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# Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3  
www.mocotoday.com  
Volume 10 Number 40  
Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Your Community. Your News.

75¢

## Inside:

- Football & Soccer Score Cards
- ScoCo Soccer Players of the Week
- Community Calendar
- Biblical Thought
- Weather

**10 Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

**- Psalm 51:10**



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**Morgan County Today**  
Your Community. Your News.

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**IN-COUNTY RATES**  
\$40; \$35 FOR SENIOR  
CITIZENS & VETERANS

**OUT OF COUNTY RATES**  
\$55; \$50 FOR SENIOR  
CITIZENS & VETERANS

**PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID  
AT WARTBURG, TN  
USPS PUBLICATION NUMBER  
(15400)**



**Ms. Avery Pearl  
Pet Columnist**

# Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

## Hurricane Helene

My little heart hurts for all the victims of this awful event called, Hurricane Helene.

So many people and their animals lost their homes and their lives.



We all need to pray for these people and do what we can to help them.

My Mimi's sister Cindy lives in South Carolina. She has a lot of downed trees and still no electricity. However, she says they are blessed, because in the grand scheme of things they are very lucky. They made it through the awful storm and their area was hard hit but not as bad as it was in other places.

Mimi is so thankful that Cindy and her fur babies made it, without getting injured or killed. That's the main thing. Cindy is grateful to still have a home and that they are all unharmed.

So, donate what you can to help the victims of this awful storm and most of all, **keep them in your prayers.**

Morgan County went through a horrible tornado so, people here know what it is like to go through a life altering event. The community sure stepped up for us. We need to pay it AND **pray it** forward for our fellow citizens. After all, we are not called the Volunteer State for nothing. We are always there for friends and strangers, when they are in need.

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

**WEEKLY WEATHER**

Tue 08	74°/46°	
Wed 09	75°/47°	
Thu 10	73°/45°	
Fri 11	76°/47°	
Sat 12	78°/52°	
Sun 13	80°/53°	
Mon 14	74°/47°	

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**The Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center** meet on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 PM.

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

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

**Tennessee College of Applied Technology Oneida/Huntsville is hiring for the following positions:**

Associate Instructor- Building Construction Technology

Campus Location: TCAT Oneida - Morgan County Correctional Complex

Go to <https://careers.tbr.edu/jobs/search> and follow the job link for full job description and to submit an application.



2024 K5

**RUSTY WALLACE**

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## ELECTION NOTICE

EARLY / ABSENTEE VOTING FOR THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 PRESIDENTIAL, FEDERAL, STATE GENERAL ELECTIONS, PLUS CITY OF SUNBRIGHT, CITY OF WARTBURG, AND TOWN OF OLIVER SPRINGS MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

TO THE VOTERS OF THE CITY OF WARTBURG, MORGAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE: You are hereby notified that by call of the following petition signed by ten percent (10%) or more of the registered voters in the city casting a ballot for governor in the last gubernatorial election, a referendum to authorize the consumption of alcohol on the premises shall be conducted:  
 Petition to Authorize Consumption of Alcohol on the Premises in the City of Wartburg

We, the registered voters in the City of Wartburg do hereby request the Morgan County Election Commission to hold a local option election to authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises in the City of Wartburg, as provided by law.

TO THE VOTERS OF THE CITY OF WARTBURG, MORGAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE: You are hereby notified that by call of the following petition signed by ten percent (10%) or more of the registered voters in the city casting a ballot for governor in the last gubernatorial election, a referendum to Authorize Retail Package Stores to Sell Alcoholic Beverages shall be conducted:  
 Petition to Authorize Retail Package Stores to Sell Alcoholic Beverages in the City of Wartburg

We, the registered voters of the City of Wartburg, do hereby request the Morgan County Election Commission to hold a local option election to authorize retail package stores to sell alcoholic beverages in the city of Wartburg, as provided by law.

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

**October 16-18 th : 9 A.M.-4 P.M. • October 19 th : 9 A.M.- 12 NOON • October 21-24 TH : 9 A.M.- 4 P.M.**  
**October 25 th : 9 A.M.- 6 P.M. • October 26 th : 9 A.M.-12 NOON**  
**October 28: 9 A.M.- 6 P.M. • October 29-31 ST : 9 A.M.- 4 P.M.**

THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN PERSON OR BY MAIL POSTMARKED FOR THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 ELECTIONS WILL BE **MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024**. REGISTERED VOTERS WHO WILL BE UNABLE TO GO TO THEIR POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY MAY VOTE BY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS:

### 1. VOTING BY PERSONAL APPEARANCE

BEGINNING **OCTOBER 16 th THROUGH OCTOBER 31ST**, A VOTER DESIRING TO VOTE BY PERSONAL APPEARANCE SHALL GO TO THE POLLING SITE IN THE MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, PRESENT A VALID FEDERAL OR TN STATE ISSUED PHOTO ID, SIGN AN APPLICATION TO VOTE, AND CAST THEIR VOTE ON A PAPER BALLOT. THE LAST DAY TO EARLY VOTE BY PERSONAL APPEARANCE IS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2024 AT 4:00 PM.

#### **PHOTO ID REQUIREMENT FOR ALL VOTERS AT POLLS:**

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

### 2. VOTING ABSENTEE

IN ORDER TO VOTE ABSENTEE BY MAIL, A VOTER MUST MEET CERTAIN LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS. A VOTER WHICH REGISTERED OR VOTED PREVIOUSLY IN PERSON, DESIRING TO VOTE ABSENTEE BY MAIL, SHALL IN WRITING OR PRINT OVER HIS SIGNATURE EITHER IN PERSON AT THE ELECTION COMMISSION OFFICE OR BY MAIL, FAX, OR E-MAIL WITH AN ATTACHED DOCUMENT WHICH INCLUDES A SCANNED SIGNATURE, REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT. SUCH REQUEST FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT MAY BE RECEIVED NO EARLIER THAN AUGUST 7, 2024 AND **MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 29, 2024 AT 4:00 PM**. THE REQUEST FOR AN APPLICATION CAN SERVE AS AN APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT IF IT CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING: NAME, ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, DATE OF BIRTH, ADDRESS OF DESTINATION TO MAIL THE BALLOT (IF REASON FOR VOTING IS OUTSIDE OF COUNTY), THE ELECTION THE VOTER WISHES TO VOTE IN, THE VALID REASON THE VOTER WISHES TO VOTE ABSENTEE, AND THE VOTER'S SIGNATURE. FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE FOUND AT THE WEBSITE <https://sos.tn.gov/elections/guides/guide-to-absentee-voting>.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT EARLY VOTING, PLEASE CONTACT:

