

# Morgan County Today

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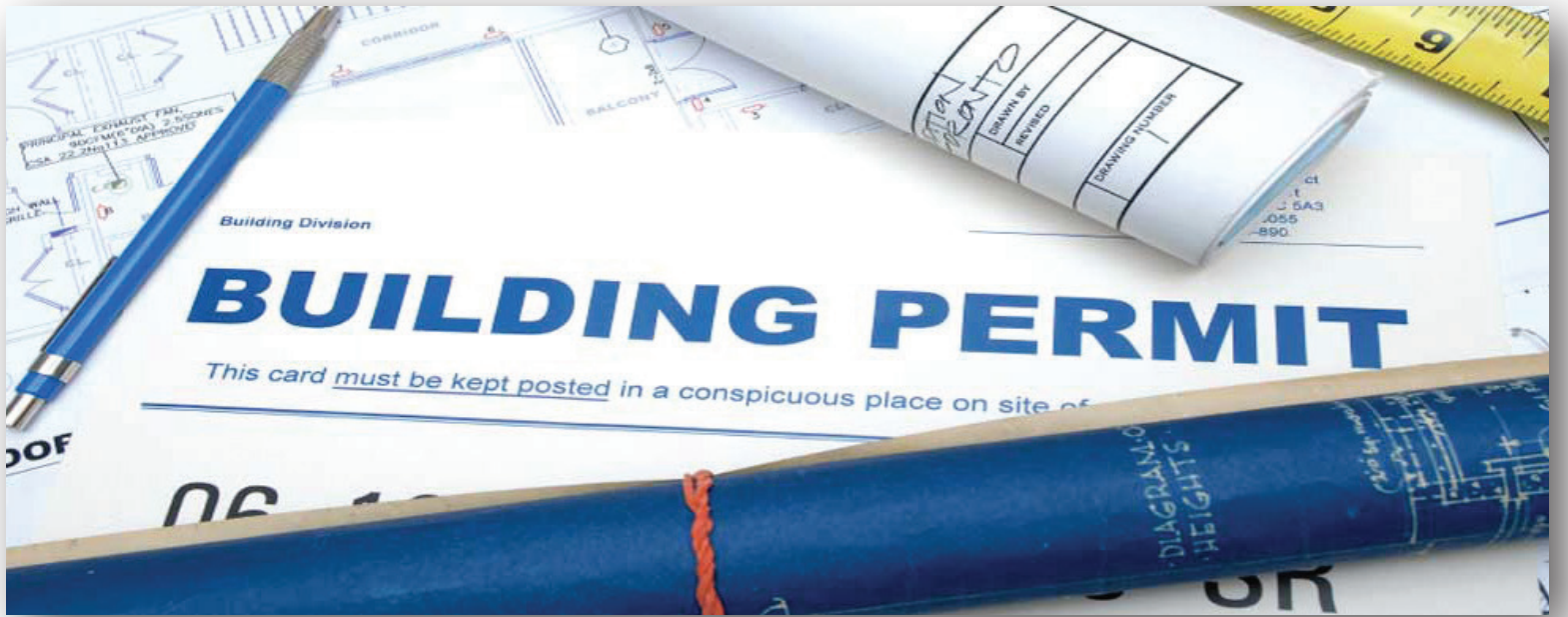
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April 6, 2021

## MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK

Tue 06	71°/51°	
Wed 07	73°/58°	
Thu 08	68°/55°	
Fri 09	65°/51°	
Sat 10	64°/49°	
Sun 11	63°/48°	
Mon 12	66°/47°	

# To Fine or Not To Fine, That is The Question



Veteran of the Week  
Ashley Flores



LEO of the Week  
Chad Walker



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## Property Assessor Biff Wilson to propose fine for failure to get a building permit.

Morgan County is a wonderful place to live for many reasons. One of those reasons is the small government approach that has been around for as long as most can remember. Government regulation is a minimum here and most people like it that way.

One of those freedom from taxes/fees is the building permit process in Morgan County. Currently when a property owner wants to build an addition or add a detached building on to their property they are supposed to get a free building permit from the Property Assessor's office. There is no fee and if the property owner does not obtain one prior to building there is no penalty or fee for failure to do so. That could soon change at the upcoming County Commission meeting on April 12.

Property Assessor Biff Wilson plans to propose a change that he says would make things more "fair and equitable" for all citizens in Morgan County by imposing a fine for failing to pickup the building permit prior to building on your property.

Once we received word of the potential fine we reached out to P.A. Wilson and he explained his stance for proposing the fine. We also reached out to County Executive Langley who said he is opposed to the proposal.

Wilson has already shared his proposal with the Building Committee which voted 4-1 to send it to the full County Com-

mission. (Bill Shannon voted NO)

Several Commissioners have expressed their opposition to the proposal already. (Jerry Zorsch, Robert Byrd, Earl Headrick, Bill Shannon, Mike Raiford) (Headrick voted yes on committee but has sense committed to voting NO).

You can call your commissioners and express your concern in favor or opposition to this proposal. Monday April 12 at 7pm is the next meeting where this will be proposed before the full commission at the Morgan County Courthouse in Wartburg. It is open to the public.

The following is a statement from Executive Langley, "There has been a lot of conversation surrounding Building Permits in Morgan County in the last few weeks. I wanted to take a minute to explain what is happening and what my stand is on the current proposition that will be coming before the Morgan County Commission.

First, I want to be crystal clear - I am adamantly opposed and I will stand against the Building Permit proposition that is working its way to the County Commission at this time.

The proposal is to attach a fine to anyone who fails to get a Building Permit when a structure is built, or improvements are made to an existing structure on your property. In other words, the way the law stands now, if you build a house now, you are required to get a building permit, however, there is no fine if a citizen fails to get a building permit.

Under the new proposition, a citizen would be required to get a permit if you build a house on

your property and if you fail to get a building permit, you will be issued a fine. NOT ONLY WILL THIS APPLY TO BUILDING A NEW HOUSE, but any improvement made to your property would require you to obtain a building permit and failure to do so will result in a fine.

FOR EXAMPLE: If you replace your windows, put new siding on your house, or put a storage building on your property, you will be required to get a building permit. Failure to get a building permit will result in a fine.

This is unacceptable to me. I do not want the citizens of Morgan County saddled with another hidden tax. We already have some of the highest property taxes in the state of Tennessee. Now we are looking at a hidden tax in the form of a fine for failure to get a building permit for improvements made to your property. I want you to know that I am using the weight of my office to oppose this measure in no uncertain terms. I urge you to contact your County Commissioners and ask them to vote "NO" for any measure that attaches a fine to building permits.

This proposal could result in some more revenue for the county government, but I was elected by the people of Morgan County to be their voice and stand for them. In this case, I am standing up for the people of Morgan County and protecting their interest.

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Wartburg



Sunbright

**Alice Marie Bolling (McCann), 82**

Alice Marie Bolling (McCann), age 82 passed away March 28, 2021. She was born May 24, 1939.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, Clayton L. Bolling; parents, Charlie and Brattie McCann.

She is survived by her children, Carl D. Bolling and wife, Tammy of Oliver Springs and Tina Hollinsworth and husband, Charles of Oak Ridge and Paul L. Bolling of Burrville; grandsons, Zach Phillips, Chris Bolling and Andrew Hollinsworth; granddaughters, Amber Bolling Jackson, Stephanie Phillips, Brittany Bolling and Caitlin Hollinsworth; great grandchildren, Carson Phillips, Paisley Jack-

son, Stella Jackson, Annaleese Hollinsworth; sisters, Mary Lou Bolling and Martha Gunter and a host of extended family and friends.

