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Psalm 100:3
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 Volume 10 Number 5
 Tuesday, January 30, 2024

Your Community. Your News.

75¢



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COALFIELD

Middle School
 Girls & Boys



**Seek the LORD, and his strength;
 seek his face evermore.**

- Psalm 105:4

Cover Photo By: Cathy Bird



Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

PUBLISHER:
TOMMY LEE FRANCIS
PUBLISHER@MOCOTODAY.COM

EDITOR:
HEATHER FRANCIS
EDITOR@MOCOTODAY.COM

ADVERTISING:
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**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

Hello Dr. Bristol!

Thank you for taking such good care of me and all my furry friends! You and Dr. Spence are just the sweetest vets, ever!

I've had a little talk with Ms Ivory and told her to not be scared when she visits. She promised that she will be an easy patient to care for, just like me.

Mimi has been concerned about this new virus that seems to be making dogs like us sick. Could you tell everyone what to watch out for? So, that us kids with fur don't get too sick.

Wuff,
Ms Avery Pearl

P.S. Ms Ivory didn't like the cold white stuff. I wuffed it and I played in it as long as Mimi and Pappy would allow me, too. Then, I would come in and we would snuggle. I hope you stay warm and safe during all of this stuff, that Mimi calls winter.

Greetings, Ms. Avery Pearl! It was so wonderful to see you last week. You're such an amazing patient... and much tougher than I am when it comes to vaccinations.

While you were in the clinic last week, your Mimi asked us some great questions about the new mystery respiratory illness that has been in the news recently. As you may have heard, the currently unidentified respiratory disease is causing a long-lasting cough that is poorly responsive to antibiotics and cough suppressants.



Historically, we have always treated a lot of respiratory illnesses based on chest x-rays rather than PCR and serology to identify the underlying virus or bacteria due to diagnostic expenses. Thus, we suspect that the current infectious disease may be a previously identified viral infection that has mutated to wreak more havoc on the body.

Additionally, a lot of respiratory illnesses can be cleared by the body naturally; so, when our furry friends present with a cough, the original inciting cause has often already run its course leaving behind secondary inflammation and a chronic cough. At this stage, specific testing will be negative because the underlying infectious organism is no longer in circulation within the body.

Currently, our best recommendations for you and our other canine friends are to minimize your exposure to unfamiliar dogs and to ensure that your four-legged friends are vaccinated for all of the respiratory diseases for which we have effective vaccinations. These respiratory vaccinations include Bordetella, influenza, and parainfluenza. The decision to vaccinate for these diseases has always been based on exposure risk. We always want our pups completely vaccinated for core diseases including distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza, parvovirus, and rabies. We also recommend additional vaccinations including Leptospirosis, Lyme, Bordetella, and influenza based on exposure.

I'm so glad that you, Mimi, and I got a chance to visit last week, Ms. Avery Pearl, and I can't wait to meet your new friend Ivy soon. We're supposed to have some cold weather this month, so you may have to share some of your warm dresses with her during the next few weeks!

Warm wishes!
Dr. Bristol :o)

For more of my Pet Perspective like and follow me on Facebook at Ms Avery Pearl.

You can also follow Dr Bristol and her staff on Facebook at Roane Veterinary Hospital or call their office at 865-882-6327 for an appointment.



WEEKLY WEATHER

Tue 30	50°/37°	
Wed 31	44°/32°	
Thu 01	52°/30°	
Fri 02	56°/32°	
Sat 03	57°/35°	
Sun 04	50°/33°	
Mon 05	47°/34°	

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DLARMC CHANGE IN MEETING TIME.

The Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center has changed its meeting date. The Center will now meet on the third Monday of the month at 6PM. Please make a note of this change.

Coalfield Genealogical and Historical Society Meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Senior Citizens Building at 6:00 PM.

Morgan County Republican Party meets the last Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the American Legion in Wartburg.

The City of Sunbright is now accepting applications for a clerical position. Make arrangements to pick up/fill out an application at City hall. For more information call 423-628-5250

Public Notice

The City of Wartburg has called for a special meeting to be held on January 31, 2024 at 4 p.m. in the conference room at City Hall.

COUNTRY FRIED STEAK DINNER

What - Country Fried Steak Dinner - with Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Fresh Baked Rolls, Dessert, Drinks - Coffee or Tea
Where - Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center
When - Saturday, February 3, 2024

Morgan County Republican Party Meeting in February

We will meet February 22 @ 7pm
At the American Legion Hall in Wartburg.

LAST CALL TO 2022 DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAX PAYERS MORGAN COUNTY AND SUNBRIGHT CITY

You are advised that after **March 1, 2024**, under State Law, tax suits must be filed in **Chancery Court** for enforcement of the lien of the unpaid **2022** taxes against the property. Until the filing of such suits, taxes may be paid at the **TRUSTEE'S OFFICE**. Beginning **March 1, 2024**, **penalty** will be added to unpaid **2022** taxes at the rate of **(1 1/2%)** percent each month these taxes remain unpaid. (Unpaid **2022** taxes turned over to Chancery Court for collection, have an additional charge of **\$144.00** plus other penalties and interest added.)

CINDI JONES
Morgan County Trustee
(423) 346-3430

Winter Storm and Cold Snap, January 2024



Michael Nance
Columnist

Beginning Monday January 15th Morgan County and the greater area experienced snow and bitter cold temperatures. Everyone was concerned about power outages after the rolling blackouts we all experienced last year.

The good news is that TVA and Plateau Electric came through with flying colors. On Monday morning at about 3:30 am a small section in Wartburg, (which included me), was without power for about an hour and a half. Plateau crews quickly responded and solved the issue. Below is a picture I took at 4:30 am of the crew working that morning.



TVA also experienced a real stress test of the power grid and there winter preparations as the bitterly cold temperatures extended across the Tennessee Valley.

On 1-17-2024 TVA experienced a peak power demand of 34,526 megawatts at a system average temperature of 4 degrees - setting an all-time TVA record. The previous record was 33,482 MW in Aug. 2007.

On 1-21-2024 TVA experienced a peak power demand of 34,284 megawatts at 9 am ET at a system average temperature of 12°. This was

the highest weekend peak and the second highest all-time peak in TVA history.

TVA met the historic load demands, and all the work TVA and Plateau did to prepare for a winter storm like we just experienced worked. Hopefully we don't see another storm of this caliber this winter, I am ready for summer!

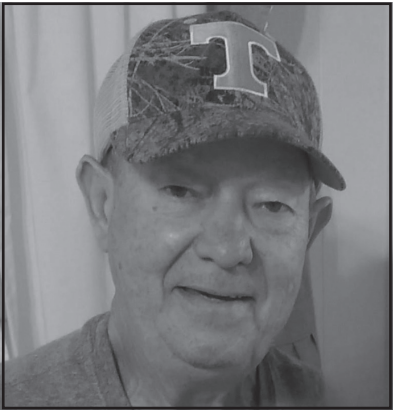


Temperatures in Wartburg on the Morning of 1-21, photos author's collection.



— In Loving Memory —

Paul Gene Williams, 70



Paul Gene Williams born on April 5, 1953, peacefully passed from this life on Friday, January 19, 2024.

