

Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News. **75¢**

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March 9, 2021

MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK

Tue 09	62°/40°	
Wed 10	64°/50°	
Thu 11	68°/51°	
Fri 12	69°/53°	
Sat 13	65°/47°	
Sun 14	60°/41°	
Mon 15	55°/39°	

Langley presents UV Bacteria and Virus Eliminator to Morgan County EMS

As our country faces an unprecedented public health event due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Morgan County Executive Brian Langley wants to ensure that Morgan County citizens and first responders are as safe as possible. On Monday, March 1, 2021, Langley presented EMS Director Doug Lamance and the EMS operation with two UV Light systems that kill 99.9% of all bacteria and viruses. These units will be used to disinfect the Ambulance vehicles, making it much safer for citizens as well as the Paramedics and EMT of the Morgan County EMS.



The old adage tells us, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” and these units provide prevention by eliminating 99.9% of bacteria and viruses that might be present in one of the EMS vehicles. Morgan County EMS has been providing an invaluable service to the citizens of Morgan County for decades, and in return Langley wants to make sure the EMS workers are protected as well.

“It is always a priority of mine to keep our employees as safe as we can. Our valued EMS workers, who have been on the frontlines during this pandemic, deserve better precautions to protect them and the patients they serve, so we are making sure we do that. I appreciate our entire Morgan County EMS and the great job they do, and we will offer support to them any way we can” said Morgan County Executive Brian Langley.

“I appreciate the efforts of Morgan County Executive Brian Langley for making sure to help EMS any chance he can. With his support, we have been able to make improvements to our department and ultimately the people of Morgan County are the recipients of better service. The purchase of these cleaning items is just another way that will help to keep our employees and our patients safer,” said Morgan County EMS Director Doug Lamance.



Veteran of the Week
Russell Logan



LEO of the Week
Toby Keiser



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If You Build It, They Will Come



Wartburg Central Middle School's brand new baseball field. (Photo Submitted)

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Grady F. Langley, Sr., 82

Mr. Grady F. Langley, Sr., age 82 of Lancing, passed away Friday, March 5, 2021 at his home surrounded by his family. He was a member of the Caney Branch Missionary Baptist Church. He enjoyed fishing and hunting. He was preceded in death by his parents Ballam and Patients Smith Langley and several brothers and sisters, and grandson Craig Hamby.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years Mary Ruth Wicks Langley Son: Grady Jr. and Clodie Langley, of Lancing.

Daughters: Karen and James Allen of Century, FL

Jimmi and Donnie

Smith of Crossville, TN

Grandchildren: Austin & Michael, Grady Franklin Langley III and wife Spencer, Tamara & James Webb and Alexis & Ma-

son
Great Grandchildren: Caiden, Hutson, Gavin Webb
Sisters: Reba Davis of Cleveland, NC

Shirley Alexander of Charlotte, NC

Also surviving are several other family members and friends.

The family will receive friends Tuesday, March 9, 2021 from 12-1 pm Caney Branch Missionary Baptist Church, Lancing. Funeral service will follow at 1 pm with Bro. James Briggs officiating, interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Grady F. Langley, Sr.

Lillian Rose Oney

Lillian Rose Oney of Wartburg, also affectionately known by her maternal nieces and nephew as "Bibby", quietly stepped into the presence of her Lord on March 3, 2021. She was of the Baptist faith, a member of Wartburg First Baptist Church and truly lived her life as a Proverbs 31 woman. She was preceded in death by her husband Louis Hershel Oney, infant son Michael, mother and father Ethel Huling Shannon and Houston Shannon Sr., brother Houston Shannon Jr., infant sister Helen Mae Shannon. She is survived by her sister, Mary Newberry, three maternal nieces, Sandy Shirks, Doris Ann (Pud) Langley and Susie Kirk and one maternal nephew Darrell Newberry.

She has many nieces and nephews from the Oney side of the family whom she loved dearly as well. She was very close to a special sister-in-law, Relda Oney who was always willing to help her.

Bibby lived most of her young-

er years helping to care for her three nieces Sandy, Doris Ann (Pud), Susie and her nephew Darrell. She devoted her life to them after losing her son Michael. She was like a Mom to the four of them. They all adored her.

As Il Timothy 4:7 states, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Bibby has fought the good fight, completed her race on earth and kept her faith! She leaves us with enriched lives and precious memories. She will be missed.

The family will receive friends on Friday, March 5, 2021 from 12-2 pm followed by funeral services at 2 pm. Interment will be at Wartburg Memorial Gardens.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Lillian Rose Oney.

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

Send Letters to the Editor
Editor@mocotoday.com

Kingdom of Conscious



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

What is the Genesis for unbelief in humans concerning intelligent design? Is it only fools who say in their heart, there is no God? Must we first set parameters for what constitutes foolishness? Must we then rightly establish the etymology of the term fool/foolish/foolishness? What presuppositions must be overcome by humans to believe in intelligent design? What is the etymology of the term God?

Who first recognized there is a Creator behind the creation? How did they reach conclusions on creation? Was religion a part of the formative process in coming to conclusions about faith in a Creator? Which religious groups establish parameters for identifying the Creator? Are there any prominent religions with philosophy or philology differing from a creator mythology? Where do we find people ascribing to creationism or the worship of created phenomena? In what order does polytheism replace mono-theism, or did monotheism replace polytheism? Is the creator narrative older than worshipping the products of the creative process? Does science have presupposition based upon disproving the existence of God? Who is it, pre-disposed with establishing, that God does not exist? What are the agendas of the people obsessed with the physical universe? When does indoctrination begin toward Darwinian Evolution? Is eugenics openly practiced in Western Civilization? Are there differences between people based on outward appearance? Does outward appearance have any bearing on internal software? Does science support any theories based upon race being better for some and worse for others? Is there evidence for common ancestry among human beings? Who first practiced eugenic philology in society? What is social growth, and when did it start? Who first established what society should look like? When did slavery begin in human society? What role does religion play in practicing slavery? Are there any religious groups that practice slavery? Are there any governments that practice slavery? Is there a political elite class in America? Are families of any social class benefiting from political office due solely to their wealth? Does the middle class exist? What constitutes a middle class? Is it those halfway to the richest or halfway to the poorest? What constitutes upward mobility? Does the Constitution separate church and state? Is church a term reserved for any religious group or denomination? Is there any time when a political party Looks like a religious authority? Who defines what is acceptable religious toleration? Were Christianity and Judaism the only religious authorities present in 1787 at the debate that produced our Constitution? Who did the Bill of Rights apply to in 1787? Why did the founders include a citizens' Bill of Rights? Does national party affiliation violate any aspect of federalism? Who does the electoral college benefit? Who does the electoral college protect? When does political oversight become Judicial overreach? Does a two-party system include all voters? How does a third-party exercise its will in our process? What is the role of the news media in our society? Are there rules that govern who can use the term news outlet or news media enterprise? Is Capitalism the only way the government can hold news organizations accountable? What role did news outlets play in the Civil War buildup? Are there examples of news organizations backing revolutions? Is deception a legal term found anywhere in the American legal vernacular? Can the government join any lawsuits that look to limit any one belief system or its tenets of faith? Where does government draw its' morality from? Which tenets were used to reach conclusions on Constitutionality in American history? Is there a time when our courts began moving away from our founding tenets? Have the courts ever weighed in on how or from what the founders gleaned their radical ideas from? Does debate matter? Is debate protected speech in elected officials? What form of government is the United States System? Does the American System allow for faith? Is faith the opposite of fear? Does the American System reward or punish fear? Is fear a minority or majority issue? Does any one political party advance fear in dialogue? Can fear ever overcome faith? Can faith ever overcome fear? This is where we are as a nation. There

