

# Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.








75¢

VOLUME 06 • NUMBER 51

PSALM 100:3

December 22, 2020

**MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK**

Tue 22	50°/32°	
Wed 23	53°/41°	
Thu 24	47°/21°	
Fri 25	29°/17°	
Sat 26	37°/22°	
Sun 27	42°/30°	
Mon 28	42°/25°	

FROM ALL OF US AT MORGAN COUNTY TODAY

## Merry Christmas!

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

# MCCX “Angels” Deliver Toys to Children



Veteran of the Week  
John Burns



LEO of the Week  
Jeff Foster



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\*\$20,000 Bonus  
\*Job Training

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The Morgan County Correctional Complex (MCCX) conducted their annual Angel Tree program and delivered Christmas gifts to 100's of local children. As year's past the program provided over 2,000 wrapped gifts that were given out to students who were enrolled in the Angel Tree

program. MCCX has partnered with the Morgan County School system for over twelve years now, taking hundreds of 'angels' each year. Toy collections and fundraisers were held all year, collecting enough toys and articles of clothing to ensure each 'angel' received seven to eight presents each.



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**Ruby "Velma" Human, 79**

Mrs. Ruby "Velma" Human, passed away peacefully at home on Friday, December 11th 2020, in Lancing, Tennessee. Velma was born on August 15, 1941, in Detroit, Michigan to Bob and Imogene Hill. She was raised in Piney and went to Oakdale School. Velma married Homer "Sonny" Human in 1967. The family will remember her as kind, loving, and a gentle "Mamaw" who encouraged them to love one another and put God first in their lives. She was a devoted mother to six children, 15 wonderful grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren. Mamaw and Papaw's home hosted every family Christmas, Thanksgiving, 4th of July, and family gatherings, along with a host of nieces and nephews. Mamaw's food brought everyone together, especially her biscuits and gravy and fried chicken.

She is preceded in death by parents: Bob and Imogene Hill. Four brothers: Richard, LG, Bobby, and Billy. And one sister: Elizabeth "Lib" Burnett.

Velma is survived by her husband, Homer "Sonny" Human of Lancing, TN. Four sons: Wayne (and Kris) of Sevierville, Tony (and Michelle) of Wartburg, Eugene (and Kristy) of Lancing, and Marty (and Kristi) of Knoxville. Two daughters:



Monica Wagner of Lancing, and Sandy (and Bill) Beacom of Auburn Hills, MI. Three sisters: Agnes Lewis of Crossville, Mary Ada Henderson of Harriman, and Patricia (and Doug) Summers of Rockwood. Six brothers: Fred Hill of Harriman, Otis Hill of Harriman, Harvey "Spunky" (and Carol) Hill of Piney, Jack Hill of Oakdale, Jimmy Hill of Knoxville, and Tim (and Mary Jo) Hill of Knoxville. A lifelong friend: Dolores Rigsby of Shawneetown, IL, along with numerous nieces, nephews, and other family, friends, and loved ones.

The family will receive friends at Davis Funeral Home, Wartburg on Monday, December 14th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM with the funeral service immediately following. Pastor Jeff Parrott and her grandson Pastor Ryan Human officiating. Graveside services will be held Tuesday, December 15th at Forrestner Cemetery in Lancing at 11:00 AM. Pallbearers will be her sons, Wayne, Tony, Eugene, and Marty Human, her son-in-law Bill Beacom, and her grandson Derek Daugherty.

Davis Funeral Home, Harriman, honored to be serving the family of Mrs. Ruby Velma Human.

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

**Danny Ray Brown, Jr., 42**

Danny Ray Brown Jr., age 42 went to be with the Lord on December 2, 2020 at his residence.

He is preceded in death by grandparents, James Floyd Morgan and Elma Allean Shannon-Morgan; grandparents, Robert Jackson Brown and Martha Viola Brown; cousin, William Robert Brown Jr.

He is survived by mother, Nola Faye Morgan Brown Hall of Lancing; brother, Billie Joe Brown and sister in law, Tammy Lynn Brown of Sunbright;

nephew, Brandon Scott Brown of Sunbright; daughter, Maggie Elizabeth Brown of Oak Ridge; granddaughter, Maya; father, Danny Ray Brown Sr., of Deer Lodge and a host of Aunts, Uncles and cousins; along with good friends, Randy, Donna and Reshea Robert's of Sunbright.

Funeral arrangements have not been made at this time.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Danny Ray Brown, Jr.

**Carol Armes, 79**

Carol Armes, age 79, passed away December 13, 2020 at her home in Louisville.

She is preceded in death by her daughters, Linda and Luwana.

She is survived by her husband of 37 years, Harold Armes; daughters, Lisa Justus and husband, Brent, Latina Sidorov and husband, Stas Sidorov, and Lora Selph; sons, Larry Fountain of Naylor, GA., Lyle (Lora) Fountain, of Joyner,

Lester (Kim) Fountain of Louisville and Lance of Nashville, Ga; 20 grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren and 1 great great grandchild.

The family will have a graveside service Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at Clear Creek Cemetery in Lancing.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Carol Armes.

**Timothy Mark Wilson, 52**

Timothy Mark Wilson, age 52, of Harriman passed away December 13, 2020 at Roane Medical Center in Harriman.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Corine & Dewey Wilson, Jr.; grandparents, Dewey Sr. & Virgie Wilson and Millard & Virgie Shepherd; son, Shay Wallen.

He is survived by his brothers, Darrell (Cheryl) Wilson, Troy (Felicia) Wilson, Jerry (Alice) Wilson, Tony (Denise)

Wilson; sister, Heather Bunch; son, Trey (Stephanie) Wilson; granddaughter; wife, Sissy.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, December 16, 2020 from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Bro. Ralph Nance officiating. Interment will follow in the Covington Cemetery in Wartburg.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Timothy Mark Wilson.

