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Psalm 100:3
 www.mocotoday.com
 Volume 09 Number 45
 Tuesday, November 7, 2023

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Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

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WEEKLY WEATHER



Tue 07 77°/50° [Sun icon]

Wed 08 77°/57° [Sun icon]

Thu 09 73°/55° [Cloud icon]

Fri 10 57°/41° [Rain icon]

Sat 11 60°/38° [Sun/Cloud icon]

Sun 12 58°/38° [Sun/Cloud icon]

Mon 13 58°/36° [Sun/Cloud icon]



Ms. Avery Pearl Pet Columnist

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

Mimi has been trying to talk my Pap into letting me have a sister for months now. Well, they went and got this

as me. She says that there may not be one as sweet as me so they may have to settle for one almost as sweet. Mimi says that I will always be their little girl no matter what and that she and Pap wuff me forever.

little girl Yorkie named, Pressley for my Aunt Margie. Pap liked her a lot. I was a little bit jealous. However, I got over it. So maybe, just maybe I will be getting a sister. I will keep you guys updated. So, keep your paws crossed that Mimi can find a little Yorkie that is just as sweet



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

PLATEAU PLAYERS' "BRIGHT STAR" PRODUCTION NEARS

CURTAIN TIME FOR NOVEMBER 10-12

With rehearsals progressing for the Plateau Players' upcoming staging of Steve Martin and

Edie Brickell's highly uplifting story of families in Appalachia, a story with the overarching goal of presenting hope, forgiveness and joy, presented by a group of very talented local actors, the production of "Bright Star" is set for Friday, November 10, Saturday, November 11 and Sunday, November 12 at the Scott County Christian Care Center's Black Box Theatre in Oneida (located next to the Plateau Drugs shopping center).

Tickets are still available. To reserve tickets, call 423-393-7640, or visit

www.ASotA.Art, the Appalachian Society of the Arts website.



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 Senior Citizens Building at 6:00pm

Morgan County Republican Party meets the last Thursday of every month at 7pm at the American Legion in Wartburg

2023 Thanksgiving Dinner DEER LODGE ABNER ROSS CENTER ANNUAL COMMUNITY DINNER

The Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center will host its Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday November 18th beginning at 12 noon and lasting until 3pm. The meal will consist of Turkey, Ham, Green beans, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Rolls, Dessert and Beverage. Patrons can dine-in or carry-out. We encourage everyone to come enjoy a meal with old friends and make new ones. Cost will be \$6.00 to cover the Center's costs. This is an outreach event to give back to the community for the support of the Center. All donations are appreciated to help with cost. For more information, please contact Bob Brimi at 423-628- 2850 or Martha Griffin at 423-965-4142.

For delivery within a 5 mile radius of Deer Lodge Center, please call before 10 am, Saturday November 18th at 423-965-5000. (Beverage not included in deliveries)

The Morgan County Tourism Alliance meetings are on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm held at Tanners Cafe.

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

State Farm logo and advertisement for Randy McFarland, Agent, including contact information and a small photo of the agent.

Speaker of the House Elected!



Michael Nance
Columnist

Regardless of your political leanings, this was desperately needed, so our government can go forward with the business of keeping the legislative wheels of the country moving. Mike Johnson, a Republican from Louisiana, is now the 56th and current Speaker of the House. He is also the first Speaker of the House from Louisiana. Who is he, what is his story, and what can we expect from him? These are the questions this article attempts to address.

Mike Johnson was elected as Speaker of the House on October 25, 2023, with a partisan vote of 220 and with 209 Democratic votes being cast for Democrat Hakeem Jeffries. With a vote split down party lines, the novice political observer certainly doesn't see a hint of unity in Congress.

Johnson is 51 years old and has served Louisiana's Fourth Congressional District since 2016. The fourth district is in the northwestern part of the state and is centered in Shreveport-Bossier City. The district is ~ 40% rural and has been a Republican dominated district for some time.

In 1995, he graduated from Louisiana State University with a bachelor's degree in business administration, later earning his Juris Doctorate from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 1998.

He is the father of four and an attorney who has devoted in his career to preserving traditional values. He spent nearly 20 years successfully litigating high profile constitutional law cases in district and appellate courts nationwide.

His wife Kelly, is a former schoolteacher from Webster Parish and a Licensed Pastoral Counselor. Kelly and Mike have been married since 1999 and have four children, Hannah, Abigail, Jack and Will. Today, they reside in Bossier Parish.

Johnson is a Trump supporter and has a record of being a



Photo Courtesy of the Congress of the United States

faith-based politician that has fought same sex marriage and abortion rights in many venues. He has indicated that he was a child of an unplanned pregnancy, and he is glad to be alive today. The Biden-Harris campaign doesn't seem to be optimistic about the new Speaker calling Johnson "a leading 2020 election denier".

In his speech to Congress after he was elected, he left no doubt of his religious faith, or his assertion that the power of the speaker should be decentralized. He was also very civil in his handling of Democratic opponent Hakim Jefferies, who he thanked at the very onset of his speech.

The far left is not thrilled by Mike Johnson's ascension to Speaker of the House. According to a recent article by The Hill : "The Democratic National Committee (DNC), is seeking to brand the new Speaker as "MAGA Mike Johnson."

But in a recent interview with Sean Hannity, Johnson's comments seem to be grounded in political realities and legislative priorities. Johnson told Hannity that his "big priorities" "include, Israel, Ukraine, the U.S.-Mexico border and the fentanyl

addiction crisis.", During the interview Johnson was also very direct that he felt like the current Homeland Security Director Alejandro Mayorkas should be impeached.

Johnson's term of Speaker will be interesting to watch and see if he can bring any hint of bipartisanship to a very divided house. Especially when he can have one vote from a single member to call for a no-confidence vote and potentially unseat him. Although this rule has been touted by the media as something new, in fact this was the rule before Nancy Pelosi term as Speaker. She changed the rule requiring a majority of either party to agree before a vote of no confidence could be taken. Let's wait and see if Speaker Johnson can bring civility and honest debate back to Congress.



Top Dollar for your trade in at Rusty Wallace Kia of Knoxville!



Journeyman Lineman

Plateau Electric Cooperative is accepting applications through Friday, November 17, 2023 from qualified candidates for the position of journeyman lineman. This position will be reporting to the Morgan County office. Position performs all types of skilled work relative to the construction and maintenance of Plateau Electric Cooperative's overhead and underground electric system. Climbs poles or steel structures and works from aerial lift devices to install conductor, transformers, crossarms, insulators and other related equipment. Must be willing to work in adverse weather conditions. Position requires a high-school diploma or GED. The successful candidate(s) must have a valid driver's license, and be able to obtain a Class "B" Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Those interested may pick up an application at either of the Cooperative's offices in Oneida or Wartburg.