are two political sides to every argument. Using Boolean Logic, we can conclude that only faith overcomes fear. When fear is used as a weapon to gain favor with voters, the minority opinion is advanced, and society as a whole loses. Minority and majority only apply numerically. It has nothing to do with hardware issues. None of us can change our hardware situation; however, we can all allow ourselves a reprogramming of software. It begins by acknowledging that one political party in this country has prospered in this country by only telling us what and who we should fear. In history, the party that wins by fear governs through fear! If you are a person of faith, then ask God to overcome your fears and quit listening to those who promote minority positions over majority thinking. Most of the people race-baiting never spend time with people who do not look like themselves but would like to tell us normal citizens who go to work every day and share their families with people who also do not look like us. Elitism must be confronted on every economic level. America needs to be a place where people are judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin. By legislating the Bible out of the lives of children, the government ensured that eugenic thinking about issues of color could be advanced by them to hold power at all costs. They hurt the people they pretend to help. College-educated, fraternity and sorority-affiliated people of every color and creed practice Greek minded eugenics based upon Darwin's hijacked origin of the species, first advanced by the Greek philosophers and stoics in antiquity. Black racists have hijacked the black community. White racists have hijacked the poor white communities. Asian racist's the Asian poor people. Muslim elites have emigrated here with the intention of indoctrinating everyone to their idea of religious ideology, and naive Americans do not even realize it is a eugenic philosophy advancing persons of Arabic Oriental descent. Incredibly anti-Semitic and anti-White looking. They also hate Black Africans when you leave America. Louis Farrakhan has increased his wealth exponentially by exploiting the burgeoning population of Black inmates incarcerated because of White Joe Biden's and the Clinton machine's eugenic minded crime bill of 1994. It is time for Jesus Christ to be elevated and the Bible to be returned to public school. Christ did not come to start a new religion that includes only those who look like us. The Christian community looks and acts just like the world when it closes its' doors to sinners of any ethnic or color persuasion. I am guilty. I am, however, allowing the Holy Spirit to reprogram my software. I only see men as sinners and saved. And I only see them according to God's word. God's word says He loves sinners the most. He never identifies them according to hardware. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. The Christian Kingdom is the light of the world. It is a kingdom of consciousness, and that consciousness needs to be seared by the word of God. It is a two-edged- sword. Both Testaments. Hallelujah. Even so, come Lord Jesus Christ. RLTW. 9-20-2019 John Burns

He was crucified upon a cross of wood, yet he created the hill upon which it stood.

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.

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

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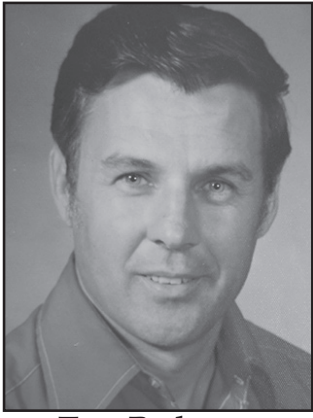
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How Can America Get Through the Next Four Years



Tom Redmon
Columnist

I know history and I don't think our country has ever faced what we are facing now. I know how we got here and I know it isn't going to be easy to save America. But I hope and pray that

the GOP too. We also need to demand that they need to follow and protect the Constitution. We need a grass-roots effort to work out a plan that will assure us of a fair election. Every voter must have a picture I.D. only the handicap and elderly need to vote by absentee ballot. A limit of time must be set for early voting. Every prescient must be able to check every voter's eligibility to make sure they are registered there and that they haven't moved to another state. We have been much to lax in allowing people to vote without identification. Illegals must not be allowed to vote. Our Constitution makes it clear that states and not Congress has control of election in their state.

We all should be patriots who loves our country and zealously supports its authority and interests. Patriotism which is love and devotion to one's country is certainly lacking in our country. Liberals have rewritten history and our people have been brainwashed by many college professors and is now coming down to high schools and elementary school levels. This is going to be hard to turn around but we must try. Remember President Dwight David Eisenhower said, "without patriotism and a deep respect for our flag and country, we are subject to become slaves of dictators and despots. Yes, we are doomed if we fail to keep this scarce trust."

A lot of people were angry when they saw the Lady Vols kneeling while our national anthem was playing. I didn't like it either, but I can understand why the girls are doing this. College professors can make a big impression on 18-20-year-old girls who probably were not taught patriotism in high school or at home. When all they hear is our forefathers owned and mistreated slaves, and all through our history blacks have been mistreated and society has been prejudice toward minority groups. They don't realize how much progress America has made in race relations. Obama set us back to the 60's when we had race riots. It seems like the liberals want to keep this going because they need the black vote. The truth is that the blacks and other minority groups had it better under Trump

then they did under liberal democrats.

I must say something about parents with school age children. They need to know what their children are being taught. I know that a lot of what students' study is on computers and technology has replaced textbooks but teachers must be aware of what our children are being

taught and so do parents. Our state government can do a lot to help us on this matter.

The First Amendment gives us freedom of religion, but the liberals and socialist are

trying to take this right away. As Christians we need to stand firm. You can bet Christianity is already under attack and it will get worse the next four years. They have a plan and I would guess that taking the tax exemption away from churches is on top of the list. Ministers will be limited to what they preach or teach and like Canada they could be arrested for preaching certain things. Subjects like same-sex marriage, homosexuality, gender change, and even abortion could be off limits. To me churches need to preach and teach the entire Bible. It is God's Holy word and it needs to be taught. Over the years secularism has crept into our lives and since 1963 when prayer was taken out of schools, we have allowed all kinds of things, that were once taboo, in our society to become legal. In the 1950's when censorship was in effect you could not buy certain sexual material. Now just about anything goes. Our young kids can bring up all kinds of sexual material with the click of a button on their smart phones.

Christians must stand up and be strong. They need to demand that our officials must do everything they can to protect our constitutional rights.

The Second Amendment gives us the right to own and bear arms. Every citizen needs to stand up for this right. Get in touch with your senators and representatives and tell them to never give in to the socialist. If they do, we are doomed. Support such organization as the NRA and vote and support candidates who are one hundred percent Second Amendment. Thousands of guns are being sold in the U.S. every day and now women and blacks are the purchasers.

Much of our hope lies with our elected officials in Washington. What every conservative needs to do is flood their phones with phone calls demanding they need to get to work and do the things they were elected to do. The election in 2022 should be enough to motivate them because what President Biden has done in just two months has damaged America so much half of the democratic party should be ready to join the conservative and save America. Many who voted for Biden really expected him to be a moderate while in office. He has been as far left as he can get. As-a-matter-of-fact some think that he is not in control, but regardless who is in control the country has been hurt already.

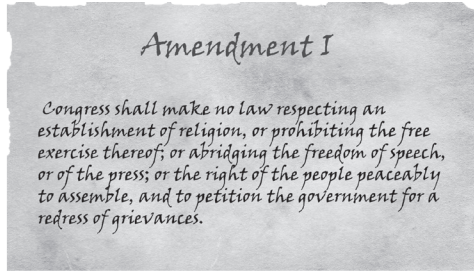
Just look what is already happening at our southern border. Thousands of children are ending up there unattended by an adult. Because of Biden's executive order many immigrants from Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua are coming to our borders expecting a free pass. They are letting them into our country without a Corona-19 test or any other help check. What are we facing? Drug smugglers and children molesters who were stopped by President Trump are now having a free rein at our border.

