

# Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

75¢

VOLUME 06 • NUMBER 50

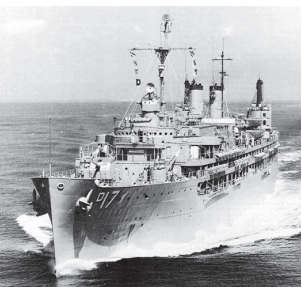
PSALM 100:3

December 15, 2020

## MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK

Tue 15	49°/36°	
Wed 16	43°/31°	
Thu 17	39°/22°	
Fri 18	47°/31°	
Sat 19	49°/38°	
Sun 20	48°/32°	
Mon 21	55°/36°	

## Redmon Publishes Book



Veteran of the Week  
Charles Hobby  
Joe Gibson



LEO of the Week  
Derek Hawn



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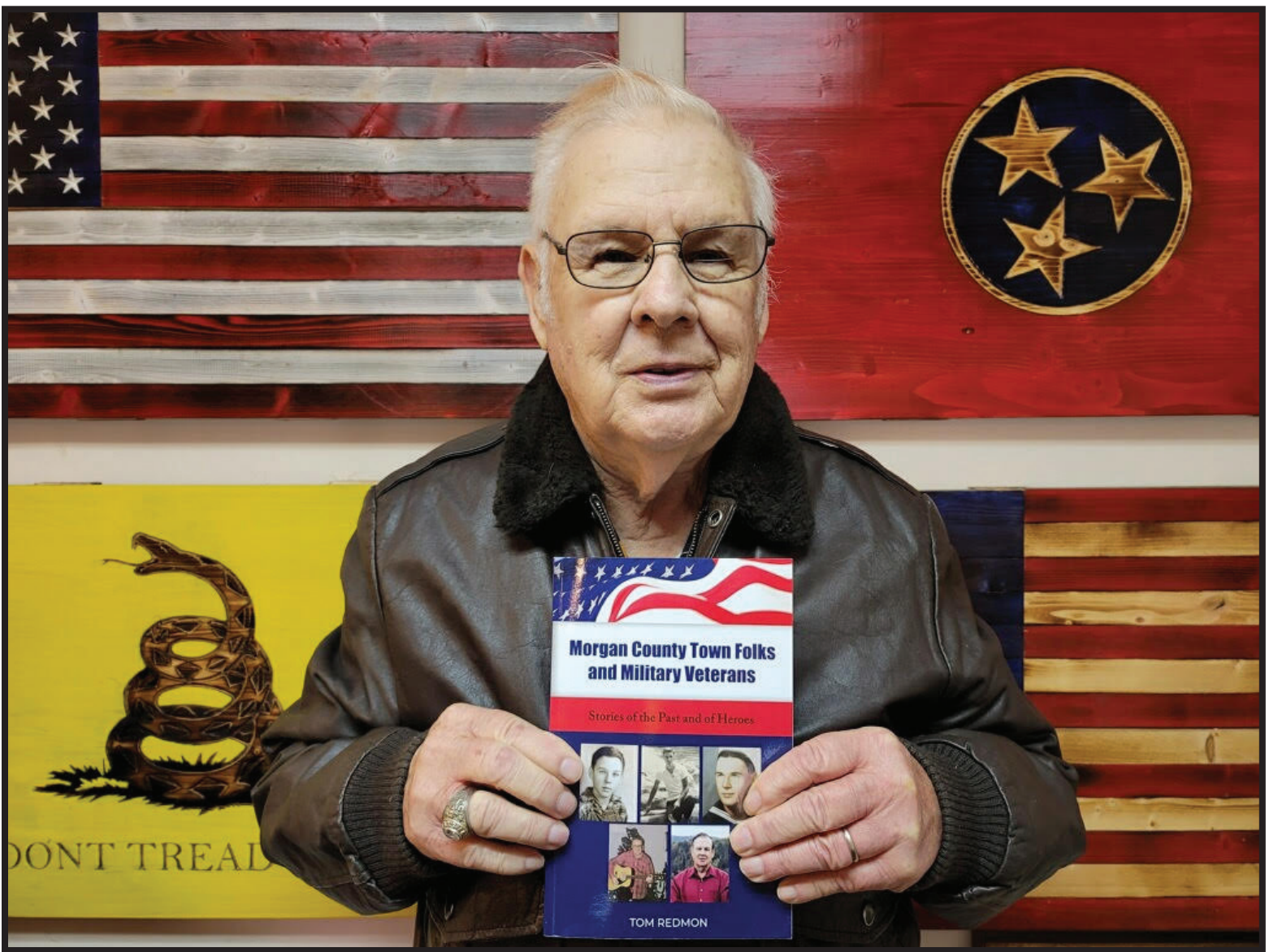
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Author Tom Redmon (Photo Submitted)

Folks, after two years of writing articles and six months of Fred Mize putting the book together it is ready to come to market. You can purchase it on Amazon or you can buy it from Tom Redmon in a couple of weeks.

Tom will be having a book signing somewhere around January.

The title of the book is Morgan County Town Folks and Military Veterans. There are stories of our past and of the many heroes in Morgan and surrounding counties. This book of 89 articles and 446 pages takes you back and brings you history in a different form. You'll hear about some of the people who made Morgan County a better place to live; people like Wayne Solomon, Marjorie Waddell, John Dillon, Ray Bardill, Arland (Shorty) Spears and Dr. Franklin Love. You'll read stories

about heroes like General Carl Stiner from nearby LaFollette and Clarence D. Heidel and A.B. Heidel who served 2 yearlong tours in Vietnam. Read about when Wartburg school board in 1940 and the children attended classes where ever they put them. Our great country has gone through many great conflicts, a depression in 1930's, WWII in 1941-45, Korean War in 1950-53, the Vietnam War in 1961-75, and now a struggle to keep our country free.

Tommy Redmon has gone through a lot in his 85 years on earth and he tells you about some exciting times and some sad times.

If you purchase a book direct from Amazon and later you want it signed you can bring the book to the signing at a place to be announced later.

I am proud of this book and I know you will want it in your collection.

## Carl Jones Passes Away

A well-respected public servant in Morgan County has died at the age of 85. Carl Jones, of Sunbright, passed away Saturday, but leaves behind an impressive legacy.

Jones was currently serving on the Plateau Utility Board, a spot he has held since 2012.