**Ely Grayson Manis**

Early in the morning of December 16, 2020 an angel was sent from the throne room of Heaven to Childrens Hospital in Knoxville. Returning a millisecond later to place the precious soul of beautiful, baby boy, Eli Grayson Manis into the arms of our Heavenly Father. Why, we didn't get to keep our precious baby boy, is known only by God.

Left to morn his short earthly life are his mom and dad, Hanna Stephens and Thomas Manis; grandmother, Becky Manis; grandparents, Tony & Goldie Stephens; aunt,

Brittany Stephens; great grandmother, Joyce Stephens; great grandparents, Tom & Polly Davis and a host of great uncles, aunts and cousins.

Baby Eli was preceded in death by his grandfather, Frankie Manis; paternal great grandparents, Bobby and Katy Massengill and maternal great grandfather, Charlie Stephens.

The family has requested a private graveside service.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Ely Grayson Manis.

**Jolene Aytes, 88**

Mrs. Jolene Aytes, age 88, of Frankfort, formerly from Lancing, TN, passed away Friday, December 11th at Roane Medical Center. She was a faithful and active member of Frankfort Community Church for 70 years. Her work history includes Red Kap, Advance Transformer, and Brushy Mountain Market. She was an avid gardener, having learned as a small child at her father's side. Her hobbies were canning, crocheting, and quilting.

She was preceded in death by her husband: Royal "Sonny" Aytes. Her parents: Hayden and Ethel Bowlin. Her daughter-in-law: Sheila Aytes. One brother: Eugene Bowlin. And four sisters: Aleda Potter, Norma "Jeri" Percy, Treva Melton Long and Joyce Jacks Armes.

She is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law: William David and Rose Aytes of Frankfort, Gary and Glenna Aytes of Rockwood.

One daughter and son-in-law: Kathy and Tom Muse of Knoxville.

Two granddaughters: Sonya (James) Williams of Frankfort, Katie (Phillip) Tucker of Alcoa.

She is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law: William David and Rose Aytes of Frankfort, Gary and Glenna Aytes of Rockwood.

One daughter and son-in-law: Kathy and Tom Muse of Knoxville.

Two granddaughters: Sonya (James) Williams of Frankfort, Katie (Phillip) Tucker of Alcoa.

Four grandsons: Jason (Kate) Aytes of Purcellville, VA, Ryan Aytes of Knoxville, Travis Aytes of Frankfort and John Muse of Knoxville.

She was blessed with 10 great grandchildren. She is also survived by a sister, Billie Rhea Osborne, of Wartburg and a host of nephews and nieces.

Mrs. Aytes will lie in state at the Frankfort Community Church on Monday December 14, 2020 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Graveside services will follow in the church cemetery with Rev. Tommy Winingham and Rev. Doyle Nance officiating.

Tom Muse, Ivan Lee, Michael Adkins, Ryan Aytes, Travis Aytes, James Williams, and Bruce Potter will serve as Pall Bearers. Honorary Pall Bearers will be: Crimson Aytes, Hayden Muse, Jason Aytes, John Muse, Phillip Tucker, and Ryan Aytes.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Frankfort Community Church, PO Box 945, Wartburg, TN 37887.

Davis Funeral Home, Wartburg, is honored to serve family of Mrs. Jolene Aytes.

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

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

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

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**Rates in Morgan County**

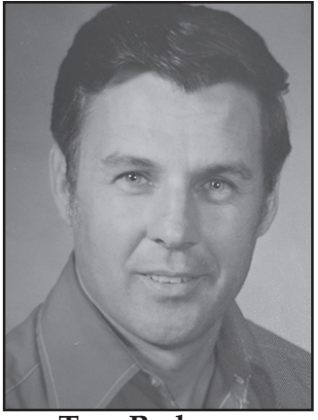
\$40; \$35 for senior citizens & Veterans

**Out of County Rates**

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



## The True Meaning of Christmas



Tom Redmon  
Columnist

I know all of you have heard the phrase, "The reason for the season."

I would say that many people living here in America have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas. It has become so commercialized that our big concern has evolved in on what am I going to get my wife or children for Christmas, or am I going to beat my neighbor in how I'm going to decorate my

What is the real true meaning of Christmas? The first six letters tell us why we have Christmas. "Christ" is the reason for the season. Over 2,000 years ago our Lord and Savior was born in Bethlehem. Luke 2:7 tells us that Mary brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. When the shepherds came to see the Christ child, (Luke 2:10-11) they were so afraid the angel said unto them fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. "For unto you is born this day in

He wrote many songs but Amazing Grace is the one he is remembered for.

I remember Christmas back in the 40's during and after WWII. We were still in the Great Depression in 1936 when I was born. More people had turned to God because of the economic conditions. I have been told that a little church in Gobey held a revival that was supposed to last two or three weeks but ended up lasting thirteen weeks. People were coming to God and later on Billy Graham was holding tent revivals and believe it or not he had large turn outs even in Los Angeles, California. We had no large

Town of Bethlehem" and "Away in the Manger".