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In Loving Memory

Shirley Lee Jones Daugherty, 86

Shirley Lee Jones Daugherty, age 86 and a life-long resident of the Stephens Switch community, departed this walk of life on October 28, 2023. She was of the Baptist Faith.



She was preceded in death by her parents, Marie Lowe Jones Bray and Charlie Rubin Jones.

She is survived by her daughter, Donna Jackson Parks (Harvey); son, Gregory Allan Daugherty; a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren;

sister, Dorlis Armes of Wartburg; brother, Arnold Rubin Jones (Carolyn) of Stephens; and step-son, Donnie Daugherty (Dot) of Clinton.

Shirley's family would like to especially thank her home caregivers over the past five years, the Amedisys Hospice staff, and Tim Melhorn Trucking for bringing biscuits to Shirley every Sunday morning.

The family will hold a private graveside service at Union Cemetery.

Betty Jo Lee, 54

Betty Jo Lee, of Harriman, TN, passed away at the age of 54 October 27, 2023 at Summit View of Rocky Top, TN. Betty battled a short time with kidney disease.



She is preceded in death by her parents Joe L. Houston and Betty Sue Ooten.

Betty leaves behind her son Bradley Lee; daughter-in-law Roselyn Lee; granddaughter Clairra Lee; brothers Robert Houston and Johnny Freytag; stepmother Brenda Houston; nephew Randy Freytag and many others.

The family will receive friends Thursday, November 2, 2023 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 3:00-4:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 4:00 p.m. with Brother Bobby Stewart officiating.

The family has ask in lieu of flowers contributions can be made to Schubert Funeral Home for funeral expenses.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Betty Jo Lee.

Ruby Hamby, 90

Ruby Hamby, age 90 of Lancing passed away Sunday, October 29, 2023, at Roane Medical Center in Harriman, TN. She was born on April 29, 1933, to Archie and Gertrude Swint. She was a member of Elizabeth Baptist church in Gobey, TN.



She is preceded in death by her loving husband Rev. Arnold Hamby; sons Randall, David, and Dennis Hamby; parents and brothers Archie Lee, Wendell and Lynn Allen Swint.

Ruby leaves behind daughter Stacie and husband Mike Taylor; son Mike and wife Robin Hamby; grandchildren Ashton Taylor, Travis Hamby, Jessica Nelson and husband Jason, Melissa Hamby; great grandchildren Otto and Alice Nelson, Shawna Alexander and husband Brian, DJ Jones and wife Mer-

cy; great great grandchildren Grayson and Asher Alexander, Aria and Colton Jones; sisters Charlene Gregg, Judy Griffith, Francine Jones, Leila Settles, Lois Hamby and Mary Davis; brothers Tom Swint and Jack Swint; daughters-in-law and their children Rose Hamby and

Debi Hamby. Special caregiver Glenda Taylor and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at Elizabeth Baptist Church from 1:00-3:00p.m. with the funeral to follow at 3:00 p.m. with Rev. Buster Armes officiating. Interment will follow in the Elizabeth Church Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Ruby Hamby.

Frances Jones, 66

Frances Jones, age 66, of Lancing passed away November 1, 2023, at her home.



She is preceded in death by her parents Ferris Henderson, Jr. and Betty Cooper Henderson; as well as brother, Carl J. Henderson.

She leaves behind her husband Willie Jones; daughters Karla Smith (Tracey), Jamey Braden (Jamie), Laura Jones; son Wesley Jones (Cheryll)

; grandchildren Noah & Gabriel Braden, Logan, Mackenzie, & Brandan Smith, Peyton & Logan Jones; sisters Suzanne Wofford (Dean), Colleen Henderson,

Sharon Bell (Julian), Karen Thompson (James); brother William Henderson (Linda); Special friends Heather Hall; and a host of nieces & nephews, extended family, special friends & neighbors, and Facebook family.

The family will receive friends Monday, November 6, 2023 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 10:00-11:00 a.m. with the funeral to follow at 11:00 a.m. Interment will follow in the Beth-el-Island Ford Cemetery in Lancing.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Frances Jones.

Wanda Nance Landrum, 86

Wanda Nance Landrum, age 86 of Mossy Grove passed away on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 after a sudden illness.



She is preceded in death by her parents Arthur Nance, Sr. and Susie (Bonham) Nance; brothers Rev. Arthur Nance, Jr., David Nance and Raymond Nance; sister Jewel Murray.

She is survived by her sons Randal Landrum of Mossy Grove, Jeffrey Landrum of Charlotte, North Carolina and Greg (Debbie) Landrum of Joynes. She cherished being called Granny and leaves behind six grandchildren, Michael (Tonya) Landrum, Joshua Landrum, Dustin (Cristi) Landrum, Tyler (Emily) Landrum, Beth (Jason) Branscum and Chelsey (Travis) Townsend; 12 great grandchildren Brandon, Justin, Keleb, Keeley, Addy, Everly, Fisher, Paisley, Tennley, Saylor, Crew and ex-

pecting Truett. Wanda is also survived by her brothers Bill (Betty) Nance and Rev. Ralph (Lois) Nance; sisters Mary Evelyn Schneider and Mildred Painter.

Granny Wanda loved life, her family, her flowers but most of all she loved the Lord and was a strong woman of Faith. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

The family will receive friends Saturday, November 4, 2023 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00-2:00 p.m. with the funeral service to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. Doyle Nance and Rev. Ralph Nance officiating. Interment will follow in the Kubley Cemetery in Lancing.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Wanda Nance Landrum

Cheryl Ann Laymance, 65

Cheryl Ann Laymance (May 29, 1958 – November 3, 2023)



Cheryl Ann (Howard) Laymance, age 65, of Wartburg, TN, took her heavenly flight on Friday, November 3, 2023, while peacefully surrounded by her loving family at Methodist Medical Center. She bravely fought a difficult battle with Mantle Cell Lymphoma.

Cheryl graduated from Wartburg Central High School and shortly after married her husband of 45 years, David L. Laymance. She was a devoted wife, mother and "Granny."

Cheryl recently retired from working 28 years as a certified pharmacy technician at Methodist Medical Center, where she passionately worked behind the scenes to care for many patients and had many dear friends. She was a beacon of light for Christ to all who knew her.

Cheryl was a lifelong member at Liberty Baptist Church in Wartburg and especially loved her her "Young at Heart" Sunday School class, which she helped teach for many years. Her strong faith in Jesus Christ sustained her throughout her life and especially throughout her battle with cancer.

Cheryl is preceded in death by her parents, Clayton Donald and Ollie Howard; stepmother Jeanette Curtis Howard; fa-

ther and mother-in-law, John Russell and Charlene Woods Laymance; and sister-in-law Mary Sue Laymance.

