

Morgan County Today

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75¢

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March 30, 2021

MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK

Tue 30	71°/60°	
Wed 31	63°/32°	
Thu 01	46°/26°	
Fri 02	52°/32°	
Sat 03	63°/40°	
Sun 04	70°/46°	
Mon 05	73°/51°	

Former Roane State Middle College student accepted into med school at age 19

By Bob Fowler
Roane State staff writer

A tragic event and a determined mother forged Blake Ivey's character and his drive to become a doctor. Now, he's achieved numerous top academic awards, just graduated from college at age 19 and has been accepted into medical school.

He's a graduate of Roane State's innovative Middle College. "I wouldn't have been able to do it without Roane State's Middle College program," Ivey said.

The heartrending event happened when Blake was 9. He and his mom were with his grandfather, Vance Irwin. They had stopped at a gas station in Campbell County after Irwin, 59, said he couldn't breathe. "I'd seen symptoms of a heart attack, and I was trying to comfort him while an ambulance was on the way," Ivey recalled. "It never seemed like words were enough. I was feeling helpless, and I wanted to know how to solve the problem. He was a father figure to me."

Vance Irwin died of cardiac arrest an hour later. The other key to Ivey's exceptional record of achievement: his mother, Melissa Ivey. "I've seen her drive and determination and perseverance. I look at her as a role model. As a single mom, she's had to work numerous jobs, but she was always there when I needed her."

Ivey joined Middle College when he was 16 and a Campbell County High School junior. In that program, high school students who are accepted take Roane State classes in the mornings and return to their high schools in the afternoons. Those who complete the rigorous regimen graduate from both high school and the community college at the same time.

"It went great for me," he said. He made all A's in high school,



Blake Ivey is shown with former Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam during the governor's visit to the Campbell County campus of Roane State Community College. (Please note that this photo was taken prior to the pandemic.)

where he was the valedictorian and class president for all four years, and at Roane State, where he was named the community college's top Middle College student. Middle College is offered on several Roane State campuses. He also won the prestigious Ann P. Minter award for chemistry student of the year.

Ivey quickly cites Roane State

Associate Professor Steve Ward as "the best teacher I've ever had. Whenever I had problems with chemistry, he was always there to help me."

One of the highlights of his affiliation with Roane State was when then-Governor Bill Haslam visited the Campbell County campus to

tour a new wing of labs and classes. "I presented him with a Middle College T-shirt. It was one of the best experiences I've ever had."

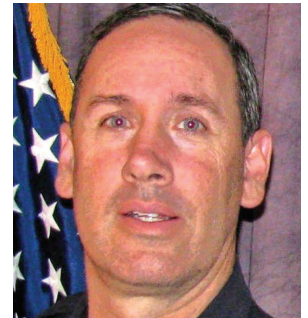
Ivey's academic record continued at the University of Tennessee and its pre-med program where he graduated summa cum laude and was named a top college scholar. He's now been accepted at the Lincoln Memorial University Medical School in Harrogate.

"I would love to become a family doctor and come back to rural Campbell County and help people," Ivey said. "There aren't that many doctors in Campbell County, and I want people to have adequate

healthcare." For more information on the Middle College program, visit roanestate.edu/middlecollege.



Veteran of the Week
Jason Lee Dunham



LEO of the Week
Eric Hutson Talley



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Peggy Sexton

Mrs. Peggy Sexton went home to her Heavenly Father on Wednesday March 25, 2021.

She is preceded in death by her husband Frank Sexton; Daughters: Marilyn "Dee Dee" Bridges and Essie Francine "Floyd" Singleton; Grandson, J.C Singleton; Parents, Snowdeer Byrge and Greasy Byrge; sister, Mary Lou; Brother, Ted Byrge; and her beloved poodle, Hoppy.

She is survived by her Sisters: Betty Brys, Joanne (Moto) Massengill, Cheryl (Jerry) Lester; Son Willis "Roho" Sexton and Hannah Swint; Grandchildren Corey Singleton, Whitney and Courtney Sexton, Kristen and Payton Bridges; along with a host of great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Peggy was a loyal and loving wife, caring mother and wonderful grandmother. She loved her children and grandchildren more

than anything, except her dog Hoppy. She worked for Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary for 19 years as a food steward. When she wasn't working, she enjoyed putting flowers together in her flower shop she once ran, spending time with her family and making her famous peanut butter fudge. Peggy never met a stranger, she welcomed everyone with open arms and fed them whether they wanted her to or not. She was brutally honest and had the biggest heart imaginable. She suffered much loss after her husband and two daughters passed. She soon after lost her mother, brother and beloved dog. However, she kept fighting. When she became sick, she never gave up. She fought right up until her very last breath. Peggy was a lover, a fighter and had the best sense of humor. She made everyone laugh and her smile lit the room. Her legacy will carry on for generations and she will be truly missed, yet never forgotten.

Bobby Joe McCann, 83

Bobby Joe McCann age 83, passed away on March 15, 2021. He was preceded in death by his mother and father, his wife Cora McCann son J.D. brothers: Clarence McCann, Jurion, Jim, Tracy, Charlie and Harold McCann.

He is survived by children: Robert McCann of Deer Lodge, William McCann of Lansing, Dennise, Tony and Jerry McCann Daughters Dweda JoAnne, Brenda, and Diane. Brother: Burl McCann.

Also surviving are a host of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Also surviving is a special daughter-in-law Ann McCann.

The family will receive friends on Friday, March 19, 2021 from 10-11 am Schubert Funeral Home Sunbright. Funeral services to follow at 11. With Bro. Danny Jones officiating. Internment will follow funeral services at the Sunbright Cemetery. Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Bobby Joe McCann.

Sandra Osterhoudt, 81

Sandra Osterhoudt, age 81, of Harriman, Tn. passed away March 18, 2021. She and her husband (Bob) moved to Tennessee from California in 1997 to enjoy retirement in the beautiful mountains of Tennessee.

Sandra is preceded in death by special grandparents that raised her, Myrtle & Earl Jeffers; parents, Everett Brickey & Darlene Vincent; husband of 42 years Robert (Bob) Osterhoudt; son, Robert Osterhoudt of California; daughter, Lisa Murphy of Harriman; sisters, Donna Bradshaw, Ann Smith, Delores all of Morgan County.

Sandra is survived by her son, Thomas (Tom) Osterhoudt of Harriman; daughter, Laura Osterhoudt of Oregon; sister, Colleen Hamby of Wartburg; brothers, Don Brickey of Oregon, Richard Vincent of Wartburg; 8 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family will have a graveside service Saturday, March 27, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at Morgan Memorial Gardens in Wartburg.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Sandra Osterhoudt.

Rickey "Wayne" Phillips, 41

Rickey "Waynie" Phillips, age 41 passed away March 20, 2021.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Sherry Phillips; brother, Eric Phillips; grandfathers, Howard Jones and Earl Phillips.

He is survived by his father, Rickey Dean Phillips; daughter, Brooklyn Basler; nephews, Dillon and Kyler; niece, McKenzie that he loved dearly.

Waynie was a hard-working logger with a very generous heart. He loved football especially the Tennessee Titans. He loved to

be outdoors with a fishing pole in hand. Waynie was one of a kind! He will be missed dearly by all that loved him.

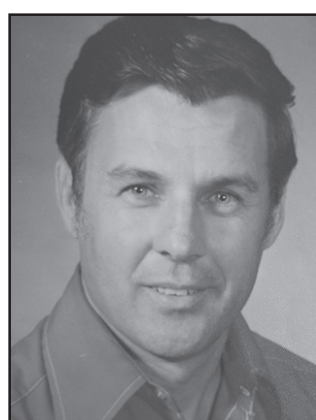
The family will receive friends Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00-1:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 1:00 p.m. with Bro. Myrl Phillips officiating. The family will have a private graveside service.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Rickey "Waynie" Phillips.

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.

Look What Our President Has Done



Tom Redmon
Columnist

In less than six months look what our president has done; the one that a lot of people thought was a moderate, but turned out to be as far left as Bernie Sanders.

It is hard to believe that anyone who ever loved America would do so many things to hurt our country. Biden told us he would open our borders. Now look at the crisis we have at our southern border. Mr. Biden has given them an invitation to come to America. Four Central America Countries along with Mexico is sending 4,500 illegal immigrants a day to our open borders and there is no way we can check them for the Corona-19 virus or other health issues. There is no way we can stop all the drug smugglers, gang members and children smugglers. This is Biden's crisis, not Trumps.

Closing down the Canadian pipeline and stopping fracking. Gas around East Tennessee has already gone up to \$2.50 and above and in Florida it is over \$3.00. Some predict \$5.00

per gallon by summer. Thousands of jobs have been lost and blue-collar families are suffering. It doesn't make sense.

