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Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3

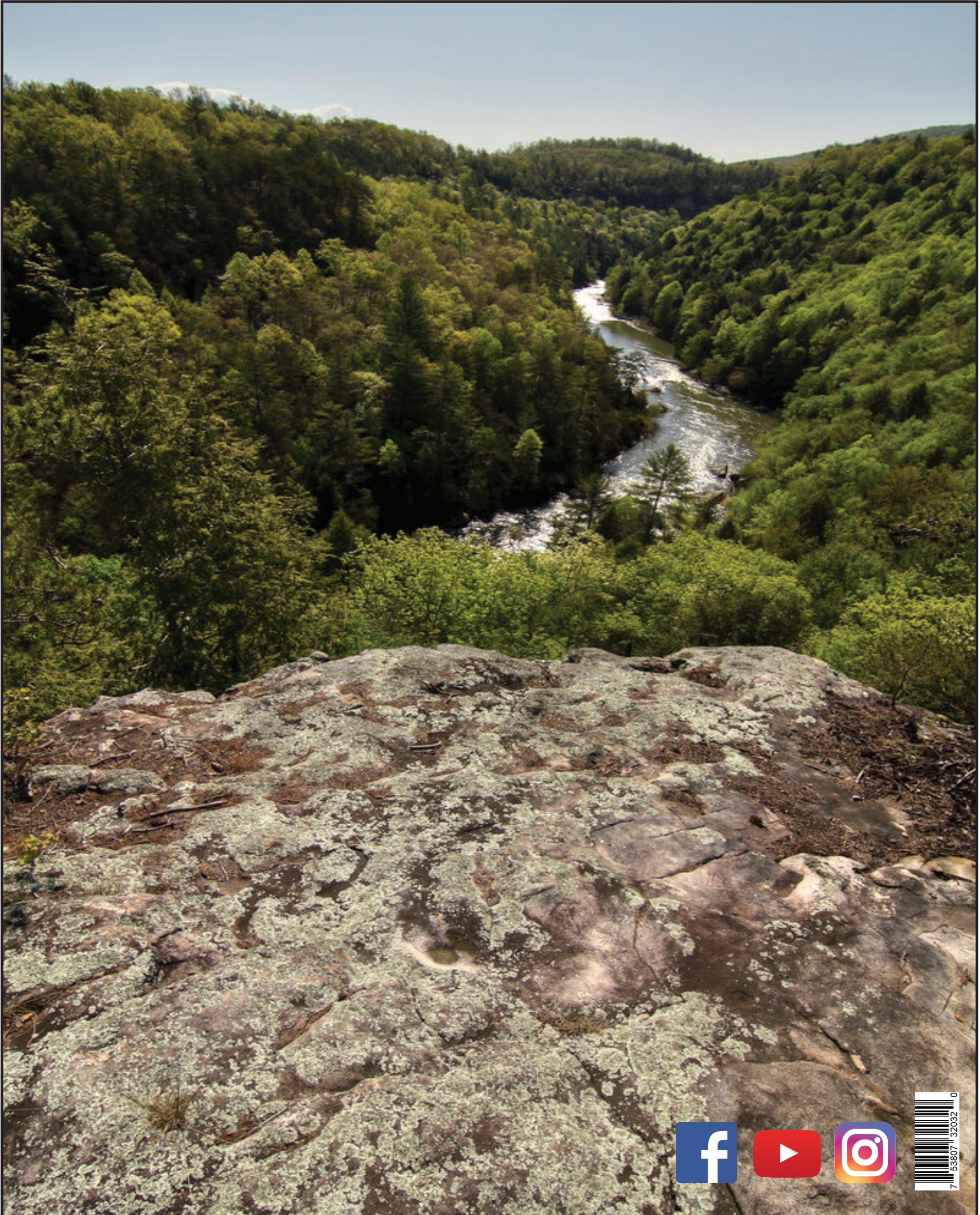
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75¢



Morgan County Today
Your Community. Your News.

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**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

Sheriff Wayne Potter

Sheriff Potter was an honorable man who lead by example and left his community better than he found it.

Thank you, Sheriff Potter for your service to Morgan County and East Tennessee.



WEEKLY WEATHER

Tue 25	62°/36°	
Wed 26	63°/44°	
Thu 27	51°/35°	
Fri 28	53°/36°	
Sat 01	55°/30°	
Sun 02	43°/29°	
Mon 03	51°/42°	

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Morgan County School District of Morgan County, Tennessee, acting by and through its Governing Board, hereinafter referred to as the District will receive up to, but not later than 10:00 A.M. February 28th, at 136 Flat Fork Road, Wartburg, TN 37887, sealed bids for the award of E-Rate contracts for the following:

E-RATE 2025-2026
CATEGORY 2
Internal Connections

Mini Bid has been posted TEBC approved vendors

All proposals shall be submitted separately and sealed in a package plainly marked with the appropriate title. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive informality in any proposals received. No vendor may withdraw his proposal for a period of Ninety (90) calendar days after the date set for the receipt of proposals.

Vendor must participate in the E-Rate Program and must provide a Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) and Federal Registration Number (FCC-FRN) with the proposal.

COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION

East Tennessee Human Resource Agency (ETHRA) will distribute Commodities, Thursday, March 6, 8 am to 12 pm, at the Wartburg Civic Center. You may pick up for 3 households only. Please bring a box for your commodities. Households can pre-register prior to distribution date at the ETHRA office located next to Wartburg High School. For more information, call 423-346-6651 or 865-312-7741, option 5. This program is funded under an agreement with the Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal law and USDA, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

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.



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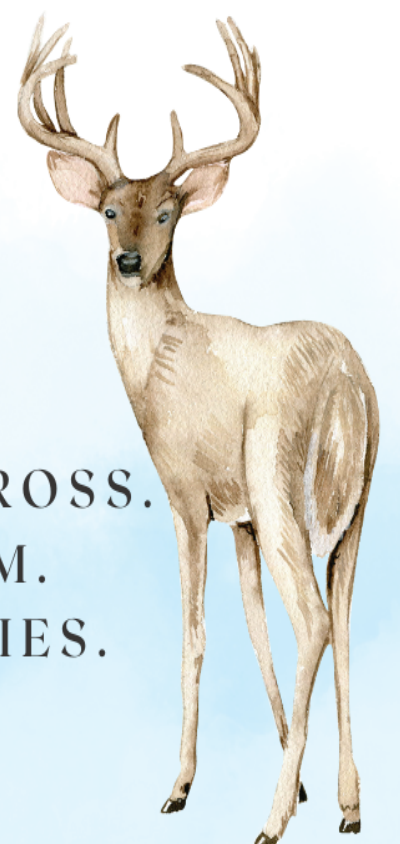
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Spring Play 2025 - Play Summary Hospital Hijinx by R. Eugene Jackson

Oakdale High School Drama Club invites audiences to attend the 40th anniversary of the Oakdale School Spring Play by watching the hilarious show Hospital Hijinx by R. Eugene Jackson. If ever there was an emergency, it's the emergency room at Calamity University Hospital! The two on-duty doctors have been mysteriously shipped out of the country, essential medical supplies keep disappearing, and four student nurses, whose grades were so low they had to get down on their hands and knees to read them, have been assigned there.

Add to the mix Nurse Blair, who gets hysterical over something like a split fingernail; Zeola, a student who accidentally glues herself to her desk during a test; and Professor Throttlebots, who tries to freeze-dry himself, and you have the makings for a hilarious hospital romp.

With the help of Calamity Hospital Administrator, Mr. Pinchpenny, and his secretary, Ms. Broadside, the unscrupulous Dr. Popov, owner of a rival medical center, along with his henchmen, the handsome young Leo and the clumsy bruiser, Crusher, has conspired to deplete the resources of Calamity Hospital so that Dr. Popov will have a monopoly on medical care for the area.

The student nurses may not know how to take a patient's temperature or blood pressure, but they do enjoy a thrilling adventure as they disguise themselves as a doctor, a nurse, and a sanitation engineer (floor mopper) in order to thwart the conspiracy. In doing so, the "doctor" is forced to "operate" on four villains simultaneously as the "nurse" wraps them in bandages until they are incapacitated mummies. Show times are as follows:

Reservations for Dinner Theater will open on Wednesday, February 26, 2025. To make reservations, call Oakdale School at 423-369-3885 or email Julie Johnson Crowe at johnsonj@mcsed.net.

The Dinner Theater meal will be catered by The Flying Pig in Crossville, TN, and includes: Chicken and Pork, Macaroni and Cheese, Cole Slaw, Banana Pudding, and Sweet/Unsweet Tea.

Date	Time	Cost	Audience
Monday, March 17, 2025	12:45 p.m.	\$2.00	Grades K-5
Tuesday, March 18, 2025	12:45 p.m.	\$2.00	Grades 6-8
Wednesday, March 19, 2025	12:45 p.m.	\$2.00	Grades 9-12
Thursday, March 20, 2025	7:00 p.m.	\$6.00	General Admission
Friday, March 21, 2025	6:00 p.m.	\$20.00	Dinner Theater
Saturday, March 22, 2025	6:00 p.m.	\$20.00	Dinner Theater



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— In Loving Memory —

Sheriff Wayne Potter, 50



**Morgan County Sheriff
Wayne M. Potter**

January 3, 1975 – February 18, 2025

Sheriff Wayne Potter, a devoted son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, public servant, and respected leader in Morgan County, passed away on Tuesday February 18, 2025. Sheriff Potter was a dedicated Christian and God-fearing man, saved by grace and lived in the peace of knowing his eternal resting place was in a perfect heaven.

Early Life and Education

Born on January 3, 1975 in Oak Ridge, TN at Methodist Medical Center. Sheriff Potter grew up in Wartburg, Tennessee and is an alumnus of Wartburg Central High School. Sheriff Potter, additionally, is a graduate of Cleveland State University, earning his graduation from the Cleveland State University Law Enforcement Training Academy.