She was a very accomplished wife, mother, sister, friend and oh by the way... best cook ever!

The family will receive friends Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 4:00 p.m. with Bro. Roy Langley officiating. Interment will follow in the Adams Hill Cemetery in Deer Lodge.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Alice Marie Bolling.

**David Earl Ward, 63**

With a very sad and heavy heart, "David Earl Ward" 63 of Wartburg, went to be with our Lord, March 31, 2021. He will be very missed by the ones he left behind but rejoicing with the ones that went before him. He loved his family with all his heart. He enjoyed playing music for many, many years. Knocking on heaven's doors was one of his favorite songs, and ours too. Anyone that knew him, loved him. He was a very loving and giving person all around, he always helped anyone that asked, he always put everyone before his own needs. He was a fabricator, machinist, and welder; Blessed, he was most passionate about playing music.

He is preceded in death by his parents, J.H. Ward and Clara Jo (Koger) Ward of Jamestown.

He is survived by his wife: Nancy Anissa Ward of Wartburg, and their children. Son: David "Jordan" Ward of Wartburg, Daughter: Erika (Steven) Woolums, and grandchildren: Destini Ward, and Deacon Woolums.

By his ex-wife Debbie Rosenbaum of Jamestown, and their daughters Danita (Owen) Simoneau of Allardt, Grandkids: Zackery Winningham, Anissa Harding, Justin Brooks. Great granddaughter: Ayslee Harding, And Delana (Dwight) Miller of Clark range, and grandson: Austin Hensley

Brothers and sisters: Larry (Linda) Ward of Jamestown, Anita (Tony) York of Jamestown, Marsha (Vincent Lyons) Andrews of Macon Georgia, and Ricky (Sandy) Ward of Jamestown. And a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Memorial services will be held on Monday, April 5, 2021 at 7:00 pm at the Jennings Funeral Homes Chapel in Jamestown.

The family will receive friends on Monday, April 5, 2021 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Jennings Funeral Homes Chapel in Jamestown.

Schubert Funeral Home posted obituary as a courtesy of the Family of David Ward.

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

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Vaccinated? COVID Advice Clear as Mud

If you're confused about COVID vaccine and when our lives are going to change for the better, you're not alone.

We're considered to be fully vaccinated once two weeks have passed after the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after the one-dose Johnson & Johnson.

What's new is this, per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: If fully vaccinated, you can be indoors with other fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask. You can meet indoors with unvaccinated people in one household unless one of those people has a health risk. If you've been around someone who has COVID, you don't have to stay away from people or get tested unless you have symptoms ... or live in a group setting. In that case, stay away from others for 14 days and get tested, even if you don't have symptoms.

Clear as mud, right?

It gets worse. According to the CDC, as fabulous as this new vaccine is, even if fully vaccinated, we still need to wear masks in public. We still need to social distance. We still need to avoid medium and large crowds. We still need to stay out of poorly ventilated spaces. We should delay travel.

So what's the holdup? Why are we still under restrictions after getting the

vaccine? The best I can figure out is that the answer lies with the COVID variants, the different versions created as the virus mutates. It appears that not all of the vaccines work equally well on all of the variants. Frankly, some of the vaccines work rather poorly, depending on which variant it encounters.

Until scientists figure this out, we still need to be cautious: wear masks, stay away from people, stay out of crowds. Except for getting the vaccine, not much has changed.

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## Schubert FUNERAL HOME

In early April, FEMA will begin providing financial assistance for funeral expenses incurred after Jan. 20, 2020 for deaths related to coronavirus (COVID-19) to help ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the pandemic. The policy was finalized today, and FEMA is now moving rapidly to implement this funeral assistance program nationwide.

"At FEMA, our mission is to help people before, during and after disasters," said Acting FEMA Administrator Bob Fenton. "The COVID-19 pandemic has caused immense grief for so many people. Although we cannot change what has happened, we affirm our commitment to help with funeral and burial expenses that many families did not anticipate."

To be eligible for COVID-19 funeral assistance, [the policy states](#):

- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after Jan. 20, 2020 for a death attributed to COVID-19.
- If multiple individuals contributed toward funeral expenses, they should apply under a single application as applicant and co-applicant. FEMA will also consider documentation from other individuals not listed as the applicant and co-applicant who may have incurred funeral expenses as part of the registration for the deceased individual.
- An applicant may apply for multiple deceased individuals.
- The COVID-19-related death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.
- This assistance is limited to a maximum financial amount of \$9,000 per funeral and a maximum of \$35,500 per application.
- Funeral assistance is intended to assist with expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation.

## Morgan County Today

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## Practicing Syncretism



**John Burns**

**Opinion Columnist**

endured for 2000 years now? The denominational church is under that abandonment wrath as I pen these words. "I am the Lord and I change not." Forever...

Ecclesiastes 7: 1 says it is better to celebrate the day of one's death more than the day of one's birth. Human beings are brought forth from the womb for the purpose of one day receiving God's Messiah, Jesus Christ. To be born once means you will die twice. You will die a physical death upon the end of your days on earth. If you never answer the still soft voice of God ask you to accept Christ's death as payment for the sin debt, we all owe God, then you will experience the second death which is eternal separation from God our creator. When you accept Jesus Christ as savior, God has dealt with the penalty of sin in your life. Salvation begins to become a reality. With that salvation God expects a Saved sinner to become an evangelist. God saves no human born of a woman for their own purposes. God is single minded and he needs us to share our testimony of salvation with the dying world around us. If you confess Jesus Christ as savior then do not do it with vanity in mind. Do it in the spirit of thanksgiving and know that God intends for you to take part in ministry wherever you find yourself. Jesus Christ never celebrated the pagan belief to acknowledge the day of one's earthly birth. Jesus Christ has always been concerned with the new birth achieved when a human being cries out for mercy. Mercy is to know that you deserve death for the sin in your life. Mercy is built upon humility and empathy for sinners. Jesus Christ did not die to give us the right to judge others in this life. He died to give us the opportunity to look in our mirror and every day realize without God's mercy sin is real and I exist in the presence of sin. This humble knowledge requires mercy every day of our Christian walk. God's answer to a sinner who asks for mercy is always Grace. Grace is to not receive what we deserve and it is free from God. We are born into this world for one purpose alone. Train up a child in the way they should go and when they are old, they will not depart from it. Does your child realize they were born to receive and subsequently serve God in saving sinners? Do you worship the birth of your child and then teach them to worship each other?