MORGAN COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION  
 PO BOX 266  
 415 N. KINGSTON ST.  
 WARTBURG, TN 37887  
 PH. 423.346.3190  
 EMAIL: [Morgan.Commission@TN.GOV](mailto:Morgan.Commission@TN.GOV)  
 WEBSITE: [MorganElections.Com](http://MorganElections.Com)  
 OFFICE HOURS: M-F 8am-4pm

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**OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR MORGAN COUNTY  
STATE AND FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON  
November 5, 2024**

**Precinct NEWSPAPER  
Page 1 of 2**

<b>STATE AND FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION</b>	
<b>PRESIDENT and VICE PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES</b>	
Vote for One (1)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electors for DONALD J. TRUMP For President and JD VANCE For Vice President Republican Party Nominee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electors for KAMALA D. HARRIS For President and TIM WALZ For Vice President Democratic Party Nominee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electors for JAY J BOWMAN For President and DE D BOWMAN For Vice President Independent Candidate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electors for CLAUDIA DE LA CRUZ For President and KARINA GARCIA For Vice President Independent Candidate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electors for RACHELE FRUIT For President and DENNIS RICHTER For Vice President Independent Candidate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electors for ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR. For President and NICOLE SHANAHAN For Vice President Independent Candidate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electors for JILL STEIN For President and SAMSON LEBEAU KPADENOU For Vice President Independent Candidate
<input type="checkbox"/>	----- Write-in

<b>UNITED STATES SENATE</b>	
Vote for One (1)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marsha Blackburn Republican Party Nominee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gloria Johnson Democratic Party Nominee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tharon Chandler Independent Candidate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pamela Jeanine "P." Moses Independent Candidate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hastina Robinson Independent Candidate
<input type="checkbox"/>	----- Write-in

<b>UNITED STATES HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES District 3</b>	
Vote for One (1)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chuck Fleischmann Republican Party Nominee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jack Allen Democratic Party Nominee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jean Howard-Hill Independent Candidate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephen "Scooter" King Independent Candidate
<input type="checkbox"/>	----- Write-in

<b>TENNESSEE SENATE District 12</b>	
Vote for One (1)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ken Yager Republican Party Nominee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charles Hutson II Independent Candidate
<input type="checkbox"/>	----- Write-in

<b>TENNESSEE HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES District 41</b>	
Vote for One (1)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ed Butler Republican Party Nominee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joel Derek Hawn Democratic Party Nominee
<input type="checkbox"/>	----- Write-in



OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR MORGAN COUNTY  
STATE AND FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON  
November 5, 2024

Precinct NEWSPAPER  
Page 2 of 2

<p><b>MUNICIPAL ELECTION</b> Town of Oliver Springs</p> <p><b>ALDERMAN</b> Town of Oliver Springs Ward 3</p> <p>Vote for One (1)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Char-Lee Bailey</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Kenneth T Brown</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ----- Write-in</p>
<p><b>ALDERMAN</b> Town of Oliver Springs Ward 5</p> <p>Vote for One (1)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Terry Holland</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ----- Write-in</p>
<p><b>ALDERMAN</b> Town of Oliver Springs Ward 6</p> <p>Vote for One (1)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Becky Devaney</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ----- Write-in</p>
<p><b>MUNICIPAL ELECTION</b> City of Sunbright</p> <p><b>MAYOR</b> City of Sunbright</p> <p>Vote for One (1)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Karen Melton</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ----- Write-in</p>
<p><b>ALDERMAN</b> City of Sunbright</p> <p>Vote for One (1)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pam Bentley</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ----- Write-in</p>

<p><b>MUNICIPAL ELECTION</b> City of Wartburg</p> <p><b>RETAIL PACKAGE STORES REFERENDUM</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To permit retail package stores to sell alcoholic beverages in City of Wartburg.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not to permit retail package stores to sell alcoholic beverages in City of Wartburg.</p>
<p><b>CONSUMPTION ON THE PREMISES REFERENDUM</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> For legal sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises in City of Wartburg.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Against legal sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises in City of Wartburg.</p>

**Poll Workers Needed in Morgan County for Nov. 5  
State and Federal General Election**

Wartburg, Tenn.) – Poll officials are urgently needed for the Nov. 5 State and Federal General Election in Morgan County. Workers will be trained to assist at precincts during early voting and on Election Day.

“Poll workers are critical to ensuring the voices of registered voters in our communities are heard,” Administrator Tim Sweat said. “If you are eligible to become a poll worker, we encourage your participation this fall.”

Most Tennesseans qualify to work at polling locations, regardless of their political affiliation. The minimum age for poll workers is 16. Anyone over 18 must be a registered voter in the county they desire to serve.

Other qualifications include:

- Be able to read and write in the English language.
- Cannot be a candidate or close relative of a candidate.
- Cannot be supervised by a county or municipal elected official on the ballot.

“Poll workers are the backbone of elections,” said Coordinator of Elections Mark Goins. “These individuals and their efforts ensure all citizens know that Tennessee’s results are accurate, and our elections remain secure.”

All City, County, and Metropolitan government employees (unless working directly under the supervision of an elected official on the ballot) are eligible, as are state employees. Federal employees should consult with their individual Human Resources Departments to determine eligibility.

People interested in applying should contact the Morgan County Election Commission (423) 346-3190. They can also visit <https://sos.tn.gov/pollworkers>.



## — In Loving Memory —

**Elbert Marvin Moore, 99**  
**United States Army, WWII Veteran**



He is survived by his three daughters, Rita Lively (Doug), Patricia Morrow, and Lauren Adcock (Dale), all of Coalfield; Grandchildren, Randy Lively (Linda), Nathan Morrow and Dawn Lively (Jim); Great-Grandchild, Jacob Lively; And numerous other family members and good friends.

Elbert Marvin Moore, born November 21, 1924, of Coalfield passed away on Thursday, September 26, 2024.

He served our country in the U.S. Army, 138th Engineer Combat Battalion, serving mostly overseas (Central Europe) during WWII. He was a life-long resident of Coalfield and a long-time member of Coal Hill Baptist Church. He worked as a coalminer, construction worker and was known as a "Jack of all Trades."

