



Here are the keys.

- Lower down payment
- No-PMI options
- Competitive rates

NMLS 167911. Federally Insured by NCUA. Restrictions apply. Not a government-affiliated agency. All applications subject to underwriting guidelines and approval. Rates based on creditworthiness. Ask for details.



Meet our Loan Officers!

(865) 544-5400
tvacreditunion.com



Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3
www.mocotoday.com
Volume 11 Number 13
Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Your Community. Your News.

75¢



Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

PUBLISHER:
TOMMY LEE FRANCIS
PUBLISHER@MOCOTODAY.COM

EDITOR:
HEATHER FRANCIS
EDITOR@MOCOTODAY.COM

ADVERTISING:
ADVERTISING@MOCOTODAY.COM

**MAIL DELIVERY
SUBSCRIPTIONS**

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

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

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

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



**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

Fur-babies in a Storm

This past week started with thunder storms. They generally do not bother me.

Ms Ivory on the other hand, is fine with the rain. Thunder and lightning, not so much. She absolutely does not like it.

Poor little thing, just vibrates like a cell phone during the storms. She runs and hides in her bed under the table. When it thunders again, she jumps on Mimi and wants her to snuggle and scratch her ears. She grunts and groans and it is so pitiful. Mimi holds her like a baby and tells her it will be alright.

Any-woof, I could care less. Until, it thunders so loud the floor rumbles. That's not fun at all. Thankfully, that rarely happens. Storms generally just make me sleepy.

Moral of the story: When it storms, check on us Fur-babies. We may be scared and need extra wuffins.



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

WEEKLY WEATHER

**CITIZENS
GAS
UTILITY DISTRICT**
of Scott and Morgan Counties

Tue 01	64°/51°	
Wed 02	77°/64°	
Thu 03	78°/63°	
Fri 04	75°/59°	
Sat 05	70°/51°	
Sun 06	62°/45°	
Mon 07	62°/39°	

Tennessee 811
Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



© 1984 FarWorks, Inc. All rights reserved.

"And now Edgar's gone. ... Something's going on around here."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Save the Date: 25th Annual Spring Planting and Music Festival

Oneida, Tennessee - Mark your calendars for the **25th Annual Spring Planting and Music Festival** on **Saturday, April 26, 2025, at Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area**. This beloved event offers a unique opportunity to step back in time and experience the Appalachian way of life that has played such an important role in the history of the Big South Fork area.

Celebrating the traditions of early Appalachian settlers, the festival highlights the self-reliant practices of subsistence farming, a way of life that relied on the surrounding forest and passed down generations of knowledge, skills, and values. Visitors will enjoy live demonstrations of traditional crafts, including woodcarving, blacksmithing, beekeeping, textile weaving, hide tanning, and longbow hunting. Children and adults alike will be delighted by old-time toys, and farm animals.

Toe-tapping Mountain music will be performed throughout the day by talented local musicians, creating a lively and authentic atmosphere. A festival favorite, plowing and planting with mules, will take place at the Lora Blevins field, offering a rare glimpse into historical farming practices. Additional demonstrations will be hosted at the Oscar Blevins Farm Site.

This free, family-friendly event runs from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (ET). Shuttles will transport visitors between key locations so they can enjoy all the festival has to offer. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket, relax, and spend the day immersed in music, history, and heritage.

Come celebrate this way of life with us as we provide memorable opportunities for you to experience this important part of our history. For more information about this event, click here: <https://www.nps.gov/biso/planyourvisit/springplanting.htm>

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Big South Fork NRRRA News Release Release Date: March 18, 2025
Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area 4564 Leatherwood Road Oneida, TN 37841
423-569-9778 phone www.nps.gov/biso

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.



David Zubler
Columnist

Avoid the increasing estimated tax penalty

The estimated tax penalty has more than doubled since 2002, which has surprised many people.

Anyone who underpays their tax during the year is subject to the IRS estimated tax penalty, unless they owe less than \$1,000.

The penalty equals the federal short-term interest rate plus 9 percent. Due to the rapidly increasing interest rate, the penalty has risen from 3 percent to 8 percent since 2022.

Most people with only W2s have enough tax withheld from their pay to avoid the estimated tax penalty.

