

Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News. 75¢

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March 2, 2021

MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK

Tue 02	52°/37°	
Wed 03	56°/35°	
Thu 04	57°/30°	
Fri 05	54°/31°	
Sat 06	54°/31°	
Sun 07	55°/33°	
Mon 08	58°/37°	

March is Music in Our Schools Month

By Mrs. Kortney Ross

The National Association for Music Education designated this month as a time to focus on music more than 30 years ago. Every March, music-lovers across the nation celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children.



MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH®

What makes music so important as a part of the school curriculum? There is no short and simple answer to that question. Music has tremendous benefits in so many areas for students. Learning music from a young age can improve your brain function, impact your social-emotional health, and make you more likely to succeed in school and your chosen career or life-path.

Let's begin by examining the educational and cognitive benefits of music education. Most parents would say that they want their child to be a good listener, be able to concentrate, and to do well in school. Music can help with all of that!

Did you know that participating in music actually changes your brain? According to multiple studies, participation in active music making can improve listening skills, speech, reading, memory, and ability to pay attention, among other things. Experiencing beat and rhythm as a toddler leads to solid pre-reading skills which eventually leads to better reading comprehension and higher reading scores. One study found that children who regularly attended music classes and actively participated showed larger improvements in how the brain processes speech and reading than their less-musically involved peers. Still other research has shown that students who take music in middle school score significantly higher on algebra assignments in 9th grade than their non-music counterparts and that high school students who are a part of their school's music program make higher ACT scores. Music majors are even the most likely group of college grads to be admitted to medical school (with 66% of music majors who apply to med school being accepted.)

Perhaps your family is more-athletically focused. You say, "My child is a die-hard athlete. He doesn't have time for music." I say, participating in music can help in that area, too! Music enhances fine motor skills, or the ability to use small, acute muscle movements. Starting your child on an instrument or encouraging their participation in school music classes at a very young age can help them have much better coordination later in life. And, what about teamwork? It takes a lot of teamwork to play or sing together as a group in time and in tune. You need to be able to follow the director while simultaneously listening across the ensemble for other parts and making your instrument or voice "fit" in with the rest. It also takes dedication, perseverance, and hard-work to refine your skills on an instrument.

Coordination. Teamwork. Perseverance. Focus. Good Listener. Those sound like qualities that any coach would adore!

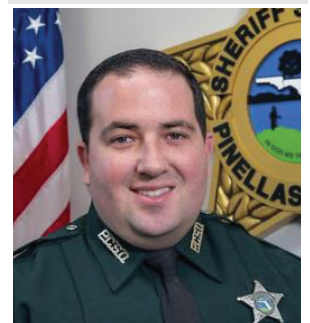
Maybe you just want your kid to turn out to be a good person. You want your child to grow up to be confident, happy, and healthy. Don't we all?? Music has proven to have many social-emotional benefits as well. For one, students who participate in school music ensembles report the lowest lifetime and current use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco and are very likely to complete high-school. Music can help a child establish good self-esteem and make them realize that they are a part of something larger than themselves. Musicians are good critical thinkers, creative, and good at compromise and cooperation. I don't know an employer who isn't looking for those skills.

Beyond all of these facts and studies though, music just makes us happier human beings. Almost all of us listen to the radio as we drive to make our commute more enjoyable. We sing lullabies to our babies to sooth them. We dance with our sons and daughters at their weddings. A good bluegrass pickin' brings our community together. Even when the world was in quarantine last spring, we turned to music. Neighborhoods had concerts for each other on their lawns. Families sang and played together. Young people danced in Tik-Tok challenges. People created parodies and funny songs to help us make light of the situation.

How can you celebrate Music In Our Schools Month? Encourage your children to participate in music. Help advocate to keep music in our schools or to bring music to the schools who are not fortunate enough to have it. Sing, dance, or play instruments as a family. Sing in your church choir or play in the band. Attend a concert. Keep music in your life and show your children that you think it is important. Music and the arts are an integral part of who we are. Even our hearts keep a beat.



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Billie Jean Grinder
Marcus R. Alford



LEO of the Week
Michael Magli



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Merry Jane Bingham Wright, 61

Merry Jane Bingham Wright of Mossy Grove, born December 25, 1959, passed away Thursday February 25, 2021 at Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge, TN. After a short battle with Pancreatic Cancer.

She is preceded in death by parents Ellis Burton Bingham and Zella "Blackie" Helton Bingham and brother David "Bud" Bingham.

She is survived by husband Larry Wright; son Josh Wright; daughter Jessica Wright; and special granddaughter Emma Wright; stepsons Kris and (Charmaine) Wright, and Scott

and (Brittany) Wright. Also survived by sister Lois and Ralph Nance; brothers Don and Judy Bingham and Willard and Ann Bingham; several grandchildren and nieces and nephews; and special friends Joni Helton and Etta Adkisson.

Her wishes were to be cremated and no services are to be held.

Friends and family are welcome to come by the home if they wish.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Merry Wright.

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

Morgan County Republican Party Biennial Reorganization Meeting

Morgan County Republican Party will hold its biennial reorganization meeting Tues. March 9th @ 7pm. Meeting will be held at the American Legion Hall at 202 S. Kingston St. Wartburg. All Republicans are invited to attend. Anyone interested in running for party chairman needs to have their info sent to the credentials committee: Tommy Francis @ tommylee_2nd@yahoo.com no later than Tues March 2nd.

Meeting Notice

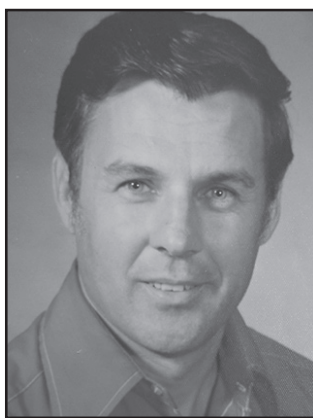
Budget meeting on March 8th @6 and the County Commission meeting will be March 8th at 7pm

COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION

East Tennessee Human Resource Agency (ETHRA) will distribute Commodities, Thursday, March 11th, 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.

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Singing: The Joy of My Life



Tom Redmon
Columnist

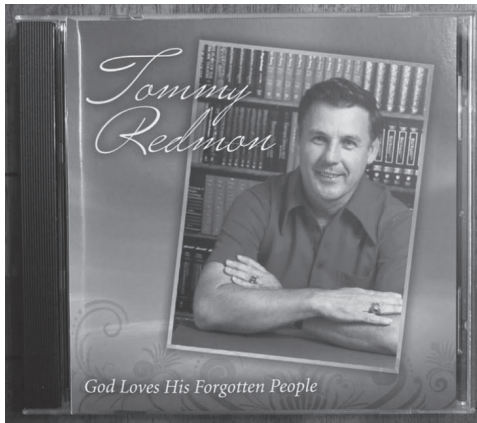
If you were to ask me when I first started singing, I would probably tell you that I can't tell you.

I have always loved to sing. My cousin over the hill from us had a guitar when he was five and by eight, he was playing pretty good. I used to pass their house and Kelly would be setting out on the porch picking that \$10 guitar or the one his daddy had made. I often wished that I had that talent and later on when I was fourteen, I got a Silvertone guitar and found that it was difficult. Even at nineteen and twenty years of age I was still unable to play the guitar. While working in Joliet, Illinois Kelly tried to teach me, but to no avail. Later on, when I was on Guam with a lot of time to kill, I bought a guitar and learned to play the country songs I could sing. I suppose I drove a few sailors crazy playing

those three corded songs in the barracks at NAS Agana, Guam.

