

**RUSTY WALLACE**  
 865-688-8886  
**KNOXVILLE**  
 I-75 AT CALLAHAN DRIVE



**Congratulations to Anthony White Jr. 8th Annual Dylan Kennedy Memorial Race Champion!**

# Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3  
 www.mocotoday.com  
 Volume 10 Number 33  
 Tuesday, August 20, 2024

Your Community. Your News. **75¢**

## Anthony White Jr. 8th Annual Dylan Kennedy Memorial Race Champion



**7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. - Jeremiah 17:7**





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

**PUBLISHER:**  
TOMMY LEE FRANCIS  
PUBLISHER@MOCOTODAY.COM

**EDITOR:**  
HEATHER FRANCIS  
EDITOR@MOCOTODAY.COM

**ADVERTISING:**  
ADVERTISING@MOCOTODAY.COM

**MAIL DELIVERY  
SUBSCRIPTIONS**

CALL 423-346-2329  
POSTMASTER:  
SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO  
P.O. BOX 451,  
WARTBURG, TN 37887

**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)**

WEEKLY WEATHER



Tue 20	77°/54°	
Wed 21	80°/57°	
Thu 22	82°/62°	
Fri 23	83°/61°	
Sat 24	85°/63°	
Sun 25	86°/64°	
Mon 26	87°/65°	



**Ms. Avery Pearl  
Pet Columnist**

# Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

## A New Enemy in our Kingdom

Well, we have had a new enemy invade our kingdom.

This one smells so bad, it makes my nose want to run away from home.

Pappy calls it a skunk but, it kinda looks like a cat with a very fluffy tail.

You see, we have had so many invaders. Something has been making giant tunnels under the deck and house, causing a lot of damage. Something also digs, little holes. Those holes cause twisted ankles.

Well, this skunk thingy is the worst enemy yet! Because that thing sprayed, while it was in the cage. Lord have mercy! It was the worst smell ever!

Thank God, Pappy got that thing into the truck and took it to the place TWRA told him to take it to, so it would be safe in another area.

My Pappy is brave to do that, so it won't stink up the place again.

When he took it away, it didn't want to leave him. Who could blame it? Pappy is the greatest and gives us such a good life.

So wherever you are Mr. Skunk, I hope you have a great time far, far away.

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



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

**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.

**Together Morgan County will meet Fri, September 13, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. EST** at Morgan County Schools Central Office located at 136 Flat Fork Road in Wartburg. 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.

### NOTICE

#### SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF HIGHLAND TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC. MORGAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Pursuant to Article V, Section 2 of its Bylaws, the Board of Directors for Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. would like to invite its membership and the news media to attend a special meeting of the Board of Directors to be held on Monday, August 26, 2024 at 5 p.m. at the Headquarters Building in Sunbright, Tennessee. You are cordially invited to attend and share with the Board your comments or concerns.

Mark Patterson  
General Manager  
Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.  
Paid Advertisement by Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc.



**NOTICE TO CONSULTANT ENGINEERS REGARDING A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND LETTERS OF INTEREST****August 12, 2024, to August 23, 2024**

Morgan County an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer, seeks to retain the services of a professional Consultant/Engineering firm to provide services related to the completion of a Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Action Plan, funded in part by the U.S. Department of Transportation (US-DOT) in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the State of Tennessee. The project shall be accomplished in accordance with program guidelines as described by the US-DOT and managed locally through the Morgan County Highway Department. Although the project will not be run through TDOT, the professional Consultant/Engineering must be on TDOT's pre-approved list or have a completed pre-qualification form filed with TDOT by the deadline for the Letters of Interest.

Responsibilities of the professional consultant firm include, but are not limited to:

**Required Scope of Services**

- Provide coordination of Action Plan meetings to ensure engagement with the public and relevant stakeholders.
- Provide data driven analysis in support of the Action Plan
- Provide engineering evaluation of data in support of the Action Plan
- Provide technical assistance for the Action Plan process.
- Prepare documents for the Action Plan meetings as well as the final Action Plan document for submission to the County for approval.
- Assist the County in getting the final Action Plan up on the County website.
- Ensure that all eligibility requirements are met for the SS4A program on the FINAL Action Plan document.
- Any other services needed to complete the Morgan County Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Action Plan project.

**Estimated Schedule for Performance of Work**

- September 2024, Federal consultant selection process complete, consultant under contract with Morgan County.
- October 2024, Action Plan committee selected, first meeting set.
- April 1, 2025, SS4A Action Plan process completed, final Action Plan submitted to County Road Board for approval.
- February 15, 2026, SS4A Action Plan Final Report completed.
- December 1, 2025, SS4A Action Plan completed and approved and adopted by County Road Board.

Firms may request consideration by submitting a letter of interest along with qualifications to the **Morgan County Highway Department, P.O. Box 250 Wartburg TN, 37887. Attn: Joe Miller or email them to [morgancohwy@highland.net](mailto:morgancohwy@highland.net) with subject line identified with SS4A grant.** All letters of interest must be received by the Morgan County Highway Department on **or before September 13, 2024**. The letter of interest and qualifications shall indicate the scope of services to be completed by any sub-consultants.

**Evaluation**

Firms shall submit letters of interest with firm contact information including name, address, and e-mail of primary contact. Along with the letter of interest, firms shall submit their qualifications for evaluation.

The Morgan County Highway Department will evaluate firms on the following criteria (relative weight):

- a. Experience in the required disciplines. (20%)
- b. Experience with Federally funded projects. (10%)
- c. Experience with Federally funded transportation projects (20%)
- d. Qualification and availability of staff. (20%)
- e. Ability to meet schedules without compromising sound engineering practice. (10%)
- f. Experience with SS4A Action Plans for local governments and other similar local government planning grants (20%)

TDOT prequalification procedures, example letter of interest, list of pre-qualified firms and certified DBEs, TDOT's standard procurement policy, and additional information can be found at this internet address <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/business-redirect/consultantinfo/consultantinfo-forms.html>. For information on prequalification, please contact Christine Smotherman at (615)741-4460 or [Christine.Smotherman@tn.gov](mailto:Christine.Smotherman@tn.gov).

Evaluation proceedings will be conducted within the established guidelines regarding equal employment opportunity and nondiscriminatory action based upon the grounds of race, color, sex, creed, or national origin. Interested certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms as well as other minority-owned and women-owned firms are encouraged to respond to all advertisements by Morgan County.

Details and instructions for DBE certification can be found at the following website:

<https://www.tn.gov/tdot/civil-rights/small-business-development-program.html>

**Invitation to Bid**

**Morgan County Solid Waste Department** will be accepting sealed bids to purchase a mini-excavator. The following are the specification that this machine should meet. Operating weight should be no less than 7,990 lbs. and no more than 8,350 lbs. Must have a hydraulic thumb, 3 buckets; a 36-inch smooth bucket, 24-inch tooth bucket, and an 18-inch tooth bucket. No less than 24.4 hp diesel motor. Reach height of 15'9 and a digging depth of 10'3.

All bids must be sealed. Bids can be mailed to P.O. Box 250 Wartburg, TN 37887, Morgan County Office of Finance. Bids can be turned in to the Morgan County Office of Finance, 3 rd floor of the Morgan County Courthouse or the Morgan County Landfill Office 337 Flat Ford Rd, Wartburg, TN 37887.

All bids must be turned in by August 29 th at 9:30 AM. Bid opening will be August 29 th at 9:30 AM at the Morgan County Courthouse, third floor conference room.

Morgan County Government reserves the right to refuse and/or reject any and all bids.

**Subscribe to the *Morgan County Today***  
**by calling 423-346-2329 or emailing [publisher@mocotoday.com](mailto:publisher@mocotoday.com)**



— In Loving Memory —

**Patricia Ann Melton, 82**



family: daughter Tammy and son-in-law Mike Norman of Wartburg; sons Freddy and daughter-in-law Rosanna Melton of Crossville, and Jeff Melton and his partner Debbie of Wartburg.

She was affectionately known as "Nans" by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who were the light of her life. Her grandchildren include Jacob and Tiffany Melton, Hannah Jo and Damian Seweryn, Kristy Davis Damon Davis Trey and Mary Melton, Tyler and Holden Melton, and Ashley Davis. Her great-grandchildren, who will carry on her legacy of love, include Lilly, Morgan, Melton, Noah, Hayley Jo, Heidi, Holly, Hensley, Connor, Nariyah, Jackson, Conner, Nevaeh, Westen, Connor, and Elijah .

Patsy's gentle spirit, unwavering faith, and boundless love for her family will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

The family will receive friends Monday, August 12, 2024 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Rev. Freddy Melton and Rev. Josh Melton. Graveside services will be Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. in the Clear Creek Cemetery in Lancing.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Patricia Ann Melton.*

Patricia Ann Melton, age 82, peacefully passed away on August 10, 2024. Born on September 26, 1942, Patricia lived a life filled with faith, love, and dedication. From a young age, she was saved and embraced her Christian faith, finding strength and comfort in her relationship with God.

Patsy was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who cherished her family deeply. She spent many years serving her community through her work with the Department of Corrections before enjoying a well-earned retirement.

She is now reunited in heaven, with both her parents, Pearl and Anna Mae Stringfield, her brother Roy Stringfield, sisters Jean Swint and Peggy Nitzchke, her son Christopher Scott Melton, grandsons Joshua Allen Davis and Noah Ryan Melton, and great-granddaughter Addison Lea Davis, and her husband of 30 years Paul Melton

Patricia's memory will forever be cherished by her surviving

**Amy Louise Smith Gibbs, 54**



Amy is preceded in death by her father, Benton Harry Smith of Oakdale, TN, and her husband Daniel Martin Gibbs of Oakdale, TN.

She is survived by her mother, Katherine (Collett) Smith of Oakdale, TN.; sons Josh (Marli) Smith of Oakdale, TN., and Jared Smith of Oakdale, TN.; brothers Greg (Valerie)Smith of Sparta, TN. , Todd ( April) Smith of Oakdale, TN., Chris (Barbara) Diamond of Fredericksburg, VA., and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and friends. Amy was a loving daughter, sister, wife, mother & friend. She will be greatly missed.

