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Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3
www.mocotoday.com
Volume 10 Number 34
Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Your Community. Your News.

75¢

Inside:

ScoCo Girls Soccer Preview

Community Calendar

Biblical Thought

Weather

History



Norman Rockwell

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give your rest.

- Matthew 11:28



7 53807 32032 0

Circle of Life Obstetrics and Family Care Welcomes New Provider



Circle of Life Obstetrics and Family Care is pleased to welcome Elizabeth Bieri, CNM, IBCLC.

Elizabeth Bieri is a Certified Nurse Midwife and International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant who is excited to be joining our team! She believes in a holistic approach and enjoys blending this with the medical model of care. Elizabeth graduated with her MSN from Frontier Nursing University.

For the last 13 years Elizabeth has worked with women and infants during pregnancy, birth, and the postpartum period. She has also worked in collaboration with the Health Dept to increase breastfeeding rates in East TN. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family, sharing meals with friends, and all types of outdoor recreation.

Please call our office at (423) 569-3762 to schedule an



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Scott vs Union County - W 4-3

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Aug 15, 2024
Oneida vs Karns - L 0-7



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**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

Mimi's and Pap's Trip

Mimi and Pap went on a trip and Ms Ivory and me got to stay with Ms Susie!

We had so much fun but we did miss Mimi and Pap.



We got to ride in the golf cart, that's one of my most favorite things.

Then, we got to eat Ms Millies dog food. It was yummy!

Anywoof, when Mimi and Pap got back, Ms Susie told them how we wuffed Millies food.

You know what Mimi did? She ordered some of that yumminess for us to eat at home.

So, thank you Ms Susie for keeping us and telling Mimi about all that goodness for our bowl.

Ms Stacey says the food is not only yummy, but healthy too. What ever that means.

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

WEEKLY WEATHER



Tue 27	92°/67°	
Wed 28	94°/68°	
Thu 29	94°/69°	
Fri 30	92°/68°	
Sat 31	88°/67°	
Sun 01	81°/65°	
Mon 02	82°/62°	



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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.

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.

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.

2ND ANNUAL

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Tom Redmon
Columnist

Another Way to Look at Things

A big topic in my life has always been education. But when I got two degrees and started to advance in the profession, I had chosen I never bragged to anyone and most members of my large family never congratulated me. I enjoyed teaching every where I went and what the people back in Morgan County thought about me didn't seem to matter a lot.

The last time I went to the doctor I praised him for his success in life. I knew his family and had grown up with some of their parents and older relatives. I guess Dr. Laymance was like me, no one in either of our large "family's" had gone to college. I think Thomas and Jonathan had that same desire and drive as I did to earn college degrees so they too could get into the professions they wanted chose for themselves. At the time I didn't even think about all the Redmon's before me except my siblings who were older than me. They had dropped out of school long before graduation and I figured that was their business. I never threw it up to them about them dropping out, nor did I bring up me getting a college degree.

If there was a more serious time of me getting a college degree it was the summer of 1966. I told Wanda we were moving to Cookeville. I figured it would be cheaper to move our mobile home then to rent a place in Cookeville. We lived in a small mobile home park. It was out in the country in which I loved and the owner was a great, honest and friendly man.

Wanda started to work at the National Bank. It turned out to be not only a job that provided us money to live on, but Tommy Lynn the president of the bank knew a lot of people in Putnam County and one in par-

ticular, a school board member would help me get a dream job at Putnam Senior High. By 1968 I had worked at the Senior High only two years and I was popular. The chairman of the school board wanted to move me up to administration. I loved teaching and I turned it down.

I continued on in getting all the education I could while living in Cookeville. I taught school in the daytime and went to Tech at night and on Saturdays. Moving to Cookeville turned out to be one of the best moves I could have ever made.

The good doctor said that I not only got my education and good jobs, but I pulled many others in my family along with me. I don't disagree with him but maybe me being the first Redmon to get college degrees held some weight but maybe the time in history had more weight. Going to college in the 70s and 80s became more important and standards might have been lowered to help more students to graduate. I knew it was easier to get a Masters in the 90s then it was in the 60s and 70s.

I cannot say that getting college degrees was easy, but I can say for certain that I'm glad I got them because they qualified me for teaching. It didn't make me any smarter or better than anyone else.

Today's academic standards have been lowered and I've heard all you have to do is pay your fees, go to class and you can get a degree. The government will loan you the money and then the good president will cancel that debt with tax payers' money.

It isn't fair to the ones who have paid their loans off. It isn't fair to many who like me who worked for 50 cents per hour to get a college education.

There's one thing for certain I'll always be proud of what I've done to be successful in my profession. Life for me has not been easy but it has been a good journey.



Photo of Putnam Senior High School (1968 Yearbook)



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— In Loving Memory —

**David “Curly John” Hall
United States Army Veteran**



David “Curly John” Hall, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, on August 21, 2024.

Most people knew him from his days selling insurance, working at Poor Boys Tires, and not only serving as a member but President of Laborer’s Local 818-all of which he never met a stranger!

David was a veteran of the United States Army and did his service in Vietnam.

He loved going to the races, keeping horses and telling stories to all who’d listen. Spending time with family and friends is what he enjoyed the most and would give anyone the “shirt off his back.”

David was preceded in death by his parents: Clint and Martha Hall, sister Mary Ann Osburn and special nephew “Billy Boy” White.

He is survived by his children: Sherry (Jimmy) Bunch, Melanie (Mark) Lester and David (Lisa) Hall, II. Grandchildren: Tiffany, Savannah, Jerika, Westley, Mikayla, Little David and Sydney. Also, a host of Great-Grandchildren. Sisters: Tilda Moore, Sally Rhea, Judy Hall, Rachel Walker and Jessica Hall. Brothers: Clint Hall, Jr. and Sam Hall, as well as their spouses. Also surviving are a host of nieces and nephews.

