

Standard online reader survey



Q: Does it bother you President Trump reportedly had an affair with a porn star?

YES 29 percent
NO 71 percent

EDITORIAL

Christ's resurrection shows triumph over death

Christians around the world are marking one of our most meaningful religious holidays this week-end.

Some of the ceremonies are celebratory in nature, while others make a powerful statement about the suffering of Jesus Christ. A town in the Philippine, for example, performed a scene on Good Friday where men laid face down in the street to receive whippings.

Not all events were as graphic, but most provided the opportunity for reflection about the life and sacrifice of Christ. The message of Easter forms the cornerstone of Christianity, the resurrection and triumph over death of the savior Jesus Christ.

The sacrifice of Christ was about peace, hope and love. It was about triumph for a world which, especially today, is flooded with problems.

Children are opening fire with guns and killing their classmates at school. Once-productive citizens are being overcome by drug addiction.

Friendliness has been replaced by anger. Instead of goodwill toward man, we have nasty tweets. This is the same mindset that resulted in Christ's execution on the Cross of Calvary.

We will awaken Sunday to the glow of Easter. This is the day Jesus rose from the dead and proved he was the Son of God and the second person of the Trinity. Christ's life is our greatest

example in a world filled with so much aggression and malice.

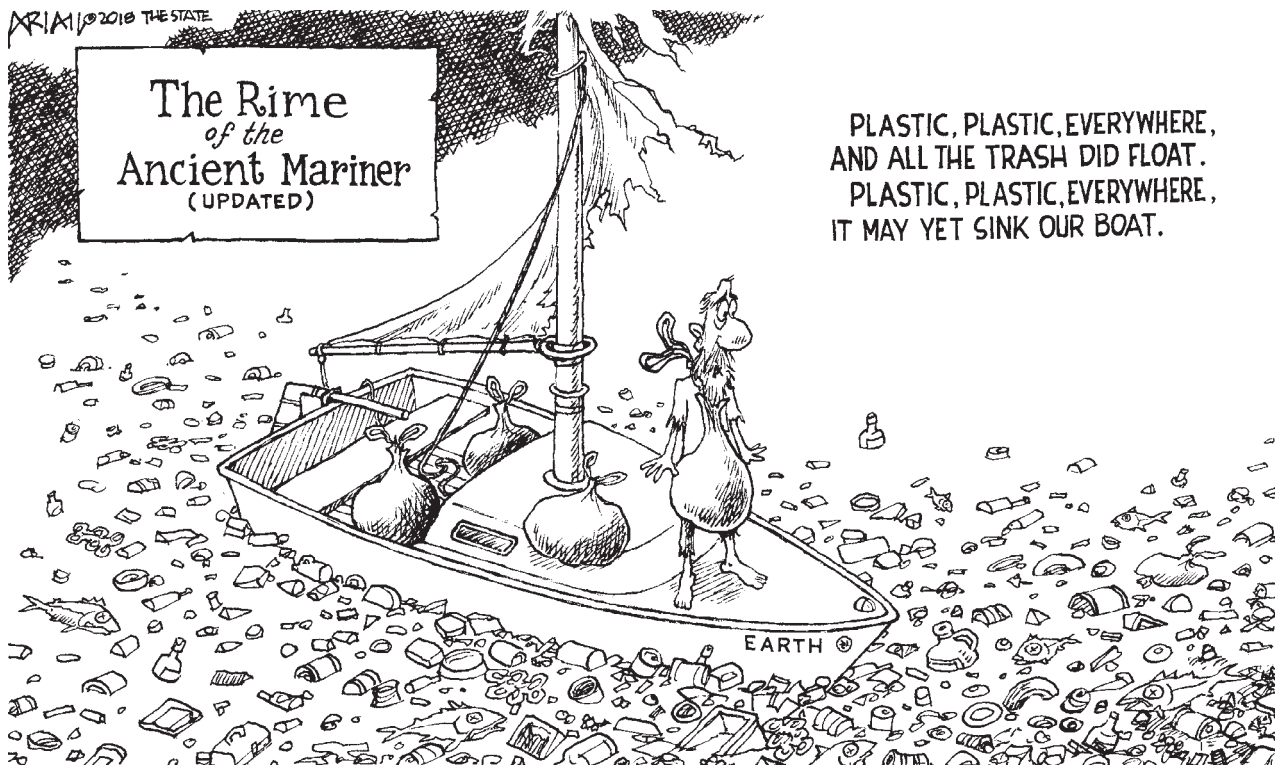
The resurrection, as described in the Bible, means that just as Jesus rose from his stone grave, Christians also can receive new life after death. They can rise above sin and despair.

According to the Bible, friends of Jesus arrived weeping at his grave only to find the stones were moved. They were astonished to find an angel standing nearby, saying that His body was no longer there and he had been raised from the dead.

Thanks to the example of firm believers and their unwavering faith, Christianity has grown despite harsh persecution and rejection. Today is a feast for all those who live ordinary lives with a profound faith.

Easter is so much more than the childhood delights of bright-colored eggs. On this special day, throughout Warren County and the world, Christians will gather in churches to herald the spring time of new life gained through Jesus' resurrection.

