








MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK

Tue 08	42°/26°	
Wed 09	55°/32°	
Thu 10	59°/35°	
Fri 11	58°/45°	
Sat 12	54°/36°	
Sun 13	47°/29°	
Mon 14	41°/27°	

The Legacy of Coach Keith Henry



Coalfield Football Coach Keith Henry (Photo by Terry Futrell)

By Terry Futrell

As cryptic posts began showing up on Facebook about the Henry family early on December 5, I began to see red flags. I called a friend in Coalfield and asked, “What is going on?” At that point I received the same devastating news that later sent shockwaves throughout Morgan County, “Keith Henry had passed away due to Covid-19.” Overcome with emotion, my mind quickly raced through memories of Keith since I first met him five years ago. While questioning “How can this be,” I found myself dealing with the sober reality of death that each of us must face at some point in our lives.

I first met Keith in 2015 when I began photographing high school sports in Morgan County. It was September 11, 2015, and Coalfield faced Wartburg at home. Even though we had never met before, Keith made me feel welcome on the Coalfield sideline, flashing his characteristic smile. Keith’s Yellow Jackets won an impressive 43-8 victory over the Bulldogs that evening.

It was in the post-game huddle that I sensed that there was something special about this man and his approach, not just to football, but to life. As I stood there listening, Keith reviewed what went well in the game and talked about the things that needed improvement. Rather than a coach speaking to his players, it seemed more like a father speaking to his kids, speaking words of encouragement, mentoring them, but most of all loving them.

Many will speak of Keith’s record as a coach, and he did in fact have a phenomenal record in his 13 years at Coalfield – going 115-49, making 13 playoff appearances, and playing in one state title game. He also coached two Mr. Football winners. Clearly, there was something special about Coalfield football during Keith’s tenure, something almost mystical. After observing the program for five years, I am convinced that the difference was the ability of Keith and his coaching staff to mold individuals

into a cohesive team – a team that collectively was greater than the sum of its individual parts.

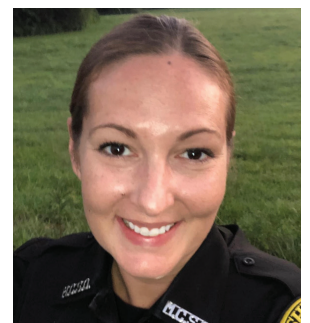
To me, Keith Henry was in no small way a modern-day Leonardo Davinci. Whereas, Davinci sculpted in cold hard stone, Keith Henry sculpted living, breathing human beings. He sculpted boys into young men, teaching them discipline, instilling in them a work ethic, and imparting to them a common vision that could only be achieved by cohesive teamwork. Most importantly, Keith had something that Davinci could never have – a close personal relationship with the young men that he sculpted.

Many of these young men were from shattered homes where they lacked a traditional father-son relationship. For these young men, Keith and his coaching staff played the role of surrogate father, treating each as his own son. I once interviewed a Coalfield player and asked him what football meant to him. In his words, football is all about “brotherhood...it brings so many people into your life that you never thought would be in your life, and father figures, too. Coalfield football teaches us life. That’s what Coach Henry really puts into us. He really teaches us how to become a man.”

Keith Henry taught all of us that coaching legacy is not measured by win-loss records, but by the positive impact that a coach has on the lives of his players. I have witnessed the character of some of Keith’s players transformed through his love and leadership. Most of us are fortunate to have such a transforming effect on the lives of two or three people in our entire lives. In his 13 years at Coalfield, Keith likely had more than 200 players spend four years under his positive influence. Without question, many of those young men had their lives transformed and the effect will be passed down to subsequent generations. That is what true legacy is all about. That is the legacy that Keith Henry leaves behind.



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Edward "Ed" Robert Barton, Jr., 54

After a hard-fought battle with an aggressive cancer, Edward "Ed" Robert Barton, Jr., of Ocoee, TN passed away at the home of his mother-in-law, Kay Harney on November 24, 2020. He leaves behind his wife of 23 years, Kristi Harney Barton.

Ed loved all genres of music and attended many concerts

He will be greatly missed by his 3 rottweilers Hodor, Anubis and Mishka.

Ed was born on August 9, 1966 in Yonkers, New York to Edward and Mary Barton, Sr. who preceded him. Also, he preceded by his father-in-law, George Harney.

He is survived by his mother, Angelina Barton whom he lovingly referred to as Miss B.; 1 brother, John Barton (Gary Goins); 2 sisters, Michelle Webb and Denise Aguir; brother-in-law, Brian Harney; sisters-in-law, Kelli (David) Clayton, Gina Harney, and a host of other family and friends who love Ed very much.

The family will have a graveside service Friday, November 27, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at the Fairview Baptist Church Cemetery in Lansing with Rev. Tim Hamby officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Edward "Ed" Robert Barton.

Richard Karl Woods, 74

Richard Karl Woods, age 74, passed away November 24, 2020 at his home. Richard loved fishing, racing but most of all he loved spending time with his family who he loved dearly.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Melvin, and Imojene Woods; wife, Opal "Ruth" Woods; brother, Ronnie Woods.