Which holidays did Jesus Christ take part in during his ministry to the lost sheep of Israel? The beginning of the Hebrew calendar that God actually follows is the Hebrew month of Nisan. Jesus Christ confirmed he was born on the first of Nisan when he said I am the first and the last. The month of Nisan is the first month of Spring in Israel. The lambs that were born for the purpose of being ritually sacrificed in the Jewish temple, are all born in the month of Nisan and they are only born in Bethlehem. This pattern has never changed. Lambs are still born in Bethlehem and still only in the month of Nisan in spring. Jesus Christ was not born in December and he never celebrated his own birthday. It was his death that would save sinners not his birth. Jesus Christ was born as a Lamb, but his future required him to become a lion. Nisan 10 is the day that the lambs to be sacrificed are presented to the priests in the temple. Jews would travel to Jerusalem, and have their lamb inspected for worthiness to pay the temporary debt incurred by God's people for their sin. Jesus Christ himself traveled to Jerusalem on 10 Nisan in the Year 32 AD to be inspected by the priests for worthiness as their Lamb. He did it while riding on the colt of a foal. The reason he rode a colt is because he was a willing son of God ready to pay for the sin debt of every person born of a woman in all history. Jewish Kings have always ridden Donkey's, not white Horses. Pagan kings and Pagan leaders ride white horses. Jesus Christ will not ride a white horse until he receives his kingdom at the end of the tribulation of the last seven years of human government on Earth. When Jesus Christ presented himself as the worthy Lamb, the common people accepted him as their King. God killed two birds with one stone. The stone which the priest class builders rejected, was accepted by the common people as their messiah and future king in Israel. Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of Yeshua ha Messiah! Hallelujah.

Nisan 10 brings us to the date of the crucifixion. Nisan 14. In Israel it is called Passover. Passover is the date Jesus Christ was crucified in Jerusalem. It has never changed. The Roman's changed the calendar to fit their pagan Pantheon and bring Christians into the Pagan fold. Passover is always on Nisan 14 no matter what Pagan day denominational churches make it. This is important to understand the date of the resurrection. The resurrection always occurs on 17 Nisan. It is the day Noah released the dove that did not return unto Noah. The dove is the picture of the Holy Spirit in your Bible. God has never changed Christians have and to their own demise. The Roman Caesars gave us Ishtar. She is a Goddess who is represented by the head of a rabbit and the body of a naked woman. It is steeped in human fertility and human sexuality. It has nothing to do with our Jewish Messiah's resurrection. There is power in the resurrection and none associated with the worship of Ishtar from whence we get the English term Easter. Nothing holy about Easter. You can do what is right in your own eyes to appease your children, however you have angered the creator of the universe. He is a jealous God that is about to completely abandon America! The Roman Catholic Church named the first Sunday in spring that follows the spring full moon after the spring equinox as Easter. Every thing about it is Pagan and God is not playing let's make a deal. If you do not want your teenager pregnant then stop worshipping on Easter. Nimrod is alive and well in our three-dimensional houses of worship.

From Nisan 17 we travel forward 50 days and get to the Jewish feasts of Pentecost. In our Bible Jewish men were required to travel to Jerusalem on Pentecost to present the first-fruits of their harvest to the priests. Pentecost is the day Jesus Christ appeared to 120 Jewish disciples and anointed them with his holy spirit for the purpose of leading people to a knowledge of salvation in him alone. These were Jewish men who came from the ends of the Earth. They came speaking languages other than Hebrew. Now God anointed them to preach the gospel in their native tongue. These men would be the first-fruits of salvation. They were indeed Jewish and they spoke with other tongues than Hebrew, which is the language of Love in our Bible. God would not do what pagans do. He would never give them a gift that did not edify the entire body of believers. God is not the respecter of persons. Tongues can be Biblically discerned only when a Christian takes the entire Bible literally and we lose our religious pre-suppositions. If you want to edify the body of Christ by speaking in another tongue then try Hebrew. It is the tongue Jesus Christ witnessed to the Jews in. It is the language of the Old Testament from where we learn how to receive God's mercy. The Feast of trumpets is yet future. I believe it is tied to both the Rapture of the bride of Christ and as a warning to the body of Christ. The

Trumpet delivered Jericho into the hands of the Jewish people and began their exodus from pagan religious bondage. After God won the battle of Jericho and brought the Jews into their promised land, they immediately began to compromise with the pagan culture around them. That is the state of our modern Christian experience. We have allowed for the importation of Roman foreign God's and Roman cult practices and we have allowed the Government to legislate the Bible out of the lives of our children for fear of Martyrdom. This phenomenon began at the Church of Pergamos. Jesus Christ labeled it as the seat of Satan on Earth. Our Government model in D.C. is a modern picture of the Roman government in western Turkey at the time of John's Revelation. Zeus was born at Pergamos when Babies were thrown onto fertility altars that were brass and superheated by lighting enormous fires under each one. Women brought their babies here in drogues. America has done it at the convenient altar of the womb of the mother. The denominational Church being silent is to blame. Children of church goers are more concerned with Darwin's evolution than God as creator. At the heart of the matter is a Government of the people, for the people, and by the people who always move away from God under the auspices of progress. Americans do not need God they have an awesome military and money that can be printed forever. Blasphemy! The two golden calves must be thrown down and we must return to God to provide all of our needs according to his riches in Glory. Soon God will send Christ to retrieve his bride. This event is known as the Rapture. It is the one doctrine most denominational Church's refuse to teach at their own peril. Jesus Christ warned us to be ready for his return. He warned gentile Christians not to become date setters. How-ever the Jewish pattern for keeping time has never changed. From Moon cycle to moon cycle is one month. 12 Months being one year with 360 days in each Biblical year. 7 years being a shemithah cycle with 7 shemithah's being a jubilee of 49 years. God warned Moses in Genesis 6;3 that his spirit would not always dwell with Man for his days would be 120 Jubilee cycles. This is the calendar Jesus Christ taught to his Jewish apostles and Jewish disciples. The next Shemithah will fall on September 15 in the year 2022. It happens to also be the feast of trumpets. By multiplying 120 times 49 we end up with the Biblical year from Adam. It is the 5880 year since Adam was created with the need for God to redeem us all from the sin that so easily ensnares us. It is also the year 2022 on our Roman pagan calendar. Do what you want with this Biblical information I intend to share my faith every day with every one I come in contact with. I suspect the American economy will completely collapse for God has warned us to return to our Bible and he has shown us the enemies of his message. Teshuva; repent and return to Biblical literacy for the time is short.

Jesus Christ celebrated the feast of dedication while he taught in Jerusalem. For the Jews it was a holiday of remembrance for the rebuilding and rededication of the 2d Jewish Temple after the Babylonian captivity. For Jesus Christ he was showing the Jews that their Temple was built to glorify him during the Millennial reign of 1,000 years which is yet future. The feast of Tabernacles is celebrated in Jerusalem to commemorate the Jewish wanderings in the Desert after Moses delivered them from Egyptian bondage. The Bible teaches that the Jews will undergo another period of wondering in the same desert. When the armies of anti-Christ surround Jerusalem, the Jews will once again be forced into the desert this time the desert of Jordan as God delivers them by holding them in modern Petra. Petra translates as sheepfold. When this event occurs, the entire world will be united to stop God's plan to redeem the Land of Israel and the nation he birthed in Egypt. Jesus Christ returns to Jerusalem with his bride to set up his Kingdom on earth forever. No more Pagan world government. Where the carcasses lie, there the eagles will be gathered.