Rejoined the World Health Organization (WHO) which cost us \$500,000,000 a year. This organization is in with communist China

where the Corona virus originated. Trump got us out of the WHO because we received very little benefit from it, and we pay a lot more than China.

The world first and America last. Patriotism is going to be at an all time low. Hate your country is in vogue. What will our military look like in four years? Cancel culture. Forget about our history of how we became a great nation; a country of great freedoms for 245 years. For sometime the liberals have wanted to rewrite history and it looks like they are succeeding. In a few years no one will know who our founding fathers were. They won't know who George Washington or Abe Lincoln were. They will not know how our brave men and women fought in many wars to keep us free. Instead, we will hear about dictators, and despots like Castro and the ones who made our country socialistic. Divided our country more. Unity to

Biden is if we will join up with his socialistic government we will no longer be divided. The GOP is the enemy of socialism. So, I guess Biden wants us divided.

Women's sports hurt by law passed allowing transgender women to play on women's teams. This could kill



women's sports. Attack on our 1st Amendment. It happened slowly but now our freedom of speech and freedom of religion is really under attack. Attack on the 2nd Amendment. Wouldn't the socialist love to confiscate all our guns? It won't be easy but you can bet this is part of their plan. Chip away at our constitution. If they are rewriting history and canceling culture why do they need this obsolete constitution? Never mind it's the best constitution ever written and it's lasted over 230 years. Failure to support the police and enforce our laws on the books but you

can bet if a conservative broke a law they will be hung.

Killing energy independence. How do you like \$3.00 gallon gasoline? Maybe this summer it could reach \$5.00 per gallon, and to think just a few months ago our country didn't have to depend on any other country for energy. The new green deal is on its way. How is moderate Biden doing? Do you believe this?

Judeo-Christian Values. I really liked the 50's when we could pray in school and where we had Freedom of Religion. Now we have a real war going on against the way we want to worship. Secularism has always been with us but now we have something worse a liberal/socialistic government wants to take our Christian faith away.

Spending, spending, spending. Our national debt is approaching thirty-trillion, and no one in government seems to care. Recently about everyone got a \$1,400 stimulus. This amount to only 9% of the total 1.9 trillion. Where did the 91% go? I would say to about every pork project you could think of. Wasted money. And I'll tell you what I'm going to do. I'm going to look to the one who is really in charge. No, its not Biden, and its not Trump. Its Jesus Christ! America needs to get on her knees and confess its sins. We all need to do the same and have a "Holy Revival".

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

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America is in the grip of a Pandemic



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

Satan has succeeded in sowing enough fear to sufficiently cripple the country. Faith in God and his Messiah long ago departed the majority of America's minds, and now Civil War has never been closer. The questions our second war for independence did not answer will be answered this time and none too soon.

Northern bankers profited from the destruction caused by the American Civil War. Nothing has changed. Post-Civil War reconstruction created a false middle class with income inequality reaching epidemic proportions. I learned in grade school the principle of the number line. With a zero on one end and a ten on the other, the middle was always five.

Today the political elites in Washington have manufactured a narrative that somehow, if you make 100,000 dollars, you are in the middle class. At the same time, they have overpromised on our overstretched entitlement programs. Social Security is insolvent due to government spending on immoral and unbiblical programs. The Bible says if a man does not work, he should not eat. Both parties are at fault. The economy has reached terminal velocity, and a slow-down of Biblical proportions is on our American horizon.

China stands poised to replace the American dollar with the yen. It has been shrewdly cosigning on American government debt, and the politicians in both parties are to blame. God would not allow Israel to negotiate treaties with the Pagan countries surrounding them, and he has no intention of allowing American politicians to destroy the country he alone established with Puritan Christian tradition. Our political elitists have profited from treaties they negotiated with countries that do not allow the Worship of any God but government. This has always been their Goal. If the northern democrats could legislate God out of our lives, then they could retain power by keeping us in bondage to Government programs. The government becomes God, and they are the high priests over our monetary system. That monetary system requires they continue to print paper money of no value.

Mayer Amschel Rothschild was quoted as saying: "Place me in charge of a nation's monetary system, and I care not who governs it." The greatest ponzi scheme in history is the American monetary system. It is completely based upon hours not yet worked and products not yet sold and consumed. They call it capitalism. It was at one time based upon the mining and smelting of precious metals that actually hold value. Today it is based upon the selling of iron. Iron is used in everything we consume. If your home is built properly, then iron is in the foundation. The problem with iron is it causes irreparable damage to our environment. To smelt iron, we need incredible amounts of coal. Coal has been attacked in America, and we have become dependent upon Godless nations who mine coal and smelt iron with no care for the environment. And then these elitists want us to pay for Chinese goods and enormous amounts of money for fake green energy. When movie stars stop living in mansions and Political elitists stop having their million-dollar homes cared for by Godless immigrants, I will begin to support their agenda! More carbon is emitted by weed eaters and lawnmowers than cars. Not to mention the incredible amount of pesticides they use to keep their Homes manicured while decimating the honey bee populations that actually pollinate their vegetable gardens. But that is wrong. They require my vegetables and do not grow their own. Why plant a Japanese maple when you can plant an apple tree and get a food source and shade in summer! Not in America. Today we practice political eugenics. Keep the poor in bondage to godlessness and control the masses. Require they attend public school and indoctrinate them to Darwinian evolution. Thank God for Watson and Crick. DNA is dealing a death blow to Darwin. The God hypothesis is once again permeating Scientific circles, and it will cause another American Civil War. State's rights versus federalism have never been answered. Today the national news media is reporting that 1/3 of people living in cities want to move to the suburbs. That is a codeword for breeding out the Judeo-Christians. I do not want any more abortion clinics or amazon in my southern Christian town. The Democratic party of Bill and Hillary has waged a war against the foundations of our country that actually make our country great. Travel in a northern town where the revolution began in 1776 and the Churches have all closed. Most have become unused community centers. The Bible is now enshrined in a museum in Washington, D.C. That should tell you the intentions of our government. Museums house things that have passed on from our vocabulary and memory. Silent pulpits allowed the holocaust, and they allowed the building of the Museum to the Bible. Blasphemy! The Bible is a living document written by the creator of the universe as a love drama. He is the bridegroom of creation, and we, those born of a woman, can become his Bride when we realize the length, width, height, and depth, to which God went to Redeem us from our sinful condition. The first recognition in our Lives occurs when someone presents God's gospel as Jesus Christ Did; from the Old Testament. Mercy is grace's foundation, and mercy is found in the lives of the Jewish people in our Old Testament. It is the story of the nation; God set apart in a Pagan world to be his witness as to his unending mercy. Unending is a way of telling time. God's time and our time. When you realize the first thing God overcomes in the Bible is our dimension from which we experience time, your life will never be the same. It is a physical property. It is measurable and susceptible to mass, gravity, and acceleration. Ever wonder why bullets fired from a centerfire rifle have their trajectory measured in minutes of angle? They overcome time!

Whenever I hear about global warming, I thank God he is on the throne. The [olitical elitists who live in cities want me to pay enormous taxes to fund their agenda. Yet, they are willing to sacrifice nothing. Compromise is not their way. They wage war against coal by replacing it with nuclear energy. Chernobyl should have enlightened us to the dangers of messing with the engines of creation established by God the eternal engineer. Our power plants are all incredibly dangerous. One accident, and the whole world suffers. It is now estimated that every person on the Earth was exposed to some level of gamma radiation from the Chernobyl meltdown. There is no chemical way of fighting a nuclear meltdown that does not further damage the environment. We have 142 active reactors in America. If one melts down, we all will need a place other than America to live. It will affect all of our livestock, all of our crops, and all of our people. Coal is much cleaner than one Nuclear accident. Power plants require incredible human interaction to control every aspect of nuclear fusion. Only the human brain can discern steps to controlling the reaction. Artificial intelligence means humans are usurping their fiduciary responsibility to keep us safe. And it wages war against God for it replaces his greatest creation, mankind.