He is survived by his sons, Wayne, and William "Bill" Woods; grandsons, Anthony and Christopher Woods and Maddox Roysden; sisters, Juanita "P-Nut" Beeler and Melba Levy; brothers, Raymond and Roscoe Woods and special

extended families, the Ferguson and Russell families.

The family would like to thank Quality Home Health nurses for the great care during this difficult time most importantly, Blake, Josh, Tabitha, Missy and Donnette.

The family will receive friends Saturday, December 5, 2020 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00-1:00 p.m. with a memorial service to follow at 1:00 p.m. with Bro. Roy Langley officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Richard Karl Woods.

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

Itchy Feet: Normandy France (Part 1) By Janice Wilson

As part of our 2017 trip to England we crossed the English Channel and visited Normandy, France. The ferry 'Normandie' took us from Portsmouth to Ouistreham, from there we took a taxi to Caen. We stayed at an 'aparthotel', which is apartments run like a hotel, very nice accommodations, with fully equipped kitchens.

Two of the five D-day beaches, Utah and Omaha were where the Americans forces stormed cliffs and sand dunes, Gold and Sword beaches were overrun by the British and Juno Beach was where the Canadians came ashore. The allies faced the German army, and many were to die in the white sands during those fiercely fought battles. Today the beaches are serene where the French and tourists bring their books and blankets to quietly lay and dream where so many died. All the beaches were treated with dignity, there was no sign of disrespect from the people who stopped to check out a monument, no litter thrown carelessly on the grass, memorials as pristine as the day they were erected. The flags representing each nation flew proudly, at Juno Beach, above a plaque chiseled out of stone proudly stating "HERE ON THE 6th JUNE 1944 EUROPE WAS LIBERATED BY THE HEROISM OF THE ALLIED FORCES".

There are many stories of immense courage enacted on these beaches from Pont-du-Hoc, where an American Army Ranger Assault Group climbed hundred-foot sheer cliffs against all odds and defeated the German contingent guarding the point. Five British gliders landed at Pegasus Bridge, losing just two men and capturing the bridge in ten minutes. One of the men was a Captain Richard Todd, who later became an actor and played Major Howard in the film The Longest Day. At Juno Beach the Canadians liberated the first French house during the Normandy landings.

In the movie 'The Longest Day' paratroopers were blown off course and landed in a village called Sainte-Mere-Eglise, held by the Germans, in one scene a soldier's parachute was caught up on the roof of a church. Today a statue depicting that true incident is resting on the roof of that very church roof. At Ouistreham a communications watch tower occupied by the Germans was in danger of being taken by the allies, they sealed the entrance door to prevent this. As there was no other way out the Germans had to eventually surrender or starve to death.

Where ever we went there were museums to visit, concrete bunkers to climb into, shops to buy that special souvenir, or take a solemn walk on a deserted beach. Any café will serve up delicious pastries and crepes, stuffed with hazelnut fillings. The American Military Cemetery, overlooking Omaha Beach, will bring tears to your eyes. So many lives lost, the stark white headstones, in ridged straight rows, appear to go on forever. All the places we visited were a monument to the allied forces that freed Europe, and the French didn't hesitate to show their gratitude and respect, whenever relating, in excited voices their own experiences during those dark hours.



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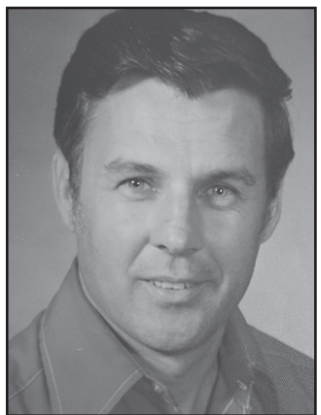
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A Message to Readers and Some Lessons I Have Learned in Life



Tom Redmon
Columnist

I am happy to repost that Margaret has gotten over her fall. Both of

us have learned that we

have to be very careful, because of our balance problems we have to watch every step. I advise all of you out there to do the same. Many who fall end up with broken bones and have to face a long stay in the nursing home. Some never come home.

To date I have written close to a hundred articles for both local newspapers when I started writing I planned on writing two stories about Billy Harris. But because of requests from several readers I kept writing and to tell you the truth I love writing. Today I find because of health issues I cannot go out and do research like I use too. My articles I feel are not as good as they use to be. Unless Margaret and I get to feeling better my plans are to write until 2021. Anything that I do as an adult I try to meet a certain standard. As a teacher and principle for almost 34 years I wanted to be the best I could be. I tried to be prepared for every class and I went over board to make learning interesting

for all my students. God put me in the right profession. Although I'm not the best singer; I know my talent is limited, when I recorded my gospel CD's I put everything I had into it. I got the best musicians to back me up and following me that is important to everyone who wants to record.

My 2nd CD titled, "God Loves Those Forgotten People", a song that I wrote. I sold around \$700.00 worth.



But it took going to a lot of churches here and in Florida.