The 25th of December is the celebration of the winter solstice. It has nothing to do with Christianity. The Roman Catholic Church is responsible for Christians celebrating a Pagan holiday complete with Pagan rituals. Beginning with the cutting down of an erez tree and Decorating it with silver and Gold and topping it with an homage to Lucifer. The son of the morning is a reference to the Roman celebration on Saturnalia. The Star on top of your tree venerates Lucifer and the religion he Birthed on the banks of the Euphrates in Babylon. Nimrod was the first Pontifex Maximus; Caesar adopted the title and now every Pope adds that moniker to their name. Martin Luther fell short in returning us to sound Hebrew hermeneutics which Jesus Christ practiced. The entire Christmas celebration is Pagan. St. Nicolas is the head of the Nicaolaitan sect Jesus Christ said he hated 14 times in the New Testament. Jeremiah 10 Vs. 1-4 lets us know how God feels about the pagan worship of the winter solstice. God asked Israel why do they do like the heathens. The Mistletoe is a Pagan fertility drug used by priests to bring on fertility in women. Not one Holiday venerated by Christians in America has anything to do with Christ. Church Tradition long ago replaced thus says the Lord in our Bible. Greek Eugenics has led to denominational Religious thinking and the separating into Pagan tribes.

I am a Messianic Christian. I am a Jew who believes in Jesus. God does not give me the luxury of separating his Love for me from the history of my ancestors. We were given the oracles of God and I have a responsibility to teach them to those who would forgo tradition in favor of God's salvation. Jesus Christ is dealing the death blow to Church tradition. Laodicea has manifest and most Christians have no need of God's word. They look good on the outside and the Church bills are all paid. Christianity was never supposed to amount to comfort in a world that does not need God. Christian testimony should always lead to persecution. Why should American Christians escape what God has watched his bride endure for 2000 years. If comfort is your testimony then stick with denominational thinking. If you desire to rule and reign with Christ, get under the blood, take up your cross daily, and Come follow Jesus Christ.

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

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

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

## Historically Speaking Cherokee Caverns - Part 1

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

The next two weeks will feature the history of a local tourist attraction, the Cherokee Caverns, including the changes in the name and other aspects of the attraction during the past 92 years since it first opened to the public. We will conclude with a look at what is being done to assure the protection and future access to a unique and beautiful part of our community.

Just across the Clinch River through Solway, about two miles southeast, is a historic cave system. It is located just north of the Oak Ridge Highway going toward Karns. The cave has a storied past and a fairly recent string of senseless vandalism.

More importantly, it has a recent past and present of beloved stewardship and a hopeful future of community service. Jim Whidby is taking great care to protect the Cherokee Caverns. He has a treasure in his care and is taking great pains to assure future generations are able to experience the wonder of Cherokee Caverns.

I met Jim for the first time on July 14, 2007. I learned of the one-day opportunity to visit Cherokee Caverns through newspaper articles that mentioned the “Cool Down in the Cave” annual event. Jim held this event for the first time July 15, 2007. He had over 800 people attend. He hoped for over 1,000 the next year and from the looks of the crowd when I was there, he certainly got that and more.

The annual tour is free, but donations of \$5 are suggested. It is well worth that and a lot more. I asked if I could take some photographs and was given a personal tour to allow me the time to take the photos without holding up others who were touring.

Scott Dixon took me to the cave and pointed out the various formations. He held the flashlight to help me focus my camera. I really enjoyed talking to Scott and quickly became aware of his devotion to the cave. This was reinforced when I attempted to pay him for his time, and he insisted I put the money in the donation can for the cave.

Jim also opens the cave on Halloween when it is outfitted with various scary images and harrowing experiences created by air pressure and other simple and not-so-simple means. He described two of them to me. One is a “vortex” created by hitting a drumhead that forces a circle of air about 60 feet that can be felt striking one with substantial force. The other is a rattlesnake that rattles on command, again by air pressure. I also saw a realistic “devil’s head” inside the cave.

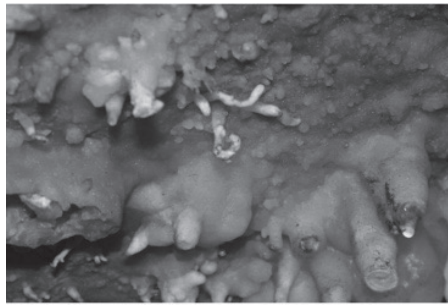
Over the years since the cave has been operated by various individuals it has undergone several name changes. In all, Jim knows of eight names the cave has had over the years.

In 1929, it was known as Gentry’s Cave when Margaret Crugdington Gentry first opened the cave to the public. She was the daughter of Robert Crugdington, the person who in 1854 discovered the cave. He was not the first to find the cave. Early American Indians had been there long before him. However, he was the

first white settler to stumble upon it. He later bought the property that contained the cave.

In 1931, the name was changed to Grand Caverns. The cave operated under this name and continued to give public access for the next 16 years.

In 1947, the name was changed to Atomic Caverns. The timing might suggest the name was changed because of the close proximity to Oak Ridge, but Jim



Unusual cave formation – a soda straw that has grown in the shape of an upside-down question mark (Photo Submitted)



Beautiful flowstone in Cherokee Caverns with the ‘devil’ set nearby waiting for the next annual Haunted Cave adventure (Photo Submitted)

assures me that was not the case. He said the name was chosen because of a formation in the cave that looked like the lower portion of the mushroom cloud of an atomic bomb explosion in the atmosphere.

Next the cave was named Caveman’s Palace in the 1950s. Then late in the 1950s the name was again changed to Palace Caverns.

In the 1960s, the name was changed yet again to Caverns of the Ridge, and in 1970 the name Cherokee Firesite Ceremonial Caverns was given to the cave to honor the Cherokee use of the cave before it was discovered by the Crugdington in 1854.

Finally in 1971 the present name of Cherokee Caverns was chosen. This name has lasted the longest of any of the names given this beautiful and ancient cave. Formations such as exquisite examples of columns, soda straws, stalactites, stalagmites, flowstone, slanted stalactites, twisted soda straws, anthodites, helictites, mud cones or mud volcanoes, and chert pods are among the numerous unique and beautiful aspects of Cherokee Caverns.

I was fortunate enough to get to go back to Cherokee Caverns and photograph many of the most unusual formations I have ever seen in a cave. There were soda straws that have grown sideways – explain that! There is even one that is an upside-down question mark!

Jim also showed me how some of the formations that were clear to white quartz will hold light after being exposed to strobe light flashes. For about 10-15 seconds after being exposed to intense light, the formation gives off an eerie light green glow. He says it amazes groups of school kids who come to the cave. The explanation of why this happens is quite technical, but basically is because the formations have layers of

varying density within them that hold the light waves for a few seconds.

We also saw the alligator that is a formation hanging at an odd angle from the ceiling. The Capital Dome is the largest formation in the cave and is difficult to capture in a photograph to show the massive size of the whole flowstone. Then there is the huge Peace Pipe formation that is lying on its side with later formations forming the bowl of the pipe.

The mud volcanoes are most unusual formations. They have formed on top of a large layer of clay that is several feet thick. The water dripping from soda straws softens the clay and pressure from beneath the softened spot forces the clay up into a cone shape that resembles a volcano. The water stands in the center of the volcano-like structure, soaking the clay softening it even more, and thus the volcano grows over time.

Then there is the “slab of bacon” which is a curtain formation that when lit from behind looks exactly like a strip of bacon. Also, there is the chert pod that lies on a fault line where an earthquake many years ago shifted the rock about four inches, breaking the formation in half and leaving one half of it on one side of the fault and the rest on the other. This fault line runs the entire length of a huge room. There are huge rocks on the floor that obviously came from the breakdown resulting from the earthquake.

Finally, there is the bear skull that was found 23 inches down in the clay floor of the large room in the back of the main cave. Jim says this bear skull is likely the result of bears using the cave as a den. He has asked the University of Tennessee to help identify the bear and to determine what the most likely time when the bear died in the cave. He expects it to be very old.