The family will receive friends at Schubert Funeral Home on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Graveside services will be held on Thursday, August 15th at 11:00 a.m. at Pine Orchard Baptist Church Cemetery in Oakdale.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Amy Louise Smith Gibbs.*

Amy Louise Smith Gibbs, age 54, of Oakdale, TN, went to be with the Lord on August 11, 2024.

Amy was outgoing, loved spending time with her family, and loved to travel. Her love for travel led to her getting her CDL license to drive a semi-truck to fulfill her dream of traveling the United States. Amy spent much of her career using her loving, compassionate heart to serve as a dispatcher for Oliver Springs Police Dept. & Morgan County Sheriff's Dept. Amy never met a stranger and treated everyone, she met with a kind heart & glowing smile. She was currently a dispatcher at SRM Ready Mix of Knoxville, TN. Amy was a member of Pine Orchard Baptist Church.

**Arva "Gab" Guy Williams, 88**



Williams, Russ Williams, Tim & Pennie Williams, Terry & Pam Williams, Matt & Leonora Williams, and Tom & Anna Williams and a host of grand & great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews and extended friends and family.

The family will receive friends Thursday, August 15, 2024 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00-2:00 p.m. Funeral services will follow at 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the Potters Chapel Cemetery in Lancing with Bro. Tommy Winningham and Bro. Darwin Nance officiating.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Arva "Gab" Guy Williams.*

Arva "Gab" Guy Williams, passed away on August 12, 2024. He was born March 10, 1936.

He is preceded in death by his parents Clyde and Bell Williams; first wife Betty Williams.

Gab leaves behind his wife Carolyn "Sue" Williams of 59 years; son and daughters-in-law Greg & Eveanna

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

**Psalm 123:1**

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





— In Loving Memory —

**Eula Mae Schlossenberg, 79**



ly retired. Always the smart businesswomen, she had a passion for makeup and skin care, and became owner of a Merle Normal Cosmetic Studio in Merritt Island, FL, which she ran successfully for over 20 years. After selling the studio in late retirement, Sally took on the responsibility of caring for her mother, Sug.

Eula Mae Schlossenberg, known by most as Sally, passed peacefully On Thursday, August 8, 2024, at a special hospice facility in Pasadena, MD at the age of 79. She was surrounded by family and after a long battle with Parkinsons, she is now at peace. She has been reunited in heaven with her parents, James and Novella 'Sug' Jestes of Oliver Springs TN. She is preceded in death by her grand-parents Clyde Armes and Ruth McElhaneey-Armes. We are sure that she is also happily reuniting with her many aunts and uncles: Thelma (Cotton) Patrick, Eulene Armes, Joan Haynes, and Luis Armes, along with her cousin Judy Caddell of Petros, TN. We would be remiss if we didn't include her horses, one of them named "Lady" who meant so much to her. Stories of a young Sally abound, painting a picture of her riding bareback through the soft foothill mountains of Petros, TN.

Born in Petros, TN, Sally knew that an exciting road lay ahead as she ventured out right after high school to start working for the government in the NoVA/Washington, DC area including the Pentagon. What followed was a beautiful career in civil service taking her to places such as Randolf Air Force Base in Texas and to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, where she ultimate-

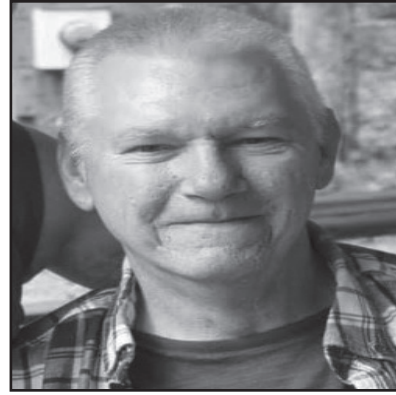
Sally loved Tennis, horses, history and all things NASA-space related.

Sally is survived by her daughter Kathryn McMillon and husband Bruce McMillion, son Matthew Schlossenberg and wife Angel Schlossenberg, all of Maryland, and daughter Jennifer Gomez and husband Jason Gomez of Florida, along with the following grandchildren spread throughout Maryland, Florida, and Washington State: Devon Werner, Christopher Gomez, Aaron Gomez, Isabella Gomez, Olivia Gomez, Michael Schlossenberg, and Emily Schlossenberg. Additionally, cousin Marilyn Foster and husband Frank Foster, their son's Adam and James Foster, and 2nd cousin Tammy Cox – all of Petros, along with Tammy's son's Brandon and Trevor Cox, as well as cousin Doyle Haynes and wife Cheryl Haynes, and their son Jeremy Hayes of Wartburg. She was supported by all including previous husband and friend, Aaron Schlossenberg and his wife Edith Schlossenberg of Virginia, as well as by John Owens of Deer Lodge, TN.

Funeral and interment details are pending.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Eula Mae Schlossenberg.*

**Paul Lynn Duncan, 64**



children: Gracie, Shane, Allie, Damon, Jeremiah, Brayden, Braxton, Ellie, Avah, and Emelia. He also leaves behind a host of other family and friends.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 from 1-3 pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg.

Paul Lynn Duncan, age 64, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on August 15th, 2024.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Elijah and Billy Duncan, brothers: Ronnie and Jessie, sister: Pam.

He leaves behind his wife Connie Duncan of 44 years, sons: Paul (Amy), Daniel (Loretta), Josh (Katie), grand-

Funeral Services will follow at 3pm with Bro. Robert Freels officiating, interment will follow in the Union Cemetery, Wartburg.

Pallbearers: Damon, Jeremiah, Shane, Brayden, Braxton, Cole, Jimbo, and James.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Paul Lynn Duncan.*

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.**





## July 2024, A Historic Month and A New Presidential Candidate



**Michael Nance**  
*Columnist*

Wow, the month of July 2024 will certainly go down in American History. From the assassination attempt of former President Donald J. Trump, on July 13th, to the official withdrawal of President Joe Biden from the 2024 presidential election on July 24, 2024, during a televised address. Add to the items the resignation of embattled Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle on July 23rd, and it becomes obvious, Washington, and the democratic party are in turmoil.

The final piece of the puzzle is that now the democrats are attempting to unite behind the current Vice President, Kamala Harris. Beginning with the latter, what do we know about Kamala Harris?

According to the official biography by The White House, she “graduated from Howard University and the University of California Hastings College of Law. In 2014, she married Douglas Emhoff, a lawyer. They have a large, blended family that includes their children, Ella and Cole.”

Further the website states: “Kamala D. Harris is the Vice President of the United States. She always fights for the people – from her barrier-breaking time as District Attorney of San Francisco and Attorney General of California, to proudly serving as a United States Senator and the Vice President.”

Reviewing her record empirically, it is a record that will certainly clash with conservative and moderate voters. Her actions, at times, have drawn criticism from voices of the far left, and middle, so this election cycle promises to be interesting.

After law school, Harris served as a prosecutor and deputy district attorney for Oakland California’s Alameda County. She was elected in 2004 as the District Attorney of San Francisco. She would later, in 2011, be elected as the attorney general of California. After being elected, she met and became friends with Beau Biden, who was Delaware’s Attorney General.

During her tenure as San Francisco District Attorney, one of her technicians stole cocaine from the crime lab and mishandled evidence. She allegedly attempted to keep the situation quiet and did not inform defense attorneys, which led to almost a thousand drug-related cases being thrown out of court. During the democratic primary in 2019, then Presidential Candidate, Joe Biden stated the following:

“Kamala Harris oversaw a police department that was “abusing people’s rights” and that she did not “disclose to defense attorneys” when there was exculpatory evidence: “She didn’t do that. She never did it. And so, what happened? Along came a federal judge and said enough, enough, and he freed 1,000 of these people.”

In 2004, another of her decisions as District Attorney even drew criticism from California Senator Dianne Feinstein. In her role as District Attorney, she refused to pursue the death penalty against the man who had murdered Isaac Espinoza, a San Francisco Police Officer. At the officer’s funeral, Senator Feinstein’s eulogy criticized Harris which drew a standing ovation from the hundreds of officers in attendance.

She has been accused of being a supporter of the defund the police movement. CNN confirmed that Kamala Harris praised the defund the police movement that swept many politically blue cities after the murder of George Floyd. According to CNN, in an earlier interview, “Harris also lauded Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti for his decision to slash \$150 million from the police budget and move it into social services.” Granted, this was after she lost the democratic Presidential primary and prior to being selected as Biden’s running mate.

One of the most contentious issues where Harris is facing headwinds, is the southern border. After she announced her Presidential bid, White House staffers have been provided with talking points that there never has been a position of border czar. So where did the term border czar come from? Well, the term came from Joe Biden himself. The following is the excerpt from a BBC article in 2021:

“Announcing Ms. Harris’s appointment as his immigration czar, Mr. Biden told reporters and officials at the White House: “She’s the most qualified person to do it, to lead our efforts with Mexico and the Northern Triangle [Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador], and the countries that are going to need help in stem-



Official Photo Kamala Harris Vice President, Courtesy the Library of Congress

ming the movement of so many folks - stemming the migration to our southern border”. Mr. Biden said Ms. Harris’s past work as California’s attorney general made her well suited to leading the effort, adding: “When she speaks, she speaks for me.” In response Ms. Harris said: “Needless to say, the work will not be easy. But it is important work.”

The southern border is a national security threat by almost anyone’s assessment, and it is clear this an issue that the Biden Administration has failed to address. This crisis has also made many streets in New York a homeless tent city due to the many migrants. This issue will be one of the defining issues that Vice-President Harris will face in any debate.

So, what kind of support does Harris have? Just recently the American Federation of Teachers, the nation’s largest teacher’s union, “unanimously voted to endorse Harris for president — the first union to do so.”

Actblue, a non-profit organization that supports progressives and democrats has already raised about \$50 million dollars for her presidential campaign.

Among her political supporters, here are a few of the most notable:

- Maryland Gov. Wes Moore
- Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker
- Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear
- Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro
- Sen. Mark Kelly (D-AZ)
- Former President Bill Clinton
- Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
- Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY)

The election between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris could be a nail-biter, as both candidates appear to have plenty of supporters, will just have to wait and see!