After I retired from teaching, I undertook a project that took a lot of effort on my part but one I really enjoyed. It all started in Florida in 2001 when I started getting together retired principals and administrators. That is when I had a house here and one

down there. Our first get-together we had over 40 people there.

I also got together retired teachers where I once was vice-principal. We had over fifty people there at our first get-together. I did both of these reunions for nine years. I don't have them today because most are deceased or in frail health. Believe me these educators loved what I did, but not as much as I loved getting it together.

When I purchased a home here, I started getting together big reunions for Central High School graduates. Our first reunion was for the classes of 1946 to 1960. We had a great turn out. The last year (our

3rd reunion) we invited the classes 1946 to 1975. The gym where we had the big gathering was near capacity.

It takes work, it takes planning and it takes organization to have something like this. I got help from each class, we had planning meetings, etc. We saw that we had food and entertainment at ever reunion

so they didn't have to leave the reunion. Many stayed all day.

There's a lesson in this open letter to you and it is, anything worth doing is worth doing right and once I learned from my eighth-grade teacher, "when a job is once begun, never leave it till its done, be the labor great or small do it well or not at all."

Another lesson I have learned is that a Christian when we follow the leading of Jesus Christ our prayers are answered and we become blessed. I haven't always done this but when I have my life has been more joyful and at peace with the world. Satan can take your joy away.

If I only write for two more months or continue into 2021, I will always be grateful for all of you reading my columns and all the feed back I have received. If you have suggestions of articles that I could write call me at 423-346-3850 or 941-965-3565. I would love to hear from you because during this pandemic I haven't been able to get out and see a lot of people.

P.S. Since I wrote this a lot has happened. I have spent a stint in the hospital and I think medically it was a good decision. I feel some better and I'm looking forward to Christmas with Margaret and some of her family. I have so much to be thankful for and the blessings keep following.

Christmas Lighting in Sunbright

Christmas caroling led by Resident Darrell Capps. Cookies and Hot Chocolate were enjoyed by all. The children visited with Santa and were mesmerized by his presence! A beautiful evening with joy and love shared by all. Special singing and we're so thankful so many came to be with us in Sunbright.



Historically Speaking Bill Sergeant, internationally re- nowned local hero, Part 2

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

In the last Historically Speaking column, Bill Sergeant's life history was featured. At the end of the article, Bill had just arrived in Oak Ridge and had met his future wife.

At about the same time Bill got married he also joined the local Rotary Club. It happened this way. The Atomic Energy Commission brought to town a new person who was placed in charge of the public safety, police and fire unit where Bill was to be his deputy. Bill took his new boss around town and introduced him to key individuals. One person he introduced the new boss to, was the current president of the Oak Ridge Rotary Club. This person assured the new man that he should NOT join any service club until he heard from the Rotary Club.

Bill says that the man was obviously embarrassed by the fact that Bill was standing right there and heard all this, so the Rotary president felt obligated to also ask Bill if he were a member of a service club. Bill was not, but he still thinks the Oak Ridge Rotary Club had no intentions of inviting him to be a member except for this unusual circumstance. What a fortunate happenstance for Rotary International.

Bill would eventually come to be venerated by the entire world of Rotary for his service above self! But we get ahead of the story. Bill's next pivotal decision was to become the person in charge of the National Guard at Oak Ridge. A future Historically Speaking column will tell the full story of his battalion leaving Oak Ridge for the Korean War, so I will just tell one additional story here.

Bill was having a good time in his position of Lieutenant Colonel with the weekly meetings on Tuesday's. His battalion was enjoying their summer camps. But then one day, he got a call from General Wallace, the Tennessee adjutant general, telling him that his battalion was being activated on August 19. Bill's immediate response without thinking it through was, "But General, we don't return from summer camp until August 20?"

Bill says the General called him "Boy!" even though he was nearly 30 years old at the time. The General continued, "This is war, boy, you are not going to any damn camp, you are going to WAR!" Bill did "go to war" even though he had already served in World War II, he was now off to the Korean War with a whole battalion of Oak Ridgers, where he recalls the horrors of combat from a personal perspective of being shot at, not just sitting in a behind the lines desk job. His Oak Ridge battalion saw war up close and personal.

Upon returning to Oak Ridge, Bill was placed in the security organization where he eventually became the head of that organization and spent the rest of his working career. He also picked up his service in Rotary.

The Oak Ridge Rotary Club had changed rather drastically during his absence and no one remembered him at all. Eventually Bill felt he needed to do something to again be accepted as a member of the club. When asked, he accepted the role of newsletter editor. What he did not know at the time was that he was not the first choice or even the second or third choice.

He learned that almost everyone in the club had been asked and refused to do it. Bill often did not attend meetings at the time, so he did not really know what was going on. However, writing the newsletter required him to attend meetings just to have something to write about. This proved to be a turning point for Bill.

In a matter of just a few years, not only did Bill regain his place in the Oak Ridge Rotary Club, he became its president and then even while president of the club he was selected as the district governor at approximately age 40...very young for the office. That was not the end of his climb in Rotary's official leadership positions nor did he hesitate to take on informal leadership efforts within Rotary. He was becoming more and more dedicated to Rotary and the idea of service to others.