Prior to that, he served on the Sunbright Utility Board. Jones also served on the Morgan County Commission during the 1990s. While Jones served his community with dignity and class, he earned the respect of his peers and was a strong voice for the

people he served.

In addition to his strong involvement as a public servant, Jones earned more respect as a Christian. He was a member of Sunbright First Baptist Church and had a huge impact on people by the way he lived his life and the way he loved the Lord.

"Carl was a man I had so much respect for and considered him a good friend to me. He served his community well and I appreciate all that he has done not only as a public servant, but as a respected Christian and a very strong family man. I'm praying for Pat and the rest of the family during this difficult time," said Morgan County Executive Brian Langley.

Funeral arrangements for Jones are being handled by Schubert Funeral Home.



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Wartburg



Sunbright

## Billy Mack James, 75

Billy Mack James born May 19, 1945 in Sunbright, Tenn went to be with the Lord on November 26, 2020.

He was preceded in death by his Mother Agnes E. James, Aunt Nellie L. Hopkins, and brother George J. James Jr.

He will be remembered by love ones including his brother Roy James, cousins, nieces, neph-

ews and friends. A special thanks to Mary Darden who took good care of him during his last months of life.

Billy's wishes were to be cremated. No services scheduled at this time

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Billy Mack James.

## Zach Masters, 40

Mr. Zach Masters, age 40 of Oakdale, passed away Monday December 7, 2020 at Roane Medical Center in Harriman.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother: Rossie Williams. And one cousin: Phillip Poore.

He is survived by his parents: John and Joyce Masters. His sister: Angela Masters.

Two nieces: Destiny Arwood and her husband Jay, and Connie Masters and her daughter Raelynn.

One nephew: Michael Masters. A special uncle and aunt: Charlie and Ronda.

Along with a loving extended family and a host friends and loved ones.

All services will be private.

Davis Funeral Home, Wartburg, is honored to serve the family of Mr. Zach Masters.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.davisfuneralhomes.com](http://www.davisfuneralhomes.com)

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## Shelia Kay Jones Hembree, 59

Sheila Kay Jones Hembree, age 59, of Wartburg went home to be with the Lord Thursday, December 3, 2020 at her residence.

She is preceded in death by her father, Robert Allen Jones; brother, Kim Allen Jones and special grandparents, Stanley and Allie Jones and Ray and Rose Brown; special cousin, Joey and wife, Rhonda Brown.

She is survived by her husband, Bobby Gene Hembree of Wartburg; mother, Wilma Ray Jones; brother, Kelly Jones of Wartburg; daughters, Jeannie Basler and spouse Nathan Basler of Wartburg, Joanie Hammock



and spouse, Brandon Hammock of Sunbright; son, Brandon Hembree of Wartburg; 2 granddaughters, Brookelyn and Brylie Basler; 4 grandson, Jonathan and Ian Hammock and Trevor Hembree; special friends, Jill and Piper.

The family is honoring her wishes to be cremated. No services are scheduled at this time.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Shelia Kay Jones Hembree.

## Betty Jean Giles Taylor, 79

Betty Jean Giles Taylor, age 79, formerly of Sweetwater, Tn. passed away on December 5, 2020 at Roane Medical Center.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Lois Brannon Giles; husband, Elden J. Taylor; stepson, Herman C. Taylor; sister, Josie Brock; brother, Robert Giles.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Wanda and Steve Nelson of Wartburg, Tn.; stepson and wife, Gene and Wendy Tyler; sister, Mary Lou

Lankford of Niota, Tn.; brother, James W. Giles of Sweetwater, Tn., and a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

The family is honoring Betty's wishes to not have any services.

She will be greatly missed but not forgotten.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Betty Jean Giles Taylor.

## Mary Freels Walker, 61

Mary Freels Walker gained her heavenly wings on December 7, 2020 at Roane Medical Center. Mary was born on February 21, 1959 to Betty Cooper Freels and Reid H. Freels.

Mary was preceded in death by her mother, Betty Freels and father, Reid H. Freels; sister, Barbara Morley Butman and sister-in-law, Freda Freels.

Mary is survived by her husband and soulmate of 25 years, David Walker; daughter, Mary Anne Justice of Wartburg and Amie (Spunky) Brown of Harriman; sisters, Dottie Davis of Knoxville, Cheryl (Darrell) Wilson of Wartburg and Pattie Collins of California; brothers, Dennis (Janice) Freels of Wartburg, Charles Freels of Coalfield and Dave (Teresa) Freels of Clinton.

She loved her family dearly. Mary loved and was so proud of her grandchildren, great grandchildren and she loved to spoil them. Mary worked for years at Red Kapp in Harriman until it closed. The job she loved most was working with her corrections family at Morgan County Jail. She touched a lot of peoples lives during her years in corrections.

The family will receive friends Thursday, December 10, 2020 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 1:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the Lane Cemetery in Lancing.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mary Freels Walker.

## Maynard Martin Stringfield, 79

Maynard Martin Stringfield, age 79, passed away December 8, 2020 after an extended illness. Maynard enjoyed helping his neighbors, tirelessly doing yard work and "junking". Maynard worked as a janitor at the Morgan County Courthouse, a position he loved which made him known by many.



Victoria Hearn, Michael Landrum, Taylor Landrum and Derek Byrd and Cody Byrd; great grandchildren, Emerson Hearn and expecting grandchild, Brylee Byrd, Remington Byrd, Roger Byrd and Brantley Bryd.

The family will have a graveside service Friday, December 11, 2020 at Elizabeth Church Cemetery at 3:00 p.m. with Pastor Lonnie Cook officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Maynard Martin Stringfield.

He is survived by his loving wife of 31 years, "India" Independence Taylor Stringfield; his stepsons, Scott Thomas Landrum and Charles Taylor Landrum; older brother, Virgil Ervin Stringfield; beloved grandchildren,

## Jimmy Ray Daugherty, 82

Jimmy Ray Daugherty, age 82, passed away December 10, 2020 at his home.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Sheridan Daugherty and Rhoda Price; brothers, David, Ben, Floyd and Henry Daugherty; sisters, Gertie Daugherty, Lena Mae Seivers and Calla Armes..

