

Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News. **75¢**

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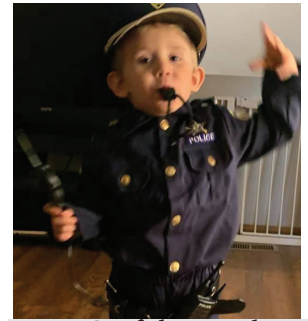
February 16, 2021

MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK

Tue 16	31°/20°	
Wed 17	46°/36°	
Thu 18	50°/26°	
Fri 19	35°/22°	
Sat 20	48°/32°	
Sun 21	53°/38°	
Mon 22	53°/39°	



Veteran of the Week
In Memory



LEO of the Week
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MoCo Mutts Find a Home

There have been critically high numbers of abandoned and stray animals in Morgan County for years, due in large part to the fact that there was no animal shelter or any source of help for this problem in the county. This dire situation has been noticeably changing, all thanks to the Senior Dog Lodge and Rescue in Sunbright. SDL's original mission provided care for senior dogs and shelter "lifers", but they quickly saw the overwhelming need for a community-based rescue center. The sheer volume of stray animals visible during any local daily drive, to the numerous calls SDL began to receive about animals in need were undeniable.

With the help of 1st National Bank of Oneida, and some of the most incredibly hard working and generous volunteers who helped to raise funds for the purchase of this building in Morgan County, the Senior Dog Lodge has successfully begun the first and only animal Rescue Center in Morgan County, now known as The Moco Mutts Rescue Center. The MoCo Mutts Rescue Center is officially located at 7920 Morgan County Highway, in Sunbright.

To help put the importance of a community animal rescue center in perspective, here are the statistics from the past year(2020) from the (non-profit) Senior Dog Lodge. SDL has answered calls day and night from local residents, calls from the Sheriff's office and from other area police departments, even answering facebook messages, and personal calls and texts to rescue (including vetting, sheltering, feeding, transporting and rehoming) animals in need in Morgan County. SDL reports for the calendar year 2020, there

were 760 total intakes, all aided by one person, Lisa Hill, her husband Jeff, and their slowly growing team of volunteers, currently led by Tracy Wyant. Every one of these animals has been helped only because the Senior Dog Lodge cared enough to do something. To break this down:

There were 715 transported out to rescue partners for adoption
There were 18 local adoptions.

There were sadly 6 lost to illness or injury.
There were happily 14 returned to owners.
There were 229 owner surrenders, and 14 officers requiring assistance calls.

There was a total of 640 dogs, 115 cats, 4 rabbits and 1 goat all helped by SDL.

In addition to tending to all of these rescues, SDL continued to dedicate their time and love to the senior dogs already in their permanent care, including the beloved Hard-ee's dogs.

The MoCo Mutts Rescue Center still has work to be done to be up and running by a tentative grand opening date of April 3 (covid restrictions may apply). Besides working towards the grand opening, MoCo Mutts Rescue Center has many exciting things planned for the near future, including hosting a low-to-no-cost spay and neuter clinic, a special daily updated page/hotline for lost and found animals, education about animals, basic dog training methods, a community pet food pantry to help with pet needs, and more.

Anyone who is willing to help in any way, whether it be with (tax deductible) donations of materials and/or financial contributions, becoming a regular volunteer, or with any questions, look for information on the Senior Dog Lodge and Rescue FB page, or call or text Tracy directly at (443) 553-6995.

Johnboy to Compete on Discovery+'s "Moonshiners: Smoke Ring"



Morgan County native and local BBQ favorite, JohnBoy, will be competing on a new reality TV cooking competition called "Moonshiners: Smoke Ring." He was selected due to his unique story and incredible BBQ. The competition will begin airing on March 9 on Discovery+.

Senator Ken Yager regarding Governor Bill Lee's State of the State / Budget Address

NASHVILLE – Senator Ken Yager made the following statement following Governor Bill Lee's State of the State / Budget Address:

"I applaud Governor Lee for presenting a balanced budget which addresses critical needs in this state and restores many of the cuts which were made in last year's budget due to COVID-19. This includes a strong commitment to public education, at both the K-12 and higher education levels."

"I am particularly pleased to see the first installment of funding for the Oak Ridge Institute, a joint venture between the University of Tennessee and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. It will enhance the university's status as a world premier research institute and provide at least 500 jobs for East Tennesseans. This institute, which will address top-tier industry and workforce needs, will be a tremendous asset to our region and state."

"I am also delighted that this budget provides \$200 million for broadband, a huge increase over last year's \$15 million appropriation. Broadband connectivity is a criti-

cal investment in this state, particularly for our rural communities. This investment will greatly enhance education and job growth by providing students with the ability to perform their assignments online and businesses with the essential access needed for 21st century jobs. In turn, this will strengthen our ability to recruit high quality jobs and advanced industries to our state."

"In addition, I was very glad to see sizeable investments to help our local governments, including \$200 million in funds for long-term infrastructure projects like IT hardware upgrades, capitol maintenance, utility system upgrades, and road projects. They will also benefit from \$16.49 million in funds which will be available to assist our local jails with programs which I have advocated to help inmates prepare for life outside of prison. These evidenced-based programs are essential to break the revolving door of crime and imprisonment by helping inmates obtain employment and become good and productive citizens."

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Lee A. Saffell, 77

Lee A. Saffell, age 77, passed away February 10, 2021 at Ft. Sanders Regional in Knoxville, Tn. He was born January 1, 1944. Retired from the U.S. Army and a Vietnam Veteran.

He is preceded in death by his parents, C.H. Saffell and Mary Collins Saffell of Wartburg; brother, Larry Saffell of Wartburg; wife, Virginia Saffell.

She is survived by his daughter, Teresa Daniel (companion, David Canada); daughter, Darla Armes; son, Lee Saffell, Jr. and wife, Mindy Saffell; daughter, Tammie Bean and husband, Randy; grandchildren, Sarah, James, Rodney (Anna), Roseanne (Clyde), Jeremy (Geneva), Crystal, Lacey and Misty;

36 great grandchildren; 1 great great grandchildren; companion, Nellie McBee; ex-wife, Judy Saffell; sisters, Frieda Householder and Janie Whitson; brother, Garry Saffell and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

The family will receive friends Sunday, February 14, 2021 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 10:00-12:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 12:00 p.m. with Bro. Lynn Gaylon officiating. Interment will follow in the Wartburg City Cemetery with Military Honors American Legion Post #149.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Lee A. Saffell.

Melba Novella Potter Rich

Mrs. Melba Novella Potter Rich passed away February 7, 2021, at home in Lancing, TN.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Walter Rich; parents, Lemmie and Annabell Potter; In-laws, Willard Rich and Cora Hall; son, Tim Rich; sister, Maisel Harney; brother, Paul Potter; brothers-in-law, Charles and Larry Rich, and Bob Riley.

She is survived by son and daughter-in-law, Walter and Karen Rich; daughter and son-in-law, Tonya and Dennis Wilkes; grandchildren, Kris (CJ), Matthew (Stephanie), Amber (Eric), Jessica (Mike) and Tim Rich; great grandchildren, Alexia, Isabelle, Lily and C.J. Reyes;

Kaitlyn, Megan and Lucas Thompson; Delilah and Daisy Ottesen; sisters Jo (Jim) Rich, Sharon (Lester) Heidle, Gayle (Bobby) Hamby and brothers-in-law, Thomas Harney; Jim (Jo), Darrell (Kim) and Rick; sister-in-law, Jean (David) Smallman; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Due to the COVID crisis, the family will have a graveside service at Liberty Baptist Church in Wartburg on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 3:00pm with Bro. Keith Kilby officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Melba Novella Potter Rich.

