

Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News. **75¢**

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February 23, 2021

MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK

Tue 23	58°/35°	
Wed 24	62°/40°	
Thu 25	51°/32°	
Fri 26	45°/42°	
Sat 27	54°/46°	
Sun 28	56°/50°	
Mon 01	58°/37°	

Goodbye, Miss Margaret!

By Terry Futrell

Most people are fortunate to have one mother to raise and nurture them – I have been blessed with four. In addition to my own birth mother who was so influential in making me the person that I am, God placed three other women in my life who also served as a “mother” to me in many ways. Margaret Bunch was one of them.

I first met Miss Margaret when I was in her first grade class at Coalfield School. She was cute as could be and not much bigger than many of us, so I guess it was natural that she was the imaginary sweetheart of many of the boys in her class.

I really got to know Margaret Bunch when she and James moved into my neighborhood when I was in 7th or 8th grade. Their home quickly became a hangout for me and one my friends. As Mr. Bunch worked to build their house with his own hands, we were constantly underfoot, helping out in any small way that we could.

As the basement was built, the large room that would one day become their living room became the focal point of our activity. Mr. Bunch built a ping pong table and we soon spent as much time playing as working.

That room became the learning center for many im-

portant things in my life. It was there that I learned to compete, whether at ping pong, chess, or the game of hearts. The four of us had many spirited games of hearts that would often end with someone modeling how “not” to behave when defeated. As I stood in that room last week just a few days before Miss Margaret’s passing, I shared some of those memories with her. Her response was simple, “I always got beat!”

It was in that room that my horizons were broadened as I learned many things about a much larger world than my small Coalfield community. It was in that room where we huddled in front of the television to watch President Kennedy’s broadcast during the Cuban missile crisis. It was in that room that I learned to dream of one day leaving a world of poverty for a career as an engineer. It was in that room that I saw James and Margaret model a true marriage in which both were fully committed to and truly a part of each other. It was in that room that we became “family”, even though we shared no common bloodline.

Far more important than the memories was the lasting impact that this loving little lady had on my life and the lives of so many others who were blessed to have her as a teacher. Farewell, dear lady. I have no doubt that there was much rejoicing as a host of angels ushered you into the presence of the Creator of the universe.



Terry Futrell and “Miss Margaret” Bunch on her 88th birthday. Miss Margaret influenced more than 1,000 students during her teaching career at Coalfield. (Photo Submitted)



Veteran of the Week
Major Christy Wise



LEO of the Week
Charles D. Laxton



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Morgan County Animal Shelter (MCAS) Explains Their Mission

The Morgan County Animal Shelter (MCAS), a nonprofit, 501.c.3, was founded in 2016 with a mission statement that reads: “The mission of the Morgan County Animal Shelter is to serve the community by promoting animal welfare in the County of Morgan in the State of Tennessee”. The Board of Directors, currently eight strong, is still working to fulfill that mission. The Board meets quarterly and has committees assigned to various aspects of the mission, including education, fundraising, grant writing and land acquisition.

After a search of over two years, the land committee of MCAS found a potential central location in which to build a comprehensive shelter facility that would meet the needs of the community and allow for future improvements and growth. General analysis and evaluation of the property is currently underway and moving forward. This includes soil testing and performance of a survey to ensure that the property can support the facility as planned.

Recently members of the MCAS met with the team from MoCo Mutts Rescue in their

new facility located in Sunbright, TN. The primary focus of the discussion was to determine how both groups could work together toward a common goal of improving animal welfare in Morgan County. The MoCo Mutts team has quickly responded to the urgent and important crisis of the uncontrolled dog population within the county which has resulted in obtaining the community support needed to purchase their new facility to house dogs. Both groups discussed their missions and the potential overlaps, as well as other urgent animal needs that need to be resolved, such as getting a good spay and neuter solution in Morgan County to help control the pet population. Future discussions on how best to work toward a common goal will hopefully continue.

The MCAS team, recognizes that the presence of two organizations working to improve animal welfare within the county has caused some confusion within the community. The good news is that there are two nonprofit groups working diligently to solve the animal problem. These two organizations are addressing the issue in two different manners. MoCo Mutts (aka Senior Dog Lodge) has evolved under its current leadership and is actively addressing the immediate need of animal rescue in the county. MCAS has been concen-

trating their efforts on acquiring land and then building a facility that can meet both small and large animal welfare needs, to include shelter, treatment, and placement of animals in need, while also educating the community and assisting law enforcement and government agencies to improve conditions of abandoned, abused, neglected and/or stray animals within Morgan County. Additionally, a Morgan County Animal Welfare group was formed that meets regularly to assist with the concerns in the local communities. MCAS will continue to evaluate the validity of their mission, including a physical shelter, as well as the other areas of focus, as they move forward.

MCAS appreciates the dedicated work of MoCo Mutts Rescue, and it is the hope of the MCAS board that future discussions with the MoCo Mutts Rescue Group will continue, so that the overall goal of improving animal welfare and the quality of life (e.g. safety) within Morgan County will be met in the most efficient and effective manner.

For more information on this news release, contact Belinda Woodiel-Brill at 865-603-7293.

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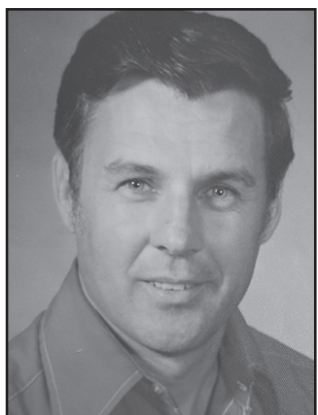


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No Way to Treat a Hero



Tom Redmon
Columnist

Last week I told you about Calvin Graham, WWII's youngest hero at the young age of twelve. Now I want to tell you

ordered him to report to the nearest recruiting office and reveal his true age.

After the funeral, Calvin went to the nearest recruiters and confessed he had lied about his age. Rather than give him an honorable discharge, an outraged Navy official ordered Calvin thrown in the brig (Navy jail) and stripped of his medals. Here you have a twelve-year-old seaman, who did lie about his age, went aboard the U.S.S. South Dakota and helped other seaman save many officers from a raging fire during battle. This was only one of the heroic acts he performed while on board the South Dakota. He could and should have received an honorable discharge and be allowed to keep his medals. Calvin Graham, a Navy hero was treated like a criminal.

He remained in the brig for three months. A fellow prisoner who was released from the brig contacted Calvin's sister. When she learned what the Navy

had done to her little brother, she demanded his immediate release. She told an official, "either you free Calvin right away or I'll contact the newspapers and tell them that the cold-hearted Navy has been holding a twelve-year-old boy in the brig for months."

Just days after he turned thirteen Calvin was released from the brig and kicked out of the Navy without an honorable discharge or access to Veterans' benefits.

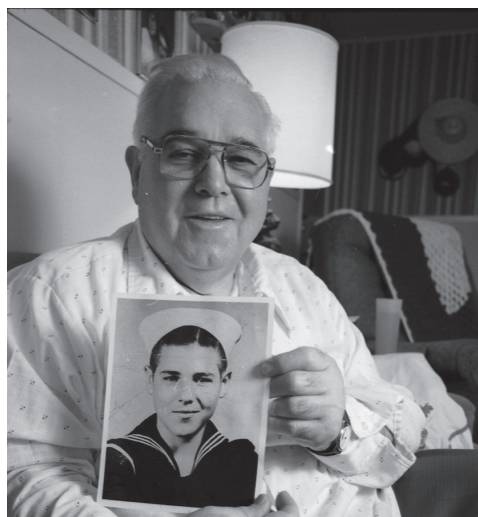
Calvin didn't complain despite the cruel treatment. He was treated as a hero in his hometown. He attended several American Legion bond rallies to raise money for the war effort. He told the crowd, "I came out of the Navy twenty-two pounds heavier. I'm strong and healthy and I learned that we must do whatever we can, even give our lives to protect America, I'm not allowed to fight anymore, but I guarantee you that the day I turn seventeen, I'm enlisting."