Although I didn't play the guitar while in grammar and high school, I still loved to sing and the first songs I learned were those of Hank Williams Sr. I would get out in the woods or field near my house and belt out, "Cold, Cold, Heart", "I Can't Help It", "May You Never Be Alone Like Me", "Kaw-Liga" and "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry". Was I good? Well since no one heard me I can't say but I did develop my singing voice and I think I sounded pretty good. Later on, I liked to imitate Faron Young, Webb Pierce, George Jones and Johnny Cash.

In school, I was one bashful boy. To give a book report in front of the class was absolute torture. To recite a poem for Mrs. Brock in the 5th grade was worse than going to war. I absolutely shook in



my boots and on the day, it came my turn to recite I often made myself sick and begged mom to let me stay home. It did no good because if I got to stay home on the appointed day Mrs. Brock always made me do it when I returned to school. My bashfulness continued through most of my high school days. In my senior year I came out a little. But for me to sing in public was still out of the question. I got out of the Navy in December 1961 and in the spring of 1962, I formed my first country band. Maybe to some it wasn't much, but to me it was a start. I could get up in front of a group of people and sing. That was progress. We sang at schools and parties.

In 1966, we moved to Cookeville and soon I found myself in a country band. I can't say that we were good but we probably were somewhere in the middle of the

pack with our talent. I did a lot of the singing. We had a medical doctor who played bass guitar for us. Our greatest claim to fame was that we were the warm-up band for Faron Young and Tex Ritter. We did play at two radio stations in Cookeville and Sparta, Tennessee. In 1971, we moved to Bradenton, Florida and I sang solo for many years before we formed another band. When we did form the "Glory Land Boys" we sang mostly gospel but we didn't leave country all together. We played at mobile home parks, churches, parties, etc. We even got paid a little. It was not until 2007 that I made my first CD at Oliver Springs, Tennessee at Cumberland Sound Recording Studio. I was over 70 years old. Since then, I have made two other recordings. No longer do I have stage fright. I sing at churches mostly and parties and nursing homes. My CD's have done pretty good. I thank God for my voice and love of music. He has blessed me.

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

Morgan County Today

Tommy Lee Francis: Publisher
Email: publisher@mocotoday.com

Heather Francis: Editor
Email: editor@mocotoday.com

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John Burns
Opinion Columnist

And the children in America did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord and served other gods!

When Franklin Delano Roosevelt died, Southern Baptist preacher Harry Truman became President in America. He was educated at a western seminary in the United States. Greek hermeneutics is the model he would have learned for scriptural interpretation. The one thing missing from every American seminary education actually covers 87% of the Bible's content. Israelology is a must to rightly divide

the Word of God. To understand Israel, you must understand the twelve tribes. Issachar is the tribe the book of Chronicles teaches knew the times and seasons as it pertained to Israel. The most important day in Harry Truman's presidency is May 14, 1948; when he became the first world leader to recognize Israel in God's prophetic time clock. To Truman it was a prediction, to the Jewish mind, it followed God's paradigm or pattern in the pages of the Old Testament. None-the-less, Truman became God's man for fulfilling the promise of one day regathering Israel in the land God promised the ancestors of Abraham.

When we return to the book of Judges chapter 2, we learn the mind of God as it pertains to Israel and the United States of America. After Israel had been delivered from Egyptian servitude, they had failed God in cleansing the land of the idols and the polytheistic fertility cults in Canaan. After Puritans and Jewish families had escaped to America and the Caribbean as a result of religious persecution at the hands of European monarchies doing the bidding of the Catholic Pope, denominational churches emigrated to America. These church bodies brought with them religious tradition followed after the pattern of escaping persecution by compromising with the Pagan governments. Religious tradition eventually led to the mythological thinking that America was founded in 1787 when white slave owners signed our constitution. These men managed to throw off the yoke of taxation by the British crown, and then settled on mixing God with Roman Pagan government ideas. The result was excessive power gained by socio-political elitist's in the political class created by these wealthy land owners. They replaced the British monarchy with a rich ruling class who are now hell bent on eliminating every semblance of a belief in God from our American minds. This is what happened in Israel with the death of Joshua. With the death of the belief in Jesus Christ from America's thinking, the Church of Laodicea has manifest. The plan of God is singular, yet denominations have helped our government advance Satan's deception that Jesus Christ warned us of. Jesus Christ separated Church and State when he washed people's feet. Government, nor religion, will ever wash anyone's feet! America is under the abandonment wrath of God as prophesied by Paul in Roman's 1.

The denominational church has attacked God's covenant people with replacement theology. YHWH has never replaced Israel, for that would make Jesus Christ a liar. It is American seminary educated pastors who have wrongly divided God's two-edged sword. They do not understand the requirement of going through mercies foundation in order to receive the grace of God in Jesus Christ. To understand mercy, we must understand that each one of us crucified Israel's messiah every day. God does not change, as long as sin is in the world, we require mercy daily. When we ask for mercy, grace appears in our lives. It is part of the new birth, the desire to crucify our members is the Old Testament model for mercy. Anyone can take the Bible and apply it to someone else. It was God who applied the lesson of mercy when He allowed Himself to be crucified on a cross of wood. What we deserve is death, but instead God offered Himself as an act of mercy so grace could then be applied to every person born of a woman who ask's for mercy. Without mercy, grace cannot be activated in the life of a sinner. Mercy is the gift of God for daily repentance. Repentance is only half the problem. The other half is the need to return to the word of God, and away from church traditions which Jesus Christ abhors. The greatest being the move away from denominational thinking and toward Hebrew hermeneutics. This requires a saved Christian to recognize God's entire word as superior to any human tradition. God will never play let's make a deal! He gave us the word and said this is the entire deal. That deal requires we crucify Roman thinking toward compromise. The reformation led by Luther may have enlightened us to faith alone by grace, but he failed to remove the Roman solar calendar from our liturgy and emigrated pagan practices to America that he borrowed from the Catholic pagan worship service. Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day, the deification of Mary, use of common prayers, all eliminated God's one plan from American thinking. Yet we continue to mock God and His written word by doing what is right in our own eyes. Jesus Christ labeled this as blaspheming God, and makes us all liars who will never inherit the kingdom promised to David and Jesus Christ. We have all gone the way of Baalim in search of temporal power and earthly wealth. No-where is it more evident then in the large cathedrals built by denominations on every corner in America. Each usually accompanied by a seminary that teaches their brand of compromise with the word of God. If you are an American pastor, you better find a son of Issachar to help you determine where we are at on God's timeline. You are leading God's children astray.

President Truman oversaw the formation of the United Nations. This was a treaty organization that has unabashedly advanced Islamic goals of conquest and continued denial of God's plan for all of humanity. At the heart of the goals of the United Nations is to stop Israel from fighting the Psalm 83 War. This war is the continuation of the Book of Judges. Joshua failed to conquer the Canaanites. God sent judges among the fledgling nation to chasten them to monotheistic belief in him alone. Instead, Israel compromised. They began marrying daughters of Canaan. These daughters worshipped at fertility altars of Phoenecian deities. Today in America, Christians continue to worship at these altars each time they vote for candidates who support abortion, support the BDS movement, and support the continued assault on the Bible orchestrated by the two-party system. The United Nations has America doing everything God hates to maintain our position in the world as the reserve currency of globalism. God is not a capitalist! He is a monarchist who intends to set His Son upon the world throne. This throne was established in Israel by David. He too failed God, when he married Bathsheba, herself a daughter of Canaan who was already married to Uriah the Hittite. She would destroy David's monarchy. Solomon was the lovechild of David and Bathsheba. God told Israel that the messiah would come through a Jewish virgin. Not a Canaanite woman. David learned his practice from his father Jesse.