Michael Allen Capps, 43

Michael Allen Capps, age 43, of Deer Lodge passed away February 6, 2021. Michael loved hunting, fishing, his job as a lineman but most of all he loved his girls.

He is preceded in death by his father, Fred Capps; brother, Jacob Capps; finace', Melissa Stokes.

He is survived by his daughters, Fancy, Starla, Natasha and

Frannie Capps; mother, Linda Capps; sister, Angela Capps; brother, Randale Capps and extended family and friends.

The family is honoring Michael's wishes to be cremated. No memorial services are scheduled at this time.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Michael Capps.

Karen Wright Hicks Hamby, 71

Karen Wright Hicks Hamby July 31, 1949 – February 7, 2021

Mrs. Karen Wright Hicks Hamby, age 71 of Lancing, TN, passed away Sunday February 7, 2021 at Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge, TN.

She was preceded in death by her parents; Leonard C. and Hazel Estel (Manis) Wright; her husband; Farrell Hamby; her brothers and sisters; Jerry Wayne Wright, Franklin Lee Wright, Leonard J. and wife Patsy Wright, Edna Jean Wright, and her sister and best friend Esther Mae Melton.

She is survived by her son; Craig Anthony Hicks of Lancing, TN, daughters; Bridget Melissa Reyes of Knoxville, TN, Leslie Michelle Cisson of Harriman, TN, Charlotte Renae Wright Bunch of Chattanooga, TN, step-son; Matthew Sam Hamby and wife Marsha of Oakdale, TN; grandsons and daughters; Kimberly Kay Martinez, Ashley Nicole Galyon, Amanda Dawn Cisson, Michael Craig Cisson, special great grandsons that were under her care; Luis Nathaniel Hamby

and Javier Leonardo Martinez Hamby, great granddaughters; Emma Tabuada, Shianne Cisson, great grandsons; Anthony, Andrew, and Aiden Bane, brother; Rondel Lee "Randy" and wife Rebecca "Becky" Wright of Oakdale, TN, sisters; Mary Ruth and husband Kenny Snow, Ruby Faye Alford, Kathryn Ann "Kathy" Lowery of Harriman, TN, special best friends and sister by choice Jacque and husband Jimmy Douglas.

Karen was the most loving, giving, beautiful soul who loved her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren with all of her heart. Karen enjoyed spending time with her best friend Jacque, she loved watching the Food Network Channel, and her favorite music artist was Vince Gill and his song Go Rest High on That Mountain. Karen was dearly loved by all who knew her and she will forever be in our hearts.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Karen Wright Hicks Hamby.

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

Itchy Feet: Oldway Mansion

By Janice Wilson



On the south east coast of England, facing the English Channel, lies the County of Devon, where every summer, holiday makers from all over the country and Europe flocked to enjoy some

fun and sunshine in the seaside resorts of Paignton and Torquay, known throughout as the English Riviera. My Gran lived in Paignton and so every summer we spent our four weeks summer holiday with her, as did cousins from all over the country.

Every Saturday we walked the three miles or so to the cinema, to watch the film series of cowboys and indians, space cadets and cartoons, all for the price of sixpence. My mother told us that it cost her two jam jars. For two hours our eyes were glued to the screen, trying to remember every detail, because on the way home the re-enactments started. Next to the cinema was Oldway Mansion with acres of rock gardens we used to hide from the indians and with our radar guns beat back the aliens. We were all strangers, but it seemed that playing together did not require knowing each other.

In 1871 Isaac Singer, owner of the Singer Sewing Machine Company, bought the estate, and immediately started demolishing all the old buildings. By 1873 he was ready to build his mansion, the interior of which was designed in the French style and was completed in 1875, the year he died. From 1904 to 1907, Isaac's son Paris had Oldway Mansion remodeled after the Palace of Versailles. Inside were the replica of the Hall of Mirrors, a ballroom, theatre and Grand Staircase. Materials used were marble, bronze and gilt paneling, the walls were adorned with many paintings. Outside the main entrance is the rotunda, a separate building used as a horse-riding pavilion.

The seventeen acres of gardens had an Italian theme, with a maze, a grotto with waterfall, and bowling green. The formal grounds also had tennis courts, of which my sister and I made use of in our teens, but the rock garden playground, added in 1902, is what stands out the most, so many happy memories. Funny I remember the game playing but not the films so much.

Isadora Duncan, an American dancer, born in California, was famous throughout Europe and had an affair with Paris Singer. She stayed at the mansion before breaking off with Paris in 1917. She later died in France, in a car accident that was caused by her scarf catching in the wheel of the vehicle. Paris went to the United States and became an American Citizen and never used the mansion as home again.

During WWI the mansion was used as a hospital run by the American Women's War Relief. Also, in WWII Royal Air Force Cadet Aircrew Trainees were housed there. Even though it sustained bomb damage during that war, it was built back and has since changes owners and used in various capacities including a plan to make it a luxury hotel.

Paris died in 1932, in London and was buried in the family vault in Torquay. A lot of colourful history for one house, tucked away in the English Riviera.

I toured the mansion first as a child with my Father and remember being awed by the vastness of the Grand Staircase, as well as the sparkling marble and glittering gilt covered walls. However, the best memory of all was sitting on the stone patio, and being served with a bottle of pop and cake. The cake was wrapped in marzipan, made to look like a rose and filled with fresh cream. I returned several times over the years and it has always been one of my favourites, sadly the marzipan roses were nowhere to be seen.



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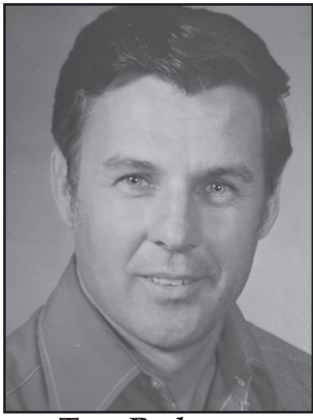
Rates in Morgan County

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

Out of County Rates

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

America's Youngest Serviceman in WWII



Tom Redmon
Columnist

Calvin Graham and Larry Jacobs had seen newsreels of Japanese planes attacking and sinking American ships at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941 and they

He said this is a dream come true but a few days later the ship rocked and rolled in a nasty storm that whipped up 30-foot waves. Turning green and seasick, he threw up. He learned a valuable lesson: never upchuck on the windward side because it will blow back in your face. He felt so sick he wanted to die and for the first time he wondered why he wanted to join the Navy at age twelve.

On October 26, 1942, the South Dakota was part of a task force of other American vessels near the Santa Cruz Islands, about 1,000 miles east of Australia when the ship's speaker came to life: Battle stations! Battle stations!

Once at his battle station he saw emerging from the clouds whirred dozens of Japanese fighter planes. More than fifty Japanese, torpedo planes, and zeroes swooped down from all directions, attacking the South Dakota and other nearby ships including the aircraft carrier Enterprise.

Calvin was working at a feverish pace and every few seconds he glanced up to see the sky filled with puffs of smoke and burning trails of planes that were struck and falling. Planes from the Enterprise were now in the battle and Calvin was yelling "Let him have it." Suddenly a Japanese dive-bomber weaved through the American's heavy firepower and dropped its load on the bow of the South Dakota. The ship shuddered and the bow burst into a fireball. The force from the explosion picked Calvin up and slammed him against a bulkhead, nearly knocking the breath out of him.

