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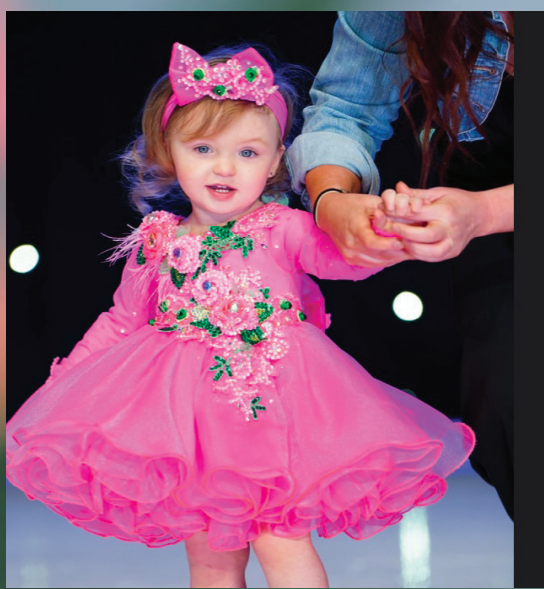
Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3
www.mocotoday.com
Volume 11 Number 10
Tuesday, March 11, 2025

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75¢

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**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

Oh, The Smell!

Years ago, Mimi just loved these trees called the Bradford Pears. She said they looked like fluffy and more full Dogwood Trees. She wanted some for the yard.

Well, for several years it seemed everyone thought the same as Mimi did because all of the sudden they were everywhere. Cities planted them to make their walkways and highways more scenic. Now though, every Spring brings beautiful flowers, singing birds, and this funky rotten fish smell in the air. The culprit, you guessed it. The Bradford Pear Trees.

Mimi now calls them: **Beauty and the Stink.**

The bigger they get the prettier and more stinky their aroma is, as it permeates everything while floating through the air, with no possible escape from the yucky smell.

Their trunks and branches are also very weak and soft. So, the wind breaks them with ease. Experts said they were not supposed spread. Boy, were they wrong or what? Now, the trees are everywhere as they are very invasive. Like weeds, they pop up all through the woods and on the sides of the highways, choking out native plants and trees.

What started out as beautiful and ornate landscaping, has now become a nuisance in many areas.

Any-woof, the moral of the story. Be careful what you wish for. Cause when you get it, it just might stink.

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



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Together Morgan County

Will meet **Friday, March 14, 2025 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. Upcoming events include the ribbon cutting for the Born Learning Trail at Petros Joyner School, Touch A Truck at Solomon Park and the Annual Summer Kickoff at Solomon Park. In the event there is no school in Morgan County due to inclement weather, the meeting will be held virtually only.

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.

WEEKLY WEATHER

CITIZENS GAS UTILITY DISTRICT
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Tue 11	73°/42°	
Wed 12	76°/49°	
Thu 13	70°/49°	
Fri 14	77°/58°	
Sat 15	75°/57°	
Sun 16	65°/43°	
Mon 17	55°/34°	

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Know what's below.
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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 community 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.

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

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

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

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



— In Loving Memory —

Sandra Gayle Shoemaker, 68



Gayle is preceded in death by her parents, Onlee and Laurine Human; father and mother-in-law, Clarence and Gertie Shoemaker; son, "Lil' Den" Dennis E. Shoemaker; brothers: Carl Wayne, Ernest, James Lee, and Robert Earl; sisters: Linda Dale Human, Laura Dawn Hensley; and special grandson, Isaac Lance Human.

Sandra Gayle Shoemaker, age 68 of Sunbright, passed away Friday February 21, 2025 at home surrounded by her loved ones. Gayle, as she was known by her family and friends, was a very loving wife, mom, GiGi, sister, aunt, and friend.

"Death Leaves a heartache nothing can heal, Love leaves a memory no one can steal. People come into our lives and leave footprints on our hearts and we are never the same. So don't cry because it's over. Always re-

member to smile because it happened."

