

# Morgan County Today

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75¢

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February 9, 2021

## MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK

Tue 09	54°/39°	☁
Wed 10	53°/48°	☔
Thu 11	50°/36°	☔
Fri 12	45°/30°	☀
Sat 13	42°/24°	☁
Sun 14	41°/20°	☀
Mon 15	41°/28°	☔



Veteran of the Week  
Sarah Kociuba



LEO of the Week  
FBI Agents



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

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## Inside This Edition

Obits	Page 2
Local	Page 3
History	Page 4
Games	Page 5
Faith, Family	
Freedom	Page 6
American	
Heritage	Page 8
Heroes	Page 9
Trending	Page 10



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## Amber Manis Enters Guilty Plea in 2018 Morgan County Vehicular Homicide Case

Wartburg, TN (Monday, February 1, 2021) – District Attorney General Russell Johnson announced that Amber Manis (37 YOF) entered a guilty plea today before Judge Jeff Wicks in Morgan County Criminal Court in a criminal case stemming from a vehicle crash on Airport Road in the afternoon of November 10, 2018. The wreck was a head on collision involving Manis as the driver and sole occupant of a Chrysler mini-van that swerved into the opposite lane where a Mazda Protégé was being driven by Joseph Jones (40 YOM) with his 11 year old niece as a passenger. Jones was killed instantly and the passenger suffered non-life threatening injuries. Manis was taken by LifeStar to UT Hospital where she later recovered from her injuries.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol Critical Incident Team responded to the scene at the request of the request of the THP troopers who initially were called to work the crash. A search warrant was obtained by THP for a blood draw on Manis to determine her blood-alcohol level and for the presence of prescription or illegal drugs to further determine what other intoxicants might be in her system. The analysis of her blood at the TBI Forensics Lab determined manis to be negative for alcohol and the drug toxicology determined that Ms. Manis had .05 ug/ml of methamphetamine, 253 ng/ml of diazepam, 92 ng/ml of nordiazepam, 11 ng/ml of temazepam, and 2 ng/ml of

oxymorphone in her system. Manis was charged with vehicular homicide, felony reckless endangerment and driving on a suspended driver's license among other charges. After her charges were "bound over to the grand jury" in Morgan County General Sessions Court by Judge Mike Davis, the case was subsequently indicted by the Morgan County Grand Jury on September 16, 2019 and the matter moved on to the Morgan County Criminal Court. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, since March of 2020 most matters that are awaiting trials by jury have been put on hold by order of the Tennessee Supreme Court. After much hard work on the part of DUI prosecutor, ADA Joe Caldwell, this case was brought to a successful conclusion today. In a plea agreement hearing that took place via video link with the Morgan County Jail where Manis was in custody, Manis pled guilty to a Class B felony Vehicular Homicide by Intoxication and a Class E felony Reckless Endangerment with a Weapon (her vehicle) and received TDOC prison sentences of eight years and two years, respectively, to serve in prison on each charge. Even though her driver's license was already suspended before the tragedy that she brought about, by this conviction, her driver's license will be suspended an additional ten years and she will have to re-apply to try and get it reinstated.

The step-father of Joseph Jones, Mr. Sylvester Smith of

Rocky Top, Tennessee, was also able to testify and explain to the Court what effect the tragic death of Jones has had on him and the rest of his family, including the traumatic impact to Jones' niece, who was also a victim of Manis' selfish and thoughtless action of driving while intoxicated. Sylvester Smith said in his testimony that, "It's been hard every day. Instead of going with him to a car show, I had to plan a funeral."

He didn't have to die. If she wanted to do drugs, she could have just stayed at home!" General Johnson commended ADA Caldwell and the DUI Unit Coordinator Holly Miller on, once again, bringing about justice and providing at least some level of comfort and closure to family who tragically lost a loved one who can never be replaced. Generals Caldwell and Johnson both thanked the THP for their work on the scene and their persistence in following through with the work after the fact on the search warrant, at the hospital, at the forensic lab and for the CIRT analysis that gave their office everything that was needed to bring this case to conclusion. These individuals were: Lt. Carey Hixson, CIRT Trooper Chris Best, and Troopers Matthew Vespie, Josh Thorne and Nathan Crow along with members of the Morgan County Sheriff's Office. End of Release.

United States Department of Agriculture

## Farmers to Families Food Box

PICKUP

Brought to you by  
Save the Children, in partnership with Mossy Grove Baptist Church

Tuesday, February 16, 2021  
Time: 1:00 P.M.

Location: 347 Mossy Grove Rd, Harriman, TN 37748

### ALL HOUSEHOLDS ELIGIBLE

- Drive Thru Pickup Service – You must remain in your vehicle
- You must have room in your trunk

NO Paperwork or Restrictions

**Save the Children , in partnership with Mossy Grove Baptist Church, is proud to announce that Farms to Families food boxes and milk will be available for pickup Tuesday, February 16 at 1:00 P.M. at Mossy Grove Baptist Church Fellowship Hall located at 347 Mossy Grove Road, Harriman, TN 37748. All households are eligible. This is a drive thru - pickup service and everyone must remain in their vehicles.**

### Announcements

The Morgan County Litter Committee will have a workshop on Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 5:30 p.m. in the main courtroom.

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**Jimmy Lee Trout, 85**

Jimmy Lee Trout age 85 of Oliver Springs passed away January 27, 2021.

Jimmy was the BEST Daddy, brother, grandfather and friend. Jimmy was a veteran of the United States Army. He worked until retirement at Martin Marietta ORNL X-10 plant. He was a Shriner and 32nd degree Scottish Rite. He was a 50 year member Mason at Emerald Lodge #377 in Wartburg, Tennessee

Jimmy loved ushering and watching the University of Tennessee Vols games. He also loved Westerns, playing dominoes, cards, and fishing. He especially loved spending time with family and friends.

Jimmy is preceded in death by parents William (Bill) and Reba Honeycutt Trout, and daughter Sherry Trout Lively.

Jimmy is survived by daughter Michelle and husband

Kirk Miles, sons William (Bill) Trout and Timothy Trout, sister Brenda and husband Cal Walbright, Mother of his children, Marilyn Hall Trout Mott, grandson Jeremy Miles and granddaughter Kristen Lively. He is also survived by aunts Mildred Sommers and June Trout and a host of cousins, nieces and nephews. Special caregivers Chad, Rena and Zuma Clark.

Due to the global pandemic, it is understandable if family and friends cannot attend services scheduled on Saturday, February 6th, 2021 from 12:00 to 2:00p.m. at Schubert's Funeral Home in Wartburg with a mason service at 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the Piney Cemetery in Oakdale.

We will plan for a Celebration of Life at a later date.

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

**Cassie Faye Goad Pelley Williams, 88**

Cassie Faye Goad Pelley Williams left the arms of her children to the arms of God on Sunday, January 31, 2021. She was born in Sunbright, TN on June 16, 1932 to Elbert and Etta Goad.

Cassie was a graduate of Roane County Vocational School and a teacher's aide in Morgan county until 2002. She loved working with the children, Miss Amy, and all the staff. In 1974 she met and married Clifford Williams of Lancing, TN. She was a lifelong Christian with her church family being Boswell Chapel Baptist Church. She truly lived her faith. Her children knew the power of her prayers. Cassie was a devoted mother and grandmother even as the ravages of Alzheimer took away her independence. Each child was special to her. Each grandchild was special to her. And she was extra special to all of them.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Elbert and Etta (Brock) Goad; husbands, Larry Pelley and Clifford

Williams; brother, Ray Goad; Sisters, Joyce Goad, Minnie (Noah) Jones, Bessie (Sidney) Howard; and son-in-law, Dr. Steven Thaxton.

Cassie is survived by her three children and their families: Linda Pelley (Willie) York; Brenda Pelley Thaxton (Dr. Mac) Edington; David (Meg) Pelley. Her sister, Oma Goad (Bud) Cochran, and 9 grandchildren. They are: Chad (Shana) York, Darrick (Barbara) York, Eric (Missy) York, Paul (Sally) Thaxton, Stefanie Thaxton, Dr. Sarah Beth Pelley (Dr. Jesse) Lawson, Luke (Chelsea) Pelley, Levi (Summer) Pelley, and Abby Pelley. Plus, Cassie had numerous great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

The family will have a graveside service Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at the Annadell Cemetery in Lancing with Bro. Robert Laymance and Bro. Kerry Ruppe officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Cassie Faye Goad Pelley Williams.

**Edwin Langley, Jr., 69**

Edwin Langley, Jr., age 69, of Crossville, TN passed away peacefully on February 1, 2021. He devoted his life to law enforcement and security. He enjoyed fishing, dancing, and making people laugh. He was a devoted son who loved his mom and dad. Those who knew him knew he never met a stranger.