What scares me the most is can we make it two or four years when we have new elections? I know the senate is tied 50-50 and with Harris the VP breaking the tie, the democrats have the votes to break a tie, but if only one democrat can come over to the GOP maybe we could stop some bad bills.

We have made a big gain in the house and it looks like with this gain the GOP should be making more noise.

Whatever we do, we do not need to give up. We need to make a stand before we lose our country. Some house members are standing up and even though they are taken off of committees they refuse to back down. Senator Howley from Missouri has made a firm stand and he is sticking with his belief on freedom of speech.

Most of all during this time we need to be strong in our Christian faith. God is on our side and in the end good will always win over evil. Trust in the Lord and He will always be with you. America is at a crossroad and I hope all Christians and patriots will take the right road.



those seventy-five-million conservatives who voted for Trump last November will make every effort to do the things I'm going to bring up in this article.

First of all, we must stand up for America, and I mean stand up. We don't need for the liberals to fill us with fear where we are afraid to stand up to their political correctness raving. We still have the Constitution and the Bill of Rights is plain, telling us about our freedom of speech. We can criticize those in power. We have every right to speak out and fight against the things that we feel that will harm us and our country. We need to support the things our president is doing to protect and help our country. The Supreme Court is not a law-making body. They interpret the Constitution. They are in for life, so unlike the Congress and Senate we cannot vote them out of office.

In less than two years we will be having an election of all house members and one-third of the senate. I suspect that we will have a lot of candidates to challenge the incumbent and those who voted and worked against President Trump should be in trouble. I recommend all voters study where the candidates stand on all major issues and if possible, learn all they can about their backgrounds. We need to elect better candidates and I believe we did that in the house election last November. We can take the house back and maybe the senate if we only do our homework.

One big thing we need for our present Conservative need to do in both the house and senate is fix the election laws, and not allow voting by mail. Every Republican needs to be in contact with their representatives and senators and demand that the election law needs to be fixed this year. Congress has been dragging their feet and that goes for

COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION

East Tennessee Human Resource Agency (ETHRA) will distribute Commodities, Thursday, March 11th, 8 am to 12 pm, at the Wartburg Civic Center. You may pick up for 3 households only. Please bring a box for your commodities. Households can pre-register prior to distribution date at the ETHRA office located next to Wartburg High School. For more information, call 423-346-6651, option 5. This program is funded under an agreement with the Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal law and USDA, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

BOATERS SAFETY CLASS

Brian Miller will be teaching a boater safety class on March 20th at Central High School in Wartburg. The class will start at 8:00 am and last until around noon. Anyone born after January 1, 1989 needs this to operate a boat, jet ski, etc. You must be 12 years of age, "per the state" to take the class and exam. You can register on TWRA website under boating classes, his will be listed under 37887 or 37748 (Cumberland) area, or just show up morning of the class. You will need a type 600 permit to take the class and exam. Permits can be purchased online or anywhere hunting and fishing license are sold. The cost of the permit is \$10.00 and he teaches the class for free.

Historic Rugby Opening Weekend and hike (March 20, 2021)

Rugby, Tennessee: Celebrate the first day of spring by spending time in the great outdoors on Rugby's hiking trails. The hike begins at 10:00 AM EST on Saturday, March 20 on the porch of our Visitor Centre. This will be the first day of Historic Rugby's 2021 season and visitors can visit the printing works and shops. Food vendors will also be on site.

Long time Rugby resident Eric Wilson (1935-2013) discovered the Cumberland Plateau while a graduate student at Vanderbilt. He was a charter member of Tennessee Trails Association, a long-time advocate for the Cumberland Trail, active in developing, maintaining, and encouraging hiking trails in and around Rugby. We celebrate Eric's birthday each year with this hiking event dedicated to his memory.

This year, Jackie Broeker, TN Forestry Service, and Meg Guy, TN State Park Ranger, will lead the hike through the Rugby State Natural Area. Wear sturdy footwear, bring water and snacks, and dress appropriately for the weather.

The first Irish Road Bowling match will take place in front of the former Harrow Road Cafe at 6 PM EST. Everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information or directions, please contact Historic Rugby at (423) 628-2441. Visitors are encouraged to visit our website for more information about the village www.historicrugby.org. Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/historicrugby/>. We look forward to seeing you!

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Morgan County Republican Party Biennial Reorganization Meeting

Morgan County Republican Party will hold it's biennial reorganization meeting Tues. March 9th @ 7pm. Meeting will be held at the American Legion Hall at 202 S. Kingston St. Wartburg.

All Republicans are invited to attend. Anyone interested in running for party chairman needs to have their info sent to the credentials committee: Tommy Francis @ tommylee_2nd@yahoo.com no later than Tues March 2nd.

Historically Speaking Causes of 1944 Troop Train Wreck, Part 2

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

In last week's column, we took a close look at some of the theories that explain the cause of the July 6, 1944, troop train wreck in Highcliff, Tenn. This week, we continue with a report from Mark Tidwell, son of Jim Tidwell, probably the first responder to the wreck. Mark relates the recollections of two people who with connections to the wreck, beginning with those of his neighbor, Buck Parrot.

Mark says, "I talked with my neighbor Buck Parrot. He was just one and a half when the train wrecked. But he remembers as a boy the pistol and the rumors surrounding it, hearing of the man it was taken from, and it being linked in speculation to the derailment.

"I just talked with my 92-year-old great aunt, Jeanette Petrey, on this 63rd anniversary of the wreck. She says, 'Jim Frank (her husband) was hanging out at Hal's Garage (downtown Jellico). He heard all the sirens and shortly thereafter that a troop train had wrecked. They were saying men and tools were needed to free the injured. He came home, gathered up some stuff and took off out there. I never saw him until the next morning. He was absolutely worn out and covered in dirt and grime.

"A few days later he was also covered in poison ivy from going up and down the riverbank. He was miserable! I didn't go look until several days later. Jim Frank said it was too crowded and we didn't need to be in the way. There was way too much traffic.

"Besides that, he had to rest up and go to work after he came home from the wreck. He worked as a shipping clerk at the Wholesale Grocery. When I finally got to go look, the best I can remember is that there was only one, maybe two coaches still left at the scene.

"On July the fourth, two days before the wreck, I was out at Sandy Beach. Harold and Grace Moon, their two girls, and Robert (her son, born in 1938) had a picnic. Oh ... we had fun! Jim Frank was at work and couldn't be there.

"I remember this man walking down the railroad tracks. He was what we called a 'hobo.' He was coming from towards Morley. I have often remembered that man, especially after rumors began to fly about the cause of the wreck. Somebody could have messed with the track. But that's where I was on July the Fourth, 1944. And that's what I remember about the day of the Troop Train Wreck."

So, here is another possible cause, again highly unlikely, but still a possible cause.

Another story from Mark has two people on a motorcycle near the track just prior to the wreck. Mark tells the story: "Ted Barton is a sharp fellow! Snazzy dresser! He had those black and white shoes on today. He must be in late eighties or early nineties. Still drives and carouses around town daily.

"Ted said he was at the theater in Jellico when somebody came by and yelled, 'Two troop trains have hit head-on out in the Narrows!' He and two friends followed the Jellico fire truck out to the scene. He helped tie two ropes onto the rear of the engine to help people up and down the steep, treacherous, rocky bank to the river. He said he had never seen anything before or since so horrible.