Gayle is survived by her loving husband, Dennis, of 43 years; sons: Frankie Shoemaker and Brenda Brown, and Jonathan Human and special daughter-in-law and care taker, Denise Human, all of Sunbright; four grandchildren that loved her dearly: Samantha Shoemaker of Wartburg, Elijah, Whitley, and Davinity Human of Sunbright; four great-grandchildren: Russell, Jayden, Gunnar, and Declan; sister, Sheila (David) Weston of Rockwood, TN; sisters-in-law: Reba Sexton Human of Wartburg, TN; along with a host of nieces, nephews, friends, and

very special friends: Greg, Vickie, Derek and Anna Marie Kelly all of Jackson, TN.

The family will receive friends Tuesday February 25 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg. The funeral will be Wednesday February 26 at 2:00 p.m. at Schubert Funeral Home with Bro. Doug Morgan and Bro. Steve Gadd officiating. Interment will immediately follow at the Shoemaker Cemetery in Elgin, TN.

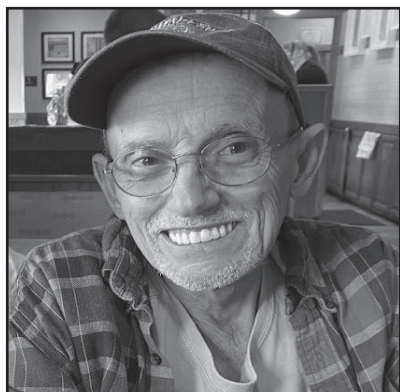
Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Sandra Gayle Shoemaker.

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.

Kenneth "Kenny" Ray Neal, 68



Kenny is preceded in death by his father Marsie Neal of Oak Ridge and his mother Ruth Hannah.

He is survived by his wife Delonda, son Benjamin; special family friend Rebecca Guest, sister-in-law Debbie Bunch; brother-in-law Eddie (Teresa) Lane, and a host of cousins, nephews, nieces, friends, and relatives.

The family will receive friends Sunday, February 23, 2025, at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 2:00-3:30 p.m. Graveside services will follow in the New Petros Cemetery in Petros.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Kenneth "Kenny" Ray Neal.

Kenneth "Kenny" Ray Neal, age 68, of Mossy Grove passed away on February 20th, with his loving wife of nearly 47 years, Delonda at his side. Kenny was a loving husband, father and animal lover, who enjoyed spending time with family, working outside and in his garden, and ginseng-ing. He dearly loved his family and all his animals over the years, including a host of basset hounds and cats. He was known for his smile, sense of humor, & his love of chocolate and Mountain Dew. He worked at Y-12 National Security Complex for 38 years.

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

Charlene E. Vincent Hatmaker, 73



Charlene E. Vincent Hatmaker, age 73, passed away peacefully while surrounded by her family on Sunday the 23rd of February 2025.

Charlene was born on the 18th of November 1951 to Walter Vincent and Edna Emmett in LaFollette, Tennessee. She graduated from LaFollette High School in the Summer of Love, 1969.

She married Ronald W. Hatmaker in LaFollette, Tennessee in 1971. She worked as a registration clerk for Y12 in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where she was a warm and welcoming presence greatly treasured by her co-workers.

Charlene always put others before herself, she was an exceedingly charitable person, a truly selfless soul who sought to help and comfort those in her life. She was passionate about her family and enjoyed spending wintertime at Dol-

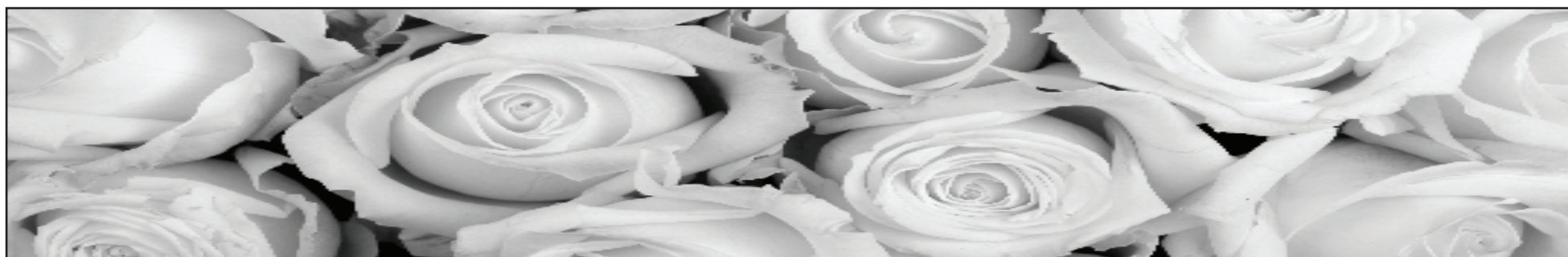
lywood with her beloved twin sister, Darlene and visiting Biltmore with her husband, Ron. Charlene lived a full and adventurous life, traveling across the United States and around Europe and touched many lives during her journey.

