

# Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News. **75¢**

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**MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK**

Tue 24	56°/46°	
Wed 25	60°/53°	
Thu 26	65°/42°	
Fri 27	62°/46°	
Sat 28	57°/41°	
Sun 29	55°/38°	
Mon 30	44°/27°	

## Tennessee Law to Save Lives

According to a healthline.com, each year, about 6,000 babies are born with Down syndrome in the United States. One out of every 700 babies born in the United States is estimated to have the condition. The estimated incidence of Down syndrome is between 1 in 1,000 to 1 in 1,100 live births worldwide, according to the World Health Organization Trusted Source.



will have mild to moderate intellectual and developmental problems, while others might have more severe complications. The same goes for health, where some people with Down syndrome may be healthy, while others could have a variety of health-related complications, such as heart defects. A federal appeals court ruled Friday, November 20,

According to the National Down Syndrome Society, a 35-year-old woman has approximately a 1 in 350 chance of conceiving a child with Down syndrome. This chance increases gradually to 1 in 100 by age 40 and approximately 1 in 30 by age 45. Down syndrome is a genetic condition, but it isn't hereditary. Down syndrome is the most common chromosomal disorder in the United States. Though Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring genetic chromosomal disorder, the way the condition presents itself in each person will differ. Some people

2020 that Tennessee can begin prohibiting abortions because of Down syndrome as well as prohibit the procedure if it is based on the race or gender of the baby. The State Attorney General's office said in a statement that "Our law prohibits abortion based on the race, gender, or diagnosis of Down syndrome of the child and the court's decision will save lives," Tennessee Republican Gov. Bill Lee said in a statement. "Protecting our most vulnerable Tennesseans is worth the fight."



Veteran of the Week  
Jim Morrow



LEO of the Week  
Jim Morrow



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## Morgan County Needs 9 TN Promise Mentors

With less than three weeks remaining until the tnAchieves mentor application deadline, Morgan County still needs 9 mentors to meet student demand. Statewide, 2300 mentors are still needed to reach the goal of 9,000.

In 2021, mentors will serve their community virtually using tnAchieves CONNECT. tnAchieves CONNECT is a new platform that allows for safe, impactful communication between mentors and students. It ensures that in a time of social-distancing, volunteers can continue giving back to local students in need of a little help!

Mentors support local TN Promise applicants as they transition from high school to college. They remind students of important deadlines, serve as a trusted college resource and, most importantly, encourage students to achieve their goals. The time commitment is small, only about one hour per month, but the impact can be life-changing for students, particularly those in their family that are first to attend college.

"Mentoring does not require an extensive knowledge of the college-going process," said tnAchieves Director of Mentors Tyler Ford. "tnAchieves will provide the training and resources necessary to ensure mentors are successful in guiding their students. The most important quality of a mentor is their willingness to encourage students as they achieve their full potential. Anyone willing to commit just one hour per month to supporting students can serve as an excellent mentor."

Those wanting to learn more about mentoring are invited to attend an upcoming informational webinar set to take place Tuesday, November 17 at 5:00 PM ET/4:00 PM CT or Wednesday, November 18 at 1:30 PM ET/12:30 PM CT. Each session will present on the same material and last for 20 minutes. Those interested in attending an upcoming webinar can register at [www.tnAchieves.org/mentors](http://www.tnAchieves.org/mentors). If you are unable to attend an informational webinar, you can learn more at [www.tnachieves.org/mentors/apply](http://www.tnachieves.org/mentors/apply).

Mentors must be 21 years of age, are subject to a background check and complete a one-hour training.

tnAchieves is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that has been providing scholarships with mentor support since 2008. If you have questions about the tnAchieves mentoring program, please email or call Tyler Ford at [tyler@tnAchieves.org](mailto:tyler@tnAchieves.org) or (309) 945-3446.



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Wartburg



Sunbright

## Margaret Lou Barnette, 75

Margaret Lou Barnette, age 75 known as "Lou Lou" to many moved to her heavenly home on November 12, 2020 at Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge. She was born October 16, 1945. She is now walking on streets of heaven.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Russell Barnett; parents, Barlow, and Selma Morgan Carmack; brothers, Alvin C. Carmack and Barlow Carmack Jr.; niece, Galye Carmack Hare.

She is survived by her only sister, Iva June Scott of Lancing; special nephew, Lewis Austin; special great niece, Beth (Darren) Whaley; great nephew, Eric Austin, Wesley Austin and Dalton Austin; great great nephew, Landon Austin. She is also survived by her nephew, Ross Carmack and wife, Suzi; niece, Regina Carmack and husband, Albert "Peanut"; great niece, Amber Carmack; great nephew, Jimmy Hare Jr.; great great nieces, Aulbren Bisser and Johannah Whaley; great great nephews, DJ, Jericho, Reece Whaley, and Grayson Bisser.

Lou Lou worked for Morgan County Headstart for a little over 25 years as the Health Nutrition Coordinator. She had a love for cooking, baking, working crosswords, word searches and coloring. Lou Lou was a wonderful, sweet lady who loved and helped everyone. She was strong and tough as nails. Lou Lou loved her family, and they will love and miss her dearly.

Lewis, Beth, Eric and Landon were very special to her. She loved her family, and they will love and miss her dearly. She had a few very special friends who she loved, and they loved her. Mary and Roger Nelson of Lancing, Portia Davis of Deer Lodge, Betty Wright of Oakdale and CeeJay Byrd of Lancing, Tn.

The family is respecting her wishes and not having a receiving of friends or funeral. A small graveside service will be held at Forrestner Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Margaret Lou Barnette.

## Judith Lynn Duncan, 79

Judith Lynn Duncan, age 79, of Joyner Community passed away at her home on Thursday, November 18, 2020. She was born on August 1, 1941 at the home where they lived at that time.

She is preceded in death by her parents, J.C. & Katy Duncan of Joyner Community; also, her grandparents, Verdie N. & Sally Jones and Elmer & Nelly Duncan and special uncle, Tommy Jones.

She is survived by her aunt and caretaker, Sue Jones; cousins, Robyn Jones, Cindy Jones Hearne, Lora Jones (Lyle) Fountain, Murrell (Michelle) Jones, Myrna Jones Sayne, Becky (John) Wells Hurst, Ronnie Wells, Dee (Terry) Jones Jackson, Marjorie (Paul) Jones Maybon, Carolyn Jones Roberts, Tom (Susan) Makres, Joseph Makres, Patricia Makres Church-Well, Michael Jones and a host of other cousins and many special friends.