He was preceded in death by his son, Paul Gene Williams, Jr., grandson, Tj Williams, mother, Geneva Williams Milliron, father, Travis Hensley, father-in-law and mother-in-law, Logan and Lora Mae Williams, aunt, Patsy Hensley, brother-in-law, James Clay, nephew, Bo McGhee, brother-in-law Ronald Williams, sister-in-law, Katie Williams, nephew, Jessy Williams, and brother and sister-in-law, Bernie and Rena Williams.

Paul is survived by his wife, Debbie and son Tony (Tracey) Williams, great grandchildren, Brynlee and Chasen Williams, sister, Randi Clay, sisters-in-law, Jean Williams and Billie

(Charles) McGhee, brother-in-law, JL (Alice) Williams, special friends Ronnie Madden, Little Joe Armes, Sam Williams, Austinn Massengale, Brandon Cox, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Paul loved his family without measure and was known by special names such as Dad, Pap and Gran Pap. To be a friend of Paul's was a true blessing. He loved all things outdoors and very few moments in his life were spent idle. Paul was well known for his love of gardening and the bounties he loved to share, the most popular being his tomatoes. Paul will be deeply missed by his family and friends he left behind, but we know that Tj had an extra big smile when he was reunited with Pap.

The Family will have a graveside service on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 2 pm at the Old Petros Cemetery, School House Road, with Dr. Jim West officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Paul Gene Williams.

Velma June McKinney, 81



Velma June McKinney, age 81, of Sunbright passed away January 22, 2024. She was born July 31, 1942, to the late Clark and Opal Wilson in Scott County, Tennessee.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband Jimmy "Sarge" McKinney; sister Novella Gunnels, and brother Eddie Wilson.

She is survived by her children Joseph (Lora) Miller, Pamela McKinney, and Paula (Bennie) Davis; grandchildren Derek (Ashley) Miller, Savannah (Landon) Jones, and Lily Davis; great grandchildren Dylan, Hayden, Haley, Carter Edgerton, Brantley and Easton Miller; sisters Louise (David) Young, Sue Bowling, Kaye

Wilson, Louella Gunter and Cheryl (Harold) Martin; brothers Joe Wilson, Ray Wilson, and Gary Wilson; brothers-in-laws Bobby (Doris) McKinney and Billy (Linda) McKinney; sister-in-law Brenda Satterfield and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

The family will have a private service.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Velma June McKinney.

Donald "Donny" Harris, 37



Donald "Donny" Harris, 37, of Wartburg, Tennessee, passed away on January 20, 2024. He was born on September 17, 1986, in Naples, FL, to Debby Moriarty and the late Paul Harris.

Donny was known for his vibrant personality and his ability to connect with people. He had a great sense of humor and never met a stranger. He was a hard-working individual who would go above and beyond to help others. Donny was a true friend who would give you his last dollar and the shirt off his back.

In his career, Donny excelled as a Sheet Metal Journeyman with Local 5 and Journeyman Welder. He took pride in his work and was highly skilled in his field.

Donny had a zest for life and loved spending time with his friends and family. He enjoyed adventure and always embraced new experiences.

Donny will be deeply missed by his mother, Debby Moriarty; sister, Brandy Munguia (Michael); nieces and nephews, Izzy and Kyron Harris, River Hodge, Bryleigh Stafford; aunts and uncles, Bev Ochs (Tim), Rick Maharry (Dawn);

cousins, Shannon Forbes (Mike), Rebekah Ochs, Abigail Newsome (Chase), Madelyn Ochs, Dillon Maharry (Julia), Grace Baker (Max), Madison Amaya (Alex), Lindsay Coffield (Mike); forever friend, Jeremy Seay and family, and so many more.

He is preceded by his father, Paul Harris; grandmothers, Marcia Maharry and Isabel Harris; and grandfathers, Ralph Maharry and Donald Harris.

Receiving of Friends will be 3:00-4:30 pm and a Celebration of Life service with Bro. Brandon Peters and Bro. Donnie Smith following on February 4th at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Wartburg, Tennessee.

Donations in Donny's memory can be made to Calvary Missionary Baptist Church Youth Ministries or Black Oak Thanksgiving Outreach Ministry. He loved the youth at Calvary and always made sure anyone he knew or worked with had an invitation for a Thanksgiving meal at Black Oak.

The Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg, TN, is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Please join us in honoring and remembering Donny Harris, a beloved son, brother, uncle, and friend. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Donald "Donny" Harris.

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

Psalm 86:4-5

4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

— In Loving Memory —

Don Lindsey, 88
US Army & US Marine Corps Veteran



One sister: Mary Huber.

The mother of his children:
Phyllis Delius Lindsay.

Five grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and a host of other family, friends, and loved ones.

Mr. Don Lindsay, age 88, of Oakdale went home to be with his Lord, Monday January 22, 2024.

He was a veteran of both the United States Army and the United States Marine Corps. Don attended Adams Hill Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Lawrence and Evelyn West Lindsay.

He is survived by two sons and one daughter-in-law: Keith and Elaine Lindsay, and Steven Lindsey.

One daughter and son-in-law:
Lisa and William Lee.

The family will receive friends Saturday, January 27, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Davis Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral services will be at 1:00 PM with Bro. Danny Jones and Bro. Ronnie Nickell officiating. Interment will follow in Adams Hill Cemetery.

Davis Funeral Home, Wartburg, is honored to serve the family of Mr. Don Lindsey.

Condolence may be sent to the family at,
www.davisfuneralhomes.com.

John "Catfish" Benton, 84
National Guard Veteran



Three sons and daughters-in-law: Buddy and Pat, Richard and Darryl and Sabrina. One daughter and son-in-law: Peggy and Bobby.

Along with numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Mr. John "Catfish" Benton, age 84 of Lansing, passed away peacefully at his home Sunday January 21, 2024.

Born in Geneva, Florida on May 25, 1935, he lived most of his life in Sanford, Florida before moving to Tennessee in the early 2000's.

John served in the Florida National Guard for fourteen years. He was known throughout Central Florida as an avid commercial fisherman and sportsman. And he was active with his church family at Bethel Grace Church in Lansing.

He is survived by his wife:
Helen Benton.

Family and friends will gather at 8:00 AM Friday January 26, 2024 at Bethel Grace Baptist Church. Interment will follow in Island Ford Cemetery.

Condolences may be sent to the family at,
www.davisfuneralhomes.com

Davis Funeral Home, Wartburg, is honored to serve the family of Mr. John "Catfish" Benton.

Gayson Peters, 57
Firefighter & EMT



His mother: Carol Ann Hamby Peters.

His brother and sister-in-law:
Derrick and Krista Peters.

Along with a host other family, friends, and loved ones.

Mr. Gayson Peters, age 57 of Norris, went home to meet his Lord Saturday January 20, 2024.

He was a member of Lone Mountain Baptist Church in Andersonville. He was a talented musician. Gayson played guitar and sang with The Joyaires along with several other gospel singers and groups. Most of his adult life was spent in service to his community, working as a firefighter and EMT, with Andersonville VFD, Anderson County EMS, and Clinton City Fire Dept.