Calvin got up and returned to his job of feeding his gunner the ammo needed to try to prevent another direct hit. What a place for a twelve-year-old to be. He glanced back to see fellow seamen removing the dead and dying from the smoldering bow. The fear that the thought was gone had returned with a vengeance. But he was too busy to deal with emotions because the fighter planes from the Enterprise had crippled two Japanese air-

craft. As a result, the enemy pilots had no place to land, so they tried crashing their planes into American ships, with devastating effect. The Enterprise and two destroyers were badly damaged while the aircraft carrier Hornet and another destroyer sank. After the battle was over the battleship had knocked twenty-six Japanese out of the sky with Calvin's gun crew accounting for seven kills.

Calvin had a slip of the tongue which raised suspicion about his age and the gunnery officer heard him. Lt. Shriner confronted Calvin, "Tell me straight, seaman Graham you're not anywhere close to seventeen, are you?"

Calvin cleared his throat and said, "The truth sir, is I'm a little younger

than seventeen. Actually, I'm twelve but I'll be thirteen in six months!" Shriner put his hands over his face and said "I don't believe this. A mere child fooled the U.S. Navy! Incredible."

After Calvin confessed how he had lied he begged Lt. Shriner to let him stay in the Navy, at least

until the ship completed its tour of duty. His pleading worked and he was allowed to remain on board.

Three weeks later, the South Dakota joined nineteen ships in a new task force off the coast of Guadalcanal. They were there to protect the soldiers on the Island and they would find themselves in a battle for their lives. Calvin couldn't believe what he was seeing. The destroyer Preston was sunk claiming the lives of 117 men and their captain. While doing his job of loading the guns Lt. Shriner called him over to tell a message to Lt. Smith. He told him to hurry.

While going up to the main deck Calvin a teeth-rattling, eardrum-shattering blast shook the ship and sent up a huge fireball. Calving was shoved ten feet through the hatch (doorway), and he tumbled down three floors of iron stairs. Bruised and battered he continued his mission of finding Lt. Smith. As he hand-

ed the Lt. the note, Smith said, "Good God seaman, your face is covered with blood. Shrapnel is sticking out of your left cheek."

Another officer called Calvin over to help in rescue duty. Near his anti-aircraft gun he found a body, flipped it over and found out it was his buddy Red Hezil. He thought this could have been me. He burst into sobs.

The battle lasted three days and the Americans lost 9 ships, 36 planes, and 1,732 men while the enemy lost 17 ships, 64 planes, and 1,900 men. The battled proved to be a pivotal moment in the war in the South Pacific, turning the tide in the American's favor.

Calvin and fellow sailors saved the lives of many wounded men on the South Dakota.

Calvin was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Navy Unit Commendation Medal. As he presented the medals to Calvin the ship's Captain Thomas Gatch, whispered to him, "If you can get your mother's permission, I'll see what I can do about keeping you in the Navy."

Calvin didn't get to stay in the Navy but when he became seventeen, he joined the Marine Corps.

Military historians believe Calvin Graham was the youngest U.S. Serviceman to serve in World War II.

Epilogue

During World War I as many as 250,000 boys younger than sixteen lied about their age to enlist in the British military. An estimated 200,000 American soldiers saw combat in WWII and the Korean War before they were of legal age to enlist.

Calvin Graham was one of these boys who at the young age of twelve found himself in a major battle in the South Pacific in 1942-43. Can you imagine a young boy (not even a teenager yet) being faced with what this youngster faced?

He really loved his country and was willing to die for it.

At the American Legion post in his hometown he said, "I've learned that we must do whatever we can for our country, even give our life to protect America."

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

The Battle of Mogadishu 27 Years Later: What have we Gained as a Nation



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

The easiest answer is Ilhan Omar. The congressman from Minnesota. A devout Muslim Woman. When all else fails count on American politicians to capitulate and gain nothing from American loss of life. President Clinton capitulated after committing American Rangers to change the lives of Somalia's people. Was it ever Clinton's goal to help the people of Somalia? I believe not. Government in any form exists to usurp God's will and sow chaos. Then they increase budgets and shift the burden of their ineffective Leadership to the backs of American taxpayers. The elitist way since George Washington!

Our American mythology has contributed to our fall from God's mercy and grace for 250 plus years now. The revolution may have produced English civil laws of governance but our march away from God began when the founders gave us our constitution. A government of the people, for the people, and by the people has always placed God on the sidelines. His word is even further from our existence. The Bill of Rights was supposed to take back the power we give politicians during elections. Instead, it scared the rich ruling class into realizing they must legislate God out of the Lives of the People if we are to remain God over their lives. The American Civil War is still going and it scares the American ruling class to death.

I am the son of an American Roman Catholic and an immigrant Jewish mother. My DNA has been confusing most of my life. What I believed about the creator has never changed or wavered. The Creator behind the founding of America is who I believe is the one true God. Somalia made it crystal clear God and I were right. My God has never advanced fear only Faith. If you want to know which religion purveys in fear and which purvey in monotheistic faith then turn only to the pages of the Bible.

Men will always do what feels good and what is right in their own eyes. It was cynical at best to believe men who owned slaves to stay rich could ever give us a nation that did not enslave the electorate to their eugenic way of thinking. Modern Eugenics has returned to an elitist mentality. Extremely wealthy politicians telling us what we need. Then allowing for the unfettered immigration of people who support their elitist platform. Somalia gave us a muslim immigrant hell bent on bringing her ideas about God to my Western Judeo-Christian thought. My friends did not die to allow this American heresy. I do not need any more yankee politicians Killing my idea about God. I definitely do not need a politician who probably ordered the killing of my American brothers while I was deployed to Somalia to advance Bill Clintons foreign policy. Bill Clinton is a draft dodger who hates American Judeo-Christian values and he and Hillary will stop at nothing to destroy our Christian America. Ilhan Omar is their new puppet.

William Clinton went on TV to blame me and my Ranger brothers for failing. He never mentioned that his fear led to tailoring the mission package to exclude our trump card: The AC 130 Gunships that Rangers rely on when we get in a pinch. None-the-less, Ranger commanders accepted our mission and trained to win. Winning requires that Rangers LEAD WITH LED! It seems that no American president can handle soldiers that are willing to persecute total war so that their family can raise children in total peace. Clinton let Bin Laden slip away from American killers no less than 12 times while president. His foreign policy was only interested in humiliating Judeo-Christians who believed America was great because America's God is great. Nothing has changed. American Rangers are still killing terrorists and presidents are still using them to advance their foreign policy. And still Rangers are dying on battlefields Americans know not exist.

But what about Bush? He did no better. His idea of foreign policy was built around Dick Cheney and his family remaining incredibly wealthy. 9-11 justified America's reason for destroying Al-Queda in Afghanistan and where ever they are gaining a foothold. Iraq was not one of those places. Sadaam would never allow a Bin Laden in his country. He had been invaded by America already. He was no Islamist he was an

Arab nationalist. He did not have aspirations of attacking America. Cheney used the state department to build a pipeline to Turkey from Qatar to control the flow of natural gas in Turkey our supposed NATO ally. Now Turkey wants us out. Go figure 6,000 American lives and counting and we have gotten nothing but Saddam Hussein killed for our troubles. Now the devout Shiites who hate us control Iraq's oil. Sadaam was a buffer between the Shiites and Sunnis. Now they hate each other, possess nuclear weapons and live on each other's border.

I have watched my Task Force Ranger brothers fight in a protracted War that has seen elected politicians get really rich. My squad had ten men in it. Everyone who survived Mogadishu went on to serve in the GWOT. Only one did not serve in SOCOM. Everyone went on to retire or is still serving in uniform. Being an American is extremely personnel to me. It revolves around the notion that there is always a cause greater than yourself. I personally do not agree when I am told George Bush and Dick Cheney are why I should fight. Neither of them has ever fought anyone.