However, people who receive substantial income from sources such as interest, dividends, capital gains, rent, royalties, and K-1s may be subject to the penalty. You can pay additional tax by increasing your withholding from wages or making estimated payments.

Individuals are required to pay 25 percent of their annual payment to the IRS by April 15, June 15, September 15, and January 15. Since the tax is due each quarter, you can't reduce the penalty by paying more in a later period.

The required annual payment is the smaller of:

- 90 percent of the total tax due for the current year, or
- 100 percent of the total tax paid the previous year (110 percent taxpayers with gross incomes of more than \$150,000 married filing jointly and \$75,000 singles and married filing separately)

You can choose the option of using the "annualized income installment method." This method can be beneficial if you receive income unevenly throughout the year. This method requires you to calculate your tax liability for each quarter.

You can calculate the estimated tax penalty by completing IRS Form 2210, or you can let the IRS calculate the penalty and send you a bill.

However, estimated tax penalties are not eligible for first-time abatement and the reasonable cause waiver.

The estimated tax penalty can be waived in very limited circumstances. The circumstances include casualty, disaster, newly retired, and disabled individuals.

The IRS will waive all or part of your penalty if:

- you retired after age 62 during the year the estimated taxes were unpaid or the previous year, or
- you became disabled, and
- there was reasonable cause for not making a payment and willful neglect

Reasonable cause abatement only applies for newly retired or disabled individuals. The estimated tax penalty does not qualify for the first-time abatement penalty waiver.

Estimated payments can be made by check and money order or can be made on the IRS website.

With the significant increase in the estimated tax penalty, making estimated tax payments can provide additional tax savings.

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.

setting up an Annuity or Rolling-over an IRA

- ◆ 5%+ BONUSES ON YOUR DEPOSITS
- ◆ YEARLY LOCK-IN OF ALL GAINS
- ◆ PRINCIPAL GUARANTEED
- ◆ A+ COMPANIES
- ◆ ALL INTEREST TAX DEFERRED



DAVIS INSURANCE GROUP

NEW YEAR ...

NEW INVESTMENTS

Let us help you to protect your money!

423.346.4978

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

Allen G. Davis

Owner/Insurance Specialist
allendavisinsruance@gmail.com

Jennifer Davis Ridge

Office Manager/Agent
jridge.davisinsruance@gmail.com

Vanessa Taylor

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

— In Loving Memory —

Tammy K. Redmon, 55



Tammy is preceded in death by her father Arthur Butler; paternal grandparents Roy and Ellen Butler; Maternal grandparents, Ben & Connie Chappell; and special friend Michael Goad.

She leaves behind her daughter Amber Redmon (Brad Walls), who was her pride and joy, her guiding light, and her most treasured accomplishment, her early spouse of 17 years Tim Redmon. Her loving mother Ivylyn-Margie Butler. Her siblings who she cherished, Michael Chappell, Jesse Bulter (Tony Babb), and Barbara York (Darrick). Her Grandchildren Colt, Lillie, Jack, and Oliver. Her special nieces Deborah Northrup (Jared) and Ashley Wilson (Matthew). As well as a host of great nieces and nephews who will miss her deeply and cherish every moment they spent in her nurturing embrace.

As we say goodbye to Tammy Kay Redmon, we celebrate the life of a woman who was a beacon of kindness and love. Her legacy is one of unwavering devotion to her family, a testament to the beautiful life she lived, and the countless lives she touched. Tammy's memory will be treasured forever, as we hold her close in our hearts and remember the light she brought into this world.

Services are pending at this time.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Tammy K. Redmon.

Tammy K. Redmon passed away surrounded by loved ones on March 24, 2025, at Roane Medical Center at the age of 55. Tammy is a child of God and never forgot the day she turned her life over to him at Rankin Chapel Baptist Church.

Tammy was born October 24th, 1969, in Rocky top, TN. She grew up in the small town of Oakdale where she started her little family. Tammy's daughter, Amber, was her ultimate passion, and she devoted herself to being the best mother possible. As well as taking care of her two nieces. She loved spending her days playing pretend, teaching them to color in the lines, as well as watching them run through the garden or splash in the pool. As the years came, and the family grew so did Tammy's love. Becoming a grandmother was one of the highlights of her life.