She is survived by her husband, Ron; her sons, Darin W. Hatmaker and Ryan E. Hatmaker; her grandchildren, Hannah A. Hatmaker, Luke A. C. Hatmaker, and Sylvan B. Hatmaker; her sisters Darlene (Vincent) Hatmaker and Carolyn (Vincent) Lockwood; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Family, friends, and all the many people whose lives were touched by Charlene are welcome to Shubert's Funeral Home in Wartburg, 1318 Knoxville Hwy. 37887. Receiving friends will be Wednesday 5:00-7:00pm, funeral services @ 7:00. Graveside services will be Thursday 11:00am at Sunset Cemetery, Clinton, Tennessee.

Charlene will be exceedingly missed by family and friends, she will be forever in our hearts.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Charlene Hatmaker.



— In Loving Memory —

Melissa "Lisa" Webb, 61



wife Destiny Webb. Two brothers: Tim Lewallen and Bill and his wife Robin Bowling. Two sisters: Lori and her husband Jack Sexton and Melanie Ellis. Eleven grandkids: Michael, Autumn, Connor, Colton, Abby, Piper, Darrell Jay, Callee, Mariah, Sawyer, and Madison. Along with a host of other nieces, nephews, friends, and loved ones.

Mrs. Melissa "Lisa" Webb, age 61, of Robbins, went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, February 23, 2025, at her home. It was no secret how that Lisa loved her family. She was married to the love of her life, Darrell, for 40 years. During those forty years, she had two wonderful sons whom she loved dearly. Aside from her faith, Lisa's joy was her 11 grandchildren. It was always evident that she gave her family all the love that she could give.

She was preceded in death by her mother: Dollie Bowling. One brother: Tony Lewallen. One sister-in-Law: Marietta Lewallen. And one nephew: Jonathan Lewallen.

She is survived by her husband of 40 years: Darrell Webb. Two sons: Jacob and his wife Danielle Webb and Zachary and his

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The funeral service will be held at 8:00 PM with Bro. Charles Webb and Bro. Jeff Chaney officiating. The family and friends will meet at the Black Creek Crossroads Cemetery in West Robbins on Wednesday February 25, 2025 at 1:00 PM for the graveside service.

Davis Funeral Home in Wartburg is honored to serve the family of Mrs. Melissa "Lisa" Webb.

Condolences may be sent to the family at: www.davisfuneralhomes.com

Travis Keith Inklebarger, 44



Travis was so loved by his family and he loved us deeply. Our hearts are broken but we are assured he is with his Lord and Savior and we will see him again.

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

And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept; for I said who can tell whether God will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me. 2 Samuel 12:22-23

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Travis Keith Inklebarger.

Travis Keith Inklebarger, age 44 of Joyner passed away Monday, March 3, 2025. He was a member of Union Baptist Church.

He is preceded in death by infant soon Tucker; father Raleigh Kitts; grandparents Louise and Cordell Longmire, S.E. and Leita Rose Kitts and Bob by Inklebarger.

Travis is survived by his mother and father Cathy and Melvin Inklebarger; sister and brother-in-law Megan and Jonathan Amos; children Tanner, Ethan and Cassidy; grandparents Mary and Darrell Irick; niece and nephew Jocelyn and Luke Amos.

**John A. Jones, 85
United States Army Veteran**



He is survived by his wife of over 60 years Francine Swint Jones; daughter Theresa Jones; sister Peggy Harvey of Jacksonville, FL.; and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends Sunday, March 2, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 2:00-4:00 with the funeral to follow at 4:00 p.m. with Bro. Buster Armes and Bro. Jim Disney officiating. Interment will follow in the Wartburg City Cemetery in Wartburg.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of John A. Jones.

