

Morgan County Today

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75¢

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March 23, 2021

MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK

Tue 23	65°/65°	☁
Wed 24	66°/56°	☁
Thu 25	66°/55°	☁
Fri 26	70°/47°	☁
Sat 27	72°/54°	☀
Sun 28	64°/41°	☁
Mon 29	58°/39°	☀

TVA Partnership Awards Sunbright Middle School STEM Grant

Nashville, Tenn. — The Tennessee Valley Authority, in partnership with Plateau Electric Cooperative and Bicentennial Volunteers Incorporated (a TVA retiree organization), recently awarded Sunbright Middle School, \$5000 for a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education project. The grant award is a part of \$800,000 in competitive STEM grants awarded to nearly 200 schools across TVA's seven-state service territory.

Amy Jones, Sunbright Middle School STEM Teacher said. "First, I would like to thank TVA, Plateau Electric Cooperative, and BVI for providing such an opportunity to area schools and without them none of this would've been possible. For a small rural school such as Sunbright to be selected amongst so many other great schools is a real blessing. This is only the 2nd year our school has had a STEM program. This monetary award will provide many more STEM opportunities for our students that may not otherwise get this kind of chance to have hands-on learning using modern technical based kits, projects and materials. Although this grant will immediately make an impact in our current student's education; the items that will be purchased will be utilized for many years to come to keep students engaged, interacting and thinking which are some of the core functions of our STEM program. Once we were notified of this award, my classes and I started planning what projects they wanted to pursue. All the materials will be interchangeable across all (3) grade bands but each grade was able to pick 2 focus areas of interest. 8th Grade wanted to pursue projects in Engineering and Architectural Design, 7th Grade plans to focus on Engineering and Computer Animation; while 6th Grade wants to learn more about circuits and electronics. All (3) grade bands want to learn more about renewable energy with Solar Panels. We previously had a solar panel lesson on planning and designing a solar classroom. In this lesson, we used an energy consumption meter to determine how much energy different items in my classroom used. They had to price solar panels, determine how much energy would be needed to run each item, and plan out the design of their Solar Classroom. It was amazing what our students came up with. They absolutely loved it and I would like to put what they've learned into action by possibly obtaining a solar panel to put outside our classroom."



Across the valley, educators submitted projects large and small, to further their STEM education initiatives in the classroom.

The project Sunbright Middle School submitted will be Using STEM - Science, Technology, Math and Engineering to Solve Real World Problems.

The competitive grant program provided teachers an opportunity to apply for funding up to \$5,000 and preference was given to grant applications that explored TVA's primary areas of focus: environment, energy, economic and career development and community problem solving as well as pandemic related projects. Schools who receive grant funding must receive their power from a TVA distributor. "Despite the new challenges Valley teacher's faced in 2020, they are still focused on providing the best STEM education possible and have adjusted to new ways of teaching," said Community Engagement Senior Program Manager Rachel Crickmar. "I am proud of the partnerships we have built with these amazing educators across the Tennessee Valley over the past few years and are pleased to be able to provide some support through this program. Through the grants awarded this year, over 72,000 students will be directly impacted across the Valley." A full list of the grant recipients can be found at www.tvastem.com.

The Tennessee Valley Authority is a corporate agency of the United States that provides electricity for business customers and local power companies serving nearly 10 million people in parts of seven southeastern states. TVA receives no taxpayer funding, deriving virtually all of its revenues from sales of electricity. In addition to operating and investing its revenues in its electric system, TVA provides flood control, navigation and land management for the Tennessee River system and assists local power companies and state and local governments with economic develop-

ment and job creation.

"This was an abhorrent crime," said Sen. Yager, who represents Roane County in the Tennessee Senate. "About 99% of adoptive parents do an outstanding job. However, there is a fraction who abuse children while pocketing their adoption subsidy, which is intended to help support the child's needs. That is who this bill targets. We must do everything we can to ensure this never happens again."

The arrest warrant said the children were fed a "starvation diet of light bread and water" by their adoptive parents. They

were also locked in a basement and caged in isolation. Roane County law enforcement authorities found the body of one of the deceased children, a young girl, buried in the family's barn in Roane County. The second child, a boy, was found buried in the back yard of the adoptive parents' adult biological son in Knox County. Authorities believe the children were buried several years before discovery. The adoptive parents continued receiving financial benefits for both children after their death.

"This legislation would ensure that DCS receives an annual notification on any child when the adoptive parents are receiving subsidy payments," added Sen. Yager. "Most importantly, it provides DCS with the authority to check on the child when that information is not received and foul play is suspected to hopefully prevent such tragedies."

The adoptive parents each face multiple counts of felony murder, abuse of a corpse, aggravated child abuse and aggravated child neglect. They also each face counts of abuse of a corpse, theft, TennCare fraud, and falsification of educational or academic records. The adoptive parents had claimed the children were home schooled.

Presently, DCS gives an incentive for foster families to adopt their foster children by promising a monthly adoption subsidy until the children are age 18 to 21. Once the adoption is finalized, DCS caseworkers do not check back in. Parents are requested to sign an affidavit to promise they are adhering to the agreement every two years.

The bill now must pass the House of Representatives, where it is sponsored by Representative Mary Littleton (R-Dickson), before it goes to the governor's desk for his signature.



Veteran of the Week
Steven A. Leonard



LEO of the Week
Alejandr Flores-Banuelos



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Legislation would aid Tennessee's Volunteer Firefighters

Yager urges all local volunteer fire departments to apply for grant program

An editorial by Senator Ken Yager

How many people would leave their bed in the middle of the night and risk their lives for others for no money and little reward? Our volunteer firefighters do it all the time. We are very fortunate to have many people across our district who are willing to put their hands up and fight throughout the night to save someone's home – and potentially their lives.

Our volunteer firefighters exemplify our state's nickname as the Volunteer State, making up 64% of Tennessee's firefighters. They put their lives on the line for our communities every day and we need to do everything we can to support their efforts.

Earlier this year, I filed legislation to provide an annual payment to Tennessee's volunteer firefighters upon completion of their training. I was delighted that Governor Bill Lee has included \$4.9 million in his 2021-2022 budget for this purpose. It provides an annual \$600 payment upon completion of at least 30 hours of training. Currently, the cost of any training or equipment is often at their own expense.

The proposed budget also includes \$1 million to provide support grants for volunteer firefighter departments under a program set up by 2019 legislation which I was very happy to co-sponsor. Just as they keep us safe every day, we need to make sure our volunteer firefighters have the resources they need to do their job safely and

effectively. The Volunteer Firefighter Equipment and Training Grant Program helps secure the equipment, training, and support they need. Applications for these grants are made through the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. The proposed funds for these grants are doubled from the previous 2020-2021 budget year and I want all of our local volunteer fire departments to apply.