I am an American Ranger who has served a republican president and a democratic president in war. The only thing worth dying for is the knowledge that Jesus Christ desires American soldiers to get saved. My Salvation and God being put back in the lives of American children are the only things worth fighting and dying for. Task Force Ranger was made up of many men who Love Jesus Christ. We believed we were advancing God's perfect will on Earth. Anyone who cannot stomach that idea is an American. If soldiers are going to continue to die then America needs to produce a courageous new generation of missionaries willing to feed our enemies bread when they survive Rangers feeding them Led!

If America is ever to be truly great again, it must lose its present compass direction politically. The swamp must indeed be drained but it must begin with national repentance. A return to sound Bible teaching in our homes by both parents is what America truly needs. This will be met with incredible resistance, for the immoral politicians have a lot of market share to lose in the electorate. They have already married the church to their perverse way of governance. America needs the God of our founding to intervene in our system and allow a viable third party made up of people who believe God's will is perfect. I am ready to restore God to pre-eminence in my life and the life of my country.

Since returning from Mogadishu injured, my life has changed significantly for the better. My faith in Jesus Christ as God's messiah is my entire existence. Telling people about that salvation is my ministry. I have lost many more Ranger survivors of the battle of Mogadishu to suicide and war. I live my life to aid them in finding God's peace after persecuting total War. Nothing but the Blood of Jesus Christ will justify a sinner before a holy and righteous God. He was crucified upon a cross of wood yet he created the hill upon which it stood. Even so come Lord Jesus Christ. RLTW John Burns 6-8-2020 Prior to my interview with Fox Nation

Staff Sergeant John 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, Desert Storm and the Battle of Mogadishu while assigned to the 75th Rangers.

Some of his many decorations, awards and badges include; Bronze Star Medal for Valor, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, 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.

Historically Speaking Bus driver transported ‘dead and alive’ troops

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Leon Hatcher recalls painful memories his bus trips to and from the July 1944 Troop train wreck. Last week through the “rest of the story” of Jim Tidwell we saw the lasting and permanent impact the troop train wreck of July 6, 1944 had on Jim for the rest of his life.

Now I would like to provide you a first-hand account of the bus driver who drove the first bus from Oak Ridge to the train wreck site and picked up “dead and alive” soldiers. He took the soldiers to the hospital in Oak Ridge and then went back again and again during the rest of that night and the next day.

The sights and sounds of those long-ago bus trips left a lasting impression on that bus driver just as seeing the scene in the river that night changed Jim Tidwell’s life forever.

Even today, remembering those bus trips is hard and causes Leon Hatcher to say, “I wish I had never made them bus trips — the memory has stayed with me all my life.” Listening to Leon talk about that harrowing experience years ago that is still fresh on his mind made the train wreck more real than ever to me. His daughter, Bobbie, said that he did not talk about the train wreck, hardly at all.

She told him about the series of articles in *Historically Speaking* about Troop Train Wreck and she said he then spoke more about the train wreck than he ever had before. She was amazed by what he told her. She called me to see if I wanted to hear what her dad had to say. She warned me that he might not even want to talk to me about it.

I said I would like to try and talk with him, so we left it that I would call back to set a specific time to meet. When I called, Leon himself answered. He was just leaving the house and said he did not have time to talk. I thought, well, that’s that.

However, he said I should call back the next day, to which I readily agreed. The next day when I called Leon had already decided when a good time would be for me to come. I suggested in the morning and he said, “Too early, come at 2 p.m.”

I said, “OK,” wondering just what I was getting into. His approach was abrupt and his sentences curt. I later learned that he just talked that way naturally without meaning anything by it and also that Leon’s daily routine was to sleep quite late each morning, so he did not want me to interrupt his sleep.

When I met him, I found him to be a special person in every way. He was fun to talk to and easy to be with. The interview went really well, once I got past the dog. When I arrived at Leon’s home, his dog, a blond cocker spaniel, was not happy to have a visitor. Barking loudly, she hid behind Leon’s chair.

After finally convincing the dog that I would not harm Leon, he and I began to exchange pleasantries and soon got to his story. He was discharged from the Army in Houston, Texas, after being shot in the leg by another soldier. They were both doing guard duty when Leon was mistaken for an intruder and shot.

After coming back to Knoxville, he needed a job. He learned that Roane Anderson was hiring bus drivers and the Clinton Engineer Works was hiring as well so he decided to apply for a job in Oak Ridge. He was hired

by the American Industrial Transportation company even before they had buses.

He was hired as a bus driver, but there were no buses, so he worked as a chauffeur and drove Army officers from the Andrew Johnson Hotel in Knoxville to Oak Ridge. When the first buses were brought to the Clinton Engineer Works, Leon drove the first bus to the airport. It was a green Army bus.

After midnight on July 6, 1944, the night of the train wreck, Leon had just returned from a trip to take workers to K-25 when he was pulled off the normal bus route. He was told



Leon Hatcher recalls painful memories from his bus trips to and from the July 1944 Troop train wreck (Photo Submitted)

only to drive the bus to Jellico and to hurry. It was still well before daylight when he left Oak Ridge. His supervisor told him “not to slow down for nothing!” Leon recalls driving the winding and dark road through Clinton, Lake City, Jacksboro and Lafollette and on to the wreck scene along Highway 25W just south of Jellico at Highcliff.

What he saw when he got there still haunts his memory today. The road was nearly blocked with a maze of vehicles and people were everywhere along the road and in the riverbed. There were injured soldiers lying along the roadside. There were dead bodies there, too.

When Leon got to this part of his story, he said, “I wish I had never seen that train wreck.” Periodically during our time together, he repeated that sentence. It was stressful for him to recall the details.

We talked for a long while before he could express the details. Leon said, “So many of those soldiers were hurt and some were hurt much more than they thought.” As soon as the bus arrived, people began to load the soldiers on the bus, both dead and alive.

They laid the soldiers in the seats of the bus. Soon Leon was told to run the bus as fast as it would go and take his load to the hospital in Oak Ridge.

Leon said, “I didn’t stop for nothing. I ran the bus as fast as it would go, crooked roads an all.” The soldiers were moaning and with each bump in the road their painful reactions could be heard. Leon, said again, “I wish I had never went.”

He continued to describe the agony he heard from behind him as he drove the bus at top speed. When the bus went through the towns in reverse order to get back to Oak Ridge — Lafollette, Jacksboro and then Clinton, the city police in each city had been alerted that there was a bus coming carrying injured soldiers. They waved Leon through every red light and helped him get through each town as quickly as possible.

He was running the bus as fast as it would go and still stay on the road. He went on to say, “The most pitiful thing was at the Oak Ridge Hospital. They took them off the front of the bus and in the emergency door.”

The doctors were checking to see how bad each soldier was hurt and were selecting the ones to work on first. Leon saw the bodies piling up and the injured waiting to be treated. He may have realized then for the first time just how bad some of the soldiers were injured. He saw some that he knew had died on the way to Oak Ridge.

Again, Leon said, “They loaded my bus with soldiers, both dead and alive. I sure wish I had never seen that train wreck.”

He then explained that he made four trips to the wreck site each time bringing a load of injured and either dead or dying soldiers to Oak Ridge Hospital.

Today, 63 years after the Troop Train wreck, Leon Hatcher still has difficulty talking about the extreme suffering he was exposed to and the bus trips still remain fixed in his mind as an awful experience. Yet, he speaks with pride of the bus trips, recognizing he was performing a valuable service and may well have contributed substantially to the saving of several lives.

Leon was a young man fresh out of the Army when he was called on to drive his bus to transport injured soldiers. He was strong and healthy. He did his job and did it well.

