

# Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News. **75¢**

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April 27, 2021

**MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK**

Tue 27	80°/61°	
Wed 28	81°/62°	
Thu 29	79°/55°	
Fri 30	66°/45°	
Sat 01	68°/47°	
Sun 02	75°/55°	
Mon 03	76°/59°	

## Sunbright Musicfest

# SUNBRIGHT MUSICFEST

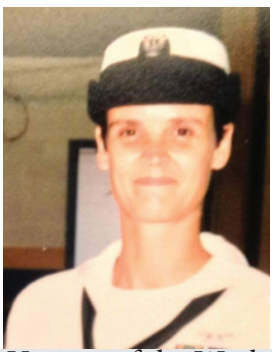
SUNBRIGHT STUDENT VARIETY SHOW  
PHILGOOD BAND  
JOHN ROBERT AND JONAH FREELS  
HIGHER GROUND

**SAT. MAY 8TH**  
**SUNBRIGHT CITY PARK**  
**11:00-3:00**

SILENT AUCTION • VENDORS  
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AND MORE!

JOHNBOYS BBQ

NITZSCHKE'S HOMETWON BAKERY  
GRACIE MAE'S FROZEN TREATS



Veteran of the Week  
Della Elbersole



LEO of the Week  
Jim Smith

Sunbright Musicfest will be held on Saturday, May 8th at Sunbright City Park. The event will begin at 11:00 and will wrap-up around 3:00. Come enjoy a day of live music, delicious food, and fun for the whole family including the giant inflatable slide known as the Cliffhanger.

Performers will include Sunbright band students as well as a variety show of many other talented students, the Philgood Band, John Robert and Jonah Freels, and Higher Ground.

Johnboys BBQ, Nitzschke's Hometown Bakery, and Gracie Mae's Frozen treats will be providing delicious food and yummy desserts.

Vendor spaces are available for \$20. Vendors of all kinds are welcome. Contact Sunbright Band director, Kortney Ross to reserve a vendor spot.

All proceeds from this event will benefit the Sunbright band program.



- \*Free College
- \*\$20,000 Bonus
- \*Job Training

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Wartburg



Sunbright

## Jimmy Frank Wright, 75

Jimmy Frank Wright, age 75, by all the family that loved him passed away April 20, 2021. dearly.

He is preceded in death by his father, Fred "Check" Wright; mother, Willie Beene Wright; brother, Fred Wright, Jr.

He is survived by his brother, B.J. Wright; sister-in-law, Betty Liles Wright; several cousins, nephews, and nieces.

Frank enjoyed watching baseball games and western movies on T.V. He will really be missed

The family will receive friends Sunday, April 25, 2021 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Dr. Jim West officiating. Interment will follow in the Petros Cemetery in Petros.

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

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



**John Burns**  
*Opinion Columnist*

plan for every person born of a woman. I believe that the Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed and the New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed. I believe God transcends how we as human's experience time. God is eternal which denotes he is not susceptible to mass, acceleration, or gravity. He is how time is accurately measured. Human's can begin to experience God, only when time spent alone with God, is more important than time spent in three-dimensional houses of worship. I believe God desires time with me as his child. I believe God is a jealous God, and his primary jealousy is of that as Creator of the universe. I believe that the word of God is more important than the name of God. I have exalted my word above my name, forever, says the Lord. I believe without the word of God, men will do what is right in their own eyes. The word of God, is the book Yeshua will open to Judge the living and the dead.

I believe the true Church is the mystical Church that God ALONE knows by name. I believe the Koinonos is made up of those persons who make Jesus Christ the Lord of their life, seven days a week. I do not believe God saves anyone who is not willing to die for their profession of faith in his preposterous debt payment plan. I do not believe God saves anyone for their own religious reasons. He gave us his word, and it alone can lead a sinner to eternal salvation in Christ. I do not believe God would save anyone for the purpose of allowing them to become judges. I believe the word of God was given to every person born of a woman, to read and decide if God's way is to become your way. I believe the word of God is revealed to those persons who place God first in every matter that will edify the bride of Christ. I believe the bride of Christ is a subset of the body of Christ. I believe the body of Christ will go through the final seven years of gentile reign on Earth. I believe the bride of Christ will be removed from earth before the wrath of God is revealed on earth from heaven. I believe the blessed hope for a true Christian is the rapture of the bride of Christ. To become the bride of Christ, the word of God must become more important than church membership on Earth. I believe Jesus Christ has an inheritance that is yet future and a reward that the Holy Spirit has been providing since he was willing to die for our sins. Jesus Christ's reward is the gentile bride the Holy Spirit convicts to believe that as long as we are in the presence of sin, we require God's eternal mercy. The virgin bride of Christ is made up of those believers who eagerly await Christ's return in the clouds. The virgin bride keeps her lamp trimmed with oil. She would never worship the Gods of this world. The virgin bride is identified by Christ as the Church's of Smyrna and Philadelphia. She is willing to die for her profession of faith and her testimony requires that she go ye into all the world and preach Paul's Gospel. She is concerned with missionary outreach and she would never violate any of God's eternal covenants. She knows her bridegroom is Christ and she awaits the return of Messiah to present her with a mansion in heaven. She will return to earth at the end of the tribulation to rule and reign with Jesus Christ for 1,000 years from Jerusalem.

I believe a sinner is justified by faith through grace. I believe justification removes the penalty of sin permanently from a sinner's account. I believe the only requirement for justification, is the recognition that we all are sinners, the wages of sin is death, and as long as we are in the presence of sin, then the power of sin must be overcome. I believe that the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit is required to move from justification to sanctification. I believe a sinner is sanctified when the word of God becomes a daily tool to wash and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I believe sanctification is achieved through the Holy Spirit alone, as a sinner allows the lord to order their footsteps. I believe the Holy Spirit is the only way a sinner can lose all religious pre-suppositions that God abhors. I believe mono-theism is found only in the Bible. I believe God did not write the word of God to make deals with sinners. I believe the word of God trumps any denominational belief. I believe it was religious tradition that crucified Christ and it must be crucified by a believer if they intend to enter the kingdom of God. I believe the Kingdom of Jesus Christ is a future Kingdom, to be realized on earth upon the chastisement of Israel and the Church who have given heed to Roman wise tales and Pagan religious traditions venerated in America in every denomination. Church traditions and Roman Pagan holidays must be replaced with God's entire word of God if you intend to meet Jesus Christ in the clouds! Move from prostituting grace in church to requiring mercy over your sinful condition every day. Then a sinner moves from sanctification to eventual glorification. Glorification removes a sanctified sinner from the presence of sin for eternity. To ever be with the Lord. Glorification must be preceded by sanctification and sanctification is preceded by justification and they are all a product of the Holy Spirit getting sinners to submit to God's entire word. Teshuva: repent and return to the entire word of God, daily, to find out if what John Burns is saying is true. Your life will never be the same and the real power of God becomes an ever-present reality.