He was preceded in death by his wife of 72 years, Dorothy Solomon Moore; Parents, Arthur and Daisy (Hill) Moore; Son-in-law, Lexie Morrow; Great-grandson, Tyler Lively.

The family would like to offer a huge thank you to Kathy Kelly (niece) for her kindness during this difficult time.

Mr. Moore was a kind and gentle soul and helped anyone he could. He lived a long and blessed life...

The family will receive friends from 12-1:00 pm on Monday, September 30, 2024 at Jackson Funeral Home and Cremation in Oliver Springs. Funeral services will begin at 1:00 with Pastor Jim Disney officiating. Interment will follow in the Estes Cemetery, Coalfield.

*To leave a note for Mr. Moore's family or to share a memory, please sign our online guestbook at [jacksonfuneralservices.com](http://jacksonfuneralservices.com)*



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*Proverbs 22:1*



— In Loving Memory —

**Thomas “Tommy” Archie Kring, 70**



driver for the last 30 years. He retired in 2019 but could not stay still for too long! He started driving again shortly after retirement and drove for Interstate Ventures until the time of his passing.

Tommy loved spending time with his family and friends, farming, tending to the cows, and gardening. He enjoyed traveling, but in true Tommy fashion, he always wanted to drive! In 2019 he went with his sons and grandson to Alaska making the 9,500 roundtrip miles in a camper. He stopped to see Mt. Rushmore, Glacier National Park, Banff, Jasper National Park, the Yukon, multiple locations in Alaska, Golden Spike in Utah, and the Four Corners National Monument. While in Alaska he hiked and fished for salmon and halibut in the Gulf of Alaska. In 2024 he completed a solo trip to Alaska where he completed the entire Alaska/Canada Highway (the Alcan) from Dawson Creek, Canada to Fairbanks, Alaska.

While Tommy loved to travel, take pictures of wildlife, and stop at casinos along the way his heart was always back home in Kring Hollow and up on Whetbranch. Tommy will be missed greatly by his friends and family as he was generous, loving, kind, put others before himself and had a wonderful sense of humor. It is an honor to celebrate and remember his life and the impact that he had on those around him.

Visitation will be held at Jackson Funeral Home and Cremation, Sunday September 29, 2024, from 5-7 pm. Funeral at 7:00 pm with Pastor Chipper Humphrey officiating.

*To leave a note for Tommy's family or to share a memory, please sign our online guestbook at [jacksonfuneralservices.com](http://jacksonfuneralservices.com)*

Thomas “Tommy” Archie Kring age 70, of the Coal Hill Community, passed away unexpectedly Monday, September 23rd, 2024 peacefully in his sleep while on a trucking trip in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Tommy is preceded in death by his parents Archie and Edith Kring, brothers Wayne Kring and Vaughn Humphrey.

Tommy is survived by his sons Tim (Alaina) Kring of Chattanooga and Jeff (Shanda) Kring of Coal Hill, the mother of his children Ellen Kring of Rockwood.

His grandchildren Tia (Jeff) Rogers of Pearl, Mississippi, Gunner (Gaby) Kring of Whidby Island, Washington, Gracelun and Gatlin Kring of Coal Hill, Cheltzie McKinney of Midway, and Ezra Sheldon of Mossy Grove.

Great grandchildren Briley and Barrett Rogers, Colson McKinney, Dryft Sheldon, Penelope Kring.

Siblings Jane (David) Harmon, Hugh (Nexie) Kring, Janice (Dillon) Betts, his sisters-in-law Brenda Kring and Pat Humphry, and his many nephews, nieces, and friends.

Tommy had many accomplishments outside of being an amazing father, son, brother, and friend. He graduated in 1972 from Coalfield School, worked at the Roane Hosiery Mill, the Tennessee Department of Forestry for 16 years, and was an over-the-road truck

**Mark Jerome Woods, 49**



He is survived by his wife of 25 years Cassie woods.

Sons Chase (Madison) Roberts, Tyler Woods.

Parents; Pastor Herman (Margaret) Woods.

In Laws; Jerry (Donna) Roberts Brother; Robert (Denna) Woods.

Grandbabies; Aubrey Elizabeth and Sophia Rose Roberts. Special friends Tim McClung and Greg Inman along with numerous other family and friends.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2024 from 1-3:00 pm at Beech Fork Holiness Church in Joyner.

Funeral services will begin at 3:00 with Bro. Mike Nichols officiating. Interment will follow in Nichols Family Cemetery, Beech Fork.

*To leave a note for Mark's family or to sign the online guestbook, please go to [jacksonfuneralservices.com](http://jacksonfuneralservices.com)*

Mark Jerome Woods, 49 of Harriman, TN passed away on September 26, 2024 surrounded by his loved ones.

Mark was a kind soul who never met a stranger. He would do anything to help someone in need and wore a smile while doing it. He truly loved life, family, friends, and above all the Lord.

Mark was a true TN VOLS fan and he never missed a game. His other true passion was his grandchildren and the title of a proud Poppa to his little girls!

He is preceded in death his Grandparents Ernest & Pearl (Meemaw) Lively, Claude & Faye Woods.

**Evan Keith Sampsel, 34**



nephew Lennox Gray Sampsel of Powell. Evan is also survived by Uncle Joel Sampsel (Michelle) and cousin Aaron Kesterson and numerous family members including great aunts and uncles, as well as many special cousins and close friends.

A drop by receiving of friends/celebration of life will be held at The Barrington Clubhouse, 5716 Bridgehampton Drive, Powell, TN on October 6, 2024 from 1:00-3:00 pm.

A private interment will be at the Estes Cemetery in Coalfield, TN at a later date.

*To leave a note for Evan's family or to share a memory, please go to our online guestbook at [jacksonfuneralservices.com](http://jacksonfuneralservices.com)*

*To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Evan Keith Sampsel, please visit our floral store.*

Evan Keith Sampsel, of Knoxville, TN, age 34 passed away at home on September 13, 2024.

Evan was a 2009 graduate of Karns High School and a graduate from Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN with a bachelor degree in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Business Administration.

Evan is preceded in death by his mother, Carla Thomas Sampsel, grandparents Jeanette and Hesco Thomas, Sheila Eastridge Melhorn (Jess), and Roy Lee (Sam) Sampsel.

Evan is survived by his father George Evan Sampsel of Atlanta, GA, his brother Zackary Thomas Sampsel (Brittany) of Powell, TN, and

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

**Psalm 86:4-5**

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

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



# Morgan County Today

More Than A Newspaper.