I wish we could return to those days. We didn't have much in the way of material things, but we did know the true meaning of Christmas and our leaders worshipped with us. We never used political correctness in our speech. We respected our teachers and we never thought about marching and rioting because a certain political leader was elected. We respected our law officials and we felt safe even with our doors unlocked. Most parents supported teachers and principals and we could pray and read the Bible in our schools. Our history



house? We spend thousands of dollars between black Friday and Christmas and some of us find ourself in debt where we are paying our credit cards off for six months or more. Store managers are keeping their fingers crossed hoping they will make big money to get them out of the red. We go to the store to get Christmas cards and we find it hard to find cards that will tell the true story of Christmas. In the former administration store clerks were advised to say, "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas". It had become politically incorrect to say the word "Christ". Like a nation of sheep, we fall in line and try to be politically correct. Here in the Bible belt, it's not so bad but you get to New England or the West Coast and you will find how little the people think about God and Jesus Christ. The governor of California has tried with some success to close the Christian churches down. He is using the Corona Virus pandemic as the reason when actually many of our government officials would like to see Christianity disappear from our society. It would make socialism easier to instill.

the city of David a savior, which is Christ the Lord. Christmas should be a time of great joy because God had sent down his only begotten son Jesus Christ to save all sinners. John 3:16-17, 16 tells us that; For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son that who soever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

This is the reason we celebrate Christmas. God, the Father, looked down on earth and saw so much sin that He sent His Son down to earth to die for our sins. Thirty-three-years later Christ would die a very painful death on the cross and shed His precious blood to wash away our sins.

It is hard for me to believe that Christ would die for sinners like me. But He did. I love the song "Amazing Grace" because it tells of the love of Jesus for sinners. John Newton the author was a slave dealer who treated slaves like animals, but when he was saved during a storm at sea, he turned his life around.

stores back in the 40's and the early 50's and I don't think what stores we did have expected the Christmas season to pull them through. Stores didn't put their decorations up until Thanksgiving was long over, and we didn't put our Christmas tree up until about two weeks before Christmas.

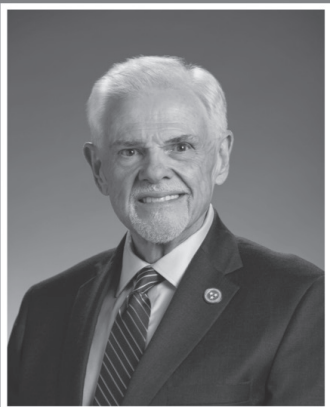
I went to Liberty Church and Mrs. Sally Knisley was my teacher and I loved those Bible stories she would tell. She made the Christmas story and the birth of Christ so real to me. We put on Christmas plays and at the end of the service they passed out a treat bag to everyone. We sang wonderful songs like, "Joy to the World", "Silent Night", "Hark the Herald Angels Sing", "O Little

textbooks told the true story of our past and we did have our heroes.

Little by little our freedoms, our morals and ethics have been chipped away and as we look back, we cannot believe we have fallen so far away from God.

This Christmas lets return to celebrating Christmas the way we should. Let's put Christ back into Christmas. Go to any of the gospels in the Bible and read about the birth of Christ. Jesus came to earth with a set plan and purpose: to bring us salvation; our greatest give from God.

*Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year*



*Wishing you and your family many blessings this holiday season. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your State Senator.  
God Bless,  
Senator Ken Yager*



## Historically Speaking Happy Valley in Korea

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Here is another story from Bill Sergeant. I never cease to be amazed at the details Bill can recall of the early days of Oak Ridge. He is one of my most dedicated readers and often helps me see things about early Oak Ridge in a much clearer light.

He remembers when the original seven (nine actually) gates were up. He remembers gates that others do not even mention. He told me about two gates on roads leading north of Black Oak Ridge that were opened only to allow shift workers to enter and exit Oak Ridge.

Bill is the person who helped me to know the historical facts that the three “checking stations,” one on Oak Ridge Turnpike, one on Scarboro Road and one on Bethel Valley Road, were built in 1948. The structures were first known as “Gate Houses.” They were installed to be ready for the March 19, 1949 opening of the main road gates to the city of Oak Ridge and were intended to control access to the three government plant sites.

He also told me that the guard tower on the point of Pine Ridge just above the gap where East Fork Poplar Creek runs through the ridge was built at that same time. I found it interesting to learn that the three Gate Houses were only used officially from 1949 to 1953 when the fences were moved back closer to the three plants and the gate houses were no longer used.

In this latest story, Bill provides insight into the extent the memory of Oak Ridge and especially a small community known locally as “Happy Valley” meant to the troops fighting in the Korean War. I wish he had included more about his adventures during the Korean War, maybe another time we can encourage him to tell that story. Bill left Oak Ridge, where he was the leader of the security police force that protected all of the Oak Ridge reservation other than the specific plant sites, to lead troops into the Korean War. When that war was over, he returned to Oak Ridge. He retired as the director of the Department of Energy’s Safeguards and Security organization.

Bill starts his story about Happy Valley by saying, “Little known and soon forgotten. There was once a ‘West Oak Ridge.’”

He continues, “Residents of the Clinton Engineer Works who were not workers required badges if 12 years of age. There were many such people, for example, non-employed wives and 12 years and older children. While the percentage of such people among Happy Valley non-worker residents was small because of the type of workers and lack of family housing, there still were some.

“Security badges identified the wearer as an Oak Ridge resident. Later in Oak Ridge history, the Manhattan Intelligence and Security Division decided that Happy valley non-worker residents should have badges different from the main city proper. Why, I don’t know; the decision was made by the Intelligence and Security Division at the ‘Castle on the Hill,’ my job was to implement it. I believe they were a different color, perhaps ‘red’ to note their presence in the K-25 vicinity.

“The decision makers did not seem to want to use ‘Happy Valley.’ Too casual or unofficial sounding, I guess. So the official name was ‘West Oak Ridge.’ The new title died with the construct work in the area as the dormitories, hutments, commercial facil-

ities ended occupancy and the structures removed. The name ‘West Oak Ridge’ was selected not earlier than 1945, dropped somewhat later.

“There were a lot of people living in ‘Happy Valley’ between May 1944 (when I arrived) and 1946. At its peak there were 15,000 people – more than Lenoir City, McMinnville and Sweetwater today and more than half of Oak Ridge today.