He was preceded in death by his father: Jim Peters.

He is survived by his children:
Hayden, Zoe, Elijah, and Sophie Ann.

The family will receive friends Friday, January 26, 2024, at Davis Funeral Home, Wartburg from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Funeral services will be held at 3:00 PM with Bro. Mike McCoy officiating. Interment will follow in Morgan Memorial Gardens.

Condolences may be sent to the family at
www.davisfuneralhomes.com.

Davis Funeral Home, Wartburg is honored to serve the family of Mr. Gayson Peters.

Vicki Susan Lincoln, 67

Vicki Susan Lincoln, age 67, passed away Thursday, January 25, 2024 at Beechtree Manor in Jellico, Tennessee.

Vicki was joy to be around who had a great sense of humor.

She is preceded in death by her parents Charles & Nola Edwards; husband Frank Lincoln.

She is survived by her sisters Melanie, Stephanie and Patty; special friend and caretaker Rebecca Davis.

The family will receive friends Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 2:00-3:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 3:00 with Bro. Adam Barnhart and Troy Coker officiating.

Interment will follow in the Island Ford Cemetery in Deer Lodge. Special thank you to Freedom Hope Church for their love and support.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Vicki Susan Lincoln.





**Tom Redmon
Columnist**

All Churches Are Not Dead

This is November 5, 2023 and I am in Plant City, Florida. This morning I went to church with my son and daughter-in-law and I'm so glad that I did. It is a large church compared to most of our churches in East Tennessee. They have two services and I was in the 2nd one with about three hundred people present.



First Baptist Church of Plant City

I would say it was only about half full. But I will have to say the Holy Spirit was moving in the First Baptist Church of Plant City. The pasture delivered a good sermon from the books of Joshua and Jeremiah. Joshua learned to listen to God when he was told to by God and learning the little things led him to start doing the bigger things in life.

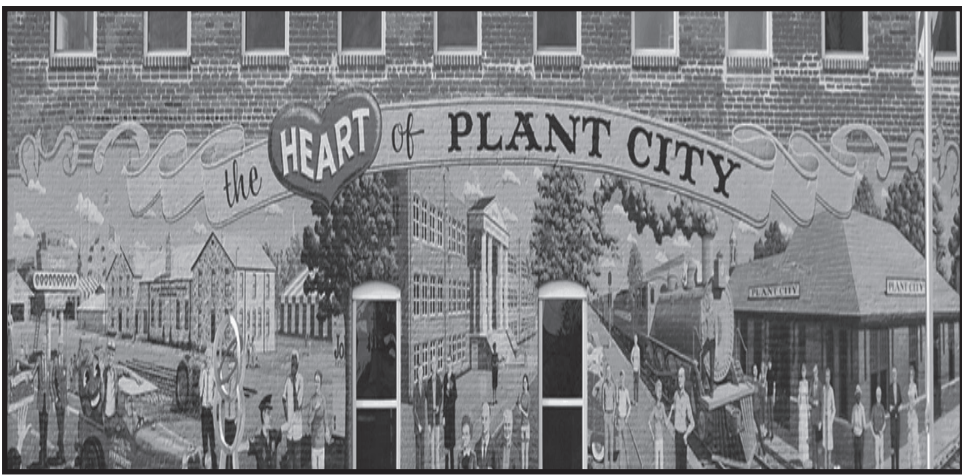
The singing was very-good. It was more contemporary (praise and worship) and in the first service the singing was more down the line of choir music. The musicians were just great with great voices in the 2nd service.

What was impressive was that in the pre-service two teenagers were baptized and at the invitation at the end of the service several people were saved and others went to the altar for prayer. To me it was more like a revival service in our churches in East Tennessee but in this church, it was anormal Sunday.

I know a lot of churches are struggling but not First Baptist Church of Plant City. I know the church in the 2nd service was not full but from what I was told the 1st service is almost full and I would guess that the sanctuary holds at least 800 to 1,200 people.

I know me seeing one church in Central Florida with this kind of service does not tell you that our nation has returned to God but at least it tells us that all churches are not dying.

Plant City a Town with a Small-Town Atmosphere



Plant City is a town of around 40,000 people and the people who live there would like to keep it that way. With the money that's being offered for the land and property there that might be hard to do.

Plant City is located around 20 miles East of Tampa. It is the winter strawberry capital of the world. It is located right off I-4 that will take you to Orlando and all the way to the East Coast of Florida.

If you stay away from the interstate and drive south and east you will find acres and acres of strawberry fields and other crops.

If you go further to Myakka City, Arcadia, Wauchula you will find small town folks who are trying to keep their small towns from growing larger. In the future its going to get harder and harder to hold onto this land. All the land on the gulf is already taken so the only place people can settle in Florida is inland. When big cooperations or investors come in and offer them big money the land owners feel that maybe its time to retire from farming and take care of this big piece of property. When you are offered thousands for a piece of property you gave hundreds for you feel like you need to sale and take life easy.

You might go to the pan handle and get cheaper land, but it too is likely to go up.

Plant City Main Street reminds you of Roane Street in Harriman, Tennessee. The buildings there look just like those in Harriman. If I was younger, I would like to consider moving to Plant City. I've not done a study on the prices in Plant City and other places but I could about tell you they are probably a little cheaper here in this part of Hillsborough County then closer to Tampa.

My daughter-in-law and son own a Chick-fil-a in Plant City and

they don't believe there is another place like this town in Florida or any other state.

I asked Dawn if she considered the people of Plant City as being really friendly and helpful, she said, "Oh! yes Tommy I really do. These people have come and asked us if there was anything they could do to help out." She said they remind me of folks back in the old days.

This town in Central Florida might be the best kept secret in Florida. I tell you folks if you come down here, please don't tell them I told you about Plant City. They probably don't need you here but they do love people who will support the way they have lived for years. They are mostly conservative thinking and there are lots of churches and Christians - not all but certainly the majority.

