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Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3
www.mocotoday.com
Volume 10 Number 44
Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Your Community. Your News.

75¢



13 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Romans 13:1



Morgan County Today
Your Community. Your News.

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**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

It's Almost Over

Well, it's FINALLY here. America is deciding on our leaders for the next 5 years. Mimi and Pap call it an ELECTION.

I hope the leaders that win will make things better, more prosperous, safer, and the border secure. I hope they will help to bring prices of food, energy, and housing more affordable.

I pray that whomever wins will do **God's** will.

As a country we have to have free, fair, and trustworthy elections. We don't have to like every single aspect of someone's personally. There are no perfect people. We all make mistakes.

So before you go vote, pray about it. Just remember that your vote could literally be the difference.

Vote for the people that you think will do the most right things. This election will affect the world for your kids and grandkids for the rest of their lives. It may determine whether they go fight in wars.

Lord, have mercy on America and guide her people to vote for the leaders that will do the right things, even when it is hard.

May **God** Bless America!

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



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Mon 11 **67°/51°**

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Former Assesor of Property, Biff Wilson, fairwell letter below:

I've lived in Morgan County my whole life, so you don't have to tell me what a beautiful place this is.

As the Morgan County Property Assessor for the past 18 years, I've been reminded daily. I've spent a lot of time driving all over this county, and no matter how many times I drive down the same roads, sometimes in the same day, it never fails to touch my heart: We live in one of the best counties in this great nation.

But no matter how postcard-perfect these rolling hills look to the eye, they wouldn't be half as beautiful if it weren't for the people living in them. The scenery is just window dressing; the people are the real deal, and the opportunity to serve you all for almost 20 years is one of the greatest blessings of my life. From the bottom of my heart, my family and I thank you for your trust, for the opportunity to serve, and for reminding me every day that Morgan County ... as a place and as a people ... is like no other.

Oakdale School Veterans Day Program

Oakdale School will host our annual **Veterans Day Program** on **Monday, November 11, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.** in the **Fred Snow Gym**. All veterans and members of the armed services are invited to attend. Following the program, a **special brunch** will be held in honor of all guests.

November 7

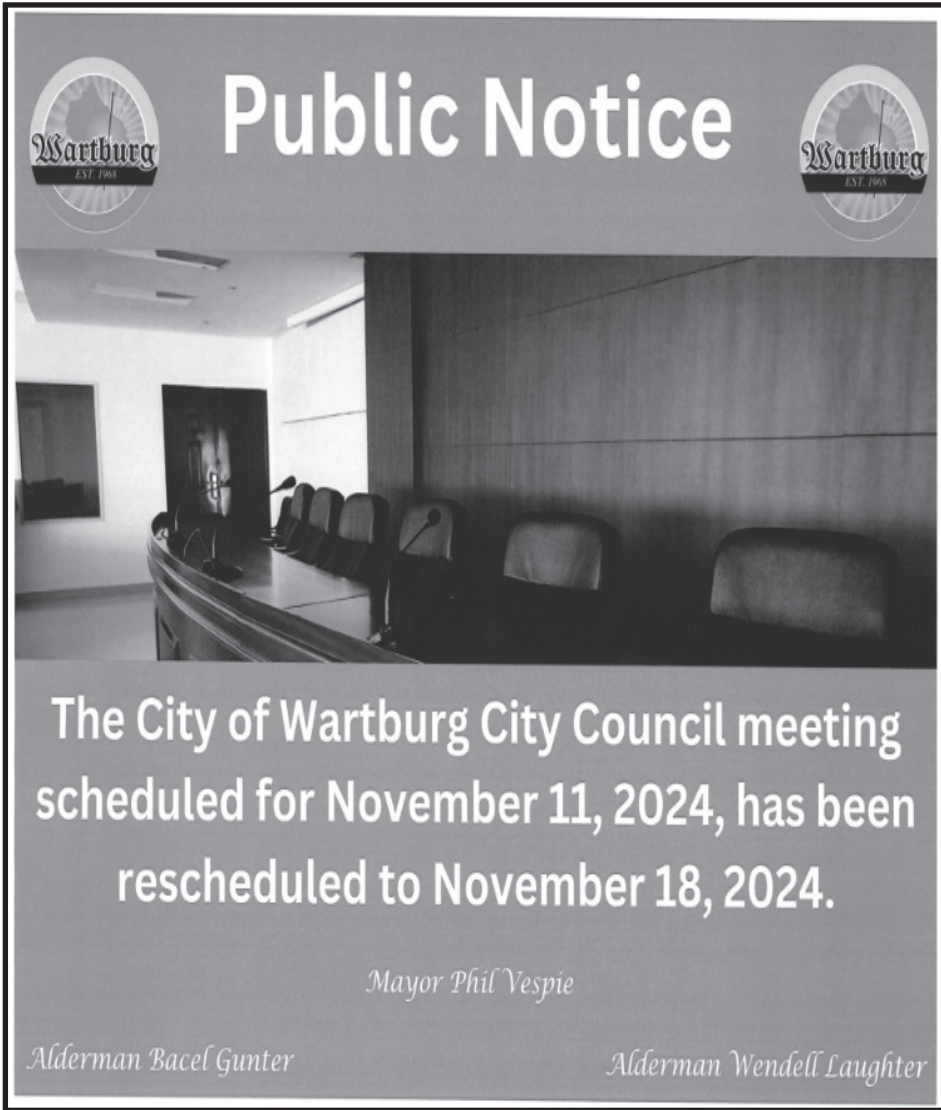
There will be a Veterans Appreciation Lunch at Pine Orchard Community Center Thursday, November 7 from 11:00 - 1:00. Veterans and their spouse/guest are invited to attend this free soup lunch.

November 8

Together Morgan County will meet Friday, November 8, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. EST at Morgan County Schools Central Office located at 136 Flat Fork Road in Wartburg. The meeting is being changed from the 2nd Friday of the month to the 3rd Friday due to Fall Break. This is a hybrid meeting. Anyone wanting a link to join virtually can email heltons@mcsed.net. Everyone is welcome to join the collaborative as plans are made to support students and families in Morgan County.

December 7

The 5th Annual Christmas Drive Thru will be Saturday, December 7 from 10:00 - 1:00 at Frozen Head State Park. Guests can drive through to enjoy holiday scenes while enjoying a cup of hot chocoate. Anyone wishing to participate should email heltons@mcsed.net.



Public Notice

The City of Wartburg City Council meeting scheduled for November 11, 2024, has been rescheduled to November 18, 2024.

Mayor Phil Vespie

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U.S. Economy Stumbling, The Blue Tarp Rule



Michael Nance
Columnist

The stock market is at record highs so why are many experts concerned about the economy? Well as it turns out they have good reasons, as many economic road signs are flashing red.