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## Scott - Morgan

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*Best wishes to all of our local teams!!!*

# FOOTBALL SCORE CARD



Oct 4, 2024  
Coalfield vs Oakdale - W 62-0



Oct 4, 2024  
Oakdale vs Coalfield - L 0-62



Sep 27 2024  
Sunbright vs Oliver Springs - L 0-35



Oct 4, 2024  
Wartburg vs Polk Co. - L 8-38



Oct 4, 2024  
Oneida vs York Int. - L 0-28



Oct 4, 2024  
Scott vs Whitley - L 32-56



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**Tom Redmon  
Columnist**

## Was She a Visiting Angel

I have written about a visiting angel that came to see me in the gym last winter in Florida. This lady came through the door and as I watched her, she came directly to me. She was not dressed in gym clothes and she didn't have a gym bag in her hand.

As I sat on the bike, she said hello to me and started carrying on a conversation. She gave me her name and told me she was a Christian. I told

her I was a Christian too and she rejoiced. I had my Navy cap on and she thanked me for my service.

I guess she talked to me around 8-10 minutes and then went out the door. She didn't exercise at all.

Sunday, when I got out of my car at Liberty Baptist Church a well-dressed, pretty lady came directly to me. I had never seen her in church. She said, "well good morning, sir how are you on this beautiful morning? It's so good to see you." I said good morning to her and some more things I can't remember. She talked on and I was really friendly to her. I had my walker and I kept moving on to the door of the church. Then I noticed that she wasn't coming into the church. She went parallel to the building. When I got into the sanctuary, I looked for her but she was not there. I think I was visited by another angel. I just wish I had stayed outside longer to talk to her.

In Hebrews 13:1-2 it says, 1 Let brotherly love continue. 2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Could it be that God sends angels to be near us to protect us? Who are those people who seem to be driven to you for no apparent reason? They always say good things to you and most of the time the conversation turns to Christian language. Although you might have asked God to send an angel to visit you, never-the-less it might happen unexpectedly.

In January 1959 I was in the middle of survival training in the Navy off the coast of Point Loma and the coast of San Diego, California. We were in a whale boat having helicopter pickup or rescue when a storm came up and our boat engine died and wouldn't start. We all (nine sailors) ended up on a rocky jetty. All eight of the other trainees crawled down the jetty cutting themselves all to pieces. I stood there on the jetty contemplating what I should do and praying for God's help. I could have done like the other trainees and crawl on my stomach and back, but I felt like it wasn't a good choice. I chose to try to walk down the jetty. A big wave picked me up and took me several feet in the air and safely on the other side. My life

jacket was still on and I could swim to shore, and stay safe from the electric eels. Was I kept safe by my own actions or by the providence of God? Many people would have said, "well Tom you did the right thing and it just happened." But I say God was with me and He kept me safe."

In 1946-47 I was accidently shot on a fishing trip. The bullet hit me in the chest and the doctor said another inch or less the bullet could have hit a big blood vessel and I could have bled to death before they got me out of the wilderness to the doctor. I was ten-years of age and not a Christian yet. Did God save me or was it just plain luck?

Almost everyday that we step into a car are we saved by God during an accident or is it luck?

I love the song on the Bill Gaither network entitled, "Angels in the Room." The angels haven't come to save the Christian. They have come to



carry "her or him" home to Heaven. As we know by scripture the spirit of Christians are taken home to Heaven after death.

Angels are among us here on earth, Matthew 18:10-11 10 Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. 11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.

Luke 20:36 36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

We must be aware that Satan himself will masquerade as an angel. 2 Corinthians 11:14-15 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.



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## Israel's Response to Iranian Missile Attack



**Michael Nance**  
*Columnist*

On the evening of Tuesday October 1, 2024, Iran launched nearly 200 ballistic missiles at the country of Israel. This marks the second attack during this calendar year, as previously in April, Iran attacked Israel with a combined strike of drones and ballistic missiles.

According to reports out of Israel, most of the missiles were intercepted in flight, but a marginal number of them succeeded in striking southern and central Israel.

News out of Iran asserted that the missile barrage included hypersonic missiles, however this assertion is disputed by Israel news outlets.

When compared against the April attack by Iran, this attack was almost twice as large in numbers. According to the Pentagon, the United States did assist in defending Israel via its Two Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, the USS Cole and USS Bulkeley, which are currently deployed in the Eastern Mediterranean. During the recent attack the warships fired a dozen interceptors at Iranian ballistic missiles, although the U.S. has not acknowledged that any of the ordinance fired from the warships intercepted Iranian missiles.

Based on the recent events, now everyone is bracing for a Middle East tinderbox that is almost certainly to catch fire. Israeli officials are keeping their comments and intentions close to the vest. They have stated: "All options are on the table." That could include a host of options including strikes on nuclear and oil production facilities.

Daniel Hagari, Israeli army spokesperson, stated Israel will respond "wherever, whenever, and however we choose," while former Israeli PM Naftali Bennett called for the destructions of Iran's nuclear facilities.

U.S. military sources point that it is "distinct possibility" that Israel will target Iran's nuclear facilities but not a probability, "because when you do something like that you put the Iranian leadership in a position to do something pretty dramatic in response."

It is a high probability that the contentious United States election season is playing into Iran's and Israel's decision making. Iran clearly has the political upper hand as the Democratic nominee Kamala Harris is making every effort to court the Palestinian vote, and the current President Biden seems to push Israel for restraint in every sentence he speaks.

More bad news is that when you compare the cooperation in the gulf



states, Iran is gaining influence, albeit via extortion. In the April attack many middle eastern Arabic countries cooperated to curb Iranian influence in the region. According to the Wall Street Journal, during the April attack Jordan struck down some of the Iranian missiles, and multiple gulf countries provided intelligence to the U.S. and Israel concerning the April attack.

This was publicly not the case during this latest attack, and Iranian threats against neighboring oil facilities may be the reason why. According to Ali Shihabi, a Saudi commentator close to the Royal Court:

"The Gulf states think it's unlikely that Iran will strike their oil facilities, but the Iranians are dropping hints they might from unofficial sources. It's a tool the Iranians have against the U.S. and the global economy."

These "hints" that Iran is dropping throughout the Middle East are clear indicators that Iran is getting desperate, and that Israel is clearly destroying their terrorist networks in Gaza.