Judy was well known from her parent's grocery store Duncan's Grocery in Joyner and later at Jones Groceries with her aunt and uncle Tommy & Sue Jones. Judy had one hobby and love collecting pictures. She asked everyone she met for a picture and could tell you when she looked at them who they were.

She will be sorely missed but is in heaven with her family now.

The family as in lieu of flowers contributions be made to Children's St. Judes Hospital in Nashville.

The family will receive friends Saturday, November 21, 2020 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00-1:00 p.m. with interment to follow at Union Cemetery in Joyner.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Judith Lynn Duncan.

## Robert Eugene Phillips, 60

Robert Eugene Phillips, age 60, passed away on November 16, 2020 surrounded by his loving family.

He was preceded in death by parents Euvine Wright and JC Phillips.

He is survived by Phyllis (Woods) Phillips, his loving wife of 35 years, children Sherron & Derrick Ramsey, Steven & Lin Phillips and grandchild Jayden Ramsey; Brothers, Rick & Barbara Phillips, and Randy & Anita Phillips, brother and sister in

laws; Rady & Angie Knight, Kenny Woods and Cozetta Woods, special brother Jason Rogers, and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Schubert Funeral Home to help with funeral expenses. A private memorial service will be held at New Pilot Cemetery at a later date.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Robert Phillips.

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

## SENATE MAJORITY REELECTS SENATOR YAGER AS REPUBLICAN CAUCUS CHAIRMAN

NASHVILLE -- Members of the Senate majority met today in Nashville where they voted to reelect Senator Ken Yager (R-Kingston) to a top leadership role as Republican Caucus Chairman. The meeting was held as the General Assembly prepares to open the first session of the 112th General Assembly on January 12.

Senate Republicans hold a 27-6 super majority, providing direct member representation to citizens in all 95 counties in Tennessee.

Chairman Yager said, "I am honored and humbled to serve again as Caucus Chair to such a hardworking, talented and committed group of individuals. We have many challenging issues that await us in the 2021 legislative session. This caucus embraces challenges and will chart a bold, conservative path to support economic recovery efforts, improve education, and provide quality health care services, making Tennessee the best place in the nation to live work and raise a family.

Caucus members also voted to reelect Yager to serve on the Joint Fiscal Review Committee. The committee conducts a continuing review of the financial operations of state government. He previously served as chairman of the committee. Yager will be confirmed by a resolution of the full Senate when the General Assembly convenes.

Others elected to Caucus leadership positions include Senator Jack Johnson as Majority Leader, Senator Ferrell Haile (R-Gallatin) as Treasurer, Senator Dawn White (R-Murfreesboro) as Secretary and Senator Shane Reeves (R-Murfreesboro) as Chaplain. In addition, Lt. Governor Randy McNally was renominated for a third term serving Tennessee.

COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION

East Tennessee Human Resource Agency (ETHRA) will distribute Commodities, Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 8 am to 12 pm, at the Wartburg Civic Center. You may pick up for 3 households only. Please bring a box for your commodities. Households can pre-register prior to distribution date at the ETHRA office located next to Wartburg High School. For more information, call 423-346-6651, option 5. This program is funded under an agreement with the Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal law and USDA, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

Send Letters to the Editor  
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## Morgan County Today

**Tommy Lee Francis: Publisher**  
Email: [publisher@mocotoday.com](mailto:publisher@mocotoday.com)

**Heather Francis: Editor**  
Email: [editor@mocotoday.com](mailto:editor@mocotoday.com)

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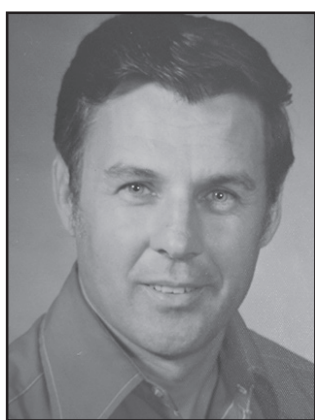
### Rates in Morgan County

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

### Out of County Rates

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

## The Joys of Teaching Back Then



Tom Redmon  
Columnist

There is a saying that “Things always change and that nothing is permanent except change its self.”

This is so true and nothing has changed anymore than our public education system. Just go back to the 50’s (sixty plus years ago) and compare the schools we went to with those of today.

First of all, back then there was discipline when a student walked into one of the Morgan County schools, he or she knew what was expected of him or her. The teachers and principals were in total charge. A teacher might have one or two unruly students and they were usually taken care of in the classroom or in the principal’s office. Corporal punishment was usually used as a last resort. What really helped is that students knew it was there; it was a deterrent. Most parents were supportive of the teacher and principal. Many parents told their son or daughter if they got in trouble at school they were in bigger trouble at home.

One thing that I liked back in what I called “the good ole days” is that the local school system was in control of most of the things going on in the classroom. The state had rules that had to be followed, like the number of students you could have in a classroom. In elementary and junior high it was forty, which I felt was too many.

Textbooks were approved by the state, but schools had a big say in what they taught. Even in the 1970’s when I was a principal of a school in Florida, we got samples from many book publishers that gave us a lot of leverage in making a choice. Unlike today where the federal government has its hands in determining the curriculum and the textbook we must use. When the federal government got into the public education system we were in trouble. Gradually the local schools have lost all the freedoms they use to have. I retired from my job in 1995



and change was coming then. When my son started teaching nothing could drive him out of his job but in 2016, he didn’t like what was happening in the Florida school system. He got out of education when he was in his forties. Many teachers all over the country are doing the same. It has become difficult to get good teachers. Administrators are having a hard time just covering the classrooms to have someone in the room to “baby sit”.

How do we get back to where we use to be? It will be most difficult but we need to try. First of all, parents and citizens need to get

involved. They need to see the curriculum and find out what our children are being taught they need to demand more local control. Teachers and principals spent much of their time doing paper work so they have less time with the students. The reason we have schools is so we can educate our children. But now the government acts like we have education is so they can tell the teachers what to do and how to do it. Many of the people at the state house have little or no experience in teaching.

Before I retired from the school system in Manatee

County, Florida

they came out with one of the worst doctrines that I have ever heard about. If you had 30 students in your

class, say in the 6th grade, then every student in that classroom had to be on the same page in the math textbook. I have taught 6th graders who were on three levels or more behind, I had advanced students who were ready to move on and I had some students who didn’t understand the most basic of the math problems we were on. I had students who were reading on the 8th grade level or higher and some who had trouble reading in the 6th grade level. It was ridiculous to think that all students process at the same speed. Teachers who have taught a number of years understand

that all kinds of factors enter into where the students are and the government officials don’t know and they don’t seem to want to listen.