In addition, legislation I am co-sponsoring has been approved by the Senate to incentivize volunteer firefighter recruitment by establishing an innovative retirement system called a Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP). The bill authorizes the State Treasurer to inquire with local governments and the volunteer fire departments about establishing a LOSAP plan for volunteers providing firefighting and prevention services, emergency medical services, and ambulance services.

LOSAPs may be defined contribution plans, similar to 401(k), or defined benefit plans, like a pension. Such a program is funded by contributions from the local government or nonprofit entities that utilize the services of eligible volunteers. To be eligible to receive benefits from the LOSAP, an individual must be a bona fide volunteer who receives no compensation for the services and instead receives only reimbursement for reasonable expenses or benefits and nominal fees customarily paid to them.

Our volunteer fire departments must recruit individuals to take their place as they age and complete their service. Unfortunately, we are seeing a decline in the number of volunteers to take their place. This program will hopefully provide an incentive that will help them in their recruitment efforts, while providing a needed benefit for the brave men and women who put their lives on the line for the fellow citizens.

I am looking forward to seeing all of these proposals pass in the coming weeks. I hope you will join me in support of this legislation and in appreciation for the great service that our volunteer firefighters do for our communities.

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Wartburg



Sunbright

Sarah June Butler, 78

Sarah June Butler, age 78 of Coalfield passed away March 14, 2021 in her home.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Sterling Butler; son, Carlos Butler; parents, Eather Byrge and Lottie West; brothers, Joe Byrge and Frank Byrge; grandson, Justin Butler.

She is survived by her son, Dewayne Butler and wife, Patty of Roane County; daughters, Lolita Disney and husband, Doyle of Coalfield, Charlotta Butler of Wartburg; sisters, Fannie Henley of Kingston, Dean Paxton

of Strawberry Plains, Betty Ellison of West Virginia; brother, Roy Byrge of Ohio; four grandchildren, Deidra Burke, Sarah Mullins, Terry Butler and Travis Butler; five great grandchildren, Anna Ellis, Kadian Butler, Andrew Burke, LeRoy Burke, and Alex Burke.

The family will have a graveside service Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at Anderson Memorial Gardens in Clinton.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Sarah June Butler.

Bronson Dyke Beasley, 57

Bronson Dyke Beasley, age 57 passed away after a brief illness at Ft. Sanders Medical Center. To know Dyke was to love Dyke. You always knew where you stood with him.

Dyke was preceded in death by grand-daughter Amelia Sky Massengale, mother and father Fayne and Jay (Jay-Po) Nelson.

He is survived by his children: Brianna and Matt Massengale, Bethany and Austin Hensley, and Bronson Beasley.

Grandchildren: Brooklyn, Mason, Emmett and August Massengale, Roman, Sebastian, and Xaiden Hensley that he loved with his whole heart. Brothers: Scot and Shelia Beasley, Nathan and Ronita Beasley, Keith and Gina Beasley, and Jeremy and Kelli Kell. Sister: Annette and Tim Moody. He is also survived by a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews that he loved dearly.

The family will receive friends on Friday, March 19, 2021 from 12-2 pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Memorial services will follow with Bro. Doug Morgan and Bro. Tim Ramey officiating. Family will have a private graveside.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Bronson Dyke Beasley.

Virginia Jo Oney, 90

Virginia Jo Oney, age 90, went home to be with the Lord on March 16, 2021 at Life Care of Morgan County. She loved cooking, sewing, gardening and was known taking care of anyone who needed help. She was always seen with a smile on her face. Virginia was also a member of the First Baptist Church in Wartburg who loved God and loved her family most of all.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, Charles Earl Oney; parents, Daniel & Ethel Bonifacius; sisters, June Cox, Jane Brys, Jeanette Long and Anna Joyce Goodman; brother, D.C. Bonifacius, Jr.; brothers-in-law, Harold Oney, Hershel Oney and Oscar Oney, Jr.; sister-in-law, Lillian Oney.

She is survived by her 4 daughters, Tina Jo Oney, Cheryl Oney, Barbie Oney and April Lester; sisters-in-law, Christine Oney, Wanda Oney and Relda Oney; special niece, Betty Maden and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

The family will receive friends Thursday, March 18, 2021 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. with the funeral following at 2:00 p.m. with Bro. Doug White officiating. Interment will follow at Morgan Memorial Gardens in Wartburg.

Special "Thanks" to Life Care Center of Morgan County for the love and care at such a difficult time.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Virginia Jo Oney.

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

The Morgan County Library Board will host its regular board meeting on Monday, April 5th at 5 p.m. in the lower level of the Wartburg Public Library. Discussions on the status of the Oakdale Public Library and Deer Lodge Public Library will also take place during this regular board meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Send Letters to the Editor
Editor@mocotoday.com

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

From the Foothills

with Rae Michael

It is said that the word "politics" is derived from the two parts, "poly", meaning many, and the part, "ticks" meaning blood-sucking parasites. Much as that seems to be accurate most of the time, I'm not sure I buy it as the actual etymology of the word. Nonetheless, I believe a majority of people accept that as the most accurate of definitions. My definition would be, the art of deception.

If one visits social media one will learn that everyone in the political arena is "an idiot". Depending upon which side of the aisle you stand, it is either a democrat or a republican who is the idiot on a particular matter, President Trump uses Twitter to get his message out, not the national media (or he did before getting banned). He's an idiot according to democrat self-proclaimed pundits. President Biden killed construction of the Keystone pipeline (though that's not exactly correct); he's an idiot according to republican self-proclaimed pundits.

Let's see, we have two people who had the sense enough to be elected to possibly the highest position of power in the world, and we call them idiots. Whether either is the brightest in particular categories, or top in their college class, is not the point here. Each has shown himself to have excelled in the world of politics, not a place for idiots. But we choose to call them both idiots, along with a host of other politicians. That is to our detriment and here's why.

When you deem someone to be an idiot, you say that you will ignore what he says and what he does. You discount him or her. But in the case of politics, to dis-

count someone is at your own peril; no matter what you think of that person, they have power over you. They can make your life miserable or easy street, so to discount them is to lose control of your own destiny.

Do not presume that anyone in politics, especially in federal positions, is an idiot. Everything they do has a purpose and, chances are, your comfort and acceptance is not a part of that purpose. Their aggrandizement and benefit IS their purpose; thus the "many blood-sucking parasites" definition makes sense. When you see an action by a politician, and you deem the actions to be counter productive or bad for the nation/state, the action may not make sense to you, but I will guarantee that the action makes sense to many others; their supporters, the industries who give them big money, their political cohorts and those who have secretly put them in their position of power over you. Rather than proclaiming the sheer idiocy of politicians, please note to yourself that every action by a politician has a purpose, usually self-centered and not for your benefit, unless the purpose benefits you so that you will vote for that politician... again, a self centered purpose. Look for the real reason that politician did this "idiot" thing and you will begin to understand politics and exactly why they are where they are.