Our country is being warned to return to God for the last time. Men have become lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. Salvation has become a niche. God is now a 911 operator. The only time politicians mention God or prayer is when it fits their agenda. They never quote the Bible. God orchestrated this pandemic to chasten America to return to sound Biblical instruction in morality. Famine always follows pestilence in the Bible. Food supplies will be greatly interrupted, and southern Christians had better wake up and preached Pauls' gospel. Americans must return to gardening and raising livestock to feed their families and quit thinking about profits. We have bailed out commercial farmers who sell soybean to China and corn to the oil industry to make ethanol. We already see shortages in livestock grains. Pigs are being slaughtered, and chickens are being euthanized. Governors had better start thinking about fining farmers who sell their goods outside of their own state. The beef market has collapsed in my local town. I can buy a calved cow, and she is pregnant again for 90\$. The problem is, the grains I need to supplement grass are at inflationary levels already and poised to skyrocket. We had better get back to locals helping locals and sell corn to beef farmers and raise livestock locally and quit selling to the large restaurant Chains for profit. The days of America's monetary greatness have reached its' crescendo. Greed will soon be replaced by incredible need. God is still the only one who can and will meet all of your needs. You had better find out if Jesus Christ is God! It will never happen in church on Sunday. That is Jesus Christ's message to his 7 churches in Revelation.

A return to sound Biblical doctrine and an exodus from Amillennial Churches is America's future. Parents had better be ready to resume responsibility for their children's eternal future again. The only thing that can help New York or Washington D.C. is economic collapse and a return to dependence on God for all of our needs. Pastors have sold American Christians out again. They have joined Church and State in an unholy marriage. Jesus Christ is an insurrectionist. His entire ministry was spent speaking out against Pagan Rome and The religious elite class who ruled over the people without mercy or grace. He alone separated Church and state when he washed the disciples Feet. Has your pastor washed your feet? Has the government ever washed anyone's feet? I have yet to enter a modern Christian church where feet are being washed. I myself have only ever washed the feet of prison inmates. I have yet to enter a Christian church in America that does not practice syncretism in some way. God's word is secondary to church tradition. They are all cults. Their supposed pastors have never themselves lived long enough as sheep to practice God's empathy toward his creation. Most pastors enter seminary as if it is a college experience. There are more seminaries who indoctrinate the person into denominationalism rather than teach them

solid Hebrew hermeneutics, which Jesus Christ used to preach his message. A shepherd must have the humility to go through the process of living in the presence of sin to understand God's mercy and grace. If he has this foundation, then he should think about entering seminary. God's way is the only one that requires shepherd's to first become sheep.

What is required in an incredibly Eugenic American Church experience? The humility of one pharisee. Nicodemus came to Jesus Christ at night. From a Hebrew perspective, he came at Tov. The evening time when everything had become indiscernible to him, To include whether Jesus Christ was Israel's promised Messiah? Nicodemus had heard the still soft voice of God and began to question whether his religiously pious condition alone could save him and allow Him to enter Jesus Christ's promised kingdom? And Jesus Christ responded with the answer every Jewish priest should have understood if they were looking for God's Messiah and not the one of their own making. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son. This is a Jewish expression. The Jewish men understand the laws of inheritance established by God in the book of Leviticus. Jesus Christ is God's son at the same time he is God! Biblical hermeneutics is what is missing in the modern denominational church. If more Christians studied their Bible and understood Elohim, then they would know the battle is not theirs. Elohim is the creator name of God. It is made up of three Hebrew root characters. The Lahmed, The He, and The Mem. also have two other Hebrew characters that aid in the recognition, and they act as connectors of pronunciation. The Aleph and the Yod. Every character points to Jesus Christ as God and God's Messiah. Hebrews 10 reminds us that of the abundance of the letter it is written of me. That me is God as Jesus Christ, the Messiah NAGIB of your Old Testament. It is also the first expression of God as a trinity. The name Elohim is a proper masculine noun. It is also a duality. In Hebrew, a duality is more than one as one. In this case, three make up the one whole. Elohim is God in his three divine attributes. It's his ability as God alone to be both man and God. Spirit as God and Father as God. That is what makes him God. To place God in a box of separating his humanity from his divinity is exactly what happened in the resurrection. Man killed God. Placed him in a tomb of hewn stone that he created. Sealed it with human means and human guards. Wrote him off as dead. Thank God for three days! He got out of the box. He is getting out of the box, known as church in America. The Pharisees and Sadducees were the first denominations God attempted to rebuke and chasten. The 19 mainline denominations are being chastened to return to Biblical teaching rather than seminary indoctrination. This epidemic is keeping people at home, and Jesus Christ wants believers to make him Lord of their lives without CHURCH! Faith should always revolve around what Jesus Christ as God did and not what we ever do. Even after Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves with leaves God had created, God reminded them that they needed the blood of the Lamb covering their unrighteousness. Their church service was lacking the blood of the Lamb. So are denominational churches today lacking the message of the blood of the Lamb cleansing them from yesterday's unrighteousness. God has not yet removed us from the presence of sin. We all need mercy and grace every day. Whether you believe you are saved or not.

1948 saw a watershed moment in how God keeps time. Israel had become a nation again as recognized by the world governing body. The United States had been the first to recognize Israel as a sovereign nation, and immediately, the enemies of God's plan attacked. Israel survived and prospered just as God said, and the enemies are still in despair. America has been on a collision course with the abandonment wrath of God. Every president since Harry Truman promised to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capitol. None had delivered. It was not yet God's time. He was hardening America and allowed for a series of presidents who blundered, and our nation is now poised to collapse. Our overdependence on our military and our financial might and not God will be judged. It was not enough to deny Israel's right to exist. Democrats have legislated God out of our existence. So, God sent a judge in the form of Donald Trump. America needed a reset, and it needed someone to fight the entrenched political system that had allowed for devoutly anti-semitic politicians to highjack the Democratic party. The Kennedy's, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush one and two, Bill and Hillary, and finally, pro-Muslim and pro-Iran Obama, all presided over anti -Israel administrations. If not for 9/11, America would never begin to understand the implications of treaties with Muslim countries. Something China does not do. The Koran is a manual of war. Islam is a religion of anti-Christian and anti-Jewish hatred. Our third war of independence will be fought against Islam in America. Every president pretended to believe in Jesus Christ while forcing Israel to cede God's land. The American Christian Church has been empowered to support Israel for the building of their temple that Jesus Christ will eventually return to. Yet, not one denomination teaches Israel's right to exist from God's perspective. Paul commanded us to eagerly await the return of Messiah, and yet they still focus on the Heavenly and not the Earthly side of God's will. He is redeeming his land and covenant people right before our eyes. We have an opportunity to take part in God's plan, and instead, we focus on man's plans for America.

This pandemic will bankrupt America. Luckily we have a businessman who has recognized God's plan for Israel who has been through a few bankruptcies, and he will have to lead us out of spiritual bankruptcy. If he is to truly make America great again, then America needs a spiritual revival and move away from the church model back to the Acts of the Apostles, when Christians and Jews were willing to die for their faith in God's Messiah. Having gatherings in their homes where they truly worship God without the need for a preacher great at collecting a tithe and a three-part feel-good sermon, but replete from the message of the blood of the Lamb cleanses us from all unrighteousness. God is once again entering the hearts of men who recognize their need for his mercy and grace. Time to end the hostage crisis in church. Take God back into the bars and clubs while people are searching for truth. Paul hung out with sinners, not saints! Jesus Christ died to save sinners. God wrote the Bible for sinners to read. Religion and religious tradition are the lies Jesus Christ warned us we would fall for. You ever calculated how much it costs to Celebrate Christmas? Easter? Birthdays? All holidays Jesus Christ never celebrated. It does not benefit God's kingdom to support the American monetary system. Macy's does not tithe to Gods' kingdom. Amazon will never wash your feet! Take the money you spend on these Pagan holidays and teach your children how to tithe Biblically. Teach them the value of giving over receiving. You have created a narcissistic population of spoiled children leading to homelessness in America and confusion amongst our offspring. No time in history has families looked more like the families the pagan world created than right now. Divorce amongst denominational Christians has reached epidemic proportions. Homosexuality recruits, and it has recruited the government to support their Godless agenda. They do not reproduce, and they adopt children to indoctrinate them into alternative families. Their children will never join the military or be willing to pay for our freedom. The minority position has become the position the democrats always support. The republicans have acted no better. The next term of Donald Trump will see the unveiling of his agenda without the need to worry about reelection. We all need to pray for our president. He has been attacked by Godless democrats who have an agenda that Satan himself supports. Biden is anti-semitic, anti-black, and anti-legal immigration. We all need to question politicians more than ever to find out if their policies line up with God's policies. Trump will be back in 2024. The Bible paradigm of Northern Jewish monarch's mirroring the presidents of our America, guarantees that Trump will return to continue policies that actually God agrees with. Unfortunately, he will not remove the two golden calves from American daily life, which seals the fate of America. Those policies are in both testaments of your Bible. Study daily to show yourself approved. Search the scriptures to find out if what John Burns is saying is true. Then pray for our nation and me. I am an American Airborne Ranger who loves the freedom this country has afforded me in supporting God's Bible. I defended my belief in that principle, and I understand what soldiers sacrifice on battlefields. I pray my country will use this opportunity to return to sound Bible teachings and away from outward piety. Faith is seeing the results of your testimony about Jesus Christ in the lives of others. It takes faith that produces Christian works. Grace will never appear until you realize you need mercy!