One big factor is what kind of home or environment does the student come from. Do their parents give support to education matters? Another factor is the student’s motivation and how he or her had done in the previous grades. Of course, intelligent level is important and that has been done by testing in lower grades. The best time to retain a student is in the lower grades (1st and 2nd) because sometimes it is the maturity level of the child that is the big factor.

I have never been a big supporter of social promotion but sometimes it is necessary. I am a big supporter of vocational or trade school education because I have seen it work. Some students can make good mechanics, electricians, plumbers and anything else that requires working with their hands. They can be very successful where if you leave them in academics they are lost. I also believe that all students do not belong in college. They should learn a trade.

With all that said I still enjoyed teaching in the old days. If I could go back, I would want to do the same thing I did in three decades (60,70,80’s). My favorite grades were the 5th and 6th, and they 11th and 12th.

Pray for all of our teachers and administrators because today its not like it was in the old days. I just wish we could return to those days.

MY STORY OF WHAT MCRRC DONE FOR ME!  
BY MICHAEL S. DE MARINI SR,

My name is Michael De Marini SR. I was born on 14 Nov. 1978 at HILL AFB UTAH I am 41 years old. I had been lost in addiction for the past few years between drinking and using drugs. Growing up I never thought I would become a full-blown addict with a disease that would make me not care who you are or what you are.

I am a U.S. Army Combat Veteran of 6 years. My father is a U.S Airforce Veteran of 30 years. I knew at a young age I wanted to join the military and serve my country like my father and both my grandfathers. So that’s what I did I joined the Army in 97 and was on my way to boot camp at Ft. Benning Ga. I wanted to be the BEST of the BEST and make my family and country proud, so I signed up for the Airborne Ranger contract. I had many deployments in my service some of those deployments included Panama, Egypt, Korea, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The units I served in consisted of 2nd Ranger Batt., 1/5 Infantry Reg., and 101st Airborne.

During my time in service I had received such medals as a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal (X2), Army Achievement Medal (X4), Army Good Conduct Medal (X2), National Defense Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon (X2), Overseas Service Ribbon, Expert Shooters Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Multinational Force Observers Medal, Operation Enduring Freedom Ribbon.

I was also able to attend a lot of different schools such as Ranger School, Sniper School, Airborne School, Air Assault, Jungle Operations Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (BNOC), Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC), Combat Medic Course, and Unit Armorer Course.

My life was something to be proud of until I returned home from Combat where I had got injured. And shortly after returning home I was being medically discharged. That’s when my life quickly spun completely out of control. I soon noticed that I couldn’t go without the very pills that was supposed to help me get better and knew I was addicted. Shortly after that started to find

myself in and out of Jails and Institutions. I was embarrassed to even mention my service in the military cause I felt like I was dishonoring my country and my fellow brothers and sisters. I found myself with my head hanging low all the time and praying God would just take my life or help me get sober. I found myself doing and being involved in things I would never think of doing sober and clear headed. Well to make a long story short he finally answered my prayers and did for me what I could not do for myself. I found myself getting arrested, at the time I was not a happy camper and I was stuck this time no bond no escape. So while I was sitting in jail waiting on court. I was asleep when a CO woke me and told me I had mail I opened it and it was a application for Veterans Court and the Morgan County Residential Recovery Court which is a year long intensive impatient treatment program, followed by some intense after care just what I needed and been praying for. So without knowing my fate in court I filled the application out and mailed it in that night. Shortly after that my lawyer came to see me I told her what I wanted and was willing to do whatever it takes I am tired of being someone im not and I want to live again. So after 6months of sitting in jail I finally got picked up and I was on my way to MCRRC . This decision would change my life forever.

I graduated MCRRC in June of this year and have been Sober and Clean for over 18 months. MCRRC has changed my life and most of all SAVED my live. I have endured some intense treatment on finding myself, working on my PTSD, my anger problems, my Depression, my relationship with my kids and my parents and my brand new grandbaby boy, and loving myself again. The MCRRC program taught me way more than I can put on paper but most of all it taught me how to be a positive member of society again. I thank God for answering my prayers and never giving up on me when I gave up on myself. With Small Groups, 12 Steps Meetings, Veterans Group, one on ones with my counselor and case managers and working the 12 Steps I have earned my honor back and I can say I am proud to have served in the U.S. Army and fought for the greatest nation in the world The United States of America. And I’m proud to say I have got my kids back in my life and now have a relationship with them and my parents. I

will never throw away again. I now stand for something and walk with my head held high and a heart full of love rather than a heart full of pain and hate. I know now I am never alone never again.

None of this would be possible if it wasn’t for this program and the staff and volunteers in this program so I would like to send out a heartfelt THANK YOU to Judge Seth Norman without you we would not have this life changing program thank you for this opportunity I am forever grateful. I would also like to thank Judge Gary McKenzie, Judge Don Elledge, The entire Wartburg Community, Union Baptist Church, Kelly Town Baptist Church, and First Presbyterian Church of Oak Ridge for all you have done for me and my family and MCRRC. I want to also give a big thank you and love you to all the staff at MCRRC my counselors Elizabeth Andrews, Becky Nolan, Tim Lipps, Jeanette Patrick, Mrs. Gene, Tom Patrick, Chelsea Smith, James Gibson, DR. Jennie Jobe, and our 2 nurses Carol and Jackie you are truly family to me and I love you all. Also to my drug court back in Cookeville my Probation Officer Holly Royston, the DA General Bryant Dunaway, and many more you are great and heaven sent thank you again.

And I want to thank my family that is my support group and my rock My 2 beautiful kids, my new addition my Grandson, my mom and dad and sister. Yall never gave up on me when I had gave up on myself and caused yall so much pain and heartache but yet you still loved me and never turned on me thank you and I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

So in closing if your lost in active addiction, please get help it’s out there. There is hope and a much better way of life Clean and Sober. I am now out to accomplish a lot in life and now have realistic goals and getting high or drinking is not in my life nor is going back to jail that’s not an option for me. I have worked so hard. I HAVE A FUTURE!!!!!! God Bless America our military men and women.

Never Alone, Never Again,  
Michael S. DeMarini SR.

## Historically Speaking Milk Glass Moon - a look at life before Oak Ridge

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Every once in a great while, a book comes along that is ripe for its time and that finds a ready audience. Rebecca Carroll has written just such a novel, in *Milk Glass Moon*, telling the story of life in this area, now Oak Ridge, just prior to the Manhattan Project. She bases her story on personal family memories, but uses fiction to condense the story and sharpen the visual images she describes.