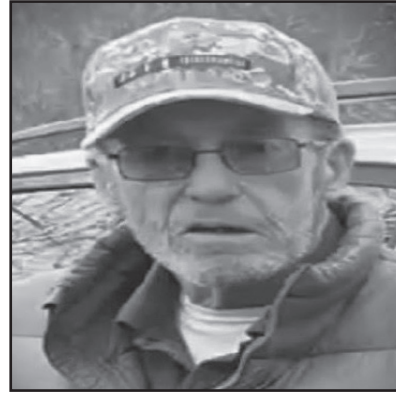
David is also survived by the mother of his children: Thelma Hall Bruce.

The family will receive friends on Friday, August 23, 2024, from 4-7 pm at Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral Services will follow at 7pm with

Bro. Jeff Beard and Bro. Keith Kilby officiating. Graveside services with Military Honor Guard by The American Legion Post 149 will be Saturday at 11am, Union Cemetery, Wartburg, TN.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of David “Curly John” Hall.

**Charles Franklin McGhee, 88
United States Army Veteran**



Mr. Charles Franklin McGhee, age 88 of Petros passed away at his home on Monday, August 19, 2024.

He served our country in the U.S. Army then retired as an Iron Worker in Dayton, OH.

Later he retired from the State of Tennessee working in maintenance at Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary. He was a good electrician and was always volunteering to help others at no charge. He enjoyed making wine and giving it as gifts to family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Allen and Mary (Scarborough) McGhee; two sons, Bo McGhee and Robert McGhee; Brothers, Jimmy

Lee McGhee and Billy Joe Townsend.

He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Billie Ruth McGhee of Petros; Grandson, Aaron McGhee; Great-grandchildren, Tanner and Daisy McGhee; Brother, Jimmy Lee Taylor and wife, Vickie; Billie would like to thank special former daughter-in-law, Connie McGhee and special niece, Samantha Townsend for offering loving care to Charles and the family; And a host of other family members, good neighbors and friends.

A Graveside Service with Military Honors will be held on Friday, August 23, 2024 in the Old Petros Cemetery.

Pastor Keith Kilby will officiate. Family and friends will meet at the cemetery at 12:45 for a 1:00 service.

To leave a note for Mr. McGhee’s family or to share a memory, please sign our online guestbook at jacksonfuneralservices.com

**Louis Edward “L.E.” Kreis, 77
United States Army Veteran**



We bid farewell to our father and husband, Louis Edward “L.E.” Kreis, who departed from this world on Friday, August 23, at the age of 77. Surrounded by his loving family and friends in his final moments, L.E. was a pillar of strength and kindness.

L.E. was a butcher by trade, working at Darnell Food Market for over 40 years. He also served in the U.S. Army during Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star among other honors. His passion for farming and his unwavering spirit will forever be remembered.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Betty Sue Kreis; his son, Wayne Kreis; and his daughter and son-in-law, Misty Kreis Goad and Brian. He is also survived by his siblings

Brenda Watters, Johnny Ray Kreis (Sharron), Betty Ann Kreis, Richard Kreis, Tina Shannon (Sherman), Timmy Kreis, and Tammy Gibson (Keith). He leaves behind uncles Evertt Kreis and Billy Kreis (Susie), special cousins J.D. Kreis (Mary Lou) and Virginia “Ginny” White (Rick), as well as his loving brother and sister-in-laws (Pennycuff Family), and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews who will continue to honor his legacy by living their lives to the fullest.

We welcome all who knew him to join us in celebrating the life of a man who was loved deeply and will be missed. The family will receive friends Sunday, August 24th, 2024 from 6-8 PM at Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg, TN. A funeral service will be held Monday, August 25th at 10:00 AM at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Wartburg. Interment will follow in Morgan Memorial Cemetery with military honors, American Legion Post 149.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of L.E. Kreis.

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

Psalm 86:4-5

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

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



— In Loving Memory —

**Marshall Dennis Workapick, 78
United States Army Veteran**



grandparents Clyde Wells, Mabel Wells, and Christine Workapick, Uncles Jack and Kenneth Wells, precious Aunt Edna Kirkland. Son-in-law Danny Hendrix and Derek Robbins.

Survivors are children: Katherine Hendrix, Stanley and Noelle White, Elizabeth Workapick, Daniel Workapick; grandchildren: Kayla Davidson, Cea Parten, Patrick Scribner, Ethan Clark, Raine Workapick, Henry Crunkilton, Lucas White, Aniya Workapick, Signe White, Kayden Workapick, Ciyleigh Ascanio, Bryson Smith; Great grandson Lucas Parten and great granddaughter Sinta Scribner; Sisters, Phoebe Wills, Patsy Portwood, Connie Gambke, Linda Terry.

The family will receive friends Thursday, August 22, 2024 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 1:00-3:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 3:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the Morgan Memorial Gardens in Wartburg.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Marshall Dennis Workapick.

Marshall Dennis Workapick, 78, passed away Saturday August 17, 2024 surrounded by family. Also known as Dennis, Denny, Daddy, Papaw, and his personal favorite, Paw.

Dennis worked for and retired from K-25 and the Army National Guard. His most prized accomplishment was always his family. He was known for his famous shortcuts and love for good food! For his day to day, you could find him chasing a grandchild or tuning into NCIS. On the best days he was out traveling to Muddy Pond, Nemo, or a car show. The donut and Cracker Barrel industries will also greatly miss his frequent investments.

Preceded in death by his beloved wife, Elizabeth Darlene Workapick, parents, Francis Workapick AND James "Pop" Workapick, beloved

Paizlee Annabella Phillips, 7



Osmond and Judy Smith and Irma Jean Phillips; great uncles and aunt Danny Smith, Thomas and Eleanor Phillips and her cousins John Donald England and Osmond Daw Smith and a host of family and friends who loved her.

To have known and loved Paizlee was a pure gift from God. Paizlee never met a stranger and could make a room sparkle with just a smile or a laugh. Paizlee was a fighter, and she battled her illness like every day was a new adventure. She loved her baby dolls and every one of them had to have a specific name like "heart" or "Paizlee". Her "babies" were her world! Paizlee was the boss of the family and she made sure everyone knew it, too. Paizlee will be missed dearly but she will never be forgotten because she left an imprint on everyone's heart.

Paizlee Annabella Phillips passed away on Saturday, August 17, 2024, at Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge.

