

Editorial / Opinion

2024 Starts Now

The 2024 Presidential campaign starts now. President Biden insists that he will run for reelection to a second term and has been saying so now for weeks. Most of those who see themselves as Democrats, and all of their leading politicians, wish he wouldn't. A different but similar state of affairs obtains on the Republican side. Last week President Trump announced that he will run for the office he held from January 2017 until January 2021. If you believe most of the spokesmen and women of the conservative movement and the party professionals most Republicans wish he wouldn't. What I believe is happening is that the Republican tribes are retreating to their home ground.

Respectable Republicans led by wordsmith Peggy Noonan and a handful of business leaders who have not gone all the way over to the Democrats never liked Donald Trump for President. They saw him as a self-promoting real estate developer and reality TV personality whose speech was crude and whose manner was too raw to be a Republican President.

Then there was the Bush tribe of the Republican Party. Their principal spokesman for the time being is Carl Rove. They are sort of conservative but they would really like, but never have had, the regard if not the respect of the "leaders" of the cultural and academic "elite". Trump is too rough for their taste, too joyfully capitalistic in his outlook, and besides he made a major effort to humiliate Jeb Bush in the 2016 primaries. Then, finally there are the "movement" conservatives represented most loudly by the National Review and the Wall Street Journal editorial board. They were put off by Donald Trump's lack of conservative credentials, his familiarity with major New York Democrat politicians, and his standing, complete with plaques and certificates of appreciation from some of the Democrats favorite "community leaders" like Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson.

None of these Republican tribes wanted a Trump candidacy in 2016 and they damn sure don't want one now. He's still too rough, uncouth even. He's still a self-promoter (name me a



Ed Scanlon has his opinions

Presidential candidate who isn't) and he's been impeached twice, the subject of a decades long but inconclusive Mueller Investigation (they found none of the guilt they were looking for or tried to create) and so represented months and months of negative publicity for all the Respectable, Bushy, and Movement Republicans. He's damaged goods. Please not again. What none of these feckless fools understand is that this attitude yields control of your "acceptables" to your political enemies. What they also don't seem to acknowledge, or perhaps want desperately to ignore, is that in three years and a few months, before the onset of Chinese germ warfare, his Presidency achieved more CONSERVATIVE policy than all the tribes could achieve in the twenty-seven years between the end of the Reagan Administration in 1989 and the 2016 election. And that includes twelve years of Bush Administrations. I don't want to list them all here it would be redundant having discussed them in these pages many times during the past couple of years of disastrous Biden rule. Suffice that I point out the strong economy without any significant inflation, the roaring success of the American energy sector, the reworked trade agreements which leveled a few playing fields, keeping China off balance and Russia at bay, bringing the Abraham Accords to fruition thereby changing the calculus of Mid-East politics for the better, and beginning the very necessary refurbishing of a military sorely stressed by two decades of almost continuous war.

The Tribes were not appreciative at all. Today this Republican tribalism, not Donald Trump is the reason we are not more successful in 2022. Every one of the Republican Tribes referred to here hated Donald Trump as much for his successes with their programs as for his lack of membership and seeming lack of need for it. They cannot claim ownership of his successes so they would rather overlook them and retreat to their wigwams where they can safely disparage him. They are The Republican Prob-

Family & Marriage

LIFE!!!



Roger Rollins, Family and Marriage Coalition

"There is a clear scientific answer to the question 'When does human life begin?'[From] a scientific standpoint, at the moment of fertilization of the egg by the sperm, a completely new organism is present."
— Michael Egnor, Senior Fellow, Center for Natural & Artificial Intelligence, Professor of Neurosurgery and Pediatrics at State University of New York, Stony Brook

"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit." — Bible (Luke 1:41)

As we approach Christmas we remember the birth of a baby boy, born to a mother who became pregnant unexpectedly and out of wedlock. This was a real problem for society (and Mary and Joseph) at the time. As we read in the Bible (Matthew 1): "This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph, her husband, was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly."