The story is told through the eyes of a young fourteen-year-old girl, Lydia Johnson, growing up fast and just beginning to yearn for her freedom. Yet, the story begins with Lydia at age 17, just learning what has been going on in that place now called "Oak Ridge," but to her is still Lupton. The news of the atomic bomb project near where she played as a child, unlocks a flood of memories of earlier times when she and her best friend, Willamena, ran through the valley stretching from the Clinch River west and of times when she picked blackberries with her family.

Simple things, yet profound memories. Lydia's life quickly went from a slow and steady daily pattern to one where things she had taken for granted were no more. From having an established home to being told to move, from nothing much happening around her to seeing things that she does not understand. All the while she is growing from a child into a young lady.

Through her struggle to emerge as a woman we experience the turmoil of change and the anxiety of the unknown, yet her deep love for her family and intense respect for her "Mama and Daddy" keep her close to her family through it all. The choice of the terms "Mama and Daddy" struck a keen note with me as those are the terms I use to refer to my parents!

The story is set in the area known then as Lupton's Crossroads (now about midway along Emory Valley Road between Lafayette Drive and Melton Lake Drive) and includes Copeland's store, Scarboro, Elza, New Hope and Wheat. Eventually, the story concludes in Coalfield where the Johnson family moved when they were forced off their farm near Lupton's Crossroads.

It is a poignant story, yet has much humor and a huge amount of familiar dialog that takes one back in time to the things of the era in the middle of the previous century. Rebecca accomplishes the familiarity through the use of key words that will cause your mind to go back in time to your youth and recall similar circumstances and exactly the same expressions. She does this extremely well.

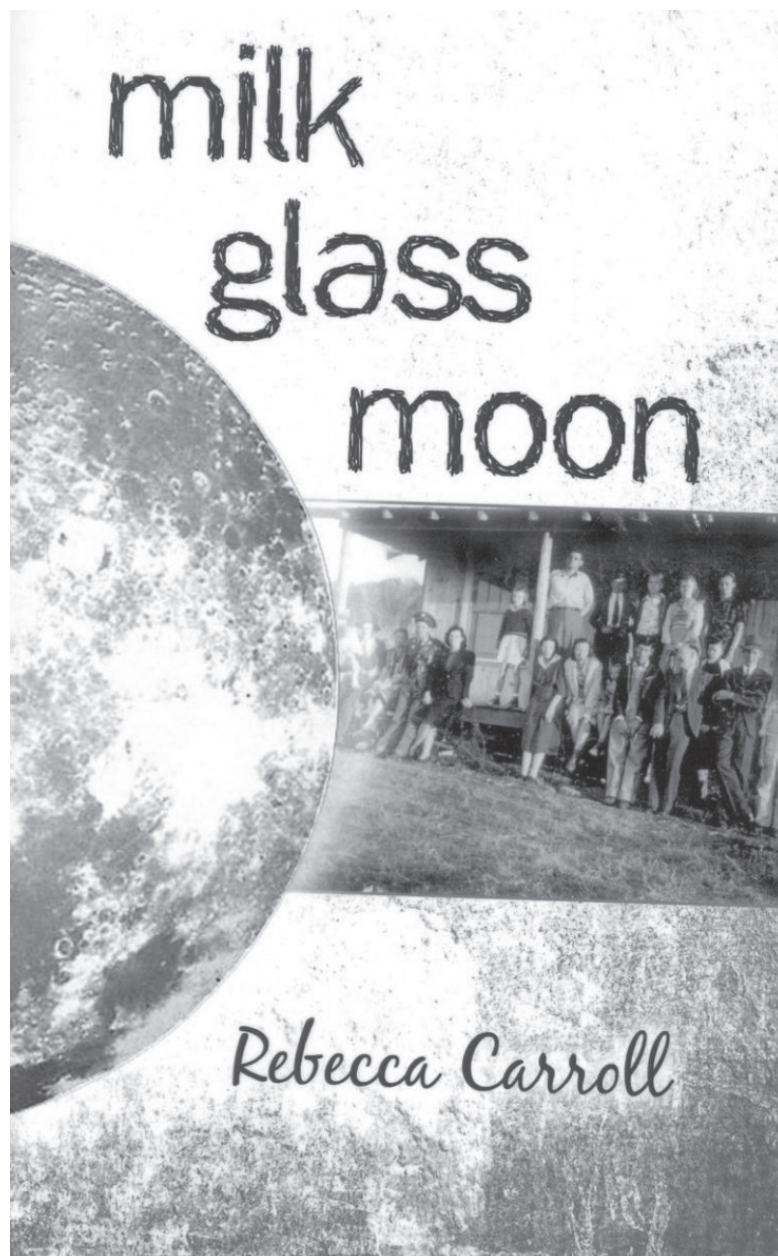
The central adventure Lydia recalls is a walking trip she and Willamena took far beyond the accepted distance which was Copeland's store. They were hoping to spy on the Reed brothers who lived well to the west of Copeland's and up on Black Oak Ridge, quite a distance for young girls' legs, but a trip for which they planned and prepared.

But it is not the Reed boys that they find, but evidence of a horrible struggle with blood stains and a dead dog. They dare to explore the house where this terrible event occurred, but soon became so frightened that they ran back down the ridge. Only to run into a stranger in a black car who tries to give them a ride. Not something they want, but the stranger makes a strong impression on Lydia.

In her fear to admit she was even close to the scene of the crime (after all she was not supposed to even go past Copeland's store!) she realized the stranger saw her there. This becomes a severe problem for Lydia when happenstance causes this stranger, Robert

Doleman, to meet her Mama and lo and behold to get invited to dinner, not just once, but again.

By the time he came for dinner the first time, Lydia and Willamena had again seen Doleman who caught up to them during a rain and again offered a ride. This time they



Rebecca Carroll's engrossing story of a young girl growing up while the atomic bomb changed the world (Photo Submitted)

accepted his kind offer, being soaked to the bone.

So, when he began to get close to her family and be invited to eat meals with them, Lydia, was just sure her Mama would find out that she not only had ventured way farther than permitted, but that she knew something of that awful murder. She worried about this and fretted about what to do to prevent it. Can't you just see her mind working out the various details of discovery and how she would react when confronted by Mama?

There are many other adventures in Rebecca's story based on her family. They obviously have roots in actual events with real people, for they strike home and seem so right for the time.

There is also the twist of fate that comes to Lydia's sister, Esther. She is older than Lydia and thus, more responsible or so it seems. However, she is surprisingly independent and proves to be someone who acts on her desires. Lydia learns too late just how much so when something Lydia wanted to happen to her actually happens to Esther.

The move from Lupton's to Coalfield is not without turmoil. Lydia's Daddy, works in the coal mines and is often away from home. But when the time comes to make the decision and move the family, he takes that responsibility personally, going far and near searching for a suitable place to make a new home for his family.