He committed adultery with the king of Ammon's wife and David was their love child. Israel compromised and eventually God cut off Jehoniah's bloodline completely. God was always in control. The Israelites have compromised with moon worshippers since the conquest of Jericho: The House of the Moon God. Today, America has compromised with the House of the Moon God and elected a Muslim sympathizer. The presidency of Barak Obama saw the assault on God's plans accelerate. His presidency unabashedly supported the importation of Islam from all over the world. His last official act as president saw him deny Israel's right to exist when he instructed the anti-Semitic American representative at the United Nations to introduce a resolution condemning Israel and their right to the promised land that God promised Abraham. The Christian Church is failing God when they refuse to teach God's plan as it relates to Israel. Islam does not acknowledge Israel and they never will. No matter what or who our president is. Until our president listens to a Son of Issachar, any peace plan advanced is war with God himself! Hallelujah,

let God be true and every man a liar!

America was always a part of God's salvation plan. Just not the America Harry Truman saw. Judges 2 shows how God feels about signing treaties with nations where God is mocked. The United Nations established that one day polytheism would be advanced by America's two-party system. Hinduism, Shintoism, Communism, Socialism, Feminism, Elitism, Islamism, Catholicism and every other polytheistic practice that denies God as creator and Yeshua as his Jewish Messiah, guarantees that America must be judged as Sodom and Gomorrah. I believe we are on the threshold of that judgement. The denominational church in America has compromised all along the way. If not for individual believers in Jesus Christ continuing to practice faith in God alone, America would have already been judged and destroyed. Now God has sent a judge to rule over us, and the people who have been assaulting God and His one plan for humanity are the angriest. They will stop at nothing to stop God's plan. They serve at the synagogue of Satan! The destruction of the family, the elimination of Biblical values, the replacement theology of government over God is in full motion and on full display. The next election will be America's last! The Shmitah will manifest in 2022 and we will see the rise of the man of lawlessness out of the western leg of the Roman Empire who will begin the assault on Jews in America and he will not stop until he has confiscated their property, their money and then eventually killing them. America will eventually elect a leader who unites the world against God and his plan for Israel.

If you profess to be a Christian then you had better not vote for that man! Joe Biden hates Israel. He is a Eugenic minded politician who will stop at nothing to advance Barak Obama's anti-Semitic and anti- American agenda. He has destroyed the black community by removing black men from their homes with unjust sentencing laws. He unabashedly refuses to acknowledge his segregationist policies learned from lifelong friend and Ku Klux Klan Member Senator Robert Byrd. He has fleeced the black community with help from Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton, Jeremiah Wright, and devoutly anti-Semitic Muslim Louis Farrakhan. These men have sowed their seeds that will eventually lead to another American civil war. They promote what Martin Luther King Jr. hated. He never wanted to be judged by his skin color and only asked that we judge him by his Judeo-Christian character. He was non-violent and they probably are the real conspiracist's who aided James Earl Ray in finding out where he was staying in Memphis. The democratic party has become the mechanism for Satan to think he can stop God's will. God is going to get the last laugh and he will destroy every person who has aided the radical agenda of getting God out of our American lives. They are destroying our youth in public school and they are using the internet to remove God's moral boundaries from the lives of your children. They will stop at nothing to deceive America to retain power. Trump will be re-elected because he has advanced the cause of God. Now I pray he has the courage to place the Bible back in public school. Then America will be truly great again! Hallelujah!

Benjamin Netanyahu should immediately be encouraged to take the seven principal cities mentioned in the book of Judges. They are currently occupied by moon worshippers hell bent on stopping God's plan. Israel must eliminate Islam and Catholicism from the minds of Jews in Israel. God will not be happy until you finish the conquest of Joshua and establish Jerusalem as the center of Monotheism in the world. For the temple to be rebuilt, the land must be cleansed of all Pagans and their Pagan temples. Catholicism is Pagan! Their temples must go in Israel! This will lead to the advent of the Satanic trinity on Earth. The Roman high priest Pontifex Maximus, the man of lawlessness out of the West and the Assyrian Muslim anti-Christ. But the end is not yet. The falling away from sound Biblical doctrine has been accelerated and homosexuality is being advanced in the Nicaolaitin Churches of the reformation. It is time for Biblical Teshuva. To repent of our religious tradition, turn back to the God of the Bible, and begin doing what is right in God's eyes as seen in the words of the entire Bible. This is America's only God-fearing path forward. Biblical Teshuva is our requirement. To repent of our dead thinking about God and religious tradition. To return to sound instruction obtained in the word of God.

I have learned that the book of Judges was written about Israel and America. America replaced God with Baal and Ashtarte. It is proof that church in America is no different than Islam. We have exchanged the worship of Jesus Christ as creator, for the worship of Pagan God's and our Roman Pantheon of solar worship. Church is the place where Christians mix worship of God with the worship of the world. The two golden calves are being venerated by supposed Christians. To rely on our own military might and our own financial dependence upon money as God is blaspheming God and mocks His plan for all of humanity. If God is not the God who supplies all of your needs according to his riches in Glory, then you are Pagan. Sunday Church mocks God! Sunday Church says that God is a liar. Fear of Covid-19 proves the denominational Church is dead, and does not believe Jesus Christ's stripes can keep a Christian from getting the virus. Fear is the exact opposite of faith in Jesus Christ. If we are saved by faith through grace, then the path to grace must begin by asking God for mercy! We do not need any more western educated seminarians talking at us about external piety. We need Christians showing a fallen world their inner conviction about God and his messiah. That Messiah will inherit David's kingdom in Jerusalem. But not before America falls away from sound Biblical instruction completely. The time is very short. God has wound His Rolex watch for the last time. Israel is in the land and prospering. Time for them to take the seven principal cities we find being fought over in Judges 2. The Palestinians are the latest usurpers claiming authority over the land God gave exclusively to the Jewish people. To deny Israel in God's plan proves that Luther's reformation birthed the Holocaust and syncretism in our houses of worship. God will never stand for double minded thinking. Choose this day whom you will serve, as for me and my house we will serve the Lord. His name is Yeshua Ha Messiah. Known in America as Jesus the Christ! He was crucified upon a cross of wood yet He created the hill upon which it stood!

Even so come Lord Jesus Christ! John Burns RLTW 9-5-2020

Staff Sergeant John Burns enlisted into the United States Army on September 23, 1987 as an 11C Infantry Mortarman. He graduated from the 7th Infantry Division, Ranger Class 11/89 and served in the invasion of Panama, Desert Storm and the Battle of Mogadishu while assigned to the 75th Rangers.

Some of his many decorations, awards and badges include; Bronze Star Medal for Valor, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Sniper Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantry Badge and Expert Infantry Badge. Throughout his prestigious military career, he traveled to forty-five countries on five continents and all but two states while serving in the military.

He currently serves as the Chaplain for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. His devout faith demonstrates to all he comes into contact with that he believes nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He enjoys writing and teaching God's Word while sharing his faith with a dying world.

Historically Speaking Causes of 1944 Troop Train Wreck, Part 1

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

In the course of research into the July 6, 1944 Troop Train wreck in Highcliff, TN, I have found many unusual stories. Not the least of which is the story of the “Gold Digger” – a Colt 45 caliber pistol. Mark Tidwell gave me a round of ammunition from that pistol when I visited him to learn about the story of the locomotive # 418 steam dome. He said that the pistol had been used by Deputy Sheriff Elmer “Dobey” Chambers, father of the lady who left instructions that Mark should have the steam dome after her death.