There have been many recent announcements by brick-and-mortar retailers about store closings. Family Dollar plans to close up to 677 stores this year, Walgreens is slated to close 259, Big Lots will shutter 360 stores, and LL Flooring is closing its doors permanently. These closings represent the highest number of stores to close than any year since 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic destroyed the U.S. Economy.

According to a Bank of America analysis, more Americans are living “paycheck to paycheck” in 2024. Nearly a quarter of all households fall into this category, which is an increase from 2019.

The large Hotel chain, Hilton, has recently cut their revenue forecasts for 2024, due to “slower consumer spending.”

According to CBS consumers have been dependent on credit cards to make ends meet, and now have a record \$1.4 Trillion of credit card debt. The article goes on to say:

“The high tally comes amid concerns of an economic downturn triggered by modestly rising unemployment, and as soaring costs in food, housing and auto rates continue to drain household budgets. Americans have increasingly been relying on credit cards to make ends meet, with 6 in 10 adults, or 60%, using credit cards to buy groceries in 2023, according to a May report by the Urban Institute.”

But to be fair on the subject of the economy, there are a host of sources that predict a modest economy that will dodge a recession in 2025. So why are predictions diverging? There can be no doubt that the omnipresent Presidential election cycle is driving less than accurate predictions. Americans have always held the economy as a major election issue and this year will be no different. Media outlets with ideological agendas are ignoring many of the economic road signs, hoping their candidate can get into office before a major financial collapse.

Considering the less than stellar economic data and acknowledging that China’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is exceeding the United States by 2 percent in 2024, and that conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East have



Image Courtesy of Towfiqu Barbhuiya

the potential to send shock waves throughout the global economic sphere, and you have a recipe for a challenging environment for the next U.S. president.

The primary reason that I am concerned is credit card debt. The debt level now breaching the Trillion-dollar threshold can only mean one thing, people are struggling to maintain their households. A good friend once related to me that an economic indicator in Appalachian economies was the “blue tarp rule.” When you can count many blue tarps in a community covering the roofs of homes you can immediately understand a couple of things; One, that people’s homes are their largest investment and the tarp is on the roof to protect the rest of the house from water damage; Two, if the homeowners had discretionary money to replace the roof they would. So, with that rule in mind, the reader can make their own judgements as the state of our economy.

Let’s all hope that the upcoming election ends up with a U.S. President that can help the American people still be able to enjoy the American dream.

1 Nathaniel Meyersohn, “Consumers reach their breaking point, forcing retailers to shutter stores at a worrying pace,” CNN October 25, 2024

2 Khristopher J. Brooks, Edited By Anne Marie Lee, Americans continue to rack up credit card debt, hitting a record \$1.14 trillion, CBS, August 6, 2024.

3 IMF World Economic outlook, <https://www.imf.org/en/Blogs/Articles/2024/10/22/as-inflation-recedes-global-economy-needs-policy-triple-pivot>

— In Loving Memory —

Sharon Renee (Landrum) Byrd, 50



Sharon is survived by her two children Preston Byrd of Knoxville and Maci (Joe) Knox; grandson's Mason and Kolsen of Lancing; brother Leroy Landrum of Lancing and sister Janet Landrum of Ohio and a host of nieces, nephews and other special family members and friends.

Sharon Renee (Landrum) Byrd, age 50 went home to be with the Lord on October 24, 2024.

The family has chosen cremation and will have a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Shar is preceded in death by her mother June Landrum; sisters Eva West, Gail Swint, and Mary Wright; brother Larry Landrum; sister-in-law Linda Landrum; brother-in-law Andy West and niece Ravann Landrum.

Through organ donation, Sharon's giving spirit will live on.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Sharon Renee Landrum Byrd.

Lessie Jo Jones



Cromwell, Carson Davis, Retha Bowling and Sam Davis. She also survived the passing of travel-mates and dear friends Christine Cooper, Martha Griffith and Delores Stewart.

Lessie Jo Jones of Sunbright went to be with her Lord Sunday, Oct. 27. She passed peacefully early Sunday morning, surrounded by her loving family.

She is survived by her loving daughters Sabra Coker, Gina Dyer (Michael), and Crystal Jones, sons Robert "Bobby" Wright, and Bryant Jones, dear niece Susie Bowling Bailey, grandchildren Hayley Dyer, Sarah Stout (Chris), Jesse Dyer (Haley), Eric Crabtree (Shannon) and Shane Crabtree, great grandchildren Norah Stout, Case Dyer, Nolan Stout, Remy Dyer, Sydney Crabtree, Nathan Crabtree, Callie Crabtree, Morgan Crabtree, Payton Crabtree and Baylee Ried and sisters-in-law Wanda Jones and Edna Hunter, as well as a host of family and friends.

An active member of the Anadell Missionary Baptist Church for the better part of six decades, Jones practiced her Christian values outside the walls of the church as well. She was known for possessing a true servant's spirit, spending much of her post-retirement years helping those of need in her community.

Special thanks to the staff of Life Care of Morgan County for their kind and loving care.

She was a devoted Mother and Grandmother, enjoyed traveling and was an avid gardener and seamstress. When not on a cross-country bus-ride with a group of her friends, she was often engaged in driving one of them to appointments or running errands for others who were perhaps less mobile than herself.

The family will receive friends at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg Tuesday, Oct. 29 from 5pm - 7pm funeral service to follow with Bro. Bill Goodman, Bro. Joey Aytes and Bro. Russell Jones officiating. Graveside services will be held at 11am Wednesday, Oct. 30 at Sunbright Cemetery.

Lessie Jo is preceded in death by; parents Jones and Flara Dyer Davis, husband L.C. Jones and grandsons Seth and Simon Coker. Siblings Iva

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

Lorine Young Tackett, 82



She is survived by Steve Armes; daughter, Elaine Cox of Cohutta, GA; grandson, Marvin Cox and Leanna Campaigne of Cleveland, TN; Granddaughters: Sheila Cox, and Amanda Cash; great grandchildren: Chelsea Cox, Lainey Cox, Michael Campaigne, and Lyric Cox. She is also survived by Wilbert Tackett.

Mrs. Lorine Young Tackett, age 82, of Wartburg, passed away Friday, Nov. 1, 2024, at the Standifel Place in Chattanooga, TN. She was a member of the Petros Eastern Star.

The family will receive friends Monday, Nov. 4 th , from 12-2 pm at Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg, with funeral services to follow at 2:00 pm. Interment will follow in the Armes Chapel Church Cemetery.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ralph and Delphia Phillips Young; brothers: Eugene, Donald, and Roy Young; sisters: Mary Helen, Charlene, and Linda.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Lorine Tackett.