Survivors include her husband, David L. Laymance; children, Jesse (Haley) Laymance and Dr. Jonathan (Trisha) Laymance; grandchildren—who were the light of her life—Olivia Laymance, Jaxson Laymance, and Aiden Laymance; siblings, David (Cathy) Howard, Chris (Katy) Howard, and Lisa Curtis (Ben) Garibay; siblings-in-law, Betty (Garry) West, Johnny (Diana) Laymance, Ronnie (Tammy) Laymance, Bobby (Anna) Laymance, Kathy Loy, Martha Clifton, and Elizabeth "Liz" Taylor; and many very special nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, November 5, 2023 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 4:00–6:00p.m. with the funeral service to follow at 6:00p.m. with Rev. David Acres officiating. Graveside service will be held on Monday, November 6, 2023 at 11:00a.m. at Liberty Cemetery in Wartburg.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that financial donations be made to SHOC – Survivors Helping Others Cope (SHOC c/o Anna Harlan, 235 Spruce Drive, Wartburg TN 37887) and blood donations at any blood bank in her honor.

Kay Lynn Fournier, 77

Kay Lynn Fournier of Oakdale, formerly of Tiverton, RI, went to be with the Lord on November 4, 2023. She was born on November 5, 1945 in Tulsa, OK. She was the widow of Wilfred Fournier, with whom she enjoyed 43 years of marriage.

She was preceded in death by her mother Doris Love, father Scott Dunham and stepfather Harold Fabian.

She leaves behind daughters Shael (Joseph) Colantonio, Kress (Bobbie Joe) Palmer and Glade (Michael) Keen-

er, and grandchildren Samantha Amaral, Isaac Amaral, Mya Amaral, Raynor Lee Keener, Gawain Keener and Minta Keener, and her sisters Betty Fabian of Nemo, NC and Robbie "Dinkie" Williams of Raytown, MO.

Kay enjoyed crafting and spending time with her family and her 6 cats. She was always brimming with loving, positive energy, and she will be greatly missed.

The family will hold a private graveside service at Camp Austin Cemetery.

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

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WILL BE HELD ON
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023
HUNTSVILLE, TENNESSEE
AT THE
SCOTT HIGH SCHOOL
BEGINNING AT 10 A. M. EST.
DOROTHY HILL WATSON, SECRETARY
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NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JoAnn Derson

 * "For that nagging toilet where the chain on the flush lever keeps getting stuck, here's what I do: Trash that chain and use some curling ribbon. Tie it on and adjust the length. Once you've got it set, you shouldn't have to mess with it again for a very long time!" -- M. in Minnesota

* Need pumpkin pie spice? Mix 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon, 1/4 teaspoon ginger, 1/8 teaspoon nutmeg and 1/8 teaspoon ground cloves for each teaspoon needed.

* "Clearance aisles and sales are a savvy shopper's best friend. I buy age-appropriate games and toys all year from sales rack and with coupons, so that I am always armed with birthday presents and donations to holiday drives." -- A.P. in Pennsylvania

* "I try to keep a backpack of 'just in case' items in my car trunk. In the summer it has sunblock and bug

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly backward. In fact, they're so impressive in the air that they've been referred to as the "flying ninja."

* And speaking of flying, fruit flies can turn in midair simply by shrugging their shoulders.

* Want to feel safer while driving? White cars are considered the safest color because they typically stand out against black roads. Statistics have also shown that they're 12% less likely to be involved in an accident than black cars.

* Forefingers possess the highest dexterity among their eight neighbors.

* If you ever visit China, don't hug a tree! The act was forbidden after a mass tree hugging occurred outside of China's imperial garden and the Chinese government speculated that the huggers were part of a suspicious cult.

* Until it actually blows against something, wind makes no sound.

* Gold will never erode because it is chemically inert, meaning it doesn't react to oxygen in the atmosphere.

* Earlier this year, Taylor Swift's "Eras" tour performances registered as a 2.3 earthquake on seismometers in Seattle due to the collective dancing of her enthusiastic fans. The activity was compared to 2011's "Beast Quake," in which Seattle Seahawks fans shook the ground as they celebrated a touch-

down, but Ms. Swift's lasted longer.

* During the 12th century, tennis was first played in France, but without rackets. Instead, players used the palms of their hands to lob the ball back to their opponents.

* Humans' ability to detect and discern scents fluctuates throughout the day, peaking during the late hours when environmental stimuli decrease, likely due to changes in body temperature and brain activity.

Thought for the Day: "For pilgrims walking ... every footfall is doubled, landing at once on the actual road and also on the path of faith." -- Robert Macfarlane

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spray, etc. I have just refilled it for winter. There is a bottle of water, snack items as well as large towels that double as blankets, tools and a road flare, socks, an extra pair of shoes, etc. It pays to be safe!" -- C.C. in North Carolina

* Make your own "hot pocket" using rice: Fill an empty sock with rice to about three-fourths full. Tie or sew closed. Create a pouch by using a bandana to wrap it up; either tie or sew the bandana into a removable pocket. To use, microwave the sock for 1 to 1 1/2 minutes. Remove carefully. Remove bandana and wash from time to time.

* Here's a great cooking hint: When you want to sear meat, make sure you pat it dry using either paper towels or a kitchen cloth specifically for that purpose. Any moisture on the meat will cause it to steam cook.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Angelic ring
- 5 Little rascal
- 8 Burlap fiber
- 12 Switchboard worker
- 14 Barak of Israel
- 15 Longtime CBS News anchor Walter
- 16 Chinese secret society
- 17 Aachen article
- 18 Glide
- 20 Long
- 23 Pack of cards
- 24 Wan
- 25 Wood eater
- 28 1959 Kingston Trio hit
- 29 Relinquish
- 30 Flamenco cheer
- 32 "Charlotte's Web" author
- 34 Boring
- 35 Unctuous
- 36 Test versions
- 37 Catch some Z's
- 40 Flow out
- 41 Young cow
- 42 Almost
- 47 Leer at
- 48 Acts altruistically

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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47					48							
49					50				51			

DOWN

- 1 Ad —
- 2 Earth Day mo.
- 3 Zodiac cat
- 4 Cantankerous
- 5 "Don't rub —!"
- 6 Witticism
- 7 Keep from spoiling
- 8 Lakeside rental
- 9 "Oops!"
- 10 Casserole base
- 11 Jittery
- 13 Related
- 19 Summit
- 20 Orange veggie
- 21 Noble Italian family
- 22 Pequod captain
- 23 God
- 25 Hindmost parts
- 26 Talk up
- 27 First lady of scat
- 29 Brainiac
- 31 Golfer Ernie
- 33 Stereo component
- 34 Fixes, as software
- 36 Cookouts, briefly
- 37 Highlander
- 38 Kvetches
- 39 Stewpot
- 40 Summers in Paris
- 43 Tic-tac-toe win
- 44 Debtor's note
- 45 Heavy weight
- 46 Mag. staff

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FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

- PZI
- NAFLUG
- ♥EPCRA
- EGNL
- NEBZOR
- ING
- ♥AZLE
- TGFHI
- LIA
- LOPARP
- LYOTZ
- RBPU

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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Historically Speaking

Vietnam Vets, Part Two

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Benita Albert continues her insightful series into the experiences of four Vietnam veterans with Oak Ridge connections. You will be amazed at what she learned from them.