This unique and beautiful cave in our community is certainly an historical treasure worth preserving. The bats that can be found in the far reaches of the cave and in the holes in the ceiling are also special features of the cave. Some of them collect water droplets that cover their entire bodies while they hibernate. Would I love to get a photograph of that!

And we did not even get into the upper portion of the cave. That will be where we will do the light painting next. I am looking forward to more opportunities to photograph the unique formations and to create some photographs that include whole rooms of the cave through light painting. Next week we will look at more unusual aspects of the Cherokee Caverns.

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

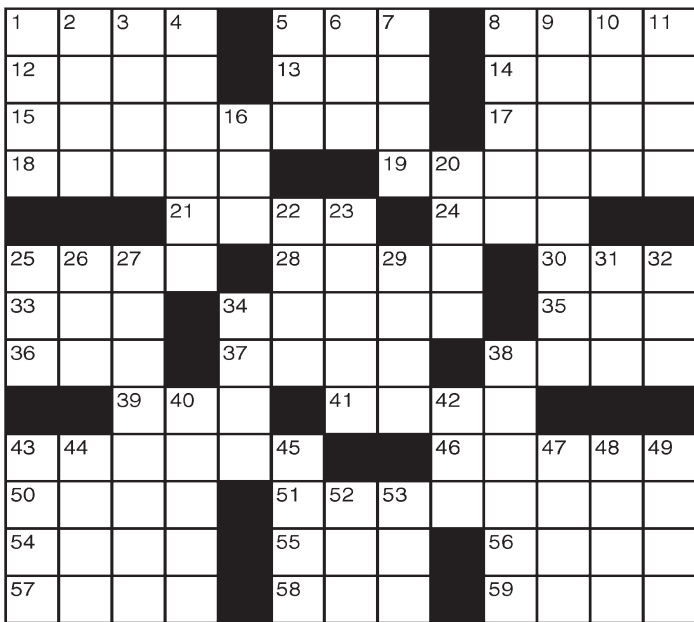
*Oak Ridge began in war, has continued to support our nation’s efforts through the Cold War, and even now in the age of terrorism. Oak Ridge has also produced nuclear medicine, nuclear power and fuel for the US Navy nuclear submarines and ships.*

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

## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Zilch
- 5 Male swan
- 8 "Ditto"
- 12 Mideast air-line
- 13 Glacial
- 14 "Let's go!"
- 15 Pattern
- 17 Help a hood
- 18 Old photo tint
- 19 Walks with pride
- 21 Yuletide tune
- 24 Archipelago unit (Abbr.)
- 25 Verifiable
- 28 Carton sealer
- 30 Mimic
- 33 Hostel
- 34 Goes belly up
- 35 Water tester
- 36 "Acid"
- 37 French 101 verb
- 38 Quick look
- 39 Online address
- 41 Ump's call
- 43 Steak choices
- 46 Toy bricks
- 50 Actor
- 51 Intensify
- 54 Damon of Hollywood
- 55 Essen exclamation
- 56 Grand tale



- 9 Walk
- 10 Champagne brand
- 11 Tolkien creatures
- 16 Thai language
- 20 Cravats
- 22 Coup d' —
- 23 Hideaways
- 25 Up to
- 26 ER workers
- 27 Move in waves
- 29 Entreaty
- 31 "The Raven" writer
- 32 "A mouse!"
- 34 Fedora fabric
- 38 Kitchen gadget
- 40 Oscar de la —
- 42 Ga. neighbor
- 43 Disaster aid org.
- 44 "As — saying ..."
- 45 Barking critter
- 47 Be slack-jawed
- 48 Elevator name
- 49 Faction
- 52 High school subj.
- 53 "Evita" role

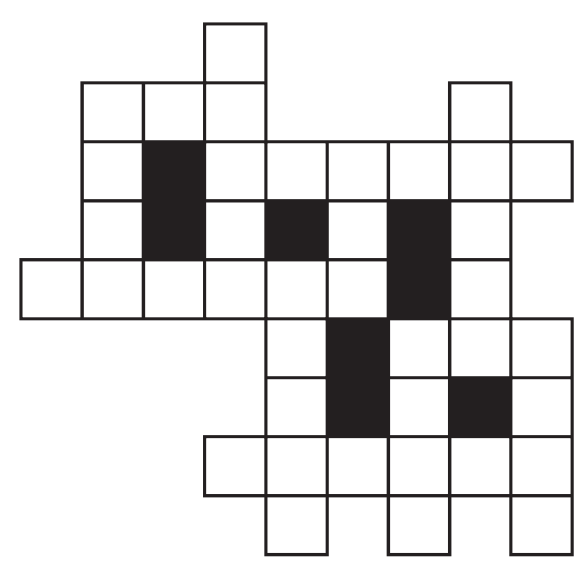
**DOWN**

- 1 Tennis barriers
- 2 Sheltered
- 3 Slightly wet
- 4 Skiing style
- 5 Spy org.
- 6 Halloween mo.
- 7 Tournament passes
- 8 Surgery reminders

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- GCO
- ECISIN
- ♥TECDI
- AOBL
- DILCAP
- SHO
- ♥NEOC
- ELGIA
- EBD
- GAGTRA
- CPHSY
- ♥ESDI



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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### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

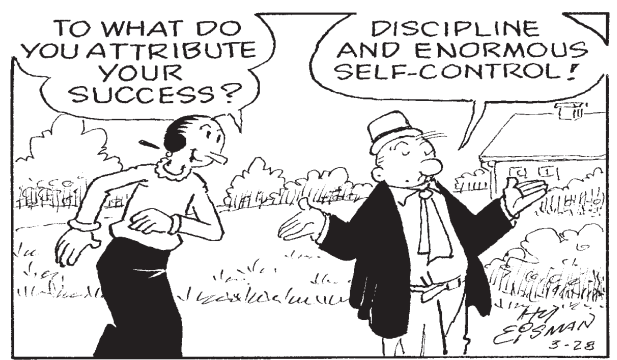
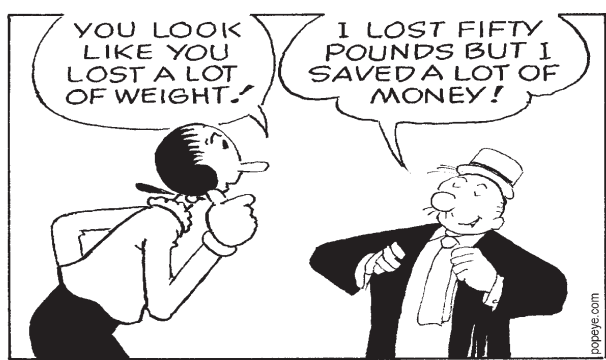
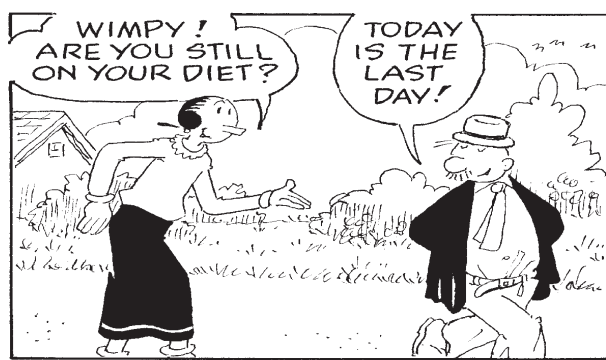
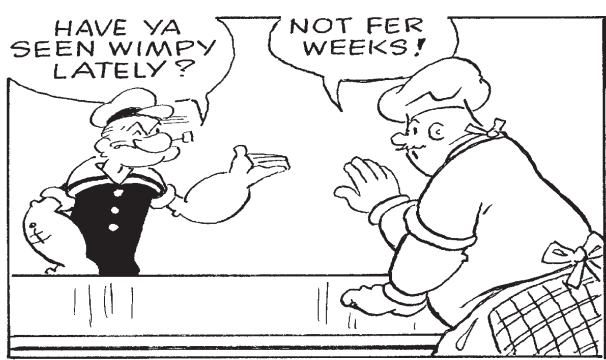
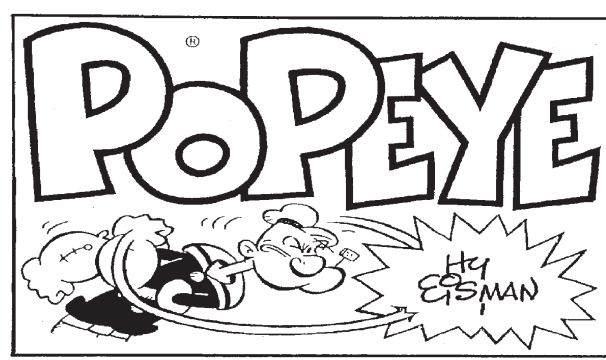
4			5					9
		1		2	4			
	6			3	7			8
	9	3	6			1		
		7		2				5
8					9			6
	2		7			6		
		4			3			1
1				8		5		2