Bill quickly gained a reputation for excellence in leadership not only within his district, but also across Tennessee and neighboring states. He continued to bring new and innovative projects and activities that involved clubs and members from across the nation and even outside the country.

In 1979, Bill was nominated for Rotary International Director and he retired from both his position as head of security at the Atomic Energy Commission and from his military service. He was a full Colonel in the National Guard at the time of his retirement. Bill was 60 years old at retirement and being nominated for director of Rotary International influenced his decision to retire as quickly as he was eligible.

One month after retirement, Bill was elected one of 15 directors of Rotary International. It was a two-year appointment. In his second year, he was selected Vice-President and given significant responsibilities that led him to become known as a person who gets things done.

For the next several years, Bill was constantly being called on by the presidents of Rotary International to take the lead on specific tasks, such as conventions and other committee leadership positions. He was the vice-president of a huge convention in Germany where 20,000 plus Rotarians attended. Bill's reputation among Rotary Clubs was growing internationally.

One significant opportunity came to him by a president appointing him to be a trustee of the Rotary International Foundation. This appointment was significant in that it expanded Bill's realm of influence sufficient for him to become associated with the ef-



Statue of Bill Sergeant with child in his arms – representing all the babies of the world who will be polio free (Photo Submitted)



Statue of Bill Sergeant with child – statue is located in Knoxville's Krutch Park (Photo Submitted)

fort to eradicate polio.

In 1975 a decision was made to attempt to eradicate polio by 2005. A fund raising effort began with an unheard of goal of \$120,000,000. The result was an amazing \$247,000,000, over twice the stated goal. This was without precedent and was the largest fundraising effort in the United States except for the one to recondition the Statue of Liberty. Bill was proud to be associated with that effort.

While off to a great start in the late 1970's and 1980's, the effort faltered and seemed to lose momentum in the early 1990's. That was when by a decision of the Rotary Foundation the International Polio Plus Committee was formed and delegated authority never before granted a committee. The goal was to rejuvenate the effort and to get the eradication of polio on a much higher profile within Rotary Clubs.

Bill was scheduled to complete his last term as trustee and was asked if he wanted to chair the new committee. Not believing he knew what to do to fix the problem with polio and not being a doctor, he declined the offer. However, Bill soon received a letter naming him chair of the committee anyway. This was in 1994.

When Bill looked into the issue more deeply, he soon realized it was a matter of leadership and what was needed was good managerial direction. That outgoing president had known what he was doing. He selected Bill for his natural leadership qualities. He knew Bill was the one for the job, even if Bill did not readily recognize it.

Bill Sergeant had led a battalion of engineers into combat in Korea, Bill was not an engineer - remember his college training was general in nature. Bill had led the police and fire department in Oak Ridge, Bill was neither a policeman nor a fireman. Bill had led the Security forces for the Atomic Energy Commission, Bill was not a security professional - well, he did become one by virtue of his long-standing position as head of security at Oak Ridge.

In all these positions, Bill had excelled at leadership. He had succeeded in gaining the respect of those assigned to his leadership. He succeeded in all that he undertook. This polio thing was no different. He served as chair of that International Polio Plus Committee for 12 years! Significant progress was made during his leadership.

Can you imagine that when Bill took over the International Polio Plus Committee some 1,000 people were contracting polio every single day in over 100 countries. Can you imagine the concern he felt, the Bill Sergeant, internationally renowned local hero, Part 2 (As published in The Oak Ridger's Historically Speaking column on February 20, 2009) 3 overwhelming magnitude of the task he had undertaken. Yet, he readily saw the lack of interest in local Rotary Clubs as the primary problem to be overcome. Eradicating polio was the catalyst that could pull Rotary together. He just had to figure out how to do that and to get on with it.

And figure it out he did. The key element was getting the people to actually visit the countries where polio was still a problem and getting them to hold a child and actually administer the vaccine. Bill real-

ized that without exception when he got someone to do that, he had them. They were forever his supporter and their enthusiasm for the task of eradicating polio from the world took on a personal edge. He was sure to send the directors of the Rotary International Foundation and when each returned, he had a supporter who would be sure his committee continued to be supported in all they did.

This was simple strategic leadership. It was something Bill did quite naturally. It succeeded beyond Rotary International's wildest dreams. President after president of the foundation continued to nominate Bill Sergeant to chair the committee. People like Ted Turner got involved and donated \$100,000,000 for ten years. That's a billion dollars. Imagine now, an Oak Ridger - Bill Sergeant, a member of the Oak Ridge Rotary Club was leading this world-wide effort. Funds were being raised in a substantial manner. Money was being spent to take the vaccine to the children in the countries where Polio still held sway.

Bill continued to make friends everywhere he went. Regardless of the country he visited, he came away with fast friends there. Many of them remembered Bill and what his committee was doing. He was even awarded an honorary Doctorate-of-Laws degree from a university in India, primarily because of the influence of a friend Bill made while there eradicating polio.

Bill has received numerous awards for his humanitarian service. All of them were surprises for Bill. He truly thinks he was "just supposed to lead that committee" for all those years and that he really does not think one should be given awards for "just doing what he was supposed to do." This gives you some keen insight into Bill's character.