She was born on July 24, 2017. Paizlee is the daughter of Olivia Phillips and Adam Bunch of the Coalfield Community. Paizlee loved her brothers and sisters so much that she herself was their Momma too. Her siblings were Jace Bunch of Oak Ridge, Elijah Bunch, Dalton Jackson, Brett Bunch and Caroline Davis, all of Coalfield, Madison McGaha of Rockwood and Hannah Bunch of Clinton.

Paizlee's grandparents are Glinn and Delores Phillips of Lancing and Rickey and Ellen Bunch of Joyner. Paizlee also had 2 great grandparents: Glinn "Boots" Phillips of Robbins and Gale Bunch of Joyner; aunts and uncles are Aubrey Phillips and Jessica and Brandon Bell of Wartburg, Allen and Brandi Bunch of Joyner; uncle Jerry Cromwell; special cousins are Noah Bell, Tara West, Shannon West and Carson Bell of Wartburg and Corbin and Kendal Bunch of Joyner. In Paizlee's life everyone was an aunt or an uncle to her. However, Derita (Meme) and Johnnie Long of Wartburg, Doyle and Nancy Smith, Donald and Linda Smith, Felicia and Greg Miller of Oneida, Steve and Vicky Phillips of Florida and Libbi Stephens of Robbins were her Great Aunts and Uncles that she loved and knew she could get anything from them with just a smile and her presence.

Family would like to thank all of the Doctors and Staff who had helped Paizlee these seven wonderful years. The family would also like to thank the staff at Coalfield School and Mrs. Tessa Armes for the love and support of Princess Paizlee Annabella Phillips. Thank you to those that support Paizlee and Hypoplastic Left Heart syndrome by wearing red and blue and to the donors families. You are all greatly appreciated.

The family will receive friends Saturday, August 24, 2024 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 2:00-5:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 5:00 p.m. with Bro. Joey Aytes and Bro. Jason Lowe officiating.

Graveside services will be Sunday at 2:00 p.m. in the Jim Carson Cemetery in Oneida.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Paizlee Annabella Phillips.

Paizlee is preceded in death by her great grandparents

Psalm 123:1
Unto thee lift I up mine eyes,
O thou that dwellest in the heavens.



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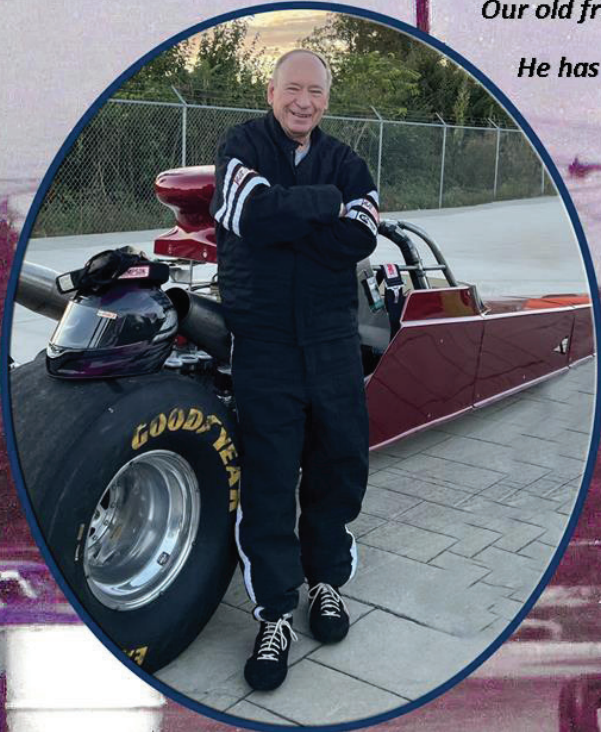


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»»»»»»SCOTT COUNTY««««««««
LADY HIGHLANDERS



Left to right

Back row: Emily Fladie, Riley Lantz, Alyssa Crabtree, Abby Henson, Brittany Morrow, Kenlie Frogge, Kilah Marlow, Brianna Cross, Bella Sharpe, Autumn Brummett
 Front row: Gracie James, Mariella Meegan, Aleeyah Jeffers, Lauren Reynolds, Liriel Blevins, Brailey Goodman, Shay Bell, Carley Bell, Emily Rowe - **Not Pictured:** Hailey Butler & Emalee Owens

8/16 vs York Institute	W 3-0	9/16 vs Whitley Co. (KY)	6:30 pm
8/22 @ Union County *	W 4-3	9/17 @ Campbell County	6:00 pm
8/27 vs Lenoir City	6:30 pm	* District	9/19 @ Oneida
9/3 @ Anderson County	6:30 pm	9/24 vs Cumberland Gap	6:30 pm
9/5 @ Oliver Springs	6:30 pm	10/1 @ CAK	6:00 pm
9/10 @ Clinton	7:00 pm	10/3 @ York Institute	6:00 pm
9/12 vs Gibbs *	6:00 pm		



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LADY INDIANS



Left to right

Back row: Assistant Coach Amber Baird, Ryleigh Boutwell, Ashley Guzman, Larissa Jones, Ashlyn Cotton, Presley Queener, Kamryn Stiltner, Mylee Dunlap, RaeLynne Blevins, Julie Chambers, Hayven Fereyhough, Coach David Blevins
Front row: Ashlyn Douglas, Zoie Kennedy, Abbie Crabtree, Jillian Cross, Jayden Harness, Adysan Douglas, Kiara Kennedy, Addison Douglas, Braleigh Douglas

8/13 @ Sevier County	T 2-2	9/10 @ Cumberland Gap	6:30 pm
8/15 vs Karns	L 7-0	9/17 @ Oliver Springs *	6:30 pm
8/27 @ Anderson County	6:30 pm * District	9/19 vs Scott	6:30 pm
8/29 @ Cumberland County	5:30 pm	9/24 vs Harriman *	6:30 pm
9/3 @ Rockwood *	7:00 pm	9/26 vs Eagleton *	6:00 pm
9/5 @ Greenback *	6:30 pm	9/30 vs Roane County *	7:00 pm

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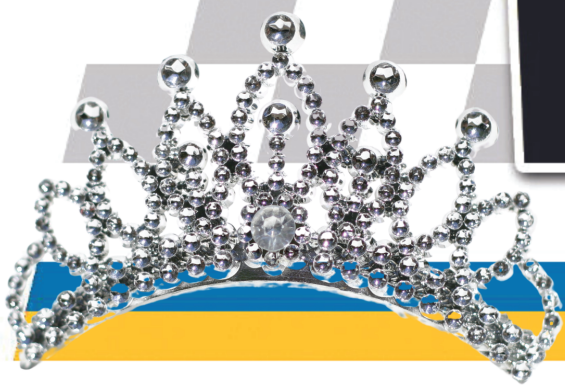
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New Task Force for Scams



David Zubler
Columnist

The IRS announced that a new task force has been created to combat the growth of scams and schemes threatening taxpayers and tax systems. The new task force will be called the Coalition Against Scam and Scheme Threats (CASST).