The reaction to unexpected and out of wedlock pregnancies today is very different. Out of wedlock pregnancies are completely acceptable. Here are some interesting statistics. Worldwide in 2016, about 15 percent of children were born out of wedlock. The national average for the United States in 2014 was 40 percent (thegospelcoalition.org). Of course, these were pregnancies that ended in the

birth of a child.

In 2019, approximately 19% of U.S. pregnancies (excluding spontaneous miscarriages) ended in abortion. In 2020, the highest percentage of pregnancies were aborted in the District of Columbia (52%), New York (35%), and New Jersey (34%). In 2019, unmarried women accounted for 86% of all abortions (CDC). The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists reports that 25% of all women will have an abortion before they turn 45 years old.

In a nutshell, in today's world it is not unusual for children to born to an unwed mother, and in addition it is not unusual for an unwed "mother" to terminate the pregnancy via an abortion.

Our views about marriage and life have evolved over the years. It wasn't too many years ago that our ideas were similar to those expressed in the Bible. The changes that have occurred over the last several decades are significant and the reasons are varied. Perhaps one way of summarizing these reasons is that our selfish interests triumph over relationships and even life. As has been noted here before, when we take God out of the picture, we become our god, and our primary goal is satisfying our own interests and needs.

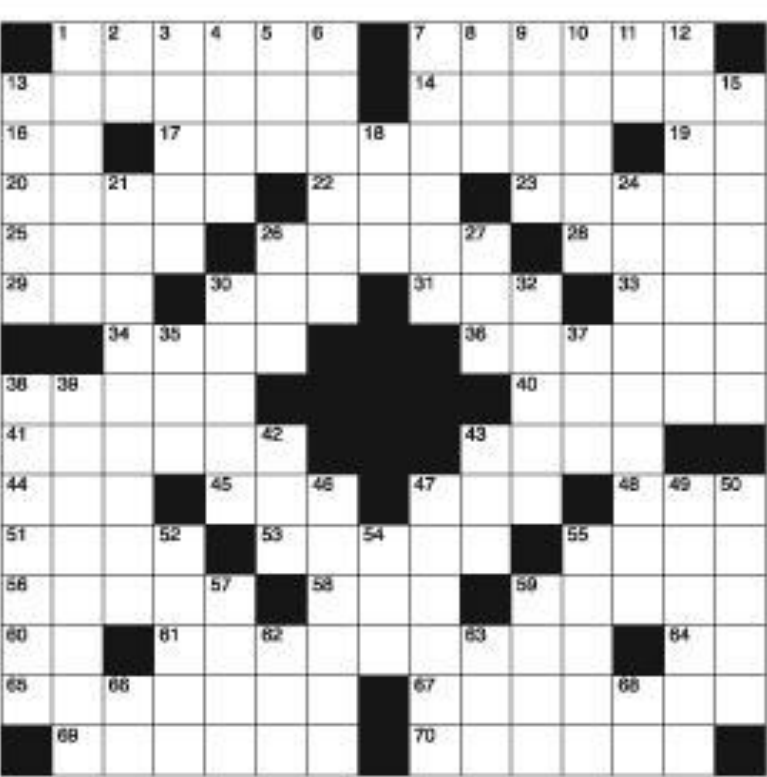
For many people their life is all they are concerned with. If there is nothing after life then they want to get everything they can — for themselves — out of this life. That means that their own interests come first. Marriage is not really important since that means commitment to someone other

than themselves. Abortion is OK because it removes an obstacle to our own life's activities. These are hard thoughts. But they are the reality we face today.

In 2013 TIME magazine's headline read THE ME ME ME GENERATION. Two words highlighted what the Me generation was known for: narcissism, and its effect, entitlement. Their focus was on themselves, and they believed that the world owed them a living. Not much has changed since 2013. In fact, if anything, it's become worse.

We have three sources we can turn to for answers to our questions about life and relationships. We can listen to the temptations of the devil (yes, he does exist, whether or not we are willing to admit it). We can go the way of the world — which says put myself first. Or we can choose to follow God and put our trust in Him. If we want our families to survive and thrive, God must be first, last, and always the one we turn to and trust.