Calvin was true to his word, for at seventeen he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and remained in the Corp for three years until he was involved in an accident which left him permanently disabled. He was awarded an honorable discharge. But he was not satisfied so he wrote his congressman pleading to have his Navy record restored and his medals returned. In 1978, thirty-six years after he served on the South Dakota his efforts paid off and he was given an honorable discharge and all his medals, except the Purple Heart.

In 1992 Calvin died at his home in Fort Worth, Texas at the age of sixty-two. In 1993 Secretary of the Navy John Dalton, presented Calvin's widow, Mary, with the Purple Heart that had been denied him for fifty-two-years.

Calvin Graham was they youngest U.S. serviceman to serve in World War II according to military historians. We have had draft dodgers in every war and we have had young boys as young as twelve lie to serve their country.

Calvin was a hero and his commander on the U.S.S. South Dakota was willing to keep him in the Navy, but here a lowly recruiting official threw him in the brig and took away his medals. Do you see something wrong with this story? I sure do.



From the Foothills

with Rae Michael

As I contemplated writing a periodic article for this paper, much went through my mind. Fortunate for me, none of those things were permanently damaging. I've been watching politics for decades, not from some perch above the rest, but from the bottom, where politics seems to have the most impact. I've learned from experience that politics is not about making things better for the "masses", but about placating them, keeping them just happy enough to follow and do what we're told.

Hence, the name of the article, "From the Foothills". We see the mountains above and we see those who have been elected "to lead and to serve" who do neither, but we see them atop the mountain while we stand at the foothills. I have that view and believe me, it is not the same as the mountaintop view of us down at the bottom. Their interest in us is singular: How are we voting come the next election?

Most of what I see as that "necessary evil" of government applies first, to the federal government, next state government and thirdly, to large cities and counties. For the most part, it doesn't involve local and small governments (of course, unless otherwise stated). I paint politicians with a broad brush, but I know there are some who are different. I have a great admiration for Morgan County's Democrat Representative, John Mark Windle and our Republican State Senator Ken Yager. I believe they are both honorable and very citizen-minded.

I tend to see things a little different from most. I am not a conservative and I am not a liberal. I am not a democrat and I am not a republican. I agree with both sides of that proverbial aisle at times, depending upon

the topic. However, I am NOT a "moderate" either, as I remember a scripture which starts out with, "I would that thou wert hot or cold". (You can look up the rest.) I do my best to leave my rose-colored glasses aside, especially when looking at politics and politicians, and my writing will most assuredly display that.

I am a Constitutionalist, which means, if an action is constitutionally sound, I am for it, even if I don't necessarily like it. If not, no. That puts me at odds with some who would call me a friend otherwise. Thus, I am more of a "states rights" and individual freedom with responsibility kind of person (9th and 10th Amendments). Freedom does not come without responsibility.

What all this means is, as you read my writing, you will want to yell at me at times, and yell with me at other times. Understand, other than facts pointed out, you are reading an opinion. If you have another opinion, I want to know. If you have a topic you'd like covered by my opinion, please let me know, but don't expect that my opinion will automatically agree with yours. If we both agree one hundred percent of the time, one of us is not needed (or so the saying goes). I hope you enjoy reading this column, but more than that, I hope we both learn from this.

One last bit of information: I've had citizens accuse me of "hiding" behind a fake name, even when they know exactly who I am. Rae Michael is my pen name; I write political intrigue. My real name is Mike Raiford, and yes, I live in Morgan County Tennessee. No hiding.

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

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Finish What God Started



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

Finish what God Started! That is the message Elohim birthed in me 27 years ago. In order to accomplish that, I had to lose all presuppositions, look in the mirror and fix my Biblical ignorance. No more taking the wide road that leads to destruction. I had to get on the narrow path that leads to salvation. What is the wide road? It is organized religion in any form. It is any group of persons who gather in three dimensional spaces at times set by man and not set by God. It is the people who believe God is a socialist. The wide road encompasses any group of people who say it is our way or get on the highway.

Who places us on the wide road? Ancestors who themselves were deceived? Parents who do what their parents did? Government who compromises with thus says the Lord in all they do? Teachers who indoctrinate and do not allow for the free exchange of information? Judges who forget God's mercy and grace? I can go on and on. Point being, the narrow path is one of sacrifice. Would you rather serve in heaven or reign on Earth? Service to Elohim is what is required for entrance into God's eternal Kingdom to be ruled by Yeshua Ha Messiah. It begins by answering the still soft voice of God to believe Jesus Christ died to pay the only debt that matters when you die: Your sin debt to God the Father!

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. What is the glory of God? God alone is clothed in perfection. Lucifer was created perfect, until iniquity was found in him. He was the anointed cherub that covereth, clothed in beauty, every precious stone was his covering. Yet iniquity was found in his members. Lucifer decided it was better to rule on Earth than serve in heaven. The requirement for entrance into the kingdom has not changed. Choose this day whom you will serve: as for me and my house we will serve the Lord!

God does not save one person to allow that person to escape what Christians have endured since Stephen was martyred in Jerusalem. Christian witness is at the heart of salvation. God saves you to witness to a fallen world. Never be afraid to share the reason for the joy that is within you; His name is Jesus Christ. He is the third person of the trinity and he was the God-Man who entered our dimension of time to save us on a wooden cross erected in Judea in 32 A.D. on the Jewish Feast of Passover. Jesus Christ died to save the Jew first and then the Greek. The first-fruits of salvation were provided by God's fig tree: The nation of Israel. The first-fruits of the resurrection were Jews who had died believing in the coming Messiah to Jerusalem. After all he is the propitiation for sin for those who believe: Yesterday believing, today believing, and tomorrow believing. Jewish men and women are once again having their eyes opened by the Holy Spirit and receiving Messiah all over the world. Hallelujah! What has to change in America? The word of God needs to be resurrected in our Amilenial Christian churches. Pastors need to become Shepherds again? The two-edged Shepherd's crook of mercy and grace must again take its' rightful place in American Churches. The two-edged sword of God's word must be injected into public school! Our children must be given their weapons back! School shootings and teen pregnancy will become a thing practiced by unbelievers again. The quiet pulpits of 1963 are to blame for our fall into unbiblical morality. We have replaced God's desire to provide your child with a future, with Darwin's desire to separate your child from his or her God given destiny. And the government is on the side of Satan! Government in any form will never wash the feet of anyone!

Mahatma Gandhi once stated that the biggest obstacle to Christianity in India is Christians! I believe through constant endurance that he was right. It is the same phenomenon facing the church in America. A dying world cries out for leaders willing to separate themselves from the Protestant church model of denominations, and preach and teach the eternal message of God's salvation alone in Christ: Not salvation through church liturgy or church tradition. It was the church tradition to release a condemned man in exchange for God himself that led to Jesus Christ's crucifixion. The only Monotheistic church on Earth at the time of Jesus Christ advent was the temple in Jerusalem. The only place a man or woman could hear about the blood of the lamb saving them from all unrighteousness was the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. In America today, we separate into denominational thinking and practice the Greek idea of Christian eugenics. We believe our way must be the way God likes and we are entrenched in syncretism, following the Roman calendar combined with some Biblical truth. Jesus Christ worshipped on every Jewish feast to include the Jewish Seder meal he ate at His last supper. He is, was and will always be Jewish! He is the lamb that fulfilled Hebrew Liturgy. He will one day receive the Throne of Jewish King David in Jerusalem. He became the authorized High Priest of God's covenant at His water baptism. He spoke in tongues when he taught in parables. He is the Aleph and the Tau, the alpha and the omega, He is the beginning and the end and His name is Yeshua Ha Messiah! I have lived in Lancing Tennessee for 16 months now. I moved here in the hope that I could share my faith in Jesus Christ and help the churches get back to a solid Biblical foundation. No one to include God would build their house upon a broken foundation. We must determine through scripture alone if our foundation is in need of repair. In construction, fixing a foundation costs the most money and takes the most labor with problems surfacing daily as a foundation is established. The church has gotten comfortable compromising with the fallen church of American government.