In the days just before the troop train wreck, Dobey had noticed a strange car periodically being left parked for long periods of time on Highway 25W near the “Narrows.” Those who saw the man driving the large sedan from a distance commented to the deputy that it was unusual to find a young able-bodied man who was not in the war. So, this stranger was suspicious to the town folks just by being there.

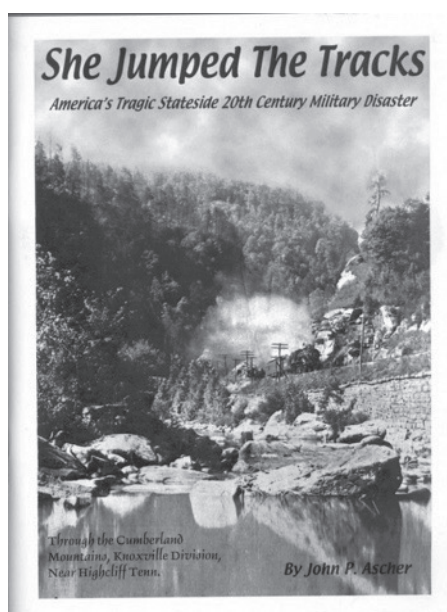
Dobey did not drive a car, nor did he let his daughter drive. He hitch-hiked everywhere he needed to go or he walked. On this occasion, he walked to the spot on 25W where the car had been left parked for some time. As he was looking inside the car, he heard the buzz of a bullet as it passed very near his head and smacked into the hood of the car. He quickly ducked behind the car and then several more shots were heard coming from across the river. Not knowing the full strength of the attack, Dobey decided to get help. He quickly went back on the road to the town of Highcliff.

He got a posse and also picked up his Marlin 30-30 caliber carbine and together they went back to the car. It was still sitting in the same spot. They waded the river and soon located a lone stranger on the hillside. Dobey used his 30-30 carbine to disarm the stranger. The stranger, who later would be recalled by some as a possible “German agent”, admitted to shooting at Dobey. He said he thought Dobey was just someone trying to steal his car. Dobey did not wear any kind of uniform, just a black suit.

When the trial was held for the stranger, he denied owning the pistol. Deputy Dobey kept the pistol and used it for the rest of his career. After the train wreck in the “Narrows,” when there was lots of talk about sabotage, some connected the large sedan, the shooting stranger, the

timing of the appearance of the stranger and the location within the “Narrows.” This caused those looking for a conspiracy to make the stranger into a German agent who was there to cause the train wreck.

They concluded that he “must have been messing with the tracks.” You will recall that the FBI report determined there was no evidence of conspiracy or sabotage. Of course, as with all conspiracy theo-



She Jumped the Tracks, by John P. Ascher, provides a wealth of information on the troop train wreck. (Photo Submitted)

ries, facts do little to abate the propagation of a good potential conspiracy.

Dobey always held that the stranger was really looking for the lost “Jonathon Swift Silver Mines” or maybe digging for gold in the cliffs above the river there in the “Narrows.” Thus, the pistol became known as the “Gold Digger” for its association with the treasure hunting stranger who might have been a “German agent” according to some.

So, there is one possible cause of the accident, however unlikely. Let’s look at some others.

In John P. Ascher’s book, She Jumped the Tracks, 3rd edition, published in 2004, he has added a section to the back cover titled, “Cause of the Wreck.” Here he states, “Section C herein, pages 62 – 83, offers details leading to the following conclusion: ‘Wide (track) gage is the only professional assessment...’ This in itself was insufficient cause.”

John continues, “In recent years, we have been exposed to terrorism, our Axis enemies were not above such operations during World War II. In fact, their overseas battlefield operations were well supplemented by sinking of American ships as well as stateside acts of aggression against troop trains.

“Local Campbell County citizens have related to the author that a German-national worker was performing repairs to the track-side home at Highcliff. Following the wreck, he disappeared.

“For years, responsibility for the train wreck was placed on engineer Rollins. The allegation that he was speeding is untrue. Rollins died in the wreck. It is well proven that he was not speeding.

“About 36 hours after the accident, a Federal source emphasized that the wreck’s cause was not sabotage. The very fact that this announcement was hastily made, before a professional investigation was conducted, is suspect in itself.

“By August 22, 1944, when the investigation was released, a number of contributing factors were omitted... particularly regarding the locomotive.

“After all, it was the locomotive that first derailed and at any speed a foreign object placed at a critically vulnerable spot would have touched off the fatal event!

“There is ample reason to assert this to be so and has not been specifically refuted.

So, this conclusion to the cause of the wreck drawn by John P. Ascher at the close of his book, leaves me with more questions than answers.

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.

Sandra Shannon, Business Spotlight

Sandra Shannon, opened SIMPLY TAX in January 2021, where she specializes in many services to include; tax preparation, tax filing, and bookkeeping. Sandra has over ten years of experience offering these professional services to individuals, small, and mid-size businesses.

“I enjoy what most people don’t. I file taxes, helping individuals maximize their returns and working with businesses to achieve their financial goals,” said Sandra Shannon.



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During tax season Sandra is open Monday thru Saturday from 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM. Outside of tax season she provides her customers with convenient day, evening, and

weekend hours.

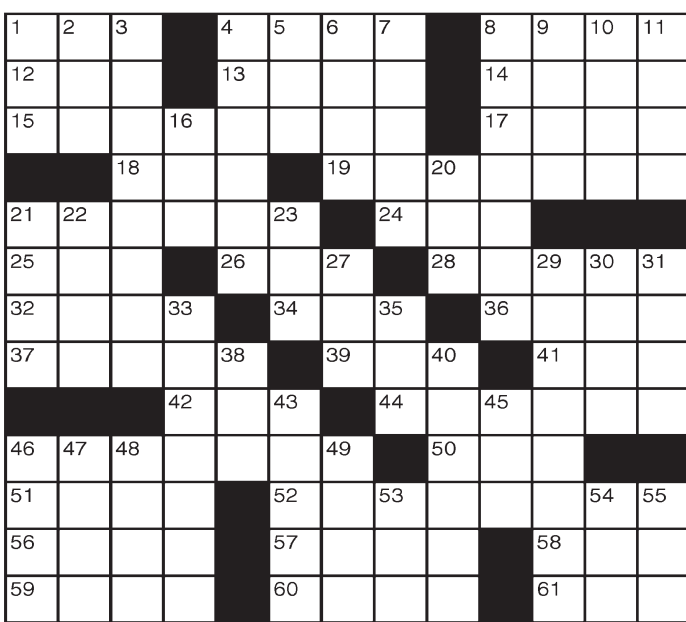
Her office is located at 2907 Knoxville HWY, Wartburg, TN 37787 which can easily be found at the corner of HWY 62 and Meadowview Church Road. Feel free to contact her now by calling (865) 919-4025.