He does not seek awards. He does not desire recognition. Rather, he just wants to get on with the job he is "supposed to do" and enjoy the intrinsic rewards that come from helping someone who can't help themselves, especially children.

One award that Bill has received stands proudly in Krutch Park in the center of downtown Knoxville. It is a larger-than-life bronze statue of Bill holding a child in recognition of his unfailing efforts to rid the world of polio. The Knoxville Rotary Clubs determined to erect this statue in recognition of Rotary's 100th birthday in 2005. Again, Bill was surprised by the honor being placed on him.

But I must say I think he is pleased by this statue, primarily because of the focus on the child. It is set in a most pleasant location and is a fitting memorial to his untiring work all these years. Bill told of the Hungarian sculptor whose wife brought the baby for him to hold. Something about that baby really stuck with Bill. I think you can see it in his expression as you look at the statue...maybe that baby represented the world's babies to Bill...just maybe.

When asked what it was about Rotary that he felt was the most important element, Bill noted two aspects of Rotary. One was fellowship and the other was service to others. He noted that when his wife was dying so many Rotarians came to visit that his children remarked, "Dad, we never knew you had so many friends." Bill just reminded them that Rotarians were great friends.

Bill Sergeant, a great humanitarian, a family man, a local hero, my friend. Thanks for reading this tribute to Bill. Once in a while, if we are lucky, we come in contact with someone who exemplifies greatness, who is humble yet powerful, who is heard yet quiet, who is dedicated to a cause and who gives unselfishly of their time, energy and resources for the betterment of mankind. Bill Sergeant is such a man!

On February 21, 2009, there was a special "End Polio Now" benefit recognition tribute to Bill Sergeant at the Pollard Technology Conference Center from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The cost was \$50 with \$40 going toward the "End Polio Now" effort. There was a huge turnout to help recognize the accomplishments of our own internationally renowned hero, Bill Sergeant.

Next we will examine details of Bill Sergeant's involvement in the Korean War.

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.

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John 3:7

- Jesus

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MSG Fred Mize

2 Corinthians 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. Think about that verse for a moment. Everything that is seen is temporal but all that isn't seen is eternal. All that we see in this life is only for a moment in time. All that is beautiful today will

someday fade, rust, corrode, rot, age and tarnish. Think about all that we prioritize in our lives, our youth, the clothes we wear, the cars we drive, the house we live in. All of these things are fine and necessary but they shouldn't be our highest priorities because they are all temporal. We may be young and healthy today but oh so quickly that can and "will" change. The clothes and cars we desire today change year by year as fashion and trends change day by day. Our homes don't even stay the same be-

cause they will require repairs and updates month by month and year by year. Think about how much everything we enjoy in our lives changes from decade to decade. The music we listen to, the fashion we desire, the technology we use, the movies we watch even the phrases we speak and the food we eat.

Temporal

By: MSG. Fred Mize

What we enjoy today may bore us tomorrow. What we desire today may

for our lives. We should focus less on the temporal things seen by our eyes and

and place our hope in the One who isn't temporal but eternal, the LORD Jesus Christ.

I'll close with this. My pastor, Randy Griffis, the pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in Kingston, Tennessee posted on Facebook, "I'm blessed with family, friends, health and most of all salvation. All can be lost but salvation is everlasting." Amen!



not excite us tomorrow. Our lives are consumed by chasing temporal desires. I don't believe this is God's desire

much more on the eternal things that aren't seen. Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight: Romans 8:24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not

hope: for what man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? My friends we must have faith in the precious word of God

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

Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

Why I Put Up My Christmas Tree Before Thanksgiving



Every year it seems like the annual debate on Facebook is whether or not to put your Christmas Tree up before Thanksgiving. Retailers and online stores aggressively market Christmas to us earlier each year. We see this by continuous TV commercials advertising gift ideas, emails, and newspaper ads, and stocking store shelves with Christmas merchandise before Halloween ends. One minute it's March 24th and we look at the calendar, blink, look again, and it's November already. The year flies quickly by and we soon are in another Christmas season.

The holidays can be a stressful time of the year. The pressure of buying gifts, forgetting to buy someone a gift, or thinking about what gift to purchase

relatives that seem to have everything. It could be the stress of having to travel to a different location, host family members, see relatives you see only once a year, or deal with kids that don't behave well with others. The work of putting up the decorations, lights, and holiday décor can seem daunting during the end of year. All too often we work overtime or more hours to afford the nice Christmas presents for the kids. The news shows people getting in fist fights at Wal-Mart over a \$8.00 wash cloth Doorbuster. Everywhere we look the holidays are complete Chaos.

I love chaos. I love seeing Christmas trees in November (I would love to see them in September) . I love seeing tv commercials with Christmas songs advertising this year's new Lexus. I love seeing the Facebook posts of Christmas cookies, parties, or showing off holiday decorations. I love when the weather turns colder and it reminds me that Christmas is just around the corner.