Christians dependent on social security disability, living a hand to mouth existence, while the Church preaches seedtime and harvest as tied to Earthly blessing through monetary gain! Blasphemy! We are in this world but not of this world! The world is secure in wealth and things which moth and rust decay not the kingdom of God! I have been invited to Church by 72 people in Wartburg and not one person has shared with me their testimony as to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. I pray for the people in church trapped by dogma and church tradition intertwined with the unhealthy worship of government as god. My patriotism had morphed into an obsolete form of idol worship! My God is The Elohim of creation! He died for me. Government has only ever profited from death in any form. I profit from the death of God alone! It is time for Teshuva! A Biblical return to sound doctrine contained in Genesis. Elevate Jesus Christ to His rightful place as the creator in Genesis 1. Repent for the kingdom of God is near. To repent is to understand where it all went wrong. Jesus Christ explains where it all went wrong in his 7 letters to the 7 churches in the book of Revelation. At Ephesus we lost our first love in exchange for church doctrines. At Smyrna we endured persecution at the hands of the religious leaders and the government hierarchy who had the most to lose. But we gained eternal life! At Pergamos we married the government and the fallen world system to escape persecution. Nothing has changed. The church today is married to the government who provides tax breaks even though Jesus Christ required the Apostles to render unto Caesar those things that belong to Caesar. Silent Amillennial pulpits will return us to true church persecution and the fruit of our testimony of saving grace in Jesus Christ blood will again become a fruit of repentance. Persecution is your lot as a professing Christian, wear it on your sleeve and celebrate for eternal life is your reward! Thyatira is where Christianity became the state religion. It was Roman Emperor Constantine who dealt the death blow to our Christian testimony when he named Christianity the state religion of Rome. Jesus Christ separated church and state when he washed the disciple's feet! It is at Thyatira that Jesus Christ implores Christians to learn about Ahab and Jezebel.

They are the model Jesus Christ uses to understand he is married to his bride forever, and that bride is a virgin bride who has not followed other gods to include the gods of Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day, Halloween, birthday's, and all other holidays that venerate the pantheon of Babylonian fertility deities. Ahab was a man who once followed the god of his ancestors. He became king in Israel and married Jezebel and she introduced Ahab to the fertility deities and had Ahab install Pagan altars for the sacrifice of Hebrew young on superheated Bronze altars. The Hebrews offered their young as babies, we do it in the convenient altar of the womb of a mother. Jezebel desired power over her male king. She was the world's finest feminist at the time. Ahab desired a piece of real estate and Jezebel had a plan to get it. She carried out a total inquisition to separate Naboth from the inheritance God had promised him: His vineyard in Jerusalem. It is the pattern of every satanic leader in history who sought to separate the Jews from the land God promised they would inherit. The Nazi's did it in World War II, Ferdinand and Isabella did it in 1492, Stalin did it in 1951 and America under the man of lawlessness will do it one day and seal their fate in the annals of gentile history. Hillary Clinton and Bill Clinton are the modern-day Ahab and Jezebel. No one in American history followed the Biblical pattern of Ahab and Jezebel beginning with the murder of Vince Foster over a real estate deal in Arkansas and Bill Clinton once claimed to know Jesus Christ as Savior. Hillary Clinton was head of the largest fertility cult in history: Planned parenthood. These people believe in a world God does not support!

Thyatira today exists in Washington D.C. masquerading as people who

believe in God just not the God of the Bible! Thyatira leads us to the Church of Sardis which in history is the Protestant Reformation Church. Martin Luther may have introduced us to salvation alone through grace by faith but he became rabidly anti-Semitic and separated Jesus Christ from His Jewish heritage as the future king of Israel. Jesus Christ says the reformation church is a DEAD church in need of 1 John 5:4 The blood of the lamb to cleanse them from all unrighteousness. Dead things want you to share in their dead existence. The doctrine of replacement theology is one God despises. God has not replaced Israel: On the contrary he is saving the world one testimony at a time. To group people into tribes and denominations is against the teachings of the Bible. Socialism in any form denies God can reach any soul any time! Socialism in church is the worst form of Eugenic tribalism and keeps people from experiencing the power of the gospel. All 19 main line American denominations need to return to sound Hebrew methods of interpretation and move away from Greek minded eugenics unknowingly taught at American seminaries. But First Teshuva! Repent and return! Hallelujah. The church of Sardis gave birth to the church of Philadelphia; The Missionary Church. It is the Puritan Church founded at Plymouth Rock by Jewish believers and Puritan English settlers escaping persecution at the hands of reformation churches in England. The Mayflower compact gave us the foundations that led to our revolution and eventual freedom from the yoke of English monarchy. Christians should never be republican or democrat. They should be Monarchist's first: Believing in a coming Jewish King and His name is Yeshua. To understand Philadelphia is to understand America through God's eyes. I grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I visited the monuments to our founding often and learned of the men who gave us liberty. Their idea of liberty was the individual ability to worship the God of the Bible on your private property without fear of a usurper government taking away your free speech about the God of the Bible.

The way you secured your right to worship God on your private property was your Right to bear Arms. The Bill of Rights protects Judeo-Christians First and foremost for that is who settled America! To deny this fact is to deny truth. God settled America with Judeo-Christians because it has always been his will to protect a remnant of believers willing to die for the testimony of God's Messiah: Jesus Christ. So was born the Missionary Church in America. No country in history sent more people to the fallen world than America. It is time for America to return to its missionary calling. No one else in the world will do it! This also led to the greatest influx of pagan people to our shores in history. People stopped coming here for Godly reasons. Instead, they came to worship at the cult of Mithras and serve at fertility altars. They came to be under the protection of the god of fortresses. They came to stop God's message of hope in Yeshua ha messiah from spreading. The ones who came escaping socialist persecutions have assimilated well and joined in the worship of God. Those who came seeking wealth, have pillaged our coffers and brought drugs, death, polytheism and chaos. Today polytheists have control of our ports, our gas stations, our convenience stores and they take our wealth back to their polytheist homes in India and China and Russia and throughout the world. They do not serve the god we serve! I believe in missionary outreach. I believe in America it is best served when we serve poor Jews and poor believers in Christ on a local level first. Find out who God says we are to love and then find out if Jesus Christ is coming back as a lion or as a lamb. His days as a lamb ended on calvary! The Philadelphia church is the church who showed love to believers in Yeshua and because they showed believers unconditional love, unbelievers came to Christ! In Philadelphia is where Christianity put the horse back in front of the cart and we enjoyed the greatest harvest of souls in human history. Philadelphia is promised it will not go through the tribulation of Revelation 4-21. Hallelujah! Let us return to Philadelphia as believers!