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.

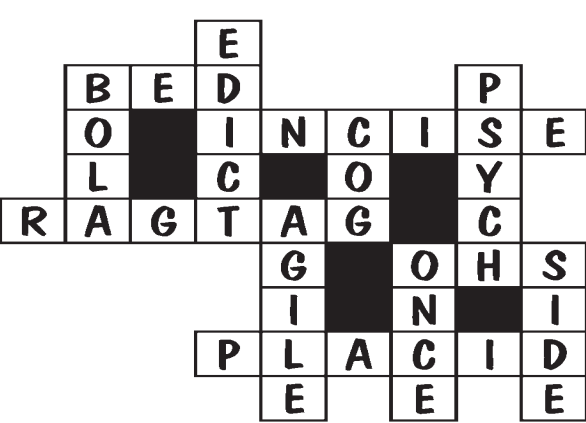
#### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

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

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### answer



### Weekly SUDOKU

#### Answer

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

### King Crossword

#### Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

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 said unto thee,  
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 John 3:7 - Jesus

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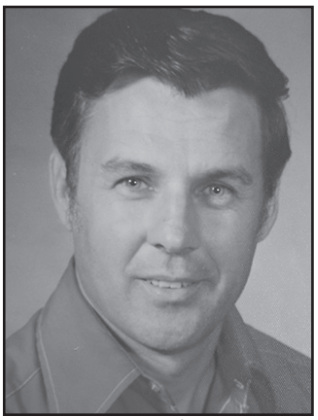
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## Frederick Melhorn Made the Supreme Sacrifice



Tom Redmon  
Columnist

On September 19, 1922, Frederick Melhorn came into this world. He was born in Deermont, Tennessee. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred A.

be the German last offensive in the Ardennes. This proved to be the turning point in the war. The alley's lost over 70,000 troops, and Germany lost over 125,000. Now the march was on to Berlin. Twenty-two-year-old Frederick was in this group of Soldiers fighting their way to Berlin. Now I will let Otto Melhorn, Frederick's son, and Chuck, his grandson, tell me what happened on the march.

They looked up a vet in Jackson, Tennessee, by the name of Joe, who had been in Frederick's company. He said that when the soldier would take a break, most would be joking around, laughing, and cutting-up while Fred would be sitting off from them reading his Bible. His Chaplain A.B. Williford said that he had been told by his officers and the men who knew him best that he was a great friend and a fine soldier. He carried his New Testament with him at all times and read it. He also attended church services that I conducted. These things I tell you, hoping that you may be encouraged with the thought that your loved one was true to his Christian beliefs. Joe told them that once they bogged down in the mud and bad weather. They killed a stag deer and had a regular feast in an open fire. They found a house that was locked, so they kicked the door down and found a gun on the table. Frederick picked the gun up, and it went off. All the soldiers ducked

under something and cocked their rifles. The Germans were still their enemy.

It was April 17, 1945, when Frederick and two other soldiers were marching down a road past a bombed-out German tank when a sniper opened fire on the three



Frederick O. Melhorn

Frederick, like many soldiers killed in Europe, was buried in Central Germany. His grandfather requested that his body and headstone be returned to his home. On May 2, 1949, Private First Class Frederick Melhorn had a memorial service in Camp Austin. In testimony to their love for Frederick, kinsmen and friends gathered from far and near. The crowd was so large that the service was conducted outside. Renna said that there were so many flowers that they filled a bedroom. They had to be taken to the church and laid on a great soldier's grave when he was laid to rest in his permanent grave here on earth, but because of his conviction to Christ, he is now in the hand of God. Before Frederick left for Europe, he said he was in God's hands, and whether he returned or not, God would take care of him.

Frederick's brother Raymond was also in the Army Air Force in World War II. That is another story that I would like to pursue. I've been told that he was on a large bomber (B-19 & B-24) and completed fifty-two missions in Europe. The Fred D. Melhorn family certainly did their part in providing their precious sons to fight for our freedom. One paid the ultimate cost with his life. Fred Kries from Morgan County was another young man who made the supreme sacrifice. We had two Gold Star Mothers whom no doubt shed many tears for their precious sons.

Let me tell you, folks, don't take it for granted that your freedom isn't free. Thank God for our servicemen every day.

men killing all three. The snipers were only sixteen and seventeen-years-old.

I talked with Renna, one of Frederick's sisters, and she filled me in on Frederick's life. She said that he was the most handsome man she had ever seen. She was ten-years-old when he and Vesta got married. He worked on the Southern Railroad and was a brakeman from Chattanooga to Oakdale. Renna had trouble with her tonsils, and they had to be taken out, so her mother, Katherine, sent her to Chattanooga to stay with Frederick and Vesta, where they had good doctors. Renna said that Oakdale and Harriman at the time didn't have good doctors, or so her mother thought.

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

## Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

### Don't Take Your Biscuits and Gravy for Granted

Buttermilk biscuits & sausage gravy, chicken & dumplings, pinto beans, cornbread, goulash and fried chicken were some my granny's signature country meals. She always cooked a meal every day or made enough leftovers to enjoy for a few days. I moved from Battle Creek, MI to Wartburg, TN to live with my granny, Maude Frost (Hamby). I enjoyed her southern cooking for a few years.

As I became an adolescent, I always thought it was "cool" to eat out or go to a restaurant. I remember driving home from high school, running to the kitchen, snarling up my nose, and then hopping in my car to find something to eat. I enjoyed getting takeout, ordering a pizza from Partners, eating in my car at Sonic, grabbing something quick at Hardee's or driving to Oakridge to eat at one of the chain restaurants.