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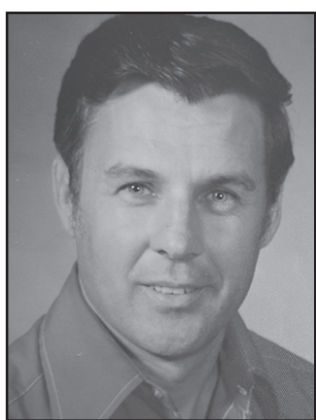
Rates in Morgan County

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

Out of County Rates

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

The Sullivan Brothers of WWII



Tom Redmon
Columnist

Thomas and Alleta Sullivan of 98 Adams Street in Waterloo, Iowa had five boys they were proud of and like any parents of this many strong good-looking boys they

wanted the best for them. They were all born before 1920 except for Al; barely missing WWI but going through the Great Depression where there was little work for young men in the Midwest. This family was of Irish descent. They didn't have a lot but Thomas worked on the railroad and they made it the best they could. All of the boys dropped out of school when they were in the 9th or 10th grade. They were never into a lot of trouble, but they couldn't find work because of the depression and they did hang out at the pool rooms in Waterloo and ended up in a motorcycle gang. One of the boys said he loved his motorcycle more than anything in the world. His name was Joseph but they called him "Red" because of his red hair. The other four boys were George 27, Frank 26, Madison (Matt) 22, and Albert (Al) 20; Joseph (Red) was 24, when the big part of this story takes place.

The boys really loved fishing and hunting. One of their principals went hunting with them some and he said they all were experts with a rifle. Two of the boys George and Frank had already served one four-year hitch in the Navy from 1937 to 1941. They were not out long when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. One of their best friends, Bill Ball, died in the attack on the U.S.S. Arizona. All five of the boys talked it over and they all agreed that they needed to join the Navy and pay the Japs back. Back then it had been okay to put brothers on the same ship if no war was going on, but when the Sullivan Brothers joined in January 1942 there

was a war on two fronts. The Sullivan Brothers, were so close they begged the Navy officials to let them stay together. It worked and it was one of the worst things that could happen to a family. The boys were put on the U.S.S. Juneau, a light cruiser that had been launched recently at a cost of \$13,000,000. The Captain of the ship was Ly Mark Swenson and the ship had a crew of around 700 men. The Navy spent several months training the men and getting them acquainted with the new ship. Many of the sailors were fresh out of Boot Camp. George and Frank had been on a ship somewhere around 1938-40. So, they no doubt had a jump on the other brothers and crew members. After months of training the sailors were given leave to return home. One of the boys Joseph (Red) had been writing to



a girl in Pittsburgh and she wanted him to stop over and see her before going home. The way they had become pen pals was quite a story in itself. A girlfriend of Margaret Jaros had dared her to write one of the Sullivan Brothers they had heard about from an article in the paper. She took the dare and wrote a letter to the Sullivan's and "Red" was chosen to write her back since he was the only one who didn't have a girlfriend back in Waterloo. Al had a wife and they had a 21-month-old son by the name of Jimmy. The other three were either engaged or had someone back in Waterloo they went with. Since the boys only had fifteen days of leave Red stopped in Pittsburgh to see Margaret for the first time while the other

boys went on to see their folks back in Waterloo, Iowa. They had a sister by the name of Genevieve. She was a beautiful girl of twenty-six and she really loved all her brothers. Red's pen pal in Pittsburgh turned out to be a real beauty and before he left Pittsburgh he and Margaret were engaged to be married, but this was the first and last time that they would see each other. When the Sullivan's came back to the ship the U.S.S. Juneau headed to the South Pacific. Their assignment was around the Solomon Islands were much of the early battles in WWII were fought. The United States wanted to hold off the Japanese, and keep them away from Australia. This turned out to be some of the fiercest battles the U.S. Navy and Marines fought in WWII. The Juneau was off the coast of Guadalcanal on November 13, 1942 when they joined the big

got the word that their five sons were missing at sea. They held hope that somehow their boys had survived but after a few days of no-good news Rear Admiral Randell Jacobs, Chief of Naval Personnel notified Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sullivan that their sons were given up for dead but according to Naval records they are listed as missing in action. Later the parents were awarded five Purple Hearts, one for each son. All the family took this great loss hard but their sister seemed to take it the hardest. After much grieving Genevieve joined the Navy Waves because she felt her brothers paid the ultimate cost, the least she could do was join the Waves. She would stay in the United States mostly recruiting women for the Waves. Mrs. Sullivan was asked to help the government in several ways. She would get to dedicate a new ship and later a destroyer was named "The Sullivan" in honor of the five boys lost. They also made a movie about the life of the Sullivan boys with only about 3 1/2 minutes depicting the ship in battle. Pretty Margaret Jaros, Red's girlfriend he was engaged to would come to Waterloo to be with the boy's mother. Many honors were placed upon the Sullivan family but nothing could take the place of their five boys. Thomas would die in the early 60's and Alleta would die in 1972. Their daughter would die in 1975 at the young age of 60. Waterloo, Iowa still remembers the Sullivan Brothers and a memorial has been built. The American Legion Post has been named in their honor. The U.S. Navy has made a new ruling that says brothers cannot be put on the same ship. Do you know that 63 brothers died at Pearl Harbor and only four bodies were recovered? Serving on the U.S. Arizona was a father and son, and 23 sets of brothers. A Mrs. Bixby lost five sons in the Civil War and was consoled by President Lincoln. I think one of the saddest sounds is that of a bugler playing "Taps" at the funeral of a serviceman who gave his all for his country. We all should love this country because much blood was shed to preserve our freedoms, look what the Sullivan's did.

Rewards and Inheritance



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

How many people professing Christ as savior understand their Bible or their future in Christ, as gleaned from the Bible? Do professing Christians open their Bible to discern God's will for their lives? I learned my lessons God's way alone.

Are Earthly rewards tied to Heavenly inheritance? Do Christians understand their position as it relates to God's single-minded plan for all of humanity? All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God! God does not purvey in Christian eugenics. To be Christian is to understand humility in Christ alone. For the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross. Does anything other than taking up your own cross daily constitute blessing alone in Christ? What rewards are guaranteed for those who profess faith in Christ according to the entire word of God? A little hint: God is worried about Jesus Christ's inheritance alone. To understand Christ's inheritance is to unlock the mind of God as it pertains to earthly blessing. It will take the loss of pre-suppositions we have learned from our Christian ancestors to figure out what God says about earthly rewards. The time is very short! God has placed America under his abandonment wrath, and we are watching our president fulfill the handwriting on the wall. He will give our nation to the Medes and the Persians! That was Obama's plan that Biden intends to fulfill.