He is preceded in death by parents, Edwin Langley, Sr. and Lozena Poe; siblings, Terry and David Langley and Robin Bonham; mother of his children, Brenda Langley.

He is survived by his children, Eddie (Felicia) Langley, Timmy (Mindy) Langley, Mark (Nichol) Langley, Kristin Taylor; grandchildren, Ethan, Elijah, Austin, Kaleb, Alexis, Jazlynn,

Kyah and Lillah; siblings, Mary (Jerry) Simpson, Roy (Pud) Langley, Carolyn Langley, Teresa (Lee) Holiday, Becky (Michael) Stringfield, Darrell Langley, Bobby (Sherry) Poe, Lisa Poe and Danielle Dyer; stepfather, Bob Poe, as well as a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 5:00-7:00 pm with the funeral to follow with Bro. Billy Durham and Bro. Mark Langley officiating. Interment will be at Clear Creek Cemetery on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Edwin Langley, Jr.

**Geneva Spradlin**

Geneva Spradlin went to be with her Lord and Savior on Tuesday, February 2nd, 2021. She was preceded in death by her husband, Gorman "minnowhead" Spradlin; daughter, Delonha "Donnie" Heidel; son, James Spradlin; son-in-law, Billy Price; father, Leslie Stephens and stepmother Mary Stephens, mother, Betty (Crabtree) Turner; sisters, Lois Stephens, Ruby Hall, Wilma King, and Barbara Kilby; brothers, James, Louie, Charles, and Gary Stephens; great grandsons, Alexander and Dakota Heidel, great granddaughter Celena Price, and great-great granddaughter Sydney Hope Heidel. She is survived by her daughters, Norma Price, Pamela Kay (Wayne) Gibbs, Sandra (Michael) Roysden, Deborah (John) Mallett; son, Steve (Sue) Spradlin; daughter-in-law, Carolyn Spradlin; son-in-law, Garland Heidel; sisters, Jeanette Kerlin and Kathy Brown, 17 grandchildren, and many great and great-great grandchildren. Geneva lived most of her 95 years in Wartburg and was a much loved and respected member of the community. She committed her life to Jesus at 14 years old and was faithful to Him for the remaining 81 years of her life. She joined Annadell Baptist Church after she moved

to Wartburg as a young wife and mother and remained a dedicated member there for 65 years. She loved to sing in the choir and participate in all church activities. She always cherished her extended church family and regularly shared with everyone how blessed she was with her faith, her family, and her solid belief that we will all meet again someday.

Geneva worked in the Wartburg Central High School cafeteria in various capacities and retired after 25 years of service; she became lovingly known as "gran" by most of the students she served. She loved to raise her garden and worked tirelessly to preserve all it produced. She enjoyed fishing with her husband, camping with her seven children, and ensuring that her family was faithful to the house of the Lord.

The family will receive friends Friday, February 5, 2021 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00-2:00 p.m. The funeral service will be held immediately after visitation with Bro. Bill Goodman and Bro. Joey Aytes officiating. Interment will follow at the Annadell Church Cemetery in Lancing.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Geneva Spradlin.

**Greta Ryan Pennycuff, 86**

Greta Ryan Pennycuff, 86, of Wartburg died February 5th, 2021 after a brief illness. The eldest of four children of Herbert and Reba Siler Ryan, Greta was born January 15, 1935 in Anderson County but she was raised in McCreary County, KY and also in Morgan County. She graduated from Wartburg Central High School in 1953.

A long-time employee of Burlington Hosiery in Harriman, Greta retired from Red Kap Industries in Wartburg. She was a Sunday school teacher for many years at Annadale Baptist Church and was lastly a member of Calvary Baptist Church of Wartburg.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Herbert and Reba Siler Ryan; a sister, Iris Thompson; a brother Carnet

Ryan; and two nieces, Teresa Lowe and Debra Thompson.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Tommy of Wartburg and by her son, Tim of Birmingham, AL. She is also survived by a brother and sister-in-law Ray and Mary Ryan, of Oliver Springs; a sister-in-law Shirley Ryan of Wartburg, and several nieces and nephews including Kathy Bunch of Oak Ridge; Angela (Kenney) Osborne of Wartburg; Brenda (Jeff) Cate of Harriman; and Vernon Lowe of Wartburg.

The family will have a private graveside service at Wartburg Memorial Gardens. Greta's nephew Josh Lowe will be officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Greta Ryan Pennycuff.

**Shirley Spurlock**

Shirley Spurlock passed away at her home on January 30, 2021. She was a member of the Big Mountain Baptist Church.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Archie & Lucille Patterson; children, Steven Moore, Billy Moore, Surinda Bunch and infant son, Robert Lee; brothers, Lawrence Patterson, Eugene Williams, Harold Williams, and James Williams; sister, Joyce Smith.

She is survived by her daughter, Melissa Moore, and

Lori Blair of Oak Ridge; sister, Bobby Seiber of Lenoir City; 5 grandchildren; 5 great grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends Thursday, February 4, 2021 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00-1:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 1:00 p.m. with Bro. Lonnie Lowe officiating. Interment will follow at Anderson Memorial Gardens.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Shirley Spurlock.

Send Letters to the Editor  
Editor@mocotoday.com

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

# Morgan County Today

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**Rates in Morgan County**

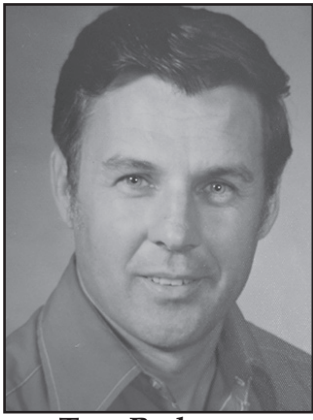
\$40; \$35 for senior citizens & Veterans

**Out of County Rates**

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



## What Will Our Country Look Like Under Socialism



**Tom Redmon**  
Columnist

I believe that our new administration has been in power around seven days as I write this article, and it is hard to believe how much harm that President Biden has

done to our country, and all by executive orders. What will he do when he gets the liberal congress and senate involved? It won't be pretty.

Many democratic voters felt like Biden was a moderate leader and it wouldn't be a lot of changes when he got in there. But it looks like Mr. Biden is taking his walking orders from the far left and if he is not opposed you will not recognize our country in four years.

President Trump tried to warn us what it would be like and I believed most GOP voters believed him; enough to get him reelected, but as you know our election was a sham. Now let me tell you what we are facing, and I hope and pray I am wrong.

First of all, the present administration would like to make America a socialist nation. I certainly hope they fail but I think we are closer now to socialism than we have ever been. You know that Biden made a pack with Bernie Saunders during his add campaign and Senator Saunders is as far left as you can get and probably already a communist. Our Vice President was the most far left senator in the senate. Many democrats in the senate and house are ready to do away with the two-party system and set up the most corrupt government in history.

Since Biden has been in power

and even before, he talked a lot about unity. The only trouble his definition of unity is completely different than what unity really is. Websters dictionary defines unity as a condition of harmony or accord in the union. Union implies a thorough integration and harmonious cooperation of all the parts.

Mr. Biden's definition of unity is if you will join me and my party we can be in harmony. You've got to think and act in accord with us. Forget about the other party this is creating division. Forget about your pro-life and pro-family beliefs and support our views on abortion and same-sex marriage. Forget about democracy and individualism. Forget about ever having a two-party system and capitalism again. We will de-program you so you will accept our way of life. The government will take good care of you. You will not have to county on the church or Christianity to help you when you are ill, because have free health care, you can go to college for free and the liberal professors will teach you the right way and this is socialism. You will hate the way America use to be.

For over 240 years our county has chosen capitalism over any other form of government. Capitalism at the beginning believed in small government, the less government involvement the better. Under socialism the government wants to control your whole life. They will take all your rights away and already your right to free speech is happening and due to the pandemic, they have found a way that they can close our churches. Losing our freedoms is paramount in setting up a socialist government. The 2nd Amendment has been under attack for sometime and during Bidens four years it will be rived up. There's no doubt they will initiate a buy-back program but I predict this will not work with most gun owners. It worked in Australia, but this is not Australia. Australia has a population of a little over fifteen million and their history and culture has been entirely

different than the U.S.A. America has a population of over 300,000,000 and probably a thousand times more guns. The big thing is the 2nd Amendment is supported by a big percentage of Americans and most of them are gun owners.