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

Mary Bone, 82



son, Gene Myers of Wartburg; daughter, Star Hamby of Wartburg, Teresa Fields of Chatsworth, GA; and several nieces and nephews.

Ms. Mary Bone, age 82 of Wartburg, formerly of Georgia, passed away Nov. 1, 2024 at the Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge. She was a member of New Beginnings.

The family will receive friends Sunday, Nov. 3 rd , from 1-2 pm at Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral services will follow at 2 pm with Rev. Jerry Gibson officiating. Interment will follow in the Island Ford Cemetery.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Gordon and Marnie Westmoreland; sister, Betty Ann Lewallen; brother, Earnest Westmoreland; and son, Ricky Stanley She is survived by

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mary Bone.

Psalm 123:1

**Unto thee lift I up mine eyes,
O thou that dwellest in the heavens.**





**Tom Redmon
Columnist**

You Must Be Born-Again

The gospel of John tells us how we can gain salvation. I guess John 3:16 was the first verse that most of us learned in Bible school or Sunday school.

We learn that God loved the world so much that he gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. If we believe we will strive to follow his teachings. As we grow in Christ, we will find that God our Father loves the sinner but hates the

sin, so when we sin, and we will, we must confess our sins.

Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, came to Jesus and said Rabbi we know you are a teacher who came from God because no man can do these miracles except that God be with him. Jesus said unto him unless a man be born-again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

But Nicodemus didn't understand how a man could be born when he is old. He asked Jesus if he could enter his mother's womb and be born a second time? Jesus answered and said, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

I believe to live a Christian life we need to be in God's word. Read the scriptures daily if possible. Attend Sunday school classes and if you can find one, attend Bible studies.

John 3:16 certainly is important in one's plan of salvation. You must believe that God loves you so much that He gave His Son Jesus Christ to come to Earth and die on the cross for your sins. He shed his precious blood for you. Go on to John 3:17 you will read: For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world: but that the world through Him might be saved. Jesus' mission on earth was to love us and to die for our sins. The scriptures tell us that we can be saved only through Jesus Christ: John 3:35-36 says 35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. 36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

When we accept Jesus Christ as our savior we become his child; we are born-again. We become a new creature. We throw off the old man.

We have never seen Jesus in person so we must believe in Him through our faith. Once we are born-again, we have the Holy Spirit living inside us.

John 4:23-24 reads, 23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

When we come to Jesus in spirit and in truth we need to say Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I want to confess my sins and ask you for forgiveness. Confessing our sins means more than saying those words. It means we are truly sorry for our sins and we need to strive to not commit those sins again.

We can never be as holy as Christ but we can work to be more like him. Christ was perfect and we can never be perfect, but Paul said that faith

without works is dead, meaning works are important and in Heaven we will be judged on what we have done for Christ. If you are born-again that can never be taken away from you, but after we are born-again, we should want to work for Christ. That



way we feel fulfilled in the Spirit. As we grow and mature in Christ by reading and studying the scriptures we will want to do more for Him.

In this ole sinful world living a Christian life is not always easy. Satan is there trying to tempt us and the road he wants you to go on is wide and many will travel it. But the road that Jesus wants us to travel is narrow and few will choose to travel it.

I need to share with you the way many Christians feel about their salvation which is that they know for certain that Heaven will be their home when they die. There was a time I wasn't certain and I believe it was because I had sin in my life that I needed to get rid of. Now that sin is gone, I know that Heaven will be my home, and I am not worried about what the world can do to me. My children are Christians and God will also take care of them.

This ole world is in bad shape and it isn't just the United States but all the world.

I hope you understand what I have tried to explain to you about the plan of salvation and being born-again. Remember Jesus loves you and he wants you to be born-again.

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Erika is native to Scott County and lives here with her two sons, Greyson and Emerson. When she is not in the clinic, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends and coaching little league soccer. She is excited to continue to serve her hometown and looks forward to seeing new and familiar faces. Erika is currently accepting new patients and accepts most insurances.