He was crucified on a cross of wood, yet he created the hill upon which it stood!
RLTW John Burns 3-15-2021

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 Oak Ridge and the Red Cross, Part 3

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

An interesting insight into the details of the local Red Cross chapters and their response to the troop train wreck can be seen in the following "Disaster Report." While unsigned, I believe it was written by Mrs. Neata H. Hutchins who was the American Red Cross, Oak Ridge Branch, Anderson County Chapter, executive secretary from June 1944 to December 1945.

"DISASTER REPORT: "On July 6, 1944, Mr. Brownback came to my house at 3 a.m. and reported a train wreck at Jellico. I dressed and went to the hospital to offer Red Cross assistance. I was informed that ambulances would be arriving within an hour bringing the injured.

"I went immediately to the office and called Mrs. Harry Traynor, chairman of Staff Assistance, and asked for six people to report to the office immediately. I called a member of Motor Corp to report. I then contacted townsite Cafeteria and ordered five gallons of coffee and five dozen sandwiches, six dozen doughnuts ready to be taken to the hospital.

"As soon as Motor Corp arrived and staff assistants, we left one in charge of the office and I sent the other five to the hospital and took Motor Corp to the Motor Pool to obtain a station wagon. Then Motor Corp delivered the food to the hospital. We set up a canteen in the hospital lobby and also set up an information desk.

"Three telephones were at our service and as soon as the injured began coming in, the staff assistants were busy serving the ambulance workers, doctors, nurses and others who came in with the injured. Two staff assistants manned the desk from 5 a.m. until Sunday night at 6 p.m., handling long distance calls, wires, arranging passes for parents sent for, placing them in rooms near the hospital, sending wires and mail for the injured boys.

"The staff assistants worked in six-hour shifts. Three staff assistants worked with the hospital staff obtaining information as to next-of-kin, serial numbers, and names, collecting and registering personal belongings of the soldiers. As fast as a list was compiled by Military, it was given to us so as we could inform the staffs as to what information they could give out.

"Motor Corp was busy keeping food for the Canteen and also obtaining magazines, cigarettes, stationary etc. for the soldiers.

"Saturday morning, Military requested Red Cross to serve box lunches and coffee to the injured being moved to Moore General Hospital by hospital train. Fourteen staff assistants did this. Red Cross also furnished 100 additional box lunches and two five-gallon containers of coffee to go with the train.

"Also, when Red Cross was advised the boys had lost all their personal possessions, a group of surgical dressing workers made kits and we filled them with razor blades, toothbrush, toothpaste, and comb, also a razor. Material for the kits was partially donated. These kits were not elaborate but extremely appreciated by the boys.

"Also, I would like to add these were completed within one hour and a half after requested; it did take longer to obtain the supplies but the kits were ready and filled before the hospital train was loaded. I personally checked with Military the list for identification was definite.

"Two staff assistants were stationed at the gate day and night Friday and Saturday to speed the entrance of parents and relatives requested to come. Motor Corp transported people from Knoxville to Oak Ridge when notified of the time of arrival.

"When requested by the hospital at 8 a.m. Friday, nurse's aide trainee gave 47 hours. Major Rae stated, "Their achievement is something to be proud of. The help they gave us in the recent disaster was invaluable and we consider them an integral part of the hospital."

"The injured remained in the hospital after the hospital train left and the wives or parents, sometimes both, came to stay until they were able to be transferred. Red Cross was called upon for many things — loans, advice as to train schedules, we provided magazines, cigarettes, gum, etc.

"I called at the hospital twice a day and was called by telephone many times a day. We were

called upon to make telephone calls to relatives reporting conditions, sending wires. Two of the injured died and Red Cross assisted Military in helping the family make plans, contacting funeral homes, arranging transportation, making reservations notifying relatives of the deaths.

"When some were ready to be taken to North Carolina, Red Cross contacted the field director at Moore General to arrange a place for four wives to stay as Military felt they should go there for a few days with their husbands. We helped wives contact home to arrange for the care of children left. We arranged for them to be taken to Knoxville to catch a bus.



908 Oak Ridge Turnpike, the building where the Red Cross was located beginning on January 1, 1945 (Photo Submitted)

Cross arranged for barbers to shave the injured until they were able to shave themselves. Also Red Cross supplied a new outfit of clothing for the three porters and supplied them with magazines and cigarettes."

A further insight into the intense impact of the troop train wreck tragedy is also provided by a handwritten note received by the Red Cross from a distraught mother of one of the young soldiers killed in the train wreck:

July 11, 1944

Dear Chairman:

As I have been a township chairman of the Red Cross and was always glad to be of some service in time of trouble, now that trouble has come to me, I too, am turning to the Red Cross.

My son, Raymond B. Rillie, was killed in that wreck near Jellico. All we know is just the official telegram, and, would surely appreciate any information or newspaper articles you could send us. Raymond just entered the Army June 26, 1944, and we thought he was safe at Fort Benjamin Harrison until the telegram on Saturday night.

We are waiting for his remains now and sometimes I feel I cannot stand it any longer, but still there is some consolation in being able to have my son home. If you can have some chairman write me, it will mean so much.

Mrs. Raymond J. Rillie
434 Borth Place
Warren, Ohio

Many Red Cross volunteers served during the response to the wreck in the various hospitals and communities nearby Jellico. From Oak Ridge to Jellico, every town got involved. Maurine Owen, executive secretary of the Anderson County American Red Cross, was heavily involved in the Red Cross response to the troop train wreck. It is reported that she went for 36 hours straight without a break to lie down or sleep. 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.

After the event, and documented in the Red Cross history, is the following letter of appreciation from Col. K.D. Nichols, the district engineer for the Manhattan District.
July 24, 1944:

Your efforts in connection with the rescue work at the accident undoubtedly saved lives and reduced the suffering of the injured men. Your prompt and conscientious handling of messages and replies to and from relatives of the injured and dead reduced greatly the worry and anxiety of many anguished people.

This station, victims of the accident, and their relatives owe a debt of gratitude to you and your organization.

Sincerely, K D Nichols

Obviously, the Red Cross did a great job supporting the response to the 1944 troop train disaster. Finally, let me share a bit more history of the Oak Ridge Red Cross, now the Appalachian Chapter of the American Red Cross. The

present building was first occupied Jan. 1, 1945. Until then they had operated out of a small office in the Elm Grove Shopping Center. Services had consisted of assisting the full range of civilian workers in Oak Ridge in addition to the military personnel. Because of the unusual nature of the secret military effort being undertaken, it was decided that one agency, the Red Cross, would handle all needed services.

Since its beginning in December 1943, the unusual arrangement between the military and the Red Cross worked well. Need for services continued to grow as the project ballooned in scope and people coming to live and work in Oak Ridge. A swimming pool opened in the late summer of 1944 allowing swimming classes to be conducted under the supervision of the Red Cross. Expanded services were being implemented as quickly as the need was identified and volunteers could be trained and scheduled.

The new facility located at 908 Oak Ridge Turnpike near Tyler Road made the Red Cross more easily accessible. The building's entry lounge in the center of the building could accommodate 60 people, making it an excellent venue for the general public to hold meetings and other functions. It also had large production room with excellent lighting as well as adequate office space and electric sewing machines.

The building remains functional even today and sees a great amount of routine community service activities. While the structure is over 60 years old, it continues to serve the necessary functions.

In 1947, the Oak Ridge Chapter was granted a charter independent of the Anderson County Chapter. This was the direct result of the significant amount of effort required to address the needs in Oak Ridge through a multi-tiered approach and the need to streamline services.

Over the years the organizational arrangement has continued to evolve until in 1987 the Anderson County Chapter and the Oak Ridge Chapter merged together to form the Appalachian Chapter. Now the Appalachian Chapter, located in Oak Ridge, is the central location for service to all of Anderson County. Over 180,000 people are in the service area of this consolidated local Red Cross organization.

In 2002, a community fund raising effort resulted in the purchase of an Emergency Response Vehicle. It has expanded the response capability of the organization substantially. Tim Myrick was a key volunteer that helped make this increased capability a reality.

In 2005, hurricanes Katrina and Rita resulted in the Appalachian Chapter providing substantial relief responses. Many victims of those devastating hurricanes moved into the area and were assisted by the local Red Cross and their volunteers.