He is survived by his wife, Wanda Daugherty; children, Tracy (Kathy) Daugherty, Tonya (Rocky) Crabtree, Pam Ham-

by and Rhonda Hamby (Tobey Farmer); brother, Roger Daugherty and sister, Jeannette Reynolds, as well as a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

The family will have a graveside service with Military Honors at a later date at the Old Petros Cemetery in Petros.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jimmy Ray Daugherty.

Send Letters to the Editor  
[Editor@mocotoday.com](mailto:Editor@mocotoday.com)

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

# Morgan County Today

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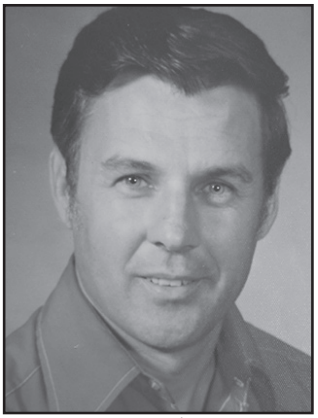
\$40; \$35 for senior citizens & Veterans

### Out of County Rates

\$55; \$50 for senior citizens & Veterans



## Frank's Last Journey



Tom Redmon  
Columnist

The Central class of 1954 has remained close for over 65 years. We have had many class reunions over the years, and we had one

planned for May 2020, but it was canceled because of the pandemic.

The 60th class reunion has to be the one I remember most. Lucy Sweat and I wanted to do our best to notify every class member. We set the date for May 30th, 2014 then we wrote letters to all class members who were still living. When the date got close, we called all class members we could reach.

When May 30th, 2014 came, we found the large party room at Partner's Pizza filled to capacity. Here at our 60th reunion we had what had to be one of our largest turnouts.

A few days before the date of the reunion we got some bad news. Margaret my wife, was diagnosed with an aneurysm and on June 1st she would have to have surgery or a procedure that could save her life. I told Margaret there was no way I could leave her and go to the reunion. Margaret bless her heart said, "Oh yes you can. I'll call Debbie my daughter and she will be glad to come from Knoxville and stay with us Saturday night."

It turned out that Debbie came down and Sharon Redmon along with a couple more people ended up sitting with Margaret the two hours I spent at the reunion. I knew when I called Frank Osborne there was little chance that he would be able to come. I said, "Frank I just wanted to call you and tell you how all of your classmates would love to see you, but I know you have issues that will prevent you from coming. Please don't push yourself, you will be in our prayers. Margaret and I had visited Frank and Betty a few months before and he told me that he had so much pain. He was on very strong pain medicine. Frank told me on the phone that he would like to see me and his classmates one more time but he doubted that he would make it. I got to Partners Pizza a little late and I saw several classmates gathered around talking and Frank was in the group. I couldn't believe my eyes. I greeted all my classmates and shook hands with all of them and then stopped to talk to Frank. I said, "young man I thought you were not coming. Are you sure you are able to drive here and back to Maryville after the reunion?" He said, "Tommy I had to double up on my pain medicine and maybe I shouldn't be here but I heard they were having a special music program in remembrance of Elton Bonham who passed away a few months ago. I was good friends with the Bonham boys, and I grew up with them. I knew Ken would be there at the old home place. He and his band would be playing music on the special stage that Elton had built for that purpose." Before I started the program Lucy and I had planned I told the group about Margaret being diagnosed with a brain aneurysm. I told them I was about not to come but Margaret's daughter came from Knoxville to stay with her, and three

others came out to help. Frank suggested that we have a prayer for Margaret. Frank offered to lead the prayer. Frank said a beautiful prayer and I kept thinking now this is why I'm here. Frank and I were the best of friends all through high school.

As I stood there talking to Frank, I just had a feeling that this was the last time I would see my friend alive. He told me he really enjoyed the reunion but he was really tired. I went home concerned about both Margaret and Frank. Frank told me to call him tomorrow and let

him know how Margaret was getting along. He I slept very little the night of May 30, 2014. On Sunday May 31 I waited until around 11:00 AM to call Frank. I knew that he needed the rest.

Frank told me that he barely made it home. He said, "if I had ten more miles to go, I don't think I would have made it." He was anxious to hear about Margaret and I told him the night went well. I also told him that I would call him on Tuesday and let him know how the procedure would go at UT Hospital. At the time I didn't know what the future held for either Margaret or Frank. I knew a lot of people were in ardent of fervent prayer and I had been praying for quite a while. Margaret's condition was serious and the doctor had told us that there was a 37 percent chance that they would have to go in through her skull; but they were hoping for a procedure where they went up through the groin and put metal coils to repair the aneurysm and stop the danger of bleeding on the brain. Dr. Andrew Ferrell a Neuro Interventional Radiologist would be our doctor and I have nothing but praise for him. They performed the coil procedure which has worked perfect for over six years now. It is amazing how far medical science has come. Not long-ago people died from this. Margaret only had to stay in the hospital one night. She has had to go back to the hospital three times for scans. We have been allowed to view the scans and everything is perfect. I told Dr. Ferrell we were really appreciative of the job he had done, but first I thanked God, because I knew where that knowledge came from.

Frank's story didn't have a good ending. In about a month I got a call from Frank's wife telling me that Frank had died the night before. She said that he had suffered so much and that pain medicine no longer eased his pain. He had told me more than once that he wasn't afraid to die but he hated the suffering. Frank's last journey was back to his old stomping ground and to see the people he loved one last time, needless to say we miss him at our reunion and it is hard to realize that we no longer have our senior president. All I can say Frank, soon we'll be with you and Jesus in Heaven where we will no longer have pain. Rest in peace.



Frank Osborne at a 1954 class reunion. (Photo Submitted)

seemed to be



Frank Osborne at a 1954 class reunion. (Photo Submitted)



Frank Osborne at a 1954 class reunion. (Photo Submitted)

We had stayed all night with each other and he and I had worked for the school board two summers, earning money for college. He even got me a job serving the football players their meals at the University of Tennessee. I ended up not taking the job but Frank and I remained close friends the rest of his life. Frank was the president of our senior class and he was pretty popular. He, Clarence Shannon, Ed Hall and I sang Rock of Ages at our graduation ceremony in May 1954. He was one of Mr. Frittz's favorite students. Our reunion went well. I did some of the country songs popular back in the 1950's. Lucy, always the planner, had some interesting games to play and prizes to be rewarded.