Homeless, New York

1 The White House, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/vice-president-harris/>

2 Bailey, Chelsea, Who is Kamala Harris? The life of the woman stepping into the 2024 limelight, CNN, July 22, 2024

3 <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2019/aug/02/joe-biden/debate-biden-said-google-1000-prisoners-freed-kama/>

4 Kim, Catherine. & Stanton, Zack, 55 Things You Need to Know About Kamala Harris, Politico, 8/11/2020

5 Kaczynski, Andrew, & Steck, Em Kamala Harris praised ‘defund the police’ movement in June 2020 radio interview, CNN, July 27, 2024.

6 Biden tasks Harris with tackling migrant influx on US-Mexico border, BBC, March 24, 2021, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-56516332>

7 Madden, Monica, etal, State of Texas: Harris sends a message in Houston, amid criticism from state leaders, State of Texas, July 27, 2024





**Tom Redmon  
Columnist**

**Get Ready for a Winner in Tennessee Sports**

We have just gone through some exciting times in Tennessee baseball. As most of you know the Vols baseball boys won the College World Series on Monday, June 24, 2024 over Texas A&M. Texas A&M had won the first game 9-5 and Tennessee won the second game 4-1. It came down to what is known as the “rubber” game in Major League Baseball, on Monday in which the Vols won 6-5. It was Tennessee’s third trip to

the World Series for Coach Tony Vitello and his great baseball team who had won a record 60 games in 2024.

We need to thank John Currie and Danny White for this big victory and like Peyton Manning says, “you can look for many more championships at Tennessee.” One big reason is because of the leadership of A.D. Danny White.

Danny White, came from a big sports family. His father was involved in sports at Duke University. His brother Mike is head basketball coach at the University of Georgia and his brother Brian is vice president and director of athletics at Florida Atlantic.

After some hard days at Tennessee, it looks like the Vols have found a winner. Danny White is a forty-four-year-old who came to Knoxville from Central Florida University in Orlando. He had held the same job at Central Florida that he would be in charge of at Tennessee. With him he would bring Josh Heupel a forty-six-year-old head football coach who had built the University of Central Florida into a winner.

**Josh Heupel** was born in Aberdeen, South Dakota. He played at Weber State and the University of Oklahoma and lost the Heisman to Chris Weinke (Florida State) in 2000.

Heupel’s salary at Tennessee in 2021 was 4 million and today it is 9 million. I guess 2022 really helped.

Altogether Heupel has won 12 bowls. He has coached in three conferences. No doubt his biggest win was against Alabama in 2022, (52-49). In three years at Tennessee his record is 27-12. Predictions for 2024 with Texas and Oklahoma in the mix things are going to be a little tougher. Look for Tennessee to win 9-10 games and finish 12th-13th in the nation.

**Rick Barnes** – Tennessee’s head basketball coach. Things will look a lot different this year for the Vols with Vescovi and others gone but Coach Barnes always manages to find good players out there.

Barnes won 402 games at Texas, 16 NCAA tournaments, made it to the final 4 in 2003, and the elite 8 in 2006. Barnes was fired from the Texas in 2015 and was hired by Tennessee the same year.

Here are some of Barne’s accomplishments and win/loss averages; Coach of the Year 2018-2019, coached at Providence (168-76), Clemson (74-48), Texas (402-180), Tennessee 202-101, overall (807-415) average .667. His championships include; conference champions 2017-18 overall 26-9, conference 13-5. Tournament championships 2020-2021.

Barnes is married to Candy Barnes and they have two children. Their son serves our Lord and Savior as a missionary overseas and their daughter lives in Texas.

**Tony Vitello** – Tennessee’s head baseball coach since 2013. Before Tennessee he was the assistant baseball coach at Arkansas. He was born in



1978 in St. Louis, MO and attended the University of Missouri. His record at Tennessee is 295-112 earning him an average of .723, tops in the nation.

He won 60 games in 2024. His team made it to three College World Series in the last four seasons. The future looks bright for Vitello.

Thank you Danny White and John Currie for bringing him to Tennessee. He is a players coach and everyone loves him.

**Kim Caldwell** – New head coach of the Lady Vols. She has a five-year contract of 3.25 million (\$750,000 per year).

Danny White is high on Caldwell. This is the SEC; I sure hope she does the job. I hated to see Harper fired. I went to Tennessee Tech with both her father and mother. They are a great family from Sparta, Tennessee.

Pat Summitt will always be hard to follow.

**Karen Weekly** – Tennessee head softball coach. Up until 2022 her husband Ralph was with her at UT. He retired in 2022. Her record since 2007 is 850-259 averaging .756. She’s earned 47 wins per season over the last six years.

Karen played at Pacific Lutheran University and she has 1,264 wins. She coached at Chattanooga from 1997 to 2001. She was born in 1964 and raised in Edmond, Washington.

She starred in softball and basketball. Karen has done great in conference. Maybe she will win in the nation soon. Karen is forty-nine-years-old.

So, I have listed the main five sports at the University of Tennessee. All the coaches, except Barnes are relatively young and have a passion for coaching and winning. I’m looking for some great winning years ahead.

Other sports like volleyball, track, swimming, diving, and rowing under Danny White’s leadership will be improved. Since he got on campus they have already come up.

This is a great time to be a fan at the University of Tennessee. I love them all but football is #1.



J
JP LAW

- Custody
- Criminal
- Civil Suits
- Divorce
- Deeds
- Will/POA

*Jade A. Peters*

I-888-448-5233

WWW.JPLAW.PRO



# 2ND ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2024**  
**6:00 PM**  
**SUNBRIGHT PARK**

**FOOD AND DRINKS**

**LOADED TEAS**  
SERENDIPITEA

**FRIED OREOS, SHAVED ICE, & MORE**  
CAMPBELL'S SWEETS & TREATS

**DUNK TANK**  
BACKYARD BOUNCERS

**FACE PAINTING**  
AVA ANTHONY

**GIVEAWAYS**  
**AND MORE!**



**ORGANIZED BY SUNBRIGHT SCHOOL PTO**

**WE ARE COLLECTING ITEMS FOR TEACHERS! YOU WILL RECEIVE ONE ENTRY INTO OUR GIVEAWAY FOR EVERY ROLL OF PAPER TOWELS, BOX OF TISSUES, OR CONTAINERS OF DISINFECTING WIPES YOU BRING TO THIS EVENT! TO SEE ITEMS YOU COULD WIN, SCAN QR CODE.**

## **GET YOUR BEACH BODY BACK!!!**

**NEW FDA Approved Semaglutide Plus and Tirzapatide  
Injections Now at  
Dr's Weight Loss Clinic!**

*"Walk-ins" Welcome*

*Call to schedule your FREE  
Consultation*

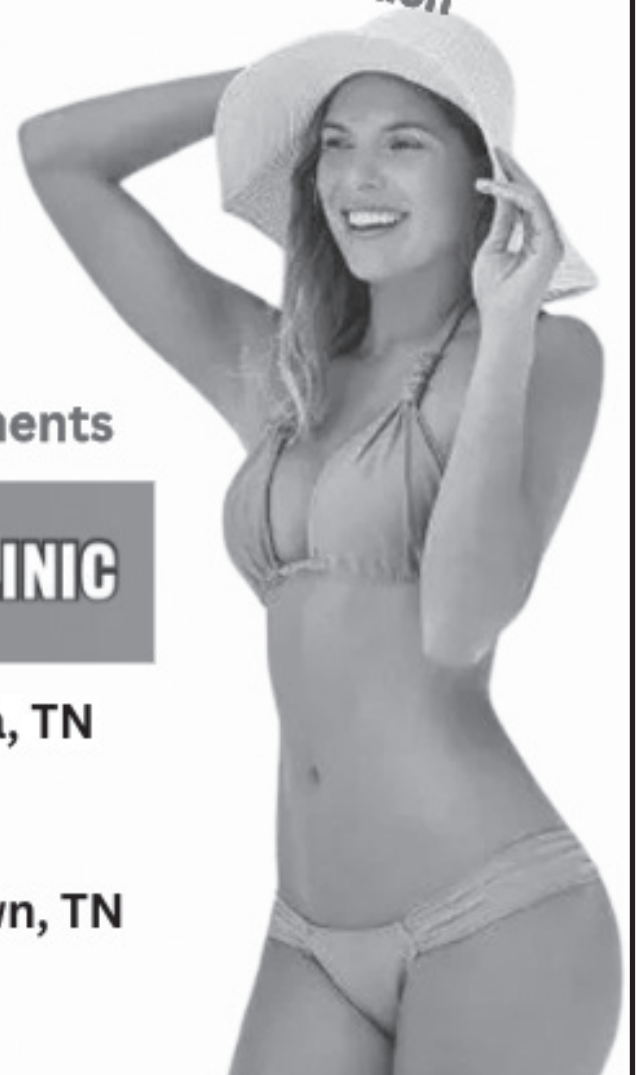
Physician Supervised  
Prescription Diet Pills  
Lipo Myoden  
B12 Injections