The 2nd thing the liberals will do is put a high tax on most guns. They will make you register all of your guns. They also will put a high tax on ammunition where many will not be able to afford guns. Lord help our country when they start coming to our homes to confiscate our guns.

Do you remember when Biden said he would only be taxing those who made over \$400,000.oo? Well in the last week in office his administration is planning a tax on the middle class to pay for climate change initiative. Also you could tax the rich 100% and it wouldn't pay one-fourth of what the democrats have proposed. I've never seen a tax hike that didn't hit the middle class harder than anyone else. We are going to be taxed and taxed like never before.

One of the first things that President Biden did was to kill the Keystone Pipeline putting thousands of works out of a job and setting us up for higher gas prices. Look for gas going up to \$3.00, in just a few months and \$4.00 and \$5.00 by 2022.

What hurts me most is what they are planning to do about our Christian religion. Socialism cannot function where Christianity is practiced and where many of us warship God our creator, and where Jesus Christ is our Savior. Socialism is secularism in high gear. Man is in control of his own destiny and they don't need a higher power.

Our country was formed on Christian principles. I don't care what Obama or anyone else says. Our pilgrims came to the New World in search of religious freedom. To a large extent our first settlers came here for the same reasons. Over the years we have fought in courts to protect this freedom but I'm

sorry to say that we have lost some cases. In 1965 the Supreme Court took prayer out of our schools and many other court cases would follow that hurt the Christian faith. In 1973 Roe vs Wade passed in the Supreme Court and since then over 63,000,000 abortions have been performed in the United States. Now our president is pro-choice which really is for killing babies. Many people think our president is a Christin who will stand up for Christian beliefs. Really, he is a non-practicing Catholic who cannot partake of the Catholic sacraments because he believes in abortion.

President Trump was the best protector of the Christian faith of any president we have ever had. He was pro-life, pro-family, pro-Israel and he had many spiritual advisors in the White House to pray for him and our country.

Although I know that the chances of our divided nation getting together are very slim but I still hope and pray for it to happen. Regardless I know God is on his throne and he is in charge. He is the one I look to for my faith is in him.

It is hard to believe what is happening to my country that I love. I can't help but wonder what my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will have to face in live. Will they have the same opportunities that I had to achieve and make something of my life?

We all need to get down on our knees and pray. Pray for our leaders (even our president) and pray for Christians who, during this trying time will make a stand for God and country. Pray for the Supreme Court to make the right decision especially on our religious faith and over civil rights. Pray that our constitution will be followed.

Most of all pray that our country will turn to God and that we will have a revival that will spread across this great land. God is good!

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

## Special Operations Wounded Warriors



**John Burns**  
Opinion Columnist

2016 was my official homecoming. The community I once served, was asking me to serve once more, but not before welcoming me home.

It had been 23 years since I returned from Mogadishu, Somalia injured. It had been a long time since I had toasted the men I lost and brothers I never got to say goodbye to. This organization exists to find Men like me. Brothers in arms who somehow got lost on the road after doing exactly what their creed requires. Somewhere along the way I had stopped Ranging. Or so I thought.

I was a United States Army Airborne Ranger. I spent 5 years in a Rifle Company in the 75th Ranger Regiment. I would dare to say the best Ranger Rifle company the Regiment has ever seen. I was one bearing in the Gears of Bravo company that when in Time, made the whole engine work. Bravo company was Home to me, and the men I served with are my Family. The DNA that make up our Family, can never be manipulated. It is a Blood covenant.

Rangers serve at the Behest of the president. They are as close to Tier one as any unit Gets. While not always enjoying the budgets of other Special Operations Units, no unit has been asked to do more for our country. And Bravo company has led the way every time.

On Rio Hata in Panama, Bravo Company 3/75 Lost SSG. Larry Bernard and Pfc. Roy Brown, With Bill Dunham and Patrick Kilgallen suffering injuries that still remind them each day of their sacrifice. These men are the reason I served. I had the privilege of welcoming these men home from hospital in 1990. I have remained a steadfast advocate for my brothers and my best friend in life served in their platoon in Panama. Paul Mercer is the greatest Ranger and best American I have ever met and called my friend.

I remained In B 3/75 for five years. I served in positions ranging from Mortar Section FDC Chief, Team Leader in a Rifle Platoon, Squad leader of a Rifle Squad and culminating in my job in Somalia, Weapons Squad Leader third Platoon B3/75 Rgr Regt. The greatest privilege the Lord Jesus Christ ever bestowed upon me was the privilege to lead Rangers in combat. Nothing since has kept my attention.

In Somalia I had an amazing group of men in my squad. My three machine gunners were all better than me at being a daily Ranger. Dominic Pilla, Chris Schlieff, and Dave Ritchie are three amazing Americans. Dominic would die in Somalia leading with led and killing his killer. Chris Schlieff was unwavering in Mogadishu and the most brilliant man I have ever encountered. He has continued to serve our country in Special Operations and today he is A CSM in SF Group. Dave Ritchie was my gunner on my vehicle on October 3. He is my hero. He was wounded early in the mission and continued to fight with an M16 after His Mg was disabled. Dave ended up leading our vehicle home when I was wounded near the front of the convoy for the third time. Dave was a Spec4 in Somalia. I had my gunner Clay Othic wounded seriously with the loss of his shooting Arm. Lorenzo Ruiz took over the 50 Caliber and was fatally wounded taking over from Clay Othic. I was wounded once by gunfire early and once by shrapnel before I was hit the third time making my way back through the convoy toward my vehicle.

That left a Spec4 in charge of my vehicle team and the rear of the convoy. And Dave Ritchie was able to lead them for 2 hours as we fought our way back to our base. Dave Ritchie would go on to serve in Task Force 160th as a CH 47 Pilot for every year of the GWOT. He retired a CW4 and continues to serve his state as a Pilot fighting forest fires in California. He is an American Special Operations hero.

Chad Fowles was an AG for Dave Ritchie and drove our vehicle. He somehow managed to not get hit in Somalia. God has a plan for Chad Fowles and I pray SOWW helps him find it. Chad retired as an MSG with 20 years in the Army. Along for the ride on my vehicle was PFC Jason Dancy. He also managed to not get hit but it does not diminish his contribution to the Regiment and Bravo Company lure. He fought like a Spartan on October 3. Reese Teakell was Chris Schlieff's new ammo bearer in Somalia. His first deployment in Bravo Company was to Somalia. Reese went on to serve the Regiment after returning from Somalia in every position from Team Leader to Squad leader to CSM of the Special Troops Battalion. He is today a CSM in a Brigade of the 82d Airborne division. Ed Kallman rounds out weapons Squad who fought on October 3. He was the driver for another vehicle and managed to not get wounded. I was privileged to lead these men in support of the Special Operations Mission to Somalia. I intend to work tirelessly to bring these men home to SOWW and back together as a Ranger family.

I left the Army in 1995. I was a Platoon Sergeant in Vicenza Italy. A final act of mercy from a loving God. I got to share with my platoon in Italy the Lives of my squad and their heroism in service to the Regiment and SOCCOM. I live every Day for the chance to share my life and it's struggles with my Ranger brothers and SOWW

is the platform that continues to make it possible.

As the country debates our nation's path forward, one thing that is undebatable. The True 1% of Americans that should be recognized are the 1% of Americans that have actually volunteered to defend the American life we enjoy on battlefields most Americans know not exist. When you break it down further, less than 1 tenth of 1% of those ever serve in a Special mission Unit. The Freedom we all profess comes at a cost that continues to be paid for by the 1 tenth of 1% of Americans who get to call themselves the SOCCOM Family. It is a family that can never be divided and SOWW is the greatest mechanism for keeping the family recognized and together as we embark on the next phase of our lives.

America has once again become apathetic to all things military. We can never surrender. If we surrender, this entire experiment of a government of the people, for the people, and by the people will perish from the Earth. SOWW exists to make sure America never forgets the lives led by Rangers, Seals, Operators and Airmen who continue to provide America with a blanket of protection. The freedom we enjoy is because of men who serve in SOCCOM. SOWW is the place where SOCCOM family reunions continue to occur.

I was privileged to meet a man I now can identify as my brother while attending a SOWW event in South Carolina. I was stepping out in extreme faith by attending this event. My Ranger brother and survivor of Mogadishu, Dave Floyd had invited me to the annual SOWW Hog Hunt called Takin Bacon. I accepted and boy was God a gracious God. Not only did I connect with men I had served with, I got to meet an entire generation of special men who had now served our country in a protracted war with no end in sight. But one I will never Forget. Eddie Oglesby was one of the Dog Handlers. I felt there was something more to Eddie so I struck up a conversation with him. Eddie had served our nation in Viet Nam as a Ranger in Papa company 75th Infantry. He and I were DNA brothers and we were meeting at SOWW. I sensed Eddie was experiencing his own sort of homecoming. And SOWW was the mechanism by which Eddie and I connected and we will be brothers who look forward to takin bacon every year. I miss Eddie every day. He taught me more about responsibility to my brothers than any shrink could ever hope to learn in 20 years of practice. And SOWW did that for me and an Old Ranger from Viet Nam who came home to a divided nation. Imagine the Rangers coming home now?