I moved to Knoxville, TN after graduating Central High School. I went to the University of Tennessee to complete my bachelor's degree. The meals were awesome; I was eating out almost every day! I got to eat all the hamburgers, wings, pizza, hotdogs, chicken nuggets, etc. It was great for a few months, but it quickly grew old. It was nice to go grab a meal with friends, but the food wasn't the same. I would go back to Wartburg periodically to visit my gran-

ny in college and she would pre plan the meals before my arrival. I would tell her exactly what I wanted, and she made sure a customized, homemade country meal was served hot off the stove. I think back to the time she cooked a feast for about 10 of my close college friends. She made homemade chicken and dumplings, fried corn, green beans, cornbread, pinto and beans, squash and okra. My friends ate so much and they all enjoyed getting to know her. I have traveled all over the world and to this day nothing beats granny's homemade cooking.

What's the point of the story? You are probably thinking, "Ok, dude we get it

you like to eat like a horse." You would be correct, but I am making a better point. It was hard for me to see it as a teenager, but my granny's hard work, experience, dedication, and passion in the kitchen put a lot of love in those meals. It was by far the best food, but the company was even better. I remember we would sit at the kitchen table, catch up on the day, get to hear some of her stories, us talking about school or my job, and then she would serve dessert. Granny loved making me happy. She loved seeing me enjoy her home cooked meals.



Zack Ballinger



Don't take homemade meals for granted; one day you may not have them. Grandparents get older or may develop health problems so enjoy your homemade country meals while you can. You won't regret it.

*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.*

Sandra Helton's weekly column

## Oakdale Area News

email: kvhelton@highland.net



I hope everyone had a good Easter and that students and teachers are enjoying Spring Break. I also hope cool weather is behind us!

West Side Baptist Church had a great turnout with over 65 attendees at their Easter Celebration last Friday. There were over 600 Easter eggs hidden and found and of course the story of Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection was shared. The Youth Sunday School Class did a great job of helping with the event and helping with the clean up!

After several very cool days last week, Saturday turned out to be a beautiful day for an Egg Hunt at Oakdale City Park. The park was roped off into sections for different age groups and over 2,000 eggs were hidden. Mayor Buddy Miller and his wife, Jeannie, along with other city workers did a great job organizing the event. First Baptist Oakdale and Save the Children had stations set up with items for guests. The city provided snacks and drinks. Everyone had a wonderful time.

Oakdale Middle School Softball Team played Norwood Tuesday, March 30. The Lady Eagles won by a score of 13-3. At the end of the game, the 8th grade players were recognized by their coaches and teammates. The girls recognized were #5 Taylor Smith, #11 Riley Voyles #3 Emma Wrather, #24 Rhylan Hicks, #8 Cheyenne Sirmans, #7 Madison Clark, #12 Lily Brasel and #44 Olivia Coffey. Coaches Melanie Hicks, Carla Smith and Kathryn Zachary have enjoyed having these young ladies on the team.

Valerie and Maura Lake visited over the holiday weekend. Maura is spending spring break with us. On Saturday night, Dennis, Tabitha, Kinley and Sophia Hamby, Kyle, Kayla, Elijah, Clara and Hattie Ruppe joined us for supper followed by an egg hunt. Thanks to my sister and my girls for cooking. I felt pretty special having my family together and enjoying a wonderful meal that I didn't have to prepare.

Congratulations to Mrs. Ruth Headrick on the birth of her new great grandson. Abraham Denton "Bram" Headrick made his entrance into this world on March 19 at 5:04 p.m. weighing 7lbs 8oz and measuring 20 inches long. Bram is the son of Landon and Tessa Headrick of Crossville. He is welcomed by his big sister, Hallie Jane.

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

Belated Birthday Greetings to Dean Headrick of Cross-

ville who celebrated his special day March 31.

Happy Birthday to Kayla Ruppe and Kathryn Zachary who will celebrate their birthdays tomorrow, April 7. Happy Birthday Girls!

Happy Anniversary to Dennis and Tabitha Hamby who will celebrate 24 years Sunday, April 11.

Congratulations to Jeffrey and Cheryl Johnson who celebrated their 31st wedding anniversary March 31.

Congratulations to Bradley and Tammy Rogers who celebrated their 28th wedding anniversary April 2.

My sister Tabitha and I had planned to celebrate her birthday by visiting Lorenzen Family Farm in Dayton, TN but due to flooding, they were not open the day we planned to visit. We changed our direction and went to Knoxville where we enjoyed lunch at Fazoli's followed by some shopping. We saw some pretty roadside tulips and stopped for a selfie to commemorate the occasion. We ended the day with shakes at Steak and Shake. According to their Facebook page, the Lorenzen Farm will have strawberries this spring.

Joyanna Helton is happy to announce the arrival of her baby sister, Eliana Hope Helton. Eliana was born Tuesday, March 30 weighing 7 lbs 8 oz. Eliana and Joyanna's parents are Jacob and Marissa Helton. Their very proud grandparents are Chris and Missy Redmon and Mark and Tammy Helton. Their great grandparents are Jr. and Shirley Ruppe and Charles Redmon. Congratulations!

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

Congratulations to Ethan Lively who has advanced on The Voice. Ethan is on Team Blake. We are excited to watch the Gentle Cowboy as he advances.

I often end this column with prayer requests. There are still many requests and we should continue to pray for so many things. I want to thank God for answered prayers. Many people who have been dealing with illness are doing much better. That is always good news. Several families have been blessed with healthy babies. Let us not forget to give thanks.

***"More people would learn from their mistakes if they weren't so busy denying them." J. Harold Smith***

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## Acts 26:30 thru Acts 27:26

(Acts 26:30-32) the disposition of the case: the dignitaries arose and left the room. When in private, they discussed the case. Not one word of criticism surfaces. They were not disposed to accept the gospel (so far as the record reveals), but they were fair-minded. Agrippa II was not of the same bloody spirit as his ancestors. The group kept saying: "This man is not practicing anything worthy of death or bonds." Agrippa commented to Festus: "This man might have been set loose, had he not appealed to Caesar." The grammar suggests that, potentially, the apostle might have enjoyed permanent freedom had he not entered his appeal to "the supreme court." But as it is, the case must go forward to Caesar.

Some have wondered why there are three records of Paul's conversion in the book of Acts, consuming so much space when combined. There is ample reason for such. (a) The conversion of Paul is one of the most significant events of Christian history. Aside from the death and resurrection of Christ himself, nothing eclipses this event in importance. (b) Each of the three accounts (chapters 9, 22, and 26) has its own point of emphasis. Chapter nine is Luke's historical record---based upon his investigation---and his transcription under the guidance of the Spirit of God. Chapter twenty-two is Paul's passionate defense of his conversion to a people whom he loves almost as much as his own soul (Rom. 9:1-3). Chapter twenty-six is a defense of his ministry before two legal authorities, both of whom acknowledged him to be innocent of all charges made against him. These three chapters are a sweet trio of crucial testimony on behalf of the integrity of Paul's ministry and, ultimately, the credibility of Christianity.

(Chapter 27:1-8) departure for Rome: in this chapter are the harrowing details of Paul's voyage to Rome. What is the significance of this narrative as it relates to the book as a whole? Sir William Ramsay noted: "The record is highly important as illuminating the character of Paul and showing how, even as a prisoner and a landsman at sea, he became the dominating personage in a great ship's company as soon as danger threatened; and it also draws the reader's attention to the central and critical importance of the scene towards which it leads up, viz. the trial of Paul in Rome."