We were there at the party for around two hours, and before leaving I talked to Frank about five minutes. I asked him if he could make it back to Maryville. I told him I could get someone to drive him. I needed to get home to Margaret. He told me he could make it okay.

more concerned with Margaret's condition than his own. That's the



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LOCATION: DOWNTOWN DEERLODGE AT GAZEBO

(IN FRONT OF THE AMBER ROSS CENTER)

DATE: December 19, 2020

TIME: 3:30PM - 6PM

## Historically Speaking

**Bill Sergeant**

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

I miss Bill Sergeant. I miss his phone calls telling me of topics he thought I should include in my Historically Speaking articles. I miss his kind manner, his easy way of telling me new information and his humble approach to significant accomplishments he personally had achieved. He knew the details because he had lived them!

Bill often told me of things he remembered, and his memory was sharp as a tack and ever accurate to the smallest details. These things he told me were the subjects of my columns. I delighted in his company and often sought him out to verify information I had been provided. More often than not he would confirm what I had been told, yet on occasion, he would quickly point out the error of the information I had been provided.

I never doubted him. He was always accurate in his memory and when others might speculate about things they only marginally understood, Bill would never take a position on a subject unless he had personal knowledge and experience with it. He was one of my favorite and frequent sources. I miss Bill Sergeant!

On Friday, 2/18/11, his family held a burial service, a celebration of life service and received friends. I was pleased to be able to be there to experience their goodbye to Bill. The military presence of the six gun salute, the honor guard, the presenting of the flag to the family, were all moving experiences and told of the family's pride in Bill's highly successful and eventful military career.

I thought of his story about "Happy Valley" South Korea where soldiers under his command who had been residents of Oak Ridge placed a wooden sign identifying their combat zone as "Happy Valley" in honor of the 15,000 person construction camp that was created to house the construction workers building the K-25 gaseous diffusion plant. What a tribute to the workers.

The Celebration of Life held for Bill in the Church of the Ascension, was also a fitting memorial. The readings, the prayers, the songs and the communion were all enhancements to the collective remembrance of the passing of a great man. Bill Sergeant had passed on. The service gave appropriate closure to a wonderful life of 91 years. Bill's was a life of tremendous successes and accomplishments while retaining a most humble manner.

The highlight of the service for me was the reading by David Sergeant, Bill's son, of a letter that Bill had penned to his family in October 2009. It spoke eloquently of Bill's pride in his family. Here is the letter in its entirety, thanks to David who shared it with me.

"Legacy", By William T. Sergeant:

"I believe the most important thing I ever did, and for which my time on earth was helpful to others and to the world, was to raise four other human beings.

"Raising, not making them. 'Making' at best means contributing to the new human's looks, health, maybe wealth

and intelligence, all of which, in total are nothing. Honesty, law abiding, love of country, acceptance of responsibility, love of family, unwillingness to ever shame parents, love of God, happiness that I am their father and proud of the respect from others of their parents, is 'Raising.'

"My contribution to the eradication of a disease, my military service and my reasonably successful career, community and Rotary service are what I was supposed to do and could have been done just as well by thousands of others.



Kathy Sergeant, Barbara Hood, Bill Sergeant, David Sergeant, and Patty Daughtrey shown standing in front of the statue of Bill honoring his work to eradicate Polio located in Krutch Park in Knoxville (Photo Submitted)

They were only important to the extent they were the correct example for the four new people I raised. "Proof of my success in raising four people will only be established by the seven people they raise.

"Judge me by these eleven. Wow! What depth of understanding! What profound truth espoused in so few words! Bill, my hero, has written a masterpiece of family love and tradition. It makes me want to say, "Judge me by these seven," Fanny and I have two sons and five grandchildren. I know the pride Bill felt in family...I share that deep love and appreciation with him.

Yes, Bill was privileged to serve in Rotary International and got to lead for a number of years the effort to rid the world of the awful disease called polio. Yes, he was a tremendous leader of people who provided the security to protect our nation's most precious commodity, its highly enriched uranium. And, yes, he participated in the Manhattan Project and led troops into battle in the Korean War.

But, according to Bill, nothing he did compared to the raising of his children. What a tremendous legacy. Again, Bill has sought out the essence of the story and told it to us in plain English. That

was Bill Sergeant, my friend.

Families today are all too often missing the "Bill Sergeant" style of leadership. Too many families today do not devote the needed time to their children. That is sad indeed. We should examine the features of Bill Sergeant's approach to "raising" his children with the thought being to improve our children's approach to child raising.

Each of us with families should pray that God will bless our families with the good sense to effectively raise children.

Bill Sergeant's values that were so appropriately conveyed in his "Legacy" letter are values all parents should emulate.

Thank you Bill, still my friend - even if you are no longer with us in this life, I know you are here in spirit. The memory of your devoted life will help sustain us who knew you for years to come!

***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.***

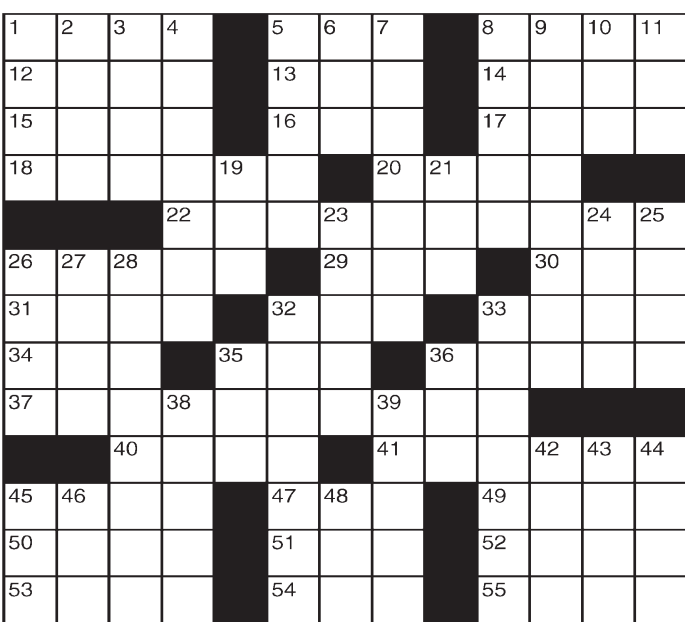
***Oak Ridge began in war, has continued to support our nation's efforts through the Cold War, and even now in the age of terrorism. Oak Ridge has also produced nuclear medicine, nuclear power and fuel for the US Navy nuclear submarines and ships.***