“I remember a theater and a bank. I once attended a movie at the theater as a lark. Construction workers were working on K-25, the Powerhouse and S-50. The ‘community’ required much more ‘policing’ than



Sprawling Happy Valley and other construction camps near K-25 are shown all around the construction site in this aerial photograph of the Manhattan Project K-25 site (Photo Submitted)



This sign evoking the memory of “Happy Valley” and Oak Ridge was erected in Korea during the Korean War by former Oak Ridgers under the leadership of Bill Sergeant (Photo Submitted)

the main Oak Ridge. I remember one trailer murder. There was much rowdiness and drinking. The higher number of incidents may have been caused by the shift work, close housing, few facilities and even fewer amenities.

Guard Headquarters, for what was known as the Roane Division was located in a dormitory type building used to house students back in Roane College and Wheat High School days in the Wheat community prior to the Manhattan Engineer District. Flannigan’s Loop provided a road of sort through East Fork Ridge and Pine Ridge to Bethel valley where X-10 was located.

“In Korea, on the Central Front, the 194th Combat Battalion supported the frontline troops with all kinds of bridges – foot, trucks and armored vehicles. The battalion also repaired dirt roads made damaged by heavy rain and laid and removed mine fields. The National Guard unit from Oak Ridge was composed of approximately 60% former Oak Ridgers augmented by draftees and reserves. Frequently, the Oak Ridge soldiers named work they did or areas where they served after Oak Ridge memories. One such memory used was ‘Happy Valley.’”

When the unit Bill describes above made up primarily of former Oak Ridgers, with him as their leader, chose a name for their work area in Korea, they chose the locally favored name, “Happy Valley.” One reason may have been that the community, being a construction camp, had a reputation for

having some very tough characters - I am speculating here, Bill did NOT say this! He did say that the security forces during the Manhattan Project were called to Happy Valley to deal with fights and other incidents way more frequently than to all of the rest of Oak Ridge.

Whatever the reason for choosing the construction camp at K-25, to name an area in Korea during the Korean War of 1950 - 1953, Happy Valley was chosen rather than the official name of “West Oak Ridge.” They did also name a pass in the terrain after Oak Ridge as seen in the photo accompanying this story.

In addition to Happy Valley, with its hutments, trailers, barracks, school, a commercial center, theater, three recreation halls and other buildings, there were two other smaller construction camps. The Ford, Bacon & Davis camp was just west of Happy Valley and north of Happy Valley was yet another camp on Blair Road. Even with all these camps of construction workers living near the K-25 site, more than half the construction employees at K-25 traveled to work daily by buses, trucks or cars from surrounding communities.

I find it interesting to learn that the memory of Oak Ridge, and even Happy Valley, stuck with those troops in battle during the Korean War. Maybe it was just a way to recall memories of a place where they had enjoyed better times than those which they were enduring in Korea. Or, maybe it came from a sense of pride in what Oak Ridge had done for the world in helping end World War II. Maybe they were just proud of their hometown and wanted to show that pride to other soldiers.

Whatever the root cause, naming a pass “Oak Ridge Pass” and naming a location “Happy Valley” tells a good story about Oak Ridgers who helped win yet another war, the Korean War! Thanks to Bill Sergeant for yet another excellent story of our Oak Ridge heritage.

***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	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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37	38	39				40				
41				42	43				44	45
46				47				48		
49				50				51		

1 Doctrine  
4 Comotions  
8 Mid-May honorees  
12 Cattle call  
13 "Arrivederci"  
14 "So be it"  
15 Wordplay specialists  
17 Hindu royal  
18 Locate  
19 Piece of cheesecake?  
20 Subsequently  
22 Reedy  
24 Concoct  
25 Good news for bargain hunters  
29 Bard's "always"  
30 Unrefined  
31 Id counterpart  
32 Ruins  
34 Touch  
35 Cincinnati team  
36 Gets up  
37 — Valley (California ski resort)  
40 Family member  
41 Cather's "One of —"  
42 Expensive seafood  
46 Platter

47 Between jobs  
48 Carnival city  
49 Remain  
50 Ball-bearing items  
51 Agent

7 "Mayday!"  
8 Leatherneck  
9 Mideast nation  
10 Options list  
11 Use scissors  
16 Gush forth  
19 Snapshots  
20 Sleeping, perhaps  
21 Release  
22 Cafeteria stack  
23 Greet the villain  
25 Motivate  
26 "— Dictionary"

27 Chills and fever  
28 Deteriorates  
30 Staff  
33 In poor taste  
34 "— She Sweet?"  
36 Strategic tricks  
37 Turfs  
38 Resign  
39 — Major  
40 Competent  
42 Illuminated  
43 Rhyming tribute  
44 Tear  
45 Tofu base

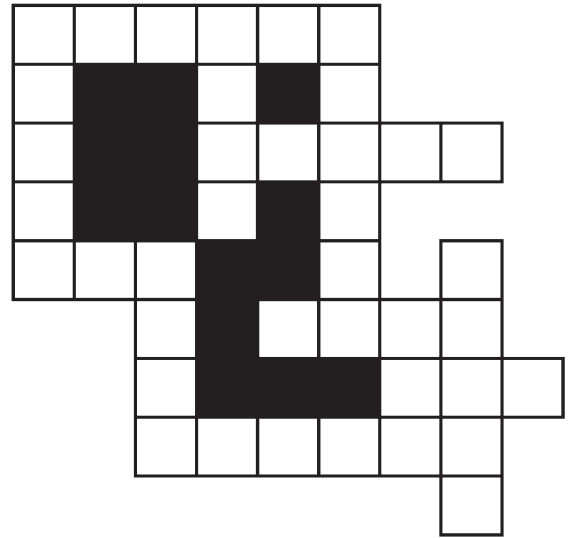
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# FEAR KNIGHT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