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Peruke
- 4 Touse
- 8 Labyrinth
- 12 Altar constellation
- 13 Isaac's eldest
- 14 Modern taxi alternative
- 15 World of organized crime
- 17 Dross
- 18 Earth (Pref.)
- 19 Poetic feet
- 21 Ohio city
- 24 Actress Long
- 25 Mentalist Geller
- 26 Candied veggie
- 28 Knight wear
- 32 Stagger
- 34 Gaiety
- 36 Flintstones' pet
- 37 Seoul setting
- 39 Fawn's mom
- 41 Dol. fractions
- 42 Bearded beast
- 44 Salsa scoopers
- 46 "La Mer" composer
- 50 4, on a phone
- 51 Pre-diploma hurdle
- 52 Ruffian
- 56 Church area
- 57 Rochester's



DOWN

- 1 Witty one
- 2 A Gershwin brother
- 3 More like a string bean
- 4 Tune
- 5 "Born in the —"
- 6 Grit
- 7 Egypt's neighbor
- 8 Hot dog condiment
- 9 With skill
- 10 Gusto
- 11 Work units
- 16 "Gosh!"
- 20 "Homeland" org.
- 21 Ankara resident
- 22 Crunchy cookie
- 23 Klutz
- 27 Wet dirt
- 29 State made of two peninsulas
- 30 Aware of
- 31 Colonial seamstress
- 33 Lentils, for example
- 35 Dijon denial
- 38 Reply (Abbr.)
- 40 Aerie new-born
- 43 Leading man?
- 45 Greek X
- 46 Transaction
- 47 Big fair, for short
- 48 Striped fish
- 49 Vacillate
- 53 Spanish gold
- 54 Hubbub
- 55 Just out

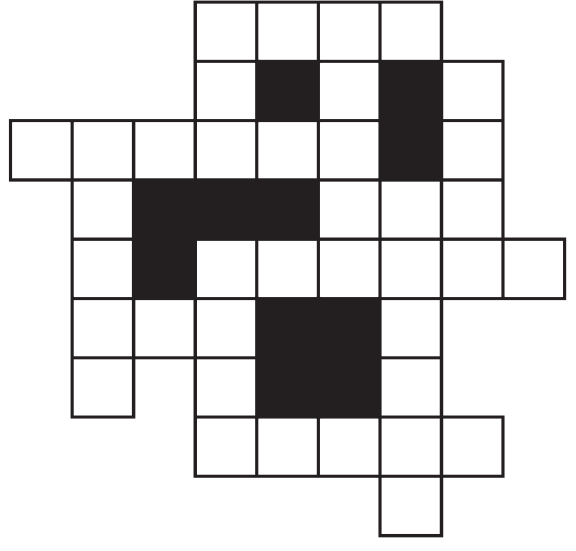
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FEAR & TRIVIA

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

- OCT
- EDUNIC
- PORGE
- LOAT
- HOLPEN
- ♥OAG
- ECGA
- TECNA
- ♥PTI
- ORTGOT
- ♥NARLE
- ♥PREO



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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Fred C. Mize III



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

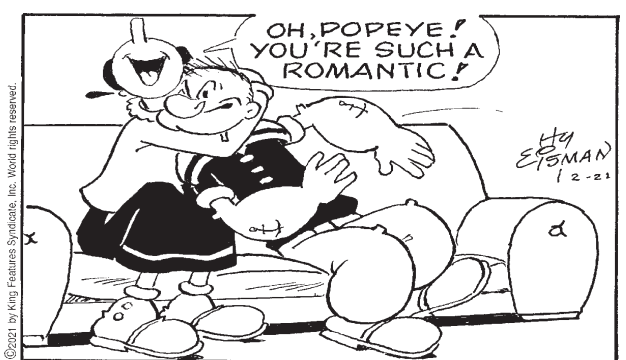
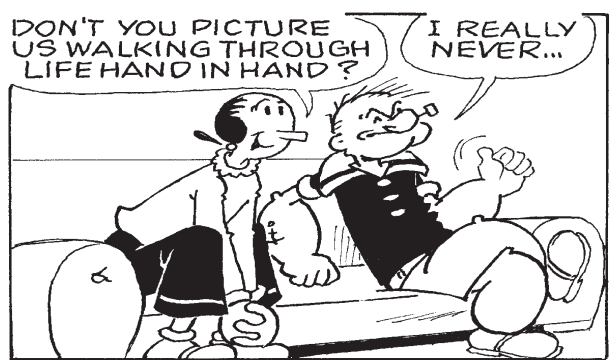
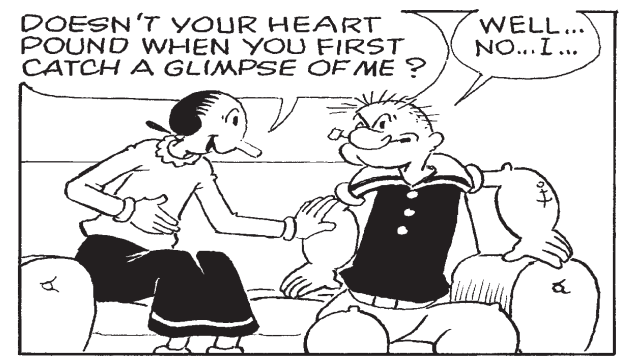
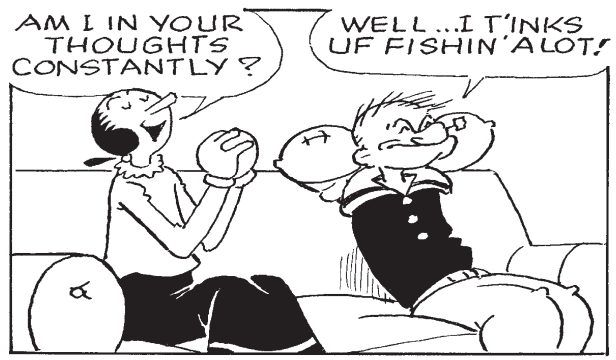
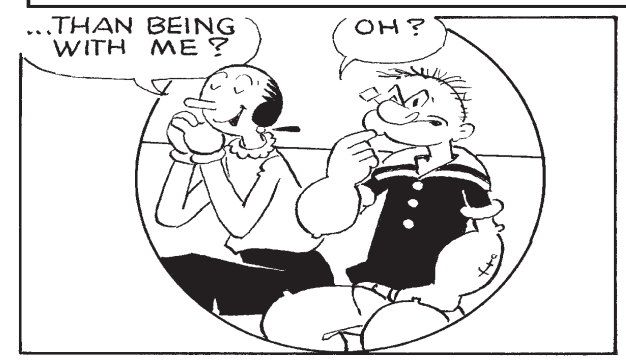
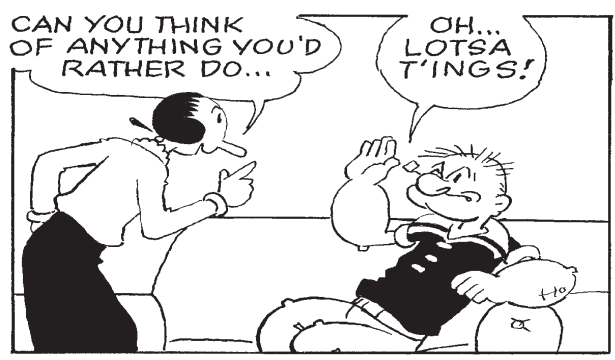
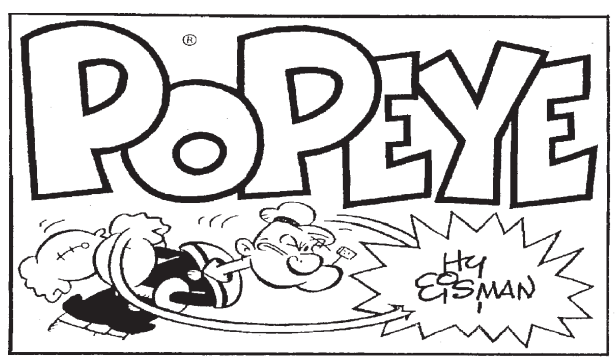
		8		1				3
	5				7			2
6			9			1		
		9		2				8
4			5					7
	1				6	9		5
		5	8			6		2
1		3			2	4		
	8			3				7