***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.***

## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Porter's burdens
- 5 Before
- 8 Dull sound of impact
- 12 Enticement
- 13 Blend
- 14 Abundant
- 15 Opera show-stopper
- 16 U.K. broadcaster
- 17 Black, in verse
- 18 Fight
- 20 Like a lot
- 22 Solid ground
- 26 Entire
- 29 Smack
- 30 Zilch
- 31 Bees' home
- 32 Parsons or Gaffigan
- 33 Slangy negative
- 34 — out a living
- 35 One of the Brady Bunch
- 36 Grown-up bug
- 37 Brownish orange
- 40 Warmonger
- 41 Barbershop tools
- 45 First victim
- 47 Luau bowlful
- 49 "American —"
- 50 Ring out



- 7 Cry out
- 8 Italian fountain site
- 9 Ireland
- 10 Venusian vessel?
- 11 Lair
- 19 Appomattox surrenderer
- 21 Frequently
- 23 Serengeti beast
- 24 Chinese dynasty
- 25 Choir member
- 26 Sharpen
- 27 Raise
- 28 Above
- 32 Lotto win
- 33 Incredible
- 35 Mandible
- 36 Call — day
- 38 Make a comeback
- 39 Warble
- 42 Bloodhound's clue
- 43 Quarterback Tony
- 44 Dispatched
- 45 Mimic
- 46 Foundation
- 48 Didn't pay yet

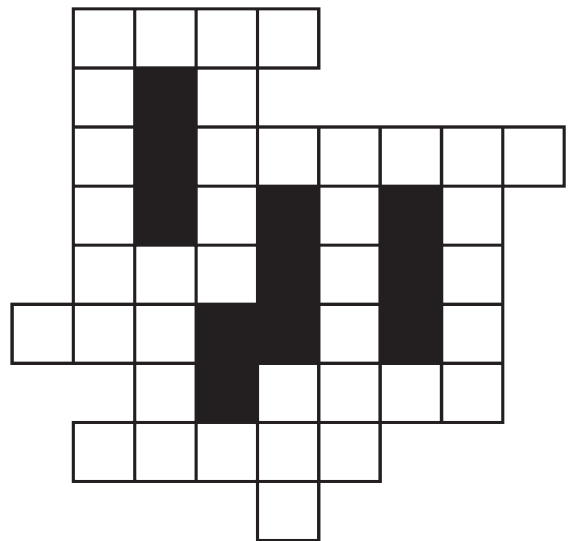
**DOWN**

- 1 Spill the beans
- 2 Emanation
- 3 Determination
- 4 Birthplace of Starbucks
- 5 Fireplace bit
- 6 Cage component

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- RYC
- TAMPIC
- NATEM
- YOPT
- OATPIE
- ♥YNA
- ♥EARC
- ♥OPRET
- ♥TAE
- HERTIC
- YOPEN
- ♥CEAM



Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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### Shining Light Testimonials

Stories of Salvation and Faith  
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Volume I

Fred C. Mize III



### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

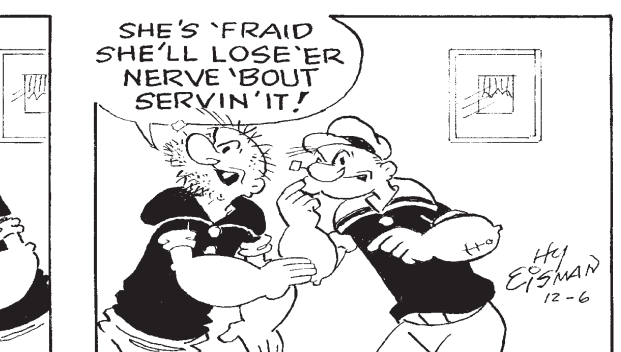
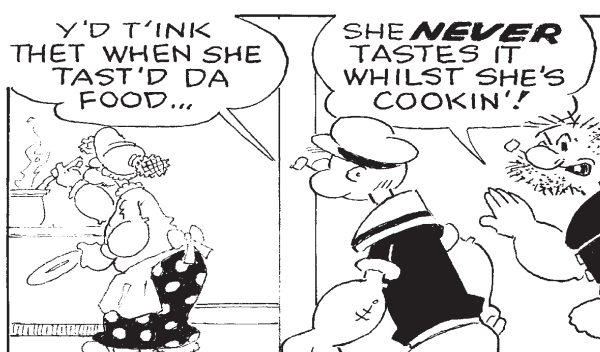
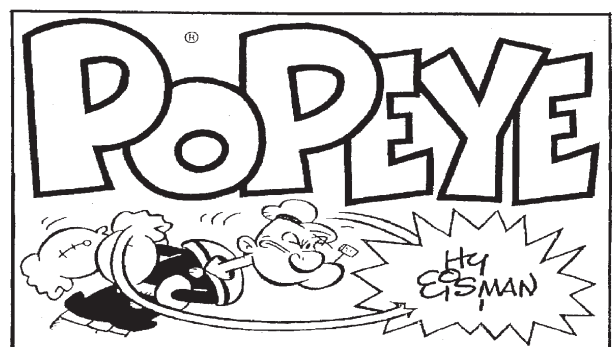
		7		6			8	1
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	1				5		4	
	2			8		4		
	7	9			3			6
4			5					9
2					4	7		
		1		9	7			3
	3		8					6

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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answer

T	Y	P	O								
H			E								
R		O	P	I	A	T	E				
I		N									
C	R	Y		P							
T	E	A		A							
		C		A	C	M	E				
		M	E	A	N	T					
						Y					

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

### King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	A	G	S		E	R	E		T	H	U	D		
L	U	R	E		M	I	X		R	I	F	E		
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John 3:7

- Jesus

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## Thoughts of Inspiration

By: MSG. Fred Mize



**MSG Fred Mize,** For this week's article I decided to share with you excerpts and quotes from one of my favorite books *The Greatest Salesman in the World* written by my favorite author, Og Mandino. I felt this his words of wisdom may uplift and encourage readers who may be struggling with the tribulations that 2020 has brought to so many.