"Soldiers were screaming and bleeding and dying. He said Harold Moon was trying to extricate one soldier that kept yelling 'Shoot me! Just shoot me!' Just as quick as they got him out he died. People were frantically wading the river trying to help.

"He said one soldier, after they got him up to the roadway, was hysterical. Ranting, raving, jumping. Ted said two State Troopers, Willard and Godfrey, and Sheriff Rose Kitts, took a blanket and surrounded the fellow and wrapped him up in it to get him calmed down.

"The sight of the bodies being brought up the bank was horrifying to Ted. It was too much for his friends to cope with and they left.

"Later, Ted was at the old Jellico Hospital. This nurse, covered with blood, told Ted she had to have just a little break from the terrible scenes of the dead and injured. They were standing by the hand-pulley operated elevator when they brought in another soldier that was screaming 'I just want to see my wife and two kids.' He too died just after uttering those words. Ted said that was enough



Clear Fork River today, showing the scene of the troop train wreck near 'Haystack Rock' and a passing train on the curved track above the riverbed (Photo Submitted)

for him. Ted says he even saw some nurses wading out into the river earlier to assist the injured.

"He also says that there was at least a modest search and rumor about two strange men on a motorcycle seen around Sandy Beach and the Highcliff area just before the wreck. As you can see, the 9/11 syndrome of suspecting out-of-the-ordinary people as terrorists is nothing new. World War II certainly kept peoples' suspicions on edge!"

So, here is yet another story about unusual observations being tied to the troop train wreck.

What are we to conclude? What really caused the Troop Train No. 47, pulled by locomotive No. 418, to wreck?

Everyone I have talked to who saw the aftermath of the wreck has strong and clear memories of it. Some readily admit the trauma they saw literally changed their lives as it was like nothing else they have experienced before or since.

Yet, one can obtain as many different stories of what happened (with the exception of a few basic facts) as there are people telling the stories. Each person has distinct recall of details that are unique to their memory.

Those individuals who might add clarity from their personal experience in the wreck as to the cause are dead. The two key individuals, John C. (Lyles) Rollins, the engineer, and John William Tummins, the fireman, were both killed by the wreck. Rollins died instantly and Tummins died before the night was over. While in the Jellico hospital, he did make some telling remarks to both Dr. J.S. Ausmus and nurse Mrs. William Turnblazer, Jr. His statement was also collaborated by others regarding the excessive speed of the train just prior to the wreck.

Tummins, however, chose to tell the reporter, Yarborough, only that "she jumped the tracks." This, I believe, was merely an attempt to avoid placing blame on the engineer when Tummins knew full well that anything he said would be published in the newspaper.

As for the German agents, hobos who were in the area,

motorcycle riders, etc.: I believe the FBI's report that states "No Evidence of Sabotage." However, the people who recall these strange precursor events will not be easily swayed, regardless. And, who knows, stranger things have happened!

Another possible cause is the gauge of the track at the curve was wider than prescribed for that curvature of track. According to the Interstate Commerce Commission's report, printed in full on pages 74 to 77 of Ascher's book, the causes of the accident were concluded to be, "a combination of wide gauge of track and excessive speed on a sharp curve." The ICC report had estimated the speed of the train at 45 mph and the maximum safe speed for that curve as 35 mph. Ascher questions both conclusions of the ICC report.

He goes to considerable lengths to question the locomotive's fitness, especially the front trucks and their failure to slue (pivot) as needed. His conclusion includes the question, "Why was there no report of inspection of 438's front truck?"

Ascher also discounts excessive speed. He minimizes the adverse impact of the wide gauge or questions if it was fact. He seems to point more toward the locomotive as possibly having defects that contributed to the wreck. So, what is my conclusion after all this research? Here is what I have come to believe after my research and discussions with various people who remember that terrible train wreck. I believe the wreck was caused by a combination of things:

- Speed: Tummins' statement to the Jellico doctor causes me to think the locomotive was traveling in excess of 35 mph;

- Wide gauge of track: documentation seems consistent that the gauge was wider than prescribed;

- Locomotive: Ascher's book has convinced me that the front trucks may well have been faulty;

- Attitude of Rollins: Again, Tummins' statement to the doctor causes me to think something was awry with the engineer.

The above four possible contributing factors may have contributed collectively to the wreck. There may well have been others. Rarely is there one single cause for such catastrophes.

I hope you have enjoyed the time spent with the July 6, 1944, troop train wreck. Thanks to Bill Sergeant for the encouragement to do the series. One last thing remains before wrapping up this series.

Next, we will look at the history of the Red Cross in Oak Ridge and the role the Red Cross had in the 1944 troop train wreck.

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.

Itchy Feet: Nimes, France

By Janice Wilson



In the summer of 2006, my sister and I left the mountains just west of Ales and ventured south to the city of Nimes. Driving through a stretch of road, about half a mile long,

that was notorious for the number of fatalities in car accidents. The French authorities had placed six-foot white crosses for every death along the side of the road, in order to make drivers aware of the dangerous road they were traveling. Leaving Ales behind we found scenery vastly more beautiful and friendly in the shape of hundreds of acres of sun flower fields, alternating with lavender fields. A stunning sight I have never forgotten. The quaint French farm houses on the side of the road, had tables set up selling flowers, produce, homemade dairy products and kitchen necessities.

Nimes is an old Roman city with architecture from every century to the present. The mixture of old and modern buildings complements each other and one day is not nearly long enough to see everything, but one day is all we had.

In the centre is the 2000-year-old Amphitheatre, built by the Romans and is still used to day for bull fights. It will hold 24,000 spectators, (I didn't realise bull fighting was that popular, today). They were busy with renovations the day we were there and so sadly, we did not get to go inside. As a consolation prize we crossed the street to the numerous restaurants and cafes, where one can sit in the shade of a tree and enjoy lunch. I have to say, if you know what you are eating, the French are superb chefs. I never had a bad meal in all the times I visited France. In another part of the city is Maison Carree, another roman building, this time a temple dedicated to Lucius and Galious Ceasar, grandsons of Augustus. A massive structure, surrounded by modern buildings, we sat on the front steps, where the stones also gathered up the heat from the bright sun, just to enjoy people watching and soak up the sun's rays, alongside many other tourists.

It's not just buildings that is worth visiting Nimes for, but also the gardens that run throughout the city. Long walkways with pools and colourful plants, turning their blooms towards the sunshine. The Jardin de la Fontaine, (Fountain Garden) was peaceful and the statues that looked down on the visitors were as beautiful as any seen in a museum. There is a canal running through the gardens where visitors can sit on the wall and watch the cool water ripple by, on a hot day.



The city is a bustle of museums, shops and boutiques. One museum will tell you the Roman history of the city, while another will enthrall you with Artwork and Artifacts through the ages. How about some history on the French railroad? Well, they have one for that too. Another one is like a shopping mall, as it not only has a museum but gift and specialty shops, that sell all kinds of curiosities alongside the art galleries. You can learn about Archeology or visit a Planetarium, something for everyone, young and old.

Nimes, a beautiful old and new city, that is laid back, with clean streets and pleasant people. The drive back to the Cevennes Mountain range was spent looking back on a very satisfactory and successful road trip.