The Vietnam War officially escalated with the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution passed by the U. S. Congress on August 7, 1964. It gave then President Lyndon Johnson authority to take measures needed to repel any acts of aggression against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression.

In the early 1960's the U. S. was involved in a limited conflict in South Vietnam with the goal of containing the spread of communism in southeast Asia. By 1968 more than one-half million U. S. men were on the ground in Vietnam. The human toll from 1964-1972 included 58,220 killed in action, over 150,000 wounded, and some 1,600 missing U.S. servicemen.

Though complete records of all the Oak Ridge High School alumni who served during Vietnam are not available, Oak Ridge, like most other towns across America, once again saw their young men leave for war in the 1960S and early 1970s. Part One of this story mentioned selected ORHS graduates who served in World War II and the Korean War.

Additionally, ORHS Class of 1965 alumnus and four-star General B.B. Bell's career included serving as the Executive Assistant to General Norman Schwarzkopf who planned and led Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield. It is past time to tell the stories of Vietnam veterans from this area.

Tommy Ethridge

Tommy Ethridge (ORHS '61) chose to enlist in the Air Force in February 1960. After basic training he was sent to technical training for flight refueling and became a Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricant Specialist. He subsequently received orders for Kadena Airbase on Okinawa.

Okinawa was a key staging point for the U.S. in the Asia-Pacific region. Kadena Airbase served as the Pentagon's supply hub through which soldiers, weapons, and ammunition were routed; where missile defense systems were set at ready; and advanced anchorage was provided for allied fleets. During the Vietnam War, Kadena was one of the busiest bases on the planet.

Tommy's assignment included refueling missions in KB-50 aircraft. He said, "I never put my foot on the ground. I saw Vietnam from 32-34 thousand feet above." KB-50s were rehabbed bombers that carried two large fuel tanks in the former bomb bay. American special forces were in Vietnam training the South Vietnamese army to defend itself against Viet Cong insurgencies in the early 1960s.

As a part of the Materials Air Command, Tommy was on standby daily to fly refueling missions over Laos, the Philippines, Japan, and Vietnam. His seat was on the port side of the plane where he would lean out into a glass bubble to watch the approaching plane, unreel the refueling hose, ensure connection and pump fuel, then reel back the hose and secure it.

He was later assigned to Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, joining the Strategic Air Command and flying in Boeing KC-135s as a refueler. Tommy said, "We flew almost every day supporting fighters during the Cuban Missile Crisis. I also refueled U-2 reconnaissance planes." He mustered out in 1964 from active duty.

After a series of jobs, Tommy pursued a degree in engineering from Georgia Tech that he completed in 1974. In 1976 his employer asked Tommy to set up an Oak Ridge headquarter for CH2MHill, a company providing utilities engineering services. After six years in Oak Ridge, Tommy accepted the position of Superintendent of Utilities for the town of Corbin, KY in 1982 and followed that with a ten-year appointment as the Maintenance Superintendent in Public Works for the City of Oak Ridge, retiring in 2001.

Tommy is the father of three daughters. The two oldest, Tonya and Belinda, graduated from Clinton High School. His youngest, Shana graduated from ORHS in 1988.

Should you see a 1975 Chevrolet Malibu Classic with butternut yellow paint and black vinyl top cruising the streets of Oak Ridge, you are seeing the latest in Tommy's long list of classic autos he has restored and/or collected over many years. He rented a warehouse on Midway Lane where he housed as many as 35 cars during the height of his collecting. He now claims that he has found his dream ride in his yellow Malibu, a step back in time and memory to a beloved green model he bought shortly after his Georgia Tech graduation.

Jimmy Luttrell

Drafted in May of 1965, Jimmy Luttrell (Knoxville Rule High School '62) said that because he was an only son, the army would not send him into an active war zone. He was assigned to Kadena Airbase on Okinawa as part of the missile crew in January 1966. He said, "When we were flown into Okinawa, the pilot tipped the plane for us to observe the island from 30,000 feet. It looked no bigger than a loaf of bread." (The island is approximately 70 miles long and 7 miles wide.)

Jimmy worked in an underground pad at the missile site that kept Nike Hercules missiles on alert. Though he did not see an actual combat use, he did observe the firing of obsolete missiles into the South China Sea. The Nike Hercules was considered state-of-the-art in defense technology and the most accurate artillery weapon in the Army's arsenal at the time. An air defense program using PAC-3 (Patriot Advanced Capability) missiles is the current state-of-the-art U. S. missile defense system located on Okinawa.

Jimmy complained that the weather was hot and muggy. He remembered, "One day I changed uniforms five times." He continued, "Our compound was fenced in, and along with army security personnel, dog patrols were utilized."

Jimmy returned to the States in May of '67 and married Mary Kilgore (ORHS '63) soon thereafter. Jimmy worked for the Gulf Oil Company for thirty-five years before retiring. He also served as a Neyland Stadium usher for UT football games for 35 seasons.

His move to Oak Ridge in 1967 converted him into a Wildcat fan in a town he describes as: "A great place to raise a family and to see my family graduate from ORHS: two daughters (Laura in '86 and Kelly in '89) and two grandchildren (Tyler and Alexis Vickery, '09 and '12, respectively). Mary said that Jimmy enjoys accompanying her to '63 ORHS class reunions and following ORHS football.

Rick Young

Rick Young attended the first two quarters at UT after his ORHS graduation in 1967. He then chose to drop out of college and work for a time, that decision soon resulting in an army draft letter. During basic training his former ORHS football knee problems reemerged, and he realized that his future military work needed to be adjusted to his physical constraints. He chose to train as a cable splicer, a skill vital for maintaining secure military wire communication systems.

Rick shipped to Vietnam in 1969 for his duty assignment in Long Binh Post. This U. S. Army base functioned as a logistics center and major command headquarters. The base was nicknamed Long Binh Junction, a clever way of using the initials of the then President Lyndon Baines Johnson. Rick described it as the 'South Vietnam Pentagon.' He said, "It was the site of all the military brass, the generals in charge of the war."

Highly secured as Long Binh was, Rick's work was precariously situated in front of the bunkered generals' headquarters. He experienced Viet Cong firings that mostly flew above him and his fellow splicers and which had little effect on the generals bunkered some 20' underground. "At times it felt like we did more ducking than cable splicing," Rick dryly observed.

After his Army discharge in 1970, Rick returned to Oak Ridge and had difficulty finding a job. He praised the actions of President Johnson who advocated for veterans, namely that they be supported via training programs and job placements. Rick was sent to Chattanooga to train with South Central Bell for a job very similar to his army cable splicing work.