I believe we are living in a time the Bible says more about than any other time in human history. I believe God has never changed and humans change constantly. I believe Mono-theism as practiced by Jews in Jerusalem always pointed to God becoming a lamb in the womb of a virgin Jewish woman descended from King David in the flesh. I believe Christianity is the fulfillment of Judaism. I believe the entire Bible is a Jewish book, offered to all persons born of a woman who believe Jesus Christ died to pay the

### NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

The Morgan County Highway Department will receive sealed annual bids for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Products must meet all state specifications and be able to comply with all state regulations. ANNUAL BID must be printed on the outside of the envelope on bid. More information can be obtained from the Highway Department office at 3519 Morgan County Highway Wartburg, TN from 7am-5pm, Monday through Thursday. You may also contact us by phone at 423-346-6661.

Sealed bids will be publicly opened on June 2, 2021 at 10am on the following categories:

- Asphalt-Hot Mix
- Emulsified Asphalt
- Corrugated Metal Pipe
- Crushed Stone
- Road Striping
- Salt

\*\*\*The Morgan County Highway Department reserved the right to reject any and all bids.\*\*\*

Joe H. Miller Jr.  
Superintendent of Highways  
Morgan County

## My Profession of Faith

I believe in God as Creator. I believe in the God of the Bible. I believe in Hebrew interpretation techniques used by Christ during his ministry to the lost sheep of Israel. I believe in the Law of first mention. The God I choose to believe in is the God of Genesis 1:1. His creative name is Elohim. Elohim is the proper name of the creator God which first identifies God as one God in three distinct persons. I believe Hebrew is God's love language. I believe that from the Hebrew Aleph-Beit I can begin to understand to rightly divide the two-edged sword of God's word. I believe the Bible is one book. I believe that both edges of the sword must be used to understand God's one

world's sin debt. I believe the sons of Issachar are required to understand the times as they pertain to Israel. I believe the entire Bible was written by God in eternity past. I believe it was revealed by men as God saw fit to lay out the times and the seasons. I believe Bible time is God's method for keeping time. I believe the nation of Israel is how God keeps time. I believe the Jewish Sabbaths point to the coming trumpet's sound in the clouds, the ushering in of the times of Jacob's trouble, the final seven years of gentile government on Earth, and the future desert wonderings that will befall the nation of Israel after the satanic trinity breaks whatever agreement is brokered between Pagan Rome in it's second form and God's covenant nation Israel. I believe God has never changed how he keeps time; Pagan Caesar did change the times and seasons to suppress Mono-theism. It was anti-Semitic and it is still hated by God. He has never changed.

I believe one day is evening and morning. From moonrise to moonrise being 24 hours. I believe 7 moonrises to be one week. I believe 28 moonrises to be one month. I believe 12 months to be one year of 360 days. I believe 7 years to be a Shemith cycle. I believe 49 years to be a Jubilee to our God. I believe the entire history of our world can be understood by believers through how God keeps time in our Bible. I believe God will remove the restrainer, Holy Spirit at the rapture of the Bride of Christ. I believe this event was alluded to by Moses when God told him his spirit would not always dwell with man, for his time would be 120 years or 120 Jubilee cycles from Adam's creation, for all the thoughts of man is only evil continually.

Imagine a world with no Holy Spirit indwelling Christians. Absolute chaos! I believe that the Shemith will manifest on September 15th in the Roman year 2022 and the American economy and US dollar will completely collapse. It falls on the feast of trumpets in the Hebrew year 5880. The 120th Jubilee since Adam! I believe we are on the crux of God telling Jesus Christ to go get his bride. I believe before the iron of Daniel 2, can fully harden, the clay must be removed. I believe the bride of Christ is the clay of Daniel 2. Any welder or metallurgist knows before iron can fully harden, the impurities or clay must be removed and that is accomplished by God superheating the world in which we find ourselves. America is now the exporter of everything God abhors. The computer algorithym is becoming the Satanic language the world of Nimrod desires to return to. God has to judge America or he must apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah. I believe Joe Biden is the man of lawlessness out of the Western leg of the United States and revived Roman empire that will one day completely turn on Israel. I believe America is under the abandonment wrath of God and the door for salvation during the gentile Church age is fast closing. Jesus is outside our churches, knocking at the door, wanting back in. I believe we are witnessing the falling away predicted by Jesus, as America clings to the deception of the Roman solar pantheon and combines a little bit of Jesus with Pagan holiday celebrations. The blood of the Lamb and the word of your testimony must become the Christian call again. Church will never sanctify or glorify a saved sinner. Only the Holy Spirit leading a sinner through the word of God can save a sinner and move them into becoming Christ's virgin bride.

I believe God called me out of religious dogma and doctrine and placed my feet upon the solid testimony of the entire word of God. It is a two-edged-sword and both must be understood to rightly divide it's truths. I believe those truths can be summarized by God's two divine attributes every sinner should aspire to: mercy and grace. Mercy is to not receive what we all deserve: DEATH. For the wages of sin is death. The requirement for mercy never recedes while we exist in the presence of sin. We need as much mercy today as we needed when we first came to Christ. Mercy is the foundation in a sinners' life upon which God builds our house of grace. Grace is to receive what we do not deserve, and it is free. It can not be earned through outward piety or works of righteousness. It must be imputed when a sinner has the courage to look in the mirror and ask for mercy from the sin which so easily ensnares us all. When we ask for mercy, grace appears and he has a name. It is Yeshua ha Messiah. Jesus the Christ to western minded Christians. He freely gave his life to pay the sin debt every person born of a woman owes God the creator. He desires we submit to the teachings he gave us out of the Old Testament. He was crucified upon a cross of wood, yet he created the hill upon which it stood!

John Burns April 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.*

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## Coal Dust: Beginnings – a Time of Transition

### For the times they are a-changin’

By Terry Futrell

These words from the song written by Bob Dylan describe my early years in Coalfield, Tennessee, so well. World War II had just ended and numerous GIs returned home from the war, bringing about a population explosion known as the post-war baby boom. Coal mining was rapidly diminishing as the primary occupation of men in the community – the Coalfield mines had closed in the late 1930s and miners now had to travel to places like Fork Mountain or Gobey to find work. More importantly, the landscape of Coalfield was changing as new homes were being built, and homes in the old mining camps were rapidly deteriorating and faced eventual demolition. Prosperity had come for some who found good paying jobs at the government plants in nearby Oak Ridge, the secret city built by the Manhattan Project during World War II. The old three-story Coalfield School building was condemned and replaced by a much larger, single-level building. The country road from Oliver Springs to Wartburg, which bisected Coalfield, was straightened and transformed into a two-lane paved highway. Electricity was being installed in many homes, and the days of ice boxes and coal oil lamps would soon pass. Like it or not, progress had found its way to Coalfield.

It was into this time of transition, a time of accelerating change, that I was born in the year following my father’s return from World War II. I was the sixth child born to my mother. The oldest died in infancy, so there were seven of us crowded into our small four-room house located on what is now Lower Jackson Road between Highway 62 and Little Brushy Mountain. The household expanded to eight in 1949 with the birth of my younger sister. There were no formal street names or street signs in those days and directions were typically stated relative to the location of someone’s house, a business, or geographic feature such as a creek.

Our house was much like those in the old mining camps – a simple framed structure with unpainted vertical boards on the exterior walls, long-since weathered to a dark gray color, with the seams covered by narrow strips of batten. The house was heated by two fireplaces, one in the living room and an opposing one in the single bedroom. Even two fireplaces proved inadequate during the cold winters as there was no insulation in the walls. I recall waking up on cold winter mornings when the temperature was near freezing inside the house.