Health and Wellness Supplements

**DR'S WEIGHT LOSS CLINIC**

19102 Alberta Street, Oneida, TN  
423-286-7546

1035 Old Hwy 127 S, Jamestown, TN  
931-879-8444





# Country Custom Tile and Flooring

Owners: Shawn Hankes & Spencer Hankes

Phone: 865-314-2841

*"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches"*

*Proverbs 22:1*

# McGill's Garbage Service

423-250-3862

\$25 per month  
Weekly Pick-up  
Use your can or ours

We accept Cash,  
Check, Debit/Credit



Serving ALL  
areas of  
Morgan County &  
South Fentress

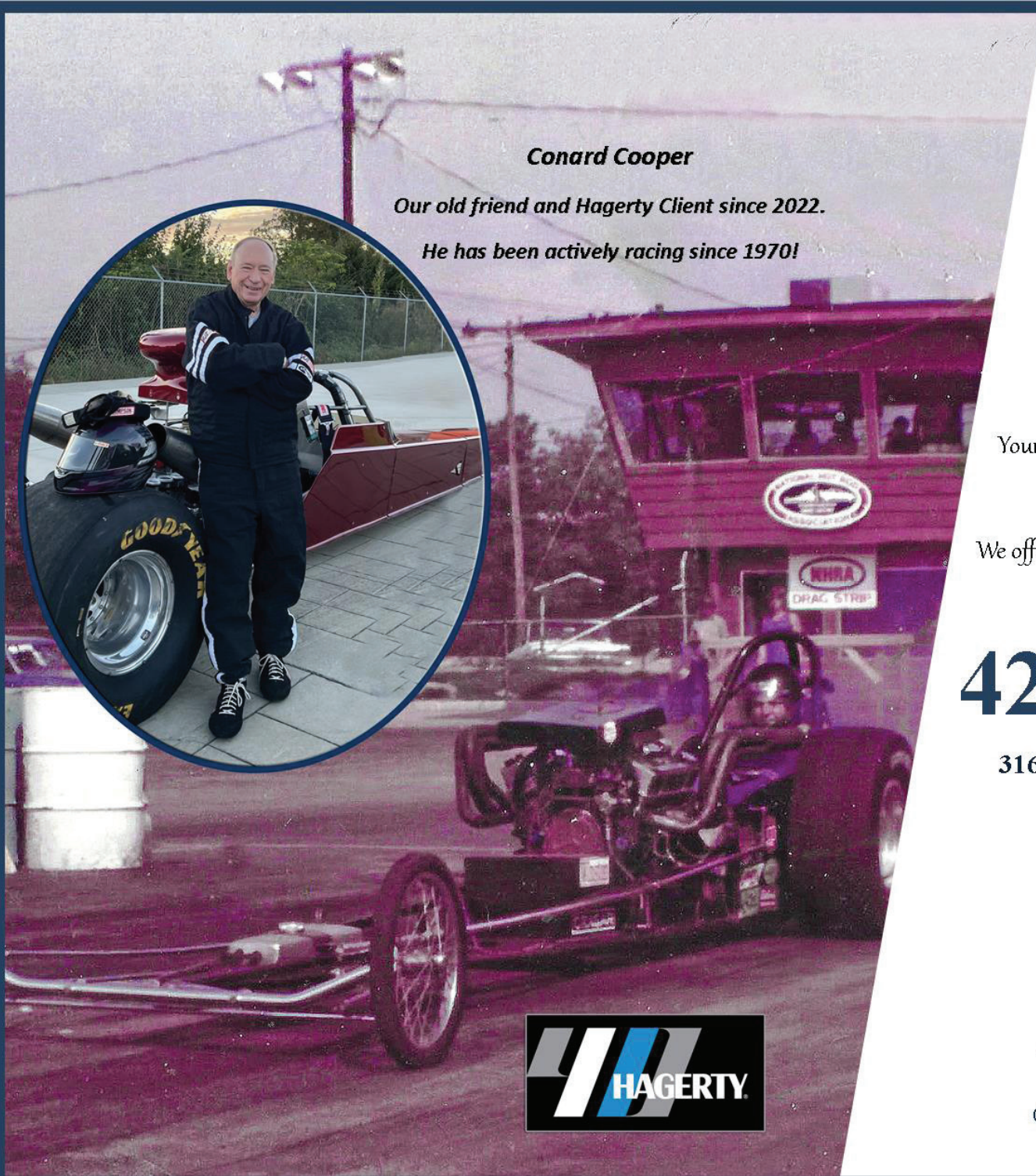
We offer 20% military and senior discounts!

## Help your loved ones get a jump start!

Earn 3.00% APY on the first \$500.00 when you open a Jump Start Savings Account!

Open an account now! ☎ (865) 544-5400 ✉ tvacreditunion.com

Federally Insured by NCUA. Jump Start Savings is a tiered-rate account for minors under 18 years of age. Must have a parent or legal guardian on the account. Minimum \$5.00 to open a Jump Start Savings account. Monthly qualification cycle begins on the first day and ends on the last day of the calendar month. Terms and conditions may apply. APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rate effective August 2024 and subject to change. PREMIUM RATE of 3.00% APY is earned on balances up to \$500.00. NON-PREMIUM RATE of 0.15% APY minimum is earned on balances of \$500.01 or more. When the account is closed, 0.15% APY applies for the month the account is closed. Some restrictions may apply. Fees may reduce earnings. Ask for details.



**Conard Cooper**

*Our old friend and Hagerty Client since 2022.*

*He has been actively racing since 1970!*



## DAVIS INSURANCE GROUP

Your vehicle spends most of its time off of the track.

Make sure it is protected.

We offer affordable coverage options for you race vehicle.

Give us a call today!

# 423.346.4978

316 Eliza Street, Wartburg, TN 37887  
Mon.- Fri. 9am-5pm

**Allen G. Davis**

Owner/Insurance Specialist  
allendavisinsruance@gmail.com

**Jennifer Davis Ridge**

Office Manager/Agent  
jridge.davisinsruance@gmail.com

**Vanessa Taylor**

Office Assistant/CSR/Notary Public  
officedavisinsruance@gmail.com







# RAY VARNER



Used cars and Ford factory service  
**NOW OPEN** to serve you!!!



**1226 Knoxville Hwy, Wartburg, TN 37887**  
**423-346-6227**

**Local therapists  
serving local patients  
with over 75 years of  
combined experience.**



GRACE REHABILITATION CENTER, INC.

569-3222

**THERAPY**

Physical - Occupational - Speech

**Address:**

**19850 Alberta Street  
STE 104  
Oneida, TN 37841  
"Near EL Rey's"**

**Business Hours:**

**Mon, Wed, Fri  
8:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Tue & Thu  
Appointment Only  
Sat & Sun  
Closed**







**FAMILY MEDICINE**

Jonathan B. Laymance, M.D.  
Seth Stewart, FNP-B.C.

Accepting new patients of all ages!  
Most insurances accepted  
including Medicare and TennCare.



**URGENT CARE**

Monday – Friday: 8am – 6:30pm  
Saturday & Sunday: 8am – 4pm

Do not have to be a patient of SMG to visit Urgent Care!  
Appointment required. Walk-ins if schedule allows.

1825 Knoxville Hwy, Wartburg



(423) 346-3600



**BRANDON GAYLOR**  
**(865) 776-1138**

- ✓ JUNK REMOVAL
- ✓ DUMPSTER RENTAL
- ✓ BRUSH REMOVAL
- ✓ MATERIAL HAULING



gaylorpropertyservice@gmail.com



**WARTBURG WRECKER SERVICE**  
3020 MORGAN COUNTY HWY, WARTBURG, TN 37887  
423-539-3138

**WE'RE PULLING  
FOR ALL OF OUR LOCAL ATHLETES!**

# Caring for our community



**Wartburg**

1236 Knoxville Hwy  
Wartburg, TN 37887

423.346.6337

**Harriman**

1701 Roane State Hwy  
Harriman, TN 37748

865.590.6337

@ griffithfamilypharmacy.com

This pharmacy is independently owned and operated under a license from Health Mart Systems, Inc.



**Randy McFarland**

105 S Kingston Street  
PO Box 690  
Wartburg, TN 37887-0690  
**(423) 346-7670**

[www.randyismyagent.com](http://www.randyismyagent.com)



Real Estate Agent  
**Glenda Johnson**

Direct: (865) 591-6900  
Office: (865) 376-2121 x102  
License: 251289 TN  
glenda6900@bellsouth.net

With all my years of experience in Real Estate, allow me to work for you with all your Real Estate needs.



RustyWallaceHonda.com

**Chad Campbell**

& the Staff of

**Rusty Wallace Honda**

Congratulates Anthony White Jr. on winning  
the 8th Annual Dylan Kennedy Memorial Race



**LOW PRICES, GREAT SELECTION, PROVEN REPUTATION**

**RUSTY WALLACE**

RustyWallaceHonda.com



**KNOXVILLE**  
**I-75 AT CALLAHAN DRIVE**

**865-938-4222**

\*see dealer for details



## ERC Moratorium Over



**David Zubler**  
Columnist

The IRS announced that it would begin processing employee retention credit (ERC) claims that were subject to its processing moratorium.

Due to the flood of fraudulent ERC claims filed by promoters, the IRS announced a moratorium on processing claims submitted after Sept. 14, 2023. The moratorium gave the IRS time to digitize information and stopped much of the ERC marketing by unscrupulous promoters.

The IRS review lasted several months and involved digitizing and analyzing data from over 1 million ERC claims, totaling more than \$86 billion. The review revealed that between 10 percent and 20 percent of these claims fell into the highest-risk category, which showed clear signs of being erroneous. These high-risk claims will be denied in the coming weeks.

“The moratorium has been, without a doubt, a success.” IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel said. “It slowed the number of claims coming in. The marketing on TV and radio dropped dramatically. It gave us time to focus on our compliance work, and, importantly, it gave us time to analyze the massive inventory of ERC claims that came in.”

The IRS also announced that it sent out 28,000 disallowance letters to businesses. The IRS estimates that the disallowance letters will prevent up to \$5 billion in improper payments. Thousands of ERC audits are underway, and 460 criminal cases have been opened. Tax professionals expressed concerns about potential errors in the letters. However, the IRS believes 90% of the letters were correct.

The IRS expects upwards of 50,000 valid ERC claims, which they will start paying out in September. A large batch of additional low-risk claims will be processed in the fall.

“We will now use this information to deny billions of dollars in clearly improper claims and begin additional work to issue payments to help taxpayers without any red flags on their claims” said Werfel.

The IRS is investigating suspected abusive tax promoters and preparers who are improperly promoting the ability to claim the ERC. The IRS’s Office of Promoter Investigations has received hundreds of referrals reporting ERC abuse. The IRS plans to continue civil and criminal enforcement.

To request an ERC withdrawal, follow these steps:

1. Make a copy of the adjusted return with the claim you wish to withdraw.
2. In the left margin of the first page, write &quot;Withdrawn.&quot;
3. In the right margin of the first page:
4. Have an authorized person sign and date it.
5. Write their name and title next to their signature.
6. Fax the signed copy of your return using your computer or mobile device to the IRS’s ERC claim withdrawal fax line at 855-738-7609.