SOWW provides special men with the opportunity to share their experiences with people who will be able to show empathy rather than sympathy. The stories would never be understood by a public that has lost its sense of understanding toward freedom's high cost. Special Operations Wounded Warriors Caters to the needs of men who have been wounded defending our ideals as Judeo-Christian Americans. Our creeds are our bond and promise to this nation. Our experiences in war are our bond to each other.

SOWW has put its money where its mouth is. Warrior's from the SOCCOM community gather each year in March to fellowship, kill wild Boar, and party like it's 1999. The place where this occurs cost money every year to Lease. We at SOWW have been afforded the opportunity to purchase the property and make it a permanent destination throughout the year for men and families in our very small community who have borne the brunt of this protracted War on terror. It will never end and our mission to our community will never end. Consider giving a monetary gift to further our mission from once a year to permanent status. The Property along the river comes at a cost of 3 Million Dollars. I know the Ranger community alone could raise that! This organization is limiting the damage to warriors in our community who need us to continue the Family bonds on into eternity. We have borne the brunt of the freedom debt our country expects us to continue to pay. Please help us reach our goal. RLW John Burns He was crucified on a Cross of wood yet he created the hill upon which it stood.

John Burns 6-9-2020 (Donations to our cause should be sent via sownwcharity.com. Please prayerfully consider helping our cause. It is our nations cause!)

*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 Ranger Group.*

*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 Tidwell first responder at 1944 troop train wreck

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

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

Over the last few weeks, we have explored in detail the military reports of the response from the military personnel stationed at the Clinton Engineer Works in Oak Ridge. We saw wholesale involvement from Oak Ridge military personnel and strong leadership taken at the site of the troop train wreck — so much so that a second military detachment sent up from Georgia literally turned around and went back home, leaving the Oak Ridge military in charge.

This week I would like to tell you the rest of the story regarding the 16-year-old boy who was the first to respond to the wreck, Jim Tidwell. I think you will find the story as told by Tidwell's son, Mark Tidwell, an impelling saga of a man whose life was devoted to the memory of fellow military comrades and whose entire life may well have been altered by what he experienced as a 16-year-old from Highcliff, Tenn. — in the middle of the night, at the scene of a horrible train wreck, in the boulder-strewn bed of the Clear Fork River.

James (Jim) Tidwell, Jr. lived from 1927 until 1999. On Nov. 6, 1993, a large stone veteran's memorial was dedicated in downtown Jellico, Tenn. Tidwell had chaired the committee that created the memorial. Prominently positioned on the face of the monument is written "Jellico Troop Train Accident July 6, 1944" and 34 names are listed there. Note that there is one more name than included in reference materials I have located regarding this train wreck.

There is also a stone placed near the veterans' monument that states, "This monument honoring Jellico area veterans who gave their lives in service to our country, is an enduring testament to the dedication and hard work of James (Jim) Tidwell, Jr. His efforts as Chairman of the Veterans Monument Committee were untiring and inspired countless others to contribute to its erection and dedication. His rescue efforts following the Jellico Troop Train disaster in 1944 resulted in saving lives and the relieving of suffering. Extremely patriotic, he joined the U. S. Navy at age 17 and served in the Pacific theater during World War II. He later performed additional hazardous duty as a member of the allied occupational force and as a volunteer during the early testing of the atomic bomb. His experiences under fire left him determined to honor and remember those comrades at arms who served honorably and selflessly to insure the continuance of our liberty. This monument is largely the result of his determination. — Placed by Jellico area veterans, November 11, 1999."

As mentioned earlier, Jim Tidwell, 16, a Highcliff resident, was likely the first person to arrive at the wreck scene. He immediately went to work freeing men from the wreckage. Jim helped injured men up the cliff to Highway 25W using a lift rope. The steep slope, over 45 degrees, required six to eight men to hoist the injured up the slope. The first dead men were placed on rocks at the base of the slope on the bank of the river.

Jim also accompanied the first doctor to arrive as they sought to provide some aid to the trapped soldiers. Presumably Dr. Ned Watts of Jellico was the doctor that Jim assisted. Jim told of "much pitiful agony" as the doctor moved from one trapped soldier to another, administering syringes of painkiller to help ease the suffering. About 4 a.m. on Friday, July 7, 1944, Jim rested and slept in a friend's car parked on the highway.

When he awoke at around 9 a.m., military police from Oak Ridge had taken control of the wreck site. That's when he sat on the rock and was captured there by Ed Westcott's photograph of the wreck scene that was featured in last week's column.

Now read the rest of the story of Jim Tidwell, written by Mark Tidwell, Jim Tidwell's son. "James 'Little Jim' Tidwell Jr. was born in Highcliff on Nov. 3, 1927, and grew up in the same community. The Great Depression years were tough for the family, not unlike the hardships imposed upon millions of others of the same generation.

"The outbreak of World War II, for the United States, on Dec. 7, 1941, ensured more hard times to come for our nation. Junior's father, James 'Big Jim' Tidwell Sr., was already far away from home. He was in Panama helping to build the

Trans-Isthmusian Highway, which parallels the Panama Canal. Speculation was rampant just after Pearl Harbor was bombed. Junior's mother had to console the crying kids because it was feared the Canal Zone might be attacked next to block any transfer of U.S. Naval assets from the Atlantic to the Pacific. There are still family photos today of 'Big Jim,' and the men of the unit he was a part of, with their gas masks and .45 automatics, issued shortly thereafter.

"Junior, like all young boys of that era, experienced a 'going forth' of droves of men to the 'Service.' The little community of Highcliff ended up sending around 40 men to serve in all theaters of World War II. Four paid the ultimate price, never seeing the prominent overlooks the community is named for again. Today, there probably aren't 50

Bay during the occupation to dodge a tsunami. The Swenson saw extensive post-occupation-of-Japan duties around China and was there during the tumultuous actions of the communists. Later, Junior volunteered for hazardous duty and served in Operation Sandstone, in which he participated in the detonation of three atomic bombs in the Pacific Proving Grounds, serving on the Destroyer Escort DE 700, USS Currier.

"After discharge, James Jr. came home to work in surface coal mines and various construction jobs. No more, or no less, than the millions of other veterans and workers, both male and female, of this era, he came back to do his small part into building this nation into the juggernaut she became after World War II.

"He married Wilma Roberts on October 15, 1949. They had three children, Susan Jane Tidwell Brown, guidance counselor at Williamsburg, Ky., Independent School, William Ray Tidwell, rural route carrier, US Postal Service, Jellico, and Mark J. Tidwell, director of Jellico Public Library.

"James Jr. later worked at Westinghouse Electric in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was second shift crew leader. He was a valued employee and was the 'highest paid man on the floor.' But, as with many natives of this area, the hills continually called his heart home. He gave up that promising position to come home and operate a bulldozer during the construction of I-75. Later, he went to work for the US Postal Service at Jellico, from where he would retire.

"James Jr. always thought highly of his fellow servicemen. He was chairman of the Jellico Area Veterans Memorial Committee. This committee raised the funds and did all of the research to build the monument to area veterans, which now stands in Veterans Park, downtown (dedicated on Nov. 6, 1993). The committee fully agreed to include the names of those killed in the '1944 Troop Train Disaster' on the downtown monument.

"James Jr. passed away on July 28, 1999, leaving behind his wife of 49 years, three children, their spouses and 6 grandchildren, two sisters, Marjorie Johnson of Habersham, and Dorothy Powers of Clinton. Soon after his death, the city honored James Jr. with a granite marker placed at the downtown Veterans Monument. (Note from Ray: words on this marker were cited in the opening paragraphs of this column.)

"Jellico boasts a wealth of military history among its citizenry and the monument is always a place of pride, particularly during Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Jellico has lost two men in the Iraq War and I know dad would be saddened that names have had to be added to the monument ... but he'd be proud of their service! He worked hard to see that veterans that had their lives snuffed out not be forgotten, especially some of those he saw mangled, torn and dying, strewn among the boulders of the Clear Fork River less than a mile from his home."

