

“Quiet Quitting”: Is that a thing or not?

By Danny Tyree

Have you heard of the “quiet quitting” trend that is being breathlessly reported on social media?



Quiet quitting refers to doing the minimum requirements of one’s job and putting in no more time, effort or enthusiasm than absolutely necessary.

Quiet quitters continue to draw a paycheck, but they have finally seen the folly of arriving early, staying late, attending non-mandatory meetings and the like. (“This is an accounting firm! How come I never questioned why there are barges to tote and bales to lift???”)

In Greek mythology, Icarus erred by flying too close to the sun. Now workers get in trouble by flying too close to the RADAR. (“Elliot! Abort mission! Put your hand down! Be another face in the crowd!”)

Many quiet quitters had an epiphany because of author Dan (“The Da Vinci Code”) Brown. Brown claims that the unredacted version of the Ten Commandments includes the edict “Thou shalt not covet the coveted Employee of the Month award. Verily, it hath less value than diddly-squat.”

I’ve even heard internet rumors that quiet

quitters have their own theme song, courtesy of George Thorogood & the Destroyers. (“I’m mediocre to the bone. M-M-M-M-Mediocre to the bone!”)

I could’ve sworn I’ve seen my share of slackers, bums and goof-offs throughout my 40-plus-years working career; but social media treats this like something unprecedented. (“Up next: teenagers act surly, cats cough up hairballs and carbonated beverages spew after being shaken!”)

A 2022 Gallup survey suggests that about half the U.S. workforce consists of quiet quitters! When pushed for details, one pollster acknowledged, “Yeah, I pretty much engaged with 1,000-ISH respondents, and I think I left the raw data on a Post-it Note for the analysts. Like Alan Jackson said, it’s 50 percent SOMEWHERE.”

Although skeptics say worker dissatisfaction levels haven’t really changed that much in the past 20 years, I do hear anecdotal evidence of fewer disgruntled employees slamming the boss’s door on their way out of the company. It’s like we have shifted to semi-gruntled employees. But they cause trouble even for the old-style ex-employees. (“Okay, I’m back to shoot up the place, you wage slaves! CLICK CLICK Darn! This pistol was assembled by a quiet quitter!”)

There are still employees whose GPS coordinates are “halfway up the boss’s sphincter,” but now we have faux-getters instead of go-getters. Gone are the glory days of self-starters, eager beavers and the Puritan work ethic. (Granted, some companies still have Brad in HR who wears a Pilgrim hat and gushes, “Hey, I can work a second shift -- off the clock -- and throw rotten cabbages at rule-breakers in the pillory. Please? Please?”)

Should managers respond by cracking down or easing up? Sometimes managers need to ask, “Am I the problem?” This is especially true of the bosses who cheerlead, “Let’s get out there and go the extra mile for the customer – and afterwards, you can give me the usual foot rub.”

Many of my readers are retirees, but the quiet quitting trend has expanded to them. Diners are merely carrying a clipboard around instead of getting seconds from the Early Bird buffet. Homeowners are yelling, “Hey, you kids get off my – ah, let the ‘no trespassing’ sign take care of it.”

Next week: another insightful column – assuming the big hand doesn’t go past five, I’ve already heard the water cooler gossip and...

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POLICE BLOTTER

INTRUDER ARRESTED

Residents of a Ledford Road home captured an intruder in their shop building with a stolen backpack, a Marshall County Sheriff’s Office report said.

A trail camera automatically notified the residents, who were several hours away in East Tennessee, that someone was in the shop building. The residents headed home and found a woman still there, with head and face covered, who refused to talk to them or Deputy Michael Bermudez.

The woman was wearing the backpack stolen from the home. She was later identified as Amanda Budziak, 33, of Gordonsville, and charged with burglary.

JAIL FIGHTS

Arrests were made following two fights inside Marshall County Jail, reports said.

Four men were charged after an alleged attack on another inmate in his cell Friday, Sept. 26.

According to a report, Joseph Zeigler invited the victim to his cell for coffee. After handing him the coffee, Ziegler allegedly left the cell and stood watch as Dwight Anthony Sloan, Michael Prewitt and Colton Marquis Jameson entered.

“You know what time it is,” Sloan allegedly told the victim, and the three begin hitting him in the body and head out of camera range.

The victim left the cell and buzzed for correctional officers.

Sloan, 34, of Fourth Avenue North, Jameson, 20, of Columbia, and Prewitt, 36, of Jackson Avenue, were charged with assault. Zeigler, 33, of Sandy Street, was charged with criminal responsibility.

•Rodney Shane Crosslin, 43, was allegedly at a table playing dominoes when a fight broke out between him and another inmate, an MCSO report said Tuesday.

Both inmates got in hits but Crosslin was allegedly seen on video entering the other man’s cell for a short time.

Crosslin was charged with assault.

THEFTS

•A Playstation 4 and two con-

trollers were stolen from a home on Seventh Avenue North, Lewisburg police were told Monday night,

Total loss was estimated at \$3,000.

No signs of forced entry were found.

•A tote containing \$50 worth of tools was stolen from a North Church Street residence around 3:50 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 25.

Security video shows a man walking around the property with a flashlight for several minutes before leaving with the bag, police said. A suspect was named.

•A purse and contents were stolen from an unlocked vehicle at Hopetown, Second Avenue North, during the early afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 27.

•A portable generator was stolen from a home in the 2100 block of Highway 40, an MCSO report said.