Tammy's passing leaves a void in the hearts of those who knew her, but her spirit will continue to inspire and guide us. Her laughter, her love of life, and her ability to make everyone feel cherished will be sorely missed but never forgotten.

Ashley Morgan Watts, 28



Hill, and Richard E. Hill (Lil Ricky); a host of second cousins; longtime family friend Ron Lee; and her childhood best friend Kelsie Strand and her mother, Donna Kreis.

Ashley enjoyed collecting rocks, photography, swimming and fishing.

Her celebration of life will be on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at Lilly Bluff. You may contact the family or Kelsie Strand for more information.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Ashley Morgan Watts.

Ashley Morgan Watts, 28, of Lancing, passed away on Saturday, March 22nd, 2025.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Sheila D. Hill and Roney Watts; and grandparents, Anna Lou White and Richard E. Hill.

She is survived by her uncle, Rickie E. Hill (Big Rick); first cousins Anna N. Hill, Julie M.

Paula "Faye" Hawn, 68



She is preceded in death by her parents Kenneth and Marie Hawn.

Faye is survived by her siblings and their spouses Rex & Pinky Hawn, Janice & Jerry Shephard, Ann Kennedy, Mike and special sister-in-law and caretaker Connie Hawn; special nephews Ryan & Derek Hawn and very special little great niece Ryanna-Lynn Hawn.

Paula "Faye" Hawn, age 68 of Deer Lodge went to her heavenly home on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 surrounded by her loved ones.

Faye may have been 68 years old in body with a 3 year old mind, yet she had a heart that was pure, tender, and oversized. She loved everyone from family, friends, to strangers. Faye loved going to church until she become bed fast. Still in her bed she sang songs of praise and loved the Lord.

The family will receive friends Saturday, March 29, 2025 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg. Funeral services will be Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at Schubert Funeral Home with Bro. Robert Freels officiating. Interment will follow in the Mt. Hope Cemetery in Deer Lodge.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Paula "Faye" Hawn.

Psalm 123:1

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

Velm "Elaine" Groom, 58



sons Josh Potter (Kaley) of Harriman, and Jeremy Potter (Jamie) of Huntsville; daughter-in-law Gloria Potter of Petros; grandchildren Samuel Potter (Cheyanne) of Coalfield, Chelsea Potter (Dalton) of Harriman, Tony Potter of Oakdale, Brenda Potter, Cozetta and Nevaeh Williams of Huntsville, John and Vincent Potter of Petros and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

Velma "Elaine" Groom, age 58 passed away at Tennova Turkey Creek on March 23, 2025.

Elaine was born on June 26, 1966 to Velma Mae and Samuel Cloud Potter.

She is preceded in death by her parents and several siblings Bill Gilreath, James Potter, Samuel "Ralph" Potter, Alan Potter, and Brenda Potter.

She is survived by her loving husband Jed Groom of Lancing; brothers Lee Potter and Glenn Potter; sisters Wanda Smith and Wilma Watkins;

The family will receive friends Thursday, March 27, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Bro. Dilbert Terry officiating. Graveside services will be Friday, at 11:00 a.m. in the Potters Chapel Cemetery in Lancing.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Velma "Elaine" Groom.

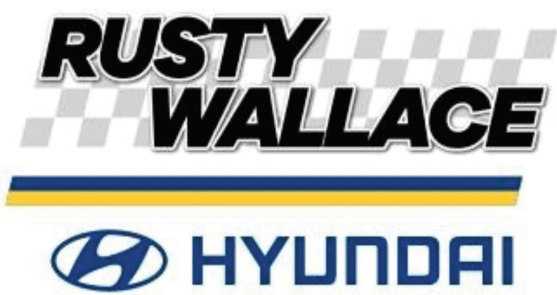
**Your Hyundai Dealer
NOW OPEN
in our NEW location!!!**

**DOUBLE
REBATES
UP TO
\$5,500!!!**



**TONS OF NEW
INVENTORY**

**LOCALLY OWNED, PEOPLE YOU KNOW!
WE TREAT YOU LIKE FAMILY!**



**4.9
GOOGLE
RATING**



HOME OF THE 200,000-MILE WARRANTY

*see dealer for details



**RustyWallaceHyundai.com - 865-963-3400
505 Callahan Drive, Knoxville - Exit 110 - 75 North**

Historically Speaking

The Oak Ridge Years of Chris Harris and his sister Lou Ann Harris Cristy, Continued:

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

The second and final segment of Lou Ann Christy's remembrances of her beloved brother. Go with her back to their Oak Ridge years together.