After passing required tests for certification, Rick was delighted to be assigned in Oak Ridge where he would work for the next thirty years, 1972-2002. Rick said, "I worked in all the Oak Ridge government plants. I even got to work with my dad, a crafts foreman at Y-12. My career included crawling through some strange access points, and even at times, through restricted spaces."

Though Rick vowed to never marry, it was a blind date set up by his close friend, Ronnie LeTellier (ORHS '67), that changed his bachelor thoughts after his return home from the service. Soon thereafter,



I am pleased to have been invited to join the breakfast with Mary Luttrell, seated to my front facing the camera, Jimmy Luttrell beside Mary, Rick Young to his left, Benita Albert's husband, Mark (also a Vietnam veteran), Tommy Ethridge, and finally, Judy Clevenger at my back, morning I was there

Rick was married and the couple made their home in Oak Ridge. His wife and daughter, Christy Gail (ORHS '96), are now deceased.

Rick's parents moved their membership from the New York Avenue Church of Christ to help establish the Oak Ridge Church of Christ on N. Purdue Avenue in the early 1950's. Rick's family moved to a newly built cemeosto house in Woodland, a rapidly developing neighborhood near their new church. Rick has been an active member of the church, excluding his army assignment, for all years of the church's existence. He is now the longest, faithfully serving member of the congregation.

Jim Roper

Jim Roper recalls receiving his draft notice, appearing for induction, and hearing the recruitment people requesting volunteers. They needed additional marine recruits. When no one stepped up, the officials took it upon themselves to appoint every other recruit as a marine or a soldier. Jim said, "I got the Army and was sworn in on May 23, 1968."

After advanced infantry training at Fort Ord, California, Jim was granted a 15-day leave and \$40 in expense money. He did not have sufficient money to commercially transport himself home, so he hitchhiked part of the way.

Immediately after his leave, Jim shipped out for Vietnam on Jan. 2, 1969. He was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division and sent to Pleiku in the central highlands of S. Vietnam. His company experienced several firefights including one for which he received the Army Commendation Medal for Valor and the Purple Heart.

Jim related the harrowing confrontation: "We were headed back to base camp when ambushed on June 5, '69. We thought we were passing through a friendly village. I was in the back when the front received fire. We set up a perimeter and returned fire. A mortar round from the enemy hit next to me and killed the soldier on one side while wounding the soldier on the other side of me. I was on my knees loading ammo belts when I saw the explosion coming and fell to the ground, perhaps saving my life.

"I was wounded and was placed on the first medical helicopter to go out. Since I was still conscious and could limp to the copter, I sat in the jump seat of the Huey where the gunner protected me. Five other seriously wounded soldiers were loaded on the open bay. Our copter subsequently received fire after lifting off the ground. Enemy mortar struck causing the copter to start losing fuel. We had to cripple to another landing site and transfer to a second rescue copter.

"I was transferred by medivac to a field hospital in Vietnam where they staunch my bleeding, then flown to Camp Zama in Japan for exploratory surgery in my abdomen. Eventually I was sent to Fort Campbell, the nearest base hospital to Oak Ridge, where I received further medical care. It was during a 30-day convalescent leave here at home that my obvious pain convinced my mother to call my former pediatrician. Dr. Lewis Preston removed shrapnel from my leg that was trying to work out of my body. His in-office surgery greatly improved my mobility and pain."

"I finished my military career at Fort Campbell where I served as a fire arms instructor. During my naming ceremony to the rank of

Sergeant, I was awarded my war combat medals. I was discharged in May 1970 and returned to Oak Ridge."

Jim was hired by the Department of Energy as a federal agent in security transportation, retiring in 2000. Jim is quite active in the local Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1078. He proudly notes that it was this chapter that initiated the placement of 18,000 wreaths (as part of Wreaths Across America) and flags on Flag Day in local veterans' cemeteries.

Jim was one of the charter members of the Oak Ridge Historic Preservation Association (ORHPA). He praised early ORHPA efforts to save such as the Alexander Inn/Guest House and the Wildcat Den. He volunteers two days a week at Providence House, a food pantry and clothing ministry. His daughter, Patricia, is a ORHS Class of '89 graduate.

We are indebted to these four men, and to the many others



Jim Roper who was not able to attend the breakfast the morning I was there

with Oak Ridge roots and beyond, who have served our Country. So many young lives were put on hold, some never returned, many suffered physical and emotional trauma, and yet, they made the sacrifice.

Recently, I watched as a young boy, perhaps around age seven, got up from his breakfast table at Jefferson Fountain. He walked over to my Vietnam-era husband to say, "Thank you for your service." My husband was deeply touched. Should that young man or his parents read this, please know that my husband will never forget, and will always treasure, his sincerely offered message.

Though my articles in "Historically Speaking" focus on stories of ORHS alumni in large part, I also want to thank D. Ray Smith, editor of this column, for his Vietnam service. The average age of a Vietnam vet is now 68 years old. Of the 2,709,981 Americans who served in Vietnam, less than 850,000 are alive today.

In conclusion, I asked this story's veterans to share how their military service shaped their lives. Tommy Ethridge: "It taught me respect for others and for myself as well as dignity for all." Jimmy Luttrell: "It made me appreciate America, and the privileges we have, even more."

Rick Young: "It gave me critical training skills that became my life's work." Jim Roper: "It is difficult to put in words what it has meant to me."

However, I note that Jim has dedicated endless energy and time to veterans causes, remembrances, and camaraderie. No doubt, his leadership example has strengthened and encouraged many in the veterans' community.

Thank you, veterans, and "Welcome Home."

Thank you, Benita! What a wonderful series you have created. I am sure the four Vietnam veterans are amazed at what you have done to capture the essence of their experiences.

I know I certainly appreciate the mention of my Vietnam service. I want to share something very personal with you readers:

Of all the travel in Europe Fanny and I did after retirement, the visit to Normandy at the American Cemetery near Omaha Beach stands out as a most meaningful experience. After a ceremony where I helped lay a wreath at the base of the monument and other veterans were asked to join us there to be recognized as well, the man standing next to me looked at me and said simply, "Welcome Home."

Now that is a dead giveaway that he is a Vietnam vet. We did not wear our uniforms when we returned and we certainly did not receive any welcome home. I responded by saying, "When were you in country?" He responded, "1968-69." When he said that, immediately two other men standing next to us said at the same time, "I was there in 1968-69." Time stood still for me! We did not talk as it was not necessary...we each new what we had been through.

This only lasted a few seconds but Fanny was taking photos without knowing what was going on. When we got back to the ship that night, she showed me her photos and she had taken one of the four of us standing at the base of that monument. That is the highlight of all my European travels!



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An Interview with Audrey Young & Coach Vicki Simpson

By: Cole Burchell

All of us here at WCHS would like to congratulate Miss Audrey Young on her success at the TN state and regional events, as it was here she made exceptional progress with this being her second year with the WCMS Cross Country team and Coaches Vicki and Mark Simpson. To better understand this monumental leap in athleticism for WCMS, we have asked both Miss Young and Coach Vickie Simpson to elaborate on her incredible experience.