The coalition is a joint effort that will include the IRS, state agencies, and the nation's tax industry. The tax industry support includes software, financial companies, and critical national tax professional associations. More than 60 different groups from the private sector have

signed on to the joint effort.

The joint effort will result in information sharing between the group members, increasing scheme awareness and improving internal tax system defenses.

Due to the rapid increase in scams, the coalition will work to implement the new protections by the filing season of 2025. The effort is considered a top priority after the group found that scammers look for weak points in government systems and the private sector. The goal is to make it more difficult for scammers to put false tax returns through the system.

Scams and schemes have continued to circulate on social media. The coalition will increase awareness and education to counter the emerging schemes being promoted.

The coalition will also create new steps to deter "ghost preparers," who prepare returns without disclosing and signing the returns they prepared. The tax refunds are often inflated, which creates risk for taxpayers who are ultimately responsible and results in the loss of money that would help reduce the deficit.

CASST is an outgrowth of the Security Summit effort but will not replace the Summit. The Security Summit was created in 2015 to curb the growth in tax-related identity theft. The new coalition will closely model the Security Summit, which was a collaborative group effort that was influential in combating tax-related identity theft.

"Across the spectrum of the tax system, we've seen a rising tide of scams and schemes that try to exploit taxpayers and find gaps in government and industry defenses," said IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel. "This new collaborative approach will allow the private and public sectors to throw our combined weight against this threat. We will do more to work closely together, share information faster, respond quickly to threats, and quickly alert the public to new and emerging threats. Our goal is to have a mass effect on this expanding problem that's spread on social media and through bad actors."

The IRS has had hundreds of thousands of dubious claims by taxpayers for which they weren't eligible. These include the ERC, the Sick and Family Leave Credit, the Fuel Tax Credit, and household employment taxes.

It's crucial to contact a trusted tax professional before claiming a credit that could be fraudulent. You are responsible for any returns or credits that you file. In addition to returning a fraudulent refund, you will be liable for any penalties and interest.

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.



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Historically Speaking

Meet Kenneth D. Nichols, the Father of Oak Ridge: A Leader in the Making, Part 1 (1907-1929)

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Barbara Scollin is the niece of Major General Kenneth D. Nichols. She visited Oak Ridge some time back, saw where then Colonel Nichols lived and spent time in the Oak Ridge Room of the Oak Ridge Public Library. She also recognized the need to assure historical materials were properly collected and initiated an effort with the Friends of the Oak Ridge Public Library to reinforce the importance of the historic preservation of items that might otherwise be lost to history. Barbara has remained contact with me and agreed to write a series of articles on her uncle. This is the first in that series.

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

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

In this first installment of several articles covering the life and accomplishments of Kenneth D. Nichols, we explore his family background and West Point experience.

"Living on the cutting edge of a scientific revolution during the days of the Manhattan Project stands in stark contrast to the circumstances of my birth in the small country town of West Park, Ohio, later a well-to-do suburb of Cleveland" - so begins General Nichols' childhood memories dictated to his niece, Helen Nichols Rogers when working on a genealogical project. Growing up in West Park, Kenneth Nichols was the youngest of four children (Mildred, Loren, John and Kenneth) born to Wilbur Loren and Minnie May Nichols. Wilbur Nichols was a construction contractor building houses, private homes and a chemical plant. He was known for his high integrity.



Ken's father, Wilbur Loren Nichols (1866-1942)
(Courtesy of Barbara Rogers Scollin)

Ken remembers: "It was a special treat to ride with Dad in our horse-drawn wagon to inspect the progress of the houses under construction. I was intrigued by the carpenters, the skill of the

bricklayers and the instructions my father gave them... I was the only one of three sons to show the influence of my father's profession and become an engineer."

Wilbur also served on the city council and was elected mayor of West Park for ten years. During the Great Depression, he served as Safety Director for Cuyahoga County. At home, Wilbur was a strict disciplinarian, but his children and grandchildren knew he loved them very much. He built the West Park Congregational Church (now the West Park United Church of Christ) across the street from the family home where the family regularly worshiped.

My mother recalls as a little girl crawling up into his big bed and sitting next to him as he read his Bible before going to sleep. He told her "Always talk to God before you go to sleep." Ken respected his father's many abilities and witnessed firsthand how to treat people honestly and fairly.



Ken's mother, Minnie May Nichols (1872-1950)
(Courtesy of Barbara Rogers Scollin)

Minnie May (Colbrunn) Nichols "always had a smile and a twinkle in her eyes." [Her kitchen] "always smelled so good." "Her door was always open, and people dropped in for tea and to talk. She always had time." remembered her granddaughter Helen Nichols Rogers. May had a special way with children and encouraged them to be good students and members of the community. A rainy day presented an opportunity to introduce a young reader to a good book from her library of books collected via the Abbey Book club series. Ken shared, "I have always enjoyed reading. I'm never without books and magazines... I read every Tom Swift book that was ever published."

Family and friends were one of the most important elements in the Nichols home. Ken remembers he had fourteen uncles, fourteen aunts and more than fifty first cousins, most living within a ten-mile radius of the family home. May hosted large family reunions. She was the 'glue' that kept the family together and the home running smoothly.

Ken remembered that when the federal income tax was initiated, a government agent spent several evenings at their home checking Wilbur's accounts at the dining room table. Ken was allowed by May to sit in the dining room to possibly 'learn something worthwhile.' (Little did May know that Ken would one day handle administration of the Manhattan Project!)

