

Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

75¢

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MARCH 17, 2020

MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK

TUE 60°/50°
MAR 17

WED 70°/61°
MAR 18

THU 74°/63°
MAR 19

FRI 68°/45°
MAR 20

SAT 53°/37°
MAR 21

SUN 56°/43°
MAR 22

MON 57°/49°
MAR 23

Who Let The Dogs Out?

Joint Task Force K-9 Teams Search Morgan County Schools



On 12 March 2020, Sheriff Wayne Potter and his deputies demonstrated their concern for the wellbeing of Morgan County's students. His department coordinated and executed a well-planned joint task force K-9 search for illegal substances in all Morgan County schools aside from Petros Joiner and Wartburg Central Elementary school. The joint task force consisted of the following Law Enforcement agencies; Alcoa Police Department, Anderson County Sheriff's Department, Blount County Sheriff's Department, Cumberland County Sheriff's Department, Fentress County Sheriff's Department, Knoxville Police Department, Knox County Sheriff's Department, Rockwood Police Department, and the Wartburg Police Department. The operation was made possible by the support of Morgan County school administrators and teachers.

According to Sheriff Potter, "these searches serve as a deterrence for students to bring illegal substances on school grounds and promotes a safe learning environment for all students. During these searches' officers recovered several tobacco and vape products and no illegal narcotics were found on school property. The citizens of Morgan County can rest assure that the county's children are a top priority of Sheriff Potter's Department and Law Enforcement agencies across East Tennessee. This search and the reasons for the search proves just that. The parents, school administrators, and teachers of Morgan County should praise their students for not using drugs and continue to encourage them to never allow drug use to become a part of their lives.

Thankfully no illegal narcotics were found on school property by the Joint Task Force K-9 search but as earlier stated, several tobacco and vape products were found. This may be relieving yet unnerving by many concerned parents who have school-age children who are using tobacco or vape products.

According to www.dare.org (2020), Dr. Ashley Frazier, Director of Curriculum and Training with the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) International, vaping among school-age children increased by almost 80% between 2017 and 2018. She says vaping is attractive to young people because of its flavor profiles and uses an example of vaping products being marketed as mint flavor by calling it "unicorn tears" in an obvious attempt to attract young people to use the products. On February 14, 2020 the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services reported that the TN Together Student Survey was conducted and asked students about their use of and related attitudes and behaviors surrounding prescription drugs, alcohol, marijuana, tobacco (including e-cigarettes), and other drugs. Approximately half of the students surveyed said their parents had talked to

them about tobacco and other drug use, but only about a third had discussed the dangers of prescription drug misuse. Across all substances the average age of first use was thirteen to fourteen years old.

On questions that asked if students had ever used each substance, alcohol is the most frequently used substance among youth with 40% of students saying they have consumed it. Similarly, research-

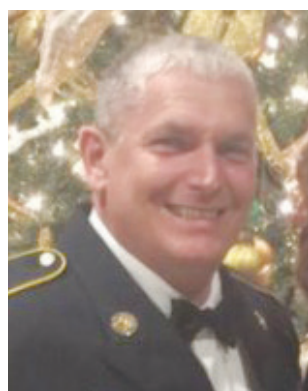


K-9 Unit searches school (Photo Submitted)

ers asked student to report how easy it is for them to obtain various substances. Students

answered that alcohol and tobacco products were the most accessible substances with around two in three saying they could easily obtain either. Approximately half of the students said it was "very easy" or "fairly easy" for them to gain access to prescription drugs or marijuana.

Sheriff Potter, Morgan County Today thanks you for doing your part to ensure illegal drugs aren't on our schools' properties and we encourage parents to continue to talk to your children about the dangers of drug, tobacco, vaping, and alcohol use.



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Scott Nation



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Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

FACT 1 Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

People of Asian descent, including Chinese Americans, are not more likely to get COVID-19 than any other American. Help stop fear by letting people know that being of Asian descent does not increase the chance of getting or spreading COVID-19.

FACT 2 Some people are at increased risk of getting COVID-19.

People who have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or people who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread are at an increased risk of exposure.

FACT 3 Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.



FACT 4 You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
- Seek medical advice if you
- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

FACT 5 There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

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Sunbright



Heather Francis
Editor

Coals of Fire

Life can be funny sometimes. Ok. Your right. Life can be funny almost ALL the time. No matter where you find yourself in this journey we call life, one thing is certain: nothing is certain. Take the economy for an example. It can be doing extremely well and then BOOM, a virus from China nearly shuts it down. Take your health, one day you can be doing just fine, feeling great and then the next find yourself in the hospital because of an accident. Take your children, no matter how many you may have, they are all very different. NOTHING is certain.

Let's talk about friendship. There are folks whom you call your friends. You may know them from work, church, school, or other areas in life. Most will be in your life for a season. A few will be lifetime friendships. A true friend is one that sticks closer than a brother. The Bible talks about no greater love we can show than laying down a life for a friend like Jesus did for us.

Sometimes those friendships leave us in a hostile fashion and it is in those moments that we wonder, were they even a friend to begin with. Those are the

hardest stumbling blocks in life. When someone we trust. Someone we call a friend. Someone we break bread with and sup with turns their back on us or breaks that relationship in some way. Many times its simple gossip that shreds the relationship. There was a kids show called VeggieTales. One episode was about the "Rumor Weed". It displayed how a rumor can grow and become even more vicious than was ever intended. When left unattended or when it is not dealt with it can even grow into what some may call a "coup", sabotage, or "stabbing in the back". It hurts the worst when they look at you and they smile while all along attempting to destroy your life. Even worse sometimes the weeds get so bad they attempt to destroy the lives of your family members. In a ironic twist of fate most of these folks seemingly try to find some sort of justification for their behavior and destruction.

These types of situations happen every day on a small scale or a very large scale. It is nothing new. We have seen betrayals since the beginning of time. Think of Cain and Able. Jealousy and rage took over Cain who went as far as to murder his own brother. I'm sure Able trusted his brother. Then of course one of the most infamous betrayals was Judas as he betrayed Jesus for silver.

Even today in modern times we see folks betray people for selfish reasons or attempts at gain all the time. It is not news to predict it will continue on.

As we discussed in the beginning, NOTHING is certain including people whom you call friends. It can be pretty rough to wake up sometimes knowing that today may be the day someone you call friend may attempt to destroy you. They may call into your work with some bogus story attempting to get you fired or at the very least cause you discomfort. It may be the day they choose other relationships over your own. They may just walk away and leave you there alone. What should we do? How should we react? When conventional wisdom tells you to get revenge, or to lash out. When the world tells us to be a vigilante and fight fire with fire. As a Christ follower, as a Christian we are held to a higher standard. We seek a greater reward than those on this earth. We are instructed to do right by others. To turn the other cheek.

We must not give into the flesh but rather know that loving God and loving our neighbor is our commandment.

Love and forgive and most of all repay evil with

kindness. You will be better off for it and the world will be a better place. Just as we hope to snuff out this Covid-19, we can hope to snuff out those that attempt evil against us by loving them.

The Bible talks about heaping coals of fire. Those coals of fire are kindness. When we are kind to those who mean us harm it will be like coals of fire. Heap those coals of fire.

Proverbs 25:21 *If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:*

22 *For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee.*

Romans 12:19 *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*

20 *Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.*

Send Letters to the Editor
Editor@mocotoday.com



Dear Lady Laurel,
My husband wants a big farm and lots of animals but I just don't feel like we have time nor the resources to spend on a mini farm. What should I do?
Horses in the back

Dear horses,

It is always tough when dealing with decisions in marriage when you don't see eye to eye. The best thing for all of us is to get along. If there is an opportunity to talk to him about your concerns, it seems that would make the most sense. There is no way to know weather he his 100% sold on the idea or if it is just a phase. Spending money on a "phase" is hard to swallow at times. Just voice your concerns to him and ensure him that you will be supportive no matter what he decides.