Jesus Christ was asked by the rich young ruler: What must I do to be saved? Jesus Christ responded by telling him to sell everything and come follow me. We never hear of this man again in our Bible. With God not being the respecter of persons, why would God ever bless those he loves with money or things that cause professing Christians to spend time alone with their things rather than spend time alone in his word for our lives? I have yet to meet a person who has benefited from believing in the prosperity of preachers other than the preachers themselves. God is only in the business of saving souls, not prospering people. Money is something that will not be present in the coming kingdom, for it is the root of all evil. Those are God's words, not mine!

The Christian reward for confessing faith in Jesus Christ for 2000 years has been martyrdom alone. Until the Church returns to a willingness to die for that profession of faith, the Laodicean Church of Revelation 3 will rule over their lives. God is searching for those willing to carry his message of faith to the fallen world in our homes, our businesses, and definitely our children's public education experience. The Reformation Church model is dead! Just ask the Church of Sardis Jesus Christ warns us not to be like. They require resurrection power, not church attendance on Sunday, which mocks God's calendar for rest and worship. The Pagan Roman emperors from Augustus to Constantine knew the Sabbath was Saturday which begins the evening prior. The evening and the morning were the first day. The 7th day had no evening or morning! Solve that riddle, and you will be on the path to understanding the need for rest on Shabbat! If you have been doing what God has called you to be as a Christian, then the need for a Sabbath rest is your path to understanding Christ's inheritance in the kingdom he will establish after the final seven years of Gentile rule on Earth. In the millennium, Jesus Christ will only be in the temple on the new moon's and Shabbat! Show up on Sunday, and he will not be there! Your Earthly rewards are completely tied to Christ's inheritance alone, not ours.

Christ's inheritance and our inheritance are completely different. Elohim promised Yeshua that he would sit upon the throne of King David forever. That event still has never occurred, but scripture tells us exactly when it will happen. This is Jesus Christ's inheritance for accepting his mantle as King of Israel. It required he be rejected for 2000 years by the nation he birthed in Egypt, the nation of Israel. Now the denominational church denies Jesus Christ his inheritance every time they replace Israel in their thinking. God will never replace Israel, or he is a liar! All the blessings humans can expect should be following God's command to bless the people who love the nation of Israel descended from Abraham. If you bless Israel, you will be blessed, I am the Lord, and I change not! If you curse Israel, you will be cursed. Watch what happens to our economy as Joe Biden submits to the Islamists in his midst, and he begins to curse the nation of Israel. Every president from Eisenhower to George W. Bush promised to name Jerusalem the eternal capital of Israel, yet it took Donald Trump to have the courage to do it. This is the God of the Bible's single perfect will for Israel. Jesus Christ is returning to the exact place from whence he ascended to Heaven

from, and it is in Jerusalem! He will assume the mantle of King of King's and Lord of Lord's, and God will finally be ruler over the entire Earth, Hallelujah! The Christian inheritance is most definitely Heaven. When you get there determines your rewards. Rewards are tied to exactly what you did with your profession of faith while on the Earth. Inheritance for the Christian is sealed when God accepts your testimony as to your need for mercy, from the sin that so easily ensnares all of us, and Jesus Christ indeed becomes your burden bearer. Those who persevere to the end will be saved. That is a Christian inheritance.

Christian rewards are tied to your belief that you have been separated by God to become Jesus Christ's bride, in His coming kingdom. He is a coming king, who needs a wife of priest kings, chosen by God's Holy Spirit during the Gentile Church age, to be set apart for the purpose of ruling and reigning with Christ after the tribulation of the last 3 1/2 years of human government on Earth. Christian rewards are identified by Christ, to be handed out after the rapture of believers occurs. They are centered as crowns, to be handed out by Christ at his marriage supper. They begin with the crown of righteousness going to those who believed until their own end. It is a reward for faith alone. Your righteousness is tied to Christ's perfection, not how you act. His righteousness is transferred from a person who commits your testimony of faith to a belief that Christ alone can pay your sin debt to God the father. Then you are ready to earn the next crown: The soul winner's crown! What you do with your faith determines how many crowns Christ rewards a believer. Winning souls is God's only priority during this church age. What you do with your testimony determines your rewards. Money is not a tool of the creator; it is a tool designed by Lucifer himself to keep us from submitting to God's plan for Jesus Christ and the nation of Israel. God does not need money to get his message to those he chooses. Jesus Christ reminded us to never cast our pearls before swine. Focus on what Jesus Christ did on calvary, and you will never worry about what you or others do, for God will begin ordering your footsteps and most definitely provide all of your needs according to his riches in glory. He will meet your needs while never encumbering a believer to greed!

Ask yourself a question? Why would God reward me with earthly wealth and encumber me to spending all of my time holding onto it? I myself never do the right thing when I receive lots of money. Do you? Remember, God is only concerned with the coming kingdom of his Son! God alone is single-minded to finish what he started in eternity past. Learn that plan, and maturity will begin to rear its head in your life, and then, maybe God will trust you with money for ministry. Not a minute before. He loves you, and he desires all of our attention in all we do. Dedicate your entire life to God's will, and he will place a hedge of protection around your finances. Then learn the truth about tithing. It is God's tool for getting us to participate in his ministry to humans. For the purpose of meeting believers in Yeshua's plan needs. Not for the purpose of making you look like the people who do not believe. Money causes jealousy, and you should learn what God's number one jealousy is! It is his jealousy as creator. Are you worshipping the Jesus Christ who spoke Heaven and Earth into existence? Does your church follow its own business model or God's as outlined in scripture? Does your family follow God's plan of tithing, or do you give God a portion of what is left over after you pay bills? Remember, Jesus Christ did not get paid to die on the cross; however, religious Judas did! 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 March 15, 2021
Staff Sergeant John Burns enlisted into the United States Army on September 23, 1987 as an IIC Infantry Mortarman. He graduated from the 7th Infantry Division, Ranger Class 11/89 and served in the invasion of Panama, Desert Storm and the Battle of Mogadishu while assigned to the 75th Rangers. Some of his many decorations, awards and badges include; Bronze Star Medal for Valor, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Sniper Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantry Badge and Expert Infantry Badge. Throughout his prestigious military career, he traveled to forty-five countries on five continents and all but two states while serving in the military. He currently serves as the Chaplain for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. His devout faith demonstrates to all he comes into contact with that he believes nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He enjoys writing and teaching God's Word while sharing his faith with a dying world.