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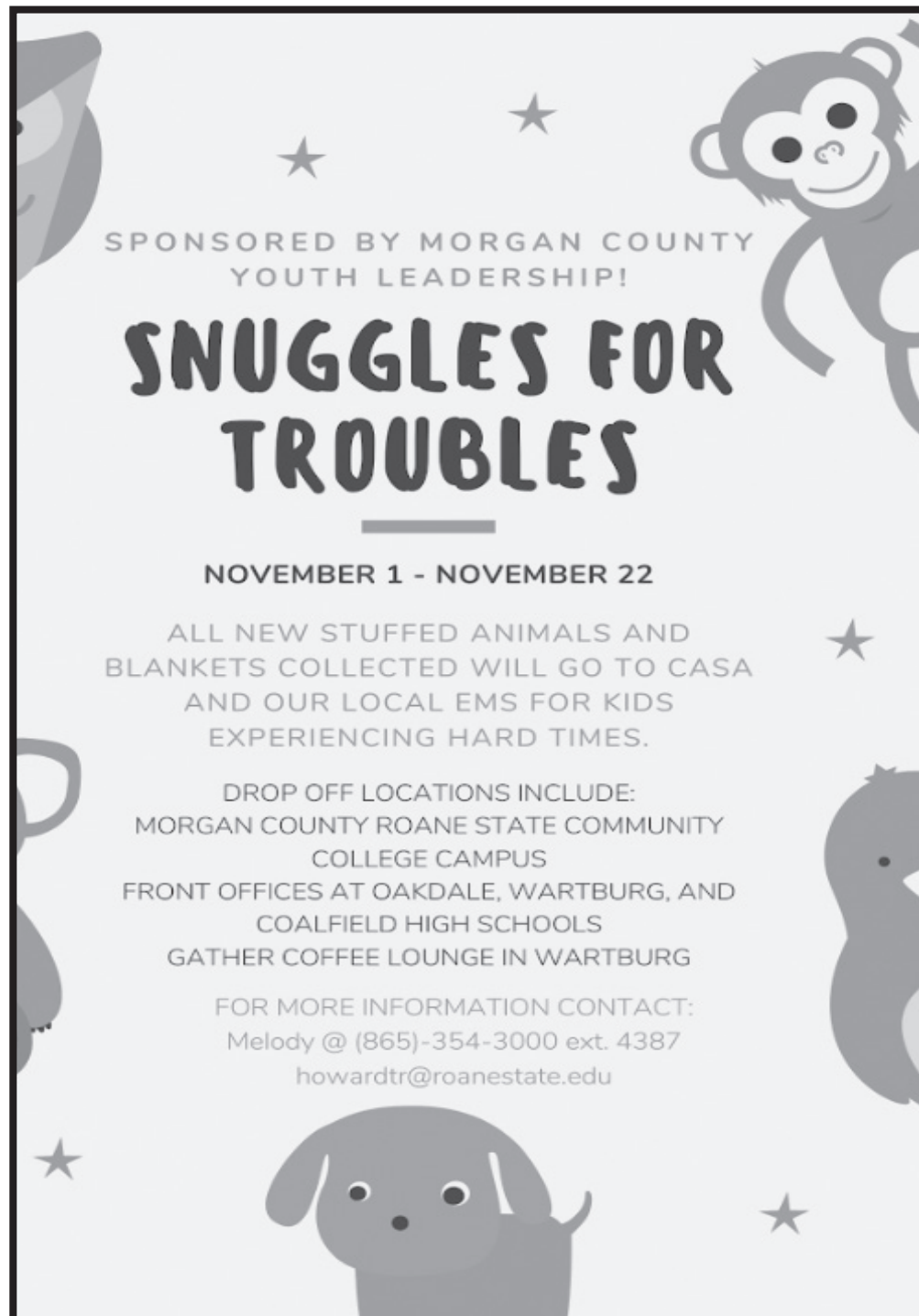
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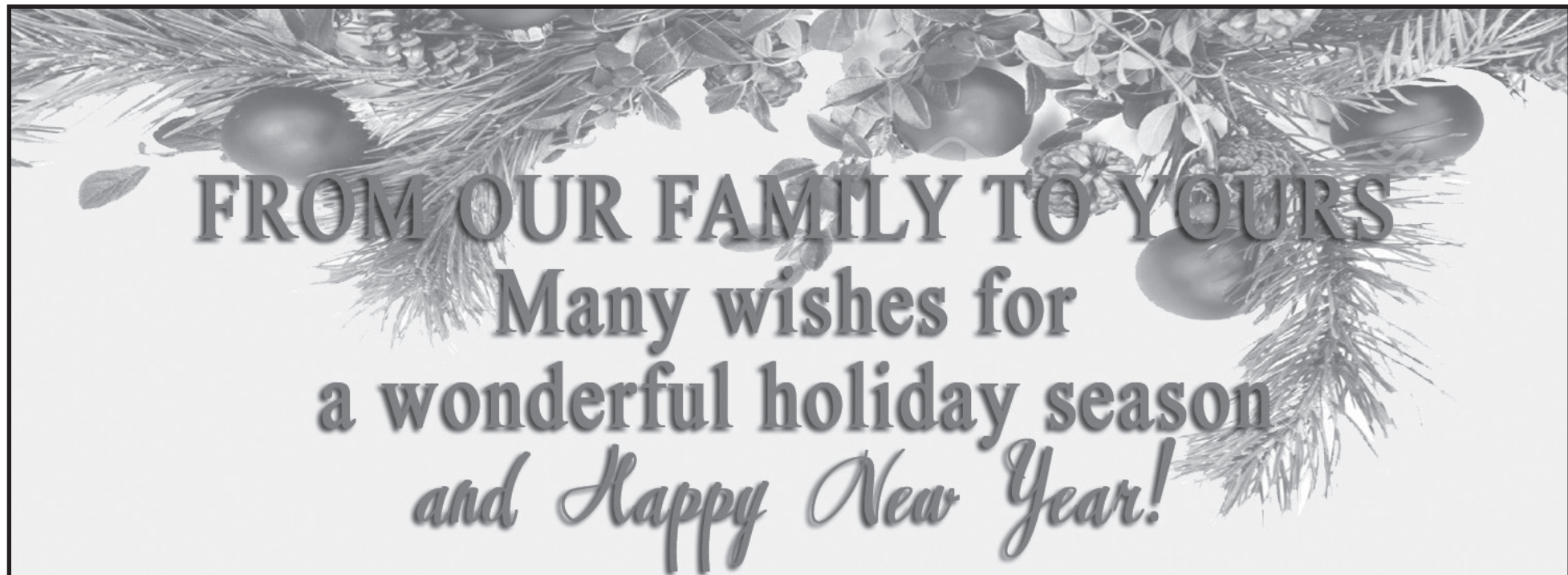


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- Friday, November 29th-CLOSED
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- Wednesday, December 25th-Christmas Day CLOSED
- Thursday, December 26th-CLOSED
- Tuesday, December 31st-Closing at 1pm
- Wednesday, January 1st-New Year's Day CLOSED



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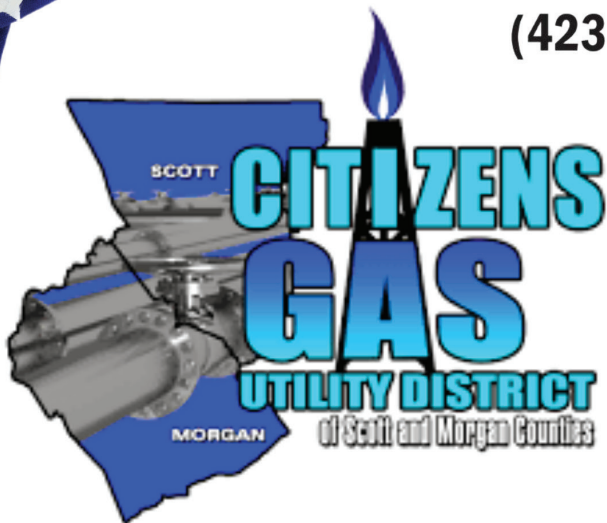
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Nov 1, 2024
Coalfield vs Rockwood - W 55-13



Nov 1, 2024
Oakdale vs Midway - L 14-50



Nov 1, 2024
Sunbright vs Harriman - L 0-51



Oct 31, 2024
Wartburg vs Tellico - L 8-50



Oct 31, 2024
Oneida vs Bledsoe Co. - L 0-27



Nov 1, 2024
Scott vs Austin-East - L 7-30



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2024 Soul

Historically Speaking

Meet Kenneth D. Nichols, the Father of Oak Ridge: The Manhattan Project, Early Steps

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Barbara Scollin, great niece of Major General Kenneth D. Nichols continues her series on his life.

Ample reasons, most notably leadership skills, personality traits and qualifications, led to choosing General (then Colonel) Kenneth D. Nichols as Deputy District Engineer and subsequently as District Engineer of the Manhattan Engineer District (MED). In this capacity he had supervision of the research and development connected with, and the design, construction and operation of all plants required to produce plutonium-239 and uranium-235, including the construction of the towns of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Richland, Washington.

The responsibility of his position was massive as he oversaw a workforce of both military and civilian personnel of approximately 125,000; his Oak Ridge office became the center of the wartime atomic energy's activities. He also was responsible for internal security operations in the production facilities that helped keep the development of the atomic bomb secret.