Until we resided in Oak Ridge, Chris had primarily been in the residence and influence of adult women, a same-aged female cousin and me. He had all the Jackson Square and Elm Grove Shopping Center area to explore upon the move. We were on our honor to stay connected to Mother the two hours after school that Mother was still at work.

This was in the era of only the house telephone or public pay phones. Our routine was to call mother when we arrived home for our "parental instructions" which we were to apply until she walked home from the "Castle on the Hill," the common term referencing the large workplace, now called the Federal Building, across the Turnpike from Jackson Square.

There being no cell phones, it was not immediately convenient for Chris to go home directly as he pursued his career of cleaning shops east and west of our home after school. Mother had to trust that we would be where we said we would be between 3:00 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. on school and workdays.

Summers were from May through late August which required more familial trust since she still worked at least eight hours, and we were out of school. Since many children had stay-at-home mothers, he was able to meet young men his age and visit with them. When Mother was off from work, they could be at our house, but not if she were at work.

There were school activities organized, but not much for the summers. We did have the Blankenship Field, the Oak Ridge Public library, Kern Memorial Methodist Church's boy scout troop, the Rexall Corner Drug Store (where Big Ed's is now) and other stores to peruse plus the tennis courts which could fill the time with occasions to meet people and fill our days.

No one was at home in our four-apartment building during the workdays. In our late teens we could go to the Ridge theater. A few times we went to the Center Theater, now the Oak Ridge Playhouse. I went to several plays at the theater in Jefferson Junior High School (then it was above the present bleachers on the "home side").

Chris had his regular "sweep the shops" and newspaper routes all-year-round and eventually purchased a lawn mower for more "career development" within the range he could push his machine to the work sites which kept him motivated and physically fit.

There was also the empty lot on Tucker Road which had been converted to a sand lot ball field by some of the neighbors where he could meet and play with the "other" guys. Eventually there was a short-cut path worn from our campsite at 118 East Tennessee Avenue along and across the "creek" terminating at the "ball field." This was a safe zone he frequented, and he and I could share, which allowed him freedom while I was able to stay at home to do what I needed or wanted to do. I rarely went to the baseball field. I generally did household "chores" to help life be smoother for Mother so she could have "free time" to be with us when not working.

The significance of sharing these details is to explain how we both grew to protect and trust

each other in our teens as well as appreciate the one parent who committed her entire life to see that we had what we needed at whatever sacrifice she had to bear. As I began to "date" and build relationships, he had a personal trait of keeping our home safe.

Years later I came to realize that he culled his friends to those whom he felt respectful enough to be in my space. From time to time, I noticed that some guys did not return to our home. Yet he associated with them himself. When I asked about them, he responded, "Yeah, they're busy."

I learned that was code for "they use bad language" and he did not want them around me. He felt that they were not respectful persons. That remained true through my college years. When I visited home after that, I learned that he did know the "bad language" but he did not use it in my presence. That remained true for his whole life. Mother had an Olan Mills photograph made of me before I went to college. When I was not in Oak Ridge she placed it above the dining table. It is 18 by 20 inches in size. I found it strange to walk in and see myself there above the table.

Chris told me, "I intend to place that picture of you in your honor in a college parlor when I earn enough to donate a dorm to a college!" He had seen that possible when he visited me at Tennessee Wesleyan College from 1959-63 in Athens, Tennessee.

He also expressed multiple thoughts which he would state in my presence to mother, for example: "Mom, I love you, but Lou Ann is number 1 and you are number 2." By the way, I inherited that large photograph, as well as the memory of his way of expressing the importance I played in his life.

After Hilary, his daughter, was born, he would state. "Lou Ann, Hilary is number 1 you're number 2."

One summer, I believe it was 1962, Walter Pierson, my former boyfriend who had moved with his family to Albuquerque, New Mexico, during our freshman year at Oak Ridge High School, asked if he could come visit with me. We had written letters to each other for three years. Mother agreed that he could come. There was no mention of how long his visit would be.