The Appalachian Chapter of the American Red Cross is today a strong and healthy organization. The following officers serve the organization: Margaret Morrow, chapter chairman; Tony Farris, chapter manager; Scott Chippendale, disaster services coordinator; Michelle Davis, community services coordinator. Approximately one-third the funding needed to operate the local Red Cross comes from the United Way of Anderson County. The remainder is supplied by other donations. Services provided include disaster relief, community disaster education, armed forces emergency services, health and safety, and community volunteer services. We are well served by our local 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.

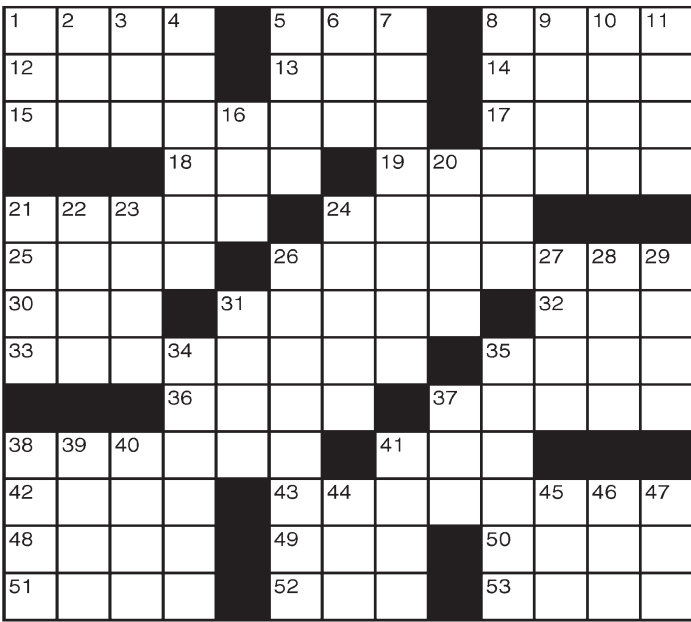
Oak Ridge began in war, has continued to support our nation's efforts through the Cold War, and even now in the age of terrorism. Oak Ridge has also produced nuclear medicine, nuclear power and fuel for the US Navy nuclear submarines and ships.

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.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Tub session
- 5 Petrol
- 8 Microwaves
- 12 Jai —
- 13 Dadaist artist
- 14 Vicinity
- 15 Home to the Buccaneers
- 17 Fish feature
- 18 Evening hrs.
- 19 Whirl
- 21 Jazz genre
- 24 Crossword hint
- 25 Former mates
- 26 Turquoise-like color
- 30 Mimic
- 31 Rib
- 32 Ltr. holder
- 33 Pentagon VIPs
- 35 Broad
- 36 The Eternal City
- 37 Golfer's wear
- 38 Calms
- 41 Actor
- 42 Canal zone
- 43 Dorm room sleepers
- 48 Curved molding
- 49 Corn spike
- 50 Pakistani language



- 51 Office plant
 - 52 Reuben bread
 - 53 Grate
- DOWN**
- 1 Cudgel
 - 2 Pie — mode
 - 3 Highland hat
 - 4 Zoo heavy-weights
 - 5 Yaks
 - 6 Coach
 - 7 Small tele-scope
 - 8 Capital of
 - 9 Croatia
 - 10 Operatic solo
 - 11 Hide
 - 12 Auction
 - 13 Sound booster
 - 14 Year-end celebration
 - 15 Big fair, for short
 - 16 Pager sound
 - 17 Stop
 - 18 Trucker in a union
 - 19 Floral rings
 - 20 Nullify
 - 21 Tempo
 - 22 Big fair, for short
 - 23 Pager sound
 - 24 Stop
 - 25 Trucker in a union
 - 26 Floral rings
 - 27 Nullify
 - 28 Dine
 - 29 Always
 - 30 Helen's home
 - 31 Impudent
 - 32 Orville's brother
 - 33 Moving day rental
 - 34 Starting
 - 35 Olympic sled
 - 36 Lusty look
 - 37 Employ
 - 38 Path
 - 39 Epoch
 - 40 License to drill?
 - 41 Dine

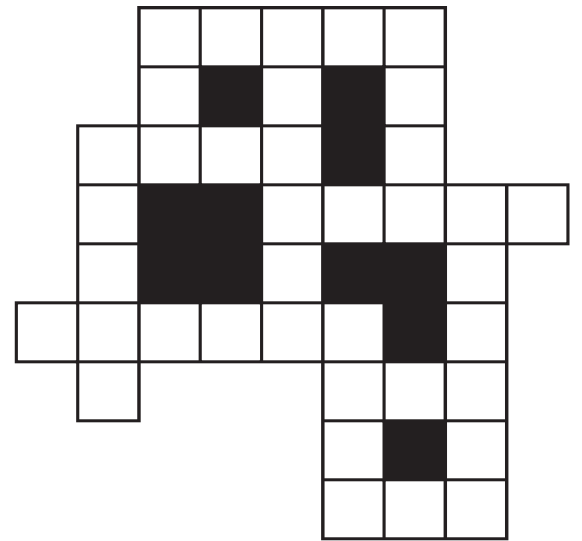
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FEAR & KNIGHT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

- UBH
- ♥ ORGINE
- TEARO
- ♥ HEWT
- NUTBAR
- ♥ OWH
- ♥ BAUT
- ♥ TEWSA
- ♥ UTN
- HAWSEC
- SITHO
- ♥ ASNW



Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. **HAGNEC** becomes **CHANGE**). Prepare to use only **ONE** word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥**RATHE** becomes **HATER** or **EARTH** or **HEART**). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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Volume I

Fred C. Mize III



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

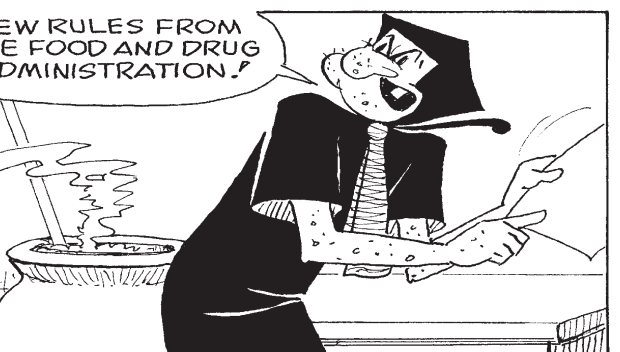
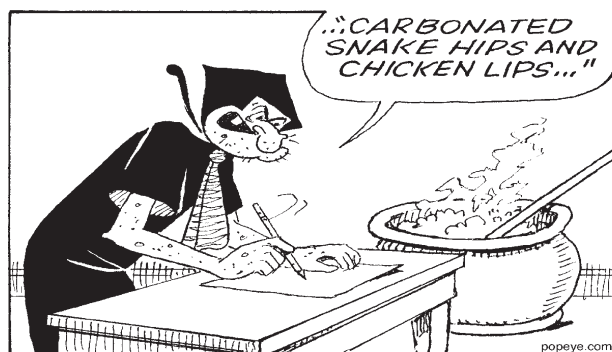
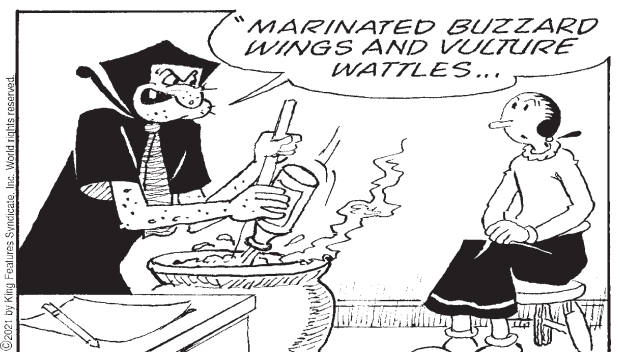
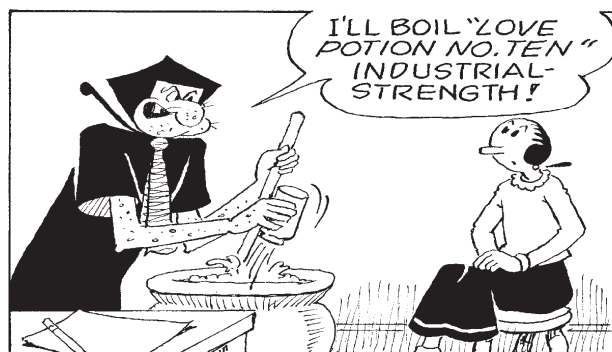
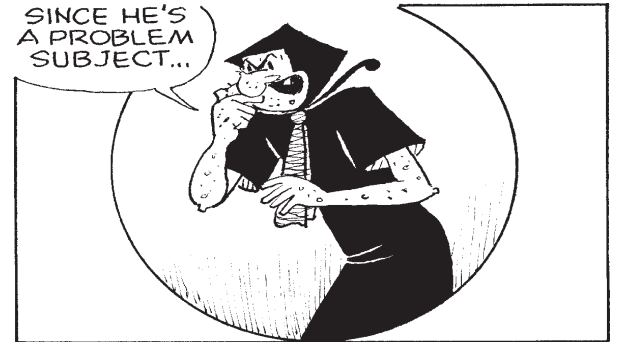
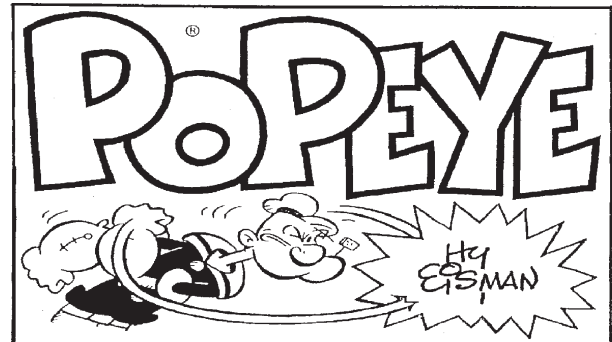
	3		6					5
8				3		2		
		4			2		9	
	2				7			8
		7	3			6		
4				9				1
		8		1				4
	9		5					3
7					6	1		