In this sixth installment of several articles covering the life and accomplishments of Kenneth D. Nichols, we learn of his early work with the Manhattan Project including procurement of silver from the U.S. Treasury.

By the end of June 1940 Nazi Germany had conquered Europe from Norway to Sicily by invading Poland then Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium and France. Britain was the last free country acting as a buffer between Hitler and the United States. By December 1941, Japan had bombed Pearl Harbor and America was fully engaged in war against Germany, Japan and Italy. The threat of Germany developing a nuclear bomb before America weighed heavily on Colonel Kenneth D. Nichols and everyone else involved in the Manhattan Project.

In June 1942, as Deputy District Engineer of the Manhattan Engineer District (MED), Lt Colonel Kenneth D. Nichols stepped on to the stage of history at age 34. He was 5'11", a trim 160 pounds with clear blue eyes and blondish-brown hair. Trained in the West Point tradition "DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY," he stood very straight, was confident, but not arrogant.

Off or on duty, his clothes were always pressed and neat. His childhood hobby of card playing, and West Point sports activities carried over to his adult life; he was fun to be around and made a wonderful dinner conversationalist. He was known for his warmth, consideration of others and intelligence. With an intense ability to listen, he could communicate with anyone regardless of their education, rank or situation, quickly earning respect from everyone he met. He lived his entire adult life by the West Point Honor Code – "A cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do."

Although well qualified for his MED responsibilities, Nichols showed humility and wisdom with areas unfamiliar to him such as physics. Nick recalled very early in his first year as Deputy District Engineer, "During my first meeting with Dr. Compton I told him, 'If you expect me to do my end of the job, you have to start educating me.' So..., whenever we had time, Dr. Enrico Fermi or other scientists [including Dr. Compton, Dr. Ernest O. Lawrence, and Dr. Robert J. Oppenheimer] would give me an informal lesson.

They all recognized my desire to learn and were eager to teach me what I needed to know. I received a superb indoctrination in the subject from renowned leaders in the field."

Early in August, Nichols tackled the problem of a huge copper deficiency. Copper was required by Dr. Ernest Lawrence's electromagnetic separation process. 120 tons was needed for the Berkeley campus laboratory and another 5,000 tons for the Oak Ridge site now called Clinton



Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth D. Nichols
Deputy District Engineer, Manhattan Engineer District
(Photo by Ed Westcott)

Engineer Works (CEW).

Copper was needed for other war industries, but thankfully it was quickly determined that silver could be substituted for the Manhattan Project's needs at a ratio of 11:10. Nichols recalls on August 3, 1942, he "visited with Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Daniel Bell. He... asked 'How much [silver] do you need?' I replied 'Six thousand tons'. 'How many troy ounces is that?' he asked. In fact, I did not know how to convert tons to troy ounces, and neither did he. A little impatient, I responded, 'I don't know how many troy ounces we need, but I know I need six thousand tons – that is a definite quantity. What difference does it make how we express the quantity?' He replied rather indignantly, 'Young man, you may think of silver in tons, but the Treasury will always think of silver in troy ounces.'

"With our contrasting perspectives expressed, we then settled on a form of agreement that was ultimately used to transfer some 14,700 tons of silver from its storage place at West Point [Depository] to New Jersey, where it was melted down and cast into large ingots for shipment to Allis-Chalmers in Milwaukee for further processing.

"Each month during the war, I signed an inventory for the Treasury stating that we had in our possession over four hundred million troy ounces of silver (expressed to hundredths of an ounce). We established very strict procedures to avoid loss, and when the silver was returned to the

Treasury after the war 'less than one thirty-six-thousandths of 1 percent of the more than 14,700 tons of silver was missing.'"

At today's spot price of roughly \$40/troy ounce, the 400,000,000 troy ounces Nichols

vouched for each month would be worth approximately \$16B in 2024. The silver procurement was just one of thousands of issues to be addressed by Nichols for the MED in the upcoming months.

The total cost of the Manhattan Project was about \$2.2B, or about \$45B in 2024 (not including the silver used and returned to the U.S. Treasury). As set forth by the S-1 Committee early in June 1942, four methods to obtain enriched uranium appeared feasible, but which method was superior was unknown.

Nichols explains further, "Redundancy was at the heart of the Manhattan Project. Each of the uranium processes we built at the CEW served as a backup for the others. In fact, all the CEW U-235 enrichment plants were backups for the plutonium effort at Hanford or vice versa. Redundancy unquestionably increased the cost of the Manhattan Project, but we did not feel we dared take a chance concentrating on only one production plant, or even one type of bomb.

"Well, you take Oak Ridge. It was the biggest construction project, bigger than Panama Canal, the biggest construction project in the history of the world at the time it was built.

"Ultimately, over 90 percent of the cost of the Manhattan Project went into building the plants and producing the fissionable materials [industry], and less than 10 percent was applied to the development and production of the weapon [scientists]."

Nichols signed contracts and ensured they were audited and administered properly for Los Alamos, NM and the other Manhattan Project sites including Oak Ridge TN and Hanford WA. (Thanks to Colonel Marshall's early organization of the MED, the district set up its own finance officers and internal audit staff.)

What would it have felt like to be Nichols signing a contract on behalf of THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA? One such example is a contract for \$30,000,000 (\$545B in 2024) with Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Corporation dated January 18, 1943; it is included in William



The Cadet Honor Code Monument located at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. USMA Class of 1957 Honor Plaza at the east end of Eisenhower Barracks, West Point, NY - photo taken in December 2008 (courtesy of Wikipedia public domain photo)

Wilcox Jr.'s informative book on the history of the K-25 plant (and a portion of the contract is included with this column as a photograph).

In May 1945 President Truman authorized a small select group of congressmen to visit Oak Ridge. Nichols personally toured Congressman Albert J. Engel around the Clinton Engineer Works since Engel had "objected vigorously" to more expenditures when requested by the War Department earlier that year. Nichols was well prepared for Engel's visit with detailed unit costs and other reports. Engels was impressed. The congressional committee's hearing at Oak Ridge ended well.

Historically Speaking Meet Kenneth D. Nichols, the Father of Oak Ridge: The Manhattan Project, Early Steps

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Nichols recalls, "The hearing at Oak Ridge ended very pleasantly when Congressman Cannon, chairman of the committee, asked Congressman Taber whether he had any more questions to ask. (A month or so earlier, Taber and Cannon had come close to blows in a hall in Congress over expenditures.) Taber said he wanted to ask [Maj] General Groves and Colonel Nichols one more question: 'Are you sure you're asking for enough money?' Cannon commented, 'Well, I never expected to hear that from you, John. Meeting adjourned.'"