Laodicea is the Apostate church. They have no need of God's mercy or grace for they have their immense wealth and have need of nothing God offers. Their salvation is found in their own ability to preach -3- part sermons that neither chasten believers back to biblical truth or place them on a path to sanctification or glorification. Laodicea is an interesting character in history. She is the wife of Antiochus Epiphanes. He is the Greek King who ruled over most of the Middle east in 170 B.C. He was confronted by the Roman Senator Philotus in 168 B.C. about the Egyptian question. Philotus drew a line in the sand around Antiochus as to his intentions of ruling Egypt and demanded an answer before Antiochus left the circle. Antiochus gave up Egypt, however on his way back to Assyria he persecuted the Jews mercilessly. It led to the Maccabean revolt of 168 and eventual setting up of the abomination that causes desolation in Jerusalem. He had set up a statue of Zeus in the Holy of Holies and sacrificed an unclean pig on the brazen Altar. At this time, he also divorced Laodicea: Something God hates. God will never divorce his true bride. Laodicea was an example of an Apostate Church. The Gentile church began in Acts Chapter 2 and ends in Laodicea! It begins with the Acts of the Apostles and ends with the Acts of the Apostates. Hallelujah!

Apostacy manifest in America when they opened the Museum of the Bible. Museum's worldwide celebrate things from the past. Is Gods' Bible a thing of the past? Have you relegated the Bible to something of the past in favor of Roman Church tradition? Who was the first Apostate Christian? None other than Judas himself. He sold Jesus Christ for 30 pieces of silver yet today prosperity preachers ride in personal jets. Jesus Christ walked everywhere he went! These Apostate preachers have their inheritance and reward and neither is heavenly! Apostacy is anything that replaces the worship of God and his message contained in the word of God. It replaces creator worship with the melding of creator with creation. Discern the difference and you will be on the path to God. I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other God's before me. We must return to the Acts of the Apostles and be willing to die for our testimony and stop serving our wealth! Release yourself from the burden of keeping up with the Joneses in church and your children will gain a healthy understanding of God's will for their life. He will provide all of your needs according to his riches in glory: He will never provide you with anything you worship more than Him! To include your ministry.

Americans crave absolute truth and for too long the denominational church has peddled easy lies. Nothing easy about following the whole Bible, and that is why Jesus Christ had to die as the unblemished lamb of God. He had to settle a score with Lucifer so he created humans. We are the replacement worshippers on Earth. We worship God best when we understand what Christianity is and what it is not. It is available to every person ever born of a woman. Christianity was never intended to transfer God's ability alone to judge sin, to you, so you could judge sinners in the flesh. On the contrary. Jesus Christ reminds us he came into the world not to condemn the world, but through his death the world might be saved. He requires mercy and not sacrifice. Sin is everywhere in the world to include church. Jesus Christ died to give us a compass direction to view ourselves in the mirror of human history. He did not die to give you the right to condemn sinners. If you look in the mirror and you do not see the crucified, risen Lamb of God in your reflection, church will never fix that. Only humility gained through a life of human empathy will fix your barren soul. Some churches are great at planting the seeds of justification, and fall short in the realm of sanctification and eventual glorification. A relationship with the creator of everything ever created is what is needed. His name is Jesus Christ. He was crucified on a cross of wood yet he created the hill upon which it stood! RLTW John Burns even so come Lord Jesus Christ 3-29-2020

Staff Sergeant John Burns enlisted into the United States Army on September 23, 1987 as an IIC 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 Locomotive No. 418's steam dome

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Following is part of an ongoing series about the 1944 troop train wreck in Highcliff, Tenn.

My journey of discovery that started with Bill Sergeant's suggestion that I do a story on the July 6, 1944, troop train wreck has resulted in my meeting several most interesting and delightful people. I have learned substantially more about the event than I ever expected to uncover.

Last week's story of Leon Hatcher's difficult recollections about his personal experience, transporting the injured soldiers, was one of the unexpected but very rewarding aspects of my research.

Earlier, the story of Jim Tidwell, likely the very first responder to the wreck — something that also changed his life forever and resulted in his lifelong dedication to those soldiers who lost their lives, especially the 34 individuals identified in the Jellico Veterans Memorial — was told by his son, Mark Tidwell.

This week we will explore the single lasting artifact of the troop train wreck remaining in Highcliff, and how it came to be a flowerpot in Tidwell's yard. Furthermore, Tidwell will share his desires for the artifact's future.

Mark Tidwell has the steam dome from the No. 418 locomotive which pulled the No. 47 L&N Troop Train that wrecked July 6, 1944, at Highcliff, Tenn., as it passed the small town heading into the gorge known locally as the Jellico Narrows. The steam dome that sat atop the locomotive was knocked off by the initial contact with the river bed's enormous boulders. It was not retrieved when the rest of the locomotive and derailed railroad cars were removed from the Clear Fork River's boulder strewn riverbed.

This unusual fragment of the historic troop train wreck is an artifact that has tremendous historic significance. Right now, it continues the role to which it has been relegated for the past several years: It is a flowerpot!

There is quite a story tied to this steam dome, as you might imagine. It seems that some time shortly after the train had been removed from the river, the steam dome was noticed lying at the bottom of a pool in the river. John P. Ascher, in his book "She Jumped the Tracks," tells the story by saying on page 35 that Jim Tidwell "... tells of how Elbert Gibson, weeks after the wreck was cleared, with a pair of mules, got the 418's steam dome cover out of the river bottom. Bill Provins acquired it and by 1960 it passed into Hazel Ross' hands."

At the time of his writing this book, Ascher noted, "Glen and Hazel display flowers of the season in their Highcliff front yard, beautifully arranged in 418's inverted dome cover."

Mark Tidwell came into possession of the steam dome after Hazel's death. He provided the following account of the dome's history and possible future: "In my earliest childhood memories (I was born in '64) the steam dome sat at the back of the Chambers' house (later known as the Ross house after Hazel Chambers married Glenn Ross). The gutter from the house ran into the dome and it held a ready supply of water. Chambers had a big German shepherd dog named Prince and he often dipped in the dome on hot days."

"Sometime, and I can't rightly say when, it was moved to the front of the house, where it became a big flowerpot," Tidwell stated. "This was probably after Hazel married Ross and he had cleaned up around the house and rearranged things."

"It got a lot of attention after Ascher wrote the book and the Veterans Monument dedication," Tidwell continued. "Several people tried to buy it from the Rosses. I really can't say for sure why, but Hazel told me one day that upon her death I was to get the steam dome, if I'd promise it would stay in Highcliff, not be sold, and remain part of the community's history."

"She soon went to the nursing home and later passed away. Her husband Glenn never men-

tioned the dome for a couple of years," Tidwell stated. "Then one day out of the blue he came down and said 'Come help me load up your pot and we'll bring it down here.' That was about 2004 the best I remember. Mr. Ross has been dead over a year now."

"As an aside, my most pertinent memory of Mr. Ross was his fear of ever being cold again. He served in World War II and was a participant in the Battle of the Bulge, where he experienced some of the coldest weather of the last century. He was severely frostbitten and wounded. He would haul his coal in June and July getting ready for the coming winter. Cold weather really and truly scared the man! It was a phobia he



Mark Tidwell rests his foot on the steam dome from No. 418 locomotive that crashed into the boulders of Clear Fork River (Photo Submitted)

took to the grave. The piece of mortar shrapnel in his breastbone at long last worked out and was removed a couple of years before he died."

"Several people have tried to buy the dome from me. But it is not for sale. My wife and I will see in the next few years that it goes to a proper place for display. We would certainly prefer it stay in the Jellico area," Tidwell said. "I just retouched the paint on the L&N 418 logo. I can't say if it is the original paint job or just put on later. Just too many years and too many hands involved."

As you can see, the steam dome has a storied past and is a fitting historic artifact of the train wreck. I am sure Tidwell will arrange for a suitable permanent location to house and display the dome. As part of my research into this story, I wanted to find that steam dome and also wanted to photograph the wreck site for myself. On a Friday afternoon, recently, I drove to Jellico and took Highway 25W south. About three miles from town a most amazing sight greets one. High cliffs at the top of mountain ridges begin to loom out of the distance and become prominent and impressive the closer you get to the Jellico Narrows.