"I will live this day as if it is my last... I will waste not a moment mourning yesterday's misfortune, yesterday's defeats, yesterday's aches of the heart, for why should I throw good after bad?" I will live this day as if it is my last. This day is all I have and these hours are

now my eternity. I greet this sunrise with cries of joy as a prisoner who is reprieved from death. I lift mine arms with thanks for this priceless gift of a new day. So too, I will beat upon my heart with gratitude as I consider all who greeted yesterday's sunrise who are no longer with the living today. I am indeed a fortunate man and today's hours are but a bonus, undeserved. Why have I been allowed to live this extra day when others, far better than I, have departed? Is it that they have accomplished their purpose while mine is yet to be achieved? Is this another opportunity for me to become the man I know I can be?"

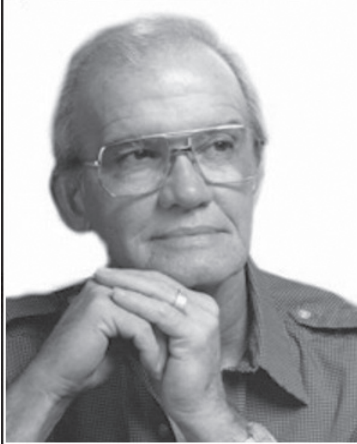
"I am here for a purpose and that purpose is to grow into a mountain, not to shrink to a grain of sand. Henceforth will I apply ALL my efforts to become the highest mountain of all and I will strain my potential until it cries for mercy."

for wealth and labor not only to be rich. Strive instead for happiness, to be loved and to love, and most important to acquire peace of mind and serenity."

"I will become a firefly and even in the day my

have failed and those who have succeeded lies in the difference of their habits. Good habits are the key to all success. Bad habits are the unlocked door to failure. Thus, the first law I will obey, which precedeth all others is—I will form good habits and become their slave."

love myself. For when I do, I will zealously inspect all things which enter my body, my mind, my soul, and my heart. Never will I overindulge the requests of my flesh, rather I will cherish my body with cleanliness and moderation. Never will I allow my mind to be attracted to evil and despair, rather I will uplift it with the knowledge and wisdom of the ages. Never will I allow my soul to become complacent and satisfied, rather I will feed it with meditation and prayer. Never will I allow my heart to become small and bitter, rather I will share it and it will grow and warm the earth."



Realize that true happiness lies within you. Waste no time and effort searching for peace and contentment and joy in the world outside. Remember that there is no happiness in having or in getting, but only in giving. Reach out. Share. Smile. Hug. Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself.

— Og Mandino —  
AZ QUOTES

"Wealth, my son, should never be your goal in life. Your words are eloquent but they are mere words. True wealth is of the heart, not of the purse."

"No, my son, do not aspire

glow will be seen in spite of the sun. Let others be as butterflies who preen their wings yet depend on the charity of a flower for life."

"In truth, the only difference between those who

"If I waste today, I destroy the last page of my life."

"And so long as I can laugh never will I be poor."

"And most of all I will

I hope you've enjoyed reading these words of wisdom as much as I have...

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

## Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

### The Perfect Christmas Gift

Christmas spirit is in the air. Many people have their indoor decorations out, Christmas trees decorated, and outdoor lights hung on their home. Kids are getting excited about Santa Clause coming

your family to check this right now is gift them a nice set of smoke alarms. The key is to buy some really nice ones so they will have to replace their old ones. I would guess most homes don't have carbon monoxide detectors. Why not buy a smoke alarm that also detects the presents of carbon monoxide?

**Thermacell:** The pest of east Tennessee especially in the summer is mosquitos. I hate putting on bug spray because of the smell. This interesting device actually repels mosquitos within a certain radius of you. You do have to keep buying replacement cartilages for repellent and fuel. The cost of the device and replacement cartilages aren't that expensive. I think this works pretty well and you don't have to deal with applying and reapplying bug spray.

**Books:** Why not give the gift of knowledge? We all could learn more. We need guidance and knowledge to help improve our lives. Give the gift of a non-fiction book that may help improve a loved one's life. I am a little biased. Do you know someone struggling in their career? Buy them a copy of my new book, *Don't be a Zombie: How to Find a Career you Love*.

**Yeti Cups:** You can never go wrong with this gift. I have at least 6 of them and I think most of them were gifted to me over the holidays. Whether you enjoy drinking piping hot coffee or enjoy an ice-cold beverage, the Yeti cup is the best for maintaining the right

temperature for your beverage of choice. You can never have too many yeti cups. I enjoy drinking my coffee from my mug. It keeps it warm for many hours and they are dishwasher safe.

**Games:** 2020 has been the year of stay-at-home orders or lockdowns. Most of us at one point this year had to stay home for a certain period of time. Give the gift of an old fashion board games or digital game. I bought a family of four a *Catch Phrase* game and they loved it. It helped them pass the time during the holiday. Consider buying a family an old fashion board game for Christmas.

*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](http://www.zackballinger.com) for more of Zack's travels and events.*



Zack Ballinger



to visit later this month. Local churches are celebrating the birth of Christ through services and plays. Many of you are anticipating the time off of work for the holidays.

The dreaded Christmas shopping begins for a lot of you out there. It's difficult to buy certain people Christmas gifts. What do you buy people who already have everything they want? I am sure everyone has a couple of people on their list that are a challenge to buy for. I wanted to give my readers some ideas for these people on your list. I hope this helps with your Christmas shopping.

**Smoke or Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** You can give the gift of safety and peace of mind this holiday season. Many families don't keep a regular or routine maintenance schedule of their smoke detectors. The best way for you to get



Sandra Helton's weekly column  
**Oakdale Area News**  
email: kvhelton@highland.net



Congratulations to all of the college graduates who received their degrees this month. We wish you the best!

There is a lot of sadness, grieving, worry and uncertainty all around us right now. Let's all pray for those who have lost loved ones and for the many sick all around us and pray for our nation.

The Nativity Drive Thru that was scheduled for December 13 and December 20 at Riverside Baptist Church in Harriman has been canceled.

Rankin Chapel Baptist Church is currently not having services. They hope to resume Sunday, December 20.

Happy Birthday to Emery Grace Johnson who turned 1 year old December 11. Emery is the daughter of Cory and Shannon Johnson. Her very proud grandparents are Poke and Kay Johnson and Annette Kindred.

Jay Bingham returned to his home in Ohio on Friday, December 11 after spending a couple of days with his parents, Mickey and Jeanie Bingham. He and his dad enjoyed playing golf on Thursday. On Thursday evening, Michael and Regina Bingham joined Mickey, Jeanie and Jay for supper and they had a good visit.