Based on all of the geopolitical circumstances it is likely that Israel will strike Iranian military bases and manufacturing facilities where the drones and missiles are built. Only time will tell, but the Middle East is certainly poised for expanded conflict.

1 How might Israel strike back against Iran?, Reuters, October 4, 2024

2 Time, How Israel May Respond to the Iran Attack,

3 Dahan, Maha, El, Etal, Gulf states sought to reassure Iran of their neutrality in Iran-Israel conflict, sources say, Reuters, October 3, 2024





David Zubler  
Columnist

## IRS relief for counties affected by Helene

Due to the disaster declaration issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the IRS announced tax relief and deadline extensions for individuals and businesses in Tennessee who were affected by Hurricane Helene.

The relief applies to people residing or owning businesses in Carter, Cocke, Greene, Hamblen, Hawkins, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington counties. Most individual, corporate, and partnership tax returns, which were due to be filed on or after Sept. 26, 2024, and through to May 1, 2025,

will now qualify for postponement.

The extended deadline of May 1st aims to help the affected individuals and businesses by giving them extra time to file their returns and pay any taxes originally due during this period.

Penalties on payroll and excise tax deposits due on Sept. 26, 2024, and before Oct. 11, 2024, will be abated as long as the tax deposits are made by Oct. 11, 2024.

Those who receive a late filing or late payment penalty notice from the IRS with an original filing, payment, or deposit due date that falls within the postponement period should call the telephone number on the notice to have the IRS abate the penalty.

Qualified disaster relief payments are generally excluded from gross income. You can exclude income amounts received from a gov-

ernment agency for reasonable and necessary personal, family, living, or funeral expenses, as well as for the repair or rehabilitation of their home or for the repair or replacement of its contents. (See Publication 525 for details.)

Anyone affected in a federally declared disaster area can claim disaster-related casualty losses on their federal income tax return for either the year in which the event occurred or the prior year. You have up to six months after the due date of the federal income tax return for the disaster year (without regard to any extension of time to file) to make the election.

Individuals may also deduct personal property losses not covered by insurance or other reimbursements. For details, see IRS Form 4684, Casualties and Thefts. Those claiming the disaster loss on their return should put the FEMA disaster declaration number, 'FEMA-3620--EM', on any tax return filed. (See IRS Publication 547 for details.)

**David Zubler is a nationally known tax accountant and Enrolled Agent that resides in East Tennessee. He is the author of six tax books and a syndicated columnist who has shared tax advice on podcasts and national TV and has been referred to as America's Tax Guru. He is the founder and president of Your Tax Care. He represents clients nationwide before the IRS and provides tax strategies, and tax education, including David's one-minute tax tip radio recordings at Your-TaxCare.com. David can be reached at (865)363-3019 or by email at david@yourtaxcare.com.**



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## Historically Speaking Evolution of the UT–Oak Ridge partnership described in new book (part 2)

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

This is the second in Carolyn Krause's series of three articles based on a recent Friends of ORNL talk by Lee Riedinger on a 2024 book he coauthored with Al Ekkebus, Ray Smith and William Bugg - *Critical Connections: The University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge from the Dawn of the Atomic Age to the Present*. This article also draws from the book, a product of a five-year effort by the coauthors.

\*\*\*

In 1940, the University of Tennessee in Knoxville had no doctoral programs. In response to a request by Martin Whitaker, director of Clinton Laboratories, when World War II ended, UT started teaching graduate courses in physics onsite at the lab. By the spring quarter of 1946, UT's Oak Ridge Resident Graduate Program has started, marking the beginning of the official UT-Oak Ridge partnership.

Graduate courses in chemistry, chemical engineering, mathematics and physics were taught to Oak Ridge contractor employees and Army personnel. In the 1950s, UT offered Ph.D. courses and degrees in chemistry, physics and chemical engineering to researchers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, helping it to improve its workforce and retain its quality personnel. UT faculty taught the classes in Oak Ridge, where UT faculty were given access to radioisotopes for their research." In 1951 there were 29 UT faculty working as consultants at one of the three plants in Oak Ridge," Riedinger said.

Another connection between Oak Ridge and UT was their responses to the nationwide push for desegregation, as researched by Al Ekkebus. On May 17, 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kans.*, that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional.

In 1952 UT accepted only a few Black students for the law school or to do other graduate work, but the university was not ready to admit Black undergraduate students. On Sept. 3, 1954, President Eisenhower barred racial discrimination by private contractors receiving government funds; on Dec. 31, 1954, UT President Brehm learned that Eisenhower's executive order would apply to UT when it renewed its contracts with AEC. Even though the Tennessee Supreme Court ruled in October 1956 that all state laws that codified segregation were invalid, Riedinger said that the UT administration still refused to admit Black undergraduate students.

In 1960, Knoxville native Theotis Robinson applied to UT as an undergraduate; he was denied admission because he was black. He and his parents met with President Andy Holt and threatened a lawsuit. On Nov. 18, 1960, the UT Board of Trustees ruled against racial discrimination in its admission policies. On Jan. 3, 1961, Robinson and two other Black students were able to register as accepted undergraduate students.

The Atomic Energy Commission, which funded three plants in Oak Ridge, announced in January 1955 that in September, Oak Ridge High School and Robertsville Junior High School would allow Black students for the first time; 85 Black students, known as the Scarboro 85 because they previously had received their elementary school education in Scarboro's school for Black children, desegregated both Oak Ridge schools.

In the 1960s the Kennedy administration exerted pressure to end racial discrimination in

cities that have federally funded facilities. So, in 1963, Bob McNees, mayor of Oak Ridge and ORNL chemist, formed a Human Relations Committee chaired by Rev. James Spicer, pastor of Chapel on the Hill, as researched by Ray Smith.

The committee learned that Davis Brothers Cafeteria in Oak Ridge and throughout the South was a major symbol of discrimination. Spicer and McNees flew to Davis Brothers corporate offices in Atlanta. The Davis brothers refused to implement the Oak Ridge's recommendation that all their restaurants be integrated.

On the flight home, Spicer told his story to Emerson Glazer, son of Guilford Glazer, who had built the Oak Ridge Shopping Center, which opened in 1955. Two days later, Gene Joyce, a renowned lawyer in Oak Ridge who represented the Glazer Corporation and had heard Spicer's story from Emerson Glazer, called in Spicer and suggested that he offer a deal to the Davis brothers, who leased space in the Glazer-owned shopping center for their profitable cafeteria and their money-losing bowling alley.