- DAZ
- GRITUN
- ♥ DAMLE
- ♥ ETNA
- BAZAL
- ♥ NBA
- UEBZ
- ♥ LADET
- ♥ NDE
- MADBAL
- ♥ GUBED
- ♥ DEAB



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  
Shared by Many, Made Possible by Jesus Christ

Volume I

Fred C. Mize III



## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

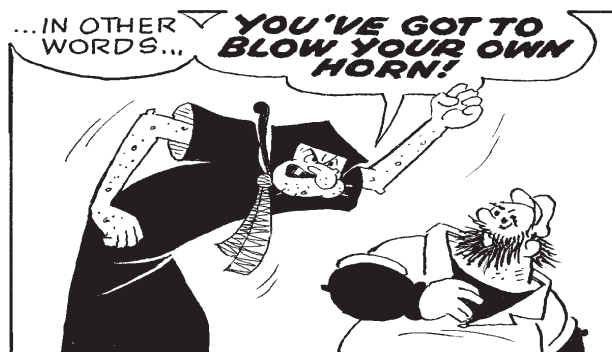
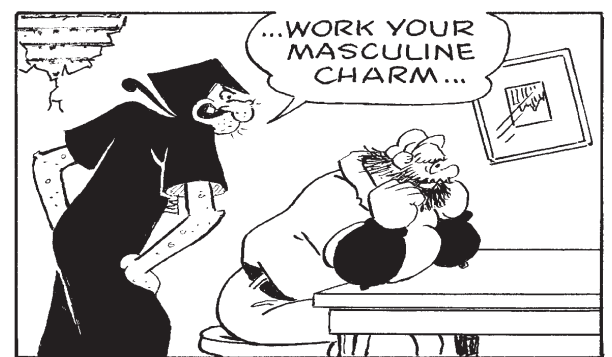
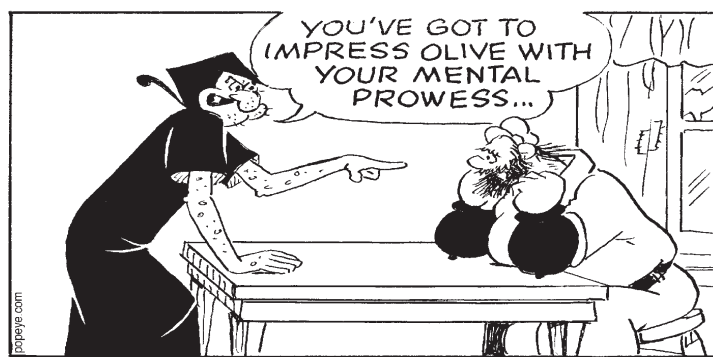
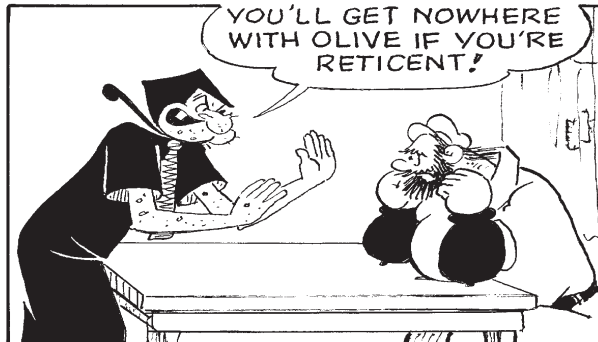
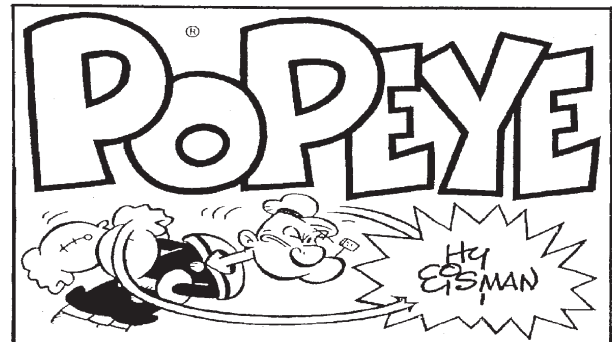
8			2					6
	2		7		1	8		
		6		9				3
4	9		1					2
	1			8				9
		5			3	7		
5				7		3		2
	8		5			1		
		7			2			6

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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# FEAR KNIGHT

answer

L	A	M	B	D	A					
A				A				B		
M				D	E	L	T	A		
E				E				A		
D	E	N					Z			B
			E		Z	E	B	U		
			A				A	D	Z	
			T	R	U	I	N	G		
								E		

## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

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 John 3:7 - Jesus

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MSG Fred Mize

## Who Am I

By: MSG. Fred Mize

Who am I, that the LORD, spoke creation into existence for?  
Who am I, that the LORD, stood up to Satan for?  
Who am I, that the LORD, left His throne for?  
Who am I, that the LORD, was born in a manger for?  
Who am I, that the LORD, performed miracles for?  
Who am I, that the LORD, agonized

and sweat blood for?  
Who am I, that the LORD, was betrayed for?  
Who am I, that the LORD, was mocked for?  
Who am I, that the LORD, accepted the cross for?  
Who am I, that the LORD, was crucified for?  
Who am I, that the LORD, suffered and died for?



Who am I, that the LORD, rose from the grave for?

Who am I, that the LORD, formed me in my mother's

womb?  
Who am I, that the LORD, is ac-

quainted with all of my ways?  
Who am I, that the LORD, provided the Bible for?  
Who am I, that the LORD, will return for?  
Who am I, but a sinner, saved by the LORD's grace?  
Who am I, a child of the great I AM...