Walter came and stayed over a month. Chris shared his room with him and decided to return to the west with him. Mother agreed, I think reluctantly. Walter had ridden his motor scooter with the foot board the 1,400 miles.

That was before the Interstate was built. Chris rode double on the back. We did not hear from either of them. I came home with a date and found this shirtless man with long red curly hair and a full beard to match. I thought it was Jesus's twin sitting at our dining table. No one introduced him. After some conversation, I began to hear some familiarity in his voice. Then a little later I recognize familiar body movements. Then, "Oh, my gosh, Chris! I did not recognize you!" I jumped up to hug and kiss him. The room was full of laughter for a while. Then he told us the tales of his trip. I will share two events, that he nor I, ever did or will forget.

I still tear-up and cringe that anyone would have this experience: It seems he was hitchhiking on his way back from Albuquerque and was in or near Memphis, Tennessee. He was in a car with two other men up front, and he was sitting in the back seat with his few belongings in a knapsack beside him.

During the conversation he began to suspect he was in danger of being kidnapped. He calculated the point at which he quickly opened the door, the car moving or at a near pause, and jumped out. He left his knapsack in

the car. He was able to find a job shoveling peas in a factory. Eventually he had enough money to purchase some overalls.

One Sunday he found a large church named after John the Baptist and having on clean overalls, he decided to go to church. When he approached one of the two sets of open double doors a deacon greeted him, "You may not enter wearing overalls!" and waved Chris, an 18-year-old "Jesus twin" away from the doors!

We had long discussions about that incident several times. He and I decided that the main event with God is that he is with us wherever we are. God is not concerned with what we wear as some humans are.

He worked at the pea factory several weeks until he discovered that he could buy a car for \$25.00. Much less than the cost of a bus ticket. He bought the car, drove to the front of 118 East Tennessee Avenue, parked it, never, driving it again. It had made the trip and stopped.

Some months later the police stopped by. They came to the door with a summons for Mother and told her that it had to be removed. She paid \$25.00 to have it towed away! It was definitely worth getting him home safely.

A family story has been that Chris bought the only car our trio owned. Chris and I had taken drivers' training and earned our licenses in an ORHS class taught by Mr. Lawless. Mother did not own a car until she was 49 in 1966. Her son-in-law, Stephen Cristy taught her how to drive.

At times when we were asked where our father was, our response was, "He disappeared, and no one has been able to find him." Chris spent decades trying to see if he could locate him. When we were ten and twelve our Grandfather M. L. Harris came from Ringgold, Georgia to visit us. Again in 1955 after we were in Oak Ridge, he was ill and wanted to find our father, his son. We had a return visit to Ringgold, Georgia, for a week in the summer of 1956 with our Papa Harris.

Later we attended his funeral. Sometimes not having a father caused a curiosity among our friends. We both were staunch about our confidence in Mother: That she tried to relate to us as both our father and Mother. We knew "different" was not bad or negative. Chris and I decided that summer of 1956 we would honor Mother both on Mother's Days AND Father's Days!

Many of Chris' friends came to our home over those seven years. They became a part of the family and continued to visit Mother. Later in my life they found me and came to visit just to catch up with his and my life. Several found me until they died.

On his 60th birthday I was able to locate about nine of his friends to celebrate with him at my home. I observed that none of them sat down! They slowly circled the table and took food randomly as they visited among themselves for about three hours.

Mother retired from the Department of Energy. She built a retirement home on the lake in Langston, Alabama. She also owned a house in Woodland at the time of her death January 7, 1998, from pneumonia detected on Christmas Day while visiting Chris in Antioch, Tennessee.

On December 24, 2023, during the second leg of mine and Steve's Christmas family tour we stopped in Murfreesboro, Tennessee in route to Bloomington, Indiana. We had left Tucker, Georgia that morning.

Chris was in a new health facility. He was alert, bright-eyed and cheery. I took a toy for him to share with Joaquin when he would arrive later. Sounds of a Christmas service for other residents were audible. I stood looking out the window on the beautiful sunny afternoon.

- Continued on Page 8

Historically Speaking
The Oak Ridge Years of Chris Harris
and his sister Lou Ann Harris Cristy,
Continued:

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

He mentioned to me three things.
“I love that woman, Charlotte!”
“Have you noticed what a good mother Hilary is?”
“She certainly is!”
“Isn’t ‘my’ baby beautiful?” (That was his reference to his year old grandson, Joaquin.)
“Yes, he’s handsome!”