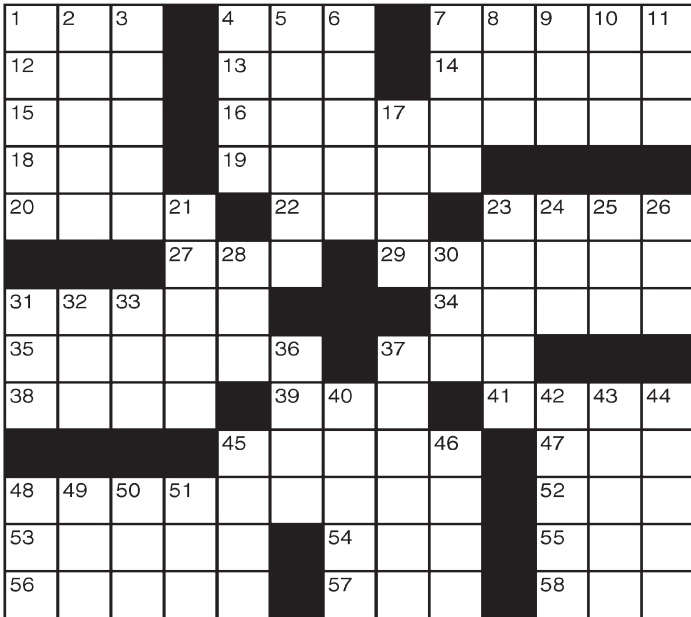
These are archive pictures not my own.



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Nightwear, for short
- 4 Rm. coolers
- 7 Fable writer
- 12 Decay
- 13 Prefix with athlete
- 14 Preamble
- 15 Mode lead-in
- 16 Soundly defeated
- 18 Zilch
- 19 Berth places
- 20 Retain
- 22 Away from NNW
- 23 Roundish 'do
- 27 Writer Harper
- 29 Sitting room
- 31 Prepared apples for baking
- 34 Street punks
- 35 Uproar
- 37 Rotating part
- 38 A Great Lake
- 39 Actor Stephen
- 41 Dumbstruck
- 45 Striped equine
- 47 Hockey's Bobby
- 48 Performed to the end
- 52 Gun-lobby org.
- 53 Broadcaster
- 54 Code-

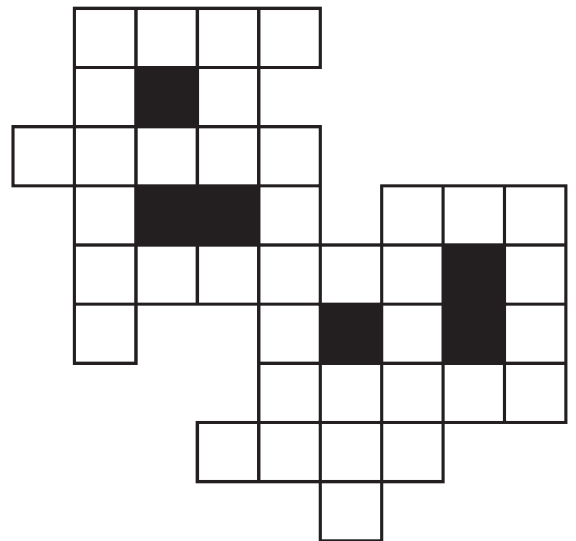


- 9 Pigs' digs
- 10 Metal source
- 11 Group of whales
- 17 Get ready, briefly
- 21 West Point freshman
- 23 Bakery lure
- 24 "Alice" waitress
- 25 Scepter
- 26 Hosp. areas
- 28 College URL ender
- 30 "Eureka!"
- 31 "Evita" narra-
- tor
- 32 Owned by us
- 33 MLB stat
- 36 Raised
- 37 Tenor Enrico
- 40 Deep, lustrous black
- 42 Candymaker Willy
- 43 Goofed
- 44 Pulls
- 45 Goose egg
- 46 — impasse
- 48 Bit of butter
- 49 Fib
- 50 Branch
- 51 "Uh-huh"

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- CDA
- TRUGIA
- ♥ SCIPA
- ♥ ATPS
- ERGTUD
- GPU
- SDCI
- PRTCE
- ♥ PSA
- ♥ APTNER
- UGREP
- ♥ ETPA



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

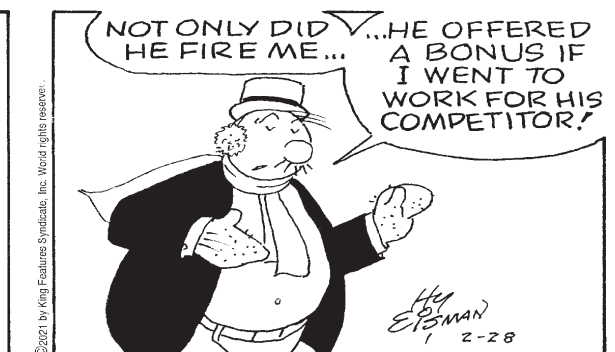
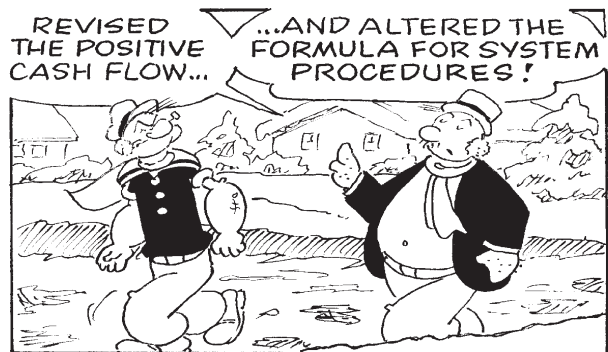
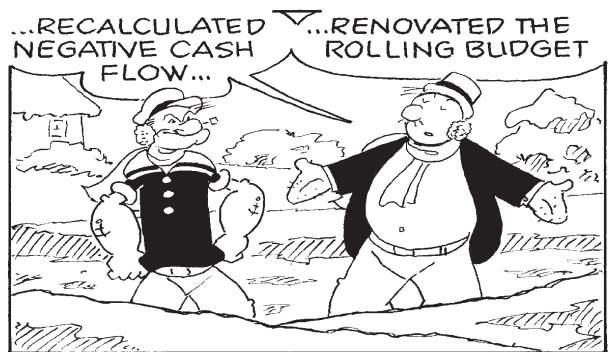
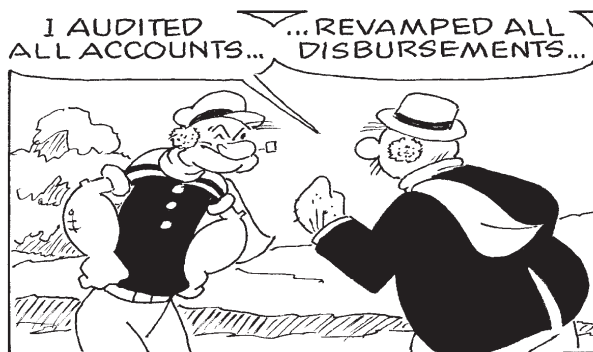
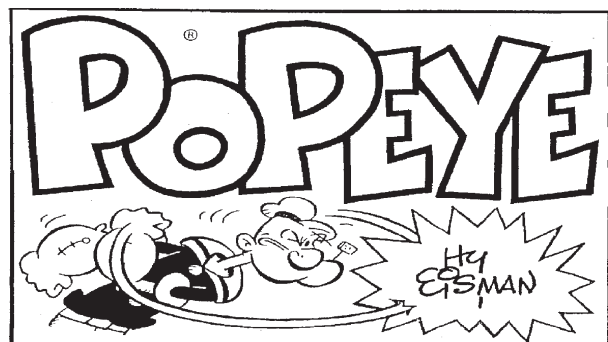
	1		9					5
5				3		7	2	
		4			8			9
		3	8					6
7		9			6	2		
	4			1			8	
		2	7					1
	5		6	4				3
8					5	6		