Not being familiar with the road, I slowly drove into the curves that trace the Clear Fork River as the mountains closed in on the railroad, the river and the highway leaving barely enough room for the three of them to run through the gorge. A couple of cars caught up with me as I slowly searched the road bank for signs of the wreck scene. I soon passed a very small sign no more than a foot square with "train wreck" written on it.

There was a pull-off on the left barely large enough for one car and I had passed it before I recognized what it was.

So, I continued through the Jellico Narrows with the two cars tight on my rear end. I was looking for a place to turn around. The first wide spot in the road I saw came up on the right and I pulled off the road planning to turn around. Well, the first car behind me pulled off also right behind me. I waited for the second car that was trailing me to pass and then I made a U-turn to head back through the narrows.

The person who had been forced to stop behind me had his head out of the car and his arm raised while saying something to me. I slowed, lowered my window and asked him what he said, thinking he was asking me a question. What he said while shaking his fist at me was "This ain't no turn-a-round." I just said "sorry" and drove off. Guess I had made him mad, but I sure didn't mean to ... I just wanted to get back to the wreck scene.

My reason for telling you this little story is to bring up the fact that Jellico is known as a helpful town. The town uses their response to the 1944 Troop Train Wreck as an example of the spirit of the town, and correctly so. Yet, even in a town known for its helpfulness, it seems there may be at least one less than helpful person.

On the last page of "She Jumped the Tracks" there is an article reprinted from The Advance-Sentinel, published May 23, 1924, where Jellico is said to be the "City with a Soul." Here is an excerpt from that article: "I have seen men and women working through the night some of whom one would not dream of working as they did; with no thought of anything except to relieve the suffering. I have seen them work fifty and sixty hours without stopping at all, served food by the Red Cross among the wreckage while they worked ... I have seen a city with a soul. I am happy that I am a citizen of that city." Citizens of Jellico, Highcliff, Lake City, Clinton and the military of Oak Ridge all were "cities with souls" in responding to this horrible tragedy in their midst.

Mark Tidwell also told me more about Elmer "Dobey" Chambers, the deputy sheriff of Highcliff, who never drove a car. He also did not let his daughter, Hazel Ross (who gave Mark the steam dome), drive. Mark said that Dobey hitchhiked everywhere he went. Dobey will undoubtedly be the subject of an upcoming Historically Speaking column, along with the story of the "Gold Digger" — a .45 caliber pistol with a huge story which even has a slight connection to the train wreck.

Speaking of the "Gold Digger" pistol, Mark also introduced me to the tale of the Jonathan Swift Silver Mine. In the early 1700s, a Frenchman was captured by the Cherokee and saw a vein of silver somewhere near Jellico, so the story goes.

After three years with the Cherokee, the Frenchman marked the mine's location and escaped the Cherokee. In the mid-1700s, the Frenchman took Swift (a silversmith) with him to relocate the mine. Swift declared the mine the richest he had ever seen. They smelted some of the silver into two horse loads of French crowns and brought them out of the mountains. When they later attempted to relocate the mine, they could not do so.

Swift spent the rest of his life looking for the lost mine, and to this day there are folks who are venturing into the woods around Jellico still looking for the richest silver mine Jonathan Swift ever saw. Yet another future story in Historically Speaking!

Next week I would like to give you some additional details from "She Jumped the Track." And lastly, I would like to give you my personal conclusions regarding the actual cause of the terrible troop train wreck.

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.

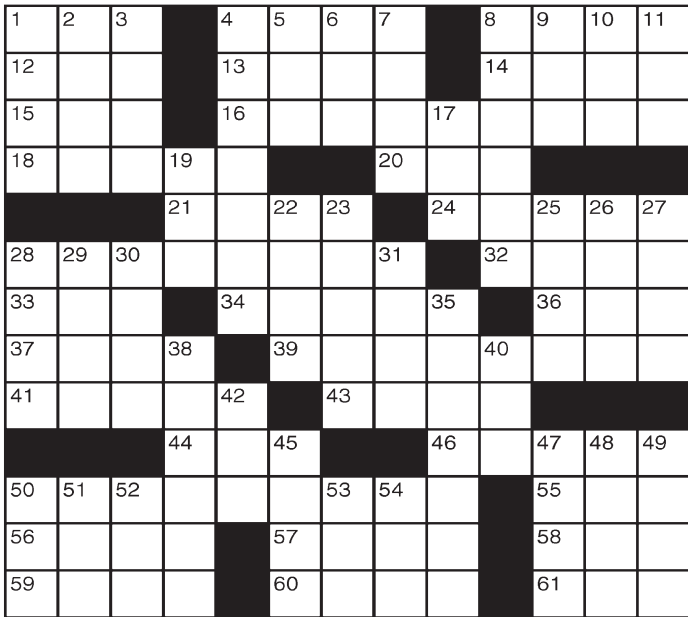
Oak Ridge began in war, has continued to support our nation's efforts through the Cold War, and even now in the age of terrorism. Oak Ridge has also produced nuclear medicine, nuclear power and fuel for the US Navy nuclear submarines and ships.

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 June honoree
- 4 Say it's so
- 8 Pretzel topper
- 12 Past
- 13 Travel permit
- 14 Done with
- 15 Brock of baseball
- 16 Alaskan city
- 18 Heron's kin
- 20 Army address
- 21 Dalai —
- 24 Slow, in music
- 28 Right to vote
- 32 Cash advance
- 33 201, in old Rome
- 34 Heat to near boiling
- 36 GOP org.
- 37 Priestly vestments
- 39 Cheap ride section
- 41 "Yum!"
- 43 Novelist
- 44 Steal from
- 46 Cowboy's workplace
- 50 Spur on
- 55 Tic-tac-toe win
- 56 Nerd's kin
- 57 Hostels
- 58 Hooting bird
- 59 Big wind



- 60 Track tipster
- 61 Carrier to Amsterdam
- 10 Table support
- 11 Three, in Rome
- 17 Texas tea
- 19 Sprite
- 22 PC alternatives
- 23 Marble type
- 25 Asta's feeder
- 26 Tart flavor
- 27 As soon as
- 28 "Shoo!"
- 29 Bruins' sch.
- 30 Little lies
- 31 Mountain ht.
- 35 Most loved
- 38 Painter's motion
- 40 Genetic letters
- 42 Thee
- 45 Telly watcher
- 47 Cranny
- 48 Batman's hood
- 49 Actress
- 50 Celeste
- 51 Early bird?
- 52 Cartoon frame
- 53 Yucatan year
- 54 Wildebeest

DOWN

- 1 Valley
- 2 Awestruck
- 3 Gloomy
- 4 Online images
- 5 Sportscaster
- 6 Computer key
- 7 Stadium
- 8 Reddish-brown horse
- 9 "Selma"
- director
- DuVernay
- Table support
- Three, in Rome
- Texas tea
- Sprite
- PC alternatives
- Marble type
- Asta's feeder
- Tart flavor
- As soon as
- "Shoo!"
- Bruins' sch.
- Little lies
- Mountain ht.
- Most loved
- Painter's motion
- Genetic letters
- Thee
- Telly watcher
- Cranny
- Batman's hood
- Actress
- Celeste
- Early bird?
- PBS funder
- Cartoon frame
- Yucatan year
- Wildebeest