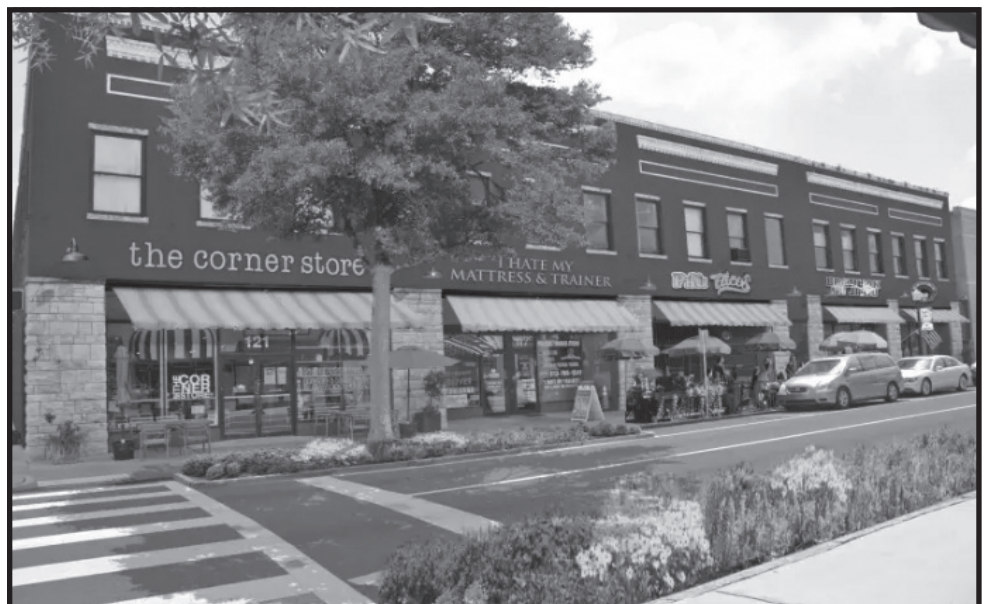
I taught school and was an administrator for twenty-three years in Manatee County which is right below here. Much of Manatee is rural but it too is changing. It's to bad because even the political picture is changing. Liberals are moving from the North and New England and no doubt many of them will still vote liberal even though they left there because of the liberal policies. I don't care where you move to or how good the job market is, or how pretty the scenery is if the people, especially the leaders have the wrong policies you don't want to live there. Ask the Californians or New Yorkers, or those from Northern Blue States. There are many of them moving into Nashville and even a few into Morgan County. I know it's a good time to sell most places but I know people from these places mentioned will give the highest prices but I hate for them to take over those rural counties in East Tennessee. If you covet money more than anything else you might want to do this. The only thing that will cause me to do this is the cost of taking care of my daughter because she has two serious medical conditions. I've worked hard all my life to get to where I am now.

I thank God for the blessings he has bestowed upon me. Regardless what the prosperity preachers say, all of life is not peaches and roses. We all should know that. It rains on the righteous as well as the non-righteous.

If we will read the Bible and really seek an understanding, we will know who to follow and who to stay away from.

According to many good men of God and because a lot of prophecies have been fulfilled Jesus could be on the way. Are you ready?

Please pray for Israel and our government. Pray that people will come back to church.





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The Bulldog Banner



4-H Congress - Part I

By: Cole Burchell



Daniel Bunch
(Big Man Dan)

Cole Burchell
(CatFish Cole)

Recently I have been given the opportunity to attend an exciting program in our state capitol known as 4-H Congress. Since 1948 4-H has allowed dedicated 4-H'ers the opportunity to experience the state legislative process. There 4-H'ers gather to learn about our great state's history, politics, and culture. To participate in this amazing event I have been required to write an essay on why I wish to attend and what I hope to gain from this experience. Below is my essay which I hope will help me to further develop my skills as a leader, and understand the importance of our state legislature in our own lives.



Ever since I began to develop my understanding of politics and the role legislation plays in our country, I have dedicated myself to one day being a part of a political body and making a difference. Whether this be within my hometown, county, state, or beyond I hope to represent justice and equality for all Americans. This is why I wish to attend 4-H Congress, to help develop my leadership skills, guide my fellow peers through hardships, and distinguish myself in a competitive and cooperative environment.



From left to right: the 2022 - 2023 4-H Congress Speaker of the House - Alex Snodgrass, Governor - MaeLee Williamson, & Speaker of the Senate - Grace Carroll - 4-H Congress in action

First, I discussed that by attending 4-H Congress I hope to improve upon and further develop my leadership skills. That is to say what exactly is leadership and what responsibilities does it entail? To me, leadership is a commitment towards a particular goal or ideal and having the courage, wisdom, and strength to lead others. I see this within 4-H Congress in the youth lead bodies, the House, and the Senate. Furthermore, the cooperation of each to vote on and discuss important issues concerning us.

This requires an open mindset while still holding one's beliefs true to themselves, and representing one's electors just and fairly.



Now, it is very important to look at what one can do for other 4-H'ers when attending Congress. Each one of us can help another overcome differences, conflicts, and hardships stalling progress towards cooperation and unity. Thinking in the sense of legislation which is clear but also personnel obstacles we each face. I for example have had to deal with my parent's divorce alongside traveling long distances because of this. I have also dealt with an autoimmune disease, alopecia resulting in hair loss. While not every kid will face these same obstacles, we can relate still to hardship and work together to build upon one another.

when I can have my own seat amongst our state's representatives or senators and pass legislation. I will work with my community to create change in this ever-evolving world and hope to represent true moral values alongside those of our nation's founding.

Essentially, I hope that applying myself to this new and exciting situation will help me to be a dignified individual. I will transfer my gained knowledge from this event into a respectable career in politics. As I said, one needs to engage in a competitive and cooperative environment to learn and grow. 4-H Congress will do just this, as I am welcome to take a seat spiritually with our state's elected representatives. I dream of a day

All of this to say, I am honored to have been given the opportunity to attend 4-H Congress. I believe this experience will benefit me as I hope to learn many new things and meet new people from across the state. There is no better place to learn about leadership than the halls of our legislative branch. What better people to help overcome and triumph over hardship with than 4-H'ers. Finally, how better to distinguish myself than by taking action toward my future.

I hope you can now see just what 4-H Congress hopes to accomplish and what a great opportunity it provides 4-H'ers across the state. Soon I will be heading to Nashville and hope to write about my time there exploring the legislative process and historic city.



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Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become GREAT!

- Mark Twain

Historically Speaking

QualPro and Multivariable Testing (MVT) – the amazing application of a Y-12 technology

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

In the 47 years I worked at Y-12 which was first the Y-12 Electromagnetic Separation Plant, then the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant, and later the Y-12 National Security Complex, I saw many changes and were involved in bringing about some of them. One was Foundations of Y-12 Supervision, another Targeted Selection and another the Pride Circle Program. Each of these initiatives were intended to bring about continuous improvement.

The Pride Circles (Productivity through Recognition, Involvement, and Development of Employees) were small groups of employees working together to measure and improve productivity in their own work areas using statistical process control. It was patterned after the Japanese originated Quality Circles.

This was happening at about the same time as Dr. W. Edwards Deming statistical process control was gaining much attention in the United States after he had successfully taught it to the Japanese. I well remember attending one of his seminars in Trenton, New Jersey. He was a unique lecturer who could really make his point.

One of the senior managers from Y-12 was in the same seminar and he asked Dr. Deming a question. I do not recall the exact question, but here is how Dr.

Deming handled it. He said, “What is your name? And your position?” The senior manager answered and stated he was from Y-12 in Oak Ridge, TN. Dr. Deming said, “And you don’t know the answer to that question? I am not going to tell you!” He then moved on and I watched as the manager’s face got bright red. He did not ask another question.

The thing I also remember is statistical process control was not new to Y-12. Introducing it at the employee level across all portions of the plant was and that is what Pride Circles did. But that was just a small thing compared to what else resulted from the surge in interest and application of statistical process control.

One of the managers at Y-12 at the time was Charles (Chuck) Holland. He was the Quality Manager, and his focus was on assuring the nation’s nuclear weapons program would achieve its intended mission. Y-12 is a vital part of that assurance. It is with pride that Y-12 can claim to never have missed a scheduled shipment of nuclear weapons secondaries during the entire Cold War.