John A. Jones, age 85 of Wartburg passed away February 27, 2025 at his home.

John A. was a truck driver. He loved gardening and working on his lawn. He was a member of the American Legion and Emerald Lodge No. 317. He served as a Sargent in the Army for several years. John A. will definitely be missed by all who knew him.

He is preceded in death by his parents Clem and Johnnie Jones of Wartburg; siblings Elmer Jones and Emily Miller.

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

Geraldine Hamby



Hamby; grandsons Jake and Luke Hamby; siblings Leland Hamby, Truman and Sharon Hamby, Carol Peters, Robert and JoAnn Hamby, Jerry and Carla Landrum, Dean and Donna Swint; special children Diane and Arnold K

idwell, Debbie and Danny Watson, Donna Hamby, Denise and Tony Wilson, David and Gwyn Hamby and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends Sunday, March 9, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 1:00-2:30 with the funeral to follow at 2:30 p.m. with Bro. Tim Hamby and Willard Gunter officiating. Interment will follow in the Elizabeth Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Ms. Geraldine Hamby.

Ms. Geraldine Hamby entered the gates of Heaven, March 6, 2025. She was proud to have been born and raised on Greasy Creek. She enjoyed being from a big family and helping where she could.

She is preceded in death by her parents Carl and Ollie Hamby; sister Helen Diden; brothers Vernon Hamby, and Tony Hamby; sister-in-law Colleen Hamby; brother-in-law Jim Peters; special son Darrell Hamby.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law Doug and Lori



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H1066A - 2018 Audi A3 Premium Plus AWD! Sporty! \$21,789



H1173A - 2015 Honda Civic EXL Sunroof, Low Miles! \$15,496



H1022A - 2020 Mini Cooper Countryman Sporty! Sunroof \$18,495



H1208A - 2018 Hyundai Elantra SEL Great Value! Great gas mileage! \$13,983



H771A - 2023 Kia Rio S Great Gas Mileage! Low Miles! \$18,984



H1273A - 2015 Chevrolet Impala LTZ Sunroof, Loaded \$13,394

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Historically Speaking Lunch for Literacy's "Literacy for Life" event features Silas House

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Several annual events in Oak Ridge highlight community involvement and support for others. Among the most popular is the Lunch for Literacy with the continuing high-caliber authors invited as speakers at the luncheon. This year is no exception! Altrusa International of Oak Ridge and Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary Club proudly again present the Annual Lunch for Literacy Luncheon at the Oak Ridge High School on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 11:30 am for networking and lunch. This year, the lunch is catered by Fire & Salt.

Silas House, a bestselling author of seven award-winning novels, will be the featured speaker. There will be books to purchase, and Mr. House will be available following the luncheon for a book signing.

It has taken us years to get Mr. House because of his national popularity. In addition to being a bestselling novelist, House serves as the National Endowment for the Humanities Chair of Appalachian Studies at Berea College, Kentucky's poet laureate, and host of the popular podcast "On the Porch."

House's novels include "Clay's Quilt" (2001), "Parchment of Leaves" (2002), "The Coal Tattoo" (2004) "Eli the Good" (2009), "Same Sun Here" (2012), "Southernmost" (2018), and "Lark Ascending" (2022). He is the recipient of the 2023 Southern Book Prize for Fiction.

The public is invited to the luncheon and House's talk. Tickets are \$60 at www.purplepass.com/lunchforliteracy or at Calamity's Coffee in Jackson Square.

Silas House is a member of the Fellowship of Southern Writers, the recipient of three honor-

ary degrees, and has been given such honors as an E. B. White Award, the Lee Smith Award, the Caritas Medal, the Hobson Medal, and many others. In 2015, he was invited to read at the Library of Congress.

"Keeping students on track with reading is essential," says TJ Cardwell, Chairwoman of the all-volunteer organizing team. "Awarded grants are designed to apply funding to address the most critical pain points in our region for literacy."

Co-Chairwoman, Sue Byrne, says, "All funds raised will be awarded as grants to selected projects targeting literacy deficits across Anderson and Roane Counties. Because we believe reading is a foundational skill for life, our theme for this year's event is Literacy for Life."