May adjusted to the income available (the construction business depended on the well-being of the economy) and occasionally had one or two boarders as the need arose. Kenneth's schoolteacher was one of the boarders when he attended a four-room school, four grades in each room. When May discovered Ken had already learned the second as well as the first grade, she wanted him to jump to the third grade, but his father said, "No." (But later Ken did skip the eighth grade.)

May loved to play cards and if an extra



Cadet Kenneth D. Nichols, Class of 1929
(Courtesy West Point Association of Graduates)

person was needed, Ken remembers, "I would be enlisted to play as her partner. We played Five Hundred and I learned her system so well that it was hard to beat us." (No doubt Ken's photographic memory helped in more ways than one.) Ken respected his mother's many abilities and witnessed her compassionate, kind, and decent treatment of people. May recognized Ken's potential at an early age and he honored her with his achievements. She saw the 1924 silent film "Classmates", probably the first feature film about the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. At May's prompting, Ken tested and was awarded entrance to study at West Point.

A well-rounded student, Ken excelled at sports (serving as an unofficial assistant track coach) as well as his studies. As the youngest cadet to enter West Point, he distinguished himself graduating first in the Class of Engineering and fifth in the overall Class of 1929.

Ken remembers, "Cadets then chose their branch in the Army in order of their academic rank. The highest-ranking cadets generally chose the Corps of Engineers. To make certain I would be able to request that branch I kept my grades high. One of the most important things I learned was that in a system where grades are generally given every day in every subject, daily preparation paid off. That served me well as a student and paid off the rest of my life as an engineer officer."

Ken's West Point roommate Howard Moore accurately described Ken in their senior



West Point 1929 graduate Kenneth D. Nichols
standing with his proud mother Minnie May Nichols
& sister-in-law Ruth Nichols.
(Courtesy of brother, John W. Nichols)

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yearbook: "In the first place, first because it has never failed to be our chief source of amazement and wonder, there is his unfailing good humor. No doubt he has a temper, but it is remarkably well controlled. Reveille doesn't faze him; early morning melancholia doesn't affect him. Closely coupled with good humor is the spirit of fair play, matching it point for point. He sweeps his half of the room; he shoulders his half of the load. Ken is wide-awake and alert and one of the best files we know. It's a pretty good combination - good humor, fair play and brains. Ken will use them all."

Ken remained loyal to family and to West Point. He made lifelong friends with his instructors and classmates. Family, early education and friends - all were key to Ken's leadership abilities.

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

Thank you, Barbara Rogers Scollin, grandniece of General Kenneth D. Nichols. She participated with K. David Nichols, Jr., General Nichols' son, on a Hidden History: Stories from the Secret City video cast. You can watch that program here: <https://youtu.be/EBH7dhtasUc>
Another article by Barbara on General Nichols, SUNDAY PUNCH, K-25 WORKERS GO ABOVE THEIR LINE OF DUTY, was pub-

lished in The Oak Ridger's Historically Speaking column during the week of August 28, 2023 and can be accessed here.
<https://www.oakridger.com/story/life-style/2023/08/31/sunday-punch-k-25-workers-go-above-the-line-of-duty/70671004007/>
Next up: A Leader in the Making Part 2 (1929-1931)



Cleaning the family's Model T. L&R: brother John, father Wilbur, Kenneth and brother Loren Nichols in front of the Nichols family home, 3936 Rocky River Drive, West Park, Ohio. (Courtesy of Barbara Rogers Scollin)



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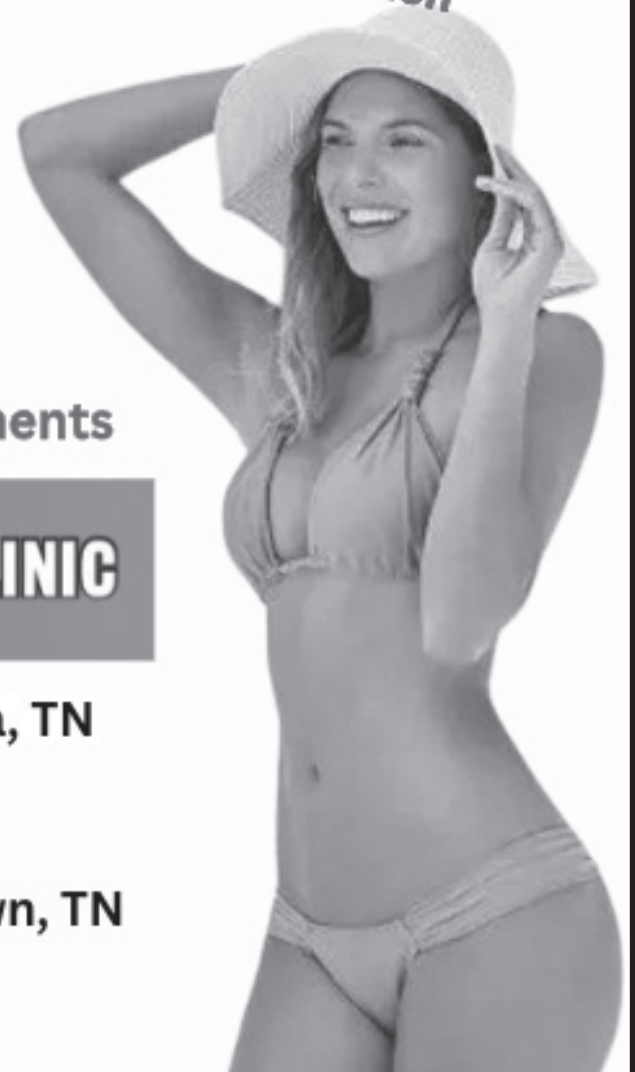
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Becoming the Kaf, Psalm 119 Vs. 81-88



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

Vs. 81 My soul faints for your salvation.

Vs. 82 My eyes fail from searching your word, saying when will you comfort me?

Vs. 83 For I have become like a wineskin in smoke, yet I do not forget your statutes.

Vs. 84 How many are the days of your servant? When will you execute judgement on those who persecute me?

Vs. 85 The proud have dug pits for

me, which is not according to your law.