Completing this process will serve as your withdrawal request. Keep your copy with your tax records.

According to the IRS, more than 7,300 entities have withdrawn ERC claims worth \$1.09 billion in claims.

*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 YourTaxCare.com. David can be reached at (865)363-3019 or by email at david@yourtaxcare.com.*



# GET MORE for your TRADE at Rusty Wallace Kia of Knoxville!

## Dr. Mia Lasher & Dr. Irene Duck Quality Family Dental Care

*Cleanings, Fillings, Crowns, Extractions, Partials & Dentures*



**Most Insurances  
Accepted  
Including TennCare**

**474 Industrial Lane, Oneida, TN 37841 - (423) 286-2273  
Mon-Fri 8:00 am to 6:00 pm**



## Historically Speaking

### Oak Ridge sister cities:

#### Naka-shi, Japan and Obninsk, Russia

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Jerry Luckmann provided the following history of the Oak Ridge Sister City Support Organization. Ram Uppuluri, son of Shikego Uppuluri, has recently accompanied a group visit to Naka-shi, Japan. I thought it was a timely subject as the program is back active again now after the COVID years.

\*\*\*

The Oak Ridge Sister City Support Organization (SCSO) was established by the Oak Ridge City Council to promote and foster international friendship and brotherhood throughout the world, and to assist the City of Oak Ridge in implementing sister city relationships with Naka-shi, Japan, and Obninsk, Russia. Oak Ridge is a member of Sister Cities International (SCI) organization which publicizes the motto "Peace Through People."

Oak Ridge's sister cities were chosen as the result of interactions with scientists at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Naka-shiFusion research facility in Japan, and the Institute of Physics and Power Engineering (IPPE) in Obninsk, Russia. The exchange of scientists involved in fusion energy had created contacts with Oak Ridge researchers.

Like Oak Ridge, Obninsk was, until 1954, a closed and "secret" city where Soviet physicists worked on nuclear fusion. The sister city agreement with Naka-shi was signed by former Oak Ridge Mayor Roy Pruett and former Naka-shi Mayor Asakawa in 1990. The agreement with Obninsk was signed in 1991. In 1992 former Mayor Ed Nephew took a delegation to Obninsk to sign the sister city agreement there as well.

Oak Ridge residents, Shigeo Uppuluri and Carolina Ravina were influential in developing the sister city partnerships with Naka-shi and Obninsk respectively. These women sustained communications between the cities with able interpretation and translation.

Oak Ridge is a small city compared with Naka-shi (population 56,000) and Obninsk (population 110,000.) The Oak Ridge SCSO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit all-volunteer organization drawing support and funds from donations and local entities. In comparison, Naka-shi has a city department with city employees dedicated to implementing their international relationships.

Despite this discrepancy in size and funding, the SCSO has been able to facilitate exceptional programs.

The SCSO and volunteers have been recognized by Sister City International with several awards through the years. In 1998, SCSO received the award for Best Overall Program for a small city and Best Website. Oak Ridge was recognized with the Secret City International Arts and Culture award for the International Friendship Bell Peace Pavilion Project in 2019.

Volunteers, host families, local organizations and individuals have contributed thousands of dollars of "in kind" funding for SCSO projects. Host families not only open their homes to international guests but provide meals, trans-

portation, event planning, act as tour guides and interpreters and pay for activities and entertainment. SCSO has been fortunate to receive significant Sister City International and Open World grant funds. SCSO appreciates the continuing support of the City of Oak Ridge and Oak Ridge schools for these international interactions.

The Open World grants, which were obtained by SCSO board members Tom Row and Ken Luckmann, addressed social issues including hunger relief, health care, opportunities for female entrepreneurs, substance abuse and education for the disabled. Russian delegations were hosted in Oak Ridge and visited a variety of local institutions and facilities which address these issues in the United States. These programs provided comparison standards and information about outstanding local recreational, medical, charitable, civic and rehabilitative models. All these activities addressed international issues shared by Oak Ridge's Sister City partners and offered methods to improve responses to these common problems.

youth soccer exchange in 1996. Ken Luckmann, organizer of the exchange, said, "We had a group of kids who formed a soccer team here and went to Obninsk to play soccer. Obninsk had its semi-professional soccer team, and it was way better than what we had here. Their teams are very, very good. And we had our match in their stadium. It ended in a politically correct 1 to 1 tie." When the Russian boys came to Oak Ridge, they were amazed at the availability and variety of store goods. Blue jeans and shoes were scarce in Russia at that time. Other exchanges were a project connecting the United Way of Anderson Co. with Obninsk and reciprocal visits with medical professionals. In 1996, the popular Knoxville radio station WIVK morning show hosts, Wilhite and Wall, traveled to broadcast "Great Day" live from a radio station in Obninsk. During the broadcast the pair aired a contest for listeners to earn \$100 by solving a clue. An Obninsk policeman came to the station to claim the prize.

In 2023, Oak Ridge City Council was set to approve a resolution dissolving the partner-



Girl Scouts from Oak Ridge and Naka-shi, Japan are pictured at the International Friendship Bell in 2006 (Courtesy of Jerry Luckmann) coauthored this award-winning 2019 children's book

Since 1991, SCSO has facilitated annual middle school student exchanges with Naka-shi, social exchanges with the Naka-shi Wings for Women. In 2009, 16 women from Oak Ridge were hosted in Naka-shi and toured Japan.

There have been two visits from members of Japanese Girl Scout Troop 37, and Japanese troop leadership has announced plans to return with their younger girls in August, 2025.

During the COVID isolation, Oak Ridge and Naka-shi maintained their relationship with virtual meetings and pen pal exchanges among the students. In 2021, Naka-shi sent 1,000 hand-sewn masks for SCSO members, teachers, city officials and middle school students. On receipt of the masks, Jim Dodson, JMS art teacher and Oak Ridge city councilman, commented, "The friendship with the students, teachers and community leaders in Naka-shi truly transcends the barriers of a pandemic, and this gesture has renewed my faith that there are good people in our world. I am looking forward to the time when we can come together again through this wonderful program." Oak Ridge responded by sending Naka-shi a quilt created from t-shirts worn each year by exchange students for the 30th Anniversary of the SCSO. The masks and the quilt bore the inscription "Virus cannot break our friendship."

Exchanges with Obninsk included a

ship with Obninsk due to Russia's military attack on Ukraine. This resolution met with resistance from Sister City proponents and Oak Ridge scientists who have had experiences with Russians at ORNL. The argument was made that "sister cities are people to people, it's not government to government."

Sean Seyfert, RMS art teacher and current Sister City Board Chairman, wrote a letter to Oak Ridge City Council. "Every one of us, at one time or another, has looked at our leaders and been ashamed by their actions and decisions. Sometimes, as a result, the world looks at us in ways that make us uncomfortable and has often looked down upon us for being American. They are unable to separate the people from the government. Let's not make that mistake in regards to the Russian people."

Sister City International sent a letter stating "our policy is to encourage our members and US communities to keep their sister city relationships especially now when the political issues and actions threaten to disrupt the positive, constructive relationships that have been made, over many years, at the people-to-people and community-to-community level."

As a result, the city council decided to soften the resolution. The sister city agreement between Oak Ridge and Obninsk would persist without city funding.



## Historically Speaking

### African American achievers with roots in the Oliver Springs region

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

In 2006, the SCSO hosted the Hiroshima Boys Choir which performed at several local venues. During this visit a journalist from a Canadian publication, The Walrus, wrote an interesting article about Oak Ridge and “the meaning of performing in the birthplace of the bomb” that was dropped on Hiroshima, which can be found online at <http://thewalrus.ca/2006-09-field-notes/> This visit was an eye-opener for everyone, especially the host families that had small active Japanese boys who kept them awake all night!

The crown jewel of the Oak Ridge SCSO is the Naka-shi/Oak Ridge middle school exchange program. A cooperative effort among the SCSO, Oak Ridge city government and Oak Ridge schools, students and families from Oak Ridge and Naka-shi are engaged in a student exchange program that has developed cross-cultural friendships that might have seemed unimaginable three generations ago.

2025 will be the 35th anniversary of the Sister City relationship with Naka-shi. With the exception of two years compromised by H1N1 and SARS epidemics, and a 5-year hiatus for the COVID pandemic, the middle school exchanges have continued from the inception of the partnership. Each year a delegation of students from Robertsville and Jefferson Middle Schools visits Naka-shi in July, followed in August by a delegation from Naka-shi coming to Oak Ridge. In both cases the trips include homestays and visits to the host city's school and local attractions. For many years, in preparation for the trip, Oak Ridge students took lessons in Japanese language and customs from Oak Ridger Shigeko Uppuluri.

Robertsville Middle School teacher and 2017 exchange chaperone Julie Kinder McMillan described her exchange experience this way: “While in Naka, the American participants were busy with a daily schedule of cultural activities including weaving and dyeing, kanji calligraphy, ikebana (flower arranging), touring historic sites, traditional Japanese-style dining, and a formal tea ceremony.

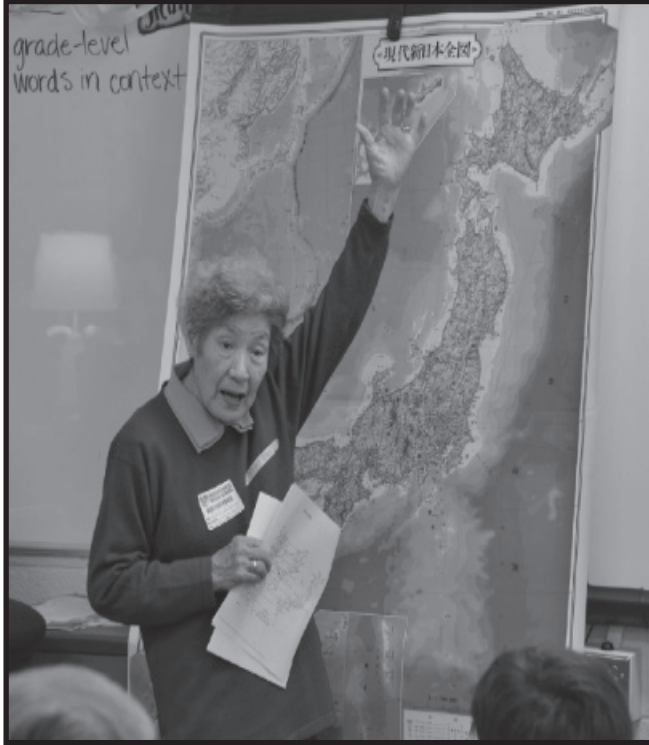
The contingent visited a local elementary school and Naka-shi High School, where they interacted with Japanese students in a variety of English language activities. The group also spent part of one day in Tokyo, touring the famous Asakusa district of the city and getting a bird's-eye view of the one of the largest urban areas in the world from the observation deck of the Tokyo Skytree.