At the end of the war, Nichols recalls, "My administrative people involved with the expenditures were very pleased when the Comptroller General reported to the Senate Special Committee on Atomic Energy in April 1946, 'We have audited or are auditing, every single penny expended on this project. We audited on the spot and kept it current, and I might say it has been a remarkably clean expenditure... The very fact that our men were there where the agents of the Government could consult with them time after time assured, in my opinion, a proper accountability...'

"I believe this achievement occurred because of the way in which Colonel Marshall started the project and organized the administrative aspects of the district. His determination to do things in an orderly manner also was reflected in the way he chose our original headquarters and then went about selecting the site for the production plants..." Remarkable.

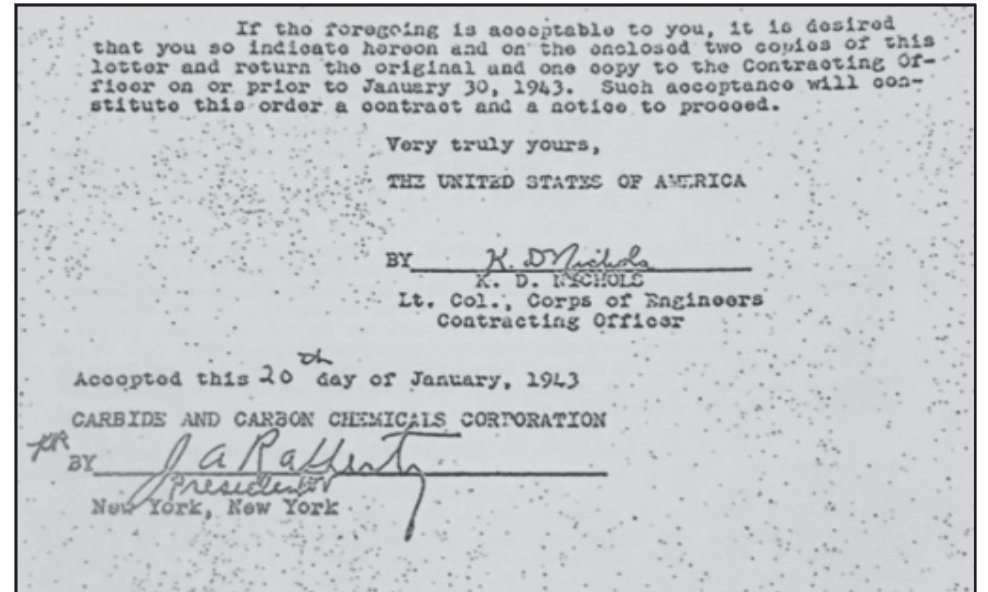
Next up: The Manhattan Project, Underway, Part 1.

Grateful acknowledgements to K. David Nichols, Jr.; Ray Smith; Sandy Fye; Dr. Bianka J. Adams, Alisa Whitley, Douglas J. Wilson and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office of History; Diane Gulley; Gerald A. Potts; and Bruce W. Scollin for their assistance with this article.

I hope you are enjoying this series written by Barbara Rogers Scollin, grandniece of General Kenneth D. Nichols. She has done tremendous research and is quoting primary sources throughout. I believe she is doing a great service to her uncle and that we are benefiting from her work to show accurately the details of the man who was so effective in his job during the Manhattan Project from right here in Oak Ridge! We can take much pride in that...



Silver-wound Magnet Coils for the Electromagnetic Process
(Photo by Ed Westcott)



Redacted signature page of 1943 contract between The United States of America and Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Corporation Signed by Lt Colonel K.D. Nichols, Corps of Engineers Contracting Officer, and J. A. Rafferty, President of Carbide & Carbon Chemicals Corporation (Courtesy of William J. Wilcox, Jr., K-25, A Brief History of The Manhattan Project's "Biggest" Secret - Oak Ridge TN, January 1, 2017 - ISBN OCLC104123336)

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Becoming the Shin, Psalm 119 Vs. 161-168



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

Vs. 161 Princes have persecuted me without a cause; but my heart standeth in awe of thy word.

Vs. 162 I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.

Vs. 163 I hate and abhor lying; but thy law I do love.

Vs. 164 7 times a day I praise thee because of thy righteous judgements.

Vs. 165 Great peace have they which love thy law and nothing shall offend them.

Vs. 166 Lord, I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy commandments.

Vs. 167 My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly.

Vs. 168 I have kept thy precepts and thy testimonies; for all thy ways are before thee.

Today we encounter the 21st letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It is pronounced Schin {Shin}. It has a numerical value of 300.

Schin is defined as penitence. A voluntary act of returning to the precepts found in the two-edged sword of the written revealed word of God. Schin is the connector between the cross of Christ and the forgiveness the father in heaven still offers sinners.

To understand the sanctifying word of Christ's promised Holy Spirit, a knowledge of Old Testament mercy is required to rightly divide scripture. To understand what we all need purged from our lives, Bible literacy begins in Genesis.

Jesus Christ's every word in the New Testament can be found in the Old Testament. Christ taught the lost sheep of the house of Israel all they needed covered by the blood of the Lamb, by taking them through the law. The law could not make one righteous, the law points to the righteous one.

Paul reminds believers that we are not under the law. Why? Was the law made unholy at the revelation of Jesus Christ? I think not. Christ Jesus gave Moses the law. He is the author and finisher of faith. The law was designed by God to teach us all what we need purged after we receive Christ's unending mercy.

Will God forgive those who mix a little bit of outward piety with a whole lot of Roman pagan traditions imported into church from Babylon? Christ fulfilled the righteous requirement of a lamb slain for the forgiveness of sin. The law teaches a believer what sin looks like.

To claim a belief in the Trinity of creation, one must harness oneself to the entire plan of Adonai Elohim. No half measures will suffice. Relying on New Testament only theosophy guarantees one will not be governing in the millennium next to our risen bridegroom, Jesus Christ.

Mercy is the foundation for Christian belief and evangelism. Without the unending mercy of God covering the flesh, no one will receive grace. Mercy is the right hand of God's correction. To allow one self to be truly corrected by scripture, proves one truly loves Jesus Christ.

Unending mercy is one of God's two divine attributes. To offer mercy is the hallmark of forgiveness and love. 70x7 times we are commanded to forgive those who trespass against us. Mercy is required to receive the free gift of grace, found in the person of Jesus Christ.

Our faith must be in a person. That person is the divine God-man who died to pay the only debt that matters when I die. My cry daily for

unending mercy, guarantees that grace will appear in my life as biblical restoration. Only then can I lead sinners beside the still water found in the word of God.

No human is righteous apart from faith in what God has done for all of us through the crucifixion of his Son. Justification is the imputation of Christ's righteousness to my account. I have been washed in the blood of the risen Lamb of God.

I am now required to submit to biblical correction defined as sanctification. The work of God's Holy Spirit in all of our lives. We are sanctified by the written revealed word of God. Sanctification is the process of getting rid of all religious traditions that have no place in Christ's coming kingdom.