WHY???? Most people think, "Wow you are one sick, puppy!" Why do you want chaos? I love Christmas because I believe Christmas is Love. Spending money is a lot of fun, but giving is the most fun. The older I have gotten the more I've realized how life is very short. I have a deep appreciation for the Christmas Season. Christmas can spark a fire of giving among our own communities.

When I see a Christmas Tree, I see an opportunity that sparks an outpouring of love and outrageous generosity over the moment, the season, and the entire year. Ideas that can produce love are as simple as: Giving extra to St Jude's Children's Hospital for a child battling cancer, purchasing

several toys for Toys for Tots to impoverished families, volunteering at the rescue quad or homeless shelter by handing out food to people that can't afford a decent meal, Surprising a random waitress or waiter by leaving a \$50.00 tip to a random stranger, visiting the local nursing home bringing cheer to elders that may not have family, paying for another customer's coffee in line at Hardee's. The list can go on forever.

If you see Christmas through a generosity opportunity lens; it will change your view. Christmas trees are well over due for a November return.

Zack graduated from Wartburg Central High School in 2001 and from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2004. Since graduation he has become a TedX Motivational Speaker, Author, and Career Consultant. He travels the world giving back and hosting seminars teaching people on various topics. Zack has established an ongoing annual scholarship at his Alma Mater, Wartburg, which has inspired others to give back as well. Visit www.zackballinger.com for more of Zack's travels and events.



Zack Ballinger



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



Friends, we have a lot of illness in our area. We need to be careful for ourselves and considerate of others. Please take care of yourselves and pray for those who are ill.

The Living Literature Event held at Frozen Head State Park last Saturday was a huge success. It was a success because so many wonderful people in Morgan County came together to present a safe holiday activity for families. Together Morgan County and Frozen Head State Park worked together to come up with a plan that would be safe and enjoyable for everyone. Once a plan was in place, an invitation went out countywide for any group or organization to create a scene from the classic Clement C. Moore poem, The Night Before Christmas. Anyone wanting to volunteer in another way was welcome to do so. Morgan County didn't disappoint. A variety of groups worked together and over 800 people viewed scenes from the poem while enjoying hot chocolate, honey buns and candy canes. Families received several free items including copies of the featured book. The weather was beautiful. Gus the Bus was on the scene as well as Together Morgan County's mascot, Randy Raccoon and of course Santa Claus! A huge thank you to everyone who made this a great experience.

Clara Ruppe got to spend the night with her PaPa and Weezer on Sunday, November 29. There was no school on Monday. While snacking on cheese puffs, Clara's first tooth fell out. PaPa

and Weezer thought she would be excited to go home and put her tooth under her pillow. She called her parents and asked them to leave a note for the tooth fairy saying she would be home the next night. The tooth fairy did indeed visit her the next night. For everyone wondering, the tooth fairy doesn't come to our house anymore!

Clara's best friend, Cartie Disney lost both of her front teeth last week. They have been loose for weeks. Cartie refused to bite anything with the front teeth. She would only bite from the sides. A family friend had her bite down on a wet wash cloth and then popped them out. The tooth fairy gave her \$5 for each tooth. Cartie spent her money at Dollar General on a toy microwave oven.

The adventures of Susan Brewer continue. She her sister, Verna Webb and good friend, Diane Bailey, went to Lookout Mountain a few weeks ago. They rode the Incline Railway and went to Rock City. She and her daughter, Leslie, enjoyed a night driving around to see Christmas lights. They went to Riverfront Park and to the Van Stowe neighborhood. They thought the lights were awesome. They also got the opportunity to donate to Operation Christmas Reach. On Saturday, December 5, Susan and her great niece Billee Webb attended the drive thru at Frozen Head State Park. Then they visited their great friends, Kathy Beach and Mr. Beach. They didn't let the cancellation of the Wartburg Parade put a stop to their fun. They went to

Cherokee Caverns. They had a lot of fun. They ended the day with a Mexican meal. They are already planning more adventures.

Riverside Baptist Church in Harriman will be having a drive thru nativity scene on Sunday, December 13 and Sunday, December 20 from 4:30-7:00.

This is a message from our local Girl Scout Troop. Need help wrapping Christmas gifts this year? Let us help you while supporting Oakdale Girl Scout Troop 20742. The Troop is in need of funds to cover the cost of vests for the girls. There will be gift wrapping and a bake sale Friday, December 18 from 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. 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.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Nellie Power Collins Oran who recently passed away at her home. She is survived by her sons Brian and Terry Collins and her daughter Deidra Gollieher, several grandchildren and great

grandchildren and other family members. She was buried at Old Mt. Pisgah Cemetery Monday, November 30.

Mr. Walter C. "Charlie" Clark, age 67, of the Dry Hill Community, passed away Tuesday,

December 1. He was a member of Bible Baptist Church in Harriman and loved to hunt, loved his family and most of all, loved his Savior. Please remember his wife, Alice, his daughters Chrissy, Missy and Leslie, his grandchildren and his sisters Evelyn Nelson and Joetta Boston during this time.

As I write this column, I learned of the passing of a good friend to many, Mr. LG Summers. Condolences to his family. I will share more in the next column.