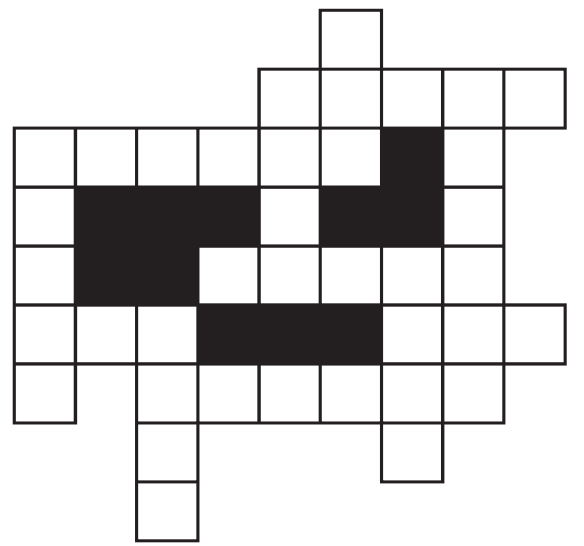
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FEAR & TRIVIA

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

- GPI
- TAPUNE
- ♥ATBES
- ♥LUBR
- ♥ERSBIT
- ILT
- ♥TPSA
- MOIBL
- ♥OBN
- ♥ALMRUB
- ROGPN
- ♥UGEL



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

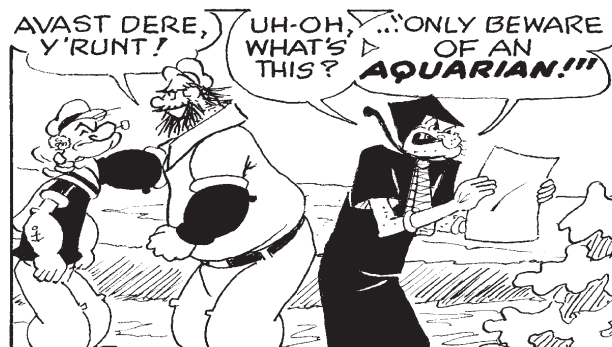
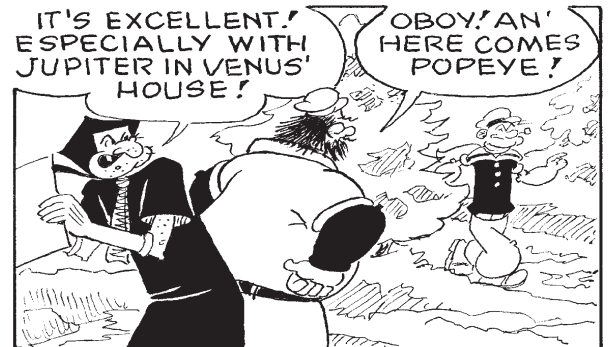
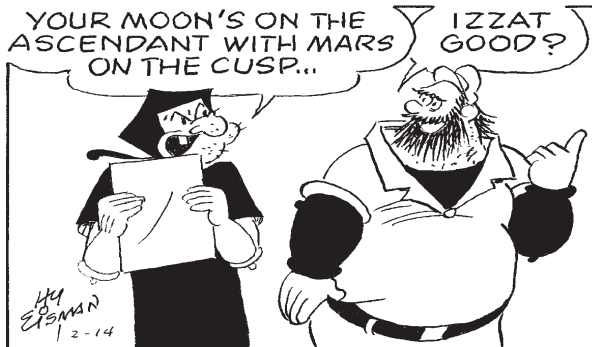
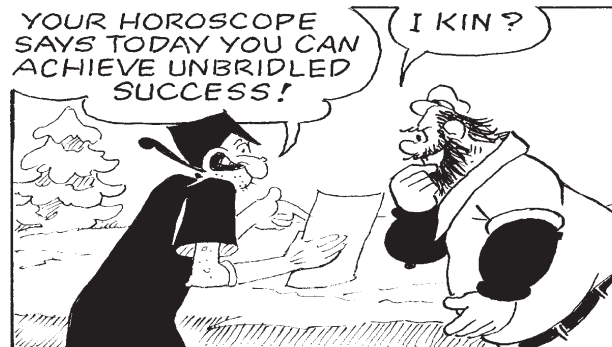
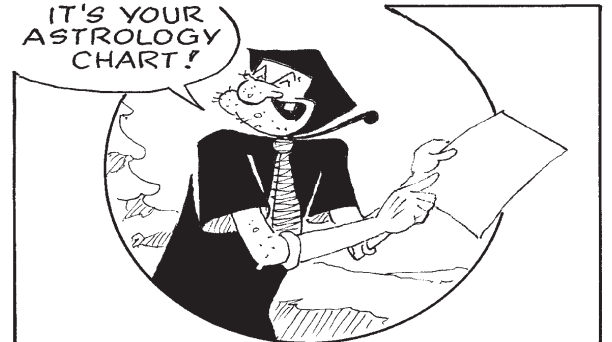
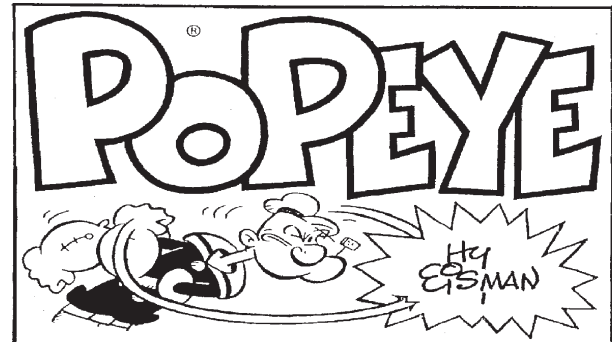
	5		6			7
		2		9	8	
8		4				6
5		8				3
		1		7	2	
	4		3	2		1
2			9			4
	6			2	7	
		7	5			1

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 & TRIVIA

answer



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

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

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MSG Fred Mize

Every day, everyone must make hundreds if not thousands of choices. Most of them go unnoticed and are made with little or no thought at all but all the same the choices must be made. There are other choices that are made with more thought but may make very little change in your life. Then, we come to very important choices, life changing choices, choices that take place when you find yourself at a crossroad. The

crossroad may appear suddenly out of the blue but once it's there a decision must be made no matter how much you'd like to believe you may not have to decide. You can't decide to stay where you are. You must make a decision. If you decide to go forward, left or right your life will be forever different than if you made a different decision. Once you make one of these major decisions your often committed and there's no turning back. Scary, isn't it. Some examples of these crossroads may be; career or college choices, a decision to enlist into the military, a decision to get married or even

divorced, a decision of where to attend church, choices to decide if you have a child or even adopt or foster a child. Sadly, you may find yourself



with a major illness and be faced with deciding if you receive treatment or not. You may be in a life changing accident and must decide how you will face recovery. All of these choices are

important, if not life changing but there is still one more important choice. A choice that affects your life like no other. A choice that is truly eternal.

That choice is if you accept to believe that Jesus Christ is God in the flesh and died for your sins so that you may be saved and blessed with eternal life.

Isaiah 44:22
22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

I Timothy 2:1-6
1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. John 3:16
16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Now that you are at your most important crossroad in your life, what will you decide?

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

Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

Maude Frost



February 20th will mark one year since my granny, Maude Frost, went home to be with the Lord. Time does heal wounds, but her memories will never be forgotten. I wrote an article last year about her legacy on my life. I could honestly write a book on her impact, but wanted to take this moment to shine a little light behind her life. It's a good reflection and hopefully this will encourage others to live with passion and purpose.

My granny had a generous heart. I remember many times she would cook large amounts of food and give away meals to neighbors and her family up on Greasy Creek. She loved to cook, but I think she also enjoyed providing meals to others. I remember when I came home from college, she still would get my milk for me. She wanted me to enjoy my food and not get up from the table. Granny would take care of my dishes promptly and she wanted to wash her own dishes. She was a clean freak and didn't want anyone touching her dishes.