Y-12 was already ahead of most if not all other manufacturing operations in the nation and likely the world. Chuck says of the article linked below: “Here is a recent success story written by the CEO of a QualPro client company. The procedure that he is describing is the same as we were using in A-Wing Machining, H-1 Foundry, and the different assembly areas in 1964.” Of course, he is referencing operations at Y-12.

<https://qualproinc.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/qpchemicalprocessing.pdf>

So, what is QualPro? The following explanation is found on the company’s history website, https://qualproinc.com/company_history/

It is the company that “During the 1980’s, Dr Holland began working closely with Dr. W. Edwards Deming as Deming worked to revitalize the U.S. automotive industry and other manufacturing sectors. Deming urged Dr. Holland to start QualPro to help American companies improve their processes while Deming worked to transform the American style of management.

“Many of QualPro’s earliest clients were direct referrals from Deming. Dr. Holland collaborated closely with Deming to develop QualPro. The two met frequently in Washington D.C. to discuss how to

make process improvement techniques as effective as possible for U. S. and global corporations. Deming soon labeled Dr. Holland as one of his original Deming Masters, an elite group of process improvement specialists whom ‘you could count on your fingers.’” While this quote comes from QualPro’s Company History at:

https://qualproinc.com/company_history/ even more information is available on the rest of the website: <https://qualproinc.com/>

Here are links to two other client testimonial videos citing successful significant improvements resulting from QualPro’s MVT (Multivariable Testing):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYH8WQlc-50>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pn9uFy1oNJK>

Just what is MVT? Dr. Holland took what he had been implementing at Y-12 for several years and along with the interaction with Dr. Deming took what Y-12 was doing and standardized it through designing experiments in which several variables



A typical training session where clients are learning MVT (multivariable testing) from QualPro consultants in a practical application using the data from their own company to understand how to implement quality improvements

were altered all at once. This varied from the more commonly accepted approach of examining only one variable at a time. Unfortunately doing one at a time allowed missing the interaction between multiple variables.

Dr. Holland is quoted in a Forbes magazine article entitled, “The new mantra: MVT” published in 1996, as saying, “If you test factors one at a time there’s a very low probability that you’re going to hit the right one before everybody gets sick of it and quits.”

Further quoting from the Forbes article, “Using the MVT discipline, a factory, a utility, a retail chain, a hospital or almost any kind of organization can experiment with how changes in its processes affect the outcome. By tweaking the inputs, the factory gets a higher yield, or the open-heart surgery department gets a lower mortality rate, or the utility gets a faster collection of its accounts receivables.”

The first area of focus for QualPro was major automotive companies and their key suppliers. Soon it was apparent that consulting support was necessary to help the companies use the process improvement tools including MVT.

Within 10 years QualPro was ranked at number 80 on the Inc. “5,000 Fastest Growing Private Companies” list. The company continued to expand and ultimately has tested more than 250,000 business improvement ideas in over 17,000 improvement projects resulting in tens of billions of dollars in bottom-line improvements.

From the early efforts to improve automotive, chemical, paper, textile, electronics, oil and gas companies and mining industries, QualPro diverged into helping service organizations in sectors such as retail, insurance, telecommunications, financial services, and healthcare. Most recently MVT is even being applied to higher education, state and federal government, and public welfare.

QualPro has been featured in Forbes, BusinessWeek, Fortune, the Wall Street Journal, The Economist, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Chicago Tribune, and more totaling over 200 publications. CNN, CNBC, and Fox Business have all featured QualPro.

So, while you may drive by QualPro’s home office off state highway 161 just south of Solway,



Dr. Chuck Holland, Chief Executive Officer of QualPro, and Dr. W. Edwards Deming, who encouraged

their efforts are not often there but are onsite with companies and organizations across the nation.

I am pleased to bring you details of QualPro working with various companies in a variety of fields using multivariable testing to bring about significant improvement:

QualPro Client Successes

<u>Manufacturing</u>	<u>Mining</u>	<u>Retail</u>
Valspar 44% Reduction in Average Changeover Time	OCI 24% Increase in Tons per Shift	AutoNation Increased Retail Sales by 9% and Reduced Ad Spend by \$23 Million
DuPont \$208 Million in Cost Savings and Increased Production	Tronox 15% Increase in Tons per Shift	Bridgestone Firestone Increased Sales by \$22,000 per Store and Margins by \$14,000 per Store across almost 2300 Retail Stores
Phillips 66 100X ROI on 51 QualPro Projects	Molycorp 48% Increase in Product Recovery	Lowe's Reduced Advertising Expense by Nearly \$50 Million While Increasing Sales
BASF \$47 Million in Cost Savings at a Single Site		Big Lots Achieved a 14:1 Gross Margin ROI
DuPont Reduced Solar Panel Film Defects from 3,000 to 0		Williams-Sonoma Increased Catalog Sales by 25%

Chuck Holland, CEO of QualPro as quoted in BusinessWeek: “We’ve been unbelievably successful at improving throughput - at least 10% to 25% consistently - with no new equipment, no new spending. And we’ve always found that quality improves as well. The payoff is so big that just word of mouth keeps companies coming.”

Art Hammer, Vice President of QualPro as quoted in The Wall Street Journal: “The MVT system can quickly and efficiently find the best ways for a company to make major improvements: increasing sales by 25%, for example, or cutting costs by one-third.”

Bill McBee, General Manager, Pactiv Corporation (QualPro client at three companies) “With MVT, you are going to improve the process, you are going to make it better, you are going to move it faster, you are going to make it cheaper, you are going to solve quality problems, improve products, whatever it is, but you are not going to spend any capital. You are not going to spend any money to do it, and you are not going to increase the operating cost. That is a pretty good deal. . . . QualPro. MVT. It works everywhere, it works on everything, everybody loves it, it produces results.”

There you have an example of one of the successful companies that have been formed over the years coming out of technologies first developed in Oak Ridge. There are others, of course, but as I am often known to say, Oak Ridge does not always do our best at promoting the successes we achieve. I believe we are getting better, but we still have a way to go!

I would be glad to feature any other businesses in Oak Ridge who have succeeded as has QualPro.

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KNOXVILLE
TVA EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION



Harriman's Jordan McCullum Nominated for 1A Mr. Basketball

After being nominated for Class 1A Mr. Basketball, Harriman's Jordan McCullum electrified the home crowd Friday evening with numerous dunks as the Blue Devils defeated Rockwood 56-31. Despite Rockwood's stifling zone defense, Jordan scored 31 points, equaling the output of the entire Rockwood team.

These photos by Terry Futrell capture a couple of Jordan's spectacular attacks on the basket.



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MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL DISTRICT CHAMPIONS



Photos by Cathy Bird

Boys

Coalfield 44 Wartburg 37

Girls

Coalfield 46 Rockwood 22



ELECTION NOTICE
For August 1, 2024
State/Federal Republican & Democratic Primary Election
Morgan County General Election
Municipal Election for City of Wartburg
& Independent Candidates for the November General Election

To the voters of Morgan County, TN, notice is hereby given that State/Federal Republican and Democratic Primary Elections, State and Morgan County General Elections, and a Municipal Election for the City of Wartburg. These elections will be held on Thursday, August 1, 2024, in all eligible voting precincts in Morgan County, TN.