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

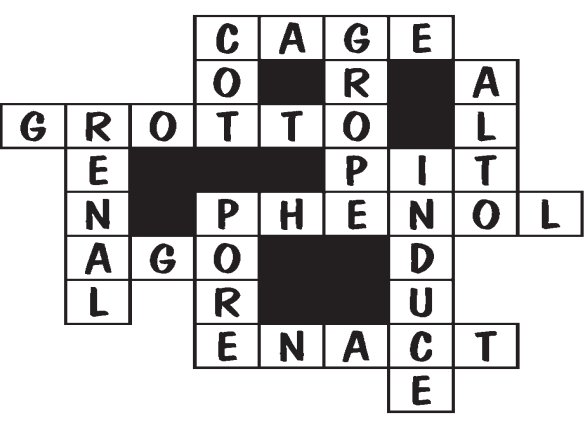
- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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FEAR & TRIVIA

answer



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

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 said unto thee,
Ye must be born again.
 John 3:7 - Jesus

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Tennessee Valley Homestead

By: MSG. Fred Mize



MSG. Fred Mize

It goes without saying that 2020 brought countless changes to our lives. Many of these unforeseen changes brought discomfort and pain in numerous ways but one change that 2020 brought to my family was for the good. That change took place when we decided to begin a humble homestead.

It all began when we bought two chickens which soon led to four then six. I have to admit that raising a few simple chickens

did something that caused us to love our land much more. That spring we also planted our first garden with tomatoes, green peppers, watermelon, cantaloupe, cucumbers and strawberries. Let's just say that the chickens did much better than most of our garden. They are all still alive and well (minus one fluffy butt) but our garden didn't produce much. The pride of our homestead last year was our single pig, "Boss Hog". We bought him as a piglet from a well-known local Master Gardener, Dan Orange. When you're new to gardening or raising livestock of any kind it's wonderful to have

a close friend that is willing to give advice along your journey. I'm thankful to know that Dan's advice is just a phone call away. This year we built an all-new hog lot and will soon be upgrading their lot with electric fencing so that their paddock will cover a much larger area to allow them to free range. We currently have two young pigs that we

of course purchased from Dan. I'm raising one for Tommy Francis until his lot is ready and the other for my best friend that has promised to trade me half a cow for the slaughtered hog come this November. Just our first year our small homestead has provided us with more

eggs than we can eat and with a full freezer of pork. Most of all our homestead has given us a new love for our land and the delight of seeing God's creation in a new way. Raising your own animals for food gives you an understanding and appreciation that you can't gain in any other way. This year we will have a larger and prayerfully a more fruitful garden. We also plan to raise our first chickens for meat. If you are thinking about starting a homestead, I encourage you to take the leap and do so. Start small as we did and build up from a solid foundation.

You can follow our family's homestead's progress on YouTube by simply searching, Tennessee Valley Homestead. I'll close with the Bible verse that we strive to remember daily in the way we treat God's creation. Proverbs 12:10, 10 A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel. I pray if you start a homestead that you too see God's greatness in an all-new way. Amen!



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

Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

What is Job Shadowing or Preceptorships?



Zack Ballinger

downsides to pursuing this profession—besides the blood and surgery.

I had friends studying to get into medical school. I saw how long they spent preparing for this next educational challenge. I studied a lot in college, but I definitely didn't want to do that again, and definitely not for four more years! Once my friends finished medical school, they'd proceed to working 12-hour days, every day. I said thanks, but no thanks.

Fast-forward my life a couple years, and I was doing a preceptorship with a physician as part of my training to become a pharmaceutical salesperson. My company mandated that new representatives spend a day with a physician. The company saw an opportunity for us to learn the daily life of a doctor to whom we would be selling products. I remember that I really looked forward to spending the day with this doctor and thought it would be such a great, fun experience. It was a great experience, but not fun at all.

Dr. Simmons was a family practice physician in a small town. He saw around 40 patients that particular day. In the first exam room that day, the patient was screaming about how she needed her pain medicine. That was all she could say, over and over.

The second patient said she had about 15 things wrong with her and wanted Dr. Simmons to look at everything in this visit. The third patient was depressed and started crying, needing emotional support. I was depressed after leaving that exam room. The fourth patient described his bowel movements in the most detailed, vivid terms I had ever heard. He really was the Ernest Hemingway, scripting the imagery of his own bowel movements. He was also kind of enough to bring a stool sample.

The fifth patient needed an injection, but she was deathly afraid of needles. Remember, I am legally half-deaf, so what I heard was a fraction of the ear-piercing

sound the others experienced. Not to mention, it took several of the doctor's staff to hold her down for the shot.

Throughout the day, I noticed how Dr. Simmons would spend extra time ensuring his patients received the best care. He was a caring provider. I was absolutely miserable after the first 15 minutes and knew right then that I didn't have the calling, passion, or desire to be a medical doctor. I spent 10 hours with Dr. Simmons in the preceptorship. It was a miserable day. At the end, I asked Dr. Simmons, "Do you like being a physician?" He said he couldn't imagine doing anything different and he loved helping patients. Dr. Simmons has discovered his passion and loves what he's doing. He said, "Sure, some patients are challenging, and we work long hours, but being a physician was a higher calling." It sure wasn't for me and I was glad I job shadowed!

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



"Job shadowing" is the common term used, but "preceptorship" is interchangeable. Whatever you call it, this opportunity allows you to watch someone do their job, following them throughout the day. You learn some challenges of the job, network with other professionals, observe skills and work life, ask questions and gather information on the career, and spend time with a mentor who can explain everything about this particular career path. This experience can be invaluable!

During my college years, I thought about pursuing medical school and becoming a physician. Being a doctor is a distinct privilege because of the academic prestige, notoriety, and education level required to attain this achievement. Physicians are highly respected professionals that serve their community. Let's face it, not many people can get into medical school. The title was very appealing to me as well. I mean, "Dr. Ballinger" sounded nice, right? The highest level of satisfaction would be able to get into medical school, pass the boards, and be considered a highly regarded medical profession. I sure didn't see any

Sandra Helton's weekly column

Oakdale Area News

email: kvhelton@highland.net



As I write this column, we have just learned of Brother Mike Helton's home going. There are no words to describe the impact Mike has had here locally and across this nation and in other countries. He and his wife Connie were obedient to the will of the Lord as they spread the Gospel of Christ and shared the Love of Jesus. I was blessed to know this man. Please keep his wife, daughters, mother, brother, sister, grandchildren and countless family members and friends in your prayers.

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 14. Don't forget to "Spring Forward."

We have three special couples in our lives that are expecting babies in the next few weeks. We will soon welcome one little boy and two little girls into our extended family. Please keep the parents, grandparents, doctors and the wee ones in your prayers.

Happy Birthday Lloyd Cook of Kingston! Lloyd was born on February 29 so he only has a birthday every 4 years. Regardless of which day you celebrated, everyone in Oakdale hopes you had a great day.

Crusade Ruppe will celebrate his 9th birthday Friday, March 5. Happy Birthday Crusade!

Two good friends of mine will celebrate their birthdays on March 9. Happy Birthday Teresa Gilbert and Tammy Rogers. I hope you ladies have a wonderful day.

Morgan County Food and Nutrition will continue to give out multiple meals and milk for children 18 and under each Friday from 1:15 - 1:45. Locally, drive up in front of Oakdale School to receive the meals. This is available at other schools in Morgan County as well.

This week is READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK! Oakdale School will honor Dr. Seuss by having dress up days.

Monday, March 1- CRAZY SOCK DAY

Tuesday, March 2 - Read ALL About it, Tuesday!