Electrical wiring was minimal, providing only a single light bulb suspended from the ceiling of each room. There were no electrical appliances, just a wood-burning Home Comfort cook stove and an insulated icebox in the kitchen. The icebox was periodically restocked by the ice man who made regular rounds through the community.

There was no indoor plumbing and, like most of our neighbors, our water came from a shallow, dug well located beside the house.

There was no rural mail delivery – all mail had to be picked up at the post office in “downtown” Coalfield. The Sears and Roebuck catalogs that came in the mail were prized possessions and soon found their way to their ultimate use in the outdoor toilet located just a few yards away from the house.

Our house differed from those in the old mining camps in one very important way – ours was located on five acres of tillable land and my parents owned it. Purchased from Joe Lombard in 1939, the five acres of land and the house had an appraised value of \$225.

Our neighborhood was sparsely populated with only five houses located in the half mile between us and Highway 62 - there are now thirteen. Because there was no television and no air conditioning, and because people spent much of their time working in their large gardens, folks were outdoors a lot. There was much more interaction among neighbors, who frequently spoke to each other and knew each other well. In times of trouble, neighbors were always willing to help.

A death in our community was always a significant event, and there were related traditions that characterized the sense of community that existed. There were no telephones in my early years, so the folks in the commu-

nity came up with an ingenious way of quickly spreading the word about a death. Soon after a death in the community, the church bell at Mount Carmel Cumberland Presbyterian Church was rung once for each year of the deceased person’s age. The sound of the bell could be heard across the community, and by counting the tolls of the bell, people had a good idea of who had died.

When there was a death, the women of the community would gather and prepare the body for burial. In those days, the body typically lay in state at the deceased person’s home or in that of a close relative rather than miles away at the closest funeral home in Oliver Springs, Tennessee. This was of necessity because many people did not own a vehicle. Neighbors would bring food to the home and would “sit up” with the family until very late, perhaps even throughout the night. In many parts of the country, this would be called a wake, but I never heard that term used in Coalfield.

I was vividly reminded of the tradition of ringing the church bell when my mother died in 2000. Although she was a church member elsewhere, she wanted her funeral to be held at Mount Carmel because that was the church in her community. My sister requested that the church bell be rung an hour before mother’s funeral, once for each of her 84 years. Up to that point, I had suppressed any outpouring of emotion, but as I stood on my mother’s front porch and listened to the tolling of the church bell a half mile away, I lost it and the tears flowed, just as they are now.

My earliest memories of our neighbors are of Sam and Janie Jones, who lived next door on the corner until 1950, and Kenneth and Louise Scarbrough, who moved into a house owned by Marion Justice in 1949 that was located adjacent to our back field. Both Janie and Louise were cousins of my father. A couple of years later, Kenneth and Louise moved from the neighborhood and the Harry Ashley family moved into the Justice house. Harry’s grandson, Ronnie Beck, lived with him and became my life-long best friend.

One tradition that passed into oblivion when I was growing up in Coalfield was the rolling store operated by McPeters Grocery and Hardware in Wartburg. In those days, one couldn’t just jump into a car and drive to the nearest grocery store to pick up a loaf of bread, sack of

sugar, or other essentials. To fill this need, the rolling store had traveled throughout Morgan County since 1937, visiting each community once a week.

The rolling store was really a large truck with an enclosed bed in which racks were installed from floor to ceiling on each side. In addition to basic grocery items, the rolling store also carried several hardware

items, such as hoes, rakes, and shovels. For the kids in our neighborhood, it was the rack of candy near the front entrance that drew our attention, and we were always first in line when the rolling store stopped every Monday morning at the nearby street corner. Each week, we would try to scrounge a few pennies, or if we were lucky, a nickel to spend at the rolling store on candy such as Tootsie Rolls and Kits. While a small piece or two of candy was a treat for us, it likely contributed significantly to the tooth decay that was pervasive at that time.

Most families in our neighborhood in the late 1940s and early 1950s had their own milk cow, as well as a few chickens and pigs. Many also had a horse or two for plowing and pulling farm implements such as rakes or wagons. People were still heavily dependent on raising or killing much of their own food. However, as men began taking jobs in Oak Ridge and other nearby towns in the 1950s, the dependence on agriculture significantly diminished for many families in the neighborhood. Truly, the times were “a-changin’” as old traditions passed away and our rural Southern Appalachian community charged ahead into the technology-driven latter half of the twentieth century.



The McPeters Rolling Store played a vital role in serving rural Morgan County communities such as Coalfield. [Photo: Morgan County Genealogical and Historical Society]

## Historically Speaking Planning the original Gates Opening Ceremony

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

In June 1948, Oak Ridge Operations Manager, John C. Franklin, announced that opening the gates of Oak Ridge would be a good step in normalization of the city. He felt the security of the government installations could be maintained by building new fences near each facility and constructing guard houses on the roads to the plants from the city, rather than keep the entire city enclosed as it had been since inception.

Interestingly enough, a poll in the local newspaper, The Oak Ridge Times, indicated the majority of city residents liked things just the way they were. In a city council meeting four days after Franklin's announcement where some 200 citizens showed up and voted ten to one AGAINST opening the city. Nevertheless, the Atomic Energy Commission continued with plans to open the city.

New gatehouses were constructed on the roads leading to the three sites and these buildings are still standing today. Two of these historic structures have been nicely preserved by the Department of Energy and the third has been painted, but the interior remains in need of restoration.

The two restored buildings, one on the Oak Ridge Turnpike on the way to East Tennessee Technology Park (original K-25 site) and one on Scarboro Road on the way to the Y-12 National Security Complex, are both put to excellent use for meetings and training sessions. They each have excellent selections of Ed Westcott black and white historic images of the Manhattan Project era in Oak Ridge.

What John C. Franklin also realized was that the cost to the government to maintain the support to the citizens living in Oak Ridge at the same level as during the Manhattan Project was not practical. Yet, the citizens had come to feel all those amenities were part of their compensation package for living and working here. This was never stated as such, it was just something that became a common perception.

During the Manhattan Project, the government had purposefully held rents low and provided coal for heating, water, electricity and home maintenance at no cost to the residents. Schools were as good as any in the country and the curriculum was better than most other schools. Medical care was excellent and cost a family only \$4 per month.

Chickens were grown on an area chicken farm, so the meat was fresh and plentiful for wartime. Movie theaters, four of them, changed movies four times per week. Bowling lanes were plentiful and leagues from all the plants were constant players.

No wonder the citizens of Oak Ridge did not look forward to the "opening of the gates" or "Operation Open Sesame" the code name for the project. They realized when they had it good and were not anxious for change, voting against it – to no avail.

The first thing the Atomic Energy Commission did to begin their "normalization" was to appoint an advisory city council and a city manager. These changes were met with resistance at every turn.

Yet, proceed the AEC did. By the end of 1948, things were in order and the process of opening the gates was moving ahead. Realizing the high level of resistance to change they faced, the AEC management wisely decided to engage a huge number of individuals on various committees to plan the actual gate opening ceremony. I am convinced they did this out of self-defense as the citizens were so strongly opposed to the change in status of their closed Secret City.