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

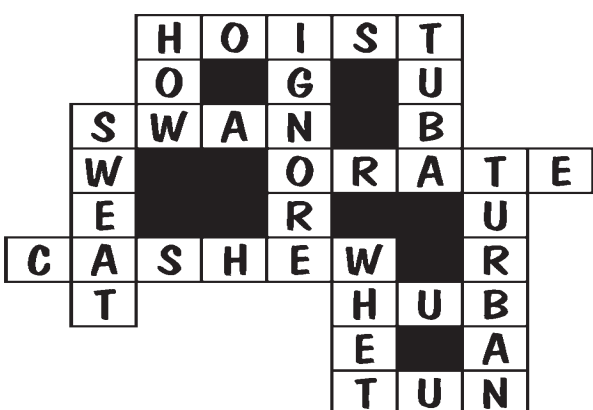
- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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FEAR & KNIGHT

answer



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

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Marvel not that I
 said unto thee,
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 John 3:7 - Jesus

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MSG Fred Mize

You may be going through a difficult time in your life. You may feel alone in your time of need or in general. You may fear the future or may not see much of a future at all.

I have great news! You don't have to go through the hard times alone! You don't have to feel alone any longer! You don't

have to fear the future! You have a bright future ahead!

You may be asking how I can be so confident in this truth? The answer to your question is found throughout the Holy Bible but look at what 1 John 4:13-19 has to tell...

1 John 4:13-19 Hereby know we that we dwell

in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and

confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. 16 And we

leth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. 17 Herein is our love made perfect, that

him, because he first loved us.

Confess that Jesus is the Son of God and he will dwell with you. He will actually dwell within you and your fears will be cast away! Why would Jesus Christ do such a thing? Because he first loved us! Rejoice in the LORD and be set free from fear. Live in torment no longer!

we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out

fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. 19 We love



do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 Whosoever shall

have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwel-

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

Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

Job Interview Trends

Some job interview trends stay, and some trends go. I have the unique inside knowledge of private sector job interview trends to know which will play a bigger role in the future of job interviewing. Let's explore four hot interview trends and some ways for today's professionals to prepare for them.

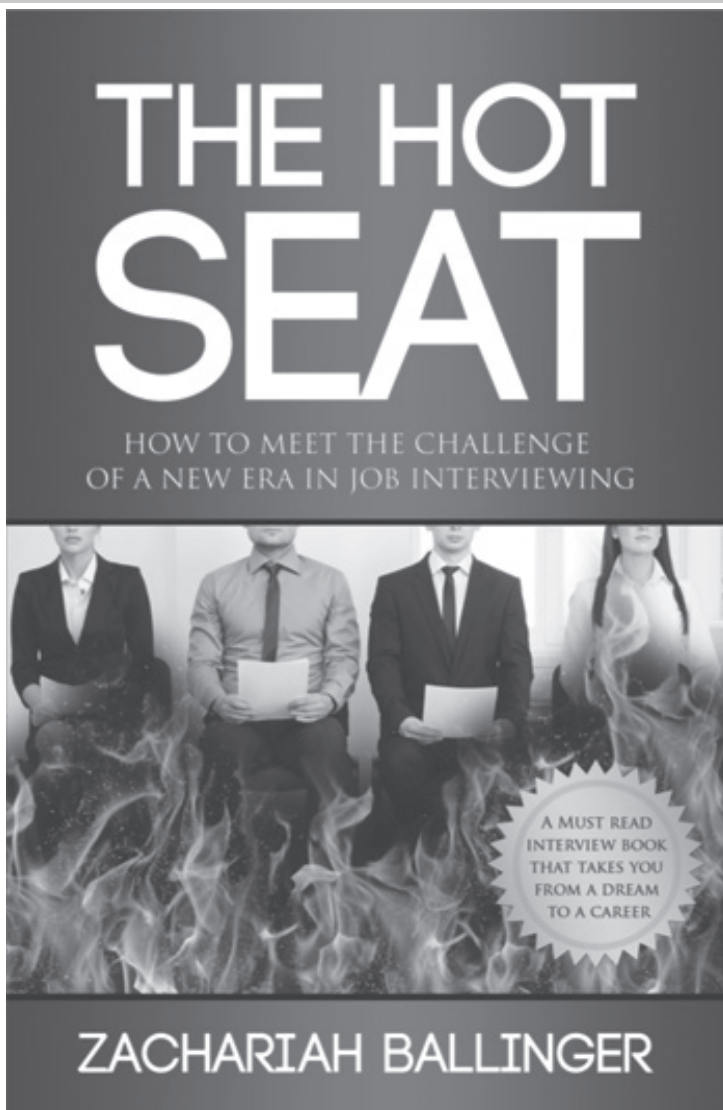
1) Skype Interviews: Skype interviews are becoming more prevalent especially with advances in technology. As technology continues to advance at a rapid pace and companies are constantly searching for cost savings, it's safe to say that Skype interviews are not going away for a long time.

I've seen many "How to Skype Interview" videos on YouTube. Matt Gnaizd's video is one of the best. It covers Skype interview basics such as proper sound, lighting, professional dress, potential distractions, posture, eye contact, computer set up, and appropriate speech. Professional screen names are a must, and make sure to have a strong Internet connection.

2) Quirky Questions: I was doing a career presentation at a small college last year. At the end of the presentation I asked if any of the students had any questions. One asked, "How do I answer the tree question?" The scenario went something like the following, "If you were a tree, what would it be, and why?" Questions like this have a particular purpose in interviews, and it's important to



know why they are being asked. Quirky questions don't necessary have a right or wrong answer. The candidate mainly needs to make sure to at least come forward with an answer. The



worst thing an interviewee can say is "I don't know," or, "That's a weird question." The interviewer wants to see the interviewee's analytical skills, sense of humor, professionalism, creativity, and how well he or she thinks on his or her feet.

3) Group Interviews: Most of us hate group interviews. They are not necessarily a new trend, but they are becoming even more popular. Companies are consistently looking for ways to reduce expenses and increase revenues, and

group interviews are cost effective measures for companies.

Most people are naturally nervous during a job interview, but if you've researched the company, participated in mock interviews, and practiced the most commonly asked in

terview questions, you can be more confident and less nervous. Wondering how to address a panel? If one panel member is asking the questions, the student should focus on that member but should

also speak to the other members on the panel with good eye contact. Afterwards, you'll need to send individual thank you letters to each member in the group.

4) Video Profiles: Video profiles may be required by a company, or some job seekers may choose to create one in order to set them apart from the competition. When produced well, they can be a phenomenal tool or additional advantage. Professional dress, proper lighting & sound, eye contact, and an appropriate background are all necessary elements. Hiring committees that require a video profile generally have specific instructions on what they want the candidate to address on camera. For the most part, video profiles are typically a short 2-minute introduction of yourself.

In other words, answer the popular question, "Tell me about yourself." Who would have ever thought that job interviews would be conducted in noisy venues like Starbucks? Who would have imaged 15 years ago a program called Skype would change the way we conduct job interviews? It's important for job seekers to keep up on these trends so they can be prepared and best present themselves.

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

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



Zack Ballinger

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



I have several upcoming events to share. There will be no school in Morgan County on Friday, April 2 in observance of Good Friday and the following week for Spring Break. Classes will resume Monday, April 12.