The State/Federal Offices on the August 1, 2024
Republican & Democratic Primary/Partisan Ballots will be:

US Senator – Tennessee – 6 year term
 United States House of Representatives-3rd Congressional District- 2 year term
 Tennessee State Senate – 12th Senatorial District- 4 year term
 Tennessee House of Representatives-41st District- 2 year term
 Republican State Executive Committeewoman-12th Senatorial District- 2 year unexpired term
 Democratic State Executive Committeeman-12th Senatorial District- 2 year unexpired term
 Democratic State Executive Committeewoman-12th Senatorial District- 2 year unexpired term

Offices on the Morgan County General Ballot:

All candidates listed below will run non-partisan)
 Assessor of Property- 4 year term
 County Attorney- 4 year term
 School Board Members 2nd, 4th, 6th Districts-1 seat each district, 4 year terms
 County Commission District 2, filling 1 seat District-At-Large, 2 year unexpired term

Offices on the City of Wartburg Municipal Ballot

Alderman- 4 year term

- The first day to pick-up a petition for an election in this notice is **February 5, 2024**
- Qualifying deadline will be **Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 12:00 NOON**, for those running as a Republican, Democratic or Independent Candidates.
- The withdrawal deadline will be **Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 12:00 NOON**.
- Individuals desiring to run for **Tennessee House of Representatives 41st District** must also file qualifying paperwork in all the 41st District Counties before the qualifying deadline of **April 4, 2024, at 12:00 Noon**. Contact the respective Party's Executive Committee for any additional requirements or deadlines regarding filing with them.
- Individuals desiring to run for **Tennessee State Executive Committee Man or Woman, 12th Senatorial District**, must also file qualifying paperwork in all the 12th Senatorial District Counties before the qualifying deadline **April 4, 2024, at 12:00 Noon**. Contact the respective Party's Executive Committee for any additional requirements or deadlines regarding filing with them.
- Independent candidates for State/Federal offices listed above, to be filled in the November 5, 2024 General Election, must also file their qualifying petitions as stated above.
- The first day the armed forces, spouses, and overseas voters to request an absentee ballot for this election is **January 1, 2024**.
- The first day to request an absentee ballot other than armed forces and overseas voters for the August 1, 2024, Election is **May 3, 2024**
- The last day to request and process an absentee ballot request is **July 25, 2024**.
- The last day to register to vote for the August 1, 2024, Election will be **July 2, 2024**.

• **Information or Petitions may be picked up:**

Morgan County Election Commission
Morgan County Courthouse
415 N Kingston St, Room# 105,
Wartburg, Tennessee 37887

Notice for Elderly Voters or Voters with Disabilities

Any elderly voter or voter with a disability whose polling place is inaccessible may vote early by absentee ballot *or* at the Election Commission Office on Election Day. If voters choose to vote at the Election Commission Office on Election Day, they must complete an affidavit at the Election Commission Office **no later than Monday, July 22, 2024**, (ten days prior to the election), stating that their designated voting location is not accessible. For more information, please contact the Morgan County Election Commission office.

Online Voter Registration

For more information on online voter registration or to update your current registration visit: www.govotetn.com

PHOTO ID REQUIRED FOR VOTERS: If you are voting in person during Early Voting or on Election Day, a Federal or State of Tennessee Government issued **photo ID** is required for voting, unless an exception applies. College student ID's and out-of-state photo ID's will not be accepted. Forms of acceptable identification, even if expired, include a Tennessee driver license with your photo, United States passport, Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security photo ID, Photo ID issued by the federal government, United States military ID including a Veteran Identification Card, and a Tennessee handgun carry permit with your photo. To learn more about this law and its exceptions, please call the Morgan County Election Commission or visit the Tennessee Division of Elections website at: www.GoVoteTN.com

The Election Commission will be closed for the following holiday schedule:

Memorial Day-May 27, 2024
 Good Friday- March 29, 2024
 Independence Day-July 4, 2022

MORGAN COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

415 N Kingston St, Rm # 105,
 P.O. Box 266
 Wartburg, Tennessee 37887
 Phone: (423)346-3190 Fax: (423)346-4350
 Email- Morgan.Commission@TN.Gov
 Website: MorganElections.com

Gary Massengill, Chairman
 Mike Gunter, Secretary
 Kathy Carroll, Member
 John Pemberton, Member
 Sarah Seavers, Member
 Tim Sweat, Administrator of Elections

**ELECTION NOTICE
EARLY / ABSENTEE VOTING
PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024**

THE MORGAN COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION WILL BE OPEN FOR EARLY VOTING FOR ANY ELIGIBLE VOTER TO CAST A BALLOT BY PERSONAL APPEARANCE AT THE MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 415 N. KINGSTON ST., WARTBURG, TENNESSEE AS FOLLOWS:

**February 14-16th: 9 A.M.-4 P.M. • February 17th: 9 A.M.- 12 NOON
February 19-23rd: 9 A.M.- 4 P.M. • February 24th: 9 A.M.-12 NOON
February 26-27th: 9 A.M.- 6 P.M.**

THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN PERSON OR BY MAIL POSTMARKED FOR THE MARCH 5, 2024 PRIMARY ELECTION WILL BE **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024**. REGISTERED VOTERS WHO WILL BE UNABLE TO GO TO THEIR POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY MAY VOTE BY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS:

1. VOTING BY PERSONAL APPEARANCE BEGINNING February 14th THROUGH February 27th, A VOTER DESIRING TO VOTE BY PERSONAL APPEARANCE SHALL GO TO THE MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE EARLY VOTING SITE, PRESENT A VALID FEDERAL OR TN STATE ISSUED PHOTO ID, SIGN AN APPLICATION TO VOTE, AND CAST THEIR VOTE BY PAPER BALLOT. THE LAST DATE TO EARLY VOTE BY PERSONAL APPEARANCE IS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024 AT 6:00 PM.

PHOTO ID REQUIREMENT FOR ALL VOTERS AT POLLS:

All voters must present a valid Federal or TN State issued photo ID. The ID must contain the voter's name and photograph. For more information regarding exemptions, acceptable and non acceptable proof of photo ID, please contact our office or you may visit the Tennessee Division of Elections web site: <http://www.tn.gov/sos/election/index.htm> or <http://www.GoVoteTN.com>. **Acceptable PHOTO IDs (even if expired) include: TN driver license with your photo, TN Department of Safety and Homeland Security photo ID, TN State issued gun carry permit with your photo, United States Military photo ID, United States Passport, or any photo ID issued by the Federal or TN State government (excluding college student IDs).** Registered voters that do not have a valid PHOTO ID may obtain one for voting purposes from the Tennessee Department of Safety at any **participating driver service center** or added onto an existing TN State driver license or ID **with an appointment at the Morgan County Clerk office**. Under the voter ID law, in order to get a photo ID for voting purposes, voters must show the following documentation to the **Driver Service Center** examiner: Proof of US citizenship (such as a birth certificate); and, two proofs of Tennessee residency (such as copy of a utility bill, vehicle registration/title, or bank statement). **REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR VALID FEDERAL OR TN STATE PHOTO ID WITH YOU WHEN YOU APPEAR TO VOTE. THIS APPLIES TO EARLY VOTING AND ELECTION DAY.**