L.L.

Dear Lady Laurel,

My cousins and I used to be so close when we were

growing up but as we all have our own families now we have grown apart. Any pointers on how to keep the up with them without sacrificing family time with my immediate family?
Cousins

Dear Cousins,
Growing up is part of life. Growing apart sometimes is a byproduct of the aging process. There is no way to know just how hard it can be to have long distance relationships with the ones that you love. Thankfully in the time in which we live we are able to use social media for what its intended purpose was to begin with, connecting with folks. Use it for good. Stay connected to those family and friends who live away and who have their own families now. Never stop looking for ways to get together even if it is with everyone bringing their children to a play day.

L.L.

Do you have a question for
Lady Laurel? Send them to
ladylaurel@mocotoday.com

Morgan County Today

Tommy Lee Francis: Publisher
Email: publisher@mocotoday.com

Heather Francis: Editor
Email: editor@mocotoday.com

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Eddie Lee "Possum" Durham, 62

Eddie Lee "Possum" Durham, age 62 of Deer Lodge passed away March 10, 2020 at his home surrounded by his family. Eddie worked for 25 years hanging cable and 8 years for Cobb Vantress. He loved deer hunting and going fishing but most of all he loved spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren. He was a loving and caring husband, father and "papaw".



He is preceded in death by his parents, Hershel and Josephine Durham; brothers, Roland, Ronald and Roger Durham; sisters, Rosalee Durham and Wilma Durham; sister-in-law, Bonnie Durham.

He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Dennise Durham of Deer Lodge; sons, Eddie Kilby and Dwayne Durham both of Deer Lodge; daughters, Kayla (Justin) Vaughn of Nashville and Amanda Wright of Jamestown; grandchildren, Justin and

Nash Vaughn, Blake Kilby, Blake Delk, Dustin and Jaxon Wright and Ismayla Martynowicz; brothers, Reed (Bonnie) Durham, Nolan Durham both of Mt. Juliet, Dave (Betty) Durham of Kingsberry, Indiana; sisters, Peggy (Gary) Morgan of Sunbright, Rhonda (Tom) Biddle of Wartburg, Joann (Teddy) Hawn of Frankford Community and a host of nieces, nephews and special friends.

The family will receive friends Friday, March 13, 2020 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Funeral service will be Saturday at 11:00 a.m. at the Chestnut Ridge Community Church with Bro. Doug Morgan and Bro. Wayne Matthews officiating. Interment will follow in the Union Grove Cemetery in Sunbright.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family Eddie Lee Durham.

Arthur Steve Farr, 62

Arthur Steve Farr, age 62 passed away March 9, 2020 at his home.

He is preceded in death by his mothers, L Jean Kowalewski and Cora Farr.

He is survived by his brother, Frank W. Kowalewski; niece, Kerri L. Kowalewski; great niece, Kaylene.

The family will receive friends Saturday, March 14, 2020 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. with a memorial service to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Dr. Paul Frick officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Arthur Steve Farr.

Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.

Opinions expressed by readers and columnists do not necessarily reflect those of Morgan County Today

Oakdale Drama Club Spring Play The Show Must Go On

By: Julie Johnson Crowe

Oakdale Drama Club says, "Welcome to Wimpleton's World of Wonder!" Except there is no world, no wonder, and the only Wimpleton left is Winnie the "Wimp" Wimpleton. Wimpleton or Simpleton, Winnie is left with a circus train to travel the world, but no one to fill the train but a few animals – a lion that has no roar, a bear that does not know how to dance, and a snake that sleeps all day. After Winnie's parents, the great Wimpletons, died in a freak cannon accident, she inherited the circus train, tent, equipment, and animals, but no workers. The cannon backfired in the big top and all the workers quit on the spot and sued Winnie's circus for damages. Now, Winnie is on a mission to take the train, the equipment, and the animals to the circus capital of the world, Peru, Indiana, to sell the Wimpleton's World of Wonder. But her train breaks down in the middle of Peculiar, Missouri. What is Winnie to do with a broken-down train and her only way to make any money to cover the debt from the former circus workers' lawsuits?

Meanwhile, two famous jewel thieves, Daphne and Daniel DuBois, have just robbed Mrs. Howell, the richest woman in Peculiar, and are looking for a fast getaway out of town. Jumping on board Winnie's train, only to realize it is broken down, these two robbers have got to get in disguise and out of sight from Peculiar's own Marshal Colt Revolver. Winnie's, financial advisor and friend, Ned Nerdinheimer, encourages Winnie to take advantage of the train break down and hold auditions for a new circus. Instead of selling the show, she should put on a show. What better place to get new talent and put on a show than in a town called Peculiar? If Winnie makes enough money, not only could she settle the lawsuits, she could maybe even save Wimpleton's World of Wonder. As auditions unfold, Winnie not only gets a new troupe, but two jewel thieves and an undercover marshal.

Showtimes as follows:

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Tuesday, March 24, 2020 – – 1:00 p.m. (\$2.00) | School Matinee – K-6 |
| Wednesday, March 25, 2020 – a.m. (\$2.00) | School Matinee – 7-12 – 8:30 |
| Thursday, March 26, 2020 – 6:30 p.m. (\$6.00) | General Admission – |
| Friday, March 27, 2020 – p.m. (\$18.00) | Dinner Theatre – 6:00 |
| Saturday, March 28, 2020 – p.m. (\$18.00) | Dinner Theatre – 6:00 |

Reservations required for Dinner Theatre. Please call Oakdale School at 423-369-3885 to make reservations.

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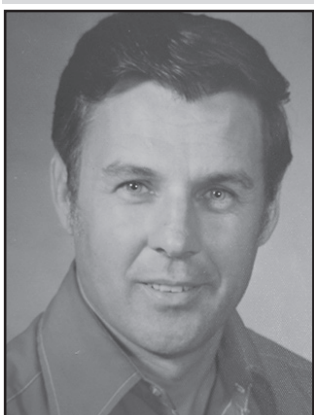
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Ray Bardill: A Morgan Boy Who Had A Very Successful Life

Part2



Tom Redmon
Columnist

Tommy: Ray, I know you married a sweet Morgan County girl by the name of Joyce Garrett. Would you care to tell us a little about her and your courtship?

Ray: Yes, Joyce has been a big part of my life. I have already told you about us having a locker together in high school. I got to sit by this beautiful blonde with the prettiest hair I had ever seen, on one end of the year 8th grade field trip. By the end of the trip we had agreed to write to each other over the summer - and we did. Through the high school years our relationship grew stronger.

In our Freshmen and Sophomore years we were voted the "cutest" for the Central High School annual. (I guess we were not as cute in our Junior and Senior years.) Joyce often visited me when I was in the Harriman Hospital due to the hunting accident. We were married in the Fall of 1956 and moved to Memphis for one year while Joyce worked on and received her bachelor's degree from Memphis State, and I worked on my Master's degree at U.T. Memphis. We now have two married daughters, Amy Jean Meyer and Amanda Jane Spencer. We also have five grandchildren!

One of the great joys of our marriage has been the ability to reflect on the many experiences we had in high school and our young life in Morgan County. Many of you have heard the old saying, "You can take the boy out of Morgan County but you can't take Morgan County out of the boy." We both love Morgan County.

Tommy: Ray, I know you had many great experiences during your twenty years in the army. Tell us about them.

Ray: Joyce and I left Morgan County in 1958. I was scheduled to be drafted that year. I applied for and received a direct commission before being drafted, so I became an officer in the Army Medical Corp. I planned to return to Morgan County after my Army tour of duty but God had other plans for me. My first assignment was at Fort Sill, OK where I worked with problemed soldiers and troubled military families.