Teshuva is a state of being. The rare believer who each day requests the unending mercy of God. To be rewarded with biblical restoration and then testifying of what God is saving me from. Teshuva begins each day with my humble request for God's unending mercy.

Because our flesh is hopelessly corrupt, we will all receive a glorified body to inhabit eternity. We will be changed in an instant. We will see Christ like he is and we shall be like him. We will enjoy his ability to enter and leave a room without traveling through a door or window. What an awesome promise.

The mind of our Creator has been laid out in the most amazing alphabet ever conceived. Each letter teaches us an individual lesson on God's single plan of redemption. No human being could invent this story. Our creator gave us his creation to discover him as our redeemer.

I know my redeemer lives. He is the light of the world. I have been given spiritual eyes that see only him in me. I am nothing without Christ dwelling inside my fallen flesh. This is the heart of true repentance. God is not in heaven counting how many times we fail. He is in heaven waiting for us to request mercy.

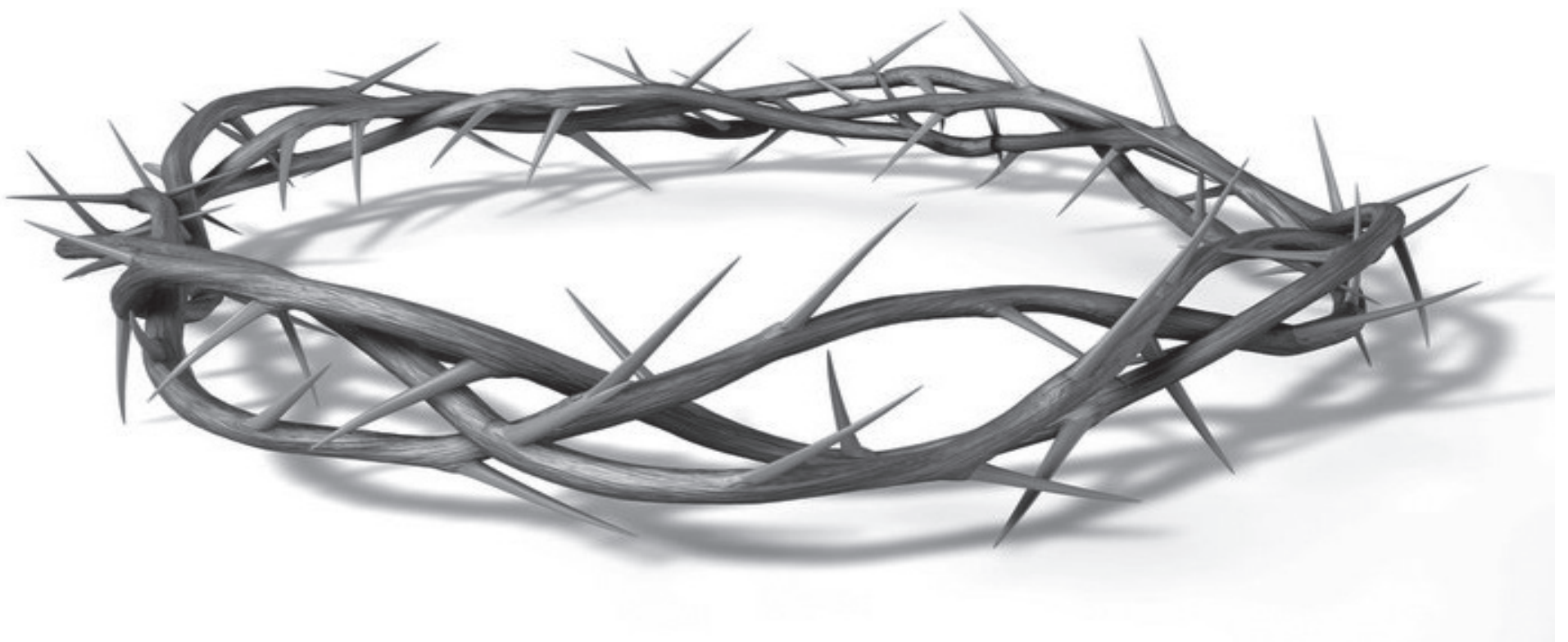
The entire Hebrew alphabet points to the redemption plan of the trinity of creation. He was crucified upon a cross of wood, yet he created the hill upon which it stood.

He is alive forevermore and he is asking for you to repent and return to every letter in scripture. Let him who has ears hear what the spirit is saying. John Burns 10-01-2024

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.



Luke Chapter 3 & Chapter 4



Melvin Howard

(Luke 3:1-20) The ministry of John the Baptist: In this segment relation to John's ministry, we will not rehearse the data provided by Matthew. The reader is referred to comments there (Mt. 3:1). We will only briefly make observations here. Luke, as an accomplished historian, provides some political background preliminary to discussion John's work. In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar (A.D. 29), Pontius Pilate was serving as governor of Judaea (A.D. 26-36); he was a hard ruler and played a prominent role in Jesus' trial. Herod (4 B.C.-A.D. 39) is also

known as Antipas. He was the son of the butcher, Herod the Great, and was no better in character than his father. He decapitated John. Phillip (4 B.C.-A.D.34), mentioned only here, was a half-brother to Antipas, and the best of a bad lot; he ruled a northern region east of the Jordan. Lysanias was a ruler in Syria whose territory was north of Phillip's. Luke's reference to Lysanias was once disputed, but has been confirmed archaeologically. All of these were under the ultimate authority of Rome.

Luke mentions the high priesthood of Annas (A.D. 6-15) and Caiaphas (A.D. 18-37), the former being the father-in-law of the latter. The latter was the official high priest, but the former continued to wield such power; he was the titular priest. When arrested, Jesus was taken to Annas before Caiaphas (Jn. 18:13). Neither of these qualified as high priests according to the law of Moses. Like's reference is quite precise.

At this time, "the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness." The expression, "word of God," signifies a verbal message of heavenly origin. John was in the desolate region west of the Dead Sea. His message was one of repentance (a spiritually motivated change of life) followed by immersion in water to obtain forgiveness of sins (v.3). It was predicated upon a faith in the coming Messiah, and was valid only until replaced by the immersion of the great commission, inaugurated on Pentecost and grounded in the fact of Christ's death and resurrection (Acts 2:38; 19:4). Luke notes that John's ministry was validated by the prophecy of Isaiah seven centuries earlier (Isa. 40:3-5). Modern critics dispute the inspired historian, charging that Isaiah did not write this material attributed to him.