The details of the voyage and shipwreck of Paul have been minutely investigated by competent scholars. These studies establish that Luke, though not a professional seaman, was a close and accurate observer of the winds and storms and the management and movements of a ship. He furnishes more information of ancient navigation in chapters twenty-seven and twenty-eight than any single document of antiquity.

The ship had other prisoners on board. A centurion named Julius was in charge of these. Paul had two friends accompanying him---Luke (see "we" v.1) and Aristarchus from Thessalonica (19:29; 20:4). The ship sailed northward along the coast, stopping at Sidon some sixty miles

away. Julius allowed Paul to go ashore where friends gave him attention; he may have been ill (v. 3). The ship sailed northward, then westward, on the northern side of Cyprus (sheltered from the winds). Finally, landed at Myra (a grain port) on the southern coast of Lycia (in Asia Minor). Here they changed ships, catching a vessel from Alexandria headed for Italy (v. 6). It contained 276 passengers (v. 37). After many days, they came near Cnidus, about one hundred miles west of Myra. The winds were strong and they were forced to turn southward, where they obtained some protection from the mountainous island of Crete. They struggled around the eastern promontory and along the southern coast till they came to Fair Havens.

(Acts 27:9-26) Driven in a stormy sea: the ship remained at Fair Havens for a while, but it was an open harbor and it was dangerous to winter there; yet it was hazardous to go forward. It was the well-known dangerous season (Sept. 14 to Nov. 11). A meeting was conducted to determine what to do, to which Paul (with his sailing experience (2 Cor. 11:25-26) was invited. Paul urged the ship's owner (or captain) not to venture forward, but his advice was ignored (10-11). They would attempt to reach Phoenix (forty miles to the west), which would afford better winter protection.

As they sailed off, a fierce wind roared down out of Crete's mountainous region. The ship could not be guided and they were forced to turn to the southwest and ride with the force of the storm. They ran under the protected side of a small island, Cauda, which provided some relief, allowing them to secure a lifeboat and strengthen the ship by winding ropes about the hull (16-17). As they fought the storm, they became fearful of sinking and began to throw cargo overboard, and later even pieces of the ship's furniture (v. 18-19). They saw neither sun nor stars for days and all hope of surviving was lost. Paul reminded them that he had warned them not to venture forward as they had; doubtless he was preparing them for further instruction out of his rich sea experience. Their lives depended on heeding his advice!

They had gone a good while without food and were sore discouraged, but God's apostle had good news. An angel of the Lord had stood by him and told him to stop being afraid. "You will appear before Caesar, and God will give you the lives of all that sail with you" (v. 23-24). Paul declared that he had every confidence that this prophecy would be realized. There was a footnote, however: the ship would be lost and they would be "cast upon an island" (v. 26). There is but one significant island between southern Sicily (the "toe" of Italy's "boot") and northern Africa---Malta. This small island is only seventeen by nine miles. What are the odds of predicting that the ship would be thrust on this tiny island in that vast sea?



MELVIN HOWARD

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## Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week

This week we honor the life of a young fallen United States Army Soldier, Specialist (SPC) Ashely Flores.

Per, 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, "Specialist Ashley Flores died on March 27, 2021 from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident."

SPC Flores enlisted in the Army in Santa Fe, New Mexico as a Water Treatment Specialist (92W) in 2019 and was assigned to Fort Bragg's 127th QM Co., 264th CSSB, 3rd ESC after completing Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee, VA.



"On behalf of the Victory Battalion, I want to extend our deepest condolences to SPC Flores' family. She was a phenomenal Soldier with tremendous potential and will be greatly missed," said LTC Saul Arroyo, the 264th CSSB Battalion Commander.

SPC Flores is survived by her parents, one brother, and one sister.

Her awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal (posthumous), the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon.

## Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford



This week we honor the service and sacrifice of fallen Texas Highway Patrol Trooper Chad Walker. On March 31, 2021, Trooper Walker succumbed to gunshot wounds he sustained five days earlier when he was ambushed while stopping to assist what he believed was a disabled vehicle near Mexia,

Texas. He was traveling near U.S. Highway 84 when he observed the vehicle parked on the shoulder at about 7:45 pm. As he pulled behind the vehicle, the driver exited and opened fire with a handgun, shooting through the windshield of the patrol car before it had come to a full stop. Trooper Walker was struck in the head and abdomen. The driver fled into a wooded area and remained at large until committing suicide the following day. Trooper Walker was transported to a local hospital where it was determined he could not survive his wounds. He was kept on life support until March 31, 2021, when his organs were

donated as his final act of service. "Texas Highway Patrol Trooper Chad Walker was committed to protecting the people of Texas. His sacrifice will never be forgotten, and we ask that you keep his family, friends, and colleagues in your prayers during the difficult days ahead," DPS Director Steven McCraw said in a statement announcing his death on Wednesday. Trooper Walker had served with the Texas Highway Patrol for six years and had eighteen years of law enforcement experience. Trooper Chad

Walker was the young age of thirty-eight. He is survived by his wife, fifteen-year-old son, twin seven-year-old daughters, and two-month-old daughter. We should all appreciate the service, dedication, courageousness, and sacrifices that law enforcement officers undergo each and every day. They don't do it for the pay. They do it for you and me.



## New unemployment rule gives millions of people a tax break



David Zubler

The recently signed American Rescue Plan provides an exemption of \$10,000 in 2020 for people who received unemployment insurance benefits. Almost 40 million people received unemployment insurance benefits and the average person received about \$14,000 in benefits. If your modified adjusted gross income (AGI) is less than \$150,000, the American Rescue Plan 2021 excludes from income up to \$10,200 of unemployment compensation paid

in 2020. This means you don't have to pay tax on unemployment compensation of up to \$10,200. If you are married, each spouse receiving unemployment compensation doesn't have to pay tax on unemployment compensation of up to \$10,200. However, amounts over \$10,200 for each person are still taxable. If your modified AGI is \$150,000 or more, you can't exclude any unemployment compensation. The unemployment compensation and the exclusion should be reported separately on your tax return. You should receive a Form 1099-G showing in box 1 the total unemployment compensation paid to you in 2020. If you received an overpayment of unemployment compensation in 2020 and you repaid any of it in 2020, you will need to subtract the amount you repaid from the total you received. Also enter "Repaid" and the amount you repaid on the dotted line next to line 7. Enter the full amount of your unemployment compensation on Schedule 1, line 7 of your tax return. Enter your exclusion on Schedule 1, line 8. The initial guidance said that taxpayers would count unemployment benefits as part of their 2020 income when determining if they qualify for the tax break. However, the rules changed so that workers can exclude jobless benefits from their calculation of modified adjusted gross income. You can use the Unemployment Compensation Exclusion Worksheet to figure your modified AGI if you are not sure if you qualify due to the amount of your AGI. If you have already filed your 2020 Form 1040 or 1040-SR, you should not file an amended return at this time. The IRS will issue additional guidance as soon as possible.

States that count unemployment benefits as taxable income may use the federal guidelines. Alabama, California, Montana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia are currently completely exempting it.

*David Zubler is a tax accountant and Enrolled Agent in East Tennessee representing clients before the IRS and has over 25 years of tax experience. He is the author of four tax books and is the founder and president of Your Tax Care. The company provides business and tax education to the public at its website, YourTaxCare.com. David can be reached at (865) 363-3019 or contacted by email at zublerdavid@gmail.com.*

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