Wear a shirt with words

Wednesday, March 3 - Wacky Wednesday - Wear mismatched clothes and crazy hair

Thursday - March 4 - Oh! The Places You'll Go! -

Dress up I your favorite college gear or what you want to be when you grow up.

Friday, March 5, FINALLY FRIDAY- Crazy Hat Day- Wear your favor-

ite or craziest hat

Friday, March 19 is an in-service day for Morgan County Teachers. No school for students.

Girl scouts are still selling cookies. In Oakdale, contact Robin Greer or Jennifer Lewis to purchase cookies. Both ladies are on Facebook.

Congratulations to Savannah Alonso and Cheyenne Daugherty who were in a Cheer Competition Saturday. Topflight Twisters placed 2nd in Mini Division and 3rd in Junior Division. Good Job Girls!

Oakdale 6 and Under Girls Basketball Coaches Valerie Disney and Destiny Ruppe would like to express how much they enjoyed working with their team this season. It was the first time a few of the girls had ever played and there were times when they had to play with only 4 girls but it was a lot of fun for coaches, players and families. Their season ended last Saturday and it was obvious the girls improved so much during the season. On a personal note, I was one of those proud grandparents last Thursday night when our granddaughter, Clara Ruppe, scored 2 points for the first time. FYI.....old grandma's can jump up quickly!

Brooke Mullins played her first Lacrosse game last Friday night. She is the Goalie. Her team played Christian Academy of Knoxville. Brooke is the daughter of Cheyenna Hawn and Jason Mullins and the granddaughter of Mary Hawn and Steve and Janice Mullins.

Maura sent me a news item about her birthday celebration. She requested Cornbread Fritters for breakfast and her mom obliged. She then went to the bank and opened a savings account. She had a friend over to celebrate with her. They had a cake decorating contest. She, her friend and her parents played a few unplanned rounds of Rummy (her friend had never played before) during which Maura shared a few "tips" from her Papa Helton. Maura had requested a carrot cake for her birthday and her mom made her one. They had a lot of cake in that house! Maura said "Thank you for the Birthday Wishes I received from my Oakdale friends and thanks to everyone who sent me a card."

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Merry Bingham Wright on Thursday, February 25. She is survived by her husband Larry Wright, son Josh, daughter Jessica, stepsons Kris (Charmaine) Wright and Scott (Brittany) Wright and several grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister Lois (Ralph) Nance and brothers Don (Judy) Bingham and Willard (Ann) Bingham. Merry has many friends and relatives in Oakdale and we all will remember her as being such a fun person to be around. Please keep her family in your prayers.

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." — Jane Goodall

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

Morgan County Highway Department will be taking sealed bids on 1 Chevy and 2 GMC, 4-wheel drive, ¾ ton pickup trucks. Trucks are sold where is - as is for PARTS ONLY. (Trucks are inoperable) Trucks must be hauled or towed from property. Bids must be delivered to department or be mailed to Morgan Co. Hwy. Dept. P.O. Box 250, Wartburg, Tn. 37887. TRUCK BID must be plainly marked on outside on bid envelope. Lot# must be identified on bid. Lot #1 -1997 Chevrolet, Lot# 2-1996 GMC and Lot# 3- 1995 GMC / w Snow Plow. Trucks can be viewed Monday thru Thursday 8am to 4pm. By appointment Only. 423-346-6661 Bid opening will be held on March 16@ 1 0:00am est. at the Highway Dept. located at 3519 Morgan Co. Hwy. Removal of trucks will be by appointment ONLY after payment is made. Bids must be turned in by 3-12-2021

Acts Chapter 22

(Acts 22:1-21) Paul's defense: Paul begins his defense in a very respectful fashion, even after the bloody beating he had sustained. When the assembly heard him speaking in their own tongue, the silence was even more profound. The apostle's speech falls into four segments: (a) his early life (1-5), (b) the Damascus road experience (v. 6-11), (c) his exchange with Ananias (v. 12-16), and (d) his temple vision (v. 17-21).

First, Paul provides some biographical detail. Born in Tarsus of Cilicia, trained under the celebrated rabbi, Gamaliel, as a strict Jew, he had viciously persecuted the Christian Way, seeing to it that followers of Christ were put to death, both men and women. He was on record as seeking to destroy this religion even outside Palestine, Damascus in Syria (v. 1-5).

Second, en route to Damascus, he was suddenly engulfed by a great light from heaven. He heard a voice: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute?" It was Jesus of Nazareth, whom he had been persecuting. The Jews accompanying him saw the light and heard a sound, through they were unable to decipher it. He asked, "What shall I do, Lord?" He was instructed to proceed into the city where he would be told of the "things" (note the plural---not faith alone) appointed to be done. However, he was blind and had to be led by his companions into the city. Note that it was the "glory" of the Lord that blinded him, not the light per se; his companions saw the light, but they were not blinded.

Third, a highly respected Jew (a christian), Ananias by name, came and restored his sight. This man informed Saul that God had chosen him to know his will, to see the Righteous One, the resurrected Jesus, and to hear his voice. Saul's future role would be to bear witness to all people of what he had seen and heard, to Jew and Gentile alike. He was then instructed to "arise, and be immersed: (v. 16). The second verb is in a grammatical form that suggests "have yourself immersed." The decision for baptism has to be made by the candidate himself--- a believer and old enough to be guilty of sin --- not another (as in the case of infant baptism). The purpose was to "wash away your sins." Immersion puts one in contact with Christ blood, the ultimate cleansing agent (Heb. 9:14; Eph. 5:26). In this act, one is "calling on (Christ's) name" (2:21, 38). His baptism was not a "sign" of cleansing already received; such

an allegation is a serious perversion of truth. Saul being a faithful Jew and also a Roman had prayed for three days and nights, but that did not bring him into a covenant relationship with Jesus Christ, neither does it today. Acts 9:11 "And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth," Galatians 3:27 "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Forth, after an extended interval, Saul had returned to Jerusalem. He was praying in the temple (showing abiding respect for the holy compound) when Jesus appeared to him again. The Lord told him to quickly leave Jerusalem, for his Hebrew kinsmen would not listen to his message. He attempted to argue with the Savior, suggesting that the Jews, knowing of his past, would surely believe. But the Lord replied: "Depart, for I will send you far away---unto the Gentiles" (v. 21).

(Acts 22:22-29) Paul, the Roman citizen: when the mob heard the word "Gentile," an explosion erupted. "Away with him", was the cry. "He is not fit to live!" In symbolic gestures, they threw off their outer garments and cast dirt into the air. The chief-captain was confused as to how to handle the situation. The only thing he could think of was to give Paul a beating and perhaps the truth would come out. He was brought into the fortress for the disciplinary measure (v. 24).

They tied him stationary with leather thongs. As they were about to apply the lash, Paul addressed a centurion standing nearby: "Is it lawful for you to beat a Roman citizen who has not had a trial, and thus has not been found guilty of any crime?" Such was an egregious violation of Roman law! The centurion was horrified. He went to Lysius and asked: "What are you about to do? Are you not aware that this man is a Roman citizen?" He therefore asked Paul about his citizenship. The captain had bought his citizenship, but Paul was born a citizen! This was a significantly higher caliber of citizenship. The captain was very frightened; this had been a close call. The following day, Paul was "loosed" (perhaps from his chains (21:33) and taken before the Sanhedrin, the purpose of which was to have the Jewish charges against him clarified in view of future proceedings.

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MELVIN HOWARD

Melvin Howard's Weekly column is sponsored by

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Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week

This week we honor the memory of two Tennessee Army National Guard Soldiers who gave their lives in a helicopter accident on February 21, 2010.