Law Enforcement Career

Sheriff Potter dedicated his life to serving and protecting the citizens of Morgan County. He began his law enforcement career in 1995 as a correctional officer with the Tennessee Department of Corrections at Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary. In 1998 he began his career at the Morgan County Sheriff's Office working in the jail as a correctional officer. Over the years, he rose through the ranks, earning the respect and admiration of his colleagues and the community, serving in various additional roles as a school resource officer, patrolman and narcotics investigator. Sheriff Potter also served in roles as a law enforcement professional with the Cities of Wartburg Police Department and the Oliver Springs Police Department.

Sheriff of Morgan County

In 2018, Sheriff Potter was elected as the Sheriff of Morgan County and subsequently re-elected sheriff in 2022, marking a time of history making in Morgan County as the first elected sheriff without political opposition. He held the position of Sheriff of Morgan County, with honor and distinction, until his passing. During his tenure, he implemented numerous initiatives to improve public safety, reduce crime, and enhance com-

munity relations for the citizens of Morgan County and the Morgan County Government. Sheriff Potter has been praised by local, state and federal leaders for his efforts as a law enforcement leader and community caretaker, earning personal praise and appreciation from United States President Donald Trump for his service of excellence to his community and the State of Tennessee. Sheriff Potter was a championing figure and voice on behalf of the citizens of Morgan County, victims of crime, and the employees of the Morgan County Sheriff's Office.

Personal Life

Sheriff Potter is preceded in death by his mother Nancy Justes Potter, father "C.L." Claude Luther Potter, brother William Michael (Porky) Potter. Sheriff Potter is survived by his loving wife, Lea Potter; children; son Jesse Garcia, daughter Mary McCoy and husband Brandon, daughter Wendy (Marie) Potter Freels and husband Hayden, daughter Wayna (Malea) Potter, daughter Wayla (Makaela) Potter, son Wayne Potter Jr., granddaughters; Adrianna Jessalynn Garcia and Amaia Skye McCoy. Siblings'; sister Wendy (Missy) Potter Vespie and husband Douglas, and brother Walter Potter and wife Lorie. He was a devoted family man and cherished the time spent with his

loved ones. Traveling and seeing the country was his favorite pastime with his family. His most proud accomplishment was in that of his family. Sheriff Potter was also an entrepreneur, providing for his family by owning local businesses and property investment management. Additionally, Sheriff Potter was the former owner of Blue Line Security, headquartered in Wartburg, Tennessee providing security services all over the country and outside of the United States.

Visitation and Services

The family will welcome friends and the community on Saturday February 22, 2025 from 11am until 2pm at the Wartburg Central High School, with the funeral service to begin at 2pm. Interment will follow at the Armes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery at 4pm. Services officiated by Rev. Chaplain Charles Webb and Rev. Roy Langley.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Sheriff Wayne M. Potter.

Niana Opal Vespie, 90



Niana Opal Vespie, age 90, left us peacefully in the early morning on February 19, 2025.

Opal was preceded in death by her husband Louis "Sonny" Vespie and daughter, Kathy Pless Burnette; also, lifelong friend Brenda Layne.

She is survived by her daughters Dale Pless Duckett of Hot Springs, N.C., Darlene Pless Mathews

(Hugh) of Canton, N.C., Diana Redmon (Lynn) of Wartburg, TN. and son Eric Murphy (Olivia) of Easley, S.C.; 12 grandchildren Crystal Moore (Jeff), Keisha Rathbone (Tyler), Kaysie Duckett, Misty Trantham (Matthew), Lindsey Hipps (Casey), Megan Murphy, Emily Fassett (Justin), Brianna Murphy, Dalene Brown, Bobby Burnette, Jr., Stephen Redmon (Brittany), and Jozi Redmon; 24 great grandchildren, 8 great, great grandchildren, extended family Joe Layne, Jennifer Heidel and Alisha Taylor,

Momma was a hard-working woman all her life. She loved her family, banana splits and her furbaby, "Boots". Her chicken-n-dump with cat head biscuits and hot peach cobbler were second to none! You never had to ask what she was thinking cause her face said it! Lastly... hearing her say, "Im praying for you", is the greatest memory of all.

The family would like to thank all who has had a part in her care over the last few months. Life Care of Morgan County, Morgan County Ambulance Service and many thanks to Quality Home Health Care of Morgan County and Schubert Funeral Home.

The family will receive friends Sunday, February 23, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 2:00-4:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 4:00 p.m. with Bro. Jim Disney officiating. Interment will follow in the Morgan Memorial Gardens in Wartburg.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Niana Opal Vespie.



— In Loving Memory —

Mary Louise Sexton (Izquierdo)



ents Alfonso and Helen Izquierdo and one sister Anita, all of Joliet, IL.

Mary is survived by one son Alfonso Sexton and one daughter Deanna Marie Reynolds

Brother Alfonso (Izzy) and wife Rose Izquierdo.

Mary had 5 grandchildren, 7 great great grandchildren, several Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews of Crest Hill, Chicago and also survived by a lot of dear friends.

Mary will be buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery, Deer Lodge, Tn

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mary Louise Sexton (Izquierdo)

Mary Louise Sexton (Izquierdo) passed away peacefully on January 28, 2025, at her home in Deer Lodge. She was of the Catholic Faith, born and raised in Joliet, IL.