At the time of this interview, he was in his 80’s and is still very alert and thinks the world of his dog. She tried to keep me from taking her picture, but I tricked her, with Leon’s help, we got her picture anyway. Leon and his daughter Bobbie lived in Oak Ridge at the same location where the temporary dwelling unit stood that Leon and his family moved into during the very early Manhattan Project days. The TDU burned in the early 1970s and they have rebuilt on the same site.

After working for the Manhattan Project, Leon worked for 25 years with the Oak Ridge Public Works Department. He retired from that position in 1985.

Next week we will look at the history of the Steam Dome from Locomotive No. 418, the single and unique artifact of the July 6, 1944 Troop Train Wreck. We will also meet 90-year-old Bertha Trammell, who lived beside the railroad track as it enters the “Jellico Narrows” of the Clearfork River.

She will tell her memory of that night as the doomed train passed just outside her open bedroom window. Bertha will recount the impression made on her when the train came right by her house just before she heard the loud sound of metal scrapping metal — a high pitched squeal really. She then recalls hearing an even louder and longer crashing sound as the locomotive and first four cars careened into the riverbed hitting huge boulders.

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.

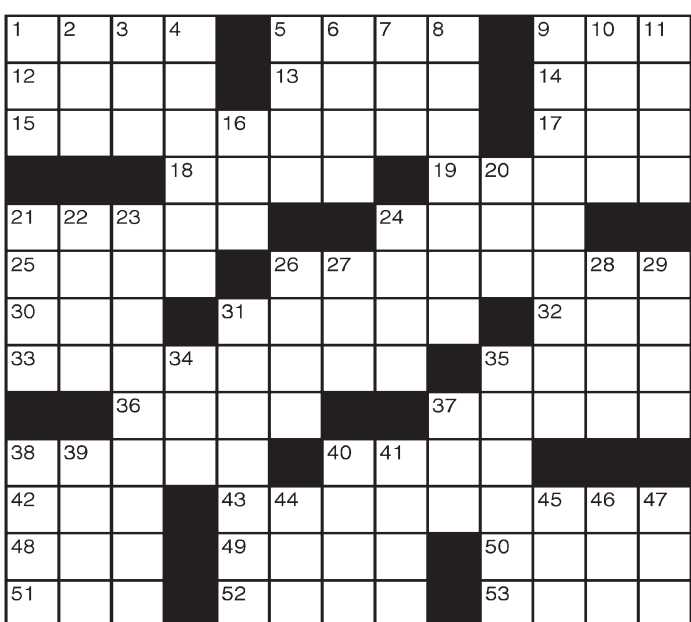
Oak Ridge began in war, has continued to support our nation’s efforts through the Cold War, and even now in the age of terrorism. Oak Ridge has also produced nuclear medicine, nuclear power and fuel for the US Navy nuclear submarines and ships.

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 Seize
- 5 Butte's kin
- 9 Cardinal cap letters
- 12 "Othello" villain
- 13 In — (lined up)
- 14 Weeding tool
- 15 Reality show for aspiring entrepreneurs
- 17 PC key
- 18 Minor quibbles
- 19 Hospital sections
- 21 Type of beam
- 24 Pack (down)
- 25 Reverberate
- 26 Rubber wedge, say
- 30 Small battery
- 31 All better
- 32 Actress Thurman
- 33 Hoedown musicians
- 35 Author Harte
- 36 Seeing things
- 37 Tubular pasta
- 38 Tribal emblem
- 40 Coffee, slangily
- 42 Mess up
- 43 Temporary
- 48 GPS suggestion
- 49 Last write-up
- 50 Despot



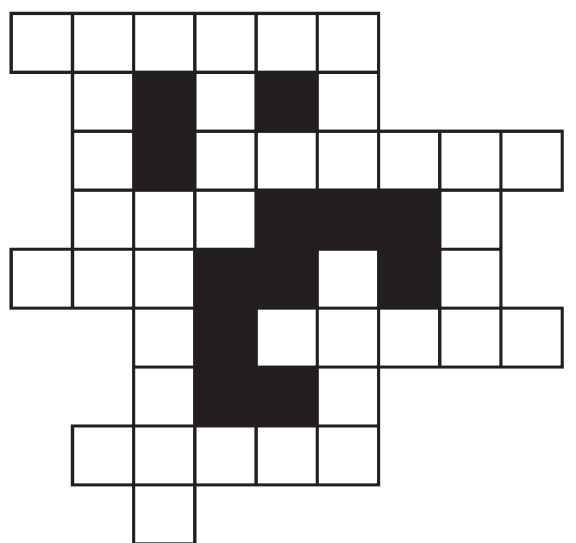
- 10 Snitched
- 11 Reply to "Shall we?"
- 16 White wine cocktail
- 20 Mornings (Abbr.)
- 21 Piece of lettuce
- 22 Exotic berry
- 23 Elm, for one
- 24 Low digits
- 26 Union payment
- 27 Bruins legend
- 28 Portent
- 29 Canape spread
- 31 South
- 34 Decorate
- 35 Actor Warren
- 37 Beetle
- 38 Garr of "Tootsie"
- 39 Scraps
- 40 Unite
- 41 Museo display
- 44 Showtime rival
- 45 Jargon suffix
- 46 Squealer
- 47 Hosp. scan

FEAR KNIGHT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

- ASE
- NAHMYL
- ♥TEHDA
- ♥RYTO
- TUTSSA
- YOT
- ♥RHEA
- ♥PELSA
- HYS
- LOYLAR
- ♥OSTRO
- ♥IELM



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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Volume I