Lunch for Literacy grants totaling \$32,411 were distributed in February 2025, to recipients for the past year:

Lunch for Literacy grants for 2024

Friends of Literacy	\$3,000.00
ADFAC	\$2,000.00
Jefferson Middle School	\$500.00
Grand Oaks Elementary	\$3,500.00
Boys & Girls Clubs of TN Valley	\$2,000.00
Willow Brook Elementary	\$3,000.00
Boys and Girls Club of Oak Ridge	\$600.00
Clinton Middle School	\$1,214.73
Willow Brook Elementary	\$671.68
Willow Brook Elementary	\$1,310.00
Emory Valley Center	\$2,000.00
Girls Inc.	\$2,000.00
Glenwood Elementary	\$2,500.00
Glenwood Elementary	\$1,000.00
Children's Museum	\$1,000.00
Ridge View Elementary	\$1,000.00
Roane Imagination Library	\$1,500.00
Robertsville Middle School	\$1,615.00
The Arc Anderson County	\$2,000.00

Total: \$32,411

Donations are welcome, and checks should be made payable to the Oak Ridge Break-



Silas House is the featured speaker for the 2025 Lunch for Literacy event

(Courtesy of Silas House website photo by C. Williams, <https://www.silas-house.com/about.html>)

fast Rotary Club Foundation with 'Lunch for Literacy' on the Memo line and mailed to P.O. Box 4164, Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Make plans now to attend and support this initiative to improve literacy in our communities. Come on March 18, 2025, at 11:30 AM, to enjoy networking, get started with the excellent lunch, and enjoy the outstanding speaker.

- Continued on Page 11

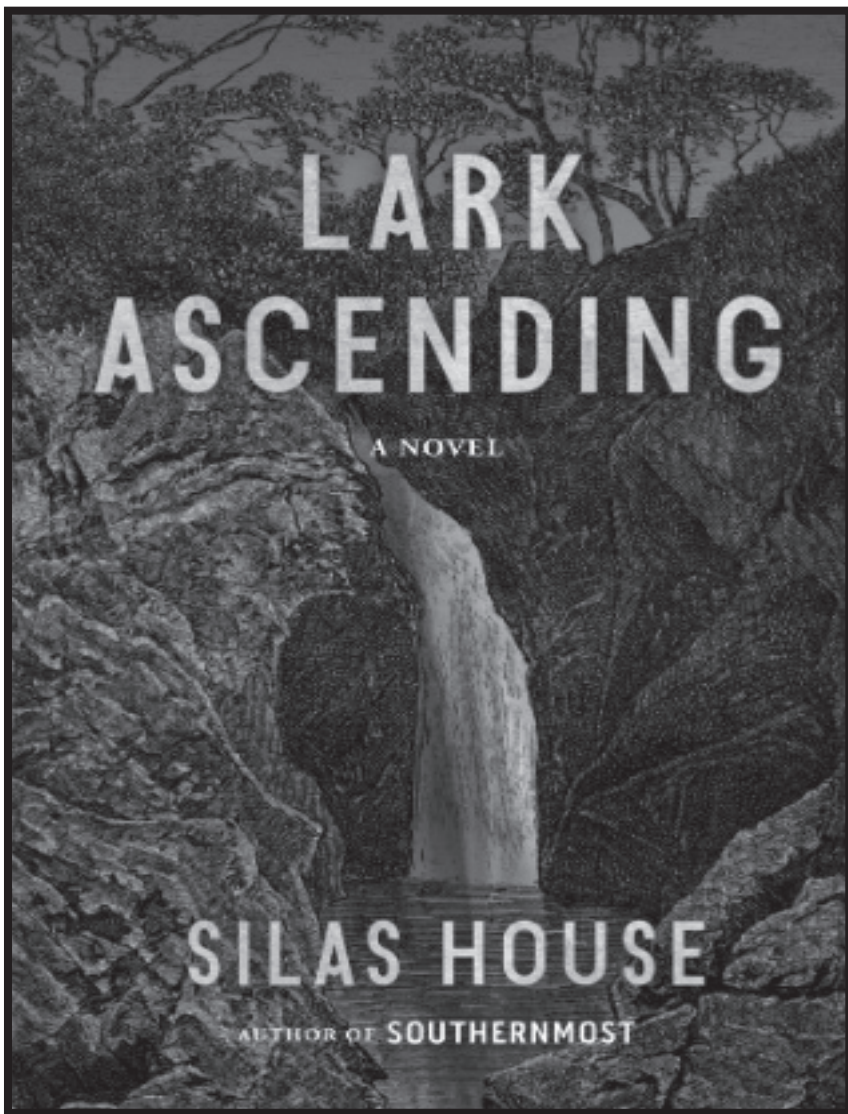


Lunch for Literacy grant award recipients recognized at the Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary Club meeting (Courtesy of Tony Wright)