Historically Speaking Oak Ridge and the Red Cross, Part 2

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Last week we looked at the beginning of the American Red Cross. This week we continue our examination of that history with regard to the local chapters and focus on the Red Cross response to the July 6, 1944, troop train wreck. The history of the Red Cross in Anderson County has some unique aspects to it with regard to the Manhattan Project in nearby Oak Ridge.

One person seems to have been a key player in the early history of the Red Cross in Anderson County: Maurine Owen. She was involved in much of what was going on during the Manhattan Project and also was personally very involved in the response to the troop train wreck.

In an article published in the Clinton Courier News on April 2, 1981, Katherine B. Hoskins authored "Oak Ridge was branch of county unit during war." In the column she addressed the history of the Oak Ridge Chapter American Red Cross.

The Manhattan Project brought substantial changes to the area of Appalachia near Clinton that had been quietly existing and continually growing for 100 to 150 years. The people were comfortably able to take care of themselves with their farms and the produce they marketed. Some areas had extensive peach crops. However, the people were about to experience drastic changes. The land they had lived on for generations was being taken by the government for the war effort.

In my research, I learned that Katherine Hoskins was the executive secretary of the Anderson County Chapter of the American Red Cross from September 1942 until December 1942, when Maurine H. Owen became the executive secretary. Owen still held that office during the response to the 1944 train wreck and continued to hold it until 1952.

That means that Maurine Owen was the key individual who managed the service provided by the Red Cross to the new and unique Manhattan Project. For the first time the Red Cross was being asked to manage services to civilians as well as military. And this was not the only radically new approach being asked of the Anderson County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

For the first time, the Red Cross was being asked to use extreme precautions to prevent divulging any secret information. Even the location of the area they were servicing was protected. Just the mere mention of a person's name in association with the secret operations at Oak Ridge was unacceptable. New methods had to quickly be devised to allow the necessary services to be provided, yet to protect the very special war effort being mounted right in the middle of Appalachia.

The Oak Ridge Chapter American Red Cross began in December 1943 as a branch of the Anderson County Chapter American Red Cross. The first Red Cross office in Oak Ridge was located at the Elm Grove Shopping Center where it opened in December 1943. In January 1945 the office was moved to its present location at 908 Oak Ridge Turnpike. It is now known as the American Red Cross – Appalachian Chapter.

Let's pick up our story with the changes in the local Red Cross required in the Anderson County chapter upon the arrival in Robertsville and Scarboro of the Army Corps of Engineers and their most secret Manhattan Project. The changes affected everyone in the small communities that were taken over by the Army, but also the surrounding communities and cities were impacted as well.

For example, think of the increased population of 3,000 people moving out of Bear Creek Valley, East Fork Valley, Bethel Valley and Wheat. These people had to

relocate to surrounding communities. There was not a lot of available land, and with that influx of families, the price of land naturally increased because of the increased demand.

Almost immediately, the small communities of Robertsville and Scarboro, along with several other communities such as New Hope, Bethel and other small farming communities, no longer existed. Some of the major buildings, such as the school buildings, were spared, but the homes were almost all demolished right away.



Maurine Owen, Executive Secretary of the Anderson County Chapter of the American Red Cross (Photo Submitted)

Some of the larger homes served as offices for the Corps of Engineers as construction began immediately. Those people who sacrificed their homes did not know that this country was in a race with Germany to build an atomic bomb. They only knew they had to get off their land in a hurry.

The residents had been told to leave in October and November 1942. They were gone by December 1942 and massive new construction activities began, in early 1943, to bring huge numbers of new people into the "project" area. This influx of people taxed the system for helping the needy. Something had to be done almost immediately.

Many of the people coming to work on the secret effort only knew that work was available there, and if they could get hired and find a way to get to this unknown place, they could earn some money for their families. Upon arrival, many of the workers had exhausted their funds just getting there. Therefore, help was needed in many different ways.

The military could see the needs but were not equipped to meet them. A Red Cross was needed. Being familiar with Red Cross support in other locations near military bases, they looked to the closest local chapter, the Anderson County chapter.

The needs were met as best they could be under the unusual circumstances. By December 1943 it was obvious the needs inside the secret city and its various construction sites required a presence of a local Red Cross office in Oak Ridge.

The National American Red Cross considered the Anderson Chapter the parent organization in the county and all other Red Cross organizations in the county would be branch offices. That is the primary reason the Oak Ridge organization was first established as a branch office. Later, in 1947, the Oak Ridge chapter was given its own charter.

The unusual circumstances of Oak Ridge required some most unique arrangements be made. Information about the "secret city," that was not even on any maps, had to be protected. The people there could not be identified with the project. There were concerns that information about the hospital being built there would compromise security. Yet when the troop train wreck occurred, the hospital was quickly opened to the injured soldiers.

During the Manhattan Project, the secrecy of the Clinton Engineer Works at Oak Ridge was such that even operating a Red Cross

required special precautions. All correspondence was sent through the Anderson County Chapter.

Katherine Hoskins, Anderson County Historian, says in her April 2, 1981, Clinton Courier News article that, "all mail going from Oak Ridge Chapter was sealed, carried to the Anderson County Chapter, put in another envelope, then stamped and mailed with a Clinton postmark." Again, we see the secrecy associated with the Manhattan Project also had an impact on the neighboring city of Clinton as the Red Cross was involved in protecting the identity of individuals involved in the project.

Before the Oak Ridge branch office was opened, all requests for assistance were handled by sending them to the Anderson County Chapter executive secretary, Mrs. Maurine Owen, who forwarded them to the Red Cross field director, T.W. Brownback, stationed at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Brownback would clear the case through Captain T.W. Taylor, special services military officer at Oak Ridge. When the case was approved, Owen would be granted the necessary pass into Oak Ridge to interview the person involved in the case.

Hoskins wrote in a March 26, 1981, historical article in the Clinton Courier News of the actions of the Red Cross during the 1944 train wreck. She notes that Oak Ridge was the closest military installation and that many of the survivors were sent to Oak Ridge to stay in the barracks there; injured were taken to the hospital there. She further notes that as Oak Ridge was a "secret city" or as she says, a "top secret installation," the Oak Ridge Branch Red Cross chapter was also secret. Casualty messages were sent by the military personnel.

She said, "Every family who had a boy recently inducted from the Virginia area began telephoning or coming to Clinton Red Cross office. Volunteer workers were recruited to answer phone calls and talk with the families arriving in person; even so, the Anderson County executive secretary, Mrs. Harry L. (Maurine H.) Owen, one time during the disaster aftermath worked for 36 hours without lying down or sleeping. She also was sent to Jellico and Lafollette to visit the hospitals and homes there, where some of the injured were taken. Some died in private homes."