Many changes occurred in 1949. One of the most visible was the change in the newspaper. The Oak Ridger became the name of the newspaper in January of 1949. The newspaper played a key role in the promotion of the opening of the city by printing large pictures of the individuals who were leading the various gate opening planning committees and by constant reminders that the event-filled day was approaching.

There were at least 170 people on 15 committees plus an executive committee chaired by Carl M. Harmon, President Oak Ridge Better Business Association, and co-chaired by W. A. Swanson, Chairman, Oak Ridge Town Council.

This huge level of participation in the planning of the gate opening ceremony achieved the desired result of drastically lowering the resistance to the change.

Although some disgruntled citizens remained, they became less effective in their pleas for status quo as more and more people became engaged in the planning process. The wisdom of the process is evident in hindsight and obviously led to the success of the effort.



The famous gate opening "explosive" ribbon cutting ignited by an electrical signal generated from the Graphite Reactor at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Submitted)

Fredrick (Fred) W. Ford, who was referred to as Director of Community Affairs and also as City Manager, took the lead as the AEC's person "in charge" of the town. Len Z. Dolan had been selected in 1947 as the first City Manager picked by the newly formed AEC, but Ford was the one in the position when the gates opened in 1949. He performed admirably in this most challenging role.

The first announcement, that set the date of the "gate opening" as March 19, 1949, was made on January 28, 1949. A huge headline accompanying the announcement indicated that President Truman had been invited to come "turn the key" along with Tennessee's US Senators Kenneth McKellar and Estes Kefauver. Remember McKellar was the one who according to Dick Smyser told President Roosevelt, "Yes, Mr. President, I can help you hide the cost of the Manhattan Project, just where in Tennessee are you going to put that 'thang'?"

The Oak Ridger continued to provide constant promotion of the event by highlighting the various committees and their assigned tasks. The newspaper gave encouragement by naming the members along with photos of the leaders in various planning roles.

The Program Committee went to work immediately lining up prestigious potential speakers. They ultimately succeeded in securing the Honorable Alben W. Barkley, Vice President of the United States.

The first major political official to accept the Special Guest Committee's invitation was US Senator Brian McMahon of Connecticut. He had chaired both the US Senate Special Committee on Atomic Energy and the US Congress Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. He was the author the Atomic Energy Act forming the Atomic Energy Commission. He accepted on February 24, 1949.

Others followed and Senators McKellar and Kefauver soon joined McMahon on the list. Tennessee Governor Gordon R. Browning accepted and attended. Representatives Jennings and Gore also accepted the invitation and attended the event.

However, President Truman declined as did his daughter, Margaret Truman, who had been asked to accept the honor of "wielding the scissors to cut the ribbon." She had a concert tour conflict. Senator Estes Kefauver helped get Vice President Barkley confirmed as the principal speaker and also assisted in getting Governor Browning committed to attend.

The Program Committee structured the day-long gate opening event around four main venues. First was the actual opening of the gates at 8:30 AM, the parade at 11:00 AM, the speeches on the high school football field at 2:30 PM and the evening reception and banquet at 7:00 PM and 8:00 PM the Oak Terrace in Grove Center. A number of other informal events developed as did numerous parties at various homes.

Finally, as time drew near and March arrived, the Hollywood stars finally began to accept invitations. Dancer Donald O'Connor was first to accept the invitation to be Master of Ceremonies for the evening dance and Alexis Smith agreed to come and be crowned "Miss Atomic Blonde." However, both of these celebrities cancelled a week later!

Good news came in the form of an announcement in the newspaper that cowboy movie star Rod Cameron was coming to ride a horse in the parade. Also announced as accepting were Virginia Mayo, Marie "The Body" McDonald, Adolph Menjou and Jack Bailey. Now we were getting somewhere!

State and Federal elected officials were lining up and even the Chairman of the AEC, David Lilienthal, indicated his intention to attend. TIME, LIFE and NEWSWEEK were all going to cover the event.

In spite of all the participation by leading officials, prominent business and civic leaders as well as a large number of just plain folks who wanted to do all they could to help the gate opening be a success, the Letters to the Editor in The Oak Ridger was filled with complaints.

There were people writing about such issues as "we are going to have to start locking our doors" and what would we do about increased traffic that would surely lead to increased numbers of accidents, door to door salesmen would now come our way and other such nuisance issues.

I must observe that little has changed in 60 years as we continue even today to see the same thing.

Whenever there is a major initiative by our leaders, there are a few vocal naysayers who oppose whatever it is. They don't have a solution, just complaints and negative reactions. Oh well, such is Oak Ridge, but in spite of it all, I am convinced we are a major contributor to the betterment of the world and will eventually find the right mix of ideas to even get the Oak Ridge Mall to be a shining example of energy-independence and advanced demonstration of applied energy technology.

Next week's Historically Speaking column will feature the details of the actual gate opening ceremony and the full text of Fred Ford's speech. This speech was saved from being forever lost by B. B. Blevins, who grew up on Olney Lane in Oak Ridge and when the Fred Ford home at 104 Olney Lane was being closed up years ago, B. B. spotted and rescued Ford's original 3" x 5" note cards of his remarks made on this historic occasion (as noted by Bill Wilcox in The Opening of the Gates to the Secret City).

This Wilcox document was also the source for much of this article.

As you may know, the 60th anniversary of "Operation Open Sesame" the code name for the original gate opening ceremony was March 19, 2009. It was re-enacted on March 21, 2009. There were many events that replicated the original.

Gerald Boyd replayed the role of John Franklin by welcoming the crowd, Jim O'Connor represented Fred Ford and re-enacted his speech (see next week's column for the full text of this momentous welcome to visitors to Oak Ridge).

The historic re-enactment of the Gate Opening Ceremony began at 8:30 AM, at Elza Gate on the east end of Oak Ridge Turnpike. At 10:30 AM, at the American Museum of Science and Energy Auditorium, the premier showing of the new Keith McDaniel documentary film, Operation Open Sesame was shown. At 12:30 PM, at the Wildcat Den or Midtown Community Center at the corner of Robertsville Road and the Oak Ridge Turnpike there was a lunch hosted by Heartland TV Series' Bill Landry.

In addition to the historic documentary film, Operation Open Sesame, a 227-page photographic history book documenting the events of the gate opening was available for purchase.

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

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

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



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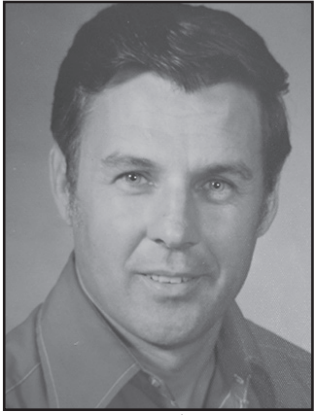
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## Morgan County's Greatest Servants



**Tom Redmon  
Columnist**

If I were to ask you to name five people who you think have been of service to the Morgan County people, we would all probably come up with a different list. Some no doubt would

in a big mansion on the hill, although he could have. Most of the time he and Margaret lived in his apartment building next to the funeral home. When I went there to see him about borrowing some tents for our home coming, for some reason it hit me strange that Wayne was living in an apartment when he was probably one of the riches men in East Tennessee. Wayne gave to about every fire department in the county. He gave to many churches and to any good cause. Wayne Solomon was Morgan County's greatest servant. Wayne's birthday is April 22nd so let's all remember him on that day.