Cartie and Clayton Disney got a new puppy. Her name is Zoe Madison. The kids are head over heels for her. They have wanted a puppy for a long time. She is a very loving puppy.

In an effort to keep staff and students safe, Morgan County Schools are doing remote learning this week. Students will return to school Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

Dr. Todd Scarbrough has opened a new practice in Knoxville called Heelex. He and his team can treat conditions such as plantar fasciitis, tendonitis, arthritis, psoriasis and more. He has developed a new way to treat these

benign conditions to help treat pain and possibly avoid surgery. The treatment only lasts about five minutes, is completely painless, and involves no recovery time. Give Todd a call to see if he can help at 865-999-5988 or visit his website at heelex.net. Meredith and Vera have both been to see Dr. Todd and report improvements in their conditions. Ms. Vera is very happy to have both of her children close to home!

Updated message from our local Girl Scouts. Need help wrapping Christmas gifts this year? Let us help you while supporting Oakdale Girl Scouts Troop 20742. The Troop is in need of funds to cover the cost of vests for the girls. There will be a bake sale and gift wrapping Saturday, December 18 from 2:00 – 7:00 at Pine Orchard Community Center. Masks and gloves will be worn by those working the event as well as social distancing as a safety precaution. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there for picture from 2:00 – 4:00. Be sure to take your camera. Donations accepted.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Mr. L. G. Summers who passed away Saturday, December 5. He is survived by his sons and their wives, Wade and Sheryl Summers, Steve and Lynn Summers and Michael and Jessica Chasteen and his daughters and their husbands, Shawna and Jeff Branson and Robin and Jason Kittrell, 9 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister and brother in law, June and Don Montgomery and a host of other family and friends. Services were held Tuesday, December 8 at Pine Orchard Cemetery.

Mrs. Minnie Goad Jones passed away Sunday, December 6. She is survived by her son and his wife, Mitchell and Stacy Jones, grandsons Jeremy and Kevin and granddaughter Amy Gray and

husband Dwayne. She is also survived by her sisters Oma Cochran and Cassie Williams and her sister in law, Ruth Headrick. Services were held Wednesday, December 9 at Kyker Funeral Home in Harriman. Interment was Thursday in Roane Memorial Gardens.

Sympathy to the family of Benny Collins who passed away Tuesday, December 8. He is survived by his wife Gail, his sons and their wives, Greg and Susan, Chad and Jennifer and Benny and Rachel, 7 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and his brother, Ed Collins. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and friends. Services were held Friday, December 11 at Pine Orchard Cemetery.

Condolences to the friends and family of Raymond Lawson of Texas who passed away Thursday, December 10. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, his daughters Robin (Billy Dale) Galbreath and Rhonda (Charles) Eichinger and his three grandchildren. He is survived by his brothers Gene and Robert Lawson and his sisters, Nellie Beach, Zelma Bingham and Beula Gann along with many other family members and friends. Graveside services were held Sunday, December 13 at Hillcrest Cemetery in Marlin, Texas.

I decided to end the column a little differently this week. I am going to share a couple of recipes that are super easy. I have made both of them and recommend them. Just go ahead and double or triple the recipe because one recipe

is not enough! I hope you enjoy these.

**Apple Julep**

**1 cup Pineapple Juice**

**1 cup Orange Juice**

**¼ cup Lemon Juice**

**1 Quart Apple Juice.**

**Serves 6**

**Christmas Morning Punch (Good Anytime!)**

**2 cups Orange Juice**

**2 cups Cranberry Juice**

**1 cup Pineapple Juice**

**1 cup Ginger Ale**

**Serves 6**

Get your Christmas Order in by the December 18th Deadline!

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## Acts Chapter 11

Acts 11:1-18) Gentile conversions defended at Jerusalem: the report of Gentile conversions rapidly reached the apostles and the church in Jerusalem---and it created a negative reaction. Accordingly, when Peter finally arrived at the city, some of the Jewish brethren "contended" with him. They were ready to do battle. But Peter---methodically and "in order" ---presented his case. (a) He told of his heavenly vision while in Joppa. (b) The apostle recounted the amazing circumstance of Cornelius' messengers appearing at Simon's gate at just the right moment. (c) He informed them that the Spirit had commanded him to go to Caesarea, making no distinction between himself and the Gentiles. (d) He identified "these six brothers" who had accompanied him to Caesarea to verify the events. (e) He told of the angel's appearance to Cornelius and his command that Peter was to be summoned from Joppa. (f) The apostle related the Spirit's "like gift," such as they had received on Pentecost. That it was a "like gift" does not signify that it paralleled the apostles' bestowal in all particulars.

After all of this, he drew the only conclusion possible: "Who was I to withstand God?" It was as if he said, "Dispute with me and you dispute with your Maker!" When they heard these things, their antagonism evaporated, and they glorified God saying, "To the Gentiles also God has given the opportunity to repent and receive life" (v. 18) Repent is viewed as a gift since the Lord provided the opportunity for them to do so. It also is a summary term that embraces all aspects of their obedience to the gospel plan.

(Acts 11:19-26) the church in Antioch: the persecution that followed Stephen's death scattered the Jerusalem disciples. Some went into Phoenicia on the northern coast of Palestine. Others went to Cyprus, a Mediterranean island about sixty miles off the Syrian coast. Other disciples settled in Antioch of Syria (to be distinguished from Antioch of Pisidia). Syrian Antioch had a population of some five hundred thousand souls. The evangelism, however, had been on behalf of Jews only. Others had come to Antioch and were teaching Greek-speaking people, which may have been Hellenists, or Gentiles. At any rate, the "hand of the Lord was with them," and a great number who "believed turned to the Lord."

There is a grammatical construction here that is significant. Grammatically, "believed" denotes action that occurred prior to that of the leading verb, "turned." The sense thus is: "A great number of people, having already believed, turned to the Lord." This demonstrates that the act of turning was not the believing. When this passage is compared with 3:19, it proves that one has not turned to the Lord merely in believing or in repenting; rather,

the actual turning is at the point of immersion in water. At the time of his faith, one has changed his conviction; at the point of repentance, he has altered his attitude and mode of living; when he is baptized, he has changed his relationship to an "in Christ" association (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27).