The Family & Marriage Coalition of Aiken, Inc. (FAMCO) was created to provide resources for you to succeed in your marriage and families. Roger Rollins, Executive Director, FAMCO, 803-640-4689,

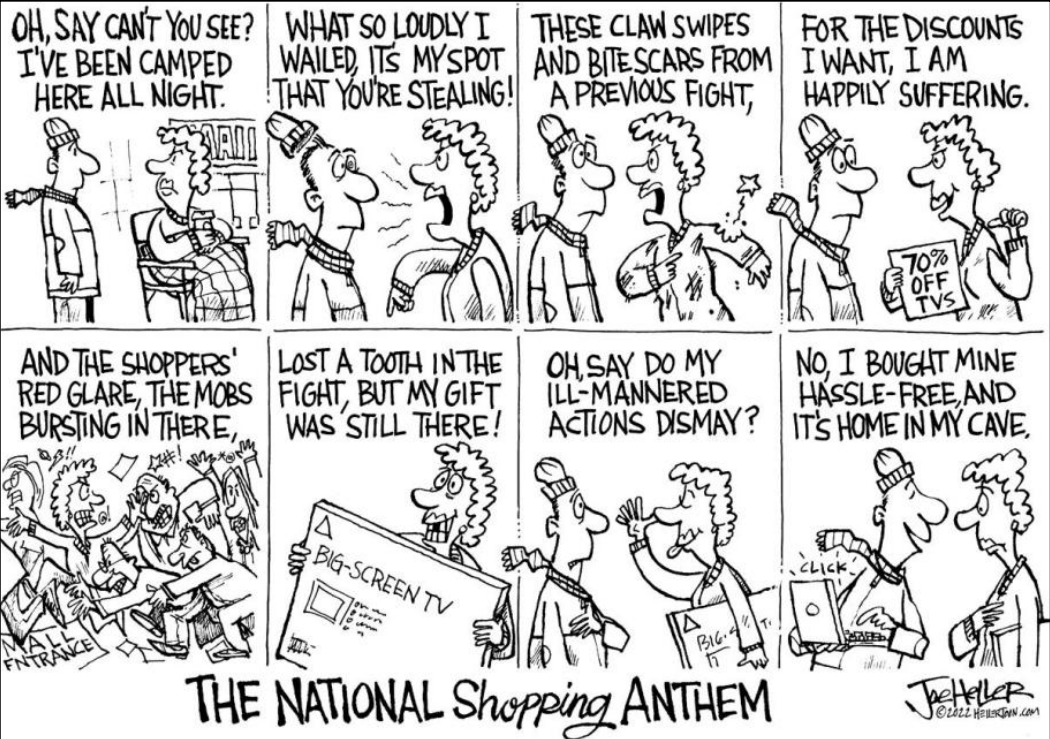
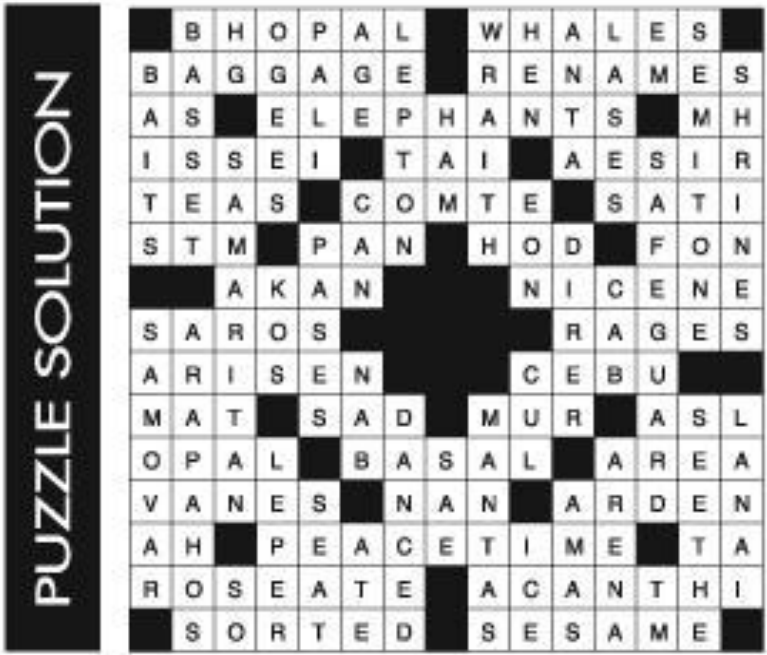