Regarding John's message on repentance, some inquired: "What must we do?" He provided illustrations in both positive and negative categories (a) Let those who have extra share with those who haven't enough (v. 11). (b) Certain tax collectors, known for avarice, were to take only their allotted wages and not to engage in unethical gouging. They must not manipulate tax revenues to their advantage, nor strong-arm the weak (v. 12-14).

John preached the "good tidings" (gospel) to the people and exhorted them in numerous ways (v. 18). Eventually, he was imprisoned by Herod Antipas because he had courageously reproved the wicked ruler who had seduced his brother's wife and was living in incestuous and adulterous relationships. John rebuked the ruler for many "evil things" he had done (v. 19); hence, he was confined in prison at Herod's castle at Macherus, east of the Dead Sea, and ultimately beheaded (Mt. 14:10).

John's preaching excited the crowds with an expectant attitude, many wondering if he was the Messiah (v. 15).

(Luke 3:21-22) The baptism of Jesus: Also read Matthew 3:13-17). (Luke 3:23-38) The physical lineage of Christ: Jesus entered his ministry when he was "about thirty" (Gen. 41:46; Num. 4:47; Ezek. 1:1; 2 Sam. 5:4). There is controversy as to the nature of Luke's genealogy. Many modern expositors contend that both Matthew and Luke trace the Lord's ancestry through Joseph---the former back to Abraham, the latter to Adam. On the other hand, a number of respectable scholars still believe Luke's record is through Mary. Yet, consistent with the common practice of not including the names of women, Luke describes Jesus in this fashion: "being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli" (v. 23). (The Jewish Talmud refers to Mary as the daughter of Heli.) Matthew's point was to provide a legal listing back to Abraham; this would be important to the Jews (to whom Matthew was writing). Luke, writing for Gentiles, shows the solidarity of the Savior with the whole of humanity by tracing the lineage through Mary.

One additional point is important. Since Adam was the "first man" (1 Cor. 15:45), in view of this genealogy from Jesus back to Adam (even allowing for minor gaps), it is not possible to entertain any respect for the biblical narrative if one is to contend for the modern evolutionary view that human beings have inhabited the earth for several millions of years. Such a procedure substitutes modernistic speculation for divine revelation.

Luke Chapter 4

(Luke 4:1-15) The temptation in the wilderness and the transition to Galilee: (Mt. 4:1-11; Mk. 1:12-13) The baptism of Christ and his temptation ordeal had taken place in the areas of the river of Jordan and in the desolate region west of the Dead Sea. Jesus now turns his attention northward to Galilee, entering the province in "the power of the Spirit." His reputation had spread extensively as he taught in various synagogues. He was wildly popular---a mood that was about to change.

(Lk. 4:16-30) Rejection at Nazareth: Luke is selective in the events of Christ's ministry he choose to incorporate into his record. The following

episode was not the earliest in the Lord's ministry. Jesus had grown up in Nazareth under the guidance of his foster-father, Joseph, who was a carpenter (Mt. 13:55), and the Lord himself had that occupational reputation (Mk. 6:3). The vocation involved rigorous labor, requiring both strength and skill. The people of the village likely would consider Christ to be an exceptionally noble person, but hardly a religious scholar. Nonetheless, his fame had grown and he was worthy of an invitation to read in the synagogue.

It had been the Lord's consistent habit (the force of the Greek verb) to attend synagogue services on the Sabbath. On this occasion, he entered and obviously was invited to read Scriptures. The Isaiah scroll was handed to him and, being familiar with the Scriptures, he unrolled the scroll to Isaiah 61:1-2 (with an insertion from 58:6), which may have been a providentially orchestrated pre-prescribed text. Luke does not hesitate to dispute the modern critics who deny Isaiah penned chapters forty and onward!

The Old Testament context projects to the future and has the Messiah speaking. His object would be as follows: (a) With the power of the Spirit, he was anointed ("Messiah" means anointed) to preach "good tidings" (gospel) to the poor, those honest enough to receive it ("poor in spirit" [Mt. 5:3]). (b) He was to proclaim release (liberty) to the captives, doubtless a reference to Jubilee, the "acceptable year of the Lord" (Lev. 25:10). In Jubilee (the fiftieth year), slaves were set free; Christ came to deliver from the bondage of sin those who obey him (Jn. 8:34; Rom. 6:17-18). (c) He would open the eyes of the blind, bring spiritual illumination.

Since Luke is writing for Gentiles, his quotation here is from the Greek translation of the Old Testament. The Lord rolled up the scroll and handed it back to the attendant. Then he sat down---a signal that he wished to speak. All eyes were fastened on him. The scene is riveting to this writer---at this very moment.

The next sentence struck like a bolt of lightning. "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your ears." Not catching the drift of where he was going, the crowd marveled at his graceful words. Yet they were dumbfounded: "This is Joseph's son, isn't it?" The Lord continued: "You might well use this illustration on me: 'doctor heal yourself,'" the significance being, "We've heard about what you've done in [nearby] Capernaum; do the same things here, in your own home place." He then enunciated a well-established principle---"No prophet is accepted in his own country." He was uttering a prophecy at this very moment! The following illustration would thrust "the fat into the fire."

Two Old Testament examples are mentioned. (a) In the days of Elijah, when there was a great drought, there were many needy widows. Yet God selected only one upon whom to bestow his favor, a widow in Zarephath (v. 25-26). (b) In Elisha's day, there were many lepers in Israel, but the Lord chose only one to be healed, Naaman of Syria (v. 27). What was the common denominator? Both examples involved Gentiles as the recipients of divine favor. The implication was that God might skip over the Hebrews and bless the Gentiles. It was as if a bomb had exploded!

The congregation was "filled with wrath"; it was an uncontrollable anger that consumed the listeners. They angrily rose up and drove him from the synagogue and even the city. The services were completely disrupted! They forced him to a hill with an overhanging cliff with the intention of throwing him over. But where men propose, God can dispose! Jesus passed right through the middle of them---obviously in some supernatural way (Jn. 7:30; 8:59; 10:39). His "hour" was on another page of the divine calendar.

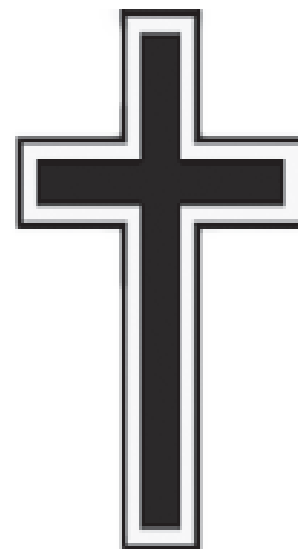
(Luke 4:31-44) Miracles in Capernaum (Mt. 8:14-17; Mk. 1:21-34). A preaching tour in Galilee (Mt. 4:23; 8:1-4; Mk. 1:39-45) read these.

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