Hoskins continued, "Emergency canteens were established by the Oak Ridge Red Cross office in the hospital to serve those bringing in the injured. Volunteer workers were stationed at Elza Gate to assist families coming to Oak Ridge to visit the injured soldiers. Financial assistance was furnished some of the wives who came to Oak Ridge to stay until their husbands were transferred."

Next, we will look at the details of the disaster report prepared by the executive director of the Oak Ridge Branch of the Anderson County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

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

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Dick Hoyt - A Father's Love

By: MSG. Fred Mize



MSG Fred Mize

I write today in tribute and memory of Dick Hoyt who died at the age of 80 on March 17, 2021. Hoyt died peacefully in his sleep in Massachusetts, one of his three sons, Russ Hoyt, told the Associated Press. He had an ongoing heart condition that "just got the better of him," Russ said. He and brother, Rob, told the news to Rick.

Many of you may know or at least recognize Dick Hoyt by watching vid-

eos of him running with his son Rick, by pushing him in a custom wheelchair through 32 Boston Marathons and more than 1,000 total races. Dick, first pushed Rick, who is quadriplegic and has cerebral palsy, in a 1977 race and entered their first Boston Marathon in 1980 using a special racing wheelchair.

During my time serving as a Chaplain's Assistant in the Tennessee Army National Guard I showed videos of those heart-felt moments, in order to demonstrate a father's love.

The countless videos of seeing Dick Holt race with

his son are beyond inspirational. Dick fully dedicated his

entire body and all of his strength, heart, and soul in pushing,

pulling, and even carrying Rick in races to include the most

on a bike and a 26.2-mile run.

Throughout each race event you would see sheer dedication in the race of Dick and pure jubilation in the face of his precious son Rick.

Although Dick died due to a heart condition, I can only describe his heart with one word, "pure". I like to thank that Jesus Christ welcomed Dick Hoyt into the gates of Heaven by telling him, "you have fought a good fight, you have finished your course, you have kept the faith:" - 2 Timothy 4:7



teamhoyt.com

extreme triathlons such as six Ironman Triathlons.

Through each of the six Ironman Triathlons, Dick would use a rope attached to his body to pull Rick in a boat during the two-mile swimming portion, then race 150 miles

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

Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

Leading career consultant and author Zack Ballinger soon to launch virtual career academy to help students and professionals find their dream job

Zack Ballinger's upcoming virtual career library will help students and professionals realize their dream career goals with the help of insightful interviews.

March 19, 2021: After the immense success of "The Hot Seat: How to Meet the Challenge of a New Era in Job Interviewing" and "Don't Be a Zombie: How to Find a Career You Love", Amazon best seller author and top career consultant Zack Ballinger is soon to launch a virtual career academy this month. It can be found at, "ZackBallinger.com", the upcoming online career library aimed to empower students and professionals with insightful industry-leading resources to help them find their dream career.

Also a famous speaker, the seasoned career consultant guides people seeking for a potential career or a career change in

assessment and reassessment of their options to help them find a career they are passionate about. Ballinger's upcoming career library will feature interviews from professionals from a wide range of career fields and around 821 career pathways to cater to job-seekers from almost all industries. The interviews would be featured in the formats of video and podcasts.

"It's an exciting moment for me to an-

nounce the upcoming launch of my new virtual career library. The library is driven by the mission to empower students and professionals with industry insights that would eventually leverage their potential to find their dream job. We will feature videos and podcasts on interviews from pros in various career fields so that our members can develop a strong idea in what to expect and how to respond with success at their job interviews", stated Zack Ballinger.

Per the statements of the senior career consultant, the career landscape today is witnessing a new era in job interviewing and job seekers need to be aware of the nuances of the latest interviewing patterns to create a positive impression before prospective employers.

strive for a job that you can resonate with and love to do. Our upcoming virtual career library is dedicated to guide you in exploration of your dream career goals and development of your growth as a successful professional."

About Zack Ballinger:

Zack Ballinger is a revered career consultant, Amazon best-selling author and popular motivational speaker. He speaks on a wide range of topics, covering job interviewing, career development, finding passion and purpose, leadership, overcoming adversities and so on. For more than a decade, he has helped a number of high schools, colleges, corporations, companies and non-profit organizations to reach their best potential. Ballinger is broadly covered by a multitude of esteemed organizations, including the likes of Huffington Post, CBS, NBC, Morgan County Today, TEDX and many such elite names.

For more information, please visit www.zackballinger.com

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 teach-

ing people on various topics. Zack has established an ongoing annual scholarship at his Alma Mater, Wartburg, which has inspired others to give back as well.

Visit www.zackballinger.com for more of Zack's travels and events.



Zack Ballinger



"Our virtual career library members would not only learn about the probable interviewing approach but also about the strategies on how to handle tough or tricky questions at the interview table. Moreover, our videos and podcasts will guide job-seekers to find and thrive in a job that can complement their passion and purpose in life. Your job is going to occupy a significant part of your lifetime and it's extremely important that you

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



Welcome Spring! Spring is a sign of new birth. I think all of us are ready for spring, warm weather and all the beauty that comes this time of year. This past weekend was beautiful. Plan ahead! Buy the allergy medicine now!

I think jonquils and forsythias are more vibrant this year than usual. The bright yellow is so pretty.

There will be no school in Morgan County on Friday, April 2 in observance of Good Friday. Spring break will be the following week, April 5-9. Enjoy!

Boswell Chapel Baptist Church held an Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 20. They also surprised Pastor Kerry Ruppe with cake and ice cream since his birthday was Sunday, March 21. Two children found the prize eggs but every child and adult got to take home a prize and candy because Mrs. Jennifer Ruppe always goes above and beyond to make sure everyone has a great time.

Congratulations to Josh and Sarah Townsend Banken on the birth of their twin daughters, Hannah and Leah. The girls were born Friday, March 19. Their very proud grandparents are Tyler and Maude Townsend. More details coming soon!

Congratulations to Amanda Bingham who was selected as Morgan County's K-4 Teacher of the Year! Amanda teaches 1st grade at Oakdale School.

Belated birthday greetings to Franklin "Bunk" Stringfield of Piney. Bunk celebrated his 88th birthday Friday, March 12. We hope you had a great day Bunk!

On Saturday, March 13, Teresa Gilbert's family gathered to celebrate her 60th birthday which was on March 9. She enjoyed celebrating with her children, grandsons, mom, dad and sister.

West Side Baptist Church will have an Easter Celebration Friday, April 2 from 12:00 until 2:00 at the church. There will be food, story time and an egg hunt. Everyone is welcome and should bring a basket.

The City of Oakdale will have an Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 3rd at noon in Oakdale City Park. Everyone from 0-99 is welcome!