Fred C. Mize III



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

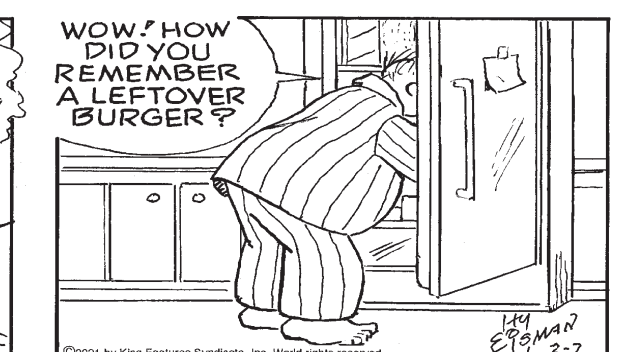
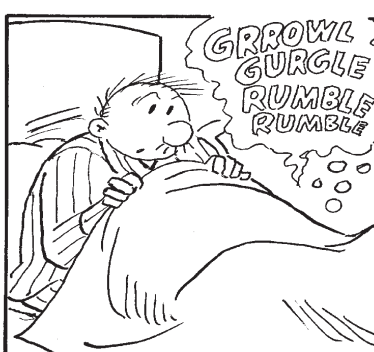
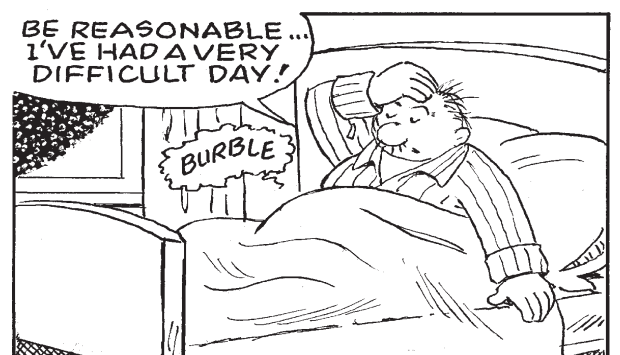
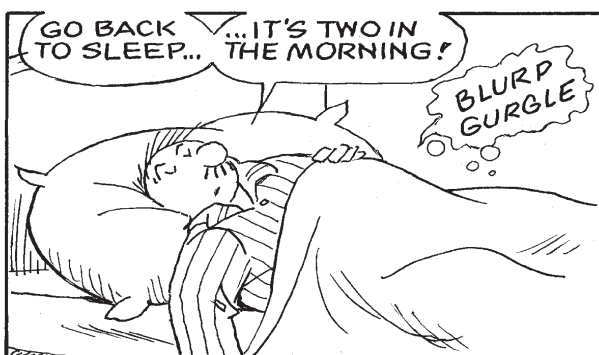
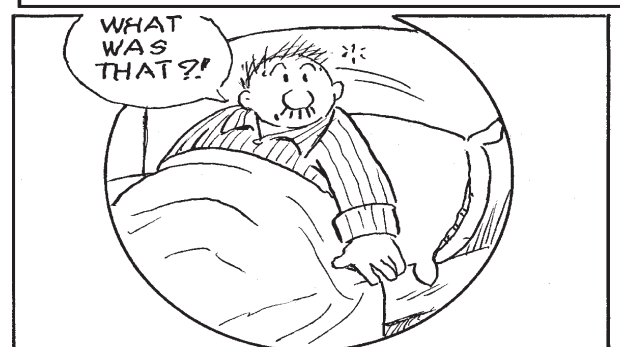
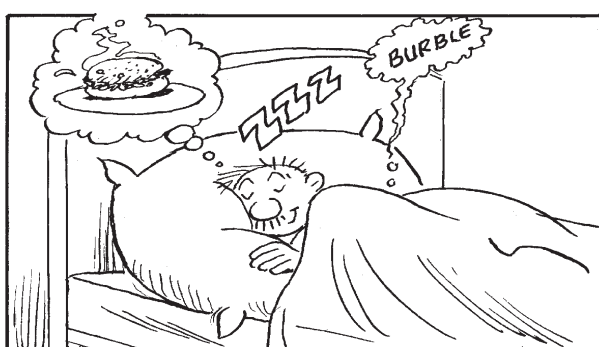
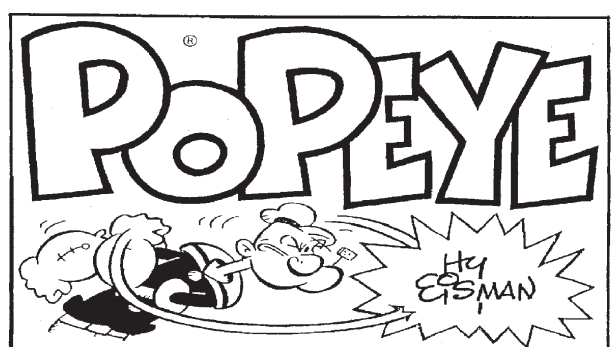
		6		4		9		
4				7				2
	5		2			1		
	2			9			6	
		7			8			3
8			7			5		
		2	1				7	
7					5	4		
	9			8				1

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

S	T	A	T	U	S
O	R	E			
R	O	R	A	L	L
S	H	Y			I
T	O	Y		H	M
			M	H	A
			N	R	
			L	A	P
				S	E
					L

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

G	R	A	B		M	E	S	A		S	T	L
I	A	G	O		A	R	O	W		H	O	E
S	H	A	R	K	T	A	N	K		A	L	T
				N	I	T	S			W	A	R
L	A	S	E	R				T	A	M	P	
E	C	H	O		D	O	O	R	S	T	O	P
A	A	A			C	U	R	E	D		U	M
F	I	D	D	L	E	R	S			B	R	E
T	O	T	E	M	S					P	E	N
T	O	T	E	M		J	A	V	A			
E	R	R			S	H	O	R	T	T	E	R
R	T	E			O	B	I	T		T	S	A
I	S	E			N	O	N	E		Y	E	T

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Marvel not that I
 said unto thee,
Ye must be born again.
 John 3:7 - Jesus


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We're Going to Have a Party

By: MSG. Fred Mize



MSG Fred Mize

I dropped off our youngest son to his pre-school class this morning his teacher told him and his classmates, "we're going to have a Valentine's Day party!" Hearing the excitement in her voice and seeing the excitement on the children's faces brought back my own childhood memories. I can easily remember

the holiday and birthday parties I enjoyed as a child with my school friends. Our teachers would build up the anticipation throughout the coming week by decorating their classes and sending us home with notes of what to bring on the day of the party, just as my son's teacher has done this week.

I'm sure that as you read this you thought back to your childhood days and recalled walking into the classroom seeing

it all decked out for the party. You may even be able to recall the smell of the cake, ice cream, cupcakes,



pizza, chips, and soft drinks. My friends I want to remind each of you that there is a party being prepared for us right now. It will be a

party like we've never experienced before. There will be friends and family there that we haven't seen in

years. We'll even celebrate with people that we've never met but there will not be a single stranger there. Jesus Christ is preparing the party at

this very moment. He's getting everything ready for us. It will literally be the greatest homecoming of all time!

Jesus said in John 14:3, And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Did you know that you can cause the angels to rejoice? We certainly can and countless of people have! Jesus said in Luke 15:10, Likewise, I

say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

My friends we have so much to be excited for, for Jesus Christ loves us and is preparing a place for us in Heaven. If you don't know Him as your LORD and Savior give the angels of God a reason to celebrate now by repenting of your sins and accept Him as your LORD and Savior. If you do, I'll see you at the party. Amen!

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Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger



Zack Ballinger

War Pigs BBQ



I've been blessed to travel all over the world. One of the perks of traveling is the opportunity to sample many different types of food. I have always been a big BBQ fan and have tried many different styles all over the United States. I am partial to the sweet style BBQ that's often found in Memphis, TN. I have visited some of the top-rated BBQ restaurants in Memphis. The only problem is Memphis, TN is about a 6 hour drive from Morgan County.

You can't go wrong with good ole fashion Tennessee sweet and savory BBQ. I am happy to announce there is a new restaurant coming to the Morgan County community. War Pigs BBQ is on the way!

Jason Brown recently joined me on The Zack Ballinger Show to talk about his new restaurant coming to Wartburg, TN. Jason described the passion he has behind his business endeavor. He is thrilled about serving the community and offering Morgan County another dining option. Jason is excited about interacting with his friends and neighbors. His goal was to work for himself one day. I think it's great Wartburg continues to embrace and support small business owners.

Jason and his wife Amanda are the

owners and operators of War Pigs BBQ. They also have great business partners, Jessie and Tori England. Jason has lived in Morgan County all of his life. Jason started off his BBQ concept by operating as a food truck. Jason is bringing his recipes to a permanent store front setting. He had my mouth watering after talking about some of his tasty menu offerings. War Pigs BBQ will be serving traditional BBQ, BBQ sandwiches, wings, pulled chicken, ribs, and many other items. He will also be featuring some southern infusion style foods.

I remember growing up in Wartburg, TN and there were only a couple of food options. Hardee's and Partner's Pizza were about the only options at that time. I love both places, but it's always good to have more food options. I think as Morgan County grows so does the opportunities for more food options.

War Pigs BBQ is expected to open this month. They are currently working on the building as we speak. War Pigs will be located at 117 N. Kingston Street and it's directly across from the courthouse. War Pigs BBQ will also be selling their sauce as well as other merchandise. Are you ready for some good BBQ? Follow them more closely on their Facebook page. They are posting future upcoming announcements: <https://www.facebook.com/warpigsq>

How can I find or listen to The Zack Ballinger Show? The show will have 2 to 3 guests per week on various careers in The United States. You can listen

live via YouTube by searching for Zack Ballinger and subscribing. The show is also posted on Facebook on www.facebook.com/thezackballinger. What if you want to listen to a podcast? The show can be found on iTunes, IHeartRadio, and Spotify: search for The Zack Ballinger Show and you can find all the episodes.