Vs. 86 All your commandments are faithful: They persecute me wrongfully; Help me!

Vs. 87 They almost made an end of me on the earth, but I did not forsake your precepts.

Vs. 88 Revive me according to your loving kindness, so that I may keep the testimony of your mouth.

We continue our study of the amazing Hebrew acrostic psalm of David. The 11th letter of the Hebrew alphabet is Kaph, pronounced "cough". The Kaph has a numerical value of 20.

Kaph is transliterated into English as the palm of a hand. King David is submitting to the correction of Elohim as God. David understood, the palms of God's hands, sustain him through gentle correction, followed by gentle restoration. Spare the rod, spoil the child. We are the children of the living God.

We must submit to the mercy of correction found in the examples of the Old Testament heroes and villains. The New Testament revelation of Jesus Christ as grace leads to biblical restoration.

The Bible is a supernatural book, penned by God in eternity past. His plan revolves around the palms of his hands. The right hand of unending mercy, and the left hand of unwavering grace.

The Bible is the only book ever penned that is meant to be consumed over the entire course of our fragile lives. The wisdom of God is revealed in the Bible to believers over time. Maturity learned from scripture over time is the mark of true salvation in Christ.

God desires personal relationship to Jesus Christ from every believer, each day through prayer, meditation, and scripture study. The Kaph is how God disciplines and restores Christians.

Jesus Christ chastens those he loves. We need correction as an act of mercy, so we can then offer correction and unending mercy to all we encounter. To truly love as Christ, mercy must be our cry.

How does the anointing in our lives teach us about what we are to do, with the knowledge of the palms of our creator? We are created in his image? Are we to become agents of mercy and grace?

Is it God's will for every believer to show mercy to all we encounter? Is judgement even a product of unending mercy? I will have mercy without judgement says the lord.

Bible truths never focus on judgement of sinners, but rather mercy offered by gentle correction, based upon the love of the trinity. Bible truths always begin with the right hand of God's mercy. Mercy is biblically discerned as Me not receiving what I deserve, for the wages of sin is death.

Grace is biblically defined as receiving what I do not deserve, and receiving it for free. Grace is the advent of Messiah as living grace. To be in Christ is to be restored after being corrected.

The divine attributes of unending mercy and unwavering grace,

are personified by the palms of the hands of our creator. He loved us so much, he had his palms nailed to an old wooden cross, to return mankind to a relationship to God, which is defined by my humility to accept biblical correction.

We all like sheep have gone astray. We need fresh mercy and grace every day. We are crucified daily with Christ, as we admit guilt and request forgiveness for the sins that so easily ensnare us. For if we sin, we have and advocate with the Father, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

God reveals to Solomon in Proverbs, that he formed man with the palms of his hands. Solomon also writes that God alone holds creation in the palms of his hands. He alone is sovereign over good and evil. Lucifer can do nothing without God's permission. Job Chapter 1 reveals Lucifer is at God's beckoning call.

As we achieve learning the first 11 letters of the ancient Hebrew alphabet upon which God spoke creation into existence, the majesty of the mind of God, is understood when one accepts this divine love language as supernatural.

The Hebrew alphabet was designed by our Creator, solely for the purpose of understanding the mind of our intelligent designer. He designed our universe with your salvation weighing on his mind.

Every letter of the plan of God, can be found in the knowledge that God speaks Hebrew. It is his love language upon which he cut covenant with his creation. Every letter, points to the life and mission of the risen Son of God. He alone holds creation in the palms of his crucified hands.

The letter Kapf teaches us expositional constancy. Wherever the Kaph appears in the Bible, the subject is the right palm of mercy and the left palm of grace, promised to man, and signified by 3 hours one passover evening, in Jerusalem in 32 AD.

The Love of God is so profound it is simple. A wooden cross, a lonely hill, three iron nails, a crown of thorns, a Roman spear, A willing son, with his palms nailed open, so God the Father can be reconciled to his very stiff-necked creation.

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

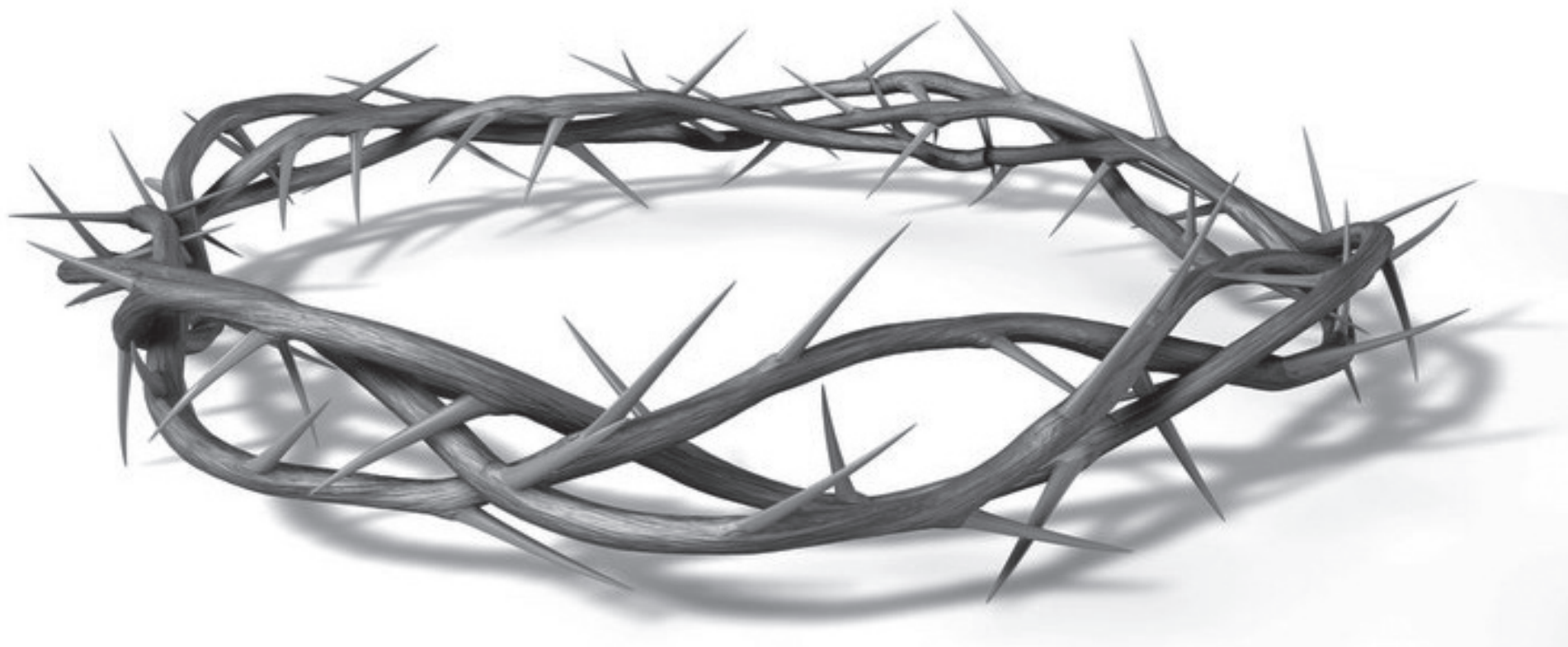
He is alive forevermore. Even so come Lord Jesus Christ.