\*\*\*

Next week I would like to share with you a first-hand account of the bus driver, Leon Hatcher, who drove the first bus from Oak Ridge to the train wreck site and picked up "dead and alive" soldiers and took them to Oak Ridge hospital. Even today, remembering that bus trip is hard; Hatcher says, "I wish I had never made that bus trip! The memory has stayed with me all my life."

**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.**



Jim Tidwell is shown along with USS Swenson, on which he served during World War II (Photo Submitted)



Veteran's Memorial in the center of Jellico, Tennessee – placed there by a committee led by Jim Tidwell (Photo Submitted)

people living in the community.

"Apart from living in the grips of a world war and hearing the daily dispatches about the war effort, Highcliff residents were well accustomed to seeing troop train after troop train of men pass through on the L&N Railroad. 'We all liked to get out and wave at the boys a-passin' through,' Junior liked to say. That helped to instill a sense of longing to do one's part in even more young men. There could be great adventure out there in the Pacific or in Europe... there could be a Gold Star for your mother to mournfully hang up as well.

"Thursday evening, July 6, 1944, brought Junior scenes of death and destruction akin to any battlefield. Having seen the infamous 'Troop Train #47' lay down smoke through Highcliff, and hearing of its crash just minutes later, as a curious young boy wanting to do what he could to help, he dashed up the tracks and was one of the first on the scene.

"My dad used to tell me lots of details about what he saw that night, particularly when we would be fishing in the Clear Fork River near, or at the actual scene, of the tragic derailment. He said those scenes made him all the more eager to do something for the war effort everyone was so fervently backing.

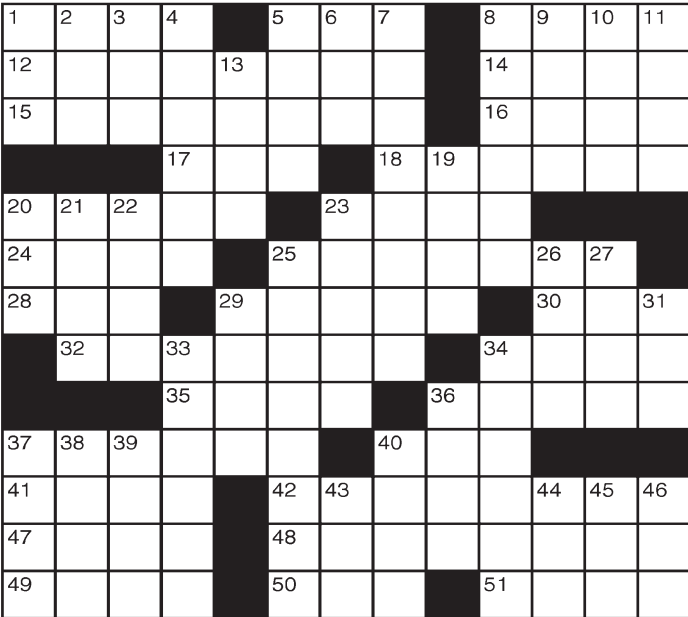
"When he turned 17, through his incessant nagging of his parents, they signed for him to join the U.S. Navy. Then it was off to San Diego for basic training, culture shock for sure for a fellow who had never strayed far from little old Highcliff. Soon afterwards, he was sailing across the Pacific on a destroyer, DD 729, USS Lyman K. Swenson. His diary tells of seeing whales, crossing the International Date Line, dodging floating mines, plucking downed pilots, and steaming out of Tokyo



## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

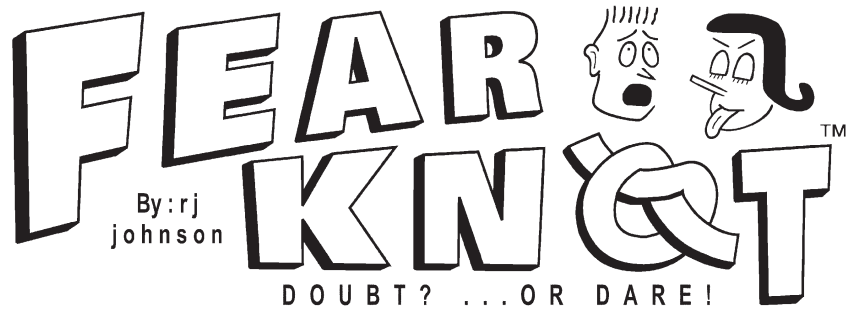
- 1 To boot
- 5 Tummy muscles
- 8 Writer Rice
- 12 Appeared suddenly
- 14 Earth
- 15 Regatta
- 16 Pout
- 17 "— a Camera"
- 18 Decisive moments
- 20 A Musketeer
- 23 Prejudice
- 24 Reddish horse
- 25 Lake activity
- 28 CCV x X
- 29 Pre-diploma hurdles
- 30 Dig in
- 32 Straw hats
- 34 Carton sealer
- 35 School orgs.
- 36 Used a sponge
- 37 Stir-fry veggie
- 40 Crony
- 41 Slanted type (Abbr.)
- 42 Yacht lover's event
- 47 French 101 verb
- 48 Veteran
- 49 Easy targets
- 50 Ballot marks



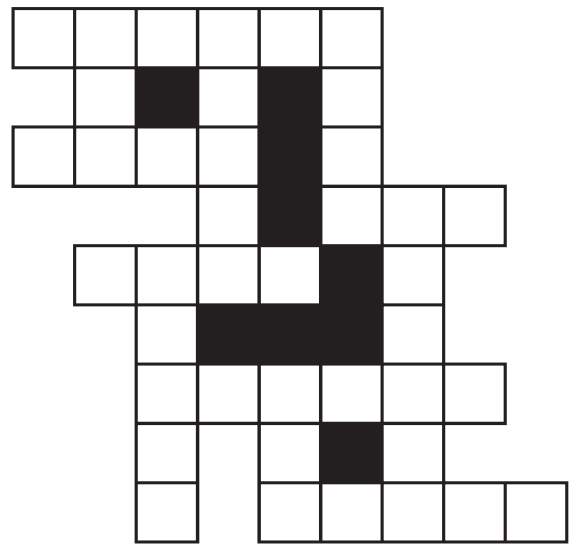
**DOWN**

- 1 NYPD alert
- 2 Brit's
- 3 Hotel amenity
- 4 Choice
- 5 Leading man?
- 6 Tampa Bay
- 7 NFLer
- 8 Dishes not on the regular menu
- 8 Home of St. Francis
- 9 Entre —
- 10 Egyptian river
- 11 BPOE members
- 13 Historic times
- 19 "Phooey!"
- 20 Branch
- 21 Pyramid, maybe
- 22 Saintry ring
- 23 Wild pigs
- 25 Challah holder
- 26 Tide variety
- 27 Be slack-jawed
- 29 "Beetle Bailey" dog
- 31 Danson of
- 33 Granny Smiths
- 34 Mild cheese
- 36 Bulb measure
- 37 Slapstick arsenal
- 38 Jazzy James
- 39 Seniors' org.
- 40 Cushions
- 43 Flamenco cheer
- 44 Med. plan option
- 45 Not 'neath
- 46 Like some humor

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- FEL
- MARSOG
- ♥ROLMA
- MHRA
- SOREOL
- OTH
- ♥UREL
- FRUME
- ♥MGU
- RHAFOS
- ♥LOLAT
- ♥MEIT