Wartburg Speedway will host an Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 3 at 3:00 p.m. All children are welcome. The Easter Bunny will be there for pictures.

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!

The Morgan County Library Board will hold their regular board meeting Monday, April 5 at 5:00 p.m. in the lower level of Wartburg Public Library. Discussions on the status of Oakdale Public Library and Deer Lodge Public Library will take place. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please show your support for our local library.

OHS Alumni Association will host an online auction April 9- 11. Donations for the auction are now being accepted. Money raised will be used in part for annual scholarships given to graduates. Some of the items already collected are certificates for baked goods, gift cards, passes for attractions, Mary Kay, Paparazzi, Thirty One, gift baskets and much more. Get ready for some friendly competition!

The OHS Spring Play, "The Show Must Go On," will be performed in two General Admission Shows on Friday, April 16 and Saturday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m., with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. Cost for adult tickets (13 and older) are \$6.00 and child tickets (12 and under) \$2.00. Tickets are available for purchase at the Oakdale School Front Office from Thursday, March 25 until Thursday, April 15. Any leftover tickets will be available for purchase before the show. Audience members will be socially distanced and wear masks. Seating is limited. Hope to see you at the show!

Happy 90th Birthday to Robert Walker who will celebrate this milestone on April 6. Robert is a very young 90 year old gentleman who is still going strong and staying busy. He works around the house and does his own lawn care and does many things at Oakdale United Methodist Church. Robert and Flora Lee became good friends of our family many years ago. Wishing you a wonderful birthday Robert!

Oakdale Jr. Beta Club did not get to attend the State Convention in person this year but they were able to participate virtually in various competitions. Congratulations to Cade Snow who placed 5th in the statewide 6th grade language arts category. Congratulations to Sarah Kate Norris who placed 3rd in the talent division. Congratulations to all Oakdale Jr. Beta Members who took part in competitions and thank you to the club sponsors who worked with them and made it possible for them to compete.

Get the black balloons ready! On April 9, two Oakdale boys will turn 40 years old. We need to make sure that everyone knows this and can remind them often that they may not be over the hill yet but they

have a really good view from atop the hill! Happy 40th Birthday to Heath Snow and Nathan Bingham.

Hannah Mae Banken and Leah Kate Banken were born Friday, April 19. Hannah weighed 5lbs 8 oz and Leah weighed 5lbs 6oz. They are the twin blessings of Josh and Sarah Banken. The proud grandparents are Tyler and Maude Townsend of Oakdale, Allen Banken of Kingston and Melissa Longmeyer of Maryville. Welcome to the world Hannah and Leah!

Beau Russell Chapman was born Monday, April 22. He weighed 7lbs 8oz and was 20 inches long. Beau and his parents, Rudy and Molly Chapman live in Lexington, KY. Beau's very proud grandparents are Randy and Christine Chapman of Oakdale and Keith and Wendy Goldston of Harriman and Great Granny Betty Chapman of Oakdale.

Otis C. Powell, age 85, passed away peacefully at his home in Dayton, Ohio on March 19, 2021. A native of the Pine Orchard community in Oakdale, he moved to Ohio as a young man, married the love of his life, and together raised their four children. Preceded in death by his parents, George and Genevra Powell; sister and brother-in-law, Viola and Jim Cagle; brothers and sisters-in-law, Jess and Norma, Henry and Polly, Lawrence and Louise. Survived by his wife, Janet; sons, Dan and Cecil; daughters, Brenda and Rachel and their families; twin brother, Everett, and brother, George, Jr. (Penny), both of Ohio. Otis always enjoyed coming to Tennessee for the Pine Orchard Fair whenever possible. He never forgot where he came from.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Shirley Testement McGee who passed away Monday, March 22. She is survived by her son, Bill McGee and grandchildren Daniel and wife Brandy McGee and Erin McGee Miller and husband Doug and four great grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother Tom Testement and wife Elsie and sisters Peggy Langer and Betty Dyer. A graveside service was held Thursday, March 25 at Roane Memorial Gardens.

Condolences to the friends and family of Trish Jones who passed away over the weekend. Keep her husband, W.C. "Dub" Jones, in your thoughts and prayers.

I wish everyone a very nice Easter weekend. I hope you enjoy family time. I hope you attend church and really, really think about Resurrection Sunday. Please teach our youth the meaning of Easter and make sure they know that God sent His Son to die a horrible death for our sins. Make sure they never doubt His birth, death, burial and resurrection.

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

John 11:25-26

Elizabeth Baptist Church will be having an Easter sunrise service outside on Sunday April 4th at 6:45 am. Brother Randal Landrum will be bringing the message. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend.

Fellowship Baptist Church will have an Easter egg hunt on April 3rd at 2pm and a Sunrise Service on April 4th at 7am

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

Acts Chapter 26

(Acts 26:1-3) Paul's opening remarks: following Agrippa's opening statement, Paul is granted permission to speak. He expresses his happiness at being able to make this "defense." He commends the king in that he is an "expert" in legal and ethical matters pertaining to the Hebrew people. He thus begs the ruler to listen patiently and analytically as he explains his history and his involvement in this controversial situation.

(Acts 26:4-8) background and charge: the apostle sketches his history. His past life was too well-known to need elaboration---an assertion he would not have made were it not so (22:3; Gal. 1:14). He had a distinguished resume. He was known as a Pharisee, the "straitest" sect of Judaism. In fact, he is not on trial for going against Hebrew law and tradition, but due to the reality that he clung to the "hope of the promise made by God unto our fathers" (v.6)---which hope the tribes of Israel continued to embrace. And what exactly was that? There were disputers in that very audience (the plural "you" (v.8) who contended it was "incredible" (unbelievable) that the dead would ever be raised.

(Acts 26:9-11) Paul, the persecutor of Christianity: the apostle will make the point that he had not been a lifelong supporter of Christian faith. Indeed, he had labored under the strong moral conviction that he ought to vigorously oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth (the Lord's entire doctrinal platform). He persecuted the saints in Jerusalem, having many of them thrown into prisons by the official authority he had obtained. ("Saints" were not the celebrated dead, as Catholicism maintains). When Christians were put to death, Paul had "voted" against them. The term does not conclusively establish that Paul had been a member of the Sanhedrin; it may merely signify endorsement. It does show the apostle's moral culpability. When Christians came into synagogues to teach, Paul would abuse them on site and persecute them, attempting to make them blaspheme the faith. He pursued them unto foreign cities (this is broader than Damascus (9:1).

(Acts 26:12-18) the Damascus experience: the apostle now recounts the case of his conversion (9:1; 22:5). (a) He tells of the great light that shone about him, brighter than the sun at noon. (b) He and his companions fell to the ground, and Jesus spoke, asking why Saul continued to persecute him. (c) Christ identified himself and stated that his appearance was to appoint Saul as his minister. (d) He implied that Saul would be persecuted but that the Lord would deliver him from both Jew and Gentile adversaries. (e) His mission would be to proclaim the illuminating message of Christ whereby remission of sins might be obtained. (f) Those obedient, by exercising faith in Christ, would be set aside (sanctified) ((Eph. 5:26) for service and have the hope of an eternal "inheritance".

(Acts 26:19-20) Paul's response to the Lord's call: the apostle affirms that he was not "disobedient" (unpersuaded and unyielding) to the Lord who spoke to him in that vision. He proclaimed the Savior's gospel, first in Damascus (9:20-22) and then in Jerusalem (9:28-29). His influence was felt throughout Judaea and even into Gentile territory. He proclaimed repentance and turning to God. Repentance reflected a change of heart and life; "turning" was accomplished when he was immersed (2:38; 3:19; 22:16). A life corresponding to repentance was then expected (v. 20).

(Acts 26:21-23) reaction of the Jews: the motive behind Jewish persecution was

neither supported by fact nor was it sincere; it was fueled by doctrinal hate. This was the reason they seized him in the temple (21:28-29) and repeatedly attempted to kill him. But God, through his mysterious work of providence, delivered his faithful disciple (21:31). He thus stood fast and taught both the "small and great" (as perceived by society), proclaiming only what the Old Testament had declared (v. 22).

The phraseology here is interesting. Paul says that Jesus "first by the resurrection of the dead should..." The text literally suggests that Christ, as the first person resurrected out of the dead (plural---dead ones), should proclaim light, both to the people (Jews) and to the Gentiles. These facts come to the forefront: (a) Jesus was raised from among the dead. (b) He was the first so raised (raised permanently, not to die again (Rom. 6:9). (c) Others (implied by "first") also would be raised ultimately (1 Cor. 15:20, 23). (d) The resurrected Christ, in some fashion (indirectly), would provide illumination for all humankind. Earlier, the apostle affirmed that Jesus had commissioned him to "open the eyes" of both "the people" and "the Gentiles" that they might "turn from darkness to light" (v. 17-18). Paul clearly was claiming he was an instrument of the Lord to accomplish that.