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.

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THE ZACK BALLINGER SHOW

Sandra Helton's weekly column

Oakdale Area News

email: kvhelton@highland.net



As I wrote the last column, snow was in the forecast. Much of Morgan County saw a pretty snow on Sunday, February 7 but many of us only had a dusting. It was amazing how there could be 4-5 inches in one location and a couple miles down the road there was hardly any. I sure enjoyed seeing the pretty pictures on Facebook.

Hours have been extended at Morgan County Courthouse to make it more convenient for residents to pay property taxes. From now through February 26, the office will be open 8:00 – 5:00 Monday through Friday and 8:00 – 12:00 on February 20 and February 27. Temperatures will be taken and there is a limit of 2 customers in the office at one time. Morgan County Citizens are encouraged to submit payment online or by mail to avoid long lines or exposure to illness. For more information you can call the office at 423-346-3430.

Congratulations to all the winners of the “Find Randy” contest. Due to weather conditions, the contest didn’t start on time and was spread out over several days. The winners in Oakdale were Clara Ruppe, Noah Powers, Benjamin Collins, Cartie Disney and Ashton Holt. Thanks to everyone who participated. Randy Raccoon is the mascot for Together Morgan County and you can expect to see him at future events.

Congratulations to Ethan Lively who auditioned and will appear on The Voice on March 1. Ethan and his family used to live in Oakdale but now reside in Roane County. We still consider them Oakdale folks. Ethan is a very talented guitarist and singer.

Waylon Christopher Hacker was born Monday morning, February 8 at approximately 2:44 a.m at Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center, weighing 8lbs 5oz and was 20.5 inches long. He is the son of Christopher and Kayla Hacker. His very proud big brother is Treyson. Waylon is the grandson of Lisa Collett and James Kilby Jr. and James and Robin Hacker. Congratulations everyone!

Friday evening, February 5 was the final home game for the Oakdale Eagles Basketball Teams. As is tradition, the seniors were recognized. This year’s honorees were Victoria Jones, Riley Taylor, Evan Headrick and Zeke Moore.

Congratulations to all Morgan County basketball players who were named All District. In Oakdale, Amelia Miller and Sydney Gregory were named All District 3-A and Victoria Jones received Honorable Mention.

Happy Birthday to a couple of White Oak Ladies who are my dear friends. Yvonne Norris will celebrate her birthday February 18 and Diana Smith will celebrate on February 19. I hope you each have a wonderful day.

Other February birthdays include Kathy Cox and Samantha Mayton on the 15th, Jeannie Neeley, Jeff Branson and Briley Johnson on the 16th, Dale Snow on the 18th, Cortney Clark and Terry Futrell on the 22nd, Delaney Hicks, Ricky Davidson and Amanda Best on the 23rd and Karen Eble on the 28th. Two of my favorite gals, Vera Scarbrough and Maura Paige Lake, celebrate their birthdays on February 26th. Wishing these and all the other people with a February birthday a wonderful day.

Jacob Helton has recently preached a couple of times at White Oak Baptist Church. On Wednesday, February 10, he read 1 Corinthians 15:39-52 and used the word “Moment” as his thought. In a moment, God spoke creation into being. In a moment, God breathed life into Adam. In a moment, Jesus was born of a virgin. In a moment, Christ died for our sins. In a moment, He rose from the grave. In a moment, He ascended into Heaven. The list went on but there is coming a moment that we all need to be prepared for. 1 Corinthians 15:52 says In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. It was a wonderful message. Please make sure you are ready for that moment.

As I mentioned in the last column, my Aunt Gladys Langley passed away Friday, February 5. Aunt Gladys was 90 years young and was a precious lady to many. She is survived by her sons Wayne Langley and Wendell (Kim) Langley of the Joyner community and her daughter Marie (Mike) Smithers of Jacksboro. She is also survived by 5 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren and a soon to be born great grandson, Reece Langley. Other survivors include her sisters Betty Chapman and Marlene (Larry) Goldston, her brother Tom (Billie) Bingham, sisters in law Zelma Bingham and Eunice Navas and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Visitation was held Monday, February 8 at Schubert Funeral Home and the funeral was Tuesday at Liberty Baptist Church in Wartburg. Interment followed at Union Cemetery.

I share the following quote in honor of Aunt Gladys. She was a kind lady and was known for doing kind things. Many people were recipients of the cards she sent. She was also good to visit people and gift them with her homemade goodies. Kindness is free and often has a ripple effect.

“You cannot do kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.” —Ralph Waldo Emerson.

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

Acts Chapter 20

(Acts 20:1-6) from Ephesus to Troas: Luke’s account of this portion of Paul’s third missionary campaign is most abbreviated. These few verses may involve as much as a year. He met with some disciples and exhorted them. The word can carry the ideas of encouragement, warning, and admonition---perhaps all of these were involved. He then set his course for Macedonia, where he wrote Second Corinthians. Then he turned south into Greece (Achaia), where he spent three months in Corinth. During this time, he wrote his epistle to the Romans (1 Cor. 1:14; Rom. 16:23). Paul’s Jewish enemies conceived a plot to take his life as he was about to leave for Syria, so he headed back north into Macedonia.

Seven Christian men, representatives of various congregations of the church, were planning to meet Paul in Troas with their collections for the poor saints in Jerusalem (1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8-9). The best-known of these was Timothy. When the apostle reached Philippi, he was joined by Luke, who says that “we” sailed away after the Passover, and in five days came to Troas, where they lingered for a week.

(Acts 20:7-12) with the disciples at Troas: on Sunday, the Lord’s day, the disciples “were gathered together” for the purpose of “breaking bread,” partaking of the Lord’s supper. There is no divine authority for observing the communion except on Sunday, the day of Christ’s resurrection. Paul’s first Corinthian letter indicates that the regular assembly was upon “the first day of every week” (16:2). It was evening and the apostle spoke at length, even until midnight. With oil lamps burning in an upper room, it was stuffy. Being overcome by sleep, a young man named Eutychus fell from the third story window and was killed. Paul went down and raised him from the dead. Paul then went back up, ate some food (not the Lord’s supper), and visited with the saints until day-break. He then left.

(Acts 20:13-16) from Troas to Miletus: Luke and the others had boarded a ship bound for Assos, while Paul chose to walk the twenty miles by land. At Assos, Paul got on board, and they sailed southward along the west coast of provincial Asia. After several days, they landed at Miletus. Paul was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem by Pentecost (the first day of the week) (v.16), so instead of making a sixty-mile roundtrip over to Ephesus, he sent for the elders to come down to Miletus while the ship weighed anchor for a few days.

(Acts 20:17-35) Paul’s address to the Ephesian elders: Paul’s presentation to the Ephesian elders has four major points. First, there is a defense of the apostle’s earlier work among the Ephesians (v.18-20). Paul had critics (even within the church) in several places, and apparently Ephesus was among them. Probably some had made him their target during the past year; accordingly, he would remind the elders of certain things. (a) His discipline had been wholesome. He had served the Lord with much humility and with tears of compassion. (b) He had endured persecution from the Jews. (c) He had taught vigorously, both

publicly and privately. (d) He had admonished Jews and Greeks to change their attitude toward God and to embrace Christ.