“The Japanese delegation was in Oak Ridge from August 21 to 28. The week kicked off with a welcome reception at the School Administration Building, and each middle school held an assembly to welcome the guests and share about the exchange program. During the week, the Japanese guests attended school and went on multiple excursions to area locations such as Market Square and the Sunsphere, The Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center and Gatlinburg, ORNL, and the Oak Ridge mayor's office. A highlight of their stay was visit to the Friendship Bell of Oak Ridge. The farewell party was held at the Oak Ridge Country Club.”

While the trips are educational, the greatest benefit for the delegates is the cultural understanding and bond of friendship formed between them and the host families. During the visits, the delegates sometimes encounter exhibits related to the happenings of World War II, but as they stand side by side with their new friends,

it becomes clear that this is a new day.

Ken Luckmann wrote in an annual SCSO report, “I'm sure the kids understand that at a period in history our countries were somewhat less than friendly towards each other, but the opportunity to stay with Japanese families, and



**Shigeko Uppuluri, long-time Oak Ridger, taught classes in the Japanese language, culture and customs for students travelling to Naka-shi.**

**Shigeko and her husband, Ram were instrumental in bringing the Friendship Bell to Oak Ridge from Japan (Courtesy of Jerry Luckmann)**

the opportunities for the Japanese kids to spend time with American families, that's the key to the success here. These kids are making friends in a program whose motto is “Peace through People”... It's a program that hopefully lets them take home the message that we're different but also the same in a lot of ways, and that the goal of everyone ought to be friendship and peace.”

Yukari Kawamata was a middle school exchange student in 2002 and was hosted by Tina Luckmann, daughter of Ken and Jerry Luckmann. Like many students, Yukari returned to Oak Ridge in March of 2009 to renew friendships made during her exchange. She visited with the Luckmanns, Harvey and Nancy Gray, Shigeko Uppuluri and the del Castillos. While in Oak Ridge she participated in local Girl Scout activities and Naka-shi exchange planning sessions. Jerry Luckmann visited Yukari's Naka-shi home when she traveled to Japan in 2009. Yukari and her mom returned to the US and Oak Ridge several times. Yukari attended college in Seattle.

In 2023, when asked about the impact of the exchange on her life, Yukari wrote, “When I was a junior high school student, I applied for the sister city exchange program (2002). I wanted to learn English and the American culture, but I gained more than that by communicating with people in Oak Ridge. Their interest in Japan made me realize that how important it is to learn not only about their country but also about my country.

“Since then, I tried my best learning about my language, culture and history in addition to theirs so that we can understand each other more deeply. Luckily, when I was in college, I got a chance to go visit my host family again and we were able to get to know each other better. And surprisingly, now I have an American husband and live in the States.

“I can't thank them enough, the Oak Ridgers who changed my sense of value and perspectives, as well as my life. Hopefully this article will find you interested in joining this program and broaden your horizons.”

During the past 30 years, the SCSO has facilitated the opportunity for international friendships with more than 700 Oak Ridge and regional participating families and organizations.

Some of these organizations include Oak Ridge city and schools, Methodist Medical Center, Michael Dunn Center, Roane State Community College, Open World Leadership Center, Kiwanis, Rotary, United Way, First United Methodist Church, Tennessee School for the Deaf, University of Tennessee Knoxville, Emory Valley Center and countless host families and guest speakers, all of whom have participated in showcasing local resources for Russian and Japanese visitors.

On a personal level, hundreds of Oak Ridge students, families and individuals have developed relationships with their counterparts in Russia and Japan. These relationships have spanned generations with Oak Ridgers who have traveled to Naka-shi and Obninsk hosting family members that hosted their children and grandchildren. Many people who have traveled with SCSO groups have returned on their own to continue the friendships made during the exchanges. A deep personal understanding and respect for other people and cultures has developed. These long-lasting friendships truly fulfill the Sister City mission of “Peace through People.”

Current members of the SCSO Board of Directors are Jefferson Middle School teacher John Smith (president); Robertsville Middle School art teacher Sean Seyfert (chairman); CDC teacher Lexie Scott (recording secretary); Rachel Seay (treasurer); Ken Luckmann (website and annual report); Oak Ridge Schools administrator Christopher Scott (school liaison); Ram Uppuluri (City of Oak Ridge liaison) and Jerralyn Luckmann (communication and publicity).

So you might ask: What is a sister city relationship? According to Sister Cities International, “A sister city, county, or state relationship is a broad-based, long-term partnership between two communities in two countries. A relationship is officially recognized after the highest elected or appointed official from both communities sign off on an agreement to become sister cities.

A city may have any number of sister cities, with community involvement ranging from a half dozen to hundreds of volunteers. In addition to volunteers, sister city organizations can include representatives from nonprofits, municipal governments, the private sector, and other civic organizations. Each sister city organization is independent and pursues the activities and thematic areas that are important to them and their community including municipal, business, trade, educational, and cultural exchanges and projects with their sister city.” — Source: <https://www.sistercities.org>

\*\*\*

Thank you, Jerry, for that insightful history of one of Oak Ridge's proudest achievements.

I must tell you of my joy when Shigeko would ask me to meet the Japanese students at the Oak Ridge International Friendship Bell. She would ask me to tell the history of the Bell. I would say a few sentences and allow her to interpret. She would speak much longer than it could possibly have taken to just interpret my comments. I knew what she was doing, she was telling the history in much more detail than I was able to because, you see, the Bell was her's and her husband, Ram's idea.

Shigeko was an amazing lady dedicated to Oak Ridge and such a tremendous example of a humble yet powerful person. I am pleased to see her son, Ram, getting involved in things in Oak Ridge such as this Sister City effort.



# Scott County Today

## PEC Welcomes New CEO John Proffitt



PEC CEO John Proffitt met many of his new PEC family members at the 85th annual meeting and said he looks forward to meeting everyone in PEC’s organization and service area.

John Proffitt knows the energy business from the ground up. He began his career as a meter reader over 25 years ago with Duke Energy, the electric provider for the Cincinnati, Ohio area. He worked his way through the Duke organization to become their Director of Area Operations, in Ocala, Florida.

In the Ocala, Florida market, he oversaw over 250 full time employees and contractors. He also held two positions, NERC Compliance Analyst and Distribution Engineering Manager before earning the Director position.

John Proffitt has a diverse educational background, as he has a B.A. degree in Biblical Studies from the School of the Scriptures, an A.A.S. Degree in Electro-Mechanical Engineering from Cincinnati State, a B.S. degree in Applied Management as well as a M.B.A. from Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio.

Proffitt and his wife, Hannah have 8 children with a daughter on the way. John enjoys fishing, boating, and spending time with his family, (pictured above). He stated, “I am very excited to be a part of the PEC family and I look forward to partnering with our employees and our members.”

“We are very blessed to have John Proffitt as a part of our team! We know he will be a great asset not only to our cooperative, but this community. We welcome him and his family and all the experience he brings to our company.” said PEC Director of Communications Rachel Smarsh.

## Youth Leadership Summit 2024



NASHVILLE, TENN. – “When I was invited to go on the Youth Leadership Summit, I never thought I would be leaving with new friends and memories like the ones I have now,” said Alyssa Byrke, a junior from Scott High School and delegate from Plateau Electric Cooperative. “I am honored to have been nominated to go and am forever grateful to the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. The knowledge I have now of electric cooperatives, specifically the teamwork and networking aspects, will stay with me for the rest of my life.”

Delegates to the Youth Leadership Summit are encouraged to be leaders and use their talents to improve their communities. “The future of Tennessee is only as strong as the next generation of leaders,” says Todd Blocker, vice president of member services for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and director of the Youth Leadership Summit. “Investing in these young people is a great opportunity to make a lasting impact on the communities we serve. These students are selected by their local electric co-ops, school officials and guidance counselors, and they are among the most talented students in the state. It is an honor to help them learn and grow.”





# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



## FLASHBACK, By Mick Harper

1. Which group released "Come a Little Bit Closer"?
2. Who released "Saturday Night"?
3. Which Dave Clark Five song pushed the Beatles off the top of the U.K. charts when it came out?
4. Name the group that released "Forever by Your Side."
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Hello, I don't even know your name, but I'm hoping all the same, This is more than just a simple hello."