### Arland (Shorty) Spears

No man in Morgan County did more for the elderly than Shorty Spears. He owned a thriving business in Morgan and Roane County but when the Life Care Center opened in 1985, he left that business and dedicated the rest of his life to helping elderly people. He loved to go to the Life Care Center and take their mail to them. That way he got to know each one of them by name. He would go to town to get things they needed and he never expected a penny for his service. When he heard about an elderly person in the community that was having struggles he would go see if he could help them in any way.

Arland loved to play golf and do some other things but nothing could take the place of his visit to the Life Care Center. He always said that it was the joy of his life.

### Dr. John Franklin Love

Anyone who lived in Morgan County in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s should be able to remember "The Delivery Man," Dr. Love. The days are long gone when a doctor would come to your house to deliver a baby or treat someone who was ill. But in the old days it happened a lot in rural areas when hospitals were not available. Dr. Love was one who would get out of the bed anytime at night he was called, get in his black box-shaped car and head out to deliver a baby or see a real sick person. For many years his office was in Gobey and as you know many of the roads were in bad shape. Dr. John Love was like the mailman, he would come through. He came out in all kinds of weather and many times, especially during the depression, the people didn't have money to pay him. Many paid him in farm products or something of little value. When you think of serving Morgan County, Dr. John Franklin Love has to be on your list.

### Mrs. Marjorie Elizabeth Waddell

Many of you had some good teachers in the Morgan County School System, and maybe one or two great ones. I know most of you didn't have Marjorie Waddell, but the ones who did will agree with me, she was a great teacher. She taught for thirty-seven-years in both elementary and high school. She taught at Wartburg Central, Sunbright, Lancing, Deer Lodge, and another small school. She never married. She was fully dedicated to helping her students in anyway she could. I had Mrs. Marjorie in English and I still marvel how this quiet-spoken lady had almost perfect discipline in her class room. She never raised her voice and she was always prepared for every class. We had many good teachers at Central in Wartburg and at least one great one. Mrs. Marjorie served Morgan County by teaching and helping its children and young people not only in scholastic work but character building. To prospective teachers she was the best example. When I taught high school, I tried to remember Mrs. Marjorie and follow many of her technics in teaching teenagers.

### Absalom Barton Peters

Most of you probably do not remember this man because his work and service in Morgan County happened before most of us were born. Barton was born in July 1871 and he died on July 15, 1923. Professor Peters never graduated from an accredited high school or college, yet he was an educated man in a true sense of the word. He was educated in the schools of Morgan County and Maryville College getting an education in those days was difficult and our school systems were nothing like they are today. Barton spent most of his time in Burrville but he spent some time in Mississippi and Louisiana. In Louisiana he was Parish Superintendent of Schools at St. Thomas Parish and later on he became Vice President of Whitworth College in Brookhaven, Miss. His last job there was President of Maxfield College in Louisiana. Barton was a true patriot and had a true love for his country. When President McKinley called for volunteers in 1893 to defend our country against Spain, he was one of the first to enlist. Professor Barton Peters was a Christian and he believed no man could be a true success without being a Christian. Barton taught many years in Morgan County and became Superintendent of Schools in 1917 and served two terms. The teachers of Morgan County had to sign a very strict conduct contract on August 26, 1921. A few of the requirements were; No one should have charge of children unless that person is a Christian.

You are expected to attend church and Sunday school. You are required to read at least 10 verses in the Bible every morning in your school. Men like Professor Peters set the stage for moral and religious principles for years to come in our county and state. Barton was the Father of John Peters and Grandfather of Jon Robbins Peters. I could name many more who have served Morgan County well. People like the Knisleys, John R. Dillon, Harry Fritts, and more. I could name all 63 of the Morgan County men who gave their lives in the Second World War because they served Morgan County as well as our country. Thanks to all who served in the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and Desert Storm, they too have served our great country.

## To Morgan County Today Readers Tom Redmon Articles

I am sorry but because of health reasons I am going to have to take some time off. When my health improves, I hope to start writing again. I still have some good stories to tell if I can get out and do research. Unlike me most of you probably have spent most or all of your life in Morgan County. I have spent forty-four-years in Cookeville and Bradenton, Florida. Counting my military and college time and my time in Joliet, Ill. I have spent well over 50% of my time here on earth away from Tennessee (Wartburg).

I really appreciate all of you reading my columns and the comments I have received. It has really been good for me during this time in my life. Physically I can do very little but I'm thankful to still have my mind, except for remembering names, and writing has probably helped me keep my mind. I certainly don't want to develop Dementia or Alzheimer's.

I want to encourage you to still support the Morgan County Today. I don't believe this is goodbye for me and you'll never know when my columns will start reappearing again. It depends on my health. I do plan on getting a proof reader when I return. Tommy is working hard to make this paper a success.

I hope to see you soon.

T. R.

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

## Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

### Class of 2021

Class of 2021, I am very proud of you. The Morgan County community is proud of your academic achievements and they support your future career aspirations. You can and will accomplish many great things after your graduation. Please do not let fear control your destiny. I know if you adhere to this advice, you will create an everlasting legacy. As Mark Twain said it best, "The two most important events of your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why."

To the class of 2021, your academic achievements, hard work, and success won't go unnoticed. We know the sacrifices you made, and you are the future generation of America. We recognize these past 4 years haven't been easy; you have faced my challenges and adversities. In the end, you will play a very important role in our society. We need your skills, innovation, talents, and abilities in the public and private sectors. We are counting on you.

Many of you will go on to college, pursue a vocational route, or immediately enter into the work force. Many of you will face a challenging 2021, but don't give up on your pursuit of purpose and passion. You control your own career destiny. Remember to always invest in yourselves though knowledge and seek advice from those of us with past experience.

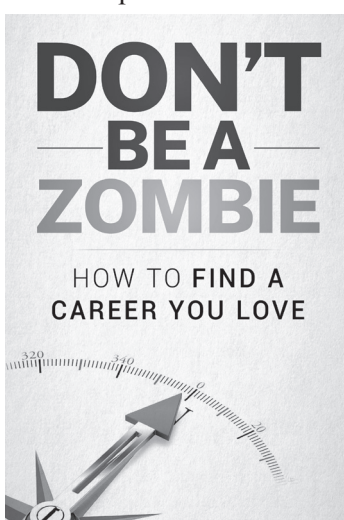
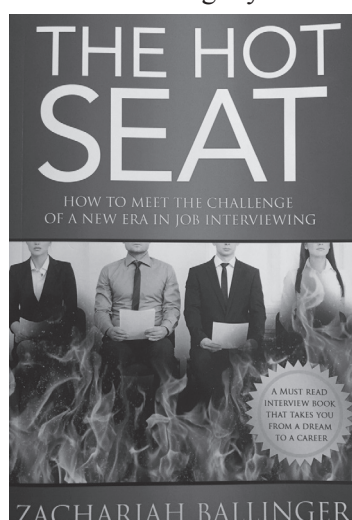
Are you a family member or friend of a student from the class of 2021? If you are, you will want to pay attention to this very important announcement. I have the perfect gift recommendation for every high school senior. I am running a special for my Morgan County peeps only! You will get the



opportunity to give the greatest gift to a high school graduate: the gift of knowledge.