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

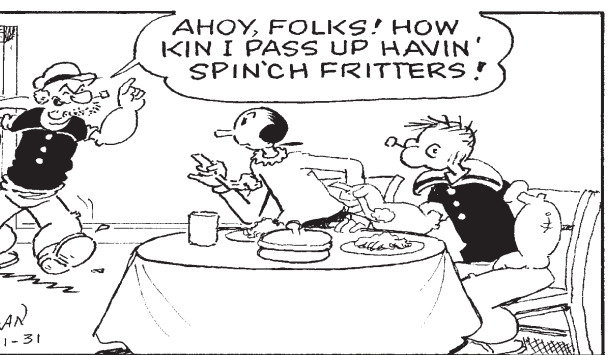
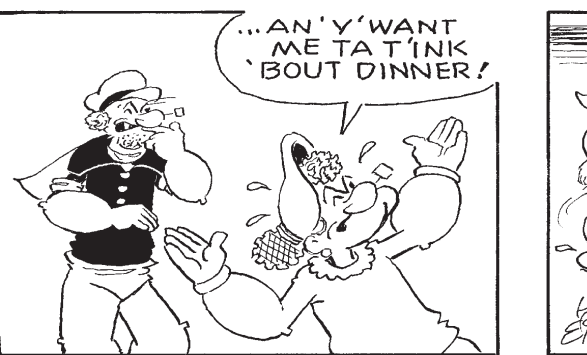
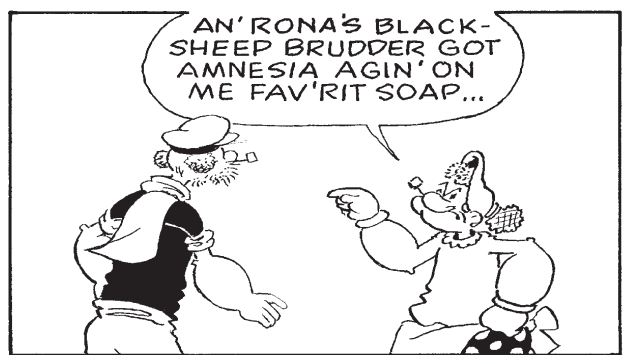
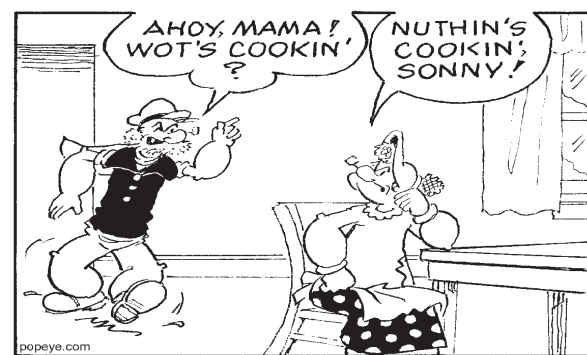
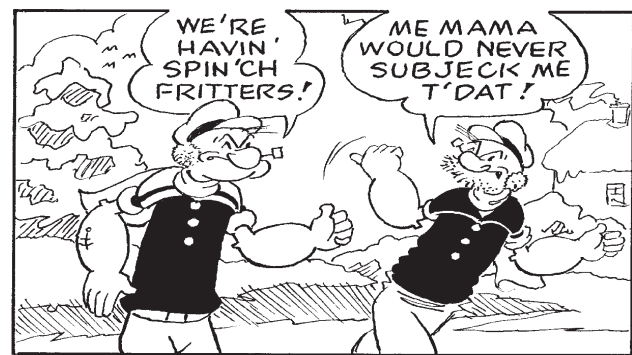
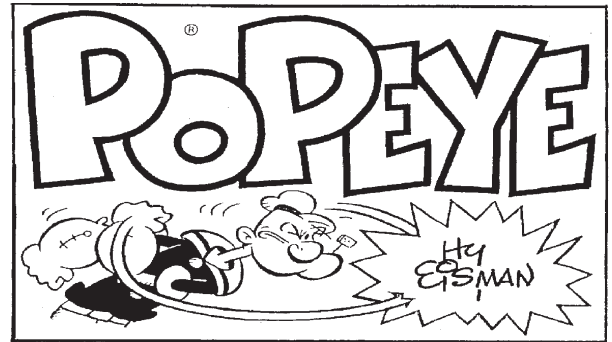
2				3	4			
		9	2					7
	8			9		2	1	
	7			4	6			
		5		1			8	
6			5	2				4
		4	6			9		
9					8		3	
	6	3		5				1

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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answer

S	H	O	F	A	R				
	O		E			U			
I	T	E	M			L			
			U			E	L	F	
	H	A	R	M					
			T						
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			L			U			
			L						
						M	O	R	A
									L

## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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



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John 3:7

- Jesus

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MSG Fred Mize

On February 4, 2021, we woke up to one of the most brilliant sunrises that I can remember. The Eastern sky was lit with vivid red, bright pink, and flaming orange color as if God had painted a master piece across the heavens. Attached is a photo taken by my friend Brandi Bunch. The photo is of that morning's sky

over her home in Strawberry Plains, Tennessee. I wish I had taken a photo of the sunrise breaking through our woodland hillside in Kingston, Tennessee on that glorious morning. As I admired that sunrise from our kitchen window, I pondered on how it looked as if there was a fire in the sky. Then, I thought of the breathtaking moment to come when Jesus Christ will return to claim his people and his kingdom. That beautiful sunrise

will pail in comparison to when Jesus Christ returns. Matthew 24:27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall the coming of the Son of man be. John 14:1-7 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in

me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 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. 4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. 5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and

have seen him. My friends hold your heads up and keep looking toward the eastern sky because all that stands before us and Jesus Christ's return is time for, he is coming back soon! Amen!

## Fire in the Sky

By: MSG. Fred Mize



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

## Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

### Why You Need a LinkedIn Profile

When I speak at a college campus, there are a few key takeaways I want every student to comprehend. Whether the topic is job interviewing, career development, passion seeking, job networking, or changes in the workplace, I never escape without saying the same sentence: LinkedIn is the way of the future.

Everyone should have an updated profile on LinkedIn. "Why? Because it hosts more than 600 million professional profiles, which means nearly an unlimited supply of network connections and job opportunities. From seeking a new job to maintaining your personal brand, LinkedIn is an important part of being a full-fledged professional in any industry these days."

LinkedIn is a social media platform where you can connect to other like-minded professionals. LinkedIn isn't Facebook; you need to act professional and remember that what you post here reflects your own personal brand. You can display your skills and abilities through your professional profile. LinkedIn has a lot of job postings everyday by their own system and recruiters. It's time to build, update, and get active on the LinkedIn platform. LinkedIn allows you to make professional connections with people in your current network, professionals within an industry, professionals within your own company, recruiters, and potentially people at a certain company that interests you.

Did you know LinkedIn provides free mentors and they have a Career Advice

product? If you are seeing mentors or advice, the free Career Advice product is a pretty remarkable resource. I actually am a Career Advice volunteer for LinkedIn. I enjoy helping people with their career and I am happy to help answer questions someone may have about a job or industry. It's crazy how many professionals don't respond once I reach out to them. LinkedIn connects me to about four or five professionals or students per week. I always send out a warm message that is the standard default message: "Hi Patrick, Excited to be connected with you on the Career Advice product.

There is really no excuse not to have a career mentor now that LinkedIn has changed the game. Do you want to be a computer programmer? Wouldn't it be useful to connect and ask questions of a person in that industry? Do you want to own your own construction company? Wouldn't you benefit from having a mentor you could ask some business questions to prior to opening your business? Are you trying to change to a completely different career field and find yourself struggling to get your foot in the door? You can find someone in every industry to network with by using the Career Advice product on LinkedIn.

Make a change on your LinkedIn profile and you can vet through thousands of volunteer mentors with great experience in any industry. There's no excuse anymore for people to say, "I don't know anyone", or "I don't have a network or contacts." Because of the LinkedIn Career Advice product, there are no excuses for failing to network. It just takes effort and the willingness for you to do it.



Zack Ballinger

**SUNBRIGHT HIGH SCHOOL!**  
**Monday, January 11th**

Would love to understand more about your background and how I can help. Looking forward to chatting soon."

I would estimate that one out of 30 actually respond. A small number reach out with a greeting and then fail to continue through with an actual conversation. I have been volunteering for about two years. I would say two people have continually remained a part of my network by using this platform. People should take advantage of the service.

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



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



Reminder... Sunday is the Lord's Day. It is also Valentine's Day. Monday is President's Day. It is a Federal Holiday. There will be no school and Federal Offices will be closed.

Morgan County Schools were closed February 1-3 due to weather conditions. As I write this column on Saturday evening, February 6, the weather forecast is for snow overnight.

Pine Orchard Church Clothes Closet is open today, February 9 from 10:00-12:00. There are 3 rooms and 2 guests at a time are allowed in each room.

Save the Children, in partnership with Mossy Grove Baptist Church, is proud to announce that Farms to Families food boxes and milk will be available for pickup Tuesday, February 16 at 1:00 P.M. at Mossy Grove Baptist Church Fellowship Hall located at 347 Mossy Grove Road, Harriman, TN 37748. All households are eligible. This is a drive thru - pick up service and everyone must remain in their vehicles.

Wartburg Public Library will host Virtual BINGO Thursday, February 11 at 5:30. Those wishing to participate should pick up a special BINGO card at the library and sign up with an email address to receive a Zoom link for the game.

Our newest neighbor on Ellis Bingham Road is Mr. Frank Austin. Mr. Frank celebrated his 80th birthday Thursday, February 4th. Happy Birthday Mr. Frank!

Happy 12th Birthday to Elle Newman. Elle celebrated her special day on February 5th. She is the granddaughter of Dean and Debbie Headrick and the great granddaughter of Ruth Headrick and Rita Jeffers.

Fred and Donna Snow are celebrating their 48th wedding anniversary today, February 9. Happy Anniversary Fred and Donna!