Audrey Young -

How did it feel to compete at the level you did in Memphis and Chattanooga for WCMS? "It was a privilege for me to be able to do something like that, especially as an individual. I was so honored to be able to represent my school and community."

Run us through the emotions and mindset you found yourself in after each race. "Happiness and positivity and sometimes nervousness. I tried my hardest to keep a good mindset throughout because that would help me strive to do better in future races."

What drove you to continue to excel and push beyond limitations?

"Basically God. He has helped me a lot. He has given me the strength to keep going. Family has helped a big portion of it too, not only did they help my big news get around, but they were there for me every step of the way. My amazing coaches as well they have pushed me in practice I guess all of those hard ones paid off in the end! They have all got me to where I am today."

How has cross country affected you and your overall well-being?

"I feel like it has helped me become a better person. Helping my teammates get better, and teaching them the basics of Never Giving Up. It has definitely made me a stronger person as well. It has helped me learn more about my opportunities because somebodies aren't able to do the things mine are able to do. It has made me a healthier person and a better athlete."

After these incredible achievements and the progress you have made, what is next for you?

"Track and cross country in high school. I want to go for those scholarships and regionals again. I want to show people the amazing things I can succeed at in life, and exercise my strengths. I also want to help my teammates. I want to make people proud of me and my teammates' performances and show what Morgan County can do in such a big world!"

Vicki Simpson -

How have you, as Audrey's coach, seen her develop and succeed over the past seasons?

"Audrey came into the program not really knowing what cross country entailed. She asked questions about running and cross country during the first season, took the answers Mark (my husband and the Assistant Coach) provided, and used that information to improve her running techniques and times this season."

Explain to us the willpower it takes to push oneself and be able to accomplish great things as has Audrey.

"Running is a tough sport. You have to have the mental endurance to tackle the long runs and the aches and pains that are new to the body as a running athlete. Routine is key, even if you don't "feel" like running or the weather isn't ideal, you have to get in the practice."

How rewarding is it to see those you have dedicated so much time into to excel?

"It is so rewarding! Especially seeing the smiles on the athletes' faces when they have an amazing run, and they get PR (Personal Record). I keep a spreadsheet of the meet times and I love seeing the improvements throughout the season."

What advice could you give to those inspired by Audrey's achievements to help guide them?

"If they are a current cross-country participant, continue to train and run in fun runs, 5k races, and trail runs - they can find races on RunSignUp.com. If they are new to the program, learn about the sport and get into a running routine. Mark and I are always available to answer questions, make suggestions on races, or put together a training plan."

Where do you see the cross-country program going from here?

"When Mark and I started the program in the fall of 2022, we knew we wanted to eventually grow the program. We had a two-year goal to move to the high school level. The program at the middle school level has made a huge impact in the community and we were approved recently to add a program at CHS with a co-op with Sunbright starting in the fall of 2024. My goal is to have cross-country across Morgan County."

I'd like to thank both Miss Audrey Young and Coach Vickie Simpson for their wonderful insights and the inspiration they have given so many. Like we all, I hope to see this program grow and see where Audrey Young finds herself competing next. Congratulations and well done!!



Daniel Bunch
(Big Man Dan)

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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



David Zubler
Columnist

Fix improper ERC claims before being audited

Employee Retention Credit (ERC) penalties can be substantial and devastating for a small business. The ERC is a legitimate tax credit that was established to help businesses with the cost of keeping staff employed during the pandemic.

Unfortunately, thousands of business owners innocently trusted unscrupulous companies that filed fraudulent ERC claims. When the scammer disappears, you will be responsible for repaying the fraudulent ERC that was claimed by the scammer and the additional penalties.

If you have determined you don't qualify for the ERC, the IRS will allow you to withdraw your claim without penalties.

There are several penalties for incorrectly claiming the ERC credit. When you claim a tax credit you aren't entitled to, the IRS may claim an accuracy-related penalty which is 20% of the understated taxes.

If the IRS claims fraud, the fraud penalty is 75% of the underpaid tax. If you understated your tax by \$40,000 from taking the ERC credit, the fraud penalty will be \$30,000. In addition to the \$30,000 fraud penalty, the \$40,000 ERC credit would have to be paid back also.

The IRS may also recommend criminal charges. Criminal penalties carry a penalty of up to \$100,000 in fines and up to five years in prison.

The IRS criminal investigation division has started 122 investigations involving over \$1.2 billion of potentially fraudulent ERC claims.

An auditor can also decide to assess a failure-to-deposit penalty. This penalty can add up to a substantial amount over time.

If a professional payroll company filed your ERC claim, consult with the payroll company. The payroll company may need to submit the withdrawal request for you, depending on whether your ERC claim was filed individually or batched with others.

If you filed your ERC claim yourself, haven't received, cashed or deposited a refund check, and have not been notified your claim is under audit, fax your

withdrawal request to the IRS. The IRS has set up a special fax line, 855-738-7609, to receive withdrawal requests. This enables the agency to stop processing a claim before the refund is approved. If you are unable to fax your withdrawal, you can mail it, but it will take longer for the IRS to receive your request.

If you have been notified you are under audit, send the withdrawal request to the assigned examiner or respond to the audit notice if no examiner has been assigned.

If you received a refund check, but haven't cashed or deposited it, you can still withdraw your ERC claim. Mail the voided check with your withdrawal request using the instructions at [IRS.gov/withdrawmyERC](https://www.irs.gov/withdrawmyERC).

If you request to withdraw your claim, you'll be asking the IRS not to process your entire adjusted employment tax return for the tax period that you included your ERC claim. Claims that are withdrawn will be treated as if they were never filed. The IRS will not impose penalties or interest. However, withdrawing a fraudulent ERC claim will not exempt you from potential criminal investigation and prosecution. However, if the ERC credit was filed by a scammer and you weren't aware of any fraud, you shouldn't be concerned.

The IRS will send you a letter stating whether your withdrawal request was accepted or rejected. If your withdrawal is accepted, you may need to amend your income tax return.

If you need help, find a trusted tax professional.

David Zubler is a tax accountant and Enrolled Agent in East Tennessee, providing tax strategies and representing clients before the IRS, and has over 25 years of tax experience. He is the author of six tax books and has shared tax advice on national TV. He is the founder and president of Your Tax Care. The company provides business and tax education, including David's one-minute tax tip radio recordings at [YourTaxCare.com](https://www.YourTaxCare.com). David can be reached at (865) 363-3019 or contacted by email at david@yourtaxcare.com.

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Tom Redmon
Columnist

An honest government is essential. The present administration has a problem with the truth. The other day on the news the president gave an update on our latest hurricane Idalia.