On that tragic day Chief Warrant Officer 2 Billie Jean Grinder 25, of Gallatin, and Captain Marcus R. Alford 28, of Knoxville, were killed when their OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter experienced a hard landing at Qayyarah Airfield West, 30 miles south of Mosul, Iraq.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Billie Jean Grinder was a 2002 graduate of Smyrna High School and joined the Tennessee Army National Guard in July 2002. CW2 Grinder became a pilot in 2007 after

completing Warrant Officer School at Ft. Rucker, AL and quickly excelled in her skills. She was currently the Pilot-In-Command (PIC) for the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior.

Captain Marcus R. Alford, was a 2000 graduate of South-Doyle High School, and is the school's fourth former student killed since the start of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.



"You never get used to it," said Lt. Col. Bill Woodcock, the school's senior ROTC instructor. "Any loss is a real loss, but Marcus was a special person. You couldn't ask for a better role model, and he was everything you'd want in a son."

Both were assigned to the Tennessee Army National Guard's 1/230th Air Cavalry Squadron and stationed at Qayyarah Airfield West since July 2009. They were scheduled to return home the month preceding their deaths in March 2010.

The pair's deaths made them the first members of the 230th to die during the deployment.

CW2 Grinder is the first female casualty of the Tennessee Army National Guard, as confirmed by the Department of Defense.

Both have Tennessee memorial bridges named in their honor.

Our heartfelt prayers are with these Soldiers' families and friends as we honor and remember their dedication and sacrifices.



Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

This week we honor a fallen law enforcement officer who laid down his life in the line of duty.

Pinellas Sheriff's Deputy Michael Magli, died Wednesday afternoon, February 17th, as he was trying to stop a drunk driver who was leading deputies on a high-speed pursuit on East Lake Road, according to Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri.

Deputy Michael Magli, 30, died after he was struck by a pickup truck that spun out in the median of East Lake

Road near Forelock Road in north Pinellas County. Magli had parked his patrol cruiser in the median of the road to retrieve and deploy stop sticks - a device used to deflate the tires on a vehicle, when he was struck by the driver that deputies were



pursuing.

That driver was arrested by deputies Wednesday night. Gualtieri said the 33-year-old driver was driving under the influence and on a suspended license at the time of the crash. "He

was also on probation and has sixteen prior felony convictions" said Sheriff Gualtieri.

Deputy Michael Magli leaves behind a wife, Stephanie, and two children; Madeline, age five, and nine-month-old Reagan.

Our hearts go out to the family members of Deputy Magli and we pray that God sends them comfort in this dire time of loss.

The Business Meal Deduction Has Doubled



David Zubler

There's good news for businesses. The COVID-19 Relief Bill increased the deduction for business meals in tax years 2021 and 2022.

Normally business meals are 50% deductible. However, the meal business deduction has been increased to 100%.

Fortunately, food and beverage expense also include the cost of delivery fees, tips, and sales tax.

The deduction applies to food and beverages provided by a restaurant, however there must be

a business purpose.

The objective of this law is to help stimulate the restaurant industry. Fortunately, other businesses will benefit also from the deduction being doubled as well. This law provides a great opportunity to show appreciation to your workers and clients by taking them out for lunch or dinner.

It also provides a good reason to support your favorite restaurants that may be struggling due to the financial hardship caused by the pandemic.

The deduction applies to meals while on business trips out of town.

It includes meals provided for the convenience of the employer (such as occasional overtime).

Meals in office meetings of employees, stockholders, agents, or directors are 100% deductible if the meals are provided by a restaurant.

The term "restaurant" isn't defined by the Internal Revenue Code. However, it would include any typical restaurant and caterer. Convenient stores that also sell food may not qualify.

Meals included in charitable sports packages are also included. To be deductible as a business meal, the food or beverages must not be lavish or extravagant. However, the IRS will rarely second guess you if you have adequate documentation. And you are not barred from eating at deluxe restaurants.

The following expenses are not deductible:

- Sporting event tickets
- Transportation to/from a restaurant for client business meals
- Club memberships and club-related expenses
- Meals during entertainment that are not listed separately on the invoice

The new tax law is good news for the restaurant industry and other businesses as well.

Don't forget to take advantage of this bigger deduction.

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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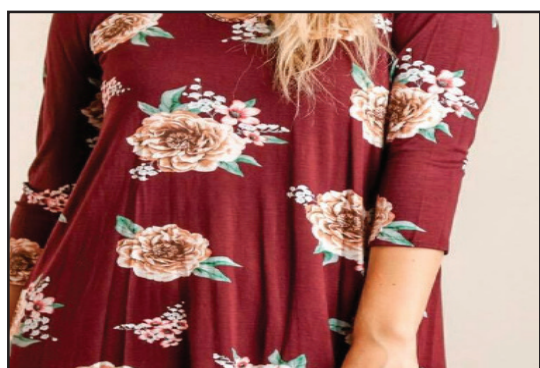
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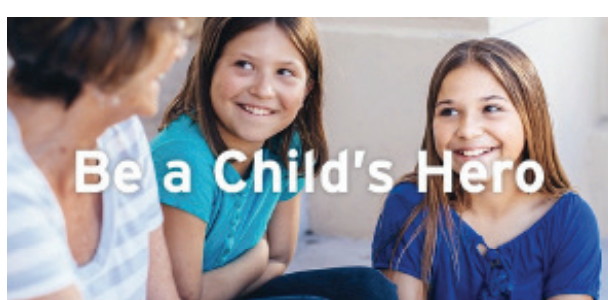
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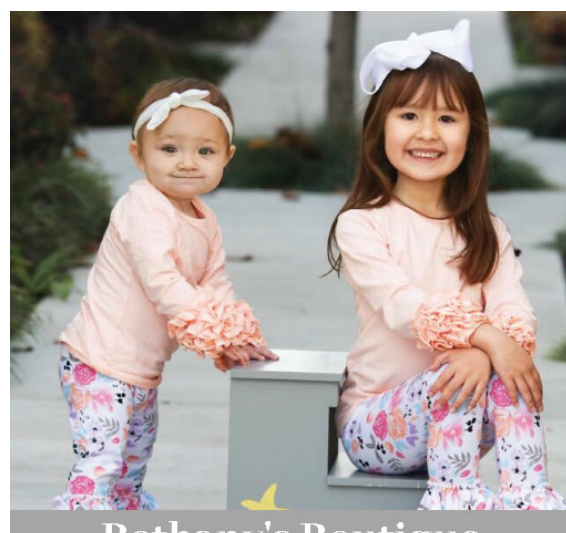
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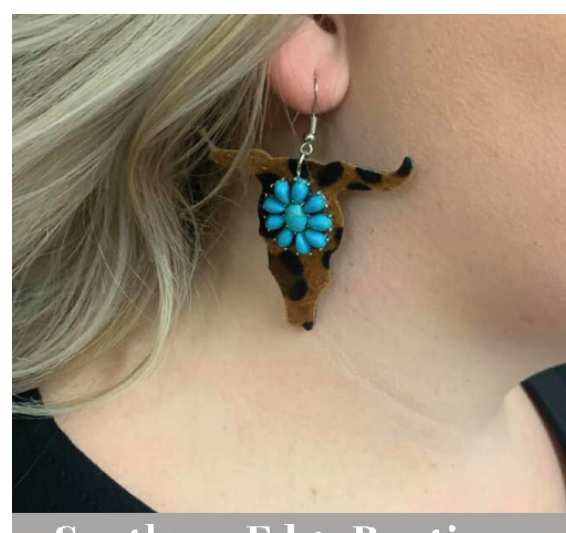
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