This success in Antioch solicited the assistance of the Jerusalem church that sent Barnabas to become involved in that work. This "son of exhortation" lived up to his name, encouraging the disciples to remain steadfast in their service to Christ---which implies the possibility of not remaining faithful. Barnabas had a solid character and was "full of the Holy Spirit and faith" (4:36 and 6:5). As a result of this working relationship, many "were added to the Lord" (2:41, 47).

Apparently Barnabas felt under pressure with so many new converts, so he set out for Tarsus, about one hundred twenty miles to the west, to find Saul and solicit his help in the effort at Antioch. Saul had been in Cilicia for several years and had built a good reputation for preaching "the faith" (Gal. 1:23). Barnabas located Saul and the two returned to Antioch where they labored there together for about a year, teaching many people (v. 26). Here, for the first time, the name "Christians" is introduced. The expression, were called," suggests they did not invent the name for themselves, but it was divinely bestowed upon them, perhaps by either Barnabas or Saul. They were to glorify God in that name (1 Peter 4:16).

(Acts 11:27-30) the benevolent mission to Judaea: presently, "prophets" arrived from Jerusalem, warning the brothers that a great famine was to descend upon the empire. Writing later, Luke states that the prophecy was fulfilled in the days of Claudius (A.D. 41-54). Various historians mention famines during this era. Josephus reported that many in Jerusalem died for lack of food (Antiquities of the Jews 20.2.5). The caring disciples in Antioch determined to send relief to the needy. Each person gave consistent with his ability. Giving is acceptable as a person has, not as he has not (2 Cor. 8:12). Ability is a combination of resources and opportunity. The brethren sent their gift by the trustworthy Barnabas and Saul, who delivered it to the elders. The definite article seems to suggest a specific group of elders, and the most reasonable view is that these were the elders of the Jerusalem church (12:25). This is the first time church "elders" are mentioned. The qualifications of elders, also called "bishops" (20:17, 28) or "pastors" (Eph. 4:11), are found in 1 Tim. 3 and Titus 1.

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MELVIN HOWARD

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## Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week



This week the Morgan County Today is honoring two late family members of our newspaper columnist Fred Mize. These two veterans Charles Hobby (Fred's Grandfather) and Joe Gibson (Fred's Great-Uncle) inspired Fred Mize (served twenty-one years in the Tennessee Army National Guard) to enlist and serve our country through their own military service.

Charles Hobby served nine years in the United States Navy. He served on the U.S.S. Piedmont which was a destroyer tender. Charles served during the Korean War era and was stationed in Japan. Fred fondly remembers his Grandfather reminiscing on his nine years in

the USN as being the best nine years of his life.

Joe Gibson served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War era as an infantryman. He was assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 11th Infantry, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Carson, Colorado. Joe earned the rank of Specialist Four (E-4) during his military service.

Joe spoke very little about his military service but after he passed away Fred found his military footlocker filled with precious military trinkets, pamphlets, medals, ribbons and the Bible he carried throughout his service. Although he spoke little about his time in the Army it was evident that his military service meant a great deal to him.

Almost every American family has or has had members who've served in the Armed Forces. We owe them all a great debt of gratitude. Some served during times of peace and some served during times of war but all deserve respect for their willingness and courage to serve. If not for their sacrifices where would we as a country be today? Thank about it. If not for them I doubt you'd even be reading

this article in English.

Morgan County Today, thanks all who have served and all who will serve in the future. We pray that the Lord keeps them safe as they do their part to ensure our safety.



## Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

Morgan County Today is pleased to honor Correctional Officer Derek Hawn as the Law Enforcement Officer of the week.

Derek grew up in Morgan County. He graduated from Sunbright School and still resides in Morgan County with his wife and their two children.

Many readers may remember reading about Derek when he was honored last year as the Veteran of the week. For those who missed that article, Derek honorably served

for five years in the United States Marine Corps as an infantryman.

After serving in the USMC, Derek was inspired to apply for a Correctional Officer position at the Morgan County



Correctional Complex. He felt he'd enjoy working serving as a Correctional Officer because he had several friends who already worked there and there are a lot of prior military service members em-

ployed at the complex. Derek has now served at the MCCX since May of 2014 and has earned the rank of Corporal. Corporal Hawn, Morgan County Today, thanks you for both your military service and your continued service to our community as a Correctional Officer. Thank you and God bless!

## Higher Audit Rates for Lower Incomes



David Zubler

Few things can create as much stress for a taxpayer as an IRS audit. Many people assume that the IRS primarily audits people with higher incomes.

Generally, in the past, the odds of being audited significantly increased as income increased. However, recently the IRS began to increase the focus on audits of certain low-income taxpayers.

If you are claiming the earned income tax credit (EITC) you are at a much higher risk of being audited. People with income under \$20,000 who receive the EITC are audited at twice the rate of people with income between \$200,000 and \$500,000.

According to the IRS, tax returns claiming EITC have error rates of about 50%. The improper payments involving EITC is estimated to be more than \$17 billion each year.

The IRS budget was reduced by about two billion dollars between 2010 and 2017. Due to the crippling budget cuts over the years, the IRS has lost almost 30,000 full-time positions between 2010

and 2019. The IRS career leadership team has the responsibility for making the high-level decision of where to focus their limited audit resources.

These cuts in funds caused the IRS to shift its focus audits from high-income people to low-income people who claimed the EITC. The IRS commissioner, Charles Rettig, announced that the IRS will need more money to hire and train auditors so that it will be able to balance the number of audits across all income levels.

Charles Rettig has admitted that auditing lower-income people is easier than auditing wealthier ones.

Low-income taxpayers are the easiest and cheapest to audit since the majority of these audits are performed by mail and by central IRS campus operations. This method of auditing reduces the cost of audits.

It generally takes two to three years for the IRS to train an agent for more complex audits. The IRS has been hiring more auditors for complex audits which are done by revenue agents. However, these hires are largely being offset by the decrease of its workforce due to employees retiring.

EITC audits make the IRS look efficient

since most mail audits aren't challenged by the taxpayer. Most people default on their audit or never respond.

It appears that the IRS audit strategy will remain unchanged. Until the IRS receives the funds needed to train more agents for complex audits, low-income individuals will continue to be large proportion of the audits.

*David Zubler is a tax accountant and Enrolled Agent in East Tennessee representing clients before the IRS and has over 25 years of tax experience. He is the author of four tax books and 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 be reached at (865) 363-3019 or contacted by email at zublerdavid@gmail.com.*

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