Mary lived in Deer Lodge with her late husband Billy Joe Sexton, for 46 years. She was married to Billy Joe Sexton for 63 years.

Mary was preceded in death by her son Billy Joe Jr., par-

Mae Ann Webb



She is survived by her son Timothy Andrew "Andy" Webb currently of Lancing; grandchildren Nora Leann Webb currently of Lancing, Matthew Ryan Johnson of Rockingham, NC.; sisters Glenda Truett Medina currently of Lancing, Kathy Elizabeth of Little River, SC. and James Truett of Rockingham, NC.; ex-husband and father of her children Gary Webb of Lancing and a host of cousins, nieces, and nephews.

The family has chosen cremation. Celebration of Life will be scheduled at a later date.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mae Ann Webb.

Mae Ann Webb, our beloved mother, grandmother, and sister gained her wings on Friday, February 14, 2025. She was a hardworking and a hard loving woman.

She is preceded in death by her parents Daisy and William Truett; brothers "Bubba" and Wayne and son Gary, Jr.

Psalm 123:1

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

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

Charles Webb, 76



He is survived by his wife of 57 years Kathy Webb; son Charlie (Hope) Webb and daughter Sandra; sisters Peggy, Linda, and Becky; brother Douglas; sisters-in-law Doris Dennison and Tillie Webb; brothers-in-law Joe (Barbara), Darrell (Sheila) and Ed (Mary); grandchildren Charles Andrew, Kendall, Flint, and Catelyn; great grandchildren Tarah, Charlee, Daisy, Kendall, Brittany, Addie, Maddie and Isaiah and beloved pet Miss Kitty and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Charles Webb.

Charles Webb, age 76 of Sunbright passed away February 15, 2025 at his home.

He is preceded in death by his parents Lum & Nancy Webb; brothers James, John, Roger, and Ricky; sisters Nettie, Sue, and Marsha; father and mother-in-law Alvie & Charlene Walker; brothers-in-law Roy Wayne Walker and James Dennison; son-in-law Glen Risner; sisters-in-law Shirley Walker, Maria Walker and Lea Webb.

Wilma Jean Valentine



She was a lifetime resident of Morgan County. She was a dedicated servant of the Lord and lived a life of service. She was also an accomplished author and dearly beloved by all who knew her.

The family thanks everyone for their love and support.

The family will have a private memorial service.

Wilma Jean Valentine went to her Lord on February 17, 2025.

She is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Labron Valentine, Jr.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Wilma Jean Valentine.

She is survived by her twin sister, Thelma Hartigan and brother Ben Christopher and by many extended family and friends.



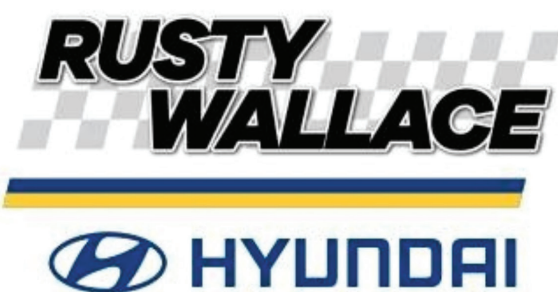
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IRS terminates 6,000 employees



David Zubler
Columnist

Over 6,000 IRS employees are expected to be terminated in February.

The layoffs are taking place after the Trump administration and the Office of Personnel Management issued a directive to cut probationary workers across federal agencies. The federal government's probationary workers are workers who are still in a trial period that usually extends for one to two years of employment in their position.

An email was sent to managers of the IRS Small Business/Self-Employed Division (SB/SE),

which said the affected SB/SE employees will be notified by the IRS Human Capital Office. More than 3,500 employees are expected to be terminated from the SB/SE division at the IRS.

The SB/SE division is responsible for making sure small business owners comply with their tax obligations, and it offers help with debt resolution. It serves more than 57 million small business owners and entrepreneurs.

The terminations are expected to disproportionately hit staff working in enforcement, partly because they represent a large share of those recently hired, which could have a negative impact on tax collections.

The email, signed by SB/SE commissioner Lia Colbert and SB/SE deputy commissioner Maha Williams, says that "while details are still developing, we understand that over 3,500 SB/SE probationary hires will be terminated by the end of this week."

According to the email, the employees who are expected to be fired are not considered to be critical to filing season. The layoffs will occur before the tax filing season reaches peak activity.

Before the cuts of employees at several agencies began last week, federal employees were offered a "deferred resignation" buyout program. The program offered employees the option to resign and go on administrative leave while retaining their pay and benefits until Sept. 30. Over 75,000 employees accepted the offer to resign before the program's deadline, according to the White House.

The IRS used 82,990 full-time equivalent positions to carry out its work in 2023. The employee layoffs would be about a 7.5% reduction in the IRS workforce.

Former IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig, who managed the IRS during Trump's first term, criticized the layoff plan. Rettig said, "An underfunded IRS significantly benefits unidentified, noncompliant taxpayers at the direct expense of compliant taxpayers."

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

The Willow Brook Legacy of Herbert Dodd

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Benita Albert with help from Julie Dodd have provided a sensational account of Julie's dad, Herbert Dodd. Enjoy looking back at excellence in education in Oak Ridge schools.