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

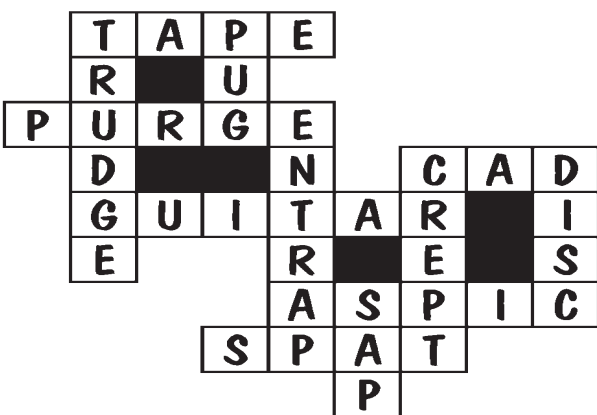
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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answer



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

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

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


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MSG Fred Mize

This morning I looked at the freshly sprouted tomato plant seedlings that my wife is patiently growing in our laundry room window. I commented to her that I love seeing how plants stretch toward the sun. She replied, "I believe you just came up with the topic of your next article," so here I write. Have you ever looked at a plant in a window and witnessed how its leaves and stem will always stretch toward the sun? We should be no different in our

daily lives. We should stretch toward the "Son" in everything we do. Just as the sun provides much-needed nourishment for all plants, so does the "Son" provide all we need to live fruitful and meaningful lives. If we reject the "Son," we will wither away like a plant that stays in continual darkness. It is my prayer that we strive to be closer to God in all we do and to not remain as mir seedlings but grow into maturity and live fruitful lives that produce for the Kingdom of the LORD.

1 Peter 2:2-3, 2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 3 If so be ye have tasted the Lord is gracious. My friends, we must cleave to the word of God as a newborn baby cleaves to its mother for milk. We need the word of God to grow and learn. We

must pledge to make the Holy Bible a lamp unto our feet, a light unto our path, and hide its words into our hearts so that we may not sin against God. I admit that I all too often fall short in my devotion to reading the word of God daily as I should. It isn't only myself that I let down when I neglect

reading the Holy Bible, but I let down all those I come into contact with. When I fail to read God's holy word, I fail to grow in my walk with Him. When I fail in my walk with Him, my light doesn't shine as bright as it could. I become like a rose that fails to fully blossom. I will always be a rose in God's garden because I'm a born-again child of His, but I no longer want to just be an unbloomed rose, but I want to be a rose that blooms fully and brings my Heavenly Father a sweet fragrance as I stretch toward the "Son." Let's dedicate our lives to Him and strive to read and

learn the word of God. We need the Son, just as a rose needs the sun.



American Legion
Post 149
March Events

March 13, 2021, we are back open for our pancake breakfast. Our doors open for breakfast at 8:00 am until 11:00 am. Prices are \$8.00 per adult, \$4.50 per child, and takeout \$8.50 per box.

March 18, 2021, the Legion will conduct their monthly meeting which will start promptly at 7:00 pm.

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

Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

The Basketball Vols

the year. I took for granted that I could buy basketball tickets to most games and show up in attendance. The pandemic has changed things for now. They are not allowing that many fans in the stands. I am excited about getting back in Thompson Boling Arena and watching college basketball next year. College basketball hasn't been as fun without fans in the stands.

Johnson and Jaden Springer. We have a good shooting guard in Santiago Vescovi. Tennessee also has another McDonald's All-American caliber player in Josiah Jordan James. Yves Pons is an All American SEC caliber defender and can jump through the roof.



Zack Ballinger

Tennessee basketball has some nice players, but it's time to put it all together and see how far we can advance in the NCAA Tournament. I know there are many Vol fans out there that will be routing hard for this team. The Vols haven't played well down the stretch, but we can change all that with some wins in the tournament. The tournament is a lot about how well you shoot, match-ups, and some luck. I hope as a Tennessee fan we are able to get all 3 and make it far into the tournament. How far do you think the basketball vols will make it in the NCAA tournament?

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.



In 2019, I sat in the stands at Thompson Boling Arena cheering on the #6 ranked UT men's basketball team. We played Missouri and it was a fun game; it was fun because we won by a lot and it was never a close game. At the time, The Vols were ranked #6 in the college basketball world. The 2019 men's basketball team was one of my favorite teams that played at Tennessee. I was able to witness live basketball from a tremendous team that included the likes of Grant Williams, Admiral Schofield, Lamonte Turner, and Jordan Bone.

I always return to Knoxville, TN to watch a few basketball games during

The SEC tournament has never been kind to the basketball vols. In my lifetime, I have never seen our team win the SEC tournament and I don't think that will change this year (I hope I am wrong).

The Vols are making the NCAA Tournament; we just don't know what seed we will be yet. I am grateful to at least have the opportunity to make "the big dance". As history has shown, anything is possible in the tournament. The Vols will have to play a lot better if they plan on advancing past the first weekend of the tournament. We do have two NBA freshman prospects on our team with Keon



Sandra Helton's weekly column

Oakdale Area News

email: kvhelton@highland.net



Spring Forward! Daylight Savings Time begins this Sunday, March 14. Everyone should run their clocks forward one hour Saturday night. People have mixed feelings about time change. Many want it to remain the same year round. I have to say I am looking forward to longer daylight hours.

There will be no school in Morgan County on Friday, March 19.

I would like to challenge everyone reading this column to help pick up trash along our roadways and in our parks and other public places. Please don't litter! I have never understood why people throw trash out of their cars or dump things on the side of the road. We live in a beautiful place so let's all work together to keep it beautiful.

Congratulations to Robert and Flora Lee Walker who celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary March 6. How wonderful!

Ruth Headrick enjoyed two visits last week from her son and daughter in love, Dean and Debbie Headrick of Crossville. They visited on Wednesday and again on Saturday. She really enjoyed the delicious lunch they brought her on Saturday.

Belated birthday greetings to Trenton Melhorn and Noah Rogers who celebrated their birthdays March 5. I remember the day these young men were born. Hope you had a great day.

Becky Helton Franklin celebrated her birthday Saturday, March 6. Paula Powers and Whitney Helton celebrated birthdays yesterday, March 8. I hope each of you ladies had a good day with lots of cake and ice cream!

Happy Birthday today to Tammy Rogers and Teresa Gilbert. Also, Happy Birthday to Lavonna Yearly Garrett who now lives in South Carolina.

Happy Birthday to a friend to so many of us. Kim Everett celebrates her special day tomorrow, March 10. We wish you a wonderful day Ms. Kim!

A huge birthday shout out to my cousin, Katrina Adcox who has a birthday March 11. March 11 is also Sonia Turner's birthday. Happy Birthday Ladies.

Happy Birthday to Rachel Ruppe and Alison Snow Parker who will celebrate their birthdays Friday, March 12.

Congratulations to the Gentle Cowboy.....Ethan Lively of Coalfield. Ethan had a blind audition on The Voice last week and he is now on Team Blake. Ethan chose to sing the George Strait song "You Look So Good In Love" and he did AWESOME! He wanted to be chosen by Blake Shelton and he got his wish. If you missed the audition, you can find it on The Voice FB page or the FB page of the 100's of us who shared it! It is also on YouTube.