Knowledge is power. To an 18-year-old or 19-year-old adult, they might not appreciate a book in the moment. That is completely okay. If the gift is given from the heart, then eventually one day, they will pick up and read the book for knowledge. If the book changes their life, they will never forget you.

I am offering my two books for the price of one!



"Don't be a Zombie: How to Find a Career you Love" and "The Hot Seat: How to Meet the Challenge of a New Era in Job Interviewing" can be purchased through these instructions for only

17.99 + shipping and handling. That's two signed copies of my books for your high school graduate. HOW DO I ORDER THIS DEAL?

Email me: [zack@zackballinger.com](mailto:zack@zackballinger.com) and mention in the subject line, "Morgan County Today". My team will be in quick communication with you about payment and shipping details.

Congratulations Class of 2021!!

How can I find or listen to The Zack Ballinger Show? The show will have 2 to 3 guests per week on various careers in The United States. You can listen live via YouTube by searching for Zack Ballinger and subscribing. The show is also posted on Facebook on [www.facebook.com/thezackballinger](http://www.facebook.com/thezackballinger). What if you want to listen to a podcast? The show can be found on iTunes, iHeartRadio, and Spotify: search for The Zack Ballinger Show and you can find all the episodes.

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



**Zack Ballinger**

Sandra Helton's weekly column

## Oakdale Area News

email: kvhelton@highland.net



A few weeks ago I mentioned that daffodils, jonquils and forsythias were especially vibrant and pretty this year. I must say the wildflowers are showing off as well. The wild phlox seem to be more abundant than usual and they are so pretty. I have seen a lot of pretty pictures posted on Facebook that have been taken by friends who have taken hikes and found many pretty wildflowers. Creation is beautiful!

Happy Anniversary to Mickey and Jeannie Bingham who will celebrate their 52 anniversary on May 3rd. Wishing you many more blessed years.

Heather and Savannah Alonso will host an online auction to raise funds for their upcoming American Heart Association Benefit Beach Ride. The auction will begin at 9:00 a.m. on May 1 and will end at 10:00 p.m. on May 2. They would like to thank everyone who has generously donated items for the auction. They welcome more donations this week. Just reach out to Heather Alonso if you have an item or service to donate. All proceeds will go to the American Heart Association.

Belated birthday greetings to Brady Bingham who celebrated 23 years on Saturday, April 24. Belated birthday wishes to Cole Tilson who turned 20 years old on April 22 and Blake Miller who turned 20 years old on April 24. You boys are making me feel old because it seems like you were born yesterday!

Happy Birthday to our niece, Ashley Helton, who celebrated her birthday April 26.

Happy Birthday to Karen Kittrell who will celebrate her birthday Wednesday, April 28.

Happy Birthday to our "Sisters in Love" Janine Shelton who is celebrating her birthday today, April 27 and Priscilla Helton who will celebrate her birthday tomorrow, April 28.

Happy Birthday to Heather Reed who has a birthday April 29.

Birthday Greetings to Sharon Grace Elam who will celebrate her birthday on May 2. Sharon and her husband, Mike, live in Morrison, TN.

Happy Birthday to two of our good buddies who celebrate their birthdays on May 2. Wishing a wonderful day to Donnie Norris and Reggie

Headrick.

Maverick Smith was awarded the Scholar Athlete Award on April 3 during the Tennessee Tech Football Game. Congratulations Maverick!

Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you? Simply follow the instructions below to select "Morgan Scott Project Thrift Store" as your charity and activate Amazon Smile in the app. They'll donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to Morgan Scott Project.

Here's how it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu ) & tap on "Amazon Smile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Morgan Scott Project Thrift Store" as your charity
4. Follow on-screen instructions to activate Amazon Smile in the mobile app.

Tennessee Housing Development offers Covid 19 rent and utility assistance for those who qualify. Renters who have experienced economic hardship beginning on or after March 13, 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and who meet additional eligibility requirements will qualify for this assistance. You can learn more at <https://thda.org/help-for-renters-section-8/covidrentrelief>.

Appointments are now being accepted for children to register for Pre K in Morgan County Schools. Appointments can be made by calling 423-346-6214 and asking for Julie. To complete the application for Pre K, a copy of the child's Social Security Card, a copy of their official state birth certificate, proof of income, a copy of the child's insurance card and proof of Morgan County residency must be presented. Complete details can be found at [www.mcsed.net](http://www.mcsed.net). Kindergarten Registration will be held at Oakdale School on May 10 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**Make sure you test positive for Faith**

**Keep distance from Doubt**

**Isolate from Fear**

**Trust GOD for it all.**

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

## Romans 1

(Romans 1:1-7) the salutation: with a customary greeting, Paul introduces himself: in his relation to Christ (his servant) and to others (a specially endowed messenger of God---an apostle). His mission is to carry on that begun by the Old Testament prophets as revealed in the former Scriptures. Jesus is David's offspring and God's Son---as demonstrated by his resurrection from the grave. Through Christ, Paul had received grace in the salvation of his soul, and an apostolic appointment, which was to be expressed by an obedience that results from faith (namely immersion into Christ, Acts 22:16). From the opening moment of this letter there is a negation of the false idea that "faith alone" justifies, independent of obedience. Paul emphasizes his ministry to "all nations," even to those "called" (by the gospel) (2 Thes. 2:14). His feelings toward these beloved saints in Rome are tenderly expressed in the greeting of grace and peace.

(Romans 1:8-15) desire to visit Christians in Rome: Paul thanks God for the faith of these Christians, so widely known throughout the Roman world (16:19). God knows how Paul has loved these saints and had them in his prayers so frequently. One focus of this was that he might be allowed to visit them (though he never dreamed at this time how that would come about). One object of his coming would be to impart "some spiritual gift" to them (v.11), the precise miraculous gifts to confirm their gospel message from the very beginning of the church. This gift may be something miraculous or that of a more general nature (Acts 8:18).

Paul is confident that his visit would be a blessing---to him and to them (v.12). Often he had planned to come to them to assist them spiritually, but more pressing circumstances had hindered such. He acknowledges the significant Gentile element of this church (v. 13). Paul labored under a heavy "debt" to proclaim the gospel to all. The debt doubtless involved: (a) his abiding memories of how he had persecuted the Christian Way (1 Tim. 1:12-13); (b) his passionate love for Christ; (c) his awareness of the horrible consequence of being lost. The debt also includes his passion to proclaim more advanced elements of the gospel to these brothers in Rome (v. 15).

(Romans 1:16-17) the just shall live by faith: these two verses could be called the thesis of this gospel. They embody a number of great truths. (a) Paul was not ashamed of the gospel because its origin was with God (Mk. 1:14). He thus believed it, had embraced it, loved it, proclaimed it, defended it, and was persecuted for it. He was so welded to it that, in a sense, he could refer to it as "my gospel" (2:16). Ultimately, he died for it (2 Tim. 4:6-8). (b) The nature of the gospel was in the reality of its "good news"---good in content (concerning Christ's atoning death, his resurrection, and glorification), good in regulating earthly conduct, and good for directing one's life heavenward. (c) Moreover, it was powerful in force, divine in essence, and effective in procuring salvation from sin. It was not-discriminating in that it embraced the two major segments of humanity---Jew and Gentile alike.