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

## Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

### Merry Christmas

I want to wish you and your family a safe, wonderful Christmas. It's been a very difficult year for many of us. Christmas is my favorite holiday of the year. For many of us Christians, it's also

house takes in youth 18-22 years old who have fallen on hard times. Many of these adolescents never had family, were abused at a young age, or given up on during their childhood. A lot of them never received Christmas presents their whole life. I sponsor a child every year and make sure they never forget their first Christmas with gifts. I try to spoil them and let them know someone loves them; people really do care about them.

I know Christmas may be a difficult time of year for various reasons. Remember what Christmas actually means and let that inspire you to cherish life, make the most of the time we have on earth, and make sure to tell our loved ones how much they mean to us each and every day. Merry Christmas!!!



Zack Ballinger



I also do a random act of kindness every year. I will go to a Waffle House or Denny's and order a cup of coffee. I usually do this the day of Christmas. I think if someone is working Christmas, they definitely need the extra money. I ask for the bill and hand back the black folder to the waitress. I tell them to keep the change. What they don't know is there is a \$100.00 bill tucked in the folder. Last year, I did this at Ruby Tuesdays and the waitress began to cry. She said she needed the



a time of year to celebrate the birth of Christ. Many churches in the area are performing Christmas plays, services, and are proudly displaying their festive, nativity scenes. I want to share with my readers why Christmas is my favorite time of the year.

I love the concept of giving. I try to display that in my life throughout the year. I believe, generosity is one of the keys to a happy and successful life. Christmas time tends to be my favorite time of the year to give with outrageous generosity. I have never told this story because I believe in silent acts of generosity.. In other words, you don't have to brag or tell anyone to enjoy giving, but this story may inspire you to help someone.

I sponsor a child at The Covenant House of Georgia every year. The covenant

money to pay her power bill and she was 4 months pregnant.

I was raised to love Christmas. My granny and I used to decorate the apartment every year together since I was 10 years old. My granny loved Christmas. She loved giving presents and loved to open her gifts. She was like a little kid; she was the one wanting to open our Christmas gifts early. We didn't have much money, but we were able to decorate the apartment well on a limited budget. I have a lot of great memories with her around the Christmas holiday. I remember us going to church together, being in Christmas plays, visiting my family, shopping together, and singing Christmas music together. It's tough around the holidays, but the time we spent together will always supersede the tough days.

*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.*



Sandra Helton's weekly column

## Oakdale Area News

email: kvhelton@highland.net



Merry Christmas! Although things are different this year, one thing hasn't changed. Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem and His birth is the reason we celebrate.

I want to share a personal story. Many years ago, I was asked "Do you make your girls be nice? They always seem happy with their gifts." I explained that I had always told my children, and reminded myself, that a gift is just that, a gift. It is nothing we deserve or earned. I told them it doesn't matter if they don't like it or if it doesn't fit or if they already have three of them, they should be gracious and appreciative that someone took time to think of them. That isn't always easy but then again, neither is shopping for gifts. With that being said, I hope each of you have accepted that most perfect gift that was born in Bethlehem. We don't deserve it and we can't earn it but He was given to us because of Love.

Susan Brewer has been spreading kindness again! She gifted me and Bunt with a delicious rum cake. Thank you Susan.

Barret Ruppe turned One Year Old Wednesday, December 16. Barret is the son of TJ and Jessica Ruppe and the baby brother of Ashlyn. The family celebrated with a party at Pine Orchard Community Center Sunday, December 13.

Bridget and Stanley Smith celebrated their 26th wedding anniversary on December 16. The traveled to Jacksonville, Alabama to watch Maverick play basketball.

Congratulations to Mav-

erick Smith who was honored as TN Tech Athletics' 2020 November Unsung Hero. The following was taken from TN Tech's online article. "Attitude, work ethic, and energy. Each of these characteristics is a critical component of what it takes to be an effective leader. Tennessee Tech men's basketball senior guard Maverick Smith possesses them all and then some, and it has not gone unnoticed by his coaching staff." We are all very proud of Maverick, on and off the court.

Candy, Cameron and Drew Headrick all celebrate a December birthday. Candy's birthday was December 6, Cameron's birthday was the 16th and Drew will celebrate his birthday on Christmas Day. Happy Birthday to all of you!

On Saturday, December 19, the Annual Melhorn Gingerbread House Contest was held at the home of Stanley and Bridget Smith. The competition has grown to include friends outside the family and there is always a lot of good food and fun.

Ava Rose Smith turned 13 on December 7. Happy Birthday Ava!

Mickey Bingham celebrated his birthday December 15. I hope you had a wonderful day Mr. B!

Jennifer Ruppe celebrated her birthday December 18. She was blessed with a lot of kind gestures. Kerry had food delivered, her sister Sonya had help from a local elf and sent her flowers and Trula dropped off a poinsettia. Rachel and the grandchildren made

cupcakes and Valerie made her a cake. She received several gifts and Cartie made her a card and led everyone in singing Happy Birthday.

Belated birthday greetings to Tammy Newberry and Susan Collins who celebrated on December 17 and to Mia Cooney, Margie Hicks and Tina Young who celebrated on December 18.

Happy Birthday to Justin Disney, Deonna Turner and Brandy Glenn who celebrated their birthdays Sunday, December 20 and to Shawna Helton who celebrated on the 21st.

Happy Birthday to Laura Helton who celebrates her birthday today, December 22. Also Happy Birthday to Talisa Helton who has a birthday today.

Rhonda Ruppe will celebrate her birthday on Christmas and her son, Andy, will celebrate his birthday on December 26.