The Willow Brook Bear, a gift from the estate of Herbert Dodd, who was the Willow Brook Principal from 1966-1981, has returned to its den. With a joyful hug, Principal Jenifer Laurendine and Assistant Principal Jason Nussbaum welcomed the stuffed mascot dressed in a red knit sweater with black, embossed lettering and thus fittingly sporting the school colors.

I was curious to know more about Herbert Dodd, a legendary educational leader in the Oak Ridge Schools from 1943 until his retirement in 1981. Thus, I reached out to the bear's donor, Julie Dodd, the daughter of Thelma and Herbert Dodd. I asked for her input on her parents' roots, their Oak Ridge lives, and especially, memories from her dad's Willow Brook years.

Julie was educated in the Oak Ridge Schools and graduated from Oak Ridge High School in 1968. She provided the following, interesting insights regarding her parents.

"Dad grew up in Martin, TN. He started college at the University of Tennessee Junior College (now University of Tennessee/Martin) and then transferred to UT/Knoxville, where he completed his undergraduate degree, with a major in English and a minor in Social Studies, and he sang in the UT Men's Glee Club. While a student, Dad was struck by a hit-and-run driver. The accident gave him a collapsed lung and broken ribs, which made him ineligible for medical reasons for military service during WWII.

Mom (Thelma Henry Iles) grew up in Chattanooga. She earned her undergraduate degree at Maryville College, majoring in Latin with minors in History and French. Her activities included Student Council, YWCA Cabinet, and stage manager for theater productions.

My parents first met when they were English teachers at the Allen Grammar School in Cleveland, TN, in the 1930s. At that point they were colleagues but did not date.

After five years at the Allen Grammar School, Dad became teaching principal of an elementary school in Humboldt, TN. He was selected for a two-week program to tour outstanding schools in Tennessee and surrounding states. The following year, he was appointed supervisor of Giles County elementary schools.

He returned to UTK to work on his master's degree in administration and supervision. While attending graduate school in the summer of 1943, Dad's major professor arranged for Dad to have an interview with Oak Ridge Schools' Superintendent Dr. Alden Blankenship.

Dr. Blankenship hired Dad to be an elementary school principal in the newly starting Oak Ridge Schools. He received a 10-month appointment and a salary of \$1,900. When Dad arrived in Oak Ridge to start work, he learned he was the first principal hired. As the school system was just getting started, Dad had no students, no teachers, and no building. Dr. Blankenship asked Dad to help each elementary school get set up and open. Dad helped hire the school district's teachers and helped conduct the first orientation for new teachers in Towne Center (now The Oak Ridge Playhouse).

Meanwhile, Mom completed her master's degree at UTK. She served as the first president of the newly formed chapter of Pi Lambda Theta,

an education honorary society. She worked in the UT Graduate School Office and then was hired by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) as a secretary. Such a position was the employment option for women at that time, even though Mom had a master's degree.

When WWII military service for men created more job opportunities for women, Mom's role and duties increased. She served in TVA's Personnel Relations Branch, working with the 'cooperative program' -- an alliance between TVA and the Tennessee Valley Trades and Labor Council. She edited the organizations' publications.

My parents reconnected when they were both at UTK and married in 1945. They lived in an apartment and then a "B" cemesto on West Outer Drive.

Dad was principal of Cedar Hill Elementary School, and Mom commuted to Knoxville to continue working for TVA. When I was born, she worked for TVA in a part-time before leaving TVA to be a full-time mom and homemaker. She was active in church and civic organizations, including the American Association of University Women.

Mom began substitute teaching when I started Jefferson Junior High School. She taught all grade levels and subjects. I knew how difficult substitute teaching could be as not all students were cooperative with subs.

Mom moved into full-time teaching at Highland View and then Linden. Mom was a great organizer and designed many interesting teaching units and assignments. I really enjoyed helping her create her bulletin boards before the start of the school year, and, sometimes, I helped with her class activities.

Mom and Dad were inspiring educators. They kept up on the latest curriculum advances and enjoyed finding better ways to accomplish educational goals. They promoted collaboration with their colleagues and with students."

Julie was a first-hand witness to the work ethic, innovation, and dedication of her parent educators. She followed their lead and joined the staff of Oak Ridge High School after first teaching in Lexington, KY, and earning her doctorate from the University of Kentucky. Joining the staff of ORHS in school year 1982-83, she taught English and served as adviser for both the Oak Log (Yearbook) and Oak Leaf (newspaper) throughout her six-year tenure in Oak Ridge.

In 1988, Julie accepted a position in the College of Journalism and Communications at the University of Florida (UF) where she served for 28 years. She estimated she taught more than 11,000 students from courses in introductory writing to graduate level coursework in "Mass Communication Teaching." For the first eleven years at UF, she served as Executive Director of the Florida Scholastic Press Association. When she retired, the college named the graduate student teaching award in her honor, and she was bestowed the title Professor Emerita.

Returning to the inspiration for this article, I asked Julie to discuss her father's special

memories from his time as Willow Brook Principal and the reason for his move from his beloved Cedar Hill School position where he served as principal from 1944-1966.