It is during the move to Coalfield that the "milk glass moon" is pressed into Lydia's memory. This type moon is an unusual spectacle with "pale light at the edges, fading into the sky" as Rebecca puts it in her book. That same type moon shone the night Rebecca knew time was ripe for the telling of Lydia's story.

Through Lydia's memories, the reader can relive this life-changing drama of being uprooted from one's home and given only weeks to relocate. She also shows the strength that many young girls have which go far beyond appearances and the insight she exhibits into her family members is likely more typical than we realize. Often our children know us all too well.

I became aware of this new book a few weeks ago when Terry Carroll, Rebecca's husband and a coworker of mine at Y-12, sought me out to tell me of his wife's interest in the area's history. I indicated my keen interest in seeing the book when it was published. Terry assured me he would see that I got one.

Weeks passed and I pretty much forgot about the conversation and the book. Then one night I got an e-mail from Rebecca reminding me of our brief meeting at Chick-Fil-A and saying that Terry was trying to contact me. She came by the New Hope Center and dropped off her book for me to review.

I was going to Columbia, TN to keep three of my grandkids the following week and promised to find time to read the book during that week. We also discussed how she might distribute her book in Oak Ridge locations.

*Milk Glass Moon* is available at Jefferson Compounding in Oak Ridge and Hoskins' Drugs in Clinton. It can also be purchased online at Amazon.com.

It is a paperback and is an easy read, yet a read that holds your attention, challenges your imagination and takes you back to your youth. I enjoyed it and welcomed the opportunity to review it.

Rebecca and Terry live in Claxton, TN and she teaches English at both Pellissippi State and

Tennessee Tech. She is trained as a creative writer and has written and published several short stories and non-fiction articles. She is currently working on another book with a local setting and even has an idea for yet another book, this one featuring Oliver Springs near the turn of the 20th century when it was a mineral spring resort area.

I hope you find "Milk Glass Moon" as pleasurable to read as I did. I am sure that you will gain a better perspective of the pre-Oak Ridge communities and without doubt I am sure you will grow fond of Lydia Johnson.

*Oak Ridge was created as a part of the Manhattan Project in 1942 to help stop World War II. The atomic bomb, Little Boy, fueled by uranium 235 separated at Oak Ridge helped to do just that.*

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

*This "Secret City" nestled in Appalachia near Morgan County and where many from Morgan County go each day to work, continues today to produce scientific discoveries used worldwide and still routinely makes history. These Historically Speaking stories will provide insight into the people of Oak Ridge and the work they do to help humankind. Historically Speaking is written by D. Ray Smith, Oak Ridge City Historian, retired Y-12 National Security Complex Historian and Vietnam Veteran.*



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John 3:7

- Jesus

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## Be Thankful

By: MSG. Fred Mize



MSG Fred Mize

No two lives are the same but everyone has something to be thankful for. Let's take a moment and think of some of the countless things God has blessed us with that we often overlook or even under appreciate but should always be thankful for. Some of these things for me is; not knowing the pain of absolute

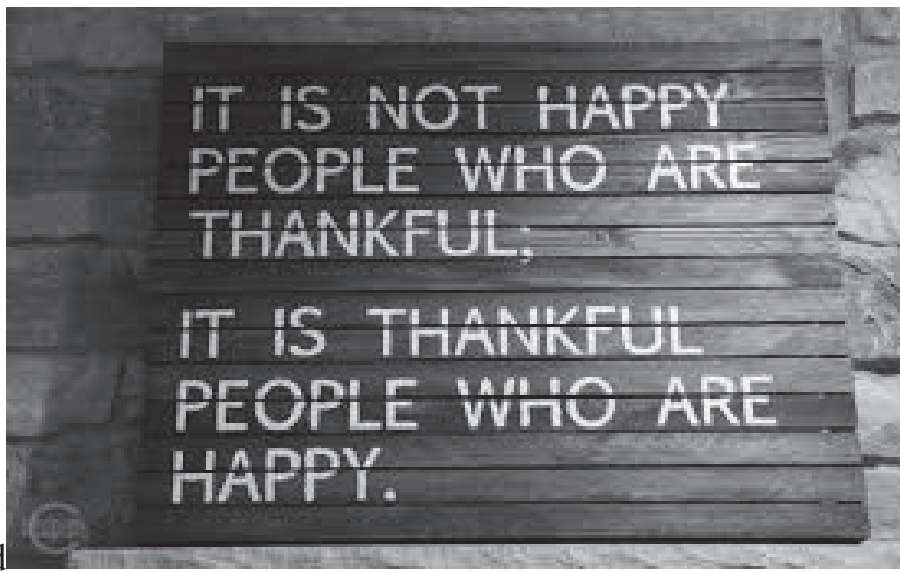
hunger, having a roof over my family's head, warm heat and cool air by the flip of a switch, food on our table, the freedom to worship the Lord as we desire with our church family, the laughter of our children, being able to have both of my parents in my life today, loving aunts, uncles, cousins and in-laws filling my life, friends who are both close and loyal, the privilege to have served in the military for

a country who is thankful, the freedom to choose to further my education and have the profession of my choice, the freedom to live where I desire and to pursue happiness for myself and my

family... Most of all I'm thankful for the gift I received but certainly did not deserve nor could ever earn on my own. That's my gift of salvation given to me by God Himself by the sacrifice made

by His Son Jesus Christ to save me from the deserved punishment of my sins. Amen! I encourage you to examine your life and appreciate your blessings that have been bestowed onto you by God. As human beings in the flesh I don't believe any of us will truly be

happy until we are with God in the Spirit but I also believe we all have far more to smile about than we have to frown on. Instead of holding our heads down let's lift our eyes and hands up in praise to the Lord and be thankful for His countless gifts and love for us. I pray that you and yours have a wonderful Thanksgiving and live each day to it's fullest as though it were your last. Be thankful, be courageous, and be free!



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

## Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

### Don't Be A Zombie

Last week, was an amazing week for me, our local community (Morgan County), and the state of Tennessee. I launched my brand-new book, "Don't Be A Zombie: How to Find a Career You Love". The best part of launching my new book is to help those struggling to find work, those stuck in a job they hate, and for students looking for a career passion. The second-best part is launching the book in my hometown.

I started last week on a zoom call with WVLT. They had me on to discuss on my new book and to give some advice to people looking for a new job during a pandemic. The local Knoxville, TN media has been very kind to me over the years. I have been on multiple times since my first book launch. A special thank you to WVLT for allowing me some-time to share my message.



Jones for organizing my visit.