Second, the great missionary sets forth his immediate plan as he heads toward Jerusalem (v. 22-27). (a) He does not exactly know what the future holds, except that there will be bonds and afflictions awaiting him. (b) He will not treasure his physical life; he must fulfill the ministry given him by Christ, testifying concerning the gospel which contained the message of grace. Grace was not an “irresistible” gift, but a blessing bestowed through a communicated message. (c) His heart ached, anticipating not seeing these men again as he fulfilled his task of preaching the kingdom. (d) His conscience was clear; he was not accountable for others being lost. He had declared the whole counsel of God.

Third, Paul warns the Ephesian bishops (or elders) of the danger of apostasy (v.28-31). (a) The elders were to take heed to themselves and to the church placed under their oversight by the Holy Spirit. (b) They were to see to it that the flock was nourished as the precious blood-bought, called-out- body. How can anyone possibly disdain the church as nonessential when it was bought with Christ’s blood? (The church is not a building.) (c) A time of apostasy would eventually come, originating even from the leadership of the church. Whether the allusion was to them personally or to those occupying the same position is debatable. (d) Apostate bishops (Eldership) eventually would arise to selfishly make disciples for themselves. Historically, the earliest departures from the faith were in the rise of “bishops” who exalted themselves over other elders. (e) They were encouraged to remember his passionate ministry among them over the past three years. His example should be a teaching reminder.

Fourth, the apostle commends these good brothers and exhorts them to continued faithfulness (32-35). (a) With a loving note of encouragement, Paul commends them to God and to his sacred word, through which grace is accessed (Rom. 5:1), that they might continue to grow strong and ultimately receive the promised inheritance as faithful children. (b) He may be responding to some false charges about his alleged unhealthy interest in money when he calls attention to his record of selfless interest in others and his work ethic of giving far more than receiving. (c) He does not hesitate to remind them of his example in attempting to help the weak. He calls attention to a recorded saying of Jesus: “It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).”

(Acts 20:36-38) a tearful farewell: after the apostle concluded this stirring address, they all kneeled and prayed together. There was a loud crying and the elders embraced Paul, with affectionate kisses profusely given. Certainly they were going to miss him, but, most of all, his words had touched them deeply. The plaintive feeling of seeing him no more was to be temporary---in an ultimate, eternal sense. They escorted him down to the ship and likely watched him sail out of sight.

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MELVIN HOWARD

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Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week

This week we honor the memory and sacrifices of three Idaho Army National Guard Soldiers who were killed in a helicopter crash on February 2, 2021.

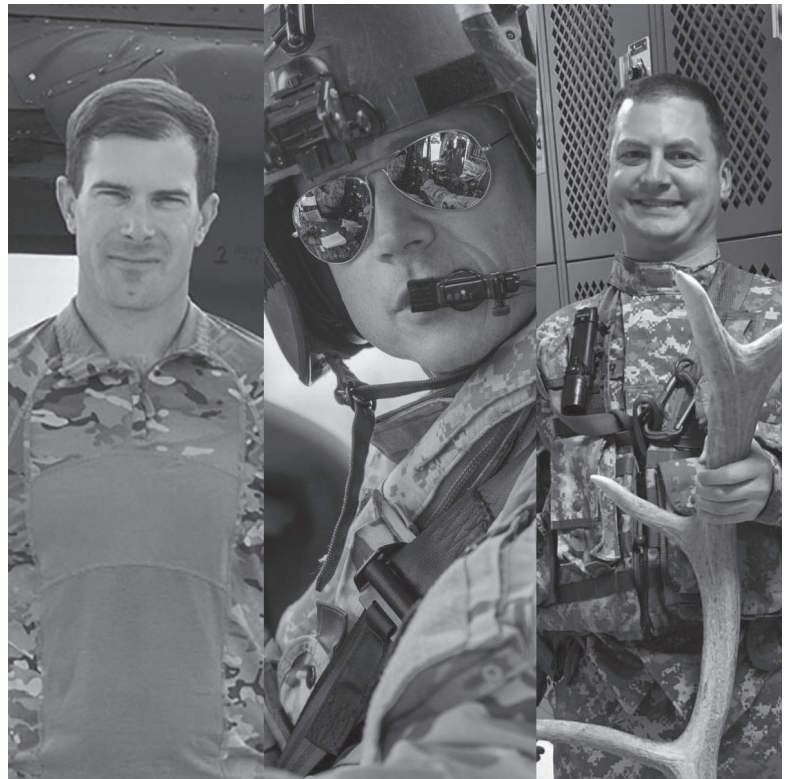
These three pilots were killed when their UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter crashed during a training mission in southern Idaho.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jesse Anderson, 43, was a senior instructor pilot who had served in the Idaho Army National Guard since 2008. Chief Warrant Officer 3 George "Geoff" Laubhan, 39, was an instructor pilot with more than a decade of service.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Matthew Peltzer, 43, was a pilot who had served in the Idaho Army National Guard since 2005.

All three pilots were married with children.

Let's honor their memory and pray the God send His Comforter to their families in their devastating time of need.



Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

This week we want to show appreciation for Sheriff Wayne Potter, officers Linda Polder and Dave Ayers for fostering the childhood dream of young Ryan Wilson.

Two weeks ago, officers Polder and Ayers met with Ryan Wilson and his mother, presented him with a gift from the Morgan County Sheriff's Department, and allowed him to play with their police cruiser's lights and sirens. They met with young Ryan because for the past two years he has visited the Morgan County Sheriff's Department on Halloween night to show off his policeman's

uniform. It's obvious that Ryan dreams of someday becoming a law enforcement officer himself. These officers did not have to do this but they could clearly see the impact that fifteen minutes could make in a young child's life. Their actions represent the best in law enforcement officers for they know both the importance of protecting and "serving" those



whom they protect. To Sheriff Potter, officer Polder and officer Ayers we at the Morgan County Today, thank you for serving as you do on a daily basis. Keep up the great work in keeping the dreams of our future officers alive. We also hope to someday honor young Ryan as a future law enforcement officer of the week!

Beware of 'ghost' tax preparers



David Zubler

The IRS is reminding everyone to avoid "ghost" tax return preparers.

Ghost preparers get their scary name because they don't sign the returns they prepare. They are trying to be invisible to the IRS for some reason. However, by law anyone who is paid to prepare or assist in preparing federal tax returns is required to have a valid Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN).

Paid preparers are required to sign and include their PTIN on the return. Not signing a tax return is a red flag that the paid preparer may be doing something illegal and trying not to be noticed by the IRS.

Ghost preparers can use many illegal activities which can cause you to have major problems with the IRS. They may be preparing fraudulent returns with the purpose of providing a big refund so they can charge large fees. Or they may be charging fees based on the size of the refund.

Unscrupulous tax return preparers may also require payment in cash and refuse to provide a receipt. They may invent additional income to qualify their clients for tax credits or create fake deductions to create a larger refund. They may also direct refunds into their bank account instead of yours.

The IRS urges you to review your return carefully and ask questions about anything not clear before signing, no matter who prepares your return. You should check the routing and bank account number on your tax return for any direct deposit refund.

The IRS urges everyone to choose a tax return preparer wisely. You may want to consider hiring a CPA or EA since they are highly trained and licensed tax professionals. An Enrolled Agent is the highest credential awarded by the IRS to any professional. EAs are required to pass a rigorous three-part series of tests which are known as the Special Enrollment Examination. This series of tests covers business and individual tax laws and representation matters. The Choosing a Tax Professional page on IRS.gov provides information about preparer credentials and qualifications.

The IRS Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers with Credentials and Select Qualifications can help identify tax professionals by type of credential or qualification.

If you suspect misconduct you can report it to the IRS using IRS Form 14157-A, Tax Return Preparer Fraud or Misconduct Affidavit. It is important to file a valid, accurate tax return since you are the one who is ultimately responsible for it.

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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