The message of Easter, the great feast of redemption, asks we be drawn out of ourselves into the ever-unfolding mystery of life, death and what lies in the afterworld. May we have the strength to seek its full power to transform, reconcile and make whole our world.



Dottie headed for Hall of Fame

When the Country Music Association announced Tuesday Dottie West has been chosen for induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame this year, it was music to the ears of Dottie's family, friends, and fans from far and near.

"The whole West family is full of emotion," said Dottie's daughter, Shelly West. "When I got the news that Dottie was being inducted, I don't remember if I was laughing or crying louder! My heart just swelled as I knew that Mom's fans would soon hear this sweet news. Although she sings in the angel's band these years, she has needed her resting home on earth. She will have that home here at the Country Music Hall of Fame, sharing her love with all."

Dottie's sister, Diane Poss echoed those sentiments Tuesday. "The family is very happy and pleased with this decision," she said.

Dottie was a mentor to many in country music, including Larry Gatlin and Steve Wariner. In a recent interview with *Southern Standard* editor James Clark, Wariner said, "I was a senior in high school and playing on the west side of Indianapolis when Dottie heard me singing and playing. She offered me a job that night." Elsewhere he said, "I will never forget my first time at the Grand Ole Opry with the great Dottie West."

In my view, Dottie West is a bright shining example of a country music artist who rose from the pit of poverty to the pinnacle of success. She was born Dorothy Marie Marsh on a farm near McMinnville on Oct. 11, 1932. The details of her rise from rural obscurity to national and international fame have been widely covered recently through this newspaper and

other multimedia outlets.

For me, "The Ballad of Dottie and Dorothy Marie," is a fitting tribute to our "Miss Country Sunshine." As singers and songwriters say, it goes like this:

V.1. She was born in the country Dorothy Marie/On a farm near McMinnville in Tennessee.

In a house full of children, the oldest of 10/she helped raise the family through thick and through thin.

V.2. With a heart full of music she started her climb/She moved up the ladder a dream at a time.

Though it never was easy, she never did stop/Paying her dues on her way to the top.

CHORUS
She sang about sunshine, she sang

about rain/ She knew life's pleasures, she knew love's pain.

She sang her emotions right from the start/With the voice of an Angel, she captured our hearts.

V.3. On her way to the Opry to sing for her fans/Dottie crossed over, now she's in God's hands.

They sang Dottie's praises for days on TV/ And we all said farewell to Dorothy Marie.

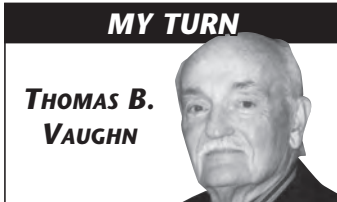
REPEAT CHORUS

TAG: We miss you Dottie and Dorothy Marie.

Written by Bob Fults and Thomas B. Vaughn

One more thing, Dottie West's induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame is reason enough to resurrect the Dottie West Music Fest, by a new generation of local leaders.

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THOMAS B. VAUGHN

Stirrings in the heartland

Memo to Democrats who think the Donald J. Trump phenomenon in the American heartland is a passing fancy: The latest census figures released this spring suggest fresh growth in the Midwest, the sea of Republican red that swept the billionaire into the White House.

The movement isn't robust, and a good portion of the growth is in cities that customarily help bolster Democratic numbers, but this period may be an important moment in the sun for places outside the Sun Belt — particularly places where Trump mopped up scores of electoral votes.

"The middle of the country is showing signs of reviving," said William Frey, a pioneering demographer who now is a Brookings Institution scholar. "It is a good thing, especially since so many people in the middle of the country have felt that they've been left out of things for a while."

No longer. There are discernible population gains in Detroit, Dayton, Akron, Indianapolis and Scranton — all in states that Trump carried in 2016. Rural areas, also a Trump stronghold, are growing nationally for the first time in a decade. And there remain big gains in the Sun Belt, yet another Trump redoubt, though the gains are less now than they have been in the recent past.

One likely reason for this, as for so much in our culture today: the millennials.

They're interested in settling in locations where housing costs are lower than they are in the established cities, where life is less formal, traffic is less

oppressive and work-life balance is possible.

"There's the lower cost of living, but also more and more tech jobs, and people are realizing they can afford a better quality of living in these places," said Sen. Rob Portman, an Ohio Republican who was born in Cincinnati.

Meanwhile, for the first time in this decade, population gains are being recorded in rural areas. These are the kinds of places Princeton sociologist Robert Wuthnow, in his striking new book "The Left Behind," described as "moral communities," places where

"people interact with one another and form loyalties to one another," adding that the "moral outrage of rural America is a mixture of fear and anger. The fear is that small-town ways of life are disappearing. The anger is that they are under siege."

The latest census figures show the smallest population growth rates are in the urban cores and mature suburbs, two areas carried by Hillary Clinton in the last election. The two areas with the highest growth rates, emerging suburbs and exurbs, were carried by Trump.

This underlines the current geography of American politics, besides the well-known portrait of a bulging red middle. It also illuminates the social challenge the U.S. faces, with the aggrieved clustered not only in the cities but now also in rural areas.

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