Granny's favorite holiday was Christmas. She enjoyed buying gifts and also enjoyed receiving them. Granny was like a kid when it came to Christmas; she would be the one pressing me to open our gifts early. Thanksgiving her relatives always drew names out of a hat. She loved this time. Granny made the names every year and wanted

to know who drew who's name. This process was supposed to be a secret, but she would try to figure out which relative got her name.

My aunt Lena and her walked a lot. They used to walk in parks and around Greasy Creek. Granny enjoyed long walks and she walked at a really fast pace. I remember often times they would walk for miles just chatting, watching nature, and enjoying the sunny weather. When Aunt Lena wasn't available, she would walk with her friends and relatives. She really enjoyed the outdoors. She always loved flowers and her rose bushes. Granny enjoyed planting, digging, watering, fertilizing, and watching her flowers grow each day.

We fought a lot about the restaurant bill. I usually won, but she was pretty persistent about wanting to pay for our lunch and dinner. Granny worked very hard for her money; she was very independent and didn't really like people paying for her. We fought over the bill almost every single meal. She always paid for my meal as a kid, so I never wanted her to pay for my meal as an adult.

Granny loved her family and church very much. She was happy when she moved back to Tennessee. She went back to her childhood church, Elizabeth Baptist Church. Church was her Sunday routine and she rarely deviated from attending when the doors were open. Her faith was always very important to her and a big part of her life. Granny wanted the

best for her daughters and grandkids. She would do anything for us or if we ever needed anything, she was always there for us. The good news is she is still with us; she's looking down on us from heaven.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." - Revelation 21:4

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



Well, the weather was definitely exciting last week. Rain, sleet, snow and very cold! Morgan County Schools were not in session on Monday in observance of President's Day and then they were closed the rest of the week due to weather conditions. I read something on Facebook that I think describes our recent days perfectly. It was "I feel like we are living in a snow globe and someone keeps shaking it." This week is much better. Enjoy!

West Side Baptist Church will host an Easter Celebration Friday, April 2 from 12:00 – 2:00. There will be Resurrection Eggs, The Easter Story, Good Food and an Easter Egg Hunt. Everyone is welcome. Be sure to take your Easter Basket.

Bunt and I enjoyed a visit with Joe, Valerie and Maura Lake in Fayetteville, NC over the Valentine/President's Day weekend. We celebrated Maura's 14th birthday early. Her birthday is February 26. It was a very rainy weekend so we enjoyed playing games in front of the fireplace and of course eating good food. We are thankful for safe travels and good family time.

Happy Birthday to Mrs. Vera Scarbrough who celebrates her birthday this Friday, February 26. Everyone wishes you a wonderful day Mrs. Vera!

Congratulations to Mickey Bingham on his recent win of a Valentine Steak Dinner from UGO in Harriman. He won the food and he and Jeanie prepared it at home. They said it was very good.

It was nice seeing Melissa Coffey Stewart Saturday. We were both enjoying watching our granddaughters, Clara Ruppe and Ellie Frasier, play basketball. Thank you Melissa for your kind words about this column.

Happy Birthday to Granny Irene Helton on March 4. She will be 98 years young. If you would like to send her a card, please reach out to me for her address. She would be tickled to receive a mailbox full of birthday wishes.

Happy Birthday to Lois Wilder, Brian Langley and Rita Turner who have a birthday on March 1. Kimberly Bingham Hall and Amelia Comer Guenther have birthdays on March 2. Kristy Smith, Judy Bingham and Misty Beach celebrate their birthdays on March 4.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Lamar Johns who passed away February 10. He is survived by his wife, Melissa Johns, sons Andrew Johns and Jimmy Dyer and his daughter, Brendana Dyer. Services were held Tuesday, February 16 at Davis Funeral Home in Harriman and interment was on Wednesday at the Johns Family Cemetery in Oakdale.

Condolences to the family of Chris Powers who passed away Sunday, February 14. Chris was the son of Trish Powers and the late Dewayne Powers. In addition to his mother, he is survived by his daughters, Caylie and Aubrie Robbins, his sister, Sophia Powers and his grandmothers, Shirley Powers and Sue True. He is also survived by many other friends and relatives. Services were held Sunday, February 21 at Evans Mortuary. Interment followed in the Powers Family Cemetery in Oakdale.

As always, there is much to pray about. Before asking God for anything, remember to thank Him for the many blessings of life we enjoy.

"Good friends help you to find important things when you have lost them your Smile, your Hope, and your Courage." ~Doc Zantamata

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

Acts Chapter 21

(Acts 21:1-6) from Miletus to Phoenicia: Paul and his traveling companions left Miletus and sailed around the southwestern coast of Asia Minor. At Patara on the coast of Lycia, they changed vessels. They veered southward across the blue Mediterranean, sailing under the island of Cyprus, finally touching on the Syrian coast of Phoenicia at Tyre. A band of disciples was located there and the group stayed with them a week. The brethren warned him of impending danger at Jerusalem, but the courageous apostle was determined to go on.

(Acts 21:7-14) from Tyre to Caesarea: Paul and his group then sailed thirty miles on down the Palestinian coast, stopping at Ptolemais and visiting with Christians there. The next day, they cruised on down to Caesarea where Philip the evangelist lived (6:5), and lodged with him several days. Presently Agabus, Judean prophet, came down (11:27-29). He took Paul's sash or belt and bound his own feet and hands as a symbol of what was to happen to Paul at Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit declared that the Jews there would bind God's apostle and turn him over to the Roman authorities.

Luke says that when they heard this distressing news, both the group accompanying Paul and the saints of Caesarea persistently begged the apostle not to proceed on to the holy city. Their emotions overcame their confidence in divine revelation. Luke is honest to acknowledge his own weakness ("we" v.12). Paul urged them to stop their crying; he was ready to accept the Lord's will. However, history reveals that God gave him several more years. He wasn't finished with Paul. The brethren finally yielded to Heaven's will instead of their own (v. 14).

Acts 21:15-16) on to Jerusalem: after a short while, necessary arrangements were made, and the party left for Jerusalem, sixty-five miles to the southeast. The company included Paul's traveling companions and some friends from Caesarea. They would not let their beloved apostle make the trip alone, even knowing of the peril that awaited. One of these was Mnason of Cyprus, a long-standing disciple who apparently owned a house in Jerusalem that would accommodate all of them.

(Acts 21:17-26) arrival in Jerusalem: Luke affirms that when the company arrived at the sacred city, "the brethren received us gladly." Earlier, when Paul penned Romans, he asked for prayers that upon his arrival in Jerusalem, the "ministration", gifts of benevolence, "might be acceptable to the saints" (15:30-31; Acts 24:17). He was not disappointed. Their prayers had been answered. It was a time of wonderful rejoicing. The following day, there was a special meeting. The missionary group and the Jerusalem elders were there, together with James, Jesus' half-brother (chapter 15). The prominence of James is noted. Paul greeted the brethren and then, item-by-item, rehearsed the events of labors among the Gentiles, giving all glory to God. Eventually, through, they got around to telling the great apostle about a serious problem.

Over the past few years, thousands of Jews had converted to Christianity. However, they had not arrived at the full realization that the introduction of Christianity made the law of Moses inoperative. Accordingly, they still circumcised their children (as a covenant sign), and they observed many of the customs of the Mosaic regime. A report had been circulated that Paul taught that the Jews, especially those who lived in Gentile lands, should "forsake" Moses. "Moses" stands for the Old Testament regime. They apparently had concluded that Paul opposed any connection with the Hebrew system, which was not true. The apostle himself had circumcised Timothy to prevent offense to the Jews (16:3). Paul had not opposed observing certain elements of the law---Provided the intent was not to seek justification on that basis. He was not insensitive to the feelings of his Israelite kinsmen. But that had become his underserved reputation. Though James and the brethren did not agree with the assessment

that Paul radically opposed the law, they felt the matter needed remedy in some fashion.