(Acts 26:24-29) the response to Paul's defense: as Paul continued his defense, he was interrupted by an outcry from Festus. "Paul, your great learning is driving you crazy!" He acknowledged the apostle's brilliance; he just despised his message. When one cannot handle evidence, emotions frequently erupt. And he could not deal with Paul's "words of truth and soberness" (v. 25). Courteous even when under fire, the apostle fires back to the "most excellent" procurator. The king (Agrippa) knows very well of these things, for they were not done in secret. The facts are available and checkable for anyone honest enough to search for truth, as Luck did in his investigation (Lk. 1:1-4).

The apostle then launched a direct inquiry toward the ruler: "King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets?" The king is listening to Paul's case, and yet the apostle is interrogating the "judge". The tables are turned! Surely Agrippa, as a ruler who supervised the Jewish temple and appointed the high priests, would believe the Old Testament prophets. He was hardly in a position to say, "No, I don't believe them." Before the king could respond, Paul supplies the answer: "I know that you believe." "Know" is a strong term, signifying a "clear...mental perception." It is scarcely legitimate to contend that Paul here pays a compliment he knows is not true.

Agrippa's response is subject to much controversy and diversity in translation. Is the answer a question or an affirmative? It is uttered sincerely or sarcastically? Some expositors view it as a cynical quip. Perhaps the best way to get a grip on the meaning of Agrippa's words, as reflected above, is to determine how Paul viewed them. He replied: "I would to God, whether with little or much persuasion, not just you, but all those who are listening this day, might become such as I am (a Christian), with the exception of these chains." The apostle put a favorable interpretation on the king's words. I find it hard to express a view that contradicts him!

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MELVIN HOWARD

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Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week

March 25, 2021 is our National Medal of Honor Day. In honor of that day, we've selected United States Marine Corporal (Cpl) Jason Lee Dunham, as our Veteran of the Week.

Cpl Dunham is the first Marine Corps Medal of Honor recipient for Operation Iraqi Freedom, was born 10 November 1981 in Scio, New York. He graduated from Scio Central School in early 2000 and left for Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island in July of that year.

Following his first duty assignment with Marine Corps Security Forces, Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay, Georgia, Cpl Dunham transferred to the infantry. He was eventually assigned to Company K, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, based in Twentynine Palms, California, and deployed with that unit to Iraq in early 2004.

On 14 April 2004, Cpl Dunham was participating in a reconnaissance mission as a Rifle Squad Leader for 4th Platoon, Company K, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, in the town of Karabilah, Iraq, when they heard gun-fire erupt a short distance away following the ambush of a Marine convoy. Cpl Dunham quickly ordered his squad toward the fighting. He and his team soon were receiving enemy fire and dismounted their vehicles to proceed on foot. Cpl Dunham and his team discovered seven Iraqi vehicles attempting to depart the area and began stopping the vehicles to search them for weapons. As the Marines approached the ve-



hicles, an insurgent leaped out and attacked Cpl Dunham. Cpl Dunham wrestled the man to the ground but noticed that the insurgent had released a grenade during the struggle. Cpl Dunham shouted a warning to his fellow Marines before covering the grenade with his helmet and body, bearing the brunt of the fatal explosion himself and saving the lives of at least two other Marines.

Corporal Dunham died of his wounds eight days later at the Bethesda Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland, at the age of 22.

He was laid to rest in his hometown of Scio at Fairlawn Cemetery.

The Medal of Honor was presented to Cpl Dunham's parents at a private White House ceremony by President George W. Bush on 11 January 2007 followed by another public ceremony at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia, the next day. On 19 March 2007, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen James T. Conway, concurred with the naming of a barrack's building in honor of Cpl Dunham on Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay, and a few days later on 23 March 2007, the Navy announced its newest destroyer would also bear his name as the USS Jason Dunham.

Morgan County Today is thankful for all recipients of the Medal of Honor and for their unbelievable sacrifices.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

This week we honor fallen Boulder Police Officer Eric Huston Talley (51). Officer Talley was shot in killed on March 22, 2021 when he arrived and engaged a gunman as the first officer on the scene at the terrible mass murder of ten people at the King Sooper grocery store in Boulder, Colorado. According to Officer Talley's obituary Eric was born in Houston, TX on September 26, 1969. He was the son of Homer Carroll Talley III and Judy Ellen (Butler) Talley. He graduated from Highland High School in Albuquerque, NM in 1988. He earned a Master's degree from Ball State University in computer science in 2001 and worked in the tech industry for six years before becoming a police officer in Boulder, CO in 2010. He married Leah Anne Laurenzano on

August 19, 1993 and over the next twenty-eight years raised seven children. Though he began his profession working for Avaya in Thornton, CO, he "felt a higher calling" and at the age of 40 transitioned into the police force, a childhood dream. He would often jokingly acknowledge that he entered the police force because it was less stressful than trouble-shooting computer systems. Eric was never afraid to confront danger. For the next eleven years he



protected his family as well as his community while working as a Boulder Police Officer. He not only patrolled the streets but willingly took on many collateral duties including being one of the original members of the police drone team. He also worked as part of the Explorers program which posi-

tively influenced young boys and girls to become police officers. He continually touched many hearts and saved many lives. He was loved by many and he will be missed by all.

Eric is survived by his wife, Leah Anne (Laurenzano); his seven children, Aaron Michael, Livia Angelina, Madeline Grace, Stephen Christopher, Phillip Andrew, Laura Kathryn, Paul Shay Marie; his mother, Judy Ellen (Butler) Talley; father, Homer Carroll "Shay" Talley III; step-mother, Jean (Deardoff) Talley; sister, Kirstin Brooks; and niece, Jorleigh Rider. John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

12 million tax returns trapped in a logjam

The IRS has experienced many challenges due to the pandemic. Due to the Covid the IRS had shut down 511 facilities in less than two weeks and 80,000 employees were sent home. Some departments were closed for months and IRS personnel has also spent valuable time on sending the stimulus payments and answering people's questions about the stimulus. All of this has had a major impact on IRS operations and its ability to process tax returns. At one point the IRS had over 12 million pieces of mail in storage that hadn't been processed. The IRS is diligently trying to get caught up on the backlog.

report it - do not file an amended return this time. We believe we're sensitive to the situation that people are in. We believe that we will be able to handle this on our own. We believe that we will be able to automatically issue refunds associated with the \$10,200," Rettig said.

If you have mailed your tax returns in the past, efilng will vastly increase the speed in which your return is processed and help the IRS overcome their logjam. If you have a tax liability, efilng will provide proof that your return was filed on time instead of having to send your return by certified mail.

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.



David Zubler

IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig said that millions of Americans whose tax returns have been caught in the processing backlog created by the pandemic, should receive their refunds in the coming months.

"We would hope to be through this backlog by the summer," Rettig told House Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee Chairman Bill Pascrell, who said some 12 million returns are trapped in the IRS logjam, although Rettig says just 2.4 million were returns of individual Americans.

"I will tell you, my employees will work as hard as we can possibly work," Rettig promised lawmakers, noting that he "sent 80,000 employees home. I shut down 511 facilities in less than two weeks," because of pandemic concerns.

The IRS has been praised by many leaders for extending the April 15 tax deadline until May 17.

Due to a recent announcement concerning unemployment insurance, the IRS will now be required to make adjustments to many of the tax returns which have already been filed this year. People who may have already filed their returns this year and make under \$150,000 in unemployment insurance compensation through August, thereby qualifying them for the \$10,200 tax-free income benefit.

The initial guidance said that taxpayers would count unemployment benefits as part of their 2020 income when determining if they qualify for the tax break. The federal agency said in the most recent guidance that workers can exclude jobless benefits from their calculation of modified adjusted gross income, the official barometer for eligibility. This rule change means more people will be eligible for the exemption. In Long Island, New York, said of the pool of eligible taxpayers. "This is a very generous interpretation [of the legislation]," he added

"Let me give you the certainty right now. The people who have filed should absolutely not file an amended return. So, whether they reported it or did not

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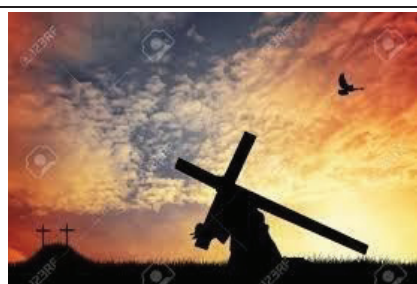
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White Oak Missionary Baptist Church Presents

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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