•A woman accused of shoplifting from Walmart told Lewisburg police she opened packaging but didn’t actually steal anything.

Store security last Thursday described a vehicle in which Suzette D. Sellars of Lewisburg allegedly left to police. An officer stopped the vehicle on North Ellington Parkway near the store moments later.

Sellars was cited for shoplifting.

•A battery, two inverters and an inflator with total value of approximately \$280 were stolen from Walmart around 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28.

No one was listed as arrested, but a police officer and store employee both recognized a suspect after seeing security footage, the police report said.

DRUG CHARGE

Police cited a man for simple possession of marijuana following a traffic stop Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 28.

The driver, Joshua R. Bivins, 24, of Lynnville, was clocked at 40 mph in a 30 mph zone on West Commerce Street, Officer Gunnar Southerland’s report said.

Southerland said he smelled marijuana and advised Bivins, who allegedly handed over 1 gram of pot.

Awareness can defeat domestic violence

Domestic violence looks like a private problem, but nothing could be further from the truth. Any time a member of our community suffers at the hands of another, everyone suffers.

Domestic violence is a community problem.

If you’re a victim, you know it only too well. You know, deep within yourself, that there’s something terribly wrong with your situation. You know, too, that there should be a way to change it. There is help. It’s free, and starts with a phone call. Simply call the Haven of Hope at 1-800-435-7739. No one but you and the per-

son taking your call will know about it. Everything will be entirely voluntary. No one will try to tell you to leave home. Help is available whether you choose to leave your abuser or not. If you’re in immediate danger, you’ll be urged to call 911, but that, too, is up to you. You’ll simply be given information about your rights and your options.

If you’re a law-enforcement officer, you know it only too well. You know the homes where disagreements turn violent. You know how much time and energy you put into trying to make sure you don’t have to go back

out there. You wish you could do more.

If you’re a medical professional, you know it only too well. You know about the number and extent of injuries you’ve seen. You know about the attempts to cover up their cause. You do what you can to help the physical injuries heal, but you wish you could do more.

If you’re a judge, you know it only too well. You know that although you wish it were otherwise, there’s not much more you can do except to punish or threaten punishment. You know that in the long list of cases you must deal with each day, you have only a short time to do what you can to end this problem. You wish you could do more.

If you’re an employer, you know it only too

well. You know that sometimes employees don’t show up for work because loved ones have injured them. You know that sometimes it’s not the injury, but the shame, which keeps them at home. You wish you could do more.

If you’re a teacher or school counselor, you know it only too well. You know that witnessing the abuse at home is as damaging as the physical injuries. You know that children imitate what their parents model. You wish you could do more.

If you’re the friend of a victim, you know it only too well. You’ve seen the bruises, the cuts, the burns, or the look of fear in your friend’s eyes. You wish you could do more.

If you’re a victim’s neighbor, you know it

only too well. You’ve heard the disturbances. You’ve been awakened by the police radios. You’ve felt the helplessness within yourself and wondered about it within the victim. You wish you could do more.

If you live in this community, you know only too well that this is too nice a place, too good a group of people, to tolerate the abuse of anyone by any other. But you know it happens.

You wish you could do more.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Make it a point to become aware of what you can do to eliminate this problem from our community.

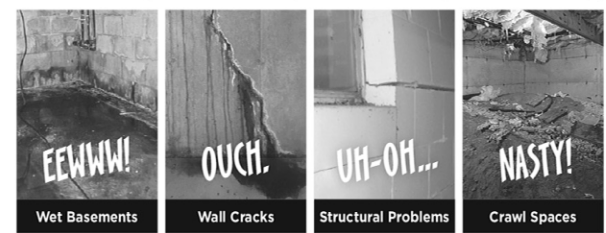
The Haven of Hope, Inc. provides domestic-violence education and assistance to vic-

tims in Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Lincoln, Marshall and Moore counties. Anyone who wants to help by distributing awareness materials or by making donations may call 931-422-2277 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. weekdays, or write the Haven at P.O. Box 1271, Manchester, TN 37349.

The Haven of Hope, Inc. provides emergency-shelter for victims in danger, judicial assistance, violence assessment and safety planning, referral information and support, as well as educational information to victims in Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Lincoln, Marshall, and Moore counties. For assistance with issues of domestic violence, please call the Haven hotline at 1-800-435-7739 or (931) 680-3011.

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Johnathon Savage completes FROG Week at UNG

Johnathon Savage of Chapel Hill, TN, was one of about 165 cadets who began their time as University of North

Georgia (UNG) cadets with Freshman Recruit Orientation Group (FROG) Week from Aug. 14-20.

FROG Week, which is held before the beginning of the fall and spring semesters at UNG, marks the transition from civilians to cadets for these incoming freshmen.

Cadet leaders plan and execute all corps events, including FROG Week, with the oversight of the command staff. UNG is one of six senior military colleges in the nation and commissions more than 100 officers into the Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve each year.

Positioned in the fastest-growing region of the state, the University of North Georgia

comprises five campuses united by a single mission focused on academic excellence and academic and co-curricular programs that develop students into leaders for a diverse and global society. The University of North Georgia is a University System of Georgia leadership institution and is The Military College of Georgia. With almost 19,000 students, the University of North Georgia is one of the state’s largest public universities. The university offers more than 100 programs of study ranging from certificate and associate degrees to doctoral programs.

Selling By The Yard?

List your yard or garage sale in the Classifieds!

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