2. VOTING ABSENTEE

IN ORDER TO VOTE ABSENTEE BY MAIL, A VOTER MUST MEET CERTAIN LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS. A VOTER WHICH REGISTERED IN PERSON AND DESIRING TO VOTE ABSENTEE BY MAIL, SHALL IN WRITING OVER HIS SIGNATURE EITHER IN PERSON AT THE ELECTION COMMISSION OFFICE OR BY MAIL, REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT. SUCH REQUEST FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT MAY BE RECEIVED NO EARLIER THAN THE 90TH DAY PRIOR TO THE ELECTION, AND **MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 27, 2024 AT 4:00 PM**. THE REQUEST FOR AN APPLICATION CAN SERVE AS AN APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT IF IT CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING: NAME, ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, DATE OF BIRTH, ADDRESS TO MAIL THE BALLOT TO, THE ELECTION/S THE VOTER WISHES TO VOTE IN, THE VALID REASON THE VOTER WISHES TO VOTE ABSENTEE, AND THE VOTER'S SIGNATURE. **A voter may make the request or submit an application to vote by mail, facsimile transmission or email with an attached document which includes a scanned signature.**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT EARLY VOTING, PLEASE CONTACT:

MORGAN COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
415 N. KINGSTON ST.
PO BOX 266
WARTBURG, TN 37887
PH. 423.346.3190
EMAIL: Morgan.Commission@TN.Gov
WEBSITE: MorganElections.Com

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OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR MORGAN COUNTY
PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY
March 5, 2024

Precinct NEWSPAPER
Page 2 of 2

67789

Committed and Uncommitted Delegates District 3
Delegate candidates are listed in alphabetical order by Presidential candidate followed by uncommitted candidates

COMMITTED and UNCOMMITTED DELEGATES DISTRICT 3
Vote for Three (3)

Rebecca Denise Cope English (Ron DeSantis)

Emily Goldberg (Ron DeSantis)

George Gray (Ron DeSantis)

Ken Meyer (Ron DeSantis)

David Queen (Ron DeSantis)

John Samuel Stanbery (Ron DeSantis)

Bruce Bradford (Nikki Haley)

Rhonda Champion (Nikki Haley)

Teresa Lorraine Davanzo (Nikki Haley)

Jonathan Malloch (Nikki Haley)

Dustin Summers (Nikki Haley)

Ann Ayers-Colvin (Donald J. Trump)

Brenda Fleischmann (Donald J. Trump)

Chuck Fleischmann (Donald J. Trump)

William Andrew Guffee (Donald J. Trump)

Dalton Temple (Donald J. Trump)

Marsha Yessick (Donald J. Trump)

William 'Bill' Crawford (Uncommitted)

Lawrence O. Grohn (Uncommitted)

Write-in

Write-in

Write-in

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Joseph R. Biden

Uncommitted

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John Burns
Opinion Columnist

Babylonian Time vs Jerusalem Time

Is the Garden of Eden, the city of Jerusalem? The garden had many varieties of trees. Yet, only one tree held the knowledge of good and evil. Was the reason, Adam and Eve were told that they could not touch or eat of this tree, a time equation?

Leviticus 25 teaches us about when to plant a sapling, how often the sapling needs pruning, when not to eat the fruit, and when exactly to harvest the fruit of the tree. We are taught that fruit

is to be harvested and shared in the fourth season. What millennium held the key to Christ crucifixion?

Does the Bible identify how old Jesus Christ was during the crucifixion? Jesus Christ is the seed, the vine, the Branch, and was crucified upon the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Why? Because Jesus Christ is the only man ever born for the purpose of dying upon a tree.

And God said 'Let Light Be!' If there was ever an argument for light being instantaneous, this should qualify. God established light as being the source of life. Find the origin of light, and life becomes real.

The mathematics of creation points to light being instantaneous and, in a vacuum, existing outside of how human time is reckoned. Humans measure time through artificial means. They time how long light waves take to bend around objects. Can God time be measured?

Day one ended with the framing of how God rightly views human time. The evening and the morning were the first day. The Hebrew states the Erev and the Boker.

Erev is evening. It is when darkness makes all things appear indiscernible. Morning was Boker. This is an allusion to light appearing. In God's economy, light always replaces darkness! The Bible Day begins at sunset/moonrise. It lasts 24 hours until the next moonrise.

This is a very important biblical principle to begin understanding that every day in human history appears to occur in the Bible chronology. The entire Bible is written upon the Babylonian Luni-solar calendar of 30 day months, from moon cycle to moon cycle.

The Babylonians under Nimrod, gave us the pagan calendar of 12 months based on the 12 constellations found common to all who view them. The Babylon calendar begins in January, ending in December. The Bible calendar is an agricultural calendar based upon three trees.

The fig tree, The Almond tree, The olive. All three of these fruits can be harvested twice in a single season. The Bible outlines national Israel and the Body of Christ as allegories. Only a few are chosen during the first harvest. Most go through a severe chastening before being harvested by Christ.

The Hebrew religious calendar begins with the birth of new lambs each spring in the month of Nisan. Lambs bound for the temple sacrifice have always been born in spring and only in the town of Bethlehem. Even to this day while occupied by Edomites!

Jesus Christ as the lamb of God, I believe was born on Nisan 1. He was circumcised on day 8. Inspected by the people of Jerusalem and priests of the temple on Nisan 10. Then crucified on Nisan 14. He walked out of the garden tomb on Nisan 17. The pattern was established on Noah's ark!

6 days the trinity set about creating our world inhabitable for us. He rested on the 7th day. Have you ever thought about what was missing on day 7?

How about the evening and the morning? Why? The sabbath rest is about an idle mind focusing on God for 24 hours. No human calendar!

Is it a coincidence, the world East of Jerusalem is on a 360 day Luni-solar calendar, and the world West of Jerusalem is on a Solar 365 day calendar? Is it a coincidence that every language East of Jerusalem is written from Right to Left, whilst every language West of Jerusalem is written from Left to Right?

Prophecy in the Bible is about prologue and pattern. God wrote the Bible and the entire timeline of human history in advance. A return to the Bible calendar in dealing with all things God, makes the Bible easy to discern for all those Christ has called.

Western religion has married the world with its Babylonian pantheon. Believing grace is about God overlooking paganism in Church is both naïve and wanting! Will God forgive preachers for leading their flocks in the mixing of a little bit of baby Jesus with a whole lot of Nimrod?

I always fancied myself as someone who believed the world was too organized for our existence to be a random accident. The narrative of public education coupled with religion, had led me further from the true knowledge of God. A change had to occur in my thinking.

While living a mile from the Chattahoochee river in Atlanta, I began to contemplate what parts of my testimony God could use and how did he want me to proceed with my faith. Bible study became my escape, as I began to separate from all the things church was advancing that were not scriptural.