Julie responded, "The Superintendent



Thelma and Herbert Dodd stand in the yard behind their "B" cemesto on West Outer Drive. Photograph taken about 1949. (Courtesy of Julie Dodd)

asked Dad to move to Willow Brook. The Willow Brook principal had resigned after serving part of the previous school year following the unexpected death of Willow Brook's previous principal. Dad told the Superintendent 'Yes'--with the request that his long-term Cedar Hill secretary, Mary Snyder, would make the move with him. Dad served as Cedar Hill Principal for 23 years, from the school opening in the winter of 1944, so leaving was difficult. He served as Willow Brook Principal for 15 years and really loved his experience with the faculty and students."

I first learned of Herbert Dodd via the teacher grapevine, of his legendary, pioneering status in the Oak Ridge Schools and of his devoted teacher following. I heard him described as an encouraging leader, an innovative program advocate, and a teaching mentor. Julie shared some examples from his time at Willow Brook, of his effective leadership qualities and his pride in the exceptional educators he supported.

Promoting an Innovative Curriculum

"Dad provided students and teachers with new opportunities for creative and hands-on learning. He was active in the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools and gained teaching and curriculum ideas from attending SACS conventions and observing in other schools and he encouraged the teachers to develop their own creative approaches.

He was proud when his teachers received grants or recognition. The Willow Brook Gazette, advised by sixth grade teacher Sue Elkins, won first place in 1980 in a national competition for elementary school newspapers. In 1982, Elkins was named Tennessee Teacher of the Year. Music teacher Eunetta McMahon received a state-administered federal grant to develop individualized instruction in piano, guitar, recorder and autoharp.

An advocate of environmental education, Dad helped create the Tremont Experience for sixth graders. Through the program, many of the Willow Brook students visited the Great Smoky Mountains National Park for the first time.

Historically Speaking

The Willow Brook Legacy of Herbert Dodd

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

As another way of promoting creative opportunities for teachers and students, Dad served on the advisory board for the school system's new Teacher Center and worked with Teacher Center Director Jinx Bohstedt Watson."

Creating a Team

"Dad cultivated and supported team spirit and camaraderie among the Willow Brook staff. He also promoted collaboration between different generations of teachers--from Willow Brook's experienced teachers, including Lucille Stevens Brown, Helen Catron, Fay Hale, Martha Lewis and Nancy Scarbrough, to new teachers, including Gordon Campbell, Mark Diemer, Tom Gentry, Alma Golden and Lou Volk.

Throughout his career in the Oak Ridge Schools, Dad helped recruit new teachers for the Oak Ridge Schools. While principal at Willow Brook, he traveled with Personnel Director Gilbert Scarbrough to regional college campuses to interview graduating seniors.

Pat Wilson recently told me about being one of the teachers Dad recruited when she was a senior at Murray State University. After the interview, Dad encouraged her to come to Oak Ridge for a follow-up interview. She did and was hired, starting at Willow Brook the fall Dad became the school's principal."

Encouraging Leadership

"Dad encouraged his teachers to attend workshops, pursue graduate degrees and seek leadership opportunities. Several of his faculty went on to take administrative roles, including Howie Irwin and Lana Seivers.

Howie Irwin, who had been a student at Cedar Hill with Dad as his principal, started his teaching career at Willow Brook with Dad and then became the principal at Glenwood Elementary School.

Lana Seivers started her teaching career at Willow Brook. She went on to be Linden's principal, the Superintendent of Clinton City Schools, and then Tennessee State Education Commissioner.

Dad followed the careers of his students and teachers after they left Willow Brook."

Herbert Dodd made plans to retire at the end of the 1978 school year due to the government guideline of mandatory retirement at age 65. His faculty planned a retirement party, but they also made their wishes known for him to continue if it was at all possible. Julie recalled this special request: "In March 1978, The Willow Brook Principal Selection Committee and the Willow Brook PTA petitioned Superintendent Kenneth Loflin and the School Board to continue Dad's contract due to 'his expertise in his work, his good health, and the pending legislation before Congress to extend the mandatory retirement age to 70.'"

Julie continued, "With the active support of the Willow Brook PTA, staff, and parents, the School Board renewed Dad's contract. Dad was honored to be asked to continue, and he was touched by the enthusiastic support he received.

Willow Brook teachers had been planning for Dad's retirement, not knowing what would be the outcome of the school district's decision. Polly Cloyd led the women faculty in creating a beautiful cathedral quilt. Led by Tom Gentry, the male teachers made a latch hook rug that matched the quilt's design. When the school district re-



Herbert and Thelma (seated to his right) Dodd threw a surprise party for the Willow Brook faculty in the school library when he announced his retirement on June 11, 1981. From left to right: Polly Cloyd, Sally Bowers, Ann Lay, Fay Hale, Thelma Dodd, Herbert Dodd, Janet Kerr Myers and Eunetta McMahon. (Courtesy of Julie Dodd)

newed Dad's contract, the teachers decided to hold a celebration party (instead of a retirement party) and presented their handcrafted gifts to Dad and Mom.

