



Nearly twenty years ago I was in Alabama hunting. I went there for many years because the license was cheap, and the deer were numerous. On occasion I would hunt public property. My goal then was to simply hunt. I was so new and excited that it didn't matter what size buck came through. If it had antlers, I wanted it. I can remember meeting another hunter one year while hunting on public property I had never hunted before. He hunted with bow only. This was rare in Alabama. But he was committed to this type of hunting regardless of what anyone else was doing or regardless of the opportunities he may miss. He pointed me to a particular area and, sure enough, the success is on my wall. What I always remember about him was that even though his method and belief was different, he helped and even celebrated mine. At the same time, I think about Roger in North Carolina who makes his own recurve bows and only hunts with them. Or I think of J.R. in Virginia who refuses to shoot a crossbow as long as he can pull back his traditional bow. Each of these may disagree with me or each other about how to go about hunting. But at the same time, they will celebrate my and each other's success.

Years ago, I decided to take a similar approach to those who I may disagree with. I decided when they

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CWD Detected in Warren County

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) received test results indicating a mature buck collected in Warren County was positive for

that matter? Deer hunters do this all the time. I was just reliving the past season with a friend. He was telling me about a place where he hunted that was for bow hunters only. One particular evening, just before dark, he saw what he called the buck of a lifetime, and it was only 60 yards from his stand. And even though he could not get a shot at it, it caused him to almost ignore all the other bucks that came his way; and there were plenty. By the time his few days of hunting were over, he had passed up some really big bucks because none of them were the "one" he had seen just a few days earlier. In the end, the cost was coming home empty-handed all because he had become obsessed with one prize so valuable that every other prize paled in comparison. He is not alone in this obsession. I know of other hunters who have marked one particular buck as their goal and have waited for 2 or 3 years in order to get it. And I know of some who waited just as long only to find out their prize was now their neighbor's trophy. Some

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). The buck was reported to MDWFP in mid-December as potentially diseased given its drastically emaciated and lethar-

may not understand this obsession. Some do. Everyone ought to.

In recalling these stories, I am reminded of the Biblical story of the man who found a valuable pearl. The Bible says when he discovered it, he sold everything he owned and bought it. No diversification. No hedging his investment. No waiting until more favorable times. But selling it all – pushing it all in for this one pearl of great price. What was the Lord comparing this most valuable pearl to? The kingdom of heaven. What is the kingdom of heaven? Let's just say it is the totality of God in our lives now and the greatness of heaven in the future. And what the Lord desires is this; that there would come a time in our lives when we finally understand the most valuable thing in our life is simply Him. And in fully understanding this, we would willfully, gladly, and excitingly be willing to give it all up in order to experience, without distraction, the worth and surpassing greatness of that relationship.

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gic condition. It was found approximately 4 miles north of Vicksburg and 4.5 miles south of the first CWD-positive white-tailed deer detected in Mississippi. The sample is considered "suspect positive" through initial testing and will be sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa for final confirmation. Since February 2018, 111 CWD-positive white-tailed deer have been detected

across nine (9) counties. MDWFP is still relying on hunter-harvested deer for the remainder of the 2021–22 hunting season. Hunters can submit deer for testing at established freezer locations or participating taxidermists. For more information about Chronic Wasting Disease visit www.mdwfp.com/cwd. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdwfp or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline.

Auditor's Office Announces Public Innovations and Efficiencies Award

Award to recognize government offices that found creative ways to save money

JACKSON, Miss. – State Auditor Shad White announced his office has established the Mississippi Public Innovations and Efficiencies (PIE) Award to recognize government offices for the ways they cut costs, reduce waste, and improve efficiency in the workplace.

Inspired by Iowa's State Auditor, who established a similar Iowa PIE award in 2019, this program will recognize Mississippi's governmental offices that identified new ways of saving taxpayer money.

"In the Auditor's office, we spend a lot of time identifying where taxpayer money is stolen or misspent. We

decided to follow Iowa's lead and also highlight places where government is working well," said Auditor White. "Patting someone on the back when they do well is important for encouraging good behavior and innovation in government."

The 2022 Mississippi PIE Award is open to school districts, county or city governments, and any other government offices in the State. The application can be found online at the Auditor's website.

Applications open on today and are due by February 28, 2022. Winners will be announced beginning April 4. Questions about the program or application process can be emailed to PIE@osa.ms.gov or directed to Kelley Ryan.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1) Struggle for air
- 5) It goes through the roof
- 10) Pierce with a knife
- 14) Chip in a pot?
- 15) Holiday pie ingredient
- 16) Call to mind
- 17) Small biter
- 18) Absinthe flavoring
- 19) God of love
- 20) Brought up pickled fish?
- 23) Thaws a freezer
- 25) For this reason
- 26) Batters in Baltimore
- 27) Amount in grandma's recipe
- 29) Acknowledge the villain's entrance
- 30) It's guaranteed to remove wrinkles
- 31) Guevara grills Kasparov's equipment?
- 38) Chew the fat
- 39) Swarm
- 41) Key West shows?
- 45) Collection of sacred songs
- 48) Bring together
- 49) Second Amendment words
- 50) James Bond's depressing drink?
- 53) ___ Van Dyke
- 54) Like many teenagers' rooms
- 55) Haitian's head
- 58) Dueling sword
- 59) One of classic TV's Huxtables
- 60) "Terrible" czar
- 61) Loch ___ monster
- 62) First vertebra
- 63) Transmit, as a text

NOW EAR THIS By Mary Jersey

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DOWN

- 1) Prevent from speaking
- 2) Massachusetts cape
- 3) Celebrities' favorite seafood?
- 4) He broke Ty Cobb's record
- 5) Thinly distributed
- 6) Dogmata
- 7) They turn litmus paper red
- 8) Charge alternative
- 9) Reflex-testing site
- 10) Like a Stephen King reader, often
- 11) Comic actor's asset
- 12) Immediately
- 13) He wasn't the dummy of the act
- 21) "You've got mail" co.
- 22) Thick-skinned jungle beast
- 23) Play-___
- 24) Rocker Clapton
- 27) They're ahead of jrs.
- 28) Organized criminals
- 30) Make angry
- 32) Male bovine
- 33) Stuff one's face
- 34) Franken and Capone
- 35) Mythical island
- 36) What hunting dogs do
- 37) Have an opinion
- 40) Bride's title
- 41) Like a sneak attack
- 42) Needing more time on the vine
- 43) Sister's daughters
- 44) Vampires may take them to heart
- 45) Old Iran
- 46) Greek woodland deities
- 47) Former White House spokesman
- 49) Metabolism type
- 51) Urban organization of song
- 52) Leave a solid state?
- 56) Convert into leather
- 57) Author's last word?