Central Middle School welcomed me with open arms. I spoke to the 8th grade class for about 20-25 minutes on the importance of education, maintaining good grades, gaining experience at a young age, and most importantly following their dreams. I visited Wartburg Library to offer a free talk on career development. We opened the event to the community. A special thank you to Amy Redmond Stafford and Patricia Perdue-Conner for organizing both events.

Member of the Wartburg Central High Class of 2001, Emily Roettger Graber, opened up a brand new business in Warburg, TN called ,The MoCo Brewing Project. This is where I had my official book launch celebration. It was a great time seeing members of the community and reconnecting with old friends. There were two food trucks, Doug Freels entertained us with some music, and I gave out some prizes. I sold almost every copy of my new book. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible. It was truly an honor. A special thanks to Emily & Matt Graber, Tommy Francis with Morgan County Today, and The Dumb Blonde Reporters: Samantha and Cassie.

If you are interested in purchasing my book and you are a Morgan County resident, I am offering a limited time discount to you. Please email me at [zack@zackballinger.com](mailto:zack@zackballinger.com). The retail price is 16.95 on Amazon. I am offering them at a discount of \$12.00 with free shipping and



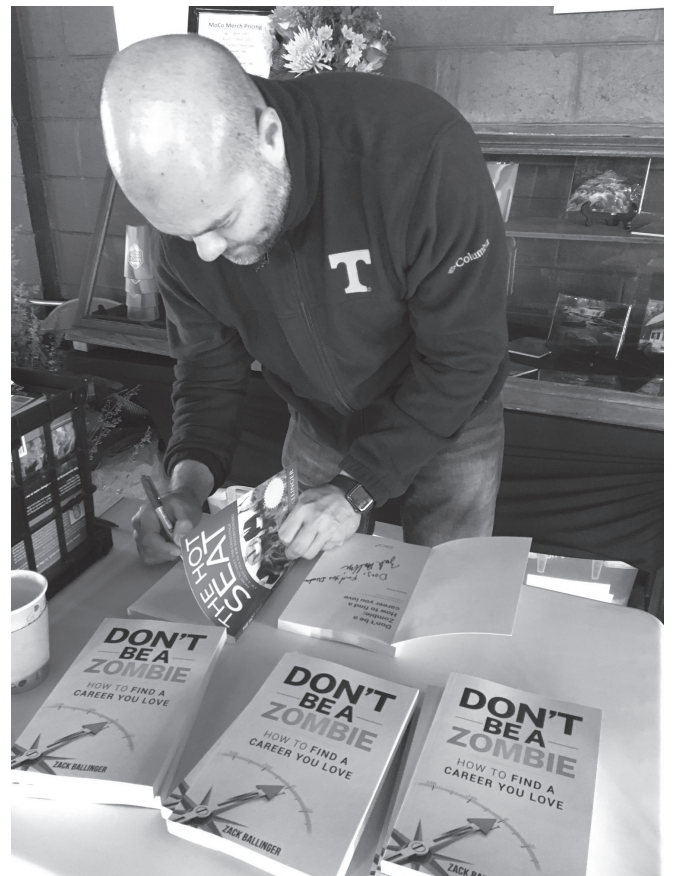
Zack Ballinger

handling. I also have, Don't be a Zombie T-shirts available for sale at discounted rate of \$15.00. This is a limited time offer. Happy Thanksgiving!

*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.*



Tuesday, November 10th was another landmark date for my new book launch celebration. I returned to Central High School in Wartburg, TN to deliver the message of finding your passion in life. I spoke to 2 different classes at Wartburg Central High School and announced a new scholarship winner. The scholarship is the 3rd annual Zack Ballinger Scholarship awarded to one student who has a GPA of 3.0 or higher, demonstrates a passion for a certain career field, and displays work ethic in everything they do. The winner of the \$500.00 Scholarship was Breanna Egbert. Congratulations, Breanna! A special thanks to Aaron



Sandra Helton's weekly column

## Oakdale Area News

email: kvhelton@highland.net



I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Although things are so different and our world experiences different phases of unrest and there is a lot of uncertainty, we are still blessed and have so much to give thanks for. If you are unable to observe your traditional holiday activities, remember you still have much to be thankful for.

Happy 93rd Birthday to Mrs. Ruth Headrick who is celebrating her special day today, November 24.

Get well wishes to Oakdale Mayor Buddy Miller who recently experienced an accident. Remember his sweet nurse Jeannie Miller who will make sure he follows doctor's orders.

Tyler Townsend would like to give a big thank you to all area churches that prayed for him when he had triple bypass surgery. He is doing well and goes for cardio rehab three times weekly. He would appreciate continued prayers. We are all thankful you are doing well Tyler!

Susan

Brewer and Verna Webb took a sister trip on November 13. They went to Asheville, NC to attend the Vintage Market. They then went to the Christmas Craft Fair at the Knoxville Expo Center. Keep making memories girls!

On Saturday, November 14, Susan and Wayne Gunter went to Pall Mall, TN to tour the Alvin C. York property and memorial. They had lunch at Forbus General Store. They highly recommend this trip to all.

Piney Baptist Church is hosting a celebration to honor the birth of Jesus on Saturday, December 5 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Piney Church, along with area churches will be displaying scenes of events leading up to Jesus birth until he died and rose again. Friends and neighbors who live along Piney Church Road will also participate. This is a drive thru event so families can remain in their cars and enjoy the celebration.

Earlier in the day on December 5, Together Morgan County will host a drive thru at Frozen

Head State Park with scenes from The Night Before Christmas. It will be from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Several organizations in the county are partnering together to provide a safe family event. There will be snacks and free items and Santa will be at the end of the drive thru. Families will remain in their cars for a safe holiday event. Anyone wishing to help in anyway can contact Sandra Helton at heltons@mcsed.net. All volunteers are welcome.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Patricia Price who passed away last week. She is survived by her husband John, son and daughter in law Brian and April Langley, daughters Angela Langley, Star Price and Mary Harness and husband Jason. She is also survived by ten grandchildren, one great granddaughter and sisters, Pamela Forrester and Tracy Gibson.

Sympathy is extended to Susan Collins and her family due to the passing of her mother, Connie Altum.

Mrs. Alice Chapman passed

away Sunday, November 15.

She is survived by her daughters and sons in laws, Sheliah and Scott Ruppe

and Carol and Chuck Willborn, grandchildren Sarah (Wes) Strickland, Matthew (Stacy) Ruppe, Toni (Jason) Lane and Jessica (Josh) Fink. Her great grandchildren are Emma, Jenna, Weston, Carson, Addy, Ella, Jace Maggie and Bella. She is also survived by her brothers, Minuard, Tommy and Carson Grant. Services were held Wednesday, November 18 at Mt. Teman Baptist Church. Interment was in the church cemetery.