Approximately 50 friends and family members of Maverick Smith gathered at Hooper Eblen Center at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville Saturday, February 27 for Senior Night. Maverick has been a member of the Golden Eagles Basketball Team for 4 years and was one of only two players left after a new coaching staff was hired his Junior year. He was team captain his Junior and Senior years. He also earned a scholarship his Senior year. Maverick is well respected by his team members and coaching staff. There was a video clip on Twitter of Maverick as he left the court. The announcer said "Maverick is a class act." I think we all agree with that! Maverick will graduate this summer with a degree in Engineering Technology.

Hutch, Marilyn and China Hutchinson of Nolensville traveled to Cookeville to celebrate Maverick Smith on Senior Night. They reported how wonderful it was to share the experience with so many family members and friends. They enjoyed the game, which the Golden Eagles won, and then the awesome tribute to Maverick for his work on and off the basketball court.

Lucas Hutchinson, son of Hutch and Marilyn, celebrated his 28th birthday on February 26.

Oakdale Alumni Association will host an online auction beginning Friday, April 9 and ending on Sunday, April 11. The Alumni Association gives annual scholarships to graduating seniors and hopes to be able to have a banquet when it is safe to

resume in person gatherings. All alumni are encouraged to donate items to support this auction and to also attend the auction for some friendly bidding. If you have something to donate for the auction, please contact a member of the Oakdale Alumni Association Board or you can contact me, Sandra Helton, and I will be glad to make arrangements to pick up your donation.

Ms. Vera Scarbrough celebrated her birthday last week with eleven friends and family. Next door cousins Debbie Hatfield Pendergast and Bob Amrz, along with her daughter Meredith, prepared a Mexican feast of beef and chicken fajitas, spicy rice, bacon wrapped peppers, mango and tomato salsas, fresh vegetables and guacamole with several chip varieties, fresh lime and avocado dip, bean burritos with queso, Mexican cookies and shortbread, and a variety of cheesecakes. Others present were son Todd, granddaughters Haley and her friend Kyle Chambers, Kennedy and her school friend Kaylie, niece Kim Scarbrough and Jerry Robinson and special friend Becky Ruppe. Bouquets and candy came from grandsons Scout and Riley in North Carolina, nephew Carlos and Margie in Texas, Vera's college friend, from Todd and Emily, and from Becky and Kim. All reported a good time and ate at three festive tables for distancing.

County Commissioner Vera Scarbrough, who represents the Oakdale district, would like to express her appreciation to John Bonham and his litter crew for picking up trash in the Oakdale area, the latest being Camp Austin and Piney Church Roads leading out of Oakdale. A word of recognition also to Joe Miller and the Morgan County Road Department for adding safety signs and road striping on the same road. Accolades to the County Executive Brian Langley and his assistant Brett Palotta as well who are quick to respond to constituents' needs and concerns. Even though these officials are able to provide services from Morgan County citizenry voters and taxpayers, everyone benefits from kind words and voices of gratitude. May we all be civic-minded, careful to take care of our beautiful Morgan County landscape and make our individual communities sacred places by not littering.

Heather and Savannah Alonso will be hosting an online auction in April to raise funding to attend the American Heart Association Benefit Beach Ride. All proceeds go to the American Heart Association. If you have anything you would like to donate for the auction, you can reach out to Heather via Facebook.

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

Please continue to remember the family and friends of Mike Helton who went home to be with the Lord Saturday, February 27. Mike is survived by his wife of 44 years, Connie, his mother, Irene Helton and his daughters Christie Wethington and Beckey (Brandon) Franklin. He is survived by his grandchildren Jacob, Lauren and Reese Wethington and Josh, Bella and Jude Franklin, his brother and sister in law Alvin Helton, Jr and Sandy and his sister and brother in law Edna and Edward Johnson and many other family members. There will be an Outdoor Celebration of Life for Mike Saturday, March 27, at 6:00 p.m. EST at Mike and Connie's home to be followed by a time of fellowship. It is requested that those attending wear masks and social distance to ensure everyone's safety. In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to the Mike Helton Scholarship Fund at Roane State Community College

Many of you know that Mike was loving his farm life and had an abundance of chickens. Mike's family has scheduled a chicken sale at the family home on Huse Watson Road for Saturday, March 20 at noon.

Many, many things can be said about Mike Helton. The most important thing of course was his love and ministry for the Lord and his love and devotion for his family. One of many things that comes to mind is Mike's friendliness and how he always took time to visit and talk. He loved to talk! He was never too busy to sit and share a cup of coffee and have a conversation. I will share this quote in honor of Mike. We would all do well to heed this advice. Have a great week!

"Time is a precious gift because you only have a set amount of it. You can make more money, but you can't make more time. When you give someone your time, you are giving them a portion of your life that you'll never get back. Your time is your life. That is why the greatest gift you can give someone is your time." Rick Warren

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

Acts Chapter 23

(Acts 23:1-10) Paul's defense: Paul looked straight at the council (normally consisting of seventy or seventy-one members, seated in a semicircle) and began: "Brothers, I have lived in all good conscience until this day." A good conscience is no guarantee of correct conduct. Paul had been wrong in his persecution of Christians and he later was terribly sorry for that abuse (Eph. 3:8; 1 Tim. 1:12-14).

Suddenly, there was a rude interruption; the high priest, Ananias (A.D. 47-59), commanded that Paul be hit in the mouth (v. 2). Paul responded (if I may paraphrase): "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! Do you sit as a judge, obligated to respect the law, and yet you command me to be struck contrary to the law?" Those standing by exclaimed: "Do you dare to revile God's high priest?" To which the apostle replied: "I know what the law says; but I do not recognize him as a rightful priest" (v. 3-5).

Some scholars contend that Paul had a temper burst on this occasion, but subsequently apologized. Such a view is not consistent with the facts. (a) The apostles had been promised guidance by the Spirit under just such circumstances as this (Mt. 10:17-20; Lk. 21:14). Was that promise applicable on this occasion or not? Paul did not apologize for the Holy Spirit. (b) The ruler was not a legitimate high priest (descended from Aaron), and he was exceedingly corrupt (Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews 20.9.2). (c) Paul's prophecy about the fate of the ruler came true. Ananias was assassinated nine years later. (d) The grammatical form of Paul's response suggests he was saying: "I did not and I do not now recognize this man as the high priest."

The apostle knew he would never get a fair hearing at this meeting. Hence, noticing that the crowd consisted of both Pharisees and Sadducees (highly charged opposing parties), Paul proclaimed his Pharisaic ancestry and his belief in the resurrection of the dead. Immediately, there was rancorous discord among the factions, for the Sadducees denied the idea of a bodily resurrection. The assembly was now in shambles (v. 6-9). Paul faded into the background in this dog-and-cat fight. The chief captain, now fearing that his Roman prisoner might be killed, took the apostle into the fortress for protection (v. 10).

Acts 23:11) the Lord's word of comfort: Paul, as a normal human being, was in great danger and doubtless under considerable stress. Accordingly, the following night, "the Lord stood by him, and said, "Be of good cheer: for as you have testified concerning me at Jerusalem, so must you bear witness also at Rome." In his letter to the Roman Christians, the apostle had expressed his desire to visit these brothers (1:10). Now he knows that interest will be realized. He is further assured that he will not die in the current crisis. There will be hardships to come, but the Lord is not finished yet with this great man!

