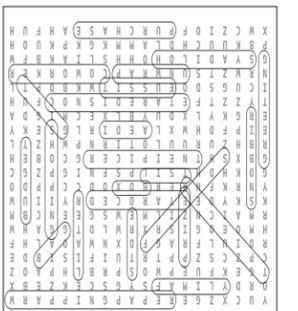
D. 25 22 24 14 5 22 25 20 14 4

Clue: Showing consideration

Answers: A. present B. wrapped C. event D. thoughtful

Be the reason someone smiles today.

Guess Who answer: Liam Hemsworth



INSPIRATION

VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

Blessed are the flexible

By Teresa A. LeNeave

I have a friend who has a favorite phrase when dealing with change. His friends often hear him say; “Blessed are the flexible.” Turns out he is right.

According to the late Hawaiian psychologist Paul Pearsall, a bestselling author, true happiness depends on five “aloha principles” be patient and stay in the moment, live in unity with the earth and other people, and be flexible, humble, and kind. It’s kind of amazing that people think his idea is a new avenue to happiness, when in reality; all five of his “aloha principles”

have been written on paper for thousands of years. You’ll find them compiled in one book we call the Bible.

God has given us guidelines to live by; and like Pearsall’s “aloha principles” when we follow them, we are happier and healthier. Ephesians 4:32 says, “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, and forgiving”.

Almost everyone in America has heard this advice from the Bible: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”, which is basically what Pearsall’s aloha principles say:

Pearsall said, “Be patient and stay in the moment “. In the book of

James, we are advised to “Let patience have its perfect work that you may be complete, lacking nothing” (James 1:2-4).

Sounds like Pearsall is agreeing with James the apostle when he says “be patient and stay in the moment”.

Jesus also agrees for in Matthew 6, he said, “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble”. Be patient and stay in the moment.

If you spend all your time worrying about what might happen, happiness and health can easily evade you. Not only that, but it can make the moment you’re

in a miserable place to be.

The second advice Pearsall gave was, “Live in unity with the earth and other people”. The Bible says it even better. Psalm 133 says, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head ... “ The writer of Psalms goes on to say unity can be compared to the abundant blessings given to Aaron who became high priest under Moses’ leadership.

The third principle Pearsall offers is: “Be flexible.” Throughout the entire Bible we are instructed to be merciful,

to be gentle, and to be a peacemaker.

Peacemakers don’t demand their own way every time. They are not hard-core, “my way or the highway”, but they are flexible. They are healers, not instigators. Blessed are the flexible is not written out per se in the Bible, but it could have been because its message is sprinkled from cover to cover.

Finally; Pearsall says the last two principles to happiness is being humble and kind. It’s hard to do one without the other. Can you be truly kind and not humble or humble and not kind? I don’t think so. They go hand in hand.

The Bible says God gives grace to the humble. James 4:6. It also tells us there is a law of kindness and that being kind is a fruit of having God’s spirit within. There is no doubt that

“Blessed are the flexible” equates to a more peaceful, healthier and happier life. Yes, Pearsall is right in his observation, but God has been saying this all along. I think the original quote by Michael Mcgriffy; M.D., was: Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be bent out of shape.

How well we all would be served by adhering to that. It would take a lot of stress out of life.



The people God puts in my life

Each morning I walked about three-fourths of a mile to get to my stand. I had cut limbs and bushes out of the way and yet there was one area where I had to navigate around several tree-laps and weeds.

I could have gone another way; but this seemed to be the best direction if I was to leave the smallest footprint. The problem was not maneuvering the fallen trees; it was dodging those little cockleburs that attached themselves to my clothes. Every morning, while watching deer,

I found myself picking off burr after burr without ever getting them all. One evening, after a hunt, I had the great idea of just putting the infested clothing in the wash and letting an agitator get rid of my agitation. It didn’t work.

Those little things hung on like a kid at a water park. They say these were the

inspiration behind Velcro. I can’t help but believe this to be true. When you think about the real reason for these clingers, it is pretty simple to understand. This is the way these nasty weeds spread to other areas. They produce a seed, the cocklebur, and when some animal comes by; the seed attaches itself to the fur and is carried away to another area.

The burr is then picked off and left to germinate - if it has attached itself to the right source that is. Otherwise, as I later found out, the seed just remains on the source and ultimately dries up, dies, and then is easily brushed off. The moral of the story? Be careful, what or who, you attach yourself to.

As I look toward a new year, I want to be reminded of this lesson. I want to be attached to the things that will help me be the most fruitful. Not that it is all about me, but it’s about being all

that God made me to be. It’s about reaching my full potential. It’s about getting the most out of my gifts and talents. And in order to do that, I must continually attach myself to the things God has placed there just for me.

Sometimes that means I must say no to really good things in order for me to focus on what I have been called to do. But there is one thing I always need to remember - the goal or the accomplishment is not the end; it is the means to an end.

The end is always the people that God puts in my life. My gifts, talents and resources are not meant for my enjoyment, but for my employment. I am to employ them in the lives of people.

For without people, I would be like a cocklebur seed that’s only along for the ride.

Gary Miller  
gary@outdoortruths.org



Encouraging Words

BY NISHA BURKHART

Go Through

Psalm 23:4

Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear or dread no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.

We often speak of “what we are going through” but the Good news is that we are going through; we are not stuck in our troubles with no way out. God never promises us trouble free lives, but He does promise to be with us and to never leave or forsake

us. When God takes us through something, He will always teach us valuable lessons that we can use in the future.

One of the most important times to hear from God is when we need direction as we go through difficulties. What should we do? How long will the problem last? Today’s Psalm says, God will guide us as we go through. Trusting God to help us will keep us from giving up in the midst of our difficulties.

The book of Hebrews

says, God wants us to go all the way through so we can realize the fulfillment of our hope to the end (Hebrews 6:11). Satan wants us to get discouraged and give up, but God gives us power to go through! The God on the mountain is also the God in valley: God is not impressed with the valley you go through but that you trust Him.

Gods word for you: As you go through the valleys of life, God will always guide and comfort you.





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