Happy Birthday to Kim Grayson, Maude Townsend and TJ Tilson who will celebrate their birthdays on December 26 and to Brett Melhorn who will have a birthday

on December 27 and to Becky Ruppe who celebrate her birthday on December 28.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Velma Hill Human who passed away, Friday, December

11 at her home in Lancing. She grew up in Piney. She is survived by her husband, Sonny, sons Wayne, Tony, Eugene and Marty and daughters Monica Wagner and Sandy Beacom. She is survived by three sisters Agnes Lewis, Mary Ada Henderson and Patricia Summers and six brothers, Fred Hill, Otis Hill, Harvey Hill, Jack Hill, Jimmy Hill and Tim Hill along with many nieces, nephews, other family members and friends. The receiving of friends and funeral were held at Davis Funeral Home in Wartburg, Monday, December 14. Graveside services were held Tuesday, December 15th at Forstner Cemetery in Lancing at 11:00 AM.

**"Christmas Gift Suggestions:**  
**To your enemy, forgiveness.**  
**To an opponent, tolerance.**  
**To a friend, your heart.**  
**To a customer, service.**  
**To all, charity.**  
**To every child, a good example.**  
**To yourself, respect."**  
**-Unknown**

## Acts Chapter 12

(Acts 12:1-19) the apostles persecuted: certain events relating to the Jerusalem church, particularly persecution, are now set forth. Within the same general time frame of Barnabas and Saul's benevolent mission to Judea, Herod the king sought to afflict some within the Jerusalem church. This Herod, know as Agrippa 1, was the grandson of Herod the Great, who slaughtered the infants in an attempt to eliminate the Christ child (Mt. 2:1), he was the nephew of Herod Antipas, who decapitated John the Baptizer (Mk. 6:14). Agrippa murdered James, son of Zebedee and brother of John, with the sword. Eusebius, citing Clement of Alexandria, says that James was beheaded. James was the first apostle to shed his blood for the Master---an event, incidentally, which fulfilled the Savior's prophecy that James would "drink the cup" of suffering (Mk. 10:39).

(In 12:4 King James version Easter should have been Passover --- hence, the name Astarte or Ishtar is a semitic word. "Easter" comes from the goddess named "Ishtar" or Semitic. Semitic means "(1) of or relating to the Semites. (2) Designating or relating to a family of inflectional languages including Phoenician, Hebrew, Aramaic, and Arabic.)"

When Antipas saw that James's death pleased the Jews, he seized Peter, put him in prison, and had him guarded by sixteen soldiers, with the intention of executing him after the days of Passover (v. 4). While the apostle was imprisoned, the church prayed for him and God heard their petitions. As Peter slept, heavily guarded, an angel of the Lord appeared in the cell. Peter was awakened, instructed to dress, and delivered from the cell. It was so amazing the apostle could hardly tell if it was real or a vision (v. 9). Miraculously, they passed by several guards, and when they approached the city's iron gate, it opened without human intervention. Presently, the angel vanished and Peter knew he had been delivered by the Lord.

He made his way to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many saints were gathered for prayer. When he knocked at the gate, Rhoda, a servant girl, recognized his voice, and in her joy ran to tell the others without letting him in. The Christians could not believe it was Peter, suggesting that Rhoda was delusional (v. 15). Finally, they let him in; he recounted the details of his deliverance and asked them to convey the information to James (Jesus' half-brother) (Mt. 13:55, 1 Cor. 15:7) and to the brothers. Peter then went to "another place," the details of which are not revealed.

When dawn broke, the soldiers were in a state of panic. Herod feverishly attempted to find his missing prisoner, but could not. He

interrogated the guards, but they had no idea. The escape was not their fault; nonetheless, they were put to death. Herod left Judaea and journeyed westward to Caesarea (the Roman headquarters) and lingered there. He probably had an eerie feeling and decided to seek solace and safety elsewhere.

(Acts 12:20-25) Herod's death and continued church growth: Herod was highly displeased with the citizens of Tyre and Sidon (twin coastal cities in Phoenicia). A united committee came to visit the ruler, thinking they had influence with him because they were acquainted with Blastus, his chamberlain (a household officer). Perhaps their food ration had been cut (their food supply was provided by Antipas) and they hoped to have it reinstated. Herod was unpopular, so the groveling group thought they would win his favor with a flattering celebration.

On a set day, Herod arrayed himself in royal apparel and set upon his throne. Josephus, in describing the event, says he was clothed in a silver garment that glistened in the morning sun. He made a speech (the verb seems to suggest that he went on and on) that enthralled the crowd---or so it seemed---and they proclaimed him a "god". Josephus indicated Herod did not rebuke this idolatrous praise; accordingly, a "severe pain" struck in his stomach. Luke says he "was eaten of worms" as a result of being smitten by an angel. After an agonizing five days of suffering, Herod died at the age of fifty-four.

In spite of bloody persecution, "the word of God grew and multiplied" (v. 24). This is a figure of speech whereby the cause is put for the effect. The word of God grew in the sense that many new converts were made to the cause of Christ. "Multiplies" stresses the fantastic rapidity of the expansion of the Christian movement. The more it was persecuted, the faster it grew. It was a divine cause!

When Barnabas and Saul had concluded their mission of mercy on behalf of Christian famine victims in Judaea, they returned to Antioch, bringing with them John Mark, Mary's son and Barnabas' cousin (Col. 4:10). Mark would later become a source of some contention between Barnabas and Paul, but eventually would redeem himself.

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MELVIN HOWARD

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## Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week



Morgan County Today is humbled and honored to praise, Staff Sergeant John Burns as the veteran of the week.