Four Jewish men were about to undergo a purification ceremony in the temple. The brethren wondered if Paul would go with them, pay their temple fee, and go through the ritual himself (merely as an act of kindness) to help relieve the tension some harbored about him. The apostle agreed to do so and went. Here is the problem. Why would Paul, knowing that the Mosaic system was now redemptively void, submit to a purification ritual which would appear to convey the impression that Christ's blood was insufficient to cleanse? Some have charged that Paul, in going through this ceremony, sinned.

I do not believe this to be the case. (a) Not all "purification" involved the matter of sin. In a number of cases such a procedure was purely symbolic (Lev. 12:1; Lk. 2:22). (b) Later, in an inspired defense before a government official (Mt. 10:17-19), an appeal to this very incident was introduced. Was the inspired apostle led by the Spirit of God to defend a sin? (c) On occasion, Paul adopted a Hebrew procedure as a matter of expedience (not to effect justification). In order to accommodate a Jewish lack of knowledge, and in the higher interest of their souls, a graduated teaching process was employed (16:3; 1 Cor. 9:19-23). This was in a transitional period which required some cultural elasticity. (d) There is absolutely no evidence that this incident in any sense reflected an attempt on the apostle's part to facilitate forgiveness. That is the crux of this matter.

Jesus has all power (authority) in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18). Moses has none today. Whatever the apostles did bind or loose on earth by instruction from the Holy Spirit from heaven (Jn. 14:26; 15:26-27; 16:7 & 13), Jesus had already bound or loosed in heaven (Matt. 16:19). In Matthew 17:4 Peter suggested to Jesus, on the mountain of transfiguration, let us make three houses of worship, but God spoke out of a cloud having removed Moses and Elias from the scene saying: "this Jesus is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him." Tell the vision to no man, until I am risen again from the dead (Matt. 17:9; Rom. 7:4).

Galatians 5:1 "Stand fast therefore in the liberty (new covenant) wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" (the law of Moses). Luke 16:16 and Rom. 3:19-21

Galatians 5:4 "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." This includes the Sabbath days (Col. 2:16).

(Acts 21:27-40) Paul's arrest: during this time, Paul had frequented the temple complex. Some of the apostle's old enemies incited a riot and laid hands on him. They loudly charged that Paul was an opponent of Jews and the law of Moses. Moreover, they contended he had brought Greeks into the temple---simply because they earlier had seen Paul in the city with Trophimus the Ephesian (v. 28). A wild mob formed and the apostle was seized and dragged from the temple area. He would have been killed if not for providence (v. 31). A Roman official, Claudius Lysias (23:26), heard of the uproar and rushed to the scene with a band of soldiers. When the rioting Jews saw the military force, they immediately backed off.

The Roman captain had Paul chained for precautionary reasons while he investigated (v.33). As he attempted to solicit information, he concluded it was a vain venture because of the confusion. So he commanded Paul to be brought into the castle of Antonio while the frenzied crowd kept shouting, "Away with him" (v. 36).

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MELVIN HOWARD

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Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week

This week we honor United States Air Force Major Christy Wise as the veteran of the week. Maj. Wise is a determined airman that never quits.

Per the United States Air Force Academy, "Christy Wise was born in Reno, Nevada and grew up with a twin sister and younger brother, spending all their time skiing and playing sports. For college, Christy attended the United States Air Force Academy where she ski raced and played club softball. In 2009, she commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force and in 2011, she received her pilot wings to fly the HC-130. She spent the next couple years stationed in Valdosta Georgia, and deployed to Afghanistan and Italy."

Tragically after her deployment to Afghanistan she was in a terrible boating accident which changed her life forever.

"About five years ago I lost my leg in a boating accident on vacation. I just got back from deployment to Afghanistan and I almost lost my life and lost my leg on vacation," said Wise in an interview with KKTV news.

After her boating accident she spent eight months in rehab relearning how to walk and run. She also wanted to get back in the air as an Air Force pilot. She knew that it was a military possibility because five male amputee pilots of done so before her but she would be the first female amputee to regain flight status. In 2016 Maj. Wise achieved her goal and took back to the skies.

What a hero and inspiration to anyone that has a life altering experience but has the heart and determination to never give up on their dreams and goals.

Morgan County Today is thankful to learn of Maj. Wise and her tremendous accomplishment. For this we praise and honor her as an American hero.



Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

This week we honor a fallen hometown hero, Charles David Laxton whom was called to rest on January 30, 2021. When we honor Charles as a hero, we don't use the word hero lightly but uphold the world with the highest esteem. For Charles served our state and community in numerous law enforcement capacities spanning over forty years while serving at; the Harriman Police Department, the Fairfield Glad Police Department, Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary, and the

Tennessee Highway Patrol. Charles was a graduate of Harriman High School (Class of 1975) and earned a degree in Criminal Justice from Roane State Community College. Charles was a fine example to all whom he came into contact with. He lived a life filled with cour-



age but most importantly a life filled with love and family. He loved and cherished

Misty, and Chasity along with his grandchildren Lexi, Aiden, Reagan, Jaxon, and Radie. Morgan County Today and Morgan County humbly thank Charles and his family for the love, dedication, and sacrifices they made for the betterment of our community for the past forty years. We send them God's love and comfort during this difficult time of healing.

his wife Cheryl and their children David, Courtney,

Importance of being Efficient with the IRS



David Zubler

You can help yourself by efficiently engaging with the IRS. The IRS has been overwhelmed with processing tax returns and answering phone calls as a result of the pandemic. The IRS phone lines are known for notoriously long waits during tax season in normal years. However, this is not a normal year. The IRS received more than 7 million more phone calls in January 2021 than it did in January 2020. The additional calls are due to several reasons.

The IRS is normally receiving calls about questions concerning the current tax year. But now the IRS is swamped from answering questions from people who have still not received their 2019 refund. At one point after the IRS shutdown from the Corona virus, they had over 10 million pieces of mail to process.

Due to the shutdown, the IRS notices of penalties and interest were mailed to taxpayers later than normal. Consequently, people are calling the IRS later than normal to inquire about the late penalties and interest.

In addition to receiving calls about late refunds, the IRS is receiving calls from people who have not received their stimulus. Unfortunately, a decade of declining funding for the IRS and the effects of a paralyzing pandemic has created a major dilemma for the IRS and taxpayers.

A likely third round of stimulus payments will only generate more phone calls and add to the problem.

Consequently, it's important to be as efficient as possible when filing your return and getting information from the IRS.

By e-filing your return, you can normally expect to receive your refund in a week or two. Mailing your return could create a huge delay. As of late January, the IRS still hasn't processed millions of 2019 tax returns. Rather than call the IRS, it can be much more efficient to obtain information by using the IRS website. The website provides information about the status of tax returns and can also be used if you need to know the amount of stimulus that you have received. The website can be used for other activities such as setting up an installment agreement. Using the website when possible can provide answers and solutions in minutes rather than waiting for hours or days.

By e-filing and using the IRS website as much as possible you will be helping yourself and helping others who don't have the ability to efile or who truly need to speak to the IRS. And you will help to make it possible for the IRS to fulfill their duties to the public in a more efficient manner. An advantage of using a tax professional is that they may be willing to help you by calling the IRS on the Tax Practitioner Hotline. Normally they can

get through to the IRS in a matter of minutes. However, tax season is an extremely busy time for tax professionals and it would be best for you to use the IRS website whenever possible.

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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