Dad continued as Willow Brook Principal for three more years. A week before the end of the 1981 school year, Dad learned from the Tennessee teachers' retirement office that he had reached the maximum teaching/salary limit on its scale at

display. The teachers were surprised to hear Dad announce his immediate retirement."

Julie recalled, "The Oak Ridger's front-page story, the following day, ran with the headline, 'Premier Principal Retires.' Reporter Patricia Yaroch said of Dad's surprise announcement that 'It was one of the best kept secrets since the Manhattan Project.'"

"Although Dad hadn't wanted a retirement party, Willow Brook teachers and parents wanted to make sure he was recognized. Helen Catron, Betty Ann Domm, Tom Gentry, Fay Hale, Linda Hawthorne, Marie Lousteau and Twinkle Tindall planned a special Willow Brook assembly that was held the following November.

At the assembly, the students presented Dad with an evergreen tree that later was planted on the school grounds. The planning committee presented Dad with an album of more than a hundred letters, cards and messages from appreciative faculty, administrators, students, and parents. Teacher Helen Catron wrote of the close bond Dodd created, a family atmosphere among the staff and of a caring principal who knew his students' names. I recently re-read the contents of the album and the outpouring of enthusiasm for Dad's role as Willow Brook Principal--educator, leader, mentor, and advocate. After his retirement, he and retired Willow Brook teachers would meet regularly for lunch visits."

During Willow Brook's 76th year, a piece of Herbert Dodd has been returned via the Willow Brook Bear. As I was the one privileged to return the bear to its 'forever den,' I also wanted a written memory of Herbert

Dodd's legacy to be revisited for the public. It was the dedicated work of early educators like Herbert and Thelma Dodd that set the high standards and expectations in the Oak Ridge Schools. They coined the Oak Ridge Schools' logo, "Excellence in Education," and they lived it in their exemplary work.

Thank you, Benita and Julie! Herbert Dodd was certainly one of the exemplary educators in the Oak Ridge school system for years.



Herbert Dodd in his office at Willow Brook Elementary School (Courtesy of Julie Dodd)

45 years. Dad and Mom had deferred travel and other activities as Dad continued as principal. So, Dad decided to retire at the end of the school year.

Because the teachers had thrown a retirement party for him in 1978, Dad decided that he would not tell the faculty in advance so they would not host another retirement party. Instead, Dad, Mom, and I planned a party for the Willow Brook staff. He sent a letter to the faculty, asking them to return to Willow Brook for a short meeting after the end-of-year school system luncheon. They found the school library set up for a party, complete with the retirement quilt and rug on

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Attending an Oak Ridge Schools social event are (from left) Dr. Robert Smallridge (superintendent), Nick Orlando (Jefferson Junior High School coach), Wallace Spray (JJHS retired principal), Dr. William Burris (assistant superintendent) and Herbert Dodd. Dodd worked with 11 different superintendents during his 38 years as a principal in the Oak Ridge Schools. (Courtesy of Julie Dodd)



Willow Brook retired teachers met monthly for lunch visits. Around the table, from left to right: Stella Doyle, Mary Snyder, Pat Wilson, Helen Lewis, Katie Howell, Nancy Scarbrough, Polly Cloyd, obscured, Helen Ripley, Herbert Dodd, Lucille Stevens Brown, Fay Hale and Helen Catron. (Courtesy of Julie Dodd)



Willow Brook's men teachers are, seated, from left, Lamar Talbert, Tom Gentry and Gordon Campbell; standing, from left, Herbert Dodd, principal, Mark Diemer, Lou Volk, Tim Rogers, Fred Brandon and David Adcock, last year's music teacher.

The photograph of Herbert Dodd and Willow Brook's men teachers appeared in The Oak Ridger with a story headlined "Teachers at Willow Brook are sometimes father images." Julie Dodd discovered this photo and headline in the retirement album her dad received at the appreciation assembly held for him by the teachers, students and Willow Brook parents. (Courtesy of The Oak Ridger/Julie Dodd)

Luke Chapter 24



Melvin Howard

(Luke 24:1-12) Resurrection morning (Mt. 28:1-10; Mk. 16:1-11; Jn. 20:1-18): Read Matthew's account. Luke has mentioned that certain women identified the location of the tomb but went home to prepare spices for the anointing of the Lord's body. They rested on the Sabbath, but on Sunday morning, "at early dawn," they returned to the tomb, bringing the spices. They found the stone ("exceeding great" [Mark 16:4]) rolled away and the tomb empty. Luke mentions

two men (angels), whereas Matthew and Mark refer to only one (the more prominent). This constitutes no contradiction--rather, supplementation.

The women (Mary Magdalene, Joanna [see 8:3], Mary the mother of James, and other women) went and reported these things to the apostles, who dismissed the report of the resurrection as foolish nonsense; they disbelieved them (v. 11), demonstrating again no predisposition toward the resurrection of Jesus' body. Peter ran to the tomb and saw the linen cloths (Jn. 20:5). Presently, he departed, wondering what had happened. The resurrection event had not yet penetrated.