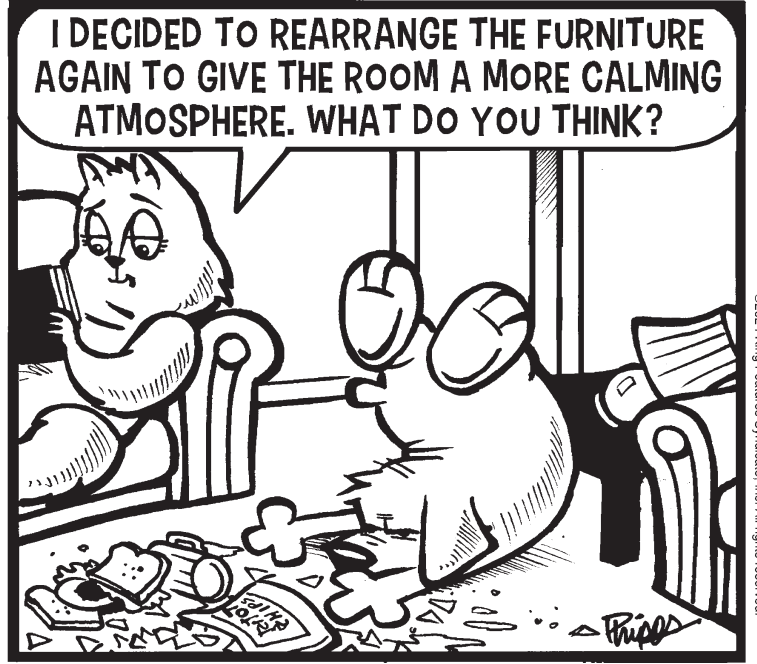
### Answers

1. Jay and the Americans, in 1964. The "Jay" in this case was the second one, formerly known as David Blatt until he changed his name to Jay Black. He joined the group when the original "Jay" left the group.
2. The Scottish group Bay City Rollers in 1975. It was their first U.S. chart topper. The song debuted via satellite link on "Saturday Night Live."
3. "Glad All Over," in 1964. Except for the Beatles, the DC5, as they were called, was in the first wave in the British invasion, which included groups such as the Rolling Stones and the Bee Gees.
4. The Manhattans, in 1983.
5. "The Last Time I Felt Like This," 1978, from the film "Same Time, Next Year" starring Alan Alda and Ellen Burstyn. The theme song was performed by Johnny Mathis and Jane Olivor.

(c) 2024 King Features Syndicate

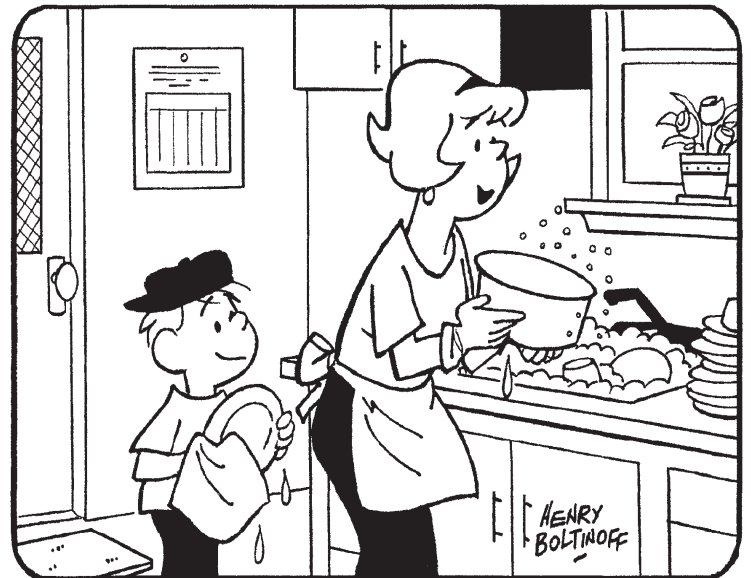
# Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



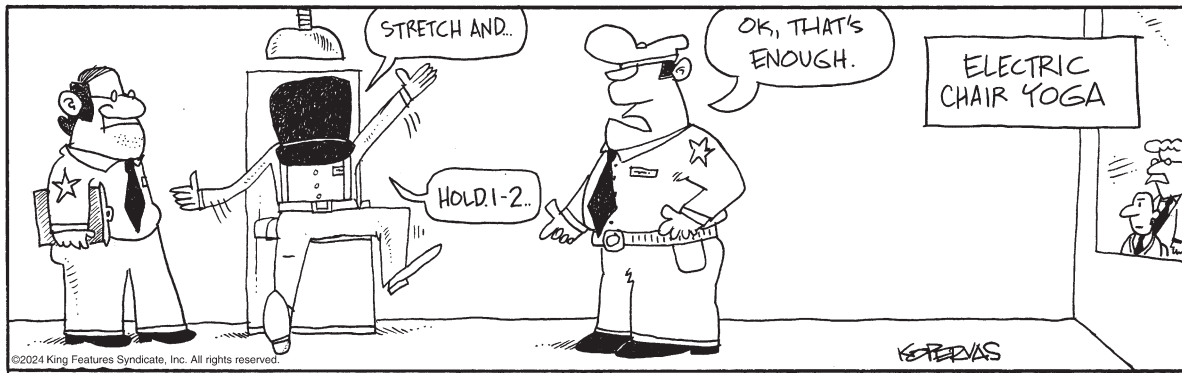
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Apron bow is missing. 2. Faucet is different. 3. Water drop from dish is moved. 4. Cabinet is wider. 5. Doormat is moved. 6. Glove is longer.

# Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



# POPEYE





## Becoming the Yod, Psalm 119 Vs. 73-80



**John Burns**  
*Opinion Columnist*

Vs. 73 Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: that I may learn thy commandments.

Vs. 74 They that fear thee will be glad when they see me, because I have hoped in thy word.

Vs. 75 I know, Oh Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness, has afflicted me.

Vs. 76 Let I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word to thy servant.

Vs. 77 Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight.

Vs. 78 Let the proud be ashamed, for they dealt perversely with me without a cause, but I will meditate in thy precepts.

Vs. 79 Let those that fear thee turn unto me, and those that have known thy testimonies.

Vs. 80 Let my heart be sound in thy statutes, that I be not ashamed.

We now encounter the tenth letter of the Hebrew Aleph-Bet, the Yod or Yot. The Yod carries a numerical value of ten, throughout the entire Bible.

Here God is introducing the mathematical concept of zero to his creation. Infinity is found in zero. The true scientific revelation of infinity can only be rightly understood by understanding zero. God has no beginning or end. The very concept of zero.

The Yod is the smallest Hebrew letter, yet it appears with more frequency by a large margin. The Yod resembles a cupped hand covering or veiling. In reality, the Yod are the cupped hands of ELOHIM, veiling his creation. What is he veiling creation with and why?

The Yod are the two cupped hands of Adonai Elohim, controlling every aspect of his redemption plan for creation. The Yod control true time and space.

The hands of God are his divine attributes. Unending mercy found in the right hand of correction. Unwavering grace found in the left hand of restoration. God desires both for believers, as he restores humanity to the state of being created in his image. The results of new birth.

The Yod is the fifth letter in the creation name of God: ELOHIM.

The Yod is the first letter in the tetragrammaton name of God; YHWH. Pronounced YOD-HAY-VaV-HAY.

God revealed his true intentions in this name. His open hands offered to all of humanity through the Holy Spirit connection to the nails, leading to the baptism of the Holy Spirit for our edification.

The Yod empowers a believer to accept comfort from the Holy Spirit while enduring tribulation and persecution. The Yod is the path to God's will in our lives each day.

The Yod is the first letter in Jehuda, the tribe of David, Messiah was born into. The Yod is the first letter in Yehoshua, or Joshua. Now you know who really won and fought the Battle of Jericho.

The Yod is the first letter in the name Yeshua from where we get Jesus. Jesus Christo in Greek, which translates as Jesus our Messiah. Christo is a reference to his prophetic calling as Messiah and coming King. The Hebrew name is Yeshua ha Maschiah. Jesus title while on earth and in heaven.

The Yod are the open hands of Messiah nailed to that old wooden cross.

Jesus Christ reminded the self-righteous Pharisees, that not one Yod or one tittle would disappear from the law until all is fulfilled. The Yod is the smallest letter in Hebrew appearing almost as an apostrophe, holding everything else together. The tittle appears in Hebrew as a hyphen.

Jesus Christ was proclaiming that unending mercy and unwavering grace would be offered according to our need for mercy as gleaned by understanding the Torah. Not one similitude or metaphor would disappear from the Law until all is finished.

Today, we are called to offer the Yod, as believers in Jesus Christ. Our lives must become a testimony of the unending mercy of Elohim our Creator, so that grace may appear in the lives of others.

We are on a narrow path leading to salvation. Testify to who brought you on that path.

We must reach the people we love, who are on a wide road that leads to their destruction and separation from God for eternity, with the open hands of Jesus Christ.

Let him who has ears, hear what the spirit is saying.

I Love you all in Christ. JB, 4-15-2024

**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.**



### BIBLE TRIVIA, By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Hosea in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Judges 16, what had Samson been to God from his mother's womb? Nazarite, Philistine, Reubenite, Protestant
3. In Exodus 4, who had a staff or rod that turned into a snake? Noah, Aaron, Adam, Moses
4. How many books of the Bible are named for a woman? 0, 1, 2, 3
5. What biblical name means "peace"? Salome, Jacob, Abraham, Adam
6. Which of these died on Mount Hor? Paul, Noah, Aaron, Solomon

**ANSWERS:** 1) Old, 2) Nazarite, 3) Moses, 4) Two (Ruth, Esther), 5) Salome, 6) Aaron



# Matthew Chapter 26 Part B



**Melvin Howard**

(Matthew 26: 31-35) Weakness prophesied (Mk. 14:27-31; Lk. 22:31-38; Jn. 13:36-38): Christ prophetically declared that all of them would be “offended” (spiritually stumble) before the night was over, and that such fulfilled Zechariah’s prophecy of several centuries earlier which contained two components---the Shepherd would be killed and the sheep would scatter (v. 31; Zech. 13:7). He promised that after he was raised, he would meet them in Galilee (v. 32).

Peter confidently declared that though the others might stumble, he never would. At some point,

Jesus said, “Simon, Simon [note the double use for a distressed emphasis], Satan has asked to have you [plural---‘you apostles’], but I made supplication for you [singular---Peter] that your faith fail not.” Jesus then indicated that Peter would stumble, but that he would repent, and even have the strength to establish his brothers (Lk. 22:31-32). The brash apostle boasted he was ready to go to prison and to die (Lk. 22:33). John records that Peter asked where the Lord was going, but Christ simple replied that the apostle could not follow now---but later he would. Again Peter vigorously protested he was ready to die now! (Jn. 13:36-38). The other echoed the sentiment (v. 35). But the Teacher said to Peter: “Before the cock crow twice, you will deny me thrice” (Mk. 14:30). Roosters in Palestine were said to crow at about 12:30, 1:30, and 2:30 a.m. Thus, within the space of about an hour, Peter would three times deny he knew his Lord. One can only wonder how the apostle felt when he heard this declaration.