Fort Sill is the artillery center for officer candidates. The stress of that training program provided a large portion of the client population at Fort Sill. Our son Christian Garrett Bardill was born with

sever medical problems in 1960. The military made a great effort to save his life but he died at five months of age. He was helicoptered to Brook Army Hospital where he died. (That whole experience is one that never fades from my memory).

The death of my son, Christian, and my positive experiences in the Army greatly influenced my decision to make a career of the military. I was promised completed medical care for me and my family for the rest of my life (A



Coach Homer Ricce and Ray
(Photo Submitted)

promise not fully kept) and a PHD education in my chosen profession as a Clinical Social Worker. (I was sent to the Smith College School of Social Work in Northampton, Boston, MA. Where I was awarded a PHD in 1967).

I had a very unusual military career. After Fort Sill I was assigned to Walter Reed General Hospital (WRGH) in Washington, DC, and as a third assignment to the Walter Reed Institute of Research and my last assignment was back to Walter Reed Army Hospital and spent over fourteen years at the Walter Reed Medical Center between my assignments to Walter Reed Army Hospital.

Tommy: I know you were at Walter Reed during the Vietnam conflict. Did you receive any of the wounded soldiers while there?

Ray: Yes, I saw and worked with many wounded soldiers, and I saw the sever price paid by our young men in combat. It is hard for me to describe in words on a piece of paper what we saw. Many came in with limbs lost and their lives changed forever. One young man came to Walter Reed with his entire face burned off. Over a period of years, I saw his new face reconstructed. During the Vietnam conflict we created what I called "The Vietnam Returnee Program." We were there to help ever wounded soldier sent to WRGH and we attempted to do everything we could do for them.

Both Joyce and I were very active in our church. Joyce taught in St.

Andrew's Preschool and in 1976, Charles Mueller Pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church and I co-authored a book for teenagers, Thank God I'm a Teenager, (Augsburg Publishing House).

When I retired from the military in 1978, I was awarded the Legion of Merit medal and had attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. I also attained the rank of Head Professor at Catholic University. Our work in the military/Catholic University programs enabled me to co-author another book on Family Group Case-

work as well as a number of others in professional journals. I also gave workshops and lectures to professional groups in the U.S. and Europe.

I can honestly say that in my over twenty years in the military (20 years and two days) that I met some of the finest men and women on this earth. It was and is an inspiration to me to

see the dedication to duty of the soldiers who fight for our country both physically and mentally.

My unique military experiences lead me to my second career path, and in 1978 I was hired as a professor at Florida State University. One year later I was appointed as Dean and Professor of the School of Social Work. I served fourteen years as Dean and Professor of the school, and as a teaching professor for over nine years.

My university experience was very positive for me both personally and professionally. I authored a textbook titled, The Relational System Model for Family Therapy and over thirty professional articles. I also continued to give workshops in the states, Europe and South Korea. I served as the National President of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy and was appointed to the President Commission of Child Welfare.

Tommy: Ray, my son and several students that I taught in high school attended Florida State University and they said it was pretty liberal. How did you find it?

Ray: I found Florida State to be intensely secular. When I was Dean, a faculty member accused me of being a Christian, and I have also been accused of being a white southern, Christian boy from Tennessee - so true it is. During my time at time spent at Florida State I felt the atmosphere become more political and anti-Christian. In general, I would say at the University level many family and Christian words were, and are, being deconstructed and weaponized to use against believers.

Tommy: you are so right about our Universities being secular and anti-Christian. I have told parents to make sure your teenager is well-grounded in his or her faith and that hey love their God, family and country, because a big majority of university professors are secular and can easily lead them astray.

Ray: With that being said, my overall experiences were very positive, and I cherish them highly.

Tommy: When did you retire from Florida State University and what have you been doing with yourself since?

Ray: I retired in 1993, I was given the title of Professor Emeritus and I have become a "Visiting Professor" for two semesters at the University of Utah. I have remained active here at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Tallahassee. I serve on the Board of Elders, co-teach an Adult Bible class and when the pastor is absent, I give the Sunday morning message at our two church services.

I am now 85 plus years, and I live a life of gratitude for the many blessings I have received from

my heavenly Father. And since I am still around, I assume God is not through with me here on this earth yet. I often think of the Bible verse found in Romans 8:28, "and we know all things work together for the good of those who love Him who are called according to His purpose." I know God love me (John 3:16).

Although Ray and Joyce have lived most of their adult life away

from Morgan County, they are still Morgan Countians through and through. Ray says, "I often remember and give thanks for my early life in Wartburg. The many people I knew and grew up with were instrumental in provided me a view of life that has served me well over the years.

Thank you Ray for your wonderful story.



Joyce Bardill
(Photo Submitted)

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Though Your Sins Be As Scarlet

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

God pleads with Jerusalem to repent and turn to him. Stephen, in Acts chapter 7, reminds us of their hardened hearts. Acts 7:51 "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye."

America today is more corrupted than Jerusalem was in Isaiah's day. The very means by which man is born again has been polluted to the point that many a soul will die lost. That is exactly why Satan has provided Catholicism and all the daughters of Catholicism; many denominations. Satan's industry is division.

Jesus said: I am the way, not one of many. The body of Christ is the church that Jesus is the head of, His one body. Jesus is the King of His Kingdom. Ephesians 5:5 "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."

All spiritual blessings are in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:"

Earthy kingdoms and governments use propaganda to control and manipulate people to serve them, making their people believe it's for their own good. Catholicism is the gateway of these evils.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John show us the love of God. Jesus did not suffer and die for his own good, but he did so for you and me, to lead us out of rebellion and sin.

Matthew 11:29-30 "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

To serve Jesus Christ is freedom from the bondage of Satan's kingdom. The children of Israel, by miracles, chose to follow Moses out of Egyptians bondage and travel to the Promised Land. As they travel they suddenly find themselves in big trouble, the sea of water before them and Pharaoh's army in heated pursuit behind them (Exodus 15:19).

1 Corinthians 10:1-5 "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat; 4 And did all drink the

same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. 5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness."

The Holy Spirit shows us that the rock which delivered them was Christ.

Why didn't 90% of them simply fall on their knees and pray the sinner's prayer, rather than obey Moses in baptism under the cloud and the sea water? Don't you think that they would have received Holy Spirit baptism instead of that possible drowning in the sea? Yes, they would have died in bondage in Egypt.

As Jesus was leaving the earth for heaven after having been raised from the dead and proving his authority over all nature and man, Jesus said: Mark 16:15-16 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

John 3:5 "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." They who gladly hear the gospel of Christ, they will request immersion into Christ for remission of their sins, then the Lord himself adds those to his church. Acts 2:47 and Heb. 5:9, that is calling on the name of the Lord.

1 Peter 1:22-23 "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: 23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

Acts 22:16 "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Here and Acts 2:21 calling mean's submitting to the Lord's will and testament.) Matthew 7:21

Ephesians 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word," That's the new birth. This is the Lord's church.

Friends, nowhere, but nowhere does the Holy Spirit suggest, command or imply that we must pray the so-called sinner's prayer to be saved. You who are depending on the feeling of Satan's lie will have the privilege of asking him personally in the lake of fire, why he lied.



MELVIN HOWARD

Melvin Howard's Weekly column is sponsored by
The Lord's Church
102 Paxton Road, Lancing



MIA'S View From the Mountain: Good News - In God We Trust

Phew!!!! This week seemed to be the longest and the shortest of all weeks.