Congratulations to Kaylee McMahan who graduated from Tennessee School of Beauty February 6th. Kaylee will be working at Belleza Salon and Spa once State Boards are completed.

Dwain and Judy Garrell moved back to Florida a few years ago to be near their twin grandsons. They happily shared the news that they are expecting a new grandchild in September. Congratulations!

Bobby Melhorn and his family are working on restoring the Deermont School in Camp Austin. They are currently doing research and seeking information from former students and teachers to pin down certain dates the school was in service. They ask that if anyone has information on when the school was actually built, to please let them know. The county has identified the one room school as an official Morgan County Landmark and will provide a marker which identifies this landmark.

Mike Helton and Mike Lively are raising chickens for sale. They are developing several lines of chickens and will hatch eggs from the chickens they raised. M and M are enjoying their new friendship and project and will happily give people living in Oakdale a discount. Easter is right around the corner and they will have baby chicks for Easter. Contact M and M for more information!

Little Fisherman's Bass Club 2021 Tournament will begin April 10th at Tom Fuller Boat Ramp in Rockwood. Kids have to be 15 and under when the tournament begins but can turn 16 throughout the season. For more information, contact tournament Director Allen Sheldon at 423-539-5560 or on the Facebook page Kid's Tournament 2021.

Condolences to Brother Mark Langley, pastor of Rankin Chapel Baptist Church, and his family due to the passing of his father, Edwin Langley.

Christine Powers McCoy, of Gainesboro, TN, passed away January 27. She was the daughter of the late Arthur Powers and Mamie Simpson Powers and was married to the late Charles McCoy. In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers, JC and Raymond Powers and her sisters, Inez Jones, Ella Mae Melton and Zella Ruth Clark. She is survived by 4 sons, Scott, Danny, Chuck and Dwain McCoy and 2 daughters, Anita Gunter and Debbie McCoy. She is also survived by her brothers, Wayne, Lawrence and Glen Powers and sisters Opal Steele, Nina Powers and Nona Burgess as well as 15 grandchildren and several great and great-great grandchildren. Graveside services were held January 31.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Cassie Williams who passed away January 31. She is survived by three children and their families, Linda (Willie) York, Brenda (Dr. Mac) Edington and David (Meg) Pelley. She is also survived by her sister Oma (Bud) Cochran, nine grandchildren and several great grandchildren. A graveside service was held Wednesday, February 3 at Annadell Cemetery.

Terry Collins, son of the late Leroy Collins and Nellie Powers Oran, passed

away Thursday, February 4. He is survived by five children, Lisa, Crystal, Kenny Ray, Mandy and Kim and his brother Brian Collins and sister Deidra Gollieher as well as many grandchildren, family and friends. A graveside service was held Monday, February 8 in Old Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church Cemetery.

I am always sad to share obituaries but I do so for those who may not have heard of a friend passing away and also to extend condolences to the family. I am very sad to share the passing of my Aunt Gladys Langley. Aunt Gladys went home to be with the Lord Friday evening, February 5 which would have been my Uncle Bill Bingham's birthday if he were living. Aunt Gladys was my mother's oldest sister and I have so many wonderful memories of her and time spent in her home. At this time, arrangements are incomplete.

As always, there is so much to pray about. There are many things we have no control over. All we can do is pray and trust God. He is in control and all things happen according to His plan. Pray for all of the families who have lost loved ones recently and over the last few months. Pray for those who are sick and also their care givers. Pray for our homes and families, our schools, our churches and pastors, our military, our nation and leaders and most of all, pray for the lost.

*"Today is the oldest you have been and the youngest you will ever be. Make the most of it." - Nicky Gumbel*

## Gladys Marie Bingham Langley, 90

Gladys Marie Bingham Langley, 90, passed away Friday February 5, 2021. She was a resident of the Union/Joyner community of Wartburg. She was born September 4, 1930 in the White Oak community of Oakdale, TN. She was preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, James Reece Langley, her parents Ellis Eugene Bingham Sr. and Marie Redmon Bingham, brothers Ellis Bingham Jr. and William (Bill) Bingham, sister and her husband Georgia Bingham Shelton and Roy Shelton, brother in law Russell Chapman, father and mother in law James and Edith Langley, brother in law Phil Navas, sister in law and her husband Alma Langley Jones and Raymond Jones, brother in law and his wife Darrell Langley and Peggy Langley. She is survived by son Wayne Langley of the Union/Joyner community of Oliver Springs, daughter and her husband Marie and Mike Smithers of Jacksboro, son and his wife Wendell and Kim Langley of the Union/Joyner community of Oliver Springs. Grandchildren and spouses Amy and Aaron Powell, Emily and Andrew Raulston, Andrew and Ann Langley, Molly and Steven Starbird, Shawn and Meredith Langley. Great grandchildren Tori, Gabe, Noah, Liam, Jack, James, Lily and soon to be born Reece Langley. Also survived by sister Betty Bingham Chapman, brother Tom Bingham and wife Billie, sister Marlene Bingham Goldston and husband Larry, sister in law Zelma Bingham all of Oakdale. Sister in law Eunice Langley Navas of Wartburg. Gladys was a homemaker for most of her life. In years past she worked at Chase Drugs, Burlington Hosiery and Red Kap. Gladys and Reece were married on December 20, 1953 at

White Oak Baptist Church, Oakdale. One of their favorite things to do since the 1960's was attending Vols football home games. During retirement they took their grandchildren on many outings; traveled by bus and by car to many locations over the United States and Canada. They attended 3 World Fairs. Gladys loved gardening and tending to her flowers. She was known as a prolific card sender with encouragement for their recipients. Sending cards at Christmas, birthdays, graduations, at time of death or just to let someone know she was thinking about them. She loved cooking for her family and taking meals or dessert to neighbors or friends. For many years Gladys would have parties for extended family on New Years' Eve and the Fourth of July. She was all about people. Gladys was a member of Liberty Baptist Church. She loved singing in the choir. Her father taught her and all her siblings shape note music and how to sing four part harmony gospel music. She also played the piano by ear. The family will receive friends Monday February 8, 2021 from 6-8 P. M. at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg. The funeral service will be held Tuesday February 9, 2021 at 1:00 P.M. at Liberty Baptist Church in Wartburg. The burial service will follow at the Union Church Cemetery in Joyner. Services will be officiated by Rev. David Acres and Dr. Paul Frick. Pall bearers are Andrew Langley, Aaron Powell, Andrew Raulston, Steven Starbird, Wayne Langley, Mike Smithers and honorary pall bearer Shawn Langley. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Liberty Baptist Church building fund. Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Gladys Langley.

## Acts Chapter 19

(Acts 19:1-7) the twelve disciples at Ephesus: as Apollos labored with the brethren at Corinth, Paul, having passed through the "upper country," came to Ephesus. Here the apostle would do a fruitful work for three years (20:31). This is interesting because the Lord, on an earlier occasion, had forbidden the apostle to work in this area (16:6). But now the door is open.

Aquila and Priscilla had been left here (18:19), but there is no mention of them now. Paul, arriving in the city, found certain disciples. Who were they? The word disciple simply means a student. These disciples appear to have been some who had received the baptism of John the Baptist after it was obsolete, and they now maintained some association with the Christian movement. Something aroused Paul's curiosity regarding them, and so he questioned: Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? The term believed takes a grammatical form which normally thrusts its action back beyond the time of the leading verb, received, the sense being: "Did you receive the Holy Spirit as a result of believing?"

As with other cases in this document, the verb believed denotes obedience to the gospel, including baptism. This is evidenced in this very context when Paul subsequently inquired: "Into what then were you baptized?" Note the proximity of "when you believed" to "into what were you baptized?" Their response was a revelation concerning their spiritual status. When the apostle discovered that these men knew nothing of the reception of the Holy Spirit, he surmised something was amiss in their conversion. Further inquire revealed they had received the type of baptism that was associated with the ministry of John the Baptizer; hence at the time of their baptism, their information regarding Jesus was seriously defective. A proper baptism requires adequate and accurate preliminary information. John's baptism involved a faith in the coming Christ; Christian baptism is based upon a conviction regarding him who already has died for sin, was buried, and was raised. This was the significant difference. Those immersed by John while his baptism was valid did not need baptism later (Mk. 1:4). If one's baptism has not embraced the full complement of truth, it must be done correctly (Acts 2:38). These are the Ephesians of Eph. 2:8-9. This is when and how we are saved by grace through faith.