According to the book, "The Glazer Corporation proposed to let the Davis brothers out of the lease on the bowling alley space if they would integrate their restaurant. The Davis brothers immediately accepted and integrated the cafeteria." Later, one of the brothers "announced that all Davis Brothers Cafeterias would be integrated – a remarkable step forward for restaurants in the South."

In the 1950s, under the leadership of Alvin Weinberg, who was appointed Clinton Laboratories' research director in 1947 and ORNL director in 1955, nine reactors had been built at ORNL despite the decision by the Atomic Energy Commission in 1947 to relocate all reactor research to Argonne National Laboratory. Because of the increasing need for expertise in reactor development and operation, UT in 1957 formed its Nuclear Engineering Department. "It's now one of the top two or three nuclear engineering departments in the country," Riedinger said.

Ten years later, because of the outstanding research being performed at the ORNL Biology Division and because of a conversation involving Weinberg and key personnel from the National Institutes of Health and UT, it was decided to start the UT-Oak Ridge Graduate School of Biomedical Science. Between 1967 and 1997, selected researchers in the Biology Division were given UT status as part-time faculty. They taught graduate courses to students living in Oak Ridge and guided their dissertation research in the division that led to Ph.D. degrees from UT.

In April 1962 Weinberg published in *Science* magazine the paper "Federal Laboratories and Science Education," which advocated that national labs find ways to contribute to the education of aspiring scientists and engineers. Riedinger stated that one of Weinberg's ideas was to "establish 'joint institutes' with neighboring universities."

Students would earn their degrees from a university, and national lab researchers would serve as part-time faculty for those universities by guiding students in their dissertation research at the lab. "It was an idea ahead of its time," Riedinger said. "It did not happen fully until the Bredesen Center was started in 2010 between UT and ORNL." Riedinger was the founding director of the Bredesen Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Graduate Education, now called the University of Tennessee–Oak Ridge Institute for Innovation's Bredesen Center.

In 1970, the first of 29 user facilities located at ORNL was constructed. It was the product of a partnership in nuclear physics that involved researchers at ORNL, UT and Vander-



Lee Riedinger speaking to the Friends of ORNL audience

bilt University (mainly Joseph Hamilton, the founder of UNISOR). UT and Vanderbilt led 12 universities in forming the University Isotope Separator at Oak Ridge (UNISOR). UNISOR, which became a division of Oak Ridge Associated Universities (which contributed to the facility's funding), ended in June 2015.

ORNL, UT and Vanderbilt scientists worked with Russian scientists almost 10 years ago to discover the new superheavy element tennesse-117, an artificially created element that was produced in an accelerator by forcibly combining the nuclei of calcium-48 atoms (20 protons per nucleus) in Dubna, Russia, with berkelium-249 atoms (97 protons) obtained from ORNL's High Flux Isotope Reactor.

In another connection involving one person, Jack Gibbons, a physicist at ORNL, was asked by Weinberg to head the new ORNL Environmental Program. "In that role," according to Riedinger's book, "Gibbons initiated and directed research on energy efficiency in buildings, transportation and electricity generation, while also exploring the environmental impacts of energy production and supply and resource use."

Then Gibbons was persuaded to head UT's first energy institute, which was started in 1973 and which he later renamed the Energy, Environment, and Resources Center. The center worked with ORNL's Energy Division to compare heating and cooling strategies in three demonstration houses along Alcoa Highway.

In 1979 Gibbons moved to Washington, D.C. to head the Office of Technology Assessment, which provided for Congress analyses of the benefits, costs and risks of various efforts to address the scientific and technological challenges facing society. In 1993-98 he served as President Bill Clinton's science advisor.

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Thanks, Carolyn. The last of the series is next, Part three: The 1980s through 2024.

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# Becoming the Ayin, Psalm 119: 121-128



**John Burns**  
**Opinion Columnist**

Vs. 121 I have done justice and righteousness; do not leave me to my oppressors.

Vs. 122 Be surety for your servant for good; do not let the proud oppress me.

Vs. 123 My eyes fail from seeking your salvation and your righteous word.

Vs. 124 Deal with your servant according to Mercy, and teach me your statutes.

Vs. 125 I am your servant, give me understanding, that I may know your testimonies.

Vs. 126 It is time for you to act, oh Lord, for they have regarded your law as void.

Vs. 127 Therefore I love your commandments, more than gold, yes more than fine gold.

Vs. 128 Therefore all your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right; I hate every false way.

Continuing with the incredible acrostic psalm of David, we now encounter the Ayin. The 16th letter of the Hebrew alphabet with a numerical value of 70. God established creation upon the Hebrew alphabet and the mathematics of gematria. It contains the true layout for prophecy and biblical discernment.

Sovereignty becomes easier to understand, when a believer masters the Hebrew alphabet required for biblical understanding of God's entire plan of redemption. The Ayin is described as the eye, or an opening to capture the light. Ayin is the Greek letter Omicron used to write the New Testament.

Why is Ayin given the numerical value of 70? It reproves how God judges and rewards.

70 years were determined for the servitude of the nation of Israel in Babylon, for the specific crime of the murder of the innocents. Jeremiah reveals the judgement, the reason, and the end time restoration of God's covenant nation of Israel. God is not done with Israel yet as we are now witnessing.

Daniel reveals that 69 weeks of years took place between the decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The year was 545 BC. The day was March 14. This began the prophetic countdown to most amazing prophecy in all the Bible.

Daniel reveals in chapter 9 Vs. 27 that 69 weeks of years would occur between this decree and the Messiah being cut off. Daniel is in Babylon, and God wrote the Bible using the 360-day Hebrao-Babylonian calendar of moon cycles.

7 days are one week. One week of Biblical years is called a Shemitah. It holds the entire prophetic timeline of human history. 7 years is a required shabbat or sabbath. Farmers were to plant crops for 6 years and allow the ground to lie fallow in the 7th year.

When we multiply 69x7x360 days, we get the sum of 173,880 days. Beginning on March 14, 545 BC, with this specific decree given to the scribe Ezra in the book of Nehemiah. Ezra was the cupbearer to the King of Persia. He wrote the books of 1 and 2 Chronicles and the books of 1 and 2 Kings.

This decree, coupled with the decree of Cyrus, allowed for the Jews to begin returning from Babylon to await the coming Messiah and King. Daniel is given the exact date when Messiah would be cut off by the Jewish priests.