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. India's "City of Lakes"
- 7. Large marine mammals
- 13. Used to carry belongings when traveling
- 14. Rechristens
- 16. Equally
- 17. Heavy plant-eating mammals
- 19. Millihenry
- 20. Japanese immigrant to N. America
- 22. Deep, red-brown sea bream
- 23. Norse gods
- 25. Peppermint and pekoe are two
- 26. Auguste __, founder of positivism
- 28. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 29. High-resolution microscope (abbr.)
- 30. Wide metal vessel used in cooking
- 31. V-shaped open trough
- 33. People of southern Benin
- 34. People of southern Ghana
- 36. It's a significant creed
- 38. Period between eclipses
- 40. Furies
- 41. Emerged
- 43. Philippine Island
- 44. Where wrestlers battle
- 45. Unhappy
- 47. Central European river
- 48. Language
- 51. Semitransparent gemstone
- 53. Forming in a bottom layer
- 55. Distinct region
- 56. Broad blades
- 58. Leavened bread
- 59. Influential cosmetics exec
- 60. Exclamation of surprise
- 61. Era free of war
- 64. One who helps professors
- 65. Idealistic
- 67. Ornamental plants
- 69. Grouped
- 70. Kids love this street

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Beloved hound
- 2. Equal to 100 grams
- 3. S-shaped moldings
- 4. Hawaiian cliff
- 5. Everyone has one
- 6. Subatomic particle
- 7. Ghost
- 8. Adult female bird
- 9. Greek temple pillars
- 10. Emits coherent radiation
- 11. Measures the width of printed matter
- 12. Musical interval
- 13. Tantalizes
- 15. Places of worship
- 18. An unskilled actor who overacts
- 21. One who volunteers to help
- 24. Precaution
- 26. Beverage holder
- 27. Very long period of time
- 30. Bullfighting maneuvers
- 32. More critical
- 35. Sends packing in a boxing match
- 37. Taxi
- 38. Decorative Russian tea urn
- 39. North American Great Plains natives
- 42. Seize
- 43. A passage with access only at one end
- 46. Cut a rug
- 47. Devil rays
- 49. Bubble up
- 50. Veranda
- 52. Outcast
- 54. Car mechanics group
- 55. Realm
- 57. A place to get off your feet
- 59. Popular music awards show
- 62. Consumed
- 63. A way to make cooler
- 66. Thus
- 68. Indicates it's been registered



lem, not President Trump. Personally, for preference I see myself as a "movement" conservative Republican. Right now, my Tribe disgusts me. Never had much patience for Respectable Republicanism and the Bush Republicans are a bit too self-referential for my taste.

But, I too am constantly irritated By President Trump's refusal to elevate his manner of argument. Although he does pick the right ones to have. Where the hell were the Republican Tribes when

President trump, candidate and office holder was constantly and unconstitutionally attacked by Democrats, their allies and beneficiaries in the Permanent Government, and their lap dogs in the media? With a couple of notable exceptions, they were not on the ramparts defending the Constitution and the President. They were behind the curtains murmuring, "not me, I'm not like him".....

The Tribes had better come together, remember Reagans Eleventh Commandment and

find a way to support President trump through this new unconstitutional raft of travails even as they campaign against him for the nomination. If they do not they will not win in 24 and further Democrat victories will sink Constitutional governance forever and Republicans will go the way of the Whigs from whence we came nearly a hundred and seventy years ago. To my mind if that happens the tribes will deserve it but I and millions more like me will not.

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!

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:

3	2	8	9	6	5	1	4	7
1	7	9	2	3	4	6	5	8
5	4	6	1	7	8	9	2	3
8	1	2	4	6	9	3	5	7
4	6	5	3	2	7	1	8	9
9	8	4	5	1	2	7	3	6
6	3	1	7	4	9	5	8	2
2	5	7	6	8	3	4	1	9
7	9	3	8	5	1	2	6	4