God had begun to reveal his will to me through scripture study, while I was in the valley of addiction. I decided to throw in the towel. From this moment forward in 2003, my life would be subject to biblical correction from Jesus Christ.

Being born again became real, as I realized the more I focused on Jesus Christ in scripture, the more God began to lift the veil of addiction from my eyes. As the Biblical knowledge of God's messiah increased in my life, the less drugs helped! I was indeed understanding the new birth.

I now had to become Christlike and begin to offer mercy with all those I encountered. Mercy is my cry over my own life each day as I humbly appeal to God to order my footsteps into eternity.

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

He is alive forevermore, and he is returning for his virgin bride very soon.

Jb 2023

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

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

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

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

Check out what 2024 has to offer at Rusty Wallace Kia of Knoxville!



2024 Carnival



2024 Telluride



2024 Niro



2024 Forte



2024 Soul



2024 Sportage



2024 K5

Revelation Chapter 21



Melvin Howard

As the previous chapter contained a vision of the great day of judgment, it is entirely fitting that the following section contains a description of the vast blessing that await the victorious people of God.

(Revelation 21:1-8) The new heaven and earth: In this first section, John sees a vision of a “new” heaven and earth. What is this? It is not, as alleged by some, a renovation of this present earthly environment. The term “new” translates Greek term which denotes a newness of quality.

The first heaven and earth, the material universe, have “passed away” (Mt. 24:35; 2 Pet. 3:10-13) and the sea is “no more.” The “new heaven” and “new earth” represent a new realm of existence, Heaven itself. These verses are devastating to those who claim that God will renovate the earth and heaven will be on this planet. Jesus drew a clear distinction between heaven and earth (Matthew 6:19-21). “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

In a mixture of figures, the victorious church is described as both a “holy city,” the “new Jerusalem, and a “bride” (9-10). Elsewhere Jerusalem is depicted as a symbol of heavenly things (Gal. 4:26; Heb. 11:10; 12:22; 13:14). This glorious Jerusalem stands in obvious contrast to corrupt “Babylon” (17:5; 18:2). One writer has said that the message of Revelation as a whole is a “Tale of Two Cities.” It also constitutes a contrast between a pure bride and a harlot--the clean versus the corrupt! The church-bride connection is common in the New Testament (Rom. 7:4; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:22; Rev. 3:12; 19:7-8). The perfect tense of the verb, “made ready,” suggest that the preparation has been completed, and the passive voice gives glory to God for the accomplishment. No one can abide eternally with the Creator who is not “ready.”

The heavenly state is one in which God dwells with his people and is their God. Note the “no mores” emphasized in this section. The final state of the redeemed is one in which “all things” have been made “new.” Observe that the water of life is a promised gift to those who thirst for it (v. 6), who exercise their will and come (in obedience) seeking it (22:17). Notice that the eternal state will be characterized by the absence of certain wicked ones, whose part shall be in the lake that burns (present tense---continually) with fire and brimstone (a figure for intense suffering). There is eternal retribution for rebels.

(Revelation 21:9-15) The security of the city: This reflects a symbolic description of the heavenly city itself. The community is surrounded by a wall, great and high. This likely emphasizes the fact of security. The gates are ever open, another indication of safety (v.25), and are inscribed with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, while the foundations have the names of the twelve apostles. These dual “twelve’s” perhaps suggest the presence of God’s faithful from both the Old and New Testament eras. Here is an important point: the fact that the apostles are only twelve (when actually there were thirteen faithful apostles), illustrates how numbers are symbolically employed in the Apocalypse. Millennialists should learn something from this.

(Revelation 21:16-21) The beauty of the city: The city of God is represented as a huge area with length, breadth, and height---figuratively about fifteen hundred miles in each direction. Coffman has shown that these dimensions could accommodate many times the earth’s capacity for dwelling; this is another clue that this heavenly domain is not upon the earth.

The cubed dimensions would likely remind the serious student of the holy of holies, the dwelling place of God in the temple (1 Kgs. 6:20). The heavenly city is symbolically portrayed as that of precious metal and stones of unparalleled beauty. As one illustration of this, the term “jasper” likely refers to a diamond. The Greek term rendered “building” (v.18) is found only here in the New Testament. The original word is used by Josephus to signify “that which is built in,” inlaid, and so here it may suggest a diamond-studded wall. Fran Pack has well observed that “language breaks down in endeavoring to describe the radiance, the glory, the wealth, the beauty, and the magnificence of this great city.”

(Revelation 21:22-27) The sufficiency of the city: Both God and Christ become the divine sanctuary. No “temple” is required; we will worship the Godhead directly. Again, both God and the Lamb provide the light. One can hardly read these passages and not conclude that Christ receives divine glory along with the Father. The cultists (the Jehovah Witnesses) who would rob Jesus of his deity are seriously in error. The international flavor of the heavenly company is indicated. One cannot but think of such prophetic passages as Isaiah 2:2-4 and Jesus’ statement that “many” from “the east and the west” would sit with the patriarchs in the kingdom of heaven (Mt. 8:11). Some have suggested that the phrase, “there shall be no night there,” contradicts 7:15, which affirms divine service “day and night.” There is no conflicts. The idiomatic phrase in 7:15 merely denotes continual service, whereas the language of 21:25 is designed to emphasize the glory of God. Only a crude literalist would see a discrepancy.

We are again reminded that the filthy, abominable, and the untrue are excluded from the heavenly environment. Note that John declares that “anything” that is unclean will be barred from heaven. If infants are born in sin, as many religionists allege, and then die in that state, how could they, as “unclean” beings, be elsewhere but in hell? Yet such a concept violates many biblical truths (Matthew 18:3-4 “And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” The Lamb’s book of life contains the redemptive record of all for whom he died---of every dispensation (Gal. 4:4-5; Heb. 9:15). How great will be our final reward!

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BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Haggai (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What does Paul urge Christians to be of God, as found in Ephesians 5:1? Lovers, Believers, Followers, Worshipers
3. From Proverbs 3, we are not to lean on our own ...? Riches, Understanding, Friends, Pity
4. In 2 Chronicles, what godly priest had a wife named Jehosheba? Jehoiada, Felix, Demetrius, Jeremiah
5. What is the middle chapter of the Old Testament (KJV)? 2 Chronicles 3, Job 29, Psalms 34, Isaiah 41
6. On which day did God make Adam and Eve? Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Followers, 3) Understanding, 4) Jehoiada, 5) Job 29, 6) Sixth

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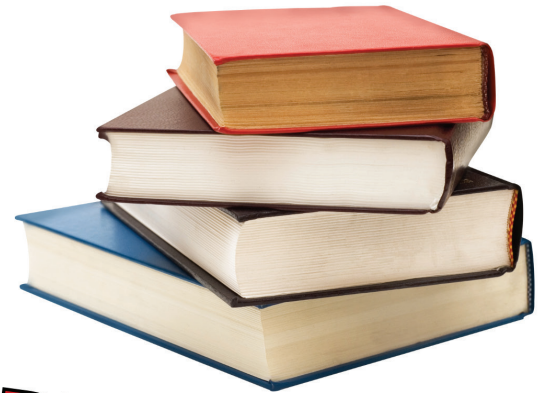
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