John Burns 4-16-2024

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.



Matthew Chapter 27 Part 1 of 3



Melvin Howard

(Matthew 27: 1-2) Delivered to Pilate (Mk. 15:1; Lk. 23:1-2; Jn. 18:28): As soon as dawn broke, another meeting of the Jewish officials convened during which they pressed him for more testimony that would be self-incriminating. But the Lord told them further discussion with them was useless. He again affirmed his coming regal authority. They pressed him again concerning whether he was the Son of God (Lk. 22:67). He answered: "You say that I am," which idiomatically was an affirmative answer.

That was it! They needed no further testimony. The Lord then was bound (as if he would attempt escape) and led away to Pilate, the Roman governor (A.D. 26-36) under Tiberius Caesar. He is mentioned in an inscription found at Caesarea in 1961. His responsibilities involved caring for Caesar's holdings in the area, collecting Roman taxes, maintaining order in the territory, and seeing to it that justice prevailed. He became a pawn in the hands of unscrupulous Jews during the inter-biblical age, it was necessary that Pilate's sanction be secured for the brutal act---and also to manufacture some non-religious charge against Jesus. Rome cared nothing for religious squabbles.

(Matthew 27:3-10) The remorse of Judas: In his topical fashion, Matthew interrupts the flow of his narrative to rehearse the fate of the wretched traitor. Jesus was "condemned" judicially by the Jewish Sanhedrin and dispatched to Pilate for the implementation of the death penalty. For some reason, Judas had a surge of guilt. "Repented" carries the limited idea of regret, but without the necessary change of conduct (v. 3). He came to the chief priests and elders and confessed: "I have sinned." He needed to go much further, but had not the moral courage to do so. That he described Christ as "innocent" is most significant. He knew in his heart that the evidence had been overwhelming for his identity as the Messiah, the Son of God. His "death-bed" testimony is powerful for the credibility of the Lord. The leaders could not have cared less. They would not accept the returned silver coins---a deal was a deal!

The traitor had entered into the temple compound close enough to throw the money "down" into the "sanctuary" (the inner, most holy area), which fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah (11:12-13). The specificity of Bible prophecy is amazing indeed. Judas then committed suicide by hanging himself (Acts 1:18). The Sanhedrin refused the money under the guise it was "blood money" (Dt. 23:18). One cannot but be "touched" by their respect for law! The money eventually was used to purchase a cemetery for strangers---most likely Gentiles. It was known as "the field of blood" even several years later when Matthew penned his Gospel account (v. 8). The attribution of Zechariah's prophecy to Jeremiah is not problematic (through Luther called it an error). It was not uncommon for a Bible writer to weave together several Old Testament prophetic allusions with the attribution assigned to the most prominent. See Mark 1:2-3, attributed to Isaiah, but which is a combination of both Malachi (3:1) and Isaiah (40:3). Zechariah himself declared that he echoed the testimony of some of the "former prophets" (7:7).

(Matthew 27:11-26) The trial before Pilate (Mk. 15:2-20; Lk. 23:13-25; Jn. 18:28-32): Christ was taken from Caiaphas to appear before Pilate, who clearly had a political interest in this case. The Jews stayed aloof lest they be defiled. Again, their religiosity is touching! The governor asked, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Again, the Lord's response (as reflected in the Greek text) is a subdued affirmative. He is the Jew's King, but not in a political sense that would rival Caesar. Apparently, Pilate had some understanding of the use of the Lord's language. At some point, the chief priests and elders again railed on him, accusing Christ of perverting the nation and forbidding the Jews to pay taxes (Lk. 23:2). That was a lie, but he refused to comment on their hysteria (v. 12). To mount a defense was useless. The cross was inevitable. Pilate pressed the Lord: "Don't you hear what they are saying?" But his prisoner uttered not so much as a word.

This amazed the governor (v. 14), and he pressed the Jews for a concrete answer. They simply replied: "If he were not an evildoer, we wouldn't have brought him before you" (Jn. 18:30). Some argument! Pilate, with a degree of exasperation, said, "Take him and do with him as you will." But these legalists insisted they must conform to the law---which did not allow them to execute a criminal (Jn. 18:31). It never stopped them from attempting to murder him earlier in his ministry (Jn. 5:18; 8:59). Actually, the events were providentially unfolding; he must be "lifted up" in crucifixion---a Roman procedure (Jn. 18:32; 12:32-33).

At the feast, it had become customary for the governor to release a prisoner of the Jews' choice. Possibly, Pilate selected one of the worse he could find, hoping that the release of one Barabbas would satisfy the Sanhedrin and rid him of the "Jesus problem." He was wrong. Even though Barabbas was a "notable" prisoner who had been involved in insurrection, murder, and robbery (v. 16; Mk. 15:7; Jn. 18:40), the Jews preferred his release rather than the Nazarene Teacher. But Pilate was no fool; he knew that their motive was "envy" (v. 18). While the governor was contemplating the issue, Mrs. Pilate sent him a message, urging her husband to refrain from judging this matter. She believed that Jesus was a "righteous man" (v. 19), and she had been troubled about the matter by a dream.