173,880 days from March 14, 445 BC, brings us to April 6, 32 AD. It was the 10th of Nisan on the Levitical calendar Jesus Christ's life is following. This is the presentation day. When the Lamb is inspected for worthiness as a substitute for sin. We call it Palm Sunday.

The tradition of Palm Sunday, was the fulfillment of biblical prophecy concerning Jesus Christ's future kingdom. Nisan 10 is the date

when Jews crown their kings in the prophesied line of the tribe of Judah. Wisdom to understand this, proves Jesus Christ's literal 1000-year kingdom is yet future.

The common Jews gave the blessing of acceptance. Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Common Jews accepted His Lordship, while the priest class denied Him as their prophesied suffering servant. Not all Hebrews are separated from Jesus Christ.

Jews are coming to Messiah as the prophesied abandonment wrath of God manifests in America. Romans 1 gives the symptoms and describes the fruit a nation who turns its back on Jesus Christ and the Jews of Israel, will produce. Homosexuality, alternate marriage morality, and apostasy are prescribed.

Daniel's 70 weeks were incomplete without Revelation 4-20. This is the 7-year time of Jacob's trouble reserved for the destruction of all nations who deny Christ, and the final chastening of the Jewish people in Israel. It is the prophesied last Shemitah before Christ sets up his millennial kingdom in Jerusalem.

Only when Messiah returns to claim his Kingdom, will the servitude of the nation and the prophesied desolations of Jerusalem end. We are now witnessing the war prophesied by Asaph in psalm 83. It is a prelude to the 7-year peace treaty Israel will broker after this war is complete and the land is purified.

70 is the number of descendants that Noah's three sons produced. They form the table of nations from which we are all descended. You can find yourself in the table of nations. God knew you then.

70 is the number of scribes Moses was commanded to bring with him when God planned to reveal the Torah on Sinai. 70x7 is the command of Messiah to forgive those who trespass against you. The Ayin is God's promise to keep his eyes perpetually upon his covenant people.

The Ayin points to paradoxical views about relationship to God. Religion or faith? Is how you see God, more important than how God sees all of us?

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. We all require God's unending mercy daily. For I like Paul, am chief amongst sinners.

Nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ can cover this filthy flesh. God does not need our help saving us. His eyes cannot see through the blood of the Lamb covering our nakedness without Jesus Christ.

Let him who has ears, hear what God's Spirit is saying.

John Burns 9-28-2024

**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.**





# Mark Chapter 6, 7, & 8



Melvin Howard

**(Mark 6:1-6) Rejected by His own people (Mt. 13:54-58; Lk. 4:16-30):** Jesus and his disciples returned to the Lord's "own country," where he was rejected by former acquaintances and even kinfolks (Lk. 4:16-30).

**(Mark 6:7-13) The mission of the twelve (Mt. 9:35-10:42; Lk. 9:7-9):** The most comprehensive account of this mission is recorded in Matthew's gospel.

**(Mark 6:14-29) Herod and John the Baptist (Mt. 14:1-12; Lk. 9:7-9):** When Herod

Antipas heard about the miracles of Jesus, he imagined it was John, raised from the dead (v. 14). His conscience was bothering the murderer! This connection to Christ is strange since John "did no sign" (Jn. 10:41). Others speculated that Jesus was Elijah or one of the prophets (Mt. 16:14). The king was internally conflicted about John. At times, he wanted to kill the rugged preacher (Mt. 14:5); on other occasions, he heard John "gladly" (v.20). When he heard of the request for John's head, he was "very sorry" (v.26). Herod was in an immoral sexual relationship with Herodias, his brother's wife, and John repeatedly rebuked him for it (though Scripture does not provide the details of those encounters). Two words describe the extent of Herodias' rage: she "set" herself against John and "desired" to kill him (v. 19). The Greek tenses reflect a sustained mentality. For a while, Herod held her back (v. 19); he regarded John as a righteous and holy man and kept him safe (v. 20). On Herod's birthday, his stepdaughter danced and inflamed the king. He rashly promised the girl anything she wanted, up to half of his kingdom (v. 23). At the behest of Herodias, the girl asked for John's head on a platter (v. 25). Because he did not wish to weaken his image by breaking his word (such honor!), Herod yielded and the Baptizer was killed. John's disciples were allowed to retrieve his corpse and entomb it. For more details read Matthew's account.

**(Mark 6:30-46) Feeding the five thousand (Mt. 14:13-23; Lk. 9:10-17; Jn. 1-15):** This is the only miracle of Christ recorded by all four Gospels. Mark's record is the longest. See Matthew 14:13.

**(Mark 6:47-56) Jesus walks on water (Mt. 14:24-36; Jn. 6:16-21):** Following the miracle of the loaves and fish, the disciples (without the Lord) sailed westward across the Sea of Galilee. A storm arose and the disciples were fearful. Sometime between three and six a.m., Jesus came to them, walking upon the surface of the water. Matthew 14:24.

**Mark Chapter 7 - (Mark 7:1-23) Eating with unwashed hands. Also read (Mt. 15:1-20).**

**(Mark 7:24-30) The healing of the syrophenician woman's daughter (Mt. 15:21-28):** Consult the comments in Matthew.

**(Mark 7:31-37) The journey through Decapolis (Mt. 15:29-31):** While there are parallels between Mark and Matthew's Gospel accounts of this aspect of the Lord's preaching ministry, Mark has a unique episode that warrants comment. Along the way, a deaf man, who also had a speech impediment, was brought to the Savior in a private setting. The man had completely lost his hearing (reflected by the Greek text) and stammered in speaking. Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears, and spat and touched his tongue. The gentleman's friends had asked the Lord to touch him (v.32). They appear to have observed the Healer on previous occasions.

Christ's method on this occasion, which may seem bizarre to the spiritually dull, was perfectly adapted to the occasion. The man could not hear any of the conversations, nor could he ask what was happening. Jesus, therefore, used a sort of sign language to signify to the recipient what was about to occur. This is consistent with the fact that he had taken the afflicted man aside privately; it doubtless was intended also to stimulate the man's faith. The Son of God "looked up to heaven," obviously operating in conjunction with his Father, and spoke the word "Ephphatha"---an Aramaic term signifying, "Be opened." Both his hearing and his speech were restored immediately. Jesus again, as his custom had been, cautioned those who saw the effect of the miracle not to publicize it in order to prevent premature hostility in the divine timeline of redemption. But the people could not be suppressed. They were amazed "beyond measure" (v37).