March 2-3, 2020, a series of large tornadoes touched down in West and Middle Tennessee, starting the night of March 2 and into the morning of March 3, 2020, including one that hit downtown Nashville and another that impacted areas just west of Cookeville. It was reported that 26 people were killed by the tornadoes, more than 300 were injured, and more than 70,000 lost power in the storm which affected areas in Eastern Tennessee, Alabama, southern Kentucky and southeastern Missouri.

As many individuals, organizations, churches, and businesses began to rally to help these people who lost a lot, if not everything, with the devastation of the tornado, this crazy global Corona pandemic took precedent over all our thoughts. When I went to purchase cleaning supplies (toilet paper and paper towels to donate through our church to those affected by the Tornado), as you may guess, there were none to be had. I went to five stores and was shocked to find none of those retailers had the products. Now, I grew up in South Florida and lived through more Hurricanes than I would like to admit. I have seen bare shelves before, but this really baffled me. Conversations I had

this week with different individuals were all about the virus, and I heard real fear. Yet the Bible tells us in Isaiah 43:1 "Don't fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine."

God actually commands us not to fear, or worry. The phrase "fearnot" is used at least 80 times in the Bible, most likely because He knows the enemy uses fear to decrease our hope and limit our victories. So do not be afraid, yes of course be wise but put your trust in the Lord. He has us. In the book Jesus CEO, Laurie Beth Jones includes this poem:

There is a net under us all.
Sometimes we dance
And sometimes we fall.
And there is a net
Under us all.

She was referring to the Maker of heaven and earth who watches over you and me. It is He who neither slumbers nor sleeps. (Psalm 121:1-4). If we have opened our hearts to a relationship and companionship with Him, then we are never truly alone. So, if you ever experience the bitter taste of loneliness, then open your heart and draw closer to God. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Further, He will put a Family of Faith around you—but

you must be willing to trust Him first.

I read about some city workers in the city of Hamilton, Ontario. They were trimming the limbs of trees when they discovered a nest of robins on one of the limbs. They decided to trim around that limb. Later, after the robins were able to fly away, the city crew came back and took down the limb where the robins had nested. When they looked into the nest, they found a ragged, wadded up piece of paper with some barely legible words scrawled on the paper. Someone had written on that paper which the industrious robins picked up and stuffed into their nest. It read, "We trust in the Lord our God."

That is something to think about when we are lonely, troubled and afraid. We trust in the Lord our God. He who cared for the robins can certainly care for you and me!

Mia is a wife to a wonderful man of 44 years, mother of three grown and married children, grandmother of twelve, great grandmother to one. She and her husband have three dogs, one feral cat, two roosters, seven hens and two baby chicks. She loves Jesus with her whole heart. Please feel free to contact her through Morgan County Today Paper.

Ms. Rebecca's Classroom

Why God Allows Pain

By Rebecca Davis

1. A Greater Good - Jesus Suffered more than anyone. His suffering created a way for man to come to God.
2. If we are persecuted for righteousness sake then we are blessed.
3. Most of those who are remembered from the past had physical, mental & emotional problems. It is Well with My Soul was written after a shipwreck that killed all of the songwriters children, but God used that tragedy to give us one of the greatest songs which is still bringing Glory to God.
4. Every Christian no matter how timid can share God's love and forgiveness without being stressed out, if they just tell how He brought them through tough times.
5. How much is it worth to you that Jesus suffered severe abuse and

death to take your place on the CROSS? Are you willing to suffer for Him since He died for you?

6. If I died today by taking your and your families place in Hell, wouldn't you appreciate that gift enough to want to tell someone. Jesus did that!
7. Witnessing of Jesus love to others may benefit your children by creating a more peaceful world to live in.
8. If your earthly father died so you might live, wouldn't you want to honor his memory by telling others about his loving sacrifice?
9. We are God's children. Everything we do or don't do reflects on our Heavenly Father.
10. We can only live for God by repenting of our sins and inviting Jesus into your life as your LORD (Boss) and SAVIOR (He died in your place to pay for all your sins)

Historically Speaking

Ed Westcott – Oak Ridge Photographer Extraordinaire

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Lynn Freeny, present day official photographer for the Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Office proudly calls Ed Westcott his friend and fellow photographer. In honoring Ed by contributing to the book "Through the Lens of Ed Westcott" Lynn tells how he met Ed Westcott. It seems Lynn was a young photographer working at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in the early 1980's when, because of the heavy workload, Ed Westcott was hired part-time to help in the darkroom. Lynn noted that the prints coming out were better than when he printed the same negatives. He wanted to know "Who is the person?" That is when he was introduced to our own renowned Manhattan Project photographer Ed Westcott. From that introduction Ed and Lynn formed a fast friendship. Lynn gives Ed credit for paving the way for other photographers in Oak Ridge. I might add that Ed set a standard of excellence that few have attained. His photographs are truly works of art!

Baldwin Lee, Professor of Art in the School of Art at the University of Tennessee, chronicled the early history of Ed in the same book mentioned above. Lee begins with Ed's assignment on December 15, 1942 as official Manhattan Project photographer at age 20. He then recalls Ed's early introduction to photography by his father Jamie Westcott who, after saving for year, purchased his son a German Foth Derby camera for \$25 in 1934 when Ed was 12 years old. Ed soon was in business for himself developing film for neighbors. Lee makes a point to say that Ed Westcott was not overly influenced by other photographers and that he often claims to have "just done the job" of producing the best possible photograph he could create.

Lee describes Ed Westcott's Manhattan Project photographs as images that "describe with precise accuracy the facts of his subjects, thereby satisfying the demands of his employers, and that they do so by capturing the qualities of wonder, amazement, surprise, delight, sorrow, humor, affection, knowledge, understanding, compassion, sympathy, respect, and gravity." He went on to say, "Ed Westcott's photographs transcend anonymity because they describe their subjects with grace and meaning." And finally he concludes this thought by reflecting that "Ed Westcott knows about grace and meaning; these are part of his being, an essential part of his beliefs and value system."

Ed was the 29th employee hired as part of the Manhattan Project team, working first

for the United States Army Corps of Engineers and later for the Atomic Energy Commission and eventually the Department of Energy. In his role as the sole official photographer of the Manhattan Project photographer, Ed Westcott accepted a challenge of enormous responsibility. Without the photographic images he created, history would have lost the detail and understanding of the Manhattan Project as well as the other events Ed recorded for posterity through his photographic images and creative use of subjects to convey the essence of the message through the visual medium. His photographs need little to no captions to convey their central message.

Ed Westcott was born in Chattanooga on January 20, 1922. He moved to Nashville with his parents before he was a teenager. While still a teenager, he began working for the Corps of Engineers headquartered in Nashville. He photographed site selection and construction of military camps, airports, hydroelectric plants and dams in Tennessee and Kentucky. He even was dispatched on a secret mission to photograph a classified location in middle Tennessee that was intended to become a prisoner of war camp. As a result of the manner in which he handled this secret assignment and

the impressive results of his early industrial and documentary photography, he was selected to transfer to a much more expansive and difficult assignment in East Tennessee to become a part of the little known but highly important Manhattan Project.

His assignment initially was to photograph construction of the Manhattan Project plants being designed and constructed to support the World War II effort by separating uranium 235 from the much more plentiful uranium 238. He alone was to document the government's efforts on the 59,000-acre site as well as the all aspects of the fenced-in city being constructed on Black Oak Ridge. X-10, Y-12, K-25 and eventually S-50 were the designations for the plants. All his photographs were classified.

However, when the first bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and a press release was prepared, Ed's photographs figured prominently in the communication effort and some eighteen of his images were quickly declassified and distributed worldwide for that news release. The first photographs taken by the damage assessment team at Hiroshima and Nagasaki were processed by Ed in his Oak Ridge photography laboratory.