“I think he is beautiful!” Chris restated. He was radiantly smiling through his white puffy beard. The sun was shining through the window as I looked out to the landscaped garden. I turned back looking at him glowing in the sunlight.

“You are ‘purdy.’ I am glad you came to see me. Give me a hug. I love you!”

He held out his arms to welcome me. That was OUR last hour and-one-half together.

Thank you, Lou Ann! It is good to recall the good times and special memories of a loved one.



Lou Ann Harris Cristy and Chris Harris (Courtesy of Lou Ann Harris Cristy)



Lou Ann Harris 1957 (Courtesy of Lou Ann Cristy)



Chris Harris 1962 (Courtesy of Lou Ann Cristy)

GET YOUR BEACH BODY BACK !!!

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

“Walk-ins” Welcome

Call to schedule your FREE Consultation



**Physician Supervised
Prescription Diet Pills
Lipo Myoden
B12 Injections**

Health and Wellness Supplements

DR'S WEIGHT LOSS CLINIC

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

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

John Chapter 5



Melvin Howard

(John 5:1-9) A Miracle in Jerusalem: Chapter five marks a definite change in the attitude of the Jews toward the ministry of Christ. Previously, crowds had thronged him and much enthusiasm was apparent. A smoldering resentment clearly now is developing. Sometime later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem to a “feast.” There is much discussion as to which feast it was. The most ancient view seems to be that it was the Passover. Near the “sheep gate” in Jerusalem was a pool called Bethesda. The sick congregated there due to a popular belief that the waters had healing properties. Archaeologists believe this site has been

identified north of the temple area near the sheep gate.

Jesus was in the area and he saw a certain man lying nearby; the Lord “knew” (supernaturally) he had been a long time in his crippled condition (thirty-eight years). He asked, “Would you like to be made whole?” The unfortunate man, accepting the common idea that at certain times the waters had curative powers, complained he had no one to assist him in utilizing the healing pool. Jesus then said to him: “Arise, pick up your pallet, and go walking.” The three verbs are dramatic. The first two reflect simple acts; the third, “walk,” represents sustained activity. Immediately, the man was completely healed; he arose and walked away (v. 9). Now, it was on the Sabbath when this occurred (v. 9). This sets the stage for what follows.

(John 5:10-18) Hostility Aroused: The Gospel records report six miracles the Lord performed on the Sabbath. These seem to have been deliberate choices to bring his power and authority into sharp focus, perhaps functioning as a force separating the wheat from the chaff. The Jews saw the healed man walking away and they accosted him, charging that since it was the Sabbath it was not lawful for him to pick up his pallet. The law forbade work on the seventh day (Ex. 20:8-11), and the prophets rebuked commercialism on the Sabbath (Jer. 17:19; Neh. 13:15). This certainly did not fall into those categories. It did violate rabbinic tradition that catalogued thirty-nine alleged infractions of Sabbath violation. It is strange indeed that these Jews could see the man’s pallet, but refused to notice his legs---after thirty-eight years of infirmity! Another surprise is that the healed man could not identify who had healed him, because Jesus had slipped away to avoid the crowd.

Later, the Lord found the man in the temple area and said to him: “Look, you are now well; stop sinning [the force of the Greek], or else a worse thing may happen to you” (v. 14). Many scholars believe this implies a connection between the man’s crippled condition and his personal sinfulness. Some suffering is the result of personal sin; some is not (as one learns from studying the book of Job). What could be worse than thirty-eight years of paralysis? Eternity in hell!

The man was now prepared to tell who healed him, and so he went to the Jews and identified Jesus. The gentleman is difficult to understand, and expositors have viewed the situation differently. Some see his action as commendable. He was thrilled by his healing and went to the Jews to glorify the Lord to them. Perhaps. On the other hand, he knew of the hostility of the Jews about this incident, and yet he: (a) placed the blame for the charge of Sabbath violation on Christ---which could carry the death penalty; (b) went and reported to the Jews that it was Jesus. The expected result occurred.