When the men understood the difference between John's baptism and the baptism of the New Testament regime, as explained by Paul, they were immersed into the name of the Lord Jesus. This has no reference to a verbal formula that is spoken at the time of the immersion; rather, it is a key expression suggestion exactly what transpires when one is baptized. The phrase signifies coming into a relationship with and under the protection of the one into whom he is immersed. Paul, as an apostle of Christ with special powers, then laid his hands upon these twelve men (8:18), conveying two spiritual gifts---the ability to speak in language not learned naturally (2:4) and prophecy, a speaking forth for the Lord, sometimes with the capacity to declare the future.

(Acts 19:8-20) confrontations in Ephesus: for the following three months, regularly in the synagogue, Paul continued speaking boldly. He reasoned with the people and attempted to persuade them of the truthfulness of the case for Christianity. He talk-

ed of the good things associated with the kingdom of God. The kingdom was not some future millennial reign, but the church (Mt. 16:18-19), into which they could enter by the new birth process (Jn. 3:3-5). While the apostle doubtless met with much success, eventually the atmosphere began to change. Some were hardened and spoke evil of the Way (9:2). Paul taught in a local school (probably renting the facility) for the next two years (v. 9). The gospel went forth into the outlying regions ("all Asia" v. 26), with churches being established in such cities as Colossae and Laodicea. After Jesus ascended to the throne, no apostle ever entered a synagogue for to remember the sabbath day to keep it holy.

During this period, many miracles were performed by God through Paul; the sick were healed and demons were expelled (v. 12). Such miracles, of course, were restricted to the apostolic age (1 Cor. 13:8). Certain Jewish exorcists, who feigned the ability to cast out demons, attempted such upon one individual, employing the name of Christ. But the ploy backfired. The demon-possessed man gave the charlatans a good beating! (v.13-16). This produced serious caution in the residents of the city, both Jews and Greeks, and the name of Christ was magnified (v. 17).

Many who had believed, who had obeyed the gospel (Eph. 5:26), had continued to flirt with pagan magic. They now confessed their sins and, to demonstrate their sincerity, they burned their magic books---the value of which would be about thirty-five thousand dollars on today's market. This enormous amount probably is an index on how the Ephesian church had grown. Such growth continued and mightily grew the word of the Lord (the expansion of the church) and prevailed (v. 20; Col. 16:8-9).

(Acts 19:21-22) planning additional work: as he was led by the Spirit, Paul purposed to sail west to Greece (passing through Macedonia and Achaia), after which he would travel back to Jerusalem (to convey a monetary gift for the needy saints). Eventually, God willing, he hoped to go to Rome. In the meantime, he felt the need to remain in Asia for a while. Yet he would dispatch Timothy and Erastus, brothers who ministered to him, on to Macedonia.

(Acts 19:23-41) the riot in Ephesus: Ephesus was famous for its worship of the Greek goddess, Diana. There was a huge temple for this idol in the city, and vendors sold small replicas of the fertility goddess. Demetrius, a silversmith who manufactured Diana shrines, felt his business was threatened by Paul's condemnation of idolatry; hence, he called a meeting of similar craftsmen in an attempt to stop the apostolic preaching. This created a great controversy concerning the Christian "Way" (v. 23-28).

The citizens were filled with wrath, and the city was filled with confusion. The mob chanted, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians," and a wild mass of people rushed into the great outdoor theater that could accommodate twenty-five thousand people. Two of Paul's friends from Macedonia, Gaius and Aristarchus, were seized. Paul wanted to enter the fray, but the disciples restrained him. Certain Asiarchs, prominent citizens who were Paul's friends (his influence was broad and diverse), sent a message urging the apostle to stay away from the dangerous area. The atmosphere was one of pandemonium.

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## Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week



If you watched the flyover at the beginning of Super Bowl LV then you saw our veteran of the week in action. This week we honor United States Air Force Cap-

tain Sarah Kociuba who's a B-2 Stealth Bomber instructor pilot and has flown over ninety combat missions and has more than 1,700 flying hours in five different aircraft. She is one of only ten female B-2 pilots and has also flown over 500 combat hours while flying a KC-10. The KC-10 is a 590,000-pound aerial re-fueler that gives gas to other plans in the sky.

In order to make the Super Bowl flyover a success Captain Kociuba took off from Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri and linked up with two other jets over the Gulf of Mexico. Then, the three planes headed toward the field and performed a synchronized show at speeds close to 300 MPH. The maneuver required precise and hyper-controlled skill, but she led the difficult mission perfectly.

Morgan County Today is always pleased to praise veterans of all branches of service. This week is special because we focused on a real

trailblazer in the B-2 Stealth Bomber Strike Force. Captain Kociuba is a true inspiration to women who dream to also become combat pilots for she not only has proven that it can happen but that she can do it with excellence.

Thank you, Captain Kociuba, for your service and dedication to our country and to your dreams. God bless!



## Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

This week we honor two FBI agents who were killed in the line of duty on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 when they arrived in Sunrise, Florida to search an apartment involved in a child pornography case. Upon arrival to search the apartment a fire broke out between a suspect and five FBI agents. Two agents were killed. The slain agents were Daniel Alfin and Laura Schwartzenberger, both of whom specialized in investigating crimes against children. Two other agents involved in the fire were hospitalized and treated for wounds and a third agent was wounded but did not

require hospitalization. The suspect was killed at the scene.

Daniel Alfin, 36, who also investigated child exploitation

cases, had previously worked at FBI headquarters handling major cases involving violent crimes

against children. He had a degree in information technology and went through the FBI's specialized training programs for cybercrimes. He was involved in a major child exploitation investigation dubbed Playpen that resulted in arrest

around the world. Daniel Alfin is survived by a wife and child. Laura Schwartzenberger, 43,

had been an agent with the FBI since December 2005 and worked in the Miami field office on a squad of agents handling violent crimes against children. Her work primarily focused on tracking offenders who sexually exploit children online and investigating other crimes against children. Laura Schwartzenberger is survived by a husband and two children.

Let's honor the memory and sacrifices made by these fine FBI agents that were guardians of our children.



## Some People Must Return Their Stimulus



David Zubler

If you've gotten money that you don't think you were entitled to, you should determine whether you need to send it back.

There are several reasons why you may have received a stimulus in error. The two most common are a result of your adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeded the limit or if you had a spouse that passed away.

Your AGI is based on all your sources of taxable income for the year. It can fluctuate based on many factors, including getting a raise, losing a job, a change in business profit, or a gain from the stock

market.

Since it's difficult to estimate how much money you're making after deductions, the IRS used your AGI from your previous tax return to calculate how much of the first and second stimulus you would receive. However, the limit for the calculation is different for the first and second stimulus amounts.

You can find your AGI on line 8b of the 2019 1040 federal tax form. If you didn't file federal taxes in 2019, you can find your AGI on line 7 of your 1040 return for 2018.

If you're filing single and your AGI is under \$75,000 you will receive the full amount of \$600. As your AGI goes up, the amount of your stimulus decreases. If your AGI is \$87,000 or more, you're not eligible for the stimulus check. This is down from a limit of \$99,000 cutoff for the first check.

If you're filing as head of a household, you would be eligible for the full \$600 check if your AGI is \$112,500 or less.

If you are a married couple filing jointly and your AGI is below \$150,000, you are eligible for a \$1,200 payment. The amount of your stimulus would decrease until you reached \$174,000. The limit was \$198,000 for the first check.

If you received a payment for a spouse who died in 2019 or earlier, you should return the entire payment, unless it was made to joint filers and one spouse is still living. If the check was made to you and your spouse, you should return half the payment.

However, if the check is made in both your names and you can't cash it, you'll need to return the whole amount to the IRS. After the IRS processes the returned payment, it will issue a new check with the correct amount for you.

If you haven't cashed the check, write "VOID" in the endorsement section on the back of the check. Let the IRS know why you are returning the check on a separate piece of paper.

If you cashed or deposited the stimulus check, use a personal check or

money order made payable to the US Treasury. You will also write 2020 EIP and social security number of the person who is on the check. Let the IRS know why you are sending the check on a separate piece of paper.

*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](mailto:zublerdavid@gmail.com).*

### THE MORGAN COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR ELECTIONS TO BE HELD

This is to announce an upcoming election to fill three expiring positions on the Morgan County Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

The State Soil Conservation Committee has requested a local advisory committee to carry out the necessary election procedures.

This Committee has set the election for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; Feb 23rd, 24th and 25th, 2021. Daily from 9:00 am- 6:00 pm (Est)

We encourage everyone that is a Morgan County Landowner to come by, USDA Service Center @ 1141A Knoxville Hwy (next to Subway).

Names to appear on the ballot will be available at the Soil Conservation District office prior to the election.

The Morgan County Soil Conservation District prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity.





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