SSG Burns enlisted into the United States Army on September 23, 1987 as an 11C Infantry Mortarman. He graduated from the 7th Infantry Division, Ranger Class 11/89 and served in the invasion of Panama on December 20, 1989 with the HHC 1/9 Infantry.

John reenlisted while in the Republic of Panama on January 9, 1990, as an Infantry Mortarman in the 75th Ranger Regiment.

While assigned to the

75th Rangers he served in many positions to include; Fire Direction Center Chief, Alpha Team Leader, 2nd Squad Leader, Weapons Squad Leader, Special Skills Shop NCOIC and Parachute Infantry Regiment Platoon Sergeant.

His various deployments include; the invasion of Panama, Desert Storm and the Battle of Mogadishu.

His many decorations and awards include; Bronze Star Medal for Valor, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with

two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Good Conduct Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, NCO Professional Ribbon with Numeral 3 and Army Service Ribbon.

He earned the following badges; Sniper Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantry Badge and Expert Infantry Badge.

Throughout his prestigious military career, he traveled to forty-five countries on five continents and all but two states while serving in the military.

He currently serves as the Chaplain for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. His devout faith demonstrates to all he comes into contact with that he believes nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He enjoys writing and teaching God's Word while sharing his faith with a dying world.

John, Morgan County Today, simply cannot think you enough for all you've experienced, sacrificed and continue to do for our country.

Keep up the good fight for the LORD!



## Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

Jeff Foster has been selected as the Law Enforcement Officer of the week.

Jeff grew up in Petros and graduated from Wartburg Central High School in 1985. Soon after high school, at the age of nineteen he began his long-lasting career in the Tennessee Department of Corrections. This coming February will mark his thirty-fifth year serving our state and community as a correc-

tional officer. During his time as a correctional officer, he served at both Brushy Mountain and the Morgan County Correctional Complex. Jeff has also been blessed with a wonderful marriage and with one son and two grand-



children. His son has also worked at the Morgan County Correctional Complex for the past twelve years. Upon retiring he looks forward to spending time with his wife traveling and camping together. It's easy to tell that Jeff enjoys his duties and responsibilities at the Morgan County Cor-

rectional Complex but his favorite attribute of the job is the immense amount of camaraderie among his fellow officers. Jeff is also the Vice President of the AFSCME Local 2173.

Jeff, Morgan County Today, thanks you for your long-lasting career. Your dedication and strong sense of service to your family, community, and state is commendable.

## Good news for PPP loans for \$50,000 or less



David Zubler

There are new rules for PPP loans which are \$50,000 or less. The new rules ease and simplify the requirements of the loan forgiveness process.

As a result of the rule changes, the amount of your loan forgiveness may have increased to 100 percent even if you cut back on your employees. Additionally, the new rule change has made the application for loan forgiveness much easier.

Before the \$50,000 or less rule, you had to take a reduction in loan forgiveness or meet the exceptions that would allow you to reduce annual salaries or wages by more than 25 percent. These rules also applied to reducing the average number of employees or average hours paid.

With the new rule for a PPP loan of \$50,000 or less, you don't have to consider all of the many rules about employees. Now you meet the requirements if you spent the PPP money on costs that are eligible for forgiveness and at least 60 percent of the forgiveness is for qual-

ified payroll costs.

As an example, suppose you received a PPP loan \$30,000 based on your 2019 Schedule C income and pay to your part-time employee. Due to COVID-19, you had to lay off your worker and your worker was never rehired. You will qualify for 100 percent forgiveness of your \$30,000 loan if you spent \$18,000 (60 percent) on the pay to yourself and the remainder on five months' rent and utilities.

The new rule caps the Schedule C taxpayer's loan amount and forgiveness at a maximum of \$20,833 when Schedule C income is \$100,000 or more.

The expiration date has changed for the SBA Form 3508S. The form has an expiration date of October 31, 2020 but the SBA says that date should be ignored. The date has been extended and will be printed on the new forms when they are printed. The old forms with the October 31, 2020 date can still be used.

Since many people were in a dire financial crisis and didn't have the funds to

continue paying their employees, they really had no choice but to lay them off. Fortunately, the new rule change will be very beneficial if you laid off employees as a result of the financial crisis.

*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.*

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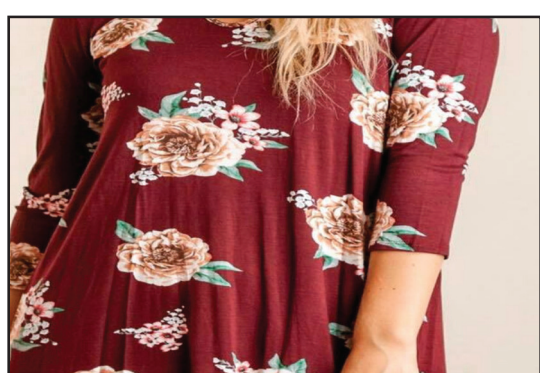
In accordance with the requirements of Tennessee Code Annotated 7-82-307(a)(8), the customers of Plateau Utility District are hereby notified that the Board of Commissioners for the Plateau Utility District intends to select (3) nominees at the January 14, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting to fulfill the unexpired term of Commissioner Carl Jones: such term expiring June 20, 2024. Upon listing of three nominees and certification of such list by the Board of Commissioners for Plateau Utility District, said list will be provided to the Morgan County Executive for Commissioner selection and appointment as required by law. The customers of Plateau Utility District are hereby invited to submit the names of qualified persons to be considered for nomination to the aforesaid position. Such submittal must be made in writing on a form provided by Plateau Utility District. Commissioner Nomination Request Forms are available Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) at 407 Eliza Street, Wartburg, Tennessee. Commissioner Nomination Request Forms must be completed and submitted to Plateau Utility District by 4 p.m. EST on January 6, 2021.

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