After the war ended and Oak Ridge was opened to the public, Ed continued as photographer for the Atomic Energy Commission in Oak Ridge and also covered assignments to AEC related projects in Kentucky, Ohio, Missouri, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and AEC headquarters in Washington, DC.

He transferred to AEC headquarters in Germantown, Maryland in 1966 where he photographed twenty-three nuclear reactors as the emphasis of the AEC was on encouraging nuclear power generation and other peaceful uses of atomic energy. He also accompanied AEC commissioners to the White House where he was able to photograph meetings with a number of presidents. Over his career Ed has photographed seven United States Presidents, including John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and George H. Bush.

Ed Westcott was likely the first US government photographer to be allowed to photograph an activity in the Soviet Embassy in Washington, DC. The occasion was when Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, then Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, received a plaque from the Soviets.

Over five thousand of the early historical negatives made by Ed are now archived in Washington, DC at the National Archives inside a climate-controlled environment for permanent archival storage. This valuable collection is recognized as THE record of the Manhattan Project and early AEC efforts in Oak Ridge and other locations. Without this vital record, future generations could not appreciate nor



Ed with his Nikon camera – photo by Lynn Freeny

understand the tremendous accomplishments of the Manhattan Project or the other events memorialized through the lens of Ed Westcott!

Ed has generously provided access to his early photographs for publication in numerous publications throughout the world. Many displays in Oak Ridge such as the American Museum of Science and Energy and the excellent collection in the Children's Museum are examples of the high quality images being used to convey visual history lessons to heritage tourists interested in the Oak Ridge and the Manhattan Project history so richly portrayed in his photographs.

In 1977, Ed retired from the Department of Energy in Germantown, Maryland. He quickly returned to his hometown, our city that he has helped make world famous through his wonderful photographic images. Although officially retired, he has continued to work as special project consultant and photographer to the DOE's various missions in Oak Ridge.

Ed and his wife, Esther Seigenthaler Westcott (deceased), lived in Knoxville with son

James E. Westcott, Jr. until housing was available in Oak Ridge. Their first home was an "A" house on Trevoise Lane; then another "A" house on East Tennessee Avenue where son David Westcott and daughter Emily Westcott (Hunnicut) were born; then a "C" house on Dewey Road where son William Westcott was born; and finally to a "D" house on Georgia Avenue where son John Westcott was born. Ed resides in the Georgia Avenue home today after an eleven-year excursion to Rockville, Maryland from 1966 to 1977.

Ed's family now resides as follows: James and Vickilynne live in Hermitage, Tennessee; William lives in Oak Ridge; Emily and Don Hunnicutt live in Oak Ridge; John and Danielle live in Oak Ridge and David and Anita live in Germantown, Maryland. He has nine grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

Ed's call sign as a ham radio operator is W4UVS. He has been a ham radio operator



Ed Westcott - 1943

since his early teens. Although Ed suffered a stroke in 2003, he published his first book of early Oak Ridge photographs in 2005 titled "Images of America Oak Ridge." He has learned to sign his books with his left hand because of the residual effects of the stroke. He also finds time to participate in Oak Ridge events and although his speech is a bit halting, the sparkle is still strong in his eye and he is obviously still the optimistic individual who enjoys Oak Ridge immensely and is a favorite son of our city. We are blessed to have him among our most respected, loved and revered citizens.

The Oak Ridge Heritage and Preservation Association recently dedicated a book Oak Ridge ~ Then & Now containing many of his photographs to Ed. He is a member of the Secret City: The Oak Ridge Story Historical Advisory Council and has provided numerous photographs used in that documentary film.

I have admired Ed Westcott for as long as I have been aware of his presence in Oak Ridge. Being an avid photographer myself, I look to him as someone I can learn from and have studied his images hoping to grasp the techniques he used. We have talked often of many things about Oak Ridge and I learn something new with each conversation. A more modest and humble man, I have never met. A more talented and enthusiastic photographer whose dedication to excellence is unsurpassed, I have never seen. A better person to be held in high esteem by our city is not to be found. Thank you Ed Westcott for creating a great photographic collection that more than documents our history, it celebrates it.

Oak Ridge was created as a part of the Manhattan Project in 1942 to help stop World War II. The atomic bomb, Little Boy, fueled by uranium 235 separated at Oak Ridge helped to do just that.

Oak Ridge began in war, has continued to support our nation's efforts through the Cold War, and even now in the age of terrorism. Oak Ridge has also produced nuclear medicine, nuclear power and fuel for the US Navy nuclear submarines and ships.

This "Secret City" nestled in Appalachia near Morgan County and where many from Morgan County go each day to work, continues today to produce scientific discoveries used worldwide and still routinely makes history. These Historically Speaking stories will provide insight into the people of Oak Ridge and the work they do to help humankind.

Historically Speaking is written by D. Ray Smith, Oak Ridge City Historian, retired Y-12 National Security Complex Historian and Vietnam Veteran.



MSG Fred Mize

Pledge of Allegiance

By: MSG. Fred Mize

nised to my childhood of learning and reciting the pledge with my fellow classmates at the beginning of every school day.

As a Soldier of twenty years I never get tired of proudly giving my pledge to the American Flag and the great country it represents. Every time I gaze at the American Flag, I'm humbled by the red stripes that represent the bloodshed that was given to provide the freedom we as Americans enjoy each and every day.

At the beginning of each church service at my home

church, Liberty Baptist Church in Kingston, the congregation stands and recites their pledge of allegiances to the American Flag, the

at my first Honor Guard meeting I was thankful for the service and sacrifices made by those who served before me to ensure

and I pledge our allegiances among our fellow brothers and sisters-in-Christ at Liberty Baptist Church, I'm thankful for the bloodshed of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ who gave us freedom from the wages of sin and a promise of eternal life to all who believe in His name.

I leave you today with two questions. Where do your pledges of allegiances lie? Are you thankful and appreciative not only of the bloodshed of

your fellow Americans that allows you the freedoms you enjoy today but even more importantly have you accepted the bloodshed of Jesus Christ for your sins in hope that you may accept Him as your LORD and Savior?

An unknown author once quoted, "Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you; Jesus Christ for your sins and the American Soldier for your freedom."

Be thankful to live free in the United States and for the opportunity to live free from the punishment of sin.



Christian Flag, and to the Holy Bible. As I stood among my brothers-in-arms

I had the freedom to live my life and raise my family as I have. As my family

Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

Why Did I Give Away A TV?

Several years ago, my granny and I were talking on the phone. She asked, "Zack, the next time you are in town, can you look at my TV?" I said, "Why what is wrong with it?" She said there were some staticky lines running across the picture screen making it blurry.

The next time I visited her apartment, I checked all the cords to make sure they were hooked in and looked at the cable box outside of her apartment. The cables were all connected. I noticed the lines across the TV; they were really annoying. My granny grew up poor her entire life and believed you should keep using electronics until they completely break. I was about to disrupt her narra-



tive.

My granny's tv was getting pretty old and it was really small for her living room. I would say her TV was over 20 years old at that time. I had just graduated college and started finally making decent money. I had my own apartment, a stable job, and a vehicle. As I grew older, I started to mature. I realized how much granny had sacrificed to raise me at a young age on a fixed income. I wanted to pay it forward; I decided I was



going to buy her a brand new big screen TV.

Televisions keep advancing and improving in quality every single year. It's the one consistent electronic that tends to go down in price and up in quality. When I purchased her brand new TV, it was a 36 inch (which was considered a big screen at that time). A television nowadays is much lighter in weight. I remember the TV I bought her required two people to carry. It was very bulky and heavy at the same time.