Before he began his defense in earnest, Jesus fired back an argument that sent the Jews into spasms. Just because God ceased from his creative activity on the sixth day of the initial week does not mean he has been inactive ever since; he is constantly working (yes, even on the Sabbath). Furthermore, the Lord said that God is “my Father” (singular pronoun; the relationship is not shared by others)---a clear affirmation of unity with Jehovah (10:30; found eighteen times in the Gospel of John). This exonerated him from their charge of violating the Sabbath. It is important to note that these Hebrew leaders did not apprehend the man who had carried his pallet; they came after Christ---the object of their wrath all along. Notice this response: “For this cause they sought [repetitious action] the more to kill him” (v. 18). Their rage was accelerating like a forest fire out of control. Their charges now were: (a) he broke the Sabbath and (b) he called God his own Father, claiming a nature equal with God.

(John 5:19-47) The Lord’s response: The Savior’s argument has several components. (a) The Son, in his incarnate status, is subject to the Father (Phil. 2:6) and is wholly aware of his Father’s operations. The two are in perfect harmony in their activities (v.19). (b) The Father has a warm love for the Son, who is aware of the Father’s sacred purpose. The use of *agapao* (3:35) and *phileo* (here) reveals the manifold dimensions of love between the Father and Son. Even greater works are yet to be revealed, and those of honest hearts will learn of them and marvel (v. 20). (c) both the Father and the Son have the power to control life, as reflected by the ability to raise the dead; they thus can bestow spiritual life as well (v. 21). (d) God has committed to Christ the right of judgment (2 Cor. 5:10); the logical conclusion must be that Jesus himself is deity. (e) The spiritual soul must conclude that the Son is to be honored just as the Father is; and those who dishonor the Son (as the Jews currently were doing) dishonor the Father as well (v. 23)---both then and now.

Jesus prefaces his remarks with that urgent, “Verily, verily”---most assuredly! He then specifies the following elements (v. 24): (a) One must “hear” (a sustained attitude) his word, with a disposition to wholly yield to it. (b) He must “believe” in God the Father. “Believe” (a verb of sustained activity) involves intellectual conviction, a willingness to trust, and the determination to obey. (c) The expression, “has eternal life,” represents a state coexistent with the completion of the conditions required. Four times in this document Jesus uses this phrase (3:36;

5:24; 6:47; 54). Eternal life is both a present reality and a future hope---just as “salvation” is (Mk. 16:16; 1 Pet. 1:4; Heb. 5:9). The notion that eternal life cannot be forfeited is a relic of Calvinism; the idea that it is only a promise, but not a current reality, reflects a misguided effort to combat Calvinism. (d) The obedient believer passes “out of [spiritual] death” and “into life.” Such will be described later in Paul’s letter to the Romans when he explains how one is raised from “death” in baptism to walk (live) in “newness of life” (6:4).

The Lord continues his discussion regarding spiritual life and death. The hour is coming (indeed is present already) that the dead can live. This refers to the spiritually dead and the life they potentially could receive. How? Through his word---proclaimed by his servants and recorded for posterity in Scripture. His word contains the life-giving quality, but it must be humanly accessed by “hearing,” accompanied by a longing to obey (v. 25; Mt. 7:24). The Father possesses life intrinsically; even so, he gave to the Son to have life in himself (v. 26). This does not suggest that the Word (1:1) was inferior to God, with whom he eternally existed. The bestowal of life refers to the Son’s incarnate state.

Further, God has bequeathed to the Son authority to execute judgment on the “last day” of earth’s history (12:48). He will be qualified to do so because “he is a son of man” (v. 27). This implies that Jesus retains his humanity in his role of executing the final judgment. He will be an impartial judge, having shared the human experience (Heb. 2:17-18). No one will be able to dispute his eternal destiny with Judge Christ! (Rom. 14:11). The Savior speaks of the resurrection of the dead. The “hour” comes (note the absence of “and now is,” as found in v. 25) when the dead will be raised. The facts are: (a) All the dead will be raised---both good and bad (Dan. 12:2; Acts 24:15); the wicked dead have not been annihilated. (b) All are raised at the same time. There is no thousand-year interval between the resurrection of the righteous and that of the wicked---as alleged by premillennialists. (c) The voice of Christ will bring forth the dead. (d) There is a separation of humanity---one segment is resurrected unto “life,” the other unto a “judgment” that banishes them forever from the presence of God (2 Thes. 1:9).