As we enter this holiday season, please remember those who have lost loved ones. The holidays can be very sad for those who are grieving. Please remember the many, many things we have to pray about. Pray for the many sick all around us. Love to everyone!

*"It's not so much what we have in this life that matters. It's what we do with what we have."*  
Fred Rogers

To the Editor:

The Morgan County Community Collaborative known as Together Morgan County is planning a Free Drive Thru Event for Families on Saturday, December 5 at Frozen Head State Park from 10:00 - 1:00. All safety precautions will be in place. The classic Clement C. Moore poem, 'The Night Before Christmas,' will be brought to life in scenes created and designed by Morgan County organizations. As guests drive along the route, they can read the poem from a copy of the book given to them upon arrival. Also upon arrival, guests will receive a snack to enjoy during the drive thru. At the end of the route, each car will be presented a goody bag by Santa himself!

Together Morgan County welcomes all businesses, organizations, churches and school groups to join us in providing holiday cheer to Morgan County Families. Anyone interested in creating a scene can contact Sandra Helton @ heltons@mcsed.net for more information.

For those who would like to participate in another way, you can volunteer to do a hot chocolate/hot cider stand at the beginning of the drive thru, give away items at the end of the drive thru or contribute items to be placed in the Goody Bag that Together Morgan County will distribute. "Elves" that would like to assist in the give away distribution are welcome to do so. Some suggestions for items are food/toiletries/necessities for families or books, coloring books, pencils/crayons, stuffed animals for children. These are only ideas.

Together Morgan County is excited to work with everyone to make this a memorable event for families. Please share this post on your social media as well as with your schools, churches and local businesses.

Sincerely,

Sandra Helton

Morgan County Community Engagement Coordinator

## Acts Chapter 8

(Acts 8:1-3) persecution ignited: the bloody event of that day lit the fuse for a horrible persecution against the Lord's church. With the exception of the apostles, the saints fled throughout Judaea and even into Samaria. Stephen was buried by godly men. Saul went on a rampage of terror, dragging both men and women from their homes and thrusting them into prison. He was a ravenous wolf in the fold of the Lamb due to ignorance and unbelief (I Tim. 1:13).

(Acts 8:4-8) Philip's preaching in Samaria: Saul's plan backfired. As he "scattered" the disciples they "went about preaching the word." The persecutor became a "missionary" before he became a missionary! Philip (one of the seven) went down to a prominent city in Samaria and proclaimed "the Christ," he argued that Jesus is the Messiah. Multitudes "gave heed," they obeyed gospel commands (Acts 2:38); "with one accord" suggests the unity of the plan. The people did not choose optional ideas about salvation such as what has happened in the last 200 years. There was power in Philip's message, for it was documented by certain miraculous signs which he performed, casting out demons, healing the lame, and etc. The city was overjoyed.

(Acts 8:9-13) the conversion of Simon the Sorcerer: Philip encountered a charlatan named Simon, who had a significant reputation as some "great" one. He had a sizable following, deceiving people with his "sorceries" (the word means magic) (v. 11). But the people were impressed with Philip's message and believed the "good tidings" (gospel) concerning the "kingdom of God" and the name of Christ; thus, they were immersed, both man and women (v. 12; Jn. 3:5; Mk. 16:16). And "Simon himself also believed: and being immersed, he continued with Philip" and was amazed at the miracles he observed. This shows that his tricks were not supernatural. It is an act of utter desperation to argue, as many Calvinists do, that Simon was never saved. Such flatly denies the sacred test.

(Acts 8:14-17) Peter and John dispatched to Samaria: when the apostles in Jerusalem heard of the conversion of the Samaritans, they sent Peter and John, who asked God that these new converts might receive supernatural gifts to employ in confirming the credibility of their evangelism (Mk. 16:20). Their prayer was answered and the miraculous gift of the Spirit was conferred by the laying on of their hands.

(Acts 8:18-24) the conflict with Simon: when Simon saw that the apostles could confer spiritual gifts by the imposition of their hands, he wanted that power. (If modern charismatics could see what Simon saw, they would not labor under the illusion that they may receive gifts, tongues, independent of apostolic bestowal.) Simon thus attempted to bribe them to convey to him the same power. They could not have done so if they would, and would not have if they could! Peter took charge.

Peter's response sounds harsh to the modern mind, but it was a divine imprecation. "If you refuse to repent, may you receive the judgment you deserve!" Don't try to buy a man of God! First, Simon was not authorized to function as a provider of spiritual gifts. Second, his "heart" was not right with God, his motive was impure. The student has no idea how much time elapsed between Simon's conversion and this unhappy incident. It certainly does not indicate

that Simon's initial actions were disingenuous. Peter encouraged the wayward brother to "repent and pray to the Lord" that he might be forgiven. The fact that he was encouraged to "pray" reveals that Peter considered him to be a child of God. Simon petitioned Peter's prayers that judgment might not fall on him. There is no reason to assume that the apostle did not grant the request.

(Acts 8:25-40) the conversion of the Ethiopian: Peter and John headed back to Jerusalem but en route preached the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans. Those "fields white unto harvest" (Jn. 4:35), of which Jesus spoke, were being reaped. Around the same time, and angel of the Lord instructed Philip to journey southward (possibly some fifty miles) and intersect the road in a deserted area that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza (on the Mediterranean coast). At the most opportune time, his path crossed that of an official from Ethiopia, a eunuch, who had been to Jerusalem to worship.

The "treasurer" was riding in his chariot and reading from a Greek translation of the Isaiah scroll. (Luke does not hesitate to attribute chapter fifty-three to Isaiah, contrary to today's liberalist view.) It "just so happened" he was reading from 53:7 about the one who was led as a "sheep to the slaughter" and whose "judgment was taken away." Interestingly, he did not view this as a prophecy regarding the nation, as modern critics speculate. The Holy Spirit instructed Philip to go and join the man. The eunuch had been reading aloud (the common practice) and Philip thus concluded what was on the traveler's mind, so he asked: "Do you understand what you are reading?" (v. 30).

The treasurer acknowledged he needed help. Philip obliged. Starting with this very passage, he "preached unto him Jesus" (v. 35). He was not wresting a text from its context, as critics suggest, for Christ himself gave this section a messianic interpretation (Lk. 22:37). Isaiah's prophecy spoke of: (a) the Lord's submissive disposition (like a lamb); (b) his violent death; (c) his refusal to defend himself; (d) the humiliating treatment he was afforded and/or the humble way in which he dealt with the ordeal; (e) the "taking away" of his "judgment" of innocence by numerous illegal maneuvers; (f) the depiction of his "generation" as non-declarable (perhaps because so profuse) as a result of his resurrection and departure (ascension) from the earth.