Historically Speaking

Lunch for Literacy's "Literacy for Life" event features Silas House

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian



Lark Ascending by Silas House
(Courtesy of Silas House
website <https://www.silas-house.com/about.html>)
(Courtesy of Julie Dodd)




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**33rd Annual
Lunch for Literacy**

Tuesday, March 18, 2025
Oak Ridge High School Food Court
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Featuring
Silas House


New York Times bestselling author of several novels including his most recent book, *Lark Ascending*, which was a winner of the 2023 Southern Book Prize and the 2023 Nautilus Book Award.

Tickets \$60



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Books will be available for purchase at the luncheon.

Contact:
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tjcardwell01@yahoo.com

Event jointly hosted by
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Lunch for Literacy featuring Silas House March 18, 2025
(Courtesy of the Lunch for Literacy planning)

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Tom Redmon

I remember the first days that I heard Rush Limbaugh on the radio. I was in Central Florida and I tuned into a radio station in Tampa. He was on from twelve o'clock to three o'clock and his show aired on over 650 radio stations nationwide. I was so impressed that I had to call my brother in East Tennessee. I even recorded a segment on cassette tape and sent it to him.

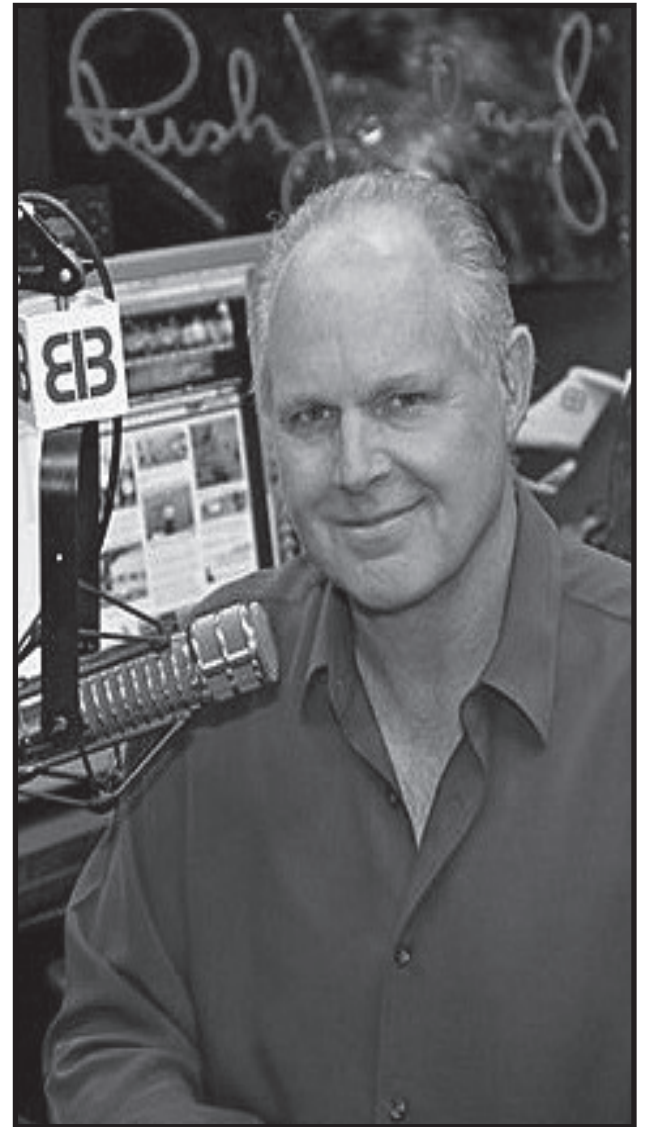
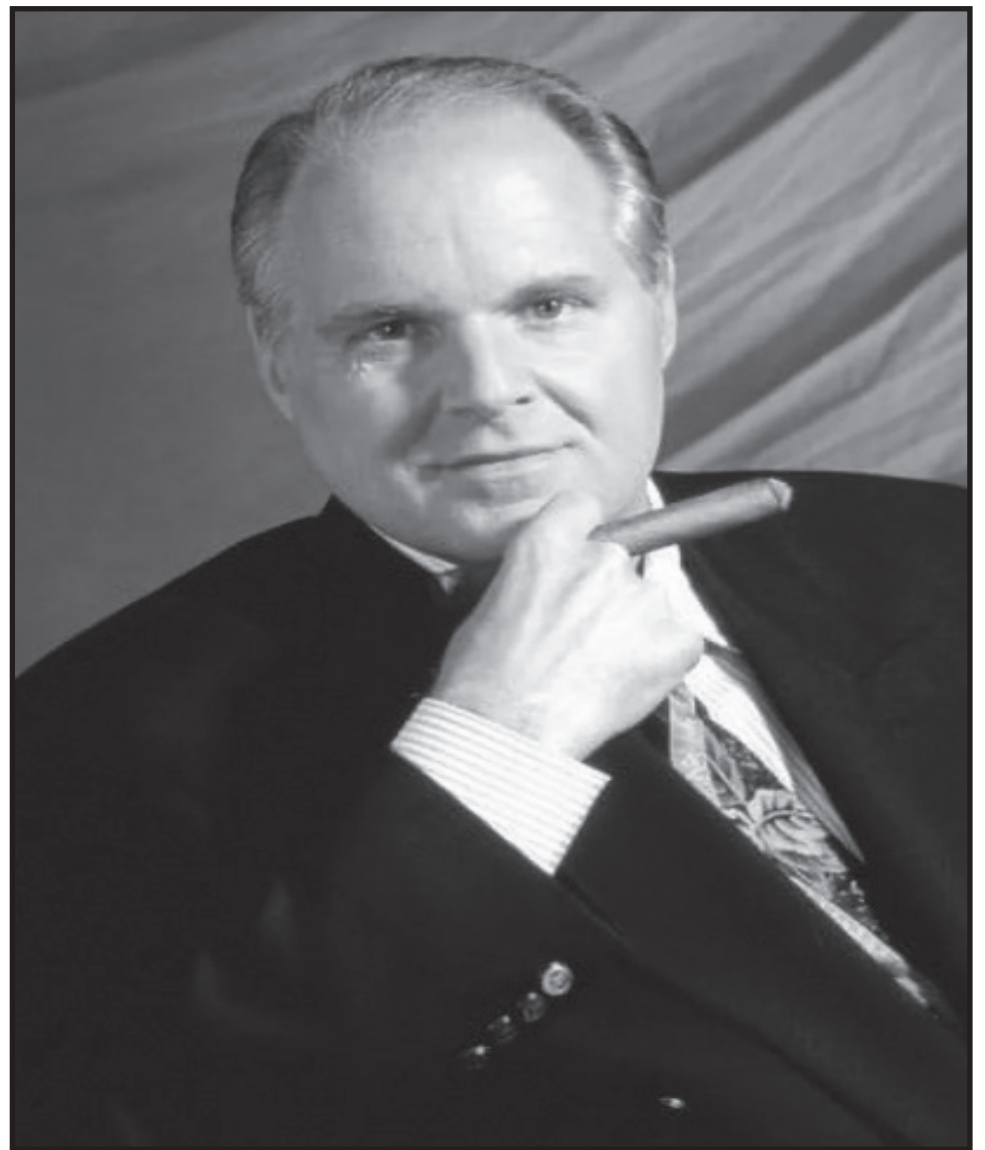
In more than thirty years, millions of listeners tuned in to hear Rush Limbaugh's voice on over 650 radio stations. The liberals hated him but the conservatives loved him. By the time Rush reached his pinnacle of success in accepting the Presidential Medal of Freedom during the state of the union address on February 4, 2020 he was unquestionably the greatest radio broadcaster the world had ever known. Rush had tried T.V. in the 80's but