Todd Scarbrough from Alabama spent a couple of nights with his mother Vera and also enjoyed a traditional St. Patrick's Day dinner of corn beef, cabbage, roasted vegetables and soda bread prepared by next door cousins Bob Arntz and Debbie Hatfield Pendergast.

Oakdale Alumni Association will have an online Auction April 9-11. Money raised will be used in part for the annual scholarship awarded to an OHS graduate. If anyone has items to donate for the auction, please contact an Alumni Association Board Member or me, Sandra Helton, and we will make arrangements to pick up your donation.

Congratulations to Edward and Edna Johnson who celebrated their 52nd Wedding Anniversary on March 14. Wishing you many more blessed years.

Kennedy Bell spent a recent weekend with her grandmother, Vera Scarbrough. They enjoyed a visit from Vera's niece Kim Scarbrough Robinson from Chattanooga.

On March 24, 1970, I got a real life baby doll. Technically, she was my parent's baby but over the years, I claimed her as mine. Happy Birthday to my baby sister, Tabitha Hamby, who will celebrate her birthday tomorrow. I hope you have a great day Sis!

Happy Birthday to Kaitlyn Shelton who also celebrates her birthday March 24.

Happy Birthday to Melanie Hicks, Tom Kilby, Caleb Redmon, Joe Miles and Erica Gallaher who all celebrate a birthday March 26.

Save the Children, in partnership with Mossy Grove Baptist Church, has been able to receive two Farms to Families USDA food box donations over the last couple of months. In February and March, there was a donation of 1,296 30lb boxes of fresh food and gallons of milk. Thank you to Mossy Grove Church for agreeing to let the distribution take place there and to their church family for donating time to help distribute the food and milk to Morgan County residents. Thank you to Wartburg Ace Hardware for the loan of a forklift to unload the truck. Thank you to all the churches, libraries and community members who picked up food boxes and milk and delivered them across the county. Thank you to our local newspapers and WECO for advertising the dates and times for the distribution. It is wonderful to see what can be accomplished when everyone works together.

There will be an Outdoor Celebration of Life for Mike Helton on March 27, 6:00 PM EDT at Mike and Connie's home. There will be a time of fellowship with social Distancing and masks. In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to the Mike Helton Scholarship Fund at Roane State Community College.

Please follow the contribution information below:

Make check payable to: Roane State Community College Foundation

On check memo line, write Mike Helton Scholarship Fund.

Mail to:

Roane State Community College

276 Patton Lane

Harriman, TN. 37748

Sympathy is extended to the family of Don Kittrell who passed away March 17. He is survived by his wife, Katherine, three children and several grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother Evert Kittrell and his sisters, Nancy Humphreys and Jenny Harris, a special uncle, Bobby Hutcherson and many nieces, nephews and other family members and friends. Services were held Saturday, March 20. Interment was in Roane Memorial Gardens.

"In a society that has you counting money, pounds, calories and steps, be a rebel and count your blessings instead." Lisa Heckman

Public Notice

Morgan County has been petitioned to remove Jim McGill Rd. from the road list, in consideration of this move concerned parties should contact the Morgan County Highway Dept. and voice their concerns in writing. Concerns can be mailed to; Highway Dept. P.O. Box 250, Wartburg, Tn. 37887 or drop them off at 3519 Morgan Co. Hwy. at the office. A Public Hearing will be held at the next monthly commission meeting, 7p.m. April-12th. 2021 at the Morgan County Courthouse.

Acts Chapter 25

(Acts 25:1-5) The charge before Festus: it is believed that Festus served as Palestine's procurator ca. A.D. 56-59. He would be headquartered at Caesarea. After three days, he was prompted to travel up to Jerusalem, probably to "take the temperature" of the political and religious climate. The Jewish leaders could scarcely wait to "inform against" Paul. They begged him (repeatedly, so the verbal force) to have the apostle brought to Jerusalem. Their idea was to lie in wait and kill him. The hate they harbored for this man is beyond human description. Festus denied the request. He was about to go back to the coastal city. If they had a case, they could pursue it there.

(Acts 25:6-12) the hearing at Caesarea: after a little more than a week, the procurator went down to his city. He presently convened for court and commanded Paul to be brought to the proceeding. The Jerusalem Jews surrounded the apostle and furiously hurled numerous and reckless charges, none of which could be proved (v. 7). Paul responded that he had committed no violation against Judaism, the temple, or Rome. He was resolute.

Festus, however, was a weakling politician, coveting the favor of the Jews, so he attempted a compromise. Would Paul go up to Jerusalem for a trial and judgment (v.9)? The apostle applied the pressure. "I am here at the site of Caesar's judgment throne. Do you speak for Caesar, or do you belong to the Jews?" It was burning question from a tough defendant, for whom not even the "judge" was a match. Paul said with force: "You know what is going on here? If I have committed a capital crime, I will not resist the penalty. But these accusations are false. If I cannot get justice here, I appeal my case to Caesar" (v.11). The reference was to Nero (A.D. 54-68). Those were "magic" words, and they were his right as a citizen. His case would now go to the "supreme court"! His ambition to go to Rome would now be realized (Rom. 1:10). The Christian does have the right to use the legitimate provisions of civil government for his protection. Both Festus and the council now knew their hands were tied. "Unto Caesar you will go" (v. 12).

(Acts 25:13-22) Festus seeks Agrippa's advice: after the passing of several days, two other important persons arrived on the scene. This brother-sister team may have come to welcome Festus to his new post. Agrippa II was the son of the brute who murdered James (12:1). He was about seventeen when his father was slain by God's angel (12:20-23).

He ruled over certain territories in northern Palestine.

Bernice and Drusilla (24:24) were sisters of Agrippa II. According to Josephus, it was rumored that Bernice and her brother had an incestuous relationship (Antiquities of the Jews 20.7.3). Agrippa and Bernice remained in Caesarea "many days." Eventually, Festus decided to approach them with this interesting case regarding Paul, the Christian preacher. After all, they were familiar with the intricacies of Hebrew law; maybe they could help with this difficult case.

Festus prepared the two by rehearsing the history of Paul's case so far as he knew it. There were charges by the Jews against this man. As he surveyed the matter, the accusations had nothing to do with civil law, but involved questions regarding "their own religion" (v. 19), thus would be of no concern to Rome. It seemed to revolve around a man called Jesus who was dead, but whom Paul claimed was alive. Festus confesses he is woefully confused concerning how to handle the matter. He mentioned that, ultimately, Paul had appealed to Caesar. He said he was keeping the prisoner safe until the opportunity arose to ship him to Rome and Caesar's court. Agrippa expressed an interest in hearing Paul, and Festus promised a meeting the next day.