Additionally, the apostle notes that the blessings of the gospel are conditional. The gospel conveys information about how to access the power of God to save the lost. But this power is efficacious only on behalf of those who believe its message. The verb "believe" reflects a Greek tense that indicates it is an active faith which remains sustained (Heb. 3:12). Belief is not a one-time expression that forever saves beyond the possibility of forfeiture and condemnation (Heb. 10:39). Belief is neither a mere acknowledgement of historical facts nor simply an emotional disposition to "trust" Christ as Savior. Instead, it also embraces obedience (Jn. 3:36; Heb. 5:8-9). Even in this letter to Roman Christians, the apostle plainly demonstrates these people were made "free from sin" as a result of having been "obedient from the heart" to a specific "form of teaching" (6:17-18; 3-4).

Within the gospel of Christ (and nowhere else) the "righteousness of God" is revealed. The "righteousness of God" is the divine pattern whereby sinful people may be "credited" (Rom. 4:3) as righteous. Such is not on the basis of meritorious, humanly devised works (Tit. 3:5), but by means of the sacrificial death of Jesus, when accessed by obedient faith, as indicated later in this letter (3:21-26; 5:1; 6:3-4).

The expression, "from faith unto faith," is highly controversial. It certainly does not suggest the idea that salvation is obtained solely by faith---if faith is viewed in the sense of an isolated act of believing, divorced from supplementary conditions of redemption. It would be a different matter if "faith unto faith" signified a life of obedient faith, as reflected by the examples of dedication catalogued in Hebrews 11 (Jas. 2:14-16). The "faith unto faith" expression may express the idea of faith's growth from weakness to strength (14:1; 15:1; Psa. 84:5-7).

Finally, the apostolic declaration is undergirded by inspired Old Testament precedent---"as it stands written" (Hab. 2:4)---a verbal tense expressing the validity of what has been written. The principle of having life by being credited as just by means of faithfulness spans the ages.

(Romans 1:18-32) God's indictment of the pagan world: the theme of God's wrath, while unpopular with self-absorbed society, is entirely biblical. Divine wrath, however, must not be viewed as analogous to human anger. The Lord's wrath is not impulsive or explosive. It is the measured justice that responds to human rebellion. God's wrath is revealed because of sin; it is revealed in: (a) the violent acts of nature (8:22), (b) the testimony of history (Gen. 6-9), (c) the sacrifice of the cross, and (d) the prophecies of the end of time (Rev. 14:9-12).

The Gentile world is the particular focus of this segment. The unity and character of God was universally manifested to the ancient world.

Even though Jehovah did not manifest himself visibly, since the dawn of creation evidence of his existence was apparent in his marvelously designed universe. Such is so clearly manifest that those who reject the evidence of his power and divine nature are utterly (without excuse (v.18-20) note: the inference that humanity has existed since) the beginning of the creation. Man was not a later development!

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MELVIN HOWARD

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## Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week

We are pleased to honor Caney Creek resident Senior Chief (Ret.) Della Elbersole as the veteran of the week. Della honorably served in both the Tennessee Army National Guard and the United States Navy.

Della grew up in Spartanburg, South Carolina. She was inspired to serve in the military by the examples given to her from her dad's and her high school band director's service to our country in the United States Army.

Della first served in the Tennessee Army National Guard. She completed Basic Combat Training for the United States Army at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. She was then assigned to the 771st Maintenance Company in Johnson City, Tennessee, and served in that unit as a (71L) Admin Specialist and the Commander's Driver.

After she completed her term of service with the Tennessee Army National Guard, she began her career in the United States Navy. She completed Naval Recruit Training at the NRTC in Orlando, Florida, and A School in Memphis, Tennessee, where she became a qualified Aviation Structural Mechanic. Later, in her Navy career, she became the very first combat qualified female to serve as a P-3 Sub Hunter Flight Engineer.

Della's service in the United States Navy required her to serve in nu-



merous Naval installations to include; VP62 in Florida, VP92 in Massachusetts, VP94 in New Orleans, VP60 in Chicago, and HC660 in Mayport, Florida. Her deployments include service in; Norway, Iceland, Japan, Korea, France, Sicily, and numerous countries in South America.

When asked what was the highlight of her military career, she replied, "graduating Flight Engineer School because it had a 75% failure rate and earning the rank of Senior Chief (E-8)."

Not only did Della see the world throughout her service in the Navy, but she also met her husband, Steve, who also served in the Navy. They have now been married for thirty-one years!

Della also proved to remain physically fit after her military service by running in numerous 5 K runs and one 13.1 K. Senior Chief (Ret.) Della Elbersole, we at Morgan County Today thank you for your honorable military service and for being a shining light to women whom you inspired to enlist and serve in combat roles as you trailblazed the way for them by serving as the first combat qualified P-3 Sub Hunter Flight Engineer. You are truly an inspiration. Thank you, and God bless you!

## Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

This week we honor fallen Iowa State Patrol Sergeant Jim K. Smith as the law enforcement officer of the week.

Sergeant Smith was shot and killed on April 9, 2021, while attempting to arrest a subject who had assaulted and disarmed another law enforcement officer during a traffic stop.

The subject initially fled as officers attempted to stop him but stopped and confronted them and antagonized them to shoot him. The man then assaulted one of the officers and disarmed him after

placing the officer in a chokehold. He was able to get back into his car and fled to his home.

Responding officers established a perimeter around the home and established an arrest team. When the arrest team entered the home, the man opened fire with a shot-



gun, striking Sergeant Jim Smith. Other members of the team were able to remove Sergeant Smith from the home. He was then transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. The subject shot at an Iowa

State Patrol tactical team at about 11:50 pm. The man was wounded by return fire, taken into custody, and charged with murder.

Sergeant Smith was fifty-one-years old and had served with the Iowa State Patrol for 27 years. He is survived by his wife, two children, brother, and sister. Sergeant Smith paid the ultimate sacrifice while protecting and serving others. Let's honor him, his service, and all who serve in blue.



David Zubler

### New rules for Covid-related retirement distributions

The Cares Act provides favorable tax treatment for certain withdrawals from retirement plans and IRAs. Certain distributions from IRAs or workplace retirement plans to qualified individuals from Jan. 1, 2020 through Dec. 30, 2020, may be treated as coronavirus-related distributions. These distributions are not subject to the 10% additional tax on early distributions (including the 25% additional tax on certain SIMPLE IRA distributions). Taxes on coronavirus-related distributions are includible in taxable income over a three-year period by taking one-third each year. Or if elected, you can take the entire amount in the year you take the distribution.