(Luke 24:13-35) The men of Emmaus: Two men (obviously among the larger company of disciples) were traveling from Jerusalem to Emmaus, about seven miles away. They were discussing the events of the crucifixion. As they were walking and discussing these matters, Jesus himself (emphatic) approached them, but their recognition "was restrained." The passive form suggests divine action (v. 31). Jesus would first teach them---unrecognized. The Lord asked what they were discussing; they stopped, with undisguised sadness on their faces (v.17).

One of the men was named Cleopas (not mentioned elsewhere). He thought it incredible that this stranger apparently knew nothing of the events of the past few days. "What things?" Jesus asked. The two disciples then rehearsed various facts concerning the Lord's words, work, and identity; then his crucifixion. They also revealed their dashed hope: "We hoped he was the one to redeem Israel." They had entertained the common messianic conviction that he would overthrow Rome and reestablish Israel's dream of a revived monarchy. They recounted the testimony of the women who had seen the empty tomb, the appearance of the angels, and the report that he was alive. Others had seen the empty tomb but not the Savior himself.

At an appropriate time, the Teacher gently admonished these disciples for being "slow of heart" to believe in the testimony of the prophets regarding the suffering of the Messiah, his resurrection, and eventual entrance into "his glory" (v.26). In view of this testimony, what is to be said of the critic who contends there are no "specific prophecies" in the Old Testament of these events? Christ then cited from Moses and the prophets (the Old Testament Scriptures) "interpreting" (v. 32) passages "concerning himself" (v. 27). As they traveled on, the Lord paused and they assumed he was leaving them; they pressured him, begging him to remain, for it was now evening.

They reached their dwelling and the Lord sat down with them for a meal. It must have appeared odd that he assumed the authoritative role of host; he took the loaf, gave thanks for it, broke it, and gave it to them (this was not a "communion" service). Immediately, their eyes "were opened" (the divinely imposed veil was removed) and they recognized him; but he vanished from their sight. They then reflected back on the strange feeling they had experienced when they talked with him en route to their home. Even though it was late (v. 29), they arose and made the trip back to Jerusalem. They found the apostles (minus Judas) still awake and talking about how Christ had appeared to Peter (a fact not mentioned earlier in this record), and they told of their own experience. This account is so detailed Luke may have interviewed one or both of these disciples. It bears every mark of integrity and has stood the test of the most vigorous hostile attacks.

(Luke 24:36-49) Jesus appears to the assembly (Jn. 20:19): As the disciples were discussing these matters, Jesus suddenly appeared, standing in the middle of the group. With that familiar "Peace" he greeted them. But they were terrified, supposing he was a "spirit." They had not anticipated his resurrection nor fully believed the reports they had heard. This is an important point. He pressed them: "Why are you troubled?" Why were they still questioning the reality of his resurrection? He now invites them to subject the case to scientific investigation. He encourages them to carefully examine his body: (a) "See that the nail prints are still in my hands and feet." (b) "Touch me to establish that I am flesh [not a ghost]." Note: Verse thirty-nine is an excellent definition (from a negative vantage point) of what a "spirit"

is not. For example, God is spirit (Jn. 4:24), but a spirit is not physical. Thus, God is not physical---as Mormonism alleges. Amazingly, Luke says they "disbelieved for joy" and continued to be in a fog of wonderment! He asked if they had food. They supplied him with a piece of fish and he ate it right in front of them---further proof of his resurrected body.

The Lord continued by pointing out that his death and resurrection (indeed "all" the things written in the Old Testament concerning him) had to be fulfilled. He affirmed: (a) the validity of Old Testament prophecy; (b) the fulfillment of "all" things in their due course; (c) that he was the primary focus of Scripture prophecy. This included such specifics as his suffering, death, and resurrection on the third day (Isa. 53; Psa. 16; Jn. 1:17 with Mt. 12:39-40). The practical application of this wonderfully divine plan was this: (a) Based upon (an implied) faith, lives were required to be changed by means of repentance so that forgiveness of sins could be enjoyed (Acts 2:38). (b) In due time, this plan would be available to "all nations" (Mt. 28:18), beginning with the establishment of the church (the kingdom) in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). The apostles were to be his witnesses and they would be completely empowered from heaven for the task (v. 49; Mk. 9:1; Acts 1:8; 2:4). There is a period of forty days between verses forty-nine and fifty (Acts 1:3). (For a list of Christ's post-resurrection appearances, see John's Gospel.)

(Luke 24:50-53) Christ's ascension (Acts 1:9-11): Following the forty-day period of various appearances, Jesus led the disciples out of the city, across the Kidron ravine to the Mount of Olives, near Bethany. He lifted his hands and pronounced a blessing upon them. As he did so, he departed from them (his own action) and then "was carried up" (Acts 1:9) into heaven (the action of God). The disciples "worshipped" him for the deity he was. They returned to Jerusalem "with great joy." The doubt of the early post-resurrection days was not completed gone. They went regularly to the temple, blessing God. It would take a while, with further revelation, for them to understand that the sacrifices of the temple and the priesthood of that system now were obsolete. A permanent sacrifice had been offered and a new High Priest had entered the Holy of Holies (Heb. 10:10; 19-20).

John 3:5 "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

Mark 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

Matthew 28:18-20 "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Romans 6:3-6 "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

1 Peter 3:21-22 "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him."

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