Presently, they came to a "certain water" and the eunuch inquired about receiving immersion immediately---which implies Philip had taught him concerning both the urgent obligation and form of administration. They both went "down into the water," and Philip immersed the man. They then both "came up out of the water." The second expression might seem redundant were it not for the heresy that subsequently evolved, namely that immersion is not the exclusive mode of baptism. Philip was "caught away" by the Spirit to Azotus (Ashdod) thirty miles to the west, and the treasurer went on his way, rejoicing because of the salvation received. Philip evangelized his way up the coast to Caesarea.

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MELVIN HOWARD

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## Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week



The Morgan County Today is thankful to honor Jim Morrow as both this week's law enforcement officer of the week and the veteran of the week.

Jim's military service began at the young age of nineteen when he was drafted into the United States Army in 1967. He fulfilled his draft term of service from 1967-1971. During which time he served in Vietnam as a Military Police Officer from 1968-1969 and earned the rank of Sergeant.

Once Jim was honorably discharged from the United States

Army, he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education with a minor in psychology from the University of Tennessee.

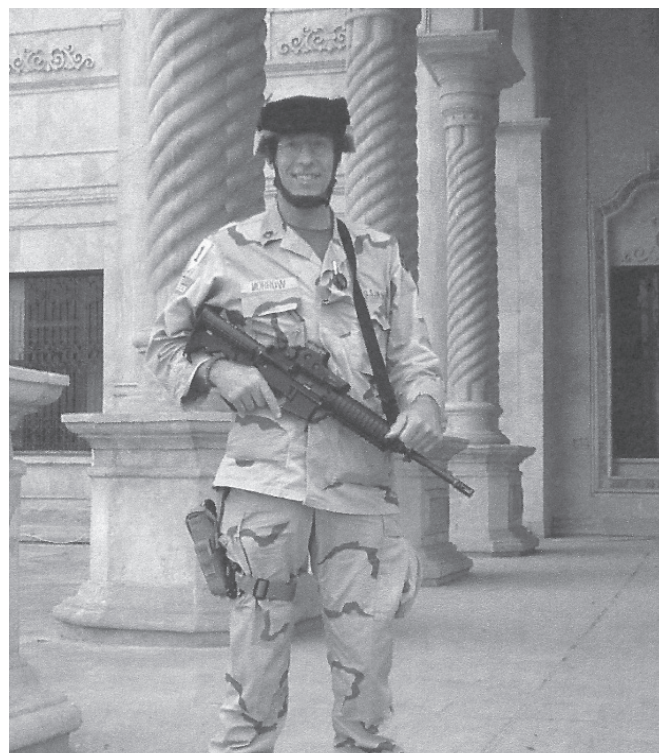
In 1979 Jim and a close friend of his decided to enlist back into the military but this time in the Tennessee Army National Guard. Jim enlisted into the 155th Medical Company and served as a Combat

Medic. He enjoyed serving in the Tennessee Army National Guard and decided to serve until he had enough time to retire.

In 2004-2005 Jim was deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom III as a member of the 278th Regimental Combat Team (RCT). At this point in his military career he earned the prestigious rank of Sergeant First Class (SFC) and served in both Balad and Tikrit, Iraq as a Medical Liaison responsible for approximately 5,000 troops.

Jim was one of only six soldiers in the 278th RCT that served in both Vietnam and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He fulfilled his military service goal and retired from the Tennessee Army National Guard in 2007.

SFC Jim Morrow, we at Morgan County Today cannot thank you enough for both your civilian career in criminal justice and your military service. Morgan County, the State of Tennessee, and the United States Army can all be very proud of your service and actions but I'm sure none is prouder of you than your loving wife Angela. We also want to thank her for the dedicated and loving support she gave you so that you could fulfill your service and dreams. Thank you both and God bless!



## Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

Morgan County Today is pleased to honor Jim Morrow as the law enforcement officer of the week. Jim fulfilled an exceptional twenty-eight-year law enforcement career by serving both Morgan and Bledsoe Counties. He served these communities and the state of Tennessee in numerous ways as a;

Counselor III, Counseling Manager, Associate Warden of Administration, Associate Warden of Operation/Security for the Morgan County Correctional Complex and Warden for the



Bledsoe County Correctional Complex. Jim and his loving wife Angela celebrated their forty-eighth wedding anniversary on June 10, 2020. They've been blessed with three grown

children, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild. Not only has Jim faithfully served his family, community and state but also his country and is a veteran of the United States Army.

## Rules for deducting your cell phone



David Zubler

Deducting business use of your cell phone can provide a significant tax savings.

If you use your cell phone for business, you may be able to claim a business deduction. Therefore,

it's important to know the IRS rules for deducting cell phone usage so that you are taking the correct amount business expense.

If you use your own mobile device for business purposes, a cell phone business expense is based on the portion of the time that it is used for business. If 85 percent of your minutes in a given month are for business calls, for example, you can deduct 85 percent of your monthly bill on your taxes.

The best way to calculate and document this percentage is by using your cell phone bill, if it itemizes your calls. Many cellular provider bills aren't itemized, but you can log on to the provider's website to access a log of all your calls for the month. Then print out the logs and save them in case you are audited.

You can also try to prove business use through recording daily business logs that show phone conferences, but that's a lot harder. However, if a question ever arises, daily logs may help establish that a call was made for a business purpose. Some people use two phones, one for business and the other for personal use. If you do this and you're strict about keeping them separate, you can normally deduct 100 percent of the cost of the business phone on your tax return. If you have only one cell phone it's a big mistake to claim you used it 100 percent of the time for business. That's a red flag during an IRS audit, since they will assume that even phones that are used primarily for business occasionally are used to make a text or call for personal reasons.

In addition to deducting a percentage of your regular monthly bill, there may be other expenses which you can deduct. Roaming or other long-distance charges that are required by your business may be deducted. You can also deduct the difference between a more expensive plan needed for business and a cheaper plan that would have been good enough for personal use.

Additional services such as call waiting

and conferencing that are only used for business are deductible.

Phone apps that you use for business may be deductible. As an example, an app that tracks your business mileage would be deductible.

When an employer provides an employee with a cellphone primarily for business reasons, the business and personal use of the cell phone is generally non-taxable to the employee. Therefore, this can be a great benefit for an employee. The IRS does not generally require recordkeeping of business use in order to receive this tax-free treatment.

*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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