The Hebrew dignitaries stirred up the crowds and Pilate felt the pressure (Mk. 15:15), though he wanted to release Christ (Lk. 23:20). Hence, he asked, "Which of the two should I release?" And they cried out for Barabbas. O the irony of it all---the guilty released, the innocent killed! It is a fitting illustration of God's plan of redemption. Christ died for our sins; we are the "Barabbas" who was released! "What then shall I do with Jesus, called the Christ?" They screamed: "Let him be crucified" (v. 23). Crucifixion seems to have originated with the Persians and was used subsequently by the Greeks and Romans. It was the most horrible form of execution ever contrived by wicked humanity. It was a slow and painful procedure, with the victim sometimes suffering for days. It involved a profuse shedding of blood which, in Jesus' case, fulfilled multiple prophecies (Ex. 12:7; Psa. 22:14-18; Isa. 53:4, 12; Zech. 12:10; 13:1).

In a symbolic act, Pilate washed his hands, declaring himself to be innocent of the blood of this "righteous" man (v. 24). How can a judge possibly be innocent while sending a "righteous" man to his death? Pilate was a spineless politician who sacrificed conviction on the altar of convenience---and he was not the last to do so. Accordingly, he had Christ whipped (Isa. 50:6; 53:5) and delivered up to be crucified (v. 26). The Jews allowed that the consequence of shedding his blood could rest upon them and their offspring (v. 25). And it has! (23:32-36; 1 Thes. 2:16).

(Matthew 27:27-31) Pre-crucifixion humiliation (Mk. 15:16-19; Jn. 19:1-3): The crass Roman soldiers, hardened by their profession, were happy to cooperate with the rebellious Jews, drunk on their own hate for Jesus. The Lord was stripped of his clothes and adorned with a scarlet robe, feigning royalty (v. 29). He was crowned with piercing thorns which doubtless punctured his brow (reminiscent of the thorns beckoned by sin [Gen. 3:18]). For a scepter he was given a reed, with which they beat him, mingling their spittle with his blood (29-30) as they bowed to offer a phony form of worship (Mk. 15:19). Presently, they removed his "royal robe" and returned his garments to him. This was important, for they were inadvertently preparing to fulfill prophecy (Psa. 22:18).

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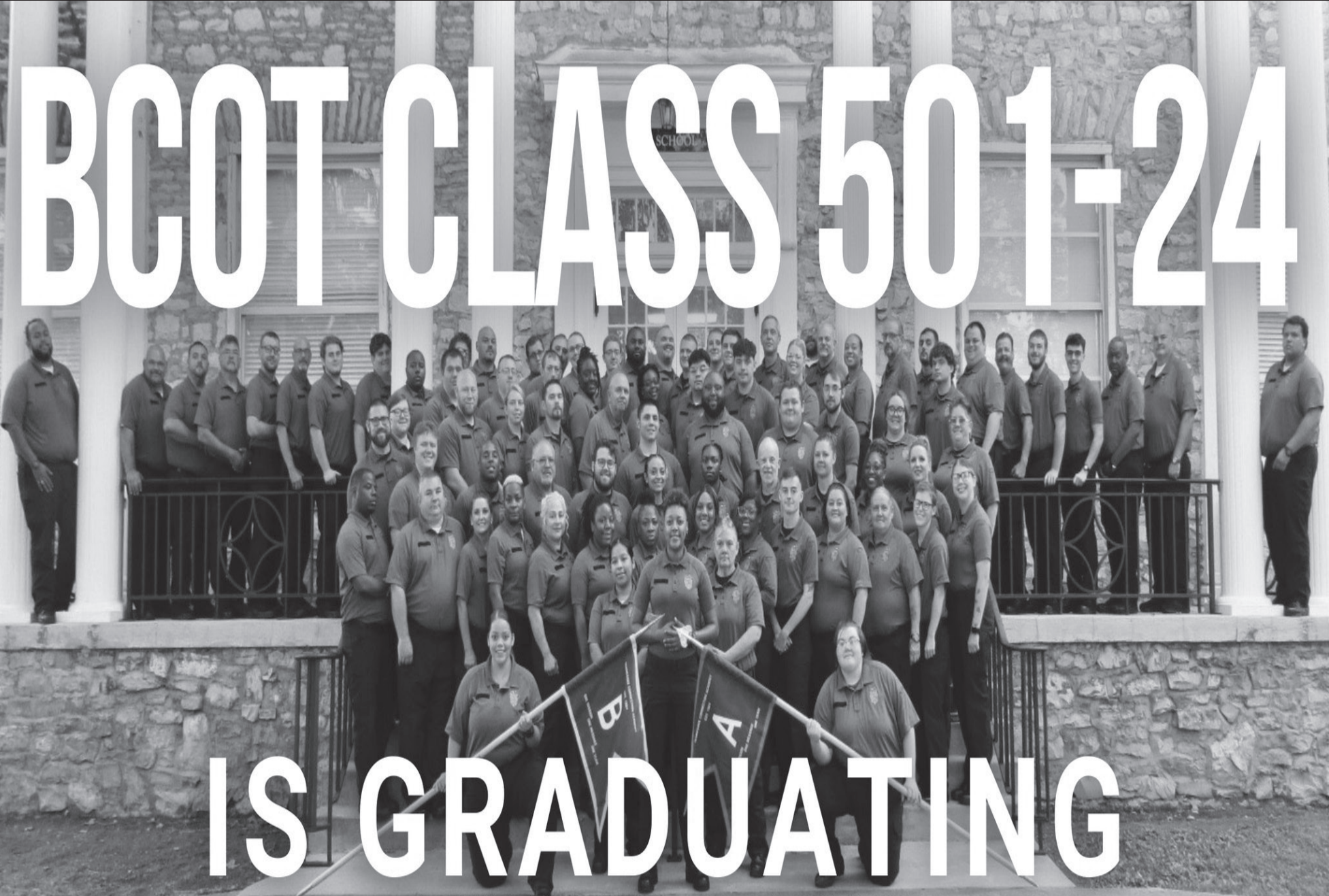


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