Christ continued with additional argumentation to establish his relationship with God and, by implication, his own divine nature. The Lord again asserts his intimate fellowship with the Father and their relationship---the sender and the sent; the ultimate authority and the submissive (v. 30). He then contends for his case from a legal standpoint.

Valid testimony under Old Testament law required a minimum of two witnesses (Dt. 17:6; 19:15). In his defense, therefore, Jesus will not presume to establish his case on the basis of his testimony alone (v. 31; 8:13). Instead, he will introduce several witnesses---and these are of supreme character. (a) The first is the premier true witness, God himself. Some allege John is here meant, but John’s witness was in the past (v. 33) and the Father’s is ongoing (is bearing witness). (b) John, a man sent from God, also bore witness that Jesus was the Messiah (1:7). (c) Testimony on behalf of the Lord, however, was not from a human source ultimately. The reliability of this truth pertains to one’s salvation (v. 34). John was a “light” that shined; he did his work well, but it was only for a “season” (3:30). (d) As great as John’s witness was, greater was the array of “works” (mighty works” [Acts 2:22]) that authenticated Jesus’ claims of being the Messiah (v. 36). John did “no sign” (10:41). (e) The Father is again mentioned as a witness. Though these Jews had never seen his form nor heard his voice, God has “borne witness” (a past act with lingering impact) of his Son (Mt. 3:17; 17:5). In fact, their rejection of him was evidence that whatever residue of his word that was in them in the past (containing prophecies of his coming) had vanished.

The final witness is the Old Testament in general (v. 39) and Moses in particular (v.46). The expression, “search the Scriptures,” grammatically can be either a command or a statement of fact. The Jews claimed to be diligent students of the Old Testament Scriptures, yet Christ was the central theme of those documents. When he sought to convince them of his messianic role, they rejected him (1:11). It was not that they could not come; they simply would not (v. 40). The Greek term for “Scriptures” is found fifty-one times in the New Testament. It is always used of a divinely inspired writing; never of a strictly human document.

Jesus declared that the source of his glory was not humanly oriented; it was from God (v. 41). Their rejection of the Son demonstrated that a love for God was not resident in their hearts. They gloried in one another (Mt. 6)---with human pride and pomp---but the glory that is from God they were not seeking (v. 43-44). The Lord declared that he did not have a personally accuse them to his Father; instead, Moses, their great hero, had accused them already. And how was that? In that they refused to believe Moses’ writing, “for he wrote of me” (v. 45-46). Jesus asked: “If you will not believe Moses’ writings, how shall you believe my words?” (v. 47).

BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo
FortifyYourFaith.org

Melvin Howard’s Weekly column is sponsored by

The Lord’s Church

102 Paxton Road, Lancing



SUMMIT
MEDICAL GROUP
— AT WARTBURG —

**FAMILY MEDICINE
& URGENT CARE**



FAMILY MEDICINE

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

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



URGENT CARE

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

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

1825 Knoxville Hwy, Wartburg




(423) 346-3600

Caring for our community


 **Griffith Family
PHARMACY**

Wartburg

 1236 Knoxville Hwy
Wartburg, TN
37887


 423.346.6337

Rockwood

 600 N Gateway Ave
Rockwood, TN
37854

 865.590.6339

Harriman

 1701 Roane State Hwy
Harriman, TN
37748

 865.590.6337

 griffithfamilypharmacy.com

 **Your Community
Health Mart
PHARMACY**

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



Randy McFarland

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

www.randyismyagent.com

 **COLDWELL BANKER** Jim Henry & Associates



**Real Estate Agent
Glenda Johnson**

**Direct: (865) 591-6900
Office: (865) 376-2121 x102
License: 251289 TN**

glenda6900@bellsouth.net
With all my years of experience in Real Estate, allow me to work for you with all your Real Estate needs.

RustyWallaceKiaKnoxville.com

Spring into Savings!

Your best price on your new Kia is at Rusty Wallace Kia on Callahan Drive!

Always
Top Dollar
for Your Trade!



2025 KIA Sportage



2025 KIA K5



2025 KIA K4

Home of the
200,000
mile
warranty!



RUSTY WALLACE



865-688-8886



KNOXVILLE

I-75 AT CALLAHAN DRIVE

*see dealer for details