He said this was the worst hurricane we have ever had and it's all because of global warming. Folks we need to do more.

The truth is that this hurricane was not the worst one we've ever had because you only have to go back a few years to find one worse. Yes, Ian killed over 138 people and Idalia killed around 3.

I want to give you a list of several hurricanes which were greater than Idalia. In 1957 hurricane Audrey killed 390 and caused 150 million in damages. In 2005 hurricane Katrina killed 1, 836 and caused between \$97.4 billion to \$145.5 billion in damages. In 1928 hurricane Okeechobee killed 2,166 and caused 75 million in damages. In 1900 hurricane Galveston killed 5,000 and caused over 50 million in damages.

This is only an example of the blunders our president has made. We all laugh at these blunders or lies when we should be more concerned.

This man is in charge of the executive branch of our government, the most powerful man in the world. I don't know about you but I am very concerned about our country. This man is making deals with almost every country in the world. What kind of deals is he making with China and Russia? Mr. Biden has been filmed sleeping in meetings with world leaders. Is he able to handle this important position? I'm not a doctor but I believe he and a couple of senators, one republican and one demarcate should hang it up and let a younger person with a sound mind to take over.

To live a happier life, I have quit listening to the news every day. I listen to about one news report every week. I hear a lot of national news from my brothers and cousin. So, you folks out there have seen and heard a lot more than I have so I'm going to write about the condition of our country from another angle.

Since the Corona Virus epidemic which hit its peak in 2020, do you remember when they shut everything down in the country? The schools, the churches, the nursing homes, and finely the businesses. Here the greatest country in the world that a lot of other countries depended upon had to follow suit. Now I know the Corona Virus killed some people but we learned that hospitals could get more money from the government if they turned all deaths to the Corona Virus, even though a lot of them had died from heart attacks, and other causes of death. Now we wonder if we ever get the truth from our leaders. The leaders in the liberal party do not always give us the truth. You know about our president.

Was the 2020 election right or did some blue states plus Georgia, become dishonest and extend the counting of the vote until Mr. Biden had enough to win? A lot of people think so. I think many of you in this area of the county feel the way I do so I'll deviate and go to something else that I think is important and it has to do with the times we are going through.

Can They Even Tell the Truth

Many of our good ministers think that we are nearing the return of Jesus Christ. Dr. Robert Jeffress, and Dr. David Jeremiah recent sermons were slanted to the second coming of Jesus Christ. I listen to these men of God a lot and they are careful not to name the time, because scripture say, "no man knows the hour or day." They are giving us a warning that the rapture could happen at any time. If you read the Bible a lot you find yourself believing that time for the end is getting near. You don't have to be a prophet to know it because as a Christian and being in His word will suffice as proof that many of the things prophesied are happening.

To me life has never returned to as it



was since the pandemic was over in 2021. Even though stores have opened up and we don't have to wear masks, school buses are running every day, churches are open, and people are traveling again, we are still concerned that this is coming back.

We have a few cases of Corna Virus in Morgan County but I haven't heard about a single death. I've had the flu and pneumonia and I can tell you I was a pretty sick boy. I've not had the Corona Virus but I've had three shots. My wife at the time also got three shots and still got

the Corona Virus. I cannot testify that the shots work or were necessary. Yes, she was sick and felt bad, but she didn't have to go to the hospital like I did with the flu and pneumonia. I have to assume that they are making this virus worse than the flu when the evidence is to the contrary. I believe, and I could be wrong, that a lot of people who died with this Corona Virus had other health problems that contributed to their death. The thing that we need more than ever in the news is the "truth." When we don't get the truth, we don't know what to believe.

Some people say we are about to get set up again. The big man is getting back on T.V. and a couple of states are promoting mask wearing again. Shots are still high on the list as protection, but since they didn't work last winter will they work this time around.

I will tell you the best protection you can have is Jesus Christ. Jesus will always give you the truth. The only book we can say is 100% true is the Bible.

Man has distorted the truth, even the Bible. We have false prophets and preachers who have ways to lead you astray. That is the reason you need to stay in the Bible and ask God for understanding. Go to a Bible scholar or minister you can trust if you need answers.

I would hate to be one of those false teachers on Judgement Day because God is clear on how He feels about false prophets. The Bible says in Deuteronomy 18:20 But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. Revelation 22:18-19 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book. If any shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy. God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

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Revelation Chapter 7

(Revelation 7:1-8) The 144,000: There is an interlude between the sixth seal (6:12) and the seventh seal (8:1), during which the issue is raised as to the circumstances of the faithful saints who have resisted apostasy. In the first vision, John sees four angels holding back four winds which potentially threatened the earth. Another angel addressed the four, instructing that the earth was not to be hurt until God's servants were sealed upon their foreheads. In verses nine through seventeen, a "great multitude" is mentioned as well. These facts raise a number of questions: (a) Who are the 144,000? (b) Who constitutes the "great multitude"? (c) What is the "seal" placed upon the foreheads of the 144,000? (d) Where are these respective peoples? (e) What is the purpose of these visions?

Consider the following: (a) The 144,000 do not reflect a symbolic number of Jews converted after the mythical "rapture" and during the so-called "tribulation" period prior to a "millennial reign" of Christ. This is a dispensational view and is erroneous. (b) Some hold that the 144,000 symbolize Jewish converts, while the "great multitude" represents Gentile converts. (c) Others believe that the 144,000 represent the redeemed still on earth, while the "great multitude" consists of the victorious church already in heaven---or else viewed as potential citizens of heaven. (d) The "seal" signifies those who are officially acknowledged as the people belonging to the Lord (2 Tim. 2:19) and indicates they are protected from the wrath to come (Ezek. 9:4, 6).

The 144,000 is clearly a figurative number. It is 12 x 12 x 1,000, a symbolic numeral suggesting completeness. Evidence for the non-literal nature of the figure is seen in the following facts: (a) There is no mention of any of the pre-tribal patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc. Surely they are not excluded from the redeemed. (b) The "tribe of Joseph" (v. 8) does not exist; Joseph's tribal allotment went to his two sons. (c) One must not forget that in the New Testament the church is the new "Israel of God". Romans 2:28-29 "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God." Galatians 3:23-29 "But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 6:13-16 "For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law;

but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh. But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God." The "Watchtower Witness" contention that only 144,000 will be in heaven is an absurd assertion which ignores the "great multitude" of verse nine and following. (We will see more, also chapter fourteen).

(Revelation 7:9-17) The great multitude: John sees a "great multitude" which no man could number. These were standing "before the throne and before the Lamb" (1:4; 4:2-10; 7:15). They were in white robes with palms in their hands (symbols of purity and celebration). They praised God and the Lamb for the salvation they had received. Other heavenly beings likewise praised God and worshipped him. A listing of laudatory terms is applied "unto our God forever and ever." One of the heavenly "elders" explains to John that this multitude arrayed in white robes are those who had been "redeemed by the blood of the Lamb," and they had escaped the great tribulation. While some non-dispensationalists see this as a deliverance from the oppression of the Roman Empire, others view it as a continual process (the verb "come out") (v. 14). Literally is "are coming out"). It appears to embrace those of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues (v.9), hence refers to the redeemed who have been under tribulation since the dawning of Christianity but who now are freed from such.