I usually look for quotes to end this column with. Today, all I can think about is prayer. I looked for some quotes on prayer. There are many wonderful quotes by good Christian people. It was hard to choose. I chose this one because it spoke to me. I feel it is the one I should share. Have a good week.

"If you are a stranger to prayer, you are a stranger to the greatest source of power known to human beings." Billy Sunday

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

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Acts Chapter 9:31

(Acts 9:31) the status of the Palestinian church: for a while, the "church" throughout Judaea, Galilee, and Samaria (Palestine) enjoyed peace---a respite from persecution. ("Church" is singular; it was the ekklesia. The term is not employed here of a "congregation" or an "assembly," but of the "called out" of God within a certain region.) The saints were built up as they daily walked with deep reverence for the Lord and in the comfort of the Spirit. The last expression may refer to the supernatural possession of the Spirit by the apostles in confirming their religious activities. In view of all these factors, the church grew numerically.

(Acts 9:32-35) the miracle at Lydda: Lydda was on the road from Jerusalem to Joppa, about thirty-two miles west of Jerusalem. Peter passed through this community and found there a certain man named Aeneas. The man had been an invalid for eight years with palsy. The apostle said to the afflicted man, "Aeneas, Jesus is healing you. Get up and spread your bed (for yourself)." Immediately, he arose, fully healed. As a result, "all" (a great many) in the area of Lyda and Sharon saw the evidence of the miracle and turned to the Lord, This is precisely the goal miracles were designed to facilitate. They were never ends within themselves.

(Acts 9:36-43) the resurrection of Dorcas at Joppa: after Peter left Lydda, he traveled the nine miles westward to Joppa. In this community was a lovely disciple whose name was Dorcas. Her life was filled with good works and almsdeeds (acts of kindness). She suddenly fell sick and died. Her body was washed and laid out for imminent burial. Since Lydda was nearby and Peter was known to be there, he was summoned to come quickly. When he arrived, he went to the upper room where her body was.

A number of widows were sobbing loudly and displaying the garments she had made when she "was with them." The text suggests they were wearing these, and "she", her spirit, was gone. Peter knelt and prayed. Then, turning to the body (he had not prayed to the body), he said: "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. The apostle raised her up and presented her to the widows who doubtless wept even more, this time with joy. As a result, many in Joppa became believers. In the meantime, Peter decided to visit for many days with Simon the tanner who lived here.

(Acts 10:1-8) Cornelius, the God-Fearer" Cornelius was a Roman soldier commanding one hundred soldiers. He had come to believe in the one God, was devout in his life, generous with the poor, and a dedicated family man. He was the epitome of moral excellence. An angel appeared to him and informed him that God had recognized his prayers; he was instructed to send for Simon Peter in Joppa some thirty miles to the south, who was staying with a tanner (an occupation disdained by the Jews due to the ceremonial contamination caused by dead animals). The fact that Peter was staying with this man told something about him. He was putting some distance between himself and strict Judaism. He was the ideal one to work with Cornelius.

(Acts 10:10-16) Peter's vision: the next day, the centurion dispatched three men to carry out the assignment. As they neared the city Joppa, Peter went up on the housetop to pray. While praying he had a divinely orchestrated vision involving various creatures that were "unclean" under the Mosaic law. The apostle was commanded to eat; he refused for conscience sake. He then was informed that these creatures had been made clean. This would suggest that the law of Moses, with its separatist principles, was obsolete now. The vision was repeated twice more. By then Peter was beginning to fathom the meaning, and the vision disappeared.

(Acts 10:17-23) Peter meets the messengers: as the apostle pondered the meaning, the men sent by Cornelius arrived at the gate below. The timing was perfect---divinely structured no doubt. They inquired about Peter. Simultaneously, the Holy Spirit spoke to the apostle, informing him that these men had been sent by the Lord on behalf of Cornelius, who was a righteous, God-fearing man, and who needed to hear the gospel. The expression, "God-fearer," was a technical term for a Gentile who had renounced paganism but had not adopted circumcision and become a proselyte.

(Acts 10:23-34) Peter at Caesarea: the next day, Peter, in the company of six Jewish men who would serve as witnesses, returned to Caesarea with the messengers. They found Cornelius, his family, and near friends anxiously waiting. The centurion bowed before Peter but was told to refrain from such since he was but a man (25-26). The apostle stood in stark contrast to the modern papacy that falsely professes to wear his clerical mantle.

(Acts 10:34-43) Peter's message: Peter subsequently explained that God had shown him the meaning of the mysterious vision. The "unclean" creatures represented the Gentiles (viewed as unclean by Jews) and that, in God's great plan of redemption, it was time for "every nation" to be incorporated into the one family of God (Eph. 4:4-6), Cornelius related his own experience with the angel. The combined divine experiences convinced both parties that this series of events was of God. Peter thus proclaimed the glad tidings that God was not a respecter of persons, but all nations were now to be exposed to the saving message. Those who revered the Lord and worked righteousness (were obedient) would be accepted. He exposed these God-fearing Gentiles to information about Jesus, his miracle-working ministry, his redemptive death and resurrection, and his eventual role as judge of all. This implied accountability to him. The apostle emphasized that those who committed themselves to a life of "believing" (v. 43; the verb reflects an active, submissive way of life) would, consistent with Christ's authorized way, receive "remission of sins."