(Matthew 26:36-46) The ordeal of Gethsemane (Mk. 15:32-42; Lk. 22:39-46; Jn. 18:1): The band of eleven disciples, along with their Teacher, descended from Jerusalem into the Kidron ravine below that accommodated winter torrents (though not as deep today). They ascended Olivet, coming to a garden called Gethsemane (meaning “olive press”). He asked eight of the disciples to sit (perhaps near the entrance) and pray that they might not enter into temptation (Lk. 22:40), while he took Peter, James, and John yet deeper into the garden. The Lord began to be sorrowful and troubled (v. 37; Mark adds “greatly amazed” [14:33]); this may hint of a new emotion never before experienced, reflecting another dimension of the humanness of our Savior. Jesus went a bit farther and fell on his face to pray. Knowing that “all things are possible” with God (Mk. 14:36), he pled that “if possible” this “cup” of sacrifice might pass. These statements appear to conflict, but they do not. All things are possible with God that do not conflict with his moral nature. His love for fallen humanity constrained him to go forward with the only possible plan for human redemption---the offering of his Son.

Presently, the Lord returned to the disciples, yet found them sleeping. He asked Peter if he could not watch even for one hour, and encouraged them again to pray that temptation might not overcome them. In the midst of his great sorrow, he is concerned for them. He acknowledges that their spirits are willing but the flesh is weak (v. 41). He again departs to pray; this time: “If this cup cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” He returns again to discover the disciples sleeping, for “their eyes were very heavy” (Mk. 14:40). Luke, perhaps with a medical interest, notes that an angel appeared from heaven and strengthened him, that he sweated as if great drops of blood fell to the ground, and that the disciples were “sleeping for sorrow,” exhausted from heartache (22:43-45). After his third session, he lets the disciples sleep on for a while. Then he said, “Arise, let us be going: behold, he who is betraying me is near.”

(Matthew 26:47-56) Treachery and arrest (Mk. 14:43-52; Lk. 22:47-53; Jn. 18:2-11): Even as he was speaking, a great crowd arrived with their swords and wooden staffs, led by the treacherous Judas. Scholars have long speculated as to the motives of the traitor. Was it covetousness? Was it disappointment that Jesus did not lead a revolt against Rome? Was it jealousy? The “lynch mob” had been dispatched by the chief priests, scribes, elders, Pharisees, and a delegation of temple police (v. 47; Jn. 18:3). Judas knew that Jesus frequented Gethsemane (Jn. 18:2); hence, his leadership was helpful with the foul deed.

As they arrived with their torches and lanterns, Christ asked, “Whom are you seeking?” They responded, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus replied: “I am the one” (yet there was much power in that I AM). Dramatically, the renegade band recoiled backward and fell to the ground (Jn. 18:4-7), vanquished by the force of the person of one man. Judas approached the Lord and, according to the prearranged sign, kissed him (the Greek indicates several times), and said, “Hello, Rabbi.” Christ replied, “Friend [the word has some distance in it], do that for which you’ve come.” And they took him in hand (v. 49-50). As the Lord urged the arresting band to release the disciples (for their own spiritual protection [Jn. 18:8-9]), Peter drew his sword and cut off the right ear of Malchus, the high priest’s servant.

Christ rebuked his impulsive and aggressive disciple, warning: “They who take to the sword shall perish by the sword.” Were he so disposed, God could have sent more than seventy-two thousand angels to deliver him. In that event, however, the Scriptures would not “be fulfilled” (v. 52-55). Luke notes that Jesus touched Malchus’ ear and healed him (22:51). This explains why, during the Lord’s trial, no one ever brought forth Malchus, with a bloody, wounded head, as evidence against Christ! The servant would have been a witness for the Son of God! Christ then indicted their courage: why had they not taken Him openly, as he daily taught in the temple? The answer was clear. There was a divine agenda to be pursued that fulfilled the Scriptures (v. 56). At this point, “all the disciples fled.” The Shepherd had been taken; the sheep were scattered (v. 31).

(Matthew 26:57-68) The brutal trial (Mk. 14:53-65; Lk. 22:54-65): Prior to the procedure before Caiphas, Jesus was taken before Annas, the father-in-law of the high priest. Christ was led back to the city and to the house of Caiphas, the high priest (A.D. 18-36). The Sanhedrin was a body of seventy or seventy-one Hebrew men and was the highest Jewish court. The high priest was the leading figure. (When the Greeks took control of the Jews in the four-hundred-year inter-biblical period, they henceforth appointed the high priests. Between the time of Herod the Great and the fall of Jerusalem (107 years), twenty-eight men held the office. None was qualified according to the law of Moses.)

Peter had followed “afar off.” He wormed his way into the court of the high priest and sat with the officials to watch the termination of this sad drama (v. 58). It was a courageous act, but one that soon melted. The illegal proceedings that followed constitute the most shameless corruption of justice in the annals of human jurisprudence. Some authorities have catalogued no fewer than twenty-seven violations of law. Truly, his “judgment” was taken away (Isa. 53:8; Acts 8:32-33) and he was at the mercy of “lawless” men (Acts 2:23). And it was all for us!

The council flagrantly searched for false witnesses to implement their death trial, but none could pass the threshold of credibility (v. 59-60). Finally, two came forward claiming that Jesus had said he could destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days. This was a horrible misrepresentation of that episode three years earlier when Christ had purged the temple of those commercializers at the beginning of his ministry (see Jn. 2:19-21). The authorities pressed the Lord for a response, but he remained silent (Isa. 53:7). The witnesses even contradicted one another (Mk. 14:59), which, under Hebrew law, totally disqualified them from participation.

Caiphas burst out, demanding that Jesus, under oath, confess that he claimed to be the Messiah, the Son of God (v. 63). The Savior’s reply was: “You have said it”---a subtle affirmation. Continuing, the Lord said, “Nevertheless you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven” (v. 64). The “clouds of heaven” motif was a clue of coming defeat; a day would come when he would be in the Judge’s seat and they would be defenseless defendants! Suddenly, Caiphas ripped his robe---not because of mere rage; this was a formal symbol that he was accusing Christ of blasphemy. As far as he was concerned, the trial was over. In their minds, there was sufficient evidence for a death penalty. So the council declared: “He is worthy of death” (v. 65-66). He was condemned by his own testimony, which was a violation of Hebrew law. The unruly mob spit in his face (Isa. 50:6), blindfolded him (Lk. 22:64), and slapped him, goading him to identify his persecutors (v. 67-68).

(Matthew 26:69-75) Peter’s collapse (Mk. 14:66-72; Lk. 22:54-62; Jn. 18:25-27): Peter was in the courtyard warming himself by a fire. He was approached by one of the high priest’s maids who scrutinized his face and charged: “You were with Jesus, the Galilean of Nazareth” (v. 69; Mk. 14:67; Lk. 22:56). But the apostle protested: I don’t know what you’re talking about!” (v.70). He moved to a nearby vestibule (as a rooster crowed [Mk. 14:68]) and was accosted by another maid who similarly charged him; he emphatically denied it with an oath (thus violating the Lord’s former instruction [5:33-37]).

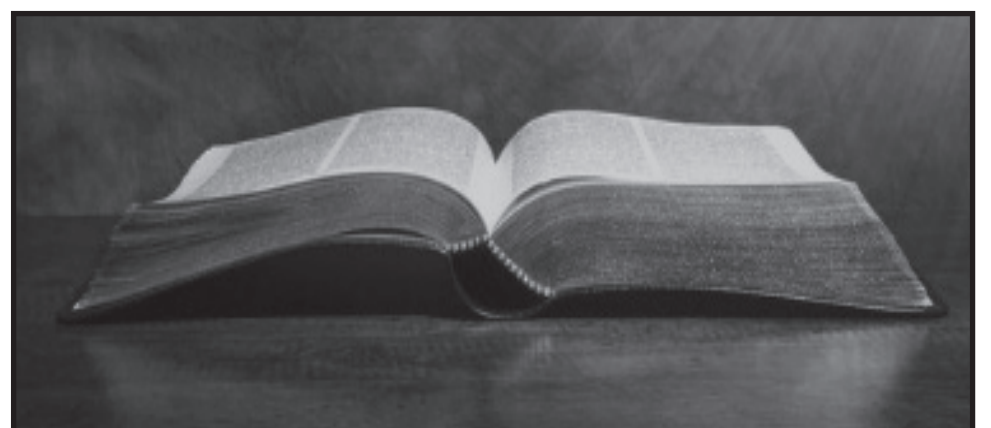
Presently, he was again accused of fraternizing with Jesus, his accent betraying him. The apostle then began to “curse” (the Greek form is “curse himself” [Mk. 14:71]), meaning, binding himself under a curse that he had never know Christ, thus denying the Savior for the third time. (He can be thankful that God did not hold him to his pledge!) Before the words were out of his mouth, a rooster crowed---and rebutted his oath! (v. 74; Lk. 22:60). Incidentally, one of Peter’s accusers was a kinsman of Malchus, whose ear Peter had surgically removed (Jn. 28:26). Jesus was in the area and he turned and looked at the apostle (Lk. 22:61). The Greek term indicates a penetrating stare. Instantly, Peter recalled the Lord’s prophecy of these denials and he went out and wept bitterly. The Greek word denotes a loud wailing (2:18).

BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo  
FortifyYourFaith.org

Melvin Howard’s Weekly column is sponsored by

## The Lord’s Church

102 Paxton Road, Lancing





RustyWallaceKiaKnoxville.com



**RUSTY WALLACE**



**RUSTY WALLACE KIA**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**There are three age categories:  
3 - 7 yrs | 8 - 12 yrs | 13 - 18 yrs**

**Coloring Contest**

**Overall Winner  
\$100  
Gift Card**

**Category Winners  
\$50  
Gift Card**

**Honorable Mention  
\$25  
Gift Card**

**Entry Due by 9am  
August 22nd.**

**Mail entry to  
RWK**

**Coloring Contest  
701 Callahan Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37912**