The reward of the righteous "before the throne" of God is the privilege they will enjoy of serving him continuously. The spreading of his "tabernacle" is a figure for eternal security with no more threats from devilish opposition. Heaven will be a place of wonderful "no mores" (found a dozen times in this book). The ordinary afflictions of nature are no more as well. With a lovely mixing of metaphors, John describes the Lamb as both a victim sacrificed for them, and the shepherd who leads them unto the fresh waters of life (Jn. 10:11). All tears will be wiped away. Those who have sown in tears have reaped in joy. (Psalms 126:5-6 "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him").

Some commentators reject the idea that heaven is literally in view as a present reality. They see the victory as occurring on earth in a post-persecution era (following the fall of pagan Rome), though reflected in the imagery of a heavenly environment---or that heaven is prophetically described in terms of what will be enjoyed eventually after the return of Christ. There are significant rebuttal points to this concert (6:9-11; Phil. 1:23; 2 Cor. 5:8).

BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo
FortifyYourFaith.org



MELVIN HOWARD

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Commercially-grown cranberries grow in bogs, but cranberries can be grown on dry land. Determine the pH of your garden soil, as cranberries need a soil pH of less than 5; also, make sure you have very well-draining soil. Cranberry plants need about three months of temps in the 32°-45°F. range to trigger a dormant phase. Fruit of the cranberry plants may appear the year after planting, but more likely the second year depending on the number of pollinators visiting your plantings. - Brenda Weaver

Source: www.gardeningknowhow.com



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2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17



Detail of "Portrait of E.H." by Erich Heckel (1917)

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How Many Have to Die



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

I had managed to meander my way to a passing grade through twelve weeks of the Advanced Non-Commissioned officer course. The only requirement remaining for my successful graduation would be the final exam. It was December, 1994.

While I studied, and prepared to graduate, Bravo company was preparing for a change of leadership at the 1sg level. Mark Nielson would be taking over from my friend and mentor, Glenn Harris.

I had been a young Ranger squad leader when Glenn first reported to 1st platoon to assume the control of a team of Rangers that had been led in war by the legend, Carlton Diedrich. Little did 1st platoon know; this would be the beginning of incredible blessing from God.

Glenn was incredibly sarcastic. It made him really, funny. He had a way of answering that caused you to question yourself. I had the luxury of being in 3d platoon, being Glenn's friend was possible without fraternization being a problem. B3/75 were family first!

Glenn had a beautiful wife and two healthy young daughters who would become part of the BCO family. Sandy, Tara, and Heather, would grace us with their presence in peace and war. Sandy is a strong, courageous woman. She is an amazing leader in her own right.

Glenn would lead first platoon through the trials and tribulations of ranger platoon life. Only his promotion to E8 would take him away early. His success would lead to the appointment of another giant to lead 1st platoon, Sean T. Watson. Another incredibly talented leader.

A bus crash on the way home from Kilo 22 range claimed the life of Toby John Young. His last name was befitting of his incredibly youthful smile. Glenn would be the calming force aiding Dean Gambrel as we said goodbye to another ranger in a training accident.

Our company was becoming far too comfortable saying goodbye to teammates and brothers. We were a family. Getting over family death is never easy. Thank God we had Glenn Harris, who had faith in the God of the Bible to comfort his Ranger brothers.

I never heard a word proceed from Glenn's mouth that was not encouraging. He gave everyone the benefit of doubt, but demanded a high standard of honesty in leadership. If you were wrong, Glenn expected you to realize it before he had to get involved. Humility guided my friend Glenn.

Glenn would leave BCO for a short time as he had to serve as the S2 before he could become our 1sg. The Army requirements meant there was always a Ranger waiting with seniority to assume control of the most coveted position as a Ranger assault company 1sg.

By 1993 Glenn was back in Bravo company and now he was our 1sg. I was completely renewed in my motivation and desire. My friend and mentor, was now home in BCO. We would begin preparing for war in earnest in July 1993.

Our deployment to Mogadishu galvanized the unit under the leadership of Glenn Harris. His motivation and devotion to Rangers would prove unequaled in my short Ranger career. While in Somalia, he supported me when I needed it most.

Glenn epitomized what it means to serve a cause greater than himself. His family had sacrificed so much to get him to this point in his Ranger career, and we were thankful for their amazing support and service. Glenn and Sandy were the model deployment couple.

While Glenn ensured we had all we need to succeed in combat, Sandy worked overtime to ensure the Ranger wives and girlfriends at home

had all the information she possessed. She would raise her daughters to understand the meaning of selfless service.

This is the regimental model for husbands as well as wives and children. We must never forget the sacrifices made by Ranger family members in peace and war. They make things right, and they complete the Ranger DNA family sequence. Inseparable!

The ranger 1sg is daddy of the Ranger company. He is the person responsible for keeping the unit prepared and ready to execute orders. His motivation becomes the company's motivation. His acceptance of risk, sets the tone for all Rangers.

Glenn accepted every risk in combat with the same vigor that he approached leading our company in peace. He was physically fit, mentally alert, and incredibly, morally straight. He is my Ranger daddy.

Glenn's time in Bravo company came to an end once again because of his successes. He was added to the promotion list for CSM, and to get promoted, he would attend the Sergeant's Major Academy. He would be departing Bravo company bound for El Paso, and a rendezvous with history.

Glenn had taken us to war from the comforts of Fort Bliss in the summer of 1993. El Paos, Texas had significance to Glenn and Bravo company. It was not in God's plans for Glenn. His time in the flesh had come to an end. God wanted him in heaven.

His change of concern would take place while Bravo company was training for an airfield seizure mission on Lawson Army Airfield, on the banks of the Chattahoochee River. He had decided one more company mission was needed.

He did not need to be there. Yet still, Glenn Jumped. He loved the men of Bravo company. The only way to say goodbye, was to lead them one more time. This is ranger leadership on display.

An accident with station keeping equipment, led to four men landing in the river. Three were recovered unharmed, while Glenn was missing. It was the night before my ANCOC final exam. I was summoned from the academy at 3 AM to come open the boat shop.

I met Lt Wrieden who explained that a Jumper was missing in the river and, it was Glenn. My life changed forever with his words, but for now, we had a search mission to assist.

I would return to the academy and take the exam early. I made it back to engineer landing as the news broke that Glenn had been recovered and he was deceased. I have spent the next 29 years finding out about the sovereignty of God and his plans for our lives. Glenn's dreams would become my dreams.

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. John Burns 11-24-2022

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

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

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

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answer

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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