(Acts 23:12-25) the Jews' plot: the Jews took an oath to get rid of Paul. More than

forty determined to see the apostle dead, and the Sanhedrin was complicit in the lethal plan (v. 12-14). They would ask the chief captain to bring Paul down for additional interrogation, but would jump him and murder him in the process. Where men propose, God can dispose! Providentially, Paul's nephew overheard the plot and reported it (v. 45-46). When Lysias, the captain, heard of this plot, he made arrangements to get Paul out of town by night. Two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen were dispatched to guard Paul---quite enough to take care of forty, hot-headed Hebrews! The armed band, Paul in company, headed for Caesarea, where Felix, the Roman procurator, was in residence. A cover letter was sent explaining the circumstances.

(Acts 23:26-30) Lysias' letter to Felix: an explanation would be needed to explain why this prisoner was being sent to Caesarea; thus, an introductory document was prepared. Felix was the Roman official in Judea from A.D. 51 to 60. At this time, he was married to Drusilla (24:24), whom he had seduced from her husband. He was an unscrupulous ruler who once had been a slave. A Roman historian described him as a man who "reveled in cruelty and lust, and wielded the power of a king with the mind of a slave."

After a courteous introduction, Lysias set forth the "facts" (as he bends them to his advantage) for the ruler: (a) "The Jews were about to lynch this man, but I rescued him because I had learned he was a Roman." (b) "I presented him before the Jewish council, but their charges were religious and nothing was established deserving of the death penalty." (c) "His life is in jeopardy; thus, I am sending him to you." (d) "His accusers can make their case before you."

(Acts 23:31-35) the journey to Caesarea: under the protection of the Roman guard and the cloak of night, the armed force made their way toward the seacoast. It was an all-night trip. After a thirty-five mile trek, they came to Antipatris. They felt relatively safe at this juncture, so the foot soldiers and spearmen returned to Jerusalem; the seventy men of the cavalry continued on as escorts. When they arrived in Caesarea, Lysias' letter was presented to Felix, along with Paul himself. The ruler inquired regarding Paul's provincial nativity; upon learning it was Cilicia, for some reason he decided to review the matter personally, instead of having him transferred elsewhere. He promised to fully hear the apostle's case just as soon as his accusers arrived from Jerusalem. Paul was held in Herod's palace---a magnificent structure of white stone, covering 165 acres. He was restricted here for five days awaiting his hearing.

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MELVIN HOWARD

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Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week

This week we are pleased to honor Russell Logan as our veteran of the week. Russell Logan was drafted freshly out of high school at the young age of eighteen to serve in the United States Army.

His military career began at Fort Knox, Kentucky where he completed Basic Combat Training. Then, Russell completed Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri where he became a qualified Combat Engineer.

After his graduation from Fort Leonard Wood, he was sent overseas to Germany and also served all over the Middle East as a member of the 3rd of the 14th Engineer Battalion.

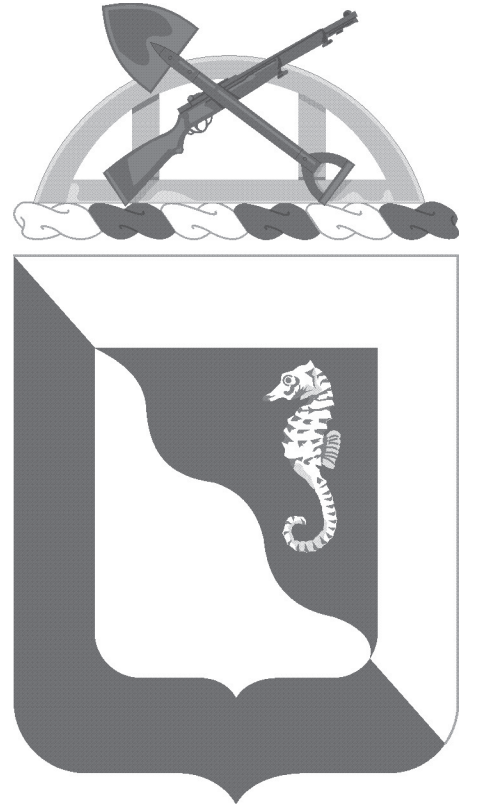
Russell said, "Johnny Cash and Elvis Presley were both stationed in Germany while he was there but I never had an opportunity to meet them but I did run into a childhood friend who at the time was the rank of Colonel. I couldn't believe he made it to Colonel. It was wonderful to see him."

Throughout his tour of duty in the Middle East, him and his fellow engineers built bridges over every river throughout all of the Middle East. Those bridges proved vital in the transportation of not only troops but civilians alike.

Russell finished his three-year military career from 1954-56 at the rank of Corporal. He's eighty-seven-years-old today but fondly remembers his time

in the United States Army. He was thankful to answer his country's call to duty and thanks all veterans for their military service.

Corporal Russell Logan, Morgan County Today, thanks you for your military service, dedication, sacrifices, and continual patriotism. God bless you, our friend!



Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

This week we honor the memory of fallen Knox County Sheriff's Department Patrolman and Warrants Officer Toby Jay Keiser. Patrolman Keiser passed away on January 18, 2021, after complications resulting from contracting COVID-19 in the line of duty. Patrolman Keiser proudly and honorably served in the Knox County Sheriff's Department for twenty-eight years. He was also a veteran of the United States Navy

and the Tennessee Army National Guard. Patrolman Keiser was fifty-four-years-old. He was the loving husband of Jill Keiser and father of four children; Jared and Dylan Keiser, Tessa and Terra Owens. As a testament of his kind and



loving heart, it should also be noted that he lovingly donated a kidney to his sister in 2003. Men and women in blue, daily place their

lives on the line for others, resulting in countless injuries and deaths of these American heroes. Sadly, many law enforcement officers have contracted COVID-19 during the worldwide pandemic due to the requirements of their job. Let's always remember their struggles and sacrifices.

New option to qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit



David Zubler

Thanks to new legislation more people will qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and some people will receive a larger credit.

A new provision under the Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020, allows you to elect to use your 2019 earned income to figure your 2020 Earned Income Tax Credit, if your 2019 earned income is more than your 2020 earned income.

If your earned income was too low in 2020, using your 2019 earned income could get you a

larger credit.

The Earned Income Tax Credit is a credit for people with low to middle incomes. The maximum adjusted gross income that will qualify for the credit is \$56,844 for 2020 tax returns. The new legislation is great news for people with lower incomes who have been financially impacted by the pandemic. It's a refundable credit which means people may get money back, if the amount of the credit exceeds the amount of any tax owed.

The amount of the credit is complex and varies according to income, family size, and filing status. You must have earned income or certain disability income to be eligible. This means you must have income from working for someone else or own your own business or farm.

The credit can be as much as \$6,600, depending on your income, filing status, and number of qualifying children. People without children could be eligible for a credit up to \$538. Children must meet certain relationship, residency, age requirements to be a qualifying child.

It is important to know the requirements when claiming a qualifying child. If you take the credit for children who don't qualify, in addition to large penalties the IRS may disallow the credit for the next 10 years. The IRS audits a relatively high number of people who claim the Earned Income Tax Credit.

The EITC is complex, consequently many people claiming the credit make mistakes. It's a good idea to get help if you are not sure how to correctly claim the credit.

Claiming the EITC increases your chances of being audited. The IRS estimates that between 21 percent to 26 percent of EITC claims are in error. It is very easy and cost effective for the IRS to audit people who claim the EITC. They generally send a letter requesting documentation to prove that the child

qualified. It is very inexpensive for the IRS to simply send a letter. This eliminates the IRS cost of an office visit.

If you use a tax professional, it's best to use one who is knowledgeable and experienced. You're responsible for what's on your tax return even when someone else prepares it for you.

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, YourTax-Care.com. David can be reached at (865) 363-3019 or contacted by email at zublerdavid@gmail.com.

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