In the early 2000's, Circuit City was a chain store that was similar to Best Buy. I bought the TV at Circuit City. I called one of my good friends, Wayne Frasier (principal at the middle school in Wartburg, TN), to help me surprise my granny by showing up at her home with a brand new TV. I was in Knoxville, TN and headed to Wartburg, TN. Wayne and I carried the tv to her door and knocked. She opened the door and was completely shocked that we were bringing in a big screen tv. She was so happy!!!

My grandmother, Maude Frost, went onto to be with the Lord on February 20th, 2020. I teamed up with Morgan County Today and gave a way a



Zack Ballinger brand new, 65 inch 4K smart tv in her honor. Morgan County Today picked a random winner from a contest via social media. It was an awesome experience giving

away a TV to the winner of the social media contest. Congratulations to Lillian Wilson from Wartburg, TN! Lillian was shocked when we pulled up with her brand new TV. I love giving and hopefully we can continue this tradition. Until next time!

Zack graduated from Wartburg Central High School in 2001 and from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2004.



Since graduation he has become a TedX Motivational Speaker, Author, and Career Consultant. He travels the world giving back and hosting seminars teaching people on various topics. Zack has established an ongoing annual scholarship at his Alma Mater, Wartburg, which has inspired others to give back as well.

Visit www.zackballinger.com for more of Zack's travels and events.

Happy March Birthdays!

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| March 1 Kendra Massey Laura Boledovic Verlin Cross Charles Blansett Willie Dutton Robbie Carpenter | March 9 Corbin Kring Cooper Kring Makayla Ellis Susie McPeters Rex Neal | March 16 Tully Duncan Amos Wicks Jackie Brown Parker Beene | March 22 Maggie Walton Jerry Wright Neveah Brown Eliza Taylor Bob Taylor Amber Brandenburg Jade Brandenburg | March 27 Kenny Chesney Effie Monroe Silas Henry Layla Henry Archie Williams Silas Williams Saban Adcock Nellie Buxton Tim Hall Sarah Beasley Kevin Hardwick Teresa Graham Sarah Howard Lexi Cornell |
| March 2 Levi Heidel Braelynn Shannon | March 10 Kai-Ann Hurd Diana Taylor | March 17 Wilma Woods Veronica Hunter Heavenly Bunch Wanda Nelson | March 23 Jessica Ruth Jerry Gibson Rebecca Worthley Maci Bedford Derek Harlan Miranda McKeehan Jackson Treece Stella Boles Derek Harlan | March 28 Jaxon Potter Jodi Bishop |
| March 3 Scott Potter Phyllis Proffitt Raylen Vaughn Liam Vaughn Carter Goodman Jasmine Collins | March 11 Sarah Brown Logan Kreis Irelynn Armes | March 18 Katie Armes Anthony Coffman Kaitlyn Rowe | March 24 Shelby Lavender April Coffman | March 29 William Brown Blake Shadden Sydney Francis |
| March 4 Paisley Schubert Camden Shannon Colton Kees | March 12 Loraine Winters Keith Massengale | March 19 Camryn Francis Cheryl Bishop Landry Beene Marissa Puckett | March 25 Mona Human Amanda Snowden Alex Branstetter Lydia Smith Jennifer Phillips Kennedy Carter | March 30 Destiny Basler |
| March 5 Mary Pemberton | March 13 Mary Lyles Joanne Hensley Nathan Hamby Fletcher Cross Savannah Hamby | March 20 Aria Stricklin Joshua Price Kaya Backer Anita Gunter | March 26 Mason Potter Claire Keathley Mary Bolling Brent Phillips | March 31 Cindy Walker Shane Taylor Tucker Goode Jeff Wright Christopher Lester Lauren Kilby Arnold Jones |
| March 6 Jaelynn Whaley Jason Hall Jeff Beard | March 14 Coraline Monhollen Donna Burchfield Kevin Crites Reba Crites | March 21 Paula Kilby Brenda Hamby Lisa Lane Weston Armes | | |
| March 7 Curt Williams Kim Guy Madison Moore Angel Nelson | March 15 Alex Bruse Tonya Lowe | | | |

Morgan County
Today
Community
Calendar

Wartburg Senior Citizens Yard Sale Friday March 13th thru March 18th 9am to 5 pm daily (excluding Sunday)
Different items will be added each day. Senior Citizens Building in Wartburg

Come join us for Dinner
Where: Elgin Community Center
What: Meat Loaf or Ham served with Mashed Potatoes, Pinto Beans, Cole Slaw, Cornbread, Dessert and Drink.
When: March 21, 2020
Time: 4:30 P.M until 7:00 P.M
Cost: \$7.00 for adults and youth. \$3.50 for Children under 12

The Oakdale School Wide Reunion will be held on Saturday, June 27, 2020 from 2:00 - 10:00 p.m. Daytime activities are free; if you would like to attend the dinner at 6:00 p.m., cost is \$20.00
Monetary donations are also being accepted to help cover the cost of the event and continue to build the Oakdale Alumni Association. To purchase tickets or make a donation, please contact alumni treasurer, Becky McClurkan at 865-719-8671 or beckymc@bellsouth.net.

Sandra Helton's weekly column

Oakdale Area News

email: kvhelton@highland.net



As I write this column, there seems to be so much unease in our country. The news is full of stories about closures due to a virus. It has been labeled as a "Worldwide Pandemic." Prayers for those affected by this illness and prayers for those who are making important decisions related to the illness. I...like many of you...have an opinion about these current events. I will continue to wash my hands with soap and water and trust God to handle everything.

Morgan County Schools will have Spring Break April 6-10.

March 19 is a special day for several of our family members. Happy 15th wedding anniversary to our children, Joe and Valerie Lake, who were married March 19, 2005 in Berea, KY. Happy 23rd birthday to our niece, Keeli Redmon, who will turn 23 on March 19. Keeli spent her 8th birthday at a wedding in Berea. And last but certainly not least.....HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY TO BRADLEY ROGERS who was born March 19, 1970! Wishing all of you a wonderful day.

Crusade Alexander Ruppe turned 8 years old March 5. We hope you had a wonderful birthday Crusade.

Rachel Ruppe celebrated her 30th birthday Thursday, March 12. She began her birthday week by purchasing herself a new leopard print bag. She enjoyed lunch at Ruby Tuesday's Wednesday with her friend Amber. On her birthday, she celebrated with a family party. Although she was not feeling well and was unable to attend the party, Mamaw Trula made Rachel her favorite fresh apple cake. Everyone missed having her at the party. Rachel had some friends over on Friday evening to celebrate. Rachel is such a blessing to all who know her and she has made many new friends through her journey. Rachel is quick to give God all

Glory for all He has done and continues to do in her life. We are all so grateful that she is still with us.

Congratulations to Robert and Flora Lee Walker who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary Friday, March 6. Wishing you many more blessed years.

Get well wishes to our friend, Shawna Branson, who recently had a mishap and surgery. She is recovering well.

On Sunday evening, March 8, Mark and Amy Bach and 12 of their 15 children visited White Oak Baptist Church. Mark is the director of BEAM (Baptist Evangelism Aviation Ministry) and their family serves in remote areas of Alaska and Canada. The children sang in beautiful harmony and then they played instruments. Brother Mark brought the message. Our church always looks forward to seeing the Bach family.

The Town of Oakdale will have their Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 4th at the Oakdale City Park at 12:00 pm. All ages welcome. There will be food, fun and celebration.

First Baptist Oakdale will have an Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, April 5 at 4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

First Baptist Oakdale will have their Fifth Sunday Night Singing on March 29th at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Bill and Gloria Gaither and Friends will be at Piney Baptist Church on Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30. There will be very limited seating and it will be first come first seated. Doors will open at 5:30. If weather permits, the doors will be open and there will be chairs outside.