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MELVIN HOWARD

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Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week

This week's veteran of the week is none other than Deputy Sarah Moore. Not only does Deputy Sarah Moore serve our community in blue she is also a veteran of the United States Air Force, United States Army, and the Arkansas Army National Guard.

Sarah served a total of eight-years in the United States military between the above branches of service. To fulfill her strong sense of duty to our beloved country, she enlisted into the United States Air Force at the young age of seventeen.

She completed USAF Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX and completed USAF tech school at Sheppard Air Force Base in Sheppard, TX. After completion of USAF tech school, she became qualified as a 15B Aircraft Powerplant Repairer. She was then stationed at the 314TH Airlift Wing Little Rock Air Force Base.

While serving in the USAF she decided to transfer into the United States Army through the blue to green program. After serving in the United States Army she enlisted into the Arkansas Army National



Guard and became a 15T UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter Repairer.

During her service in the Army National Guard she deployed to Iraq for a one-year deployment from January 2008 to January 2009 as a member of the 39TH Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Throughout her tour of duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom she served on a convoy security team covering mostly the area from Baghdad to Basra. During her eight years of military service she earned the rank of Sergeant.

Sergeant Sarah Moore, thank you for your service and the sacrifices you've made for our community, state and country. It's no easy task to serve in either the military or in law enforcement yet incredibly you've done both while being a wife, mother and college student. You're truly a fine example for others to strive to emulate. Thank you and God bless!

Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

Morgan County Today is pleased to honor Morgan County Sheriff Deputy Sarah Moore as the law enforcement officer of the week. Deputy Moore spent much of her childhood in Morgan County. She lived in Morgan County during her elementary school years but graduated from Rockwood High School.

After serving in the United States military Sarah missed the camaraderie she loved and sense of being a part of something much larger than herself. To fill that gap in her life she decided to pursue a career in law enforcement and did so by becoming a Police Officer for the Harriman Police Department. She

worked there for eight years and earned the position of Patrol Sergeant. In July of 2020 Sarah jumped on an opportunity to return back to her roots and serve Morgan County as a Patrol Deputy for the Morgan County Sheriff's Office. Sarah is a very driven and self-disciplined person that has both a desire to serve others and



to do all she can for the betterment of her family and her community. She's a dedicated spouse and a loving mother who's blessed with four children. Her and her family are also members of Mount Pisgah Baptist

Church located in Oliver Springs. With all of her family and professional duties and responsibilities she still makes time to pursue

her higher education. This May, Sarah is going to graduate from Bryan College with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. She will then begin attending the University of Tennessee to earn a Master's Degree in Social Work.

Deputy Sarah Moore, Morgan County thanks you for your service to our community by serving in the military and in law enforcement. You're a fine example to our citizens and your family.

New Special Tax Deduction



David Zubler

Many people don't realize there is a special tax deduction available through Dec. 31, 2020.

The deduction is for up to \$300 for cash donations made to qualifying charities.

Many charities are struggling this year due

to a decrease in donations. This is a result of the financial impact that COVID-19 has had on many people.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (Cares) Act, was enacted by Congress earlier this year. It includes several temporary tax changes for helping charities. It includes a special \$300 deduction for people who take the standard deduction. Normally, you can't deduct donations to charity unless you file Schedule A and itemize your deductions.

Almost 90% of taxpayers now take the standard deduction rather than itemizing as a result of the 2018 tax changes. Consequently, nearly 90% of taxpayers may be able to benefit from this special deduction. If you make a cash donation to a qualifying charity before December 31, you can take the deduction even if you take the standard deduction.

Over 134 million taxpayers took the stan-

dard deduction in 2018, so this deduction could help many charities in 2020.

Unfortunately, many fly-by-night organizations are likely to try to take advantage of your generosity in the name of charity. However, they may not have tax-exempt status, or it could be con artists who are trying to take advantage of you.

The IRS has a tool that allows you to determine if a charity qualifies for the special deduction. Use the Tax Exempt Organization Search (TEOS) tool on IRS.gov to ensure an organization is eligible for the tax-deductible donations.

It's important to keep paperwork when you donate. You will need to get a receipt or acknowledgment letter from the charity before filing your tax return. Additionally, keep a copy of the canceled check or credit card receipt.

The Cares Act also created other temporary tax laws that are designed to help charities. Individuals and corporations have higher charitable contribution limits, which will benefit many charitable organizations.

"As the difficult year of 2020 comes to a close, there is still time to make a difference in many different ways. We want you to know that one of those can be helping a charitable group, and at the same time helping your tax situation when you file in 2021," said Edward T. Killen, Acting Commissioner of the Tax Exempt and Govern-

ment Entities (TE/GE) division of the IRS. Hopefully, both you and a charitable organization will benefit from your ability to take this special deduction this year.

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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