To be eligible for COVID-19 relief, coronavirus-related withdrawals or loans can only be made to an individual if: The individual (or the individual's spouse or dependent) is diagnosed with Covid-19 by a test approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Cosmetics Act. The individual (or spouse or a member of the household) experiences adverse financial consequences as a result of being quarantined, being furloughed or laid off, having work hours reduced, being unable to work due to lack of childcare, having a reduction in pay in pay (or self-employment income), or having a job offer rescinded or start date for a job delayed to COVID-19. Closing or reducing hours of a business owned or operated by the individual, the individual's spouse, or a member of the individual's household, due to COVID-19. Coronavirus-related distributions may be repaid to an IRA or workplace retirement plan

within three years. If you had an outstanding loan balance when you left employment, the plan sponsor will usually offset the loan balance against your benefit. The rules for required minimum distributions (RMD) have also changed. Individuals who reached age 70 1/2 before 2020 and were still employed, but terminated employment in 2020, would normally have a 2020 RMD due by April 1, 2021, from their workplace retirement plan. This RMD is also waived as part of the CARES Act relief. Roth IRAs don't require withdrawals until after the death of the owner. The Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act changed the age when individuals must begin taking withdrawals from their retirement accounts. Someone born on or before June 30, 1949, was required to start getting RMDs for the year they reached the age of 70 1/2. However, under the SECURE Act, if a person's 70th birthday is July 1, 2019, or later, they do not have to take their first RMD until the year they reach age 72. The Coronavirus, Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act waived RMDs during 2020 so seniors and retirees, including beneficiaries with inherited accounts, were not required to take money out of IRAs and workplace retirement plans. The waiver included RMDs for individuals who turned age 70 1/2 in 2019 and took their first RMD in 2020.

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](mailto:zublerdavid@gmail.com).

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**Carol Claros**  
Opinion Columnist

## The Average Janes Take

Americans are not afraid of migrating. Packing up and leaving to places unknown, has always been an American tradition and value dating back to colonial history. Americans relocate for college, new job opportunities, retirement, better climate or simply to be within closer proximity to family. However, a new trend has started where many blue [democratic] states are seeing people leave in droves to move to more conservative [republican] parts of the country.

My name is Carol and I am what is called a "leftugee." Although I was born and raised in Massachusetts (MA), unlike many Americans, I am the daughter of Colombian immigrants who came to this country chasing the American dream. My mother and father worked hard all their lives, never expecting or receiving a handout and in doing so, instilled a work ethic in me that I am most proud of. I often wondered why they would leave such a beautiful country like Colombia to which their response was always, "There are no opportunities in a country that is overrun by corrupt politicians and drug lords with an insatiable lust for money and power." As a child, I did not fully understand what this meant. It wasn't until I started my first job and noticed so much of my money going to taxes that I began asking, "What are taxes? Where do our American tax paying dollars go? And why am I paying so much?" These were things I was never taught in school. These were also unfortunately things, like most young Americans, I had to learn the hard way. I recall often driving over pothole-ridden streets of MA questioning, "If I pay so much in taxes, why are the roads in such terrible conditions?" In addition, I would often see many disabled veterans, whom after all their service to this country, wound up sitting on street corners homeless and panhandling for money. "If we pay so much in taxes, why aren't there more services for our veterans to keep them off the streets?" And if the rising homeless population, neglected infrastructure wasn't enough to raise concern, our public schools are falling apart both figuratively and literally. Many of which don't have air conditioning and during cold seasons, have failed heating systems that cannot keep children warm and safe. On top of this, the books are worn and tattered with missing pages and many of the districts are chronically underperforming. I continue to witness corrupt politicians become richer while the average citizen is being taxed out of owning their property.

Many people within the state of MA identify as progressive democrats, yet they hate the way the democratic machine runs their local politics. Instead of voting these politicians out, they continue

to vote the same people back into office. I worked with my local republican party with hopes of bringing transparency and accountability to the State House. But I quickly learned that my efforts were rendered futile when going up against the democratic "machine." So, I decided to take my battles in a different direction and continued to work as a nurse. Yet I continued to see my taxes increase ultimately to witness the deterioration of my what was once my beautiful home state.

It wasn't until March of 2020 that I decided enough was enough. COVID was hitting our communities and the local state government saw this instead as an opportunity to seize more control over small business and taxpayers. On the other hand, larger brand name stores were allowed to stay open while small mom-and-pop shops were being forced out of business. As for schools, they STILL remain closed, only offering remote learning, automatically excluding any low-income families that cannot afford internet or lack the infrastructure within their areas to service wifi- a complete disservice to our children who are begging to return to normalcy. I watched my elderly neighbors, living on a fixed income, struggle to pay their bills and their ever-increasing tax burdens. So its no wonder that after all this, many Americans decided it was best to pack up and move, or as I see it, "vote with their feet" and migrate elsewhere.

Its ironic that I now find myself in a similar situation like my parents before me, migrating in order to form a better life and opportunities for my family, which sadly includes searching for a place to live that hasn't been overly corrupted with one-party politics. We sold our home and sold most of what we owned to uproot our lives for a better quality of life. We settled in Tennessee for its lower taxes, homesteading opportunities, small tight knit communities, lower cost of living, warmer climate and less governance. We were pleasantly surprised to discover Morgan County had little if any restrictions to build new homes. It was a breath of fresh air- literally! In comparison, MA requires residents to provide permit for the most basic improvements to your own home. Here in TN we have the freedom to do what we want on our own property! Now I'm sure many of you are reading this article thinking, "Oh great, another damn Yankee moving here to turn our state purple or blue." But let me put those concerns to rest. See I, like many other transplants, came to TN seeking freedom and independence from the state government. I personally know what it is like to see your hard-earned tax dollars get squandered away by crooked politicians, without being provided any type of transparency as to where it went and why. I know what it is to live on a budget, unlike most government officials and politicians who for the record are given a \$40k monthly stipend for renovating their government offices, because of course their furniture and comfort is critical to their service and leadership.

Recently, we found ourselves at a crossroads. The county assessor, Biff Wilson, was proposing a penalty of \$250 for anyone not pulling a building permit. Thankfully, he removed his proposal after having received strong opposition from the community. But let that instance serve as a warning and a lesson. In my opinion, (you can agree or disagree) we should get rid of building permits altogether. A building permit is nothing more than a piece of paper asking the states local government permission to build upon and improve on your own property. Technically speaking, it is an invasion of privacy, or in other words, a forfeiture of the idea of privacy today. A building permit does not protect you nor does it insure structural integrity towards the build of your house and only gives the government permission to raise your taxes at a later date. There is no incentive to build upon or improve your property if big government is going to penalize you for doing so. Penalizing home and landowners by raising their taxes, does not help keep Morgan County beautiful. These are times of economic hardship! 90% of Americans are living in debt or on borrowed money. I have met people that have had to work more than two jobs in order to provide enough income to support their families. And if they choose to save their hard-earned money and make improvements to their land, they are penalized by having their taxes raised? Why?? We pay taxes on goods purchased by default. We pay taxes on our property- excluding the top 5% who write off properties as being owned by private education institutions, religious organizations, hospitals, and charitable groups. Yes, that's how the rich stay rich and the poor stay poor. Why does the government feel it is entitled to more tax revenue? Furthermore, where does the spending exactly go? I am thinking of my elderly neighbors who are living on a fixed income, who have given so much of their lives to this very community that I have come to love so dearly. They should not be faced with a decision of neglecting improvements out of fear that they will be taxed off of their property. I refuse to let Morgan County become another overtaxed and over fined community run by greedy, crony capitalist politicians.

Heed my warning. MA was the birthplace of the American revolution. Yet today, it would hardly be recognized for its freedom and liberty. Today, MA is known for its high taxes and corrupt one party government. Stay vigilant! Go to town meetings! Get to know your elected town officials. Stay involved. As the great Thomas Jefferson said, "Let the eye of vigilance never be closed." If you allow your local government even one shred of your liberty, you'll be scratching your head later wondering how your once beautiful conservative state turned into another overly-taxed pothole with nothing to show for it.

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