**Mark Chapter 8 - (Mark 8:1-9) The feeding of the four thousand: (Mt. 15:32-38):** Read this miracle in Matthew.

**(Mark 8:10-21) Sign from heaven demanded (Mt.15:39-16:12):** This episode is discussed in Matthew's slightly longer account, but there are a couple of supplementary points in Mark's record worthy of note.

First, when the Pharisees (Matthew mentions Sadducees as well) came seeking a sign from heaven, Jesus "sighed deeply in his spirit" (v. 12). The Greek word for "sighed deeply" (used only here in the New Testament) literally suggests the idea of groaning upwardly, from the very depths of his being. It is an intensive form. It reveals the deepness of the Lord's love--even for his critics, in spite of their rebellious attitude. Second, after this conflict, Matthew notes that Jesus left them (the Pharisees and Sadducees) and departed; Mark specifies he went "to the other side," back to the eastern side of the lake.

In the haste of the trip, the disciples had forgotten to take bread, except for about one piece. Matthew's account indicates they were fretful about the situation (16:7). Jesus took the occasion to warn them about the "leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Mark adds "the leaven of Herod" as well (v. 15). Leaven was a symbol of corruption. It also suggested a quiet, subtle advocacy of error. The amalgamation of the evil influence of Pharisees, Sadducees, and Herodians was a poison of religious-political corruption.

Matthew points out that the disciples did not comprehend the significance of his warning about the "leaven" of these false teachers (16:12). Mark goes deeper and points out that there was a sense in which even the disciples had been oblivious to the truth. Referring generally to Isaiah 6 (a prophecy about spiritual hardness), Jesus rebuked them for not keenly watching and listening to his warnings about these false teachers (v. 18). He asked, "Do you not yet understand?" (v. 21). A disciple of Jesus must maintain constant vigilance! Poison leaven still exists. Satan is the author of denominations (Mt. 12:25; 13:39; 15:13).

**(Mark 8:22-26) A strange miracle at Bethsaida:** This incident is unique to Mark. The location is thought to be Bethsaida-Julius, on the eastern side of the Jordan River, about a mile north of where it empties into the Sea of Galilee. The Lord's reputation was known in this area as evidenced by the fact that some people ("they") led a blind man to Jesus, begging (the verb is a strong term) him to "touch" the man. Christ brought the man out of the village, obviously for some privacy, spit on the man's eyes, and laid his hands on him. The Lord then asked, "Do you see anything?"

The man "looked up" (he now can see---at least something) and declared: "I see men; but they look like trees, walking" (v. 24). In other words, the man could see, but not yet clearly. The man obviously had not been born blind or he could not have described his blurred vision as "trees." This is a necessary inference. Christ laid his hands on the man's eyes, and he was completely healed seeing all things clearly. There is no other miracle on this order in the Gospel records. It is a rather strange situation. Why was this sign performed in two stages? There is no direct explanation provided in the text. We may be assured that it was not (as some commentators suggest) that this was an especially hard case, and Christ was struggling with the healing. Rather, it is an example of the Lord's complete control of his power. First, the man's vision was partially restored. Next, the process was paused, and then completed, The Savior was entirely in charge of the process. Observe the effect in the three descriptive verbs uses of the man: he "looked steadfastly," "was restored," and "saw all things clearly." It is significant that the formerly blind man did not ask, "Why couldn't you get it right the first time?" or "What took you so long?" Let the critics respond!

**(Mark 8:27-30) Peter's confession (Mt. 16:13-20; Lk. 9:18-21):** For discussion of this text, see Matthew's more comprehensive narrative.

**(Mark 31:9:1) A prophecy of death and resurrection (Mt. 16:21-28; Lk. 9:22-27):** The reader should rehearse the material presented in Matthew's account.

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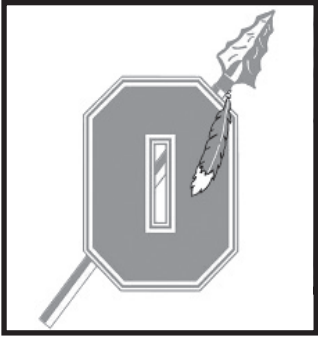
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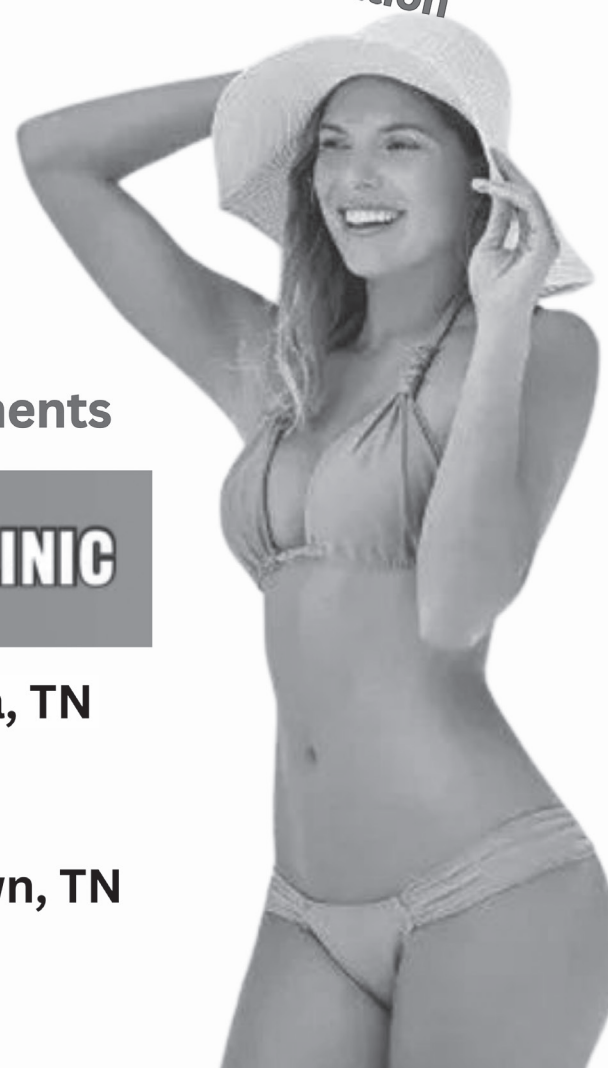
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