As soon as weather permits, Jeremiah Johnson will be giving horseback riding lessons at Saddle Up Stables located at 3284 Knoxville Hwy. in Wartburg. Lessons will be available in either 30 minutes or 1 hour sessions. All equipment, in-

cluding helmets, are available.

Jeremiah Johnson is also available for house sitting and pet care for people in the local area. Keep him in mind when planning family vacations. To contact Jeremiah for horse riding lessons or for pet care/house sitting, call 423-223-6520.

Poke and Kay Johnson will like to thank everyone for all the calls and visits during Poke's recovery from recent knee replacement surgery. They are grateful for so many caring friends.

Piney Baptist Church has begun practicing for their Easter Cantata. They will perform "Worthy" on Easter morning and welcome everyone to join them.

Due to Spring Break being April 6-10, Oakdale Alumni Association will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, April 13 at 6:00 in the school library. This meeting is open to everyone and attendance is encouraged as the association makes plans for the upcoming Alumni Reunion on Saturday, June 27.

The Annual Talent Show for local students will be held Thursday, March 26 at the Princess Theater in Harriman beginning at 6:00 p.m. This is always a wonderful evening showcasing young talent.

Oakdale Drama Club presents "The Show Must Go On" for their Spring Play, a three act comedy about a rebuilding circus! Come experience the magic of the circus "Under the Big Top!" Show dates are as follows:

Thursday, March 26 - 6:30 p.m. General Admission (\$6) no reservations needed
Friday, March 27 - 6:00 p.m. Dinner Theater (\$18.00) reservations required

Saturday, March 28 - 6:00 p.m. Dinner Theater (\$18.00) reservations required
Please call Oakdale School at 423-369-3885 to make reservations for dinner theater, or you can contact Julie Johnson Crowe at johnsonj@mcsed.net or Facebook private message.

The Oakdale Alumni Association will hold its school wide reunion on Saturday, June

27, 2020, from 2:00 to 10:00 p.m. The business meeting is set to begin at 5:15 in the school cafeteria. The official program will start at 6.00 p.m. with dinner and entertainment in the main gym.

If you are interested in attending this year's reunion, the tickets will be \$20.00 per person. This will cover the meal, entertainment, custodial and security services. The association is trying to keep ticket prices at a minimum but one can see that the admission price covers several items. Therefore, any donations above the ticket price are welcome. Please contact Becky McClurkan at 137 Van Stowe Road, Harriman, TN 37748. Phone: 865-719-8671 email: beckymc@bellsouth.net.

Oakdale Alumni Association will have an online auction April 24-26. If you can donate an item or service, please contact me. Funds raised will be used for Security, Custodians, Decorations, a Nice Meal and Entertainment. Thank you to those who have already generously donated. Anyone wishing to donate can contact Sandra Helton.

Condolences to the family of Glen Thomas Arp, Jr. who passed away Thursday, March 5. He was the son of the late Glen Thomas Arp, Sr. and Lucinda Huskins Gooch. Tommy lived across the street from my family when we were children. We spent many hours playing with him. He is survived by a host of family members including his brother, Eric Arp, sister, Tamara Arp, Aunt Diane Hendrix and Great Uncle and Aunt, Lloyd and Judy Cook. A graveside service was held Tuesday, March 10 at Crab Orchard Cemetery.

There is much to pray about. Pray for our country, our leaders and that they let God lead them in decision making. Pray for all of the ill, the grieving and the lonely. Pray for homes that are being separated. Pray for our schools, churches and pastors. Pray for our military. Most of all, pray for the lost.

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Phillipians 4:13



Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week



Scott Nation married one of Morgan County's own, Kim Johnson. Kim graduated from Coalfield High School in 1990 and her parents still reside in Morgan County. Scott and Kim will be celebrating their 27th anniversary on April 10th, 2020 and have raised two wonderful sons Blake and Justin. Although Scott Nation is being honored as the Morgan County Today veteran of the week we'd also like to thank Kim for her years of dedication and support that helped make his military service possible.

Scott enlisted into the Tennessee Army National Guard on May 1, 1991. His extensive military career began at Fort Jackson, SC where he graduated Basic Combat

Training. Once he completed Basic Combat Training he transferred to Fort Gordon, GA and became qualified as a 25B Software Analyst. After becoming a qualified 25B he served at HHT SPT SQDN 278TH ACR and later earned a second Military Occupational Specialty of 42A Human Resources Specialist assigned to the 278TH CHEM CO where he was assigned as the Administration Clerk.

In 1996 Scott found his true niche when he was assigned to the Tennessee Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion. He graduated from the Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention NCO Basic Course in 1997 and served as a RRNCO from 1997 until April 1, 2000 when he was assigned as a Junior Guidance Counselor at the Knoxville Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS). He served in that position for three years and returned to the field as a RRNCO for another year until he was reassigned to Knoxville MEPS but this time as the Senior Guidance Counselor on April 1, 2005. Scott honorably served as the Senior Guidance Counselor for three years and was assigned as a Non-commissioned Officer In Charge (NCOIC) leading a recruiting team in Nashville. Scott proved to be such an exceptional Team Leader the Recruiting and Retention Battalion assigned him to several different teams across Middle and East Tennessee so that he could use his leadership skills and drastically improve struggling teams.

In 2015 he became the Alpha Company Operations NCO. In September 2017 all of Scott's dedication, professionalism, and sacrifices cultivated to him earning one of the most coveted and respected ranks in the United States Army, "First Sergeant" (1SG). 1SG Nation is still honorably serving as the Alpha Company First Sergeant and expects to retire on August 31, 2020.

Due to 1SG Nation's exceptional service in the Recruiting and Retention Battalion he has directly and indirectly influenced 1,000's of Tennesseans to do their part in epitomizing modern day living examples of the Volunteer State by enlisting and serving as Guardians of Freedom and the American way of life as Soldiers in the Tennessee Army National Guard.

1SG Scott Nation, Morgan County Today thanks you for your service to Tennessee and the United States of America! You are a Great American!



Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Roane Metals Group

Morgan County Today is pleased to honor Paul "Stephen" Potter as this week's Law Enforcement Officer of the Week. Stephen was raised in Lansing and graduated from Wartburg Central High School in 1978. He began working at Chilton Tractor Company at the very young age of thirteen and worked there for thirteen years. Once he decided it was time for a career change he felt he'd be a good fit for criminal justice. Thankfully for Morgan County he was certainly right about that feeling.

Stephen has served Morgan County with an exceptional

career as a Correctional Officer since January 4th, 1986. His criminal justice career began at Brushy Mountain Prison. During his tenure at the prison

he earned the rank of Sergeant. Once Brushy Mountain Prison closed down Stephen transferred



to the Morgan County Correctional Complex. Just three weeks after his transfer Stephen was promoted to Lieutenant and is still employed there today. His favorite aspect of serving our great community in corrections is the fellow correctional officers who work alongside him.

Many of our loyal readers may recognize Stephen at the

Morgan County Fair where he has served as the County Fair President for the past thirty-six-years. He now resides in Wartburg with his loving wife Kim of thirty-five-years this November. Stephen and Kim have three children Nikki, Steven, and Amanda "Mindy" and four Grandchildren. Once Stephen retires he plans to enjoy quality time with Kim and Grandchildren.

Stephen, the Morgan County Today thanks you with deep gratitude for your lifelong commitment and service to our wonderful community.



David Zubler

Home Office Requirements for Rental Properties

Having an office in your home can provide valuable tax benefits for owners of rental properties. It turns non-deductible household expenses into tax deductions. Since the deduction for having a home office doesn't require any additional expenditures, it's like

getting a free tax deduction. However, you must meet the IRS requirements to qualify for the deduction.

Most rental activities qualify as Section 162 trade or business activity under the tax law. Your rental activities have to qualify as a "trade or business" under the tax law. You will need to meet several requirements. You must use this space in your home regularly and exclusively:

- as the principal place of business for your rental activities,
- as a place of business used by your tenants for meeting with you, or
- in connection with the rental property business if the office space is in a separate structure that's not attached to the dwelling.

The IRS Schedule E rental property instructions don't mention a home office or provide

any explanation about where to put your home office deduction.

You should calculate your rental property home office deduction by using IRS Form 8829 and put the home-office deduction on line 19 ("Other"), and list it as "home-office expense." You should allocate your deduction using a reasonable basis. Several options for basis for each property would be your amount of time spent, revenue received, or allocating equally to all the rental properties that you manage from your home office.

When your rental qualifies as a Section 162 trade or business, you can receive other significant tax benefits. These include:

Deductions for traveling to and from your rental properties

Business (versus investment) treatment of meetings, seminars, and conventions

Tax-favored 1231 treatment when selling your rental property

Most rental activities will qualify as Section 162 trade or business activities. However, there is no bright-line test. You have to look at case law and make a judgment call. Several tax cases show how easy it is to qualify.

Hazard Case

The Hazard case shows how easy it can be to qualify your rental as a business.

In this precedent-setting case, Mr. Hazard moved to Pittsburgh and rented his former

Kansas City residence for about three years. After renting it for three years, he sold the property at a loss.

The tax court determined that Mr. Hazard used the property in a trade or business even though the court record has no mention of management activities by the owner.

Jephson Case

The court ruled that Mr. Jephson had a business when he bought a house to rent, listed it for rent, and showed to prospective tenants but never rented it.

If you are not sure whether your rental property qualifies for Section 162 trade or business activities, I would recommend that you contact a qualified tax professional.

David Zubler has an accounting degree and computer science degree and has experience as an accounting manager and controller in manufacturing, and has owned his bookkeeping/tax business since 1990. David Zubler is the founder and president of Your Tax Care. The company provides business and tax education to the public at its website, YourTaxCare.com. David can also be contacted by email at zublerdavid@gmail.com.

Veteran of the Week

Davis Funeral Home is proud to sponsor Morgan County Today's feature, Veteran of the Week. Each week, a different local Veteran will be spotlighted, and honored and appreciated for their service. The Veteran's name, branch of service, service dates and other pertinent data should be emailed to Editor@mocotoday.com or Publisher@mocotoday.com. Submissions will be printed in the order in which they are received, pending verification of information.

Marvel not that I
said unto thee,
Ye must be born again.

John 3:7

- Jesus



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SURPLUS ITEMS FOR SALE

Morgan County Solid Waste has 4 surplus items to sale by sealed bids only:

1999 GMC, 4x4, 1/2 Ton Pick-Up Truck
1GTEK14T7XZ526531

2005 Mack Garbage Truck
1M2K189055M027692

2007 Ford Explorer 4x4
1FMEU73E77UBO7412

1991 GMC, 4x4, 1/2 Ton Pick-Up Truck
1GTDK14H7MZ533305

Bids can be mailed to PO 250, Wartburg, TN 37887 or dropped of at the Morgan County Courthouse Finance Office, third floor. Bid opening date will be March 30th at 9:30am at the Morgan County Courthouse 3rd Floor Conference Room. All purchases shall be paid for in full within 7 days of bid opening. Items must be paid for by check or money order. Checks are to be made to Morgan County Solid Waste. Items must be paid before renewal of item. Morgan County Solid Waste reserves the right to refuse or reject any or all bids. Morgan County does not discriminate based on race, color or national origin in federal or state sponsored programs, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d).

INVITATION TO BID

The Morgan County Solid Waste Dept. will be accepting sealed bids to purchase a used bulldozer. Morgan County Solid Waste will be trading in 2 used bulldozer on a used bulldozer. This used dozer must meet the following specifications:

No more than 800 hours, Tier 4 Final Diesel Engine, 138 gross HP Long Track, 3 shank ripper, Front pull hook, 20- inch open Grousers Extended life track, 120" standard blade, Cab w/heat, A/C, Defroster, Windshield wipers, sweeps, center rock guards, Grid Heater, Turbine pre-cleaner Environmental drain, Rear view mirror, 4 spool valve for rippers, radio. Option: Cab lights with sweeps, Site watch telematics, approximately 34,505 lbs. The following are the serial numbers of the dozers that will be traded in: 1650K Case Dozer - HHA16515T00265128 AND 1450B Case Dozer - 8382209

Bids can be mailed into PO Box 250, Wartburg, TN 37887. Address bids to MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE FINANCE OFFICE, third floor. Bid opening will be March 30th at 9:00am. Morgan County Solid Waste reserves the right to refuse or reject any or all bids. Morgan County does not discriminate based on race, color or national origin in federal or state sponsored programs, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d).

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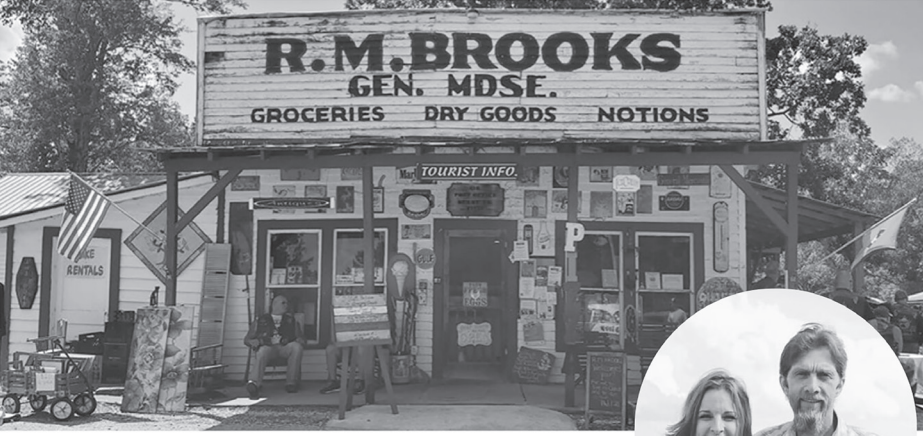
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Oliver Springs Bobcats Varsity Grabs Lead In Fifth Inning For Victory Over Coalfield

Oliver Springs Bobcats Varsity took the lead late and defeated Coalfield 4-2 on Tuesday. The game was tied at one with Oliver Springs Bobcats Varsity batting in the bottom of the fifth when an error scored two runs for Oliver Springs Bobcats Varsity. Coalfield got things started in the first inning when B Burgess drew a walk, scoring one run.

Oliver Springs Bobcats Varsity evened things up at one in the bottom of the first inning when an error scored one run for Oliver Springs Bobcats Varsity.

Blake Crass led things off on the mound for Oliver Springs Bobcats Varsity. He surrendered one run on zero hits over two innings. C Hines toed the rubber for Coalfield. He lasted five innings, allowing six hits and four runs while striking out five. Z Armstrong threw one inning out of the bullpen. Heath Smith went 3-for-3 at the plate to lead Oliver Springs Bobcats Varsity in hits.



Zach Armstrong pitches during the game. (Photo by Kathy Bird)

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Cole Hines getting looking for his pitch. (Photo by Kathy Bird)



(Photos by Kathy Bird)

The Mission Field:

Basketball Game Helps Raise Funds for Church Building in Belize

By Tim Clay

A local basketball challenge between Mossy Grove Baptist Church and First Baptist Church of Wartburg was held to help raise money for a mission project in Belize. It was a good opportunity for both churches to get together in our town for some good clean fun and fellowship. It was great to see these two mission minded churches working together. The idea of building a church in Belize became a reality in November when construction began on a church for the locals to have a place of worship and praise Jesus.



(Photos by Tim Clay)