(Acts 25:23-27) the next day's events: as the new day dawned, excitement charged the atmosphere. A significant group of spectators entered the chamber where the proceedings were to be conducted, and Paul was brought into the room. Festus opened the meeting with a brief statement of explanation. The Jews have vigorously protested that "this man... ought not to live any longer" (v. 24). The ruler confessed he had been unable to find sustainable charges. Paul had appealed to Caesar, and a determination had been made that he should go. But Festus was perplexed; he had not figured out how he would explain to the emperor why he was sending this celebrated Hebrew, who was also a Roman citizen. Hence, he declared that the purpose of this session was to allow Agrippa the opportunity for examination and subsequent assistance with framing a sensible bill of particulars. It always helps to add the name of an authority figure when one lacks the courage to take full responsibility!

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MELVIN HOWARD

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Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week

This week we honor a fallen Tennessee Army National Guard Soldier as the veteran of the week.

Staff Sergeant (SSG) Steven Leonard, age 44, passed away unexpectedly on March 10, 2021. Steven was born in North Carolina, grew up in Naples Florida, and resided in Manchester TN, but always remained an avid Florida Gators fan.

SSG Steven Leonard, served his country and the State of Tennessee with pride by enlisting in the Tennessee Army National Guard in 2008. He deployed to Iraq 2010-2011 for Operation New Dawn. Steven successfully obtained the rank of Staff Sergeant and achieved many major accolades in his service to include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve

Component Achievement Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Tennessee Distinguished Service Medal and numerous other federal and state decorations.



SSG Steven Leonard, is survived by his parents Drena Jus-

stice, Rusty Bell, step-mother Debra Burton; wife Stephanie and their children Kaila (Thomas), Carter, Chase, Kaleb and two grandchildren Thomas and Keagan.

It's always with a heavy heart to honor fallen American Heroes such as SSG Steven Leonard but we honor them with pride. We pray that the LORD blesses SSG Leonard's family with comfort and peace during this pressing time.



Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

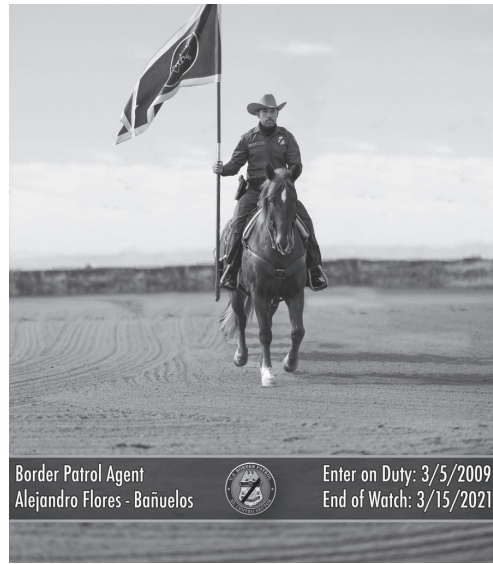
Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

This week we honor fallen Border Patrol Agent Alejandro Flores-Banuelos who was struck and killed by a vehicle on Highway 86, north of Mariana Drive, near Salton City, California on March 15, 2021.

He was the first to arrive at the scene of a vehicle crash that occurred during a dust storm that caused low visibility. He was assisting

an elderly patient who was still in her car when another vehicle struck him and the car.

Agent Flores-Banuelos was transported to Pioneer



Memorial Hospital where he suc-

cumbed to his injuries. He was a true patriot and USMC veteran. He had served with the United States Border Patrol for twelve years. He is survived by his expecting wife and three children.

Third Stimulus Ben-

efits



David Zubler

The third stimulus will help more people than the first two stimulus. The amount of the new stimulus is \$1,400.

College students and adult dependents will be eligible for the stimulus.

Young adults may be eligible for a stimulus check by filing their taxes independently. This can be of particular benefit to students whose parents make too much to receive the stimulus. Since the parents wouldn't be eligible for any stimulus due to their income, their dependents would be eligible to receive the stimulus by filing independently. Individuals who want to qualify for

the stimulus on their own should file a tax return as soon as possible to try to become eligible.

Additionally, young adults who didn't file independently in 2019 and weren't claimed as a dependent, will still be able to receive their first stimulus check. They will be able to receive the first stimulus by claiming the Recovery Rebate Credit from the Cares Act on their 2020 tax return.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) estimates as many as 15 million adult dependents and older children were not eligible for the previous stimulus payments under the CARES Act.

The amount that adult dependents will receive will depend on the income of the person claiming them on their taxes.

The phaseout range starts at \$75,000 for singles, \$150,000 for married couples filing jointly, and \$112,500 for heads of households.

If the income is at or more than \$80,000 for singles, \$160,000 for married couples filing jointly, and \$120,000 for heads of households, they won't qualify for the third stimulus.

If you are past due on child support, you can still receive the entire stimulus payment. Unlike the previous stimulus payments, it won't be used to pay late child support payments. Any past-due federal or state debts won't affect the stimulus. However, private debt collectors may be able to use the stimulus to apply toward a debt.

The IRS overpaid stimulus to some parents when the first two payments were made. This was due to the fact that some divorced parents alternate years for claiming their children. The IRS looked at both 2018 and 2019 to determine eligibility for the first check. So, if one parent claimed the child in 2018 and the other parent claimed the child in 2019, both parents received the stimulus for the same child.

The second stimulus check was based only on the 2019 tax return. However, if one parent got the stimulus and the other parent claimed the child on their 2020 tax return, they would receive the stimulus for the same child by claiming the Recovery Rebate Credit.

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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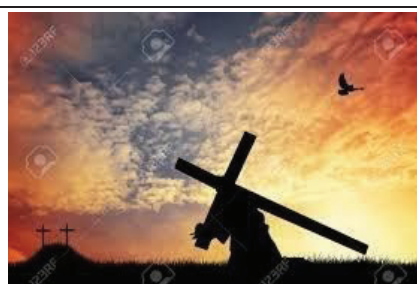
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White Oak Missionary Baptist Church Presents

CARRYING THE CROSS FOR CHRIST

This is a very special event and very touching experience if you've never participated before.

April 3, 2021

Starting location will be at White Oak Baptist Church in Sunbright and we will carry the cross for 8 miles through the town of Sunbright, and then back to the church.

Registration will start at 8:00 a.m.

Carrying the Cross will start at 9:00 a.m.

For those who would like to participate but doesn't think they can walk or complete the 8 miles. There will be a trailer following the walkers; you are more than welcome to ride along. There will be water, fruit and snacks for your journey.

Everyone is welcome to stay after this event for hamburgers and hot dogs provided by White Oak Church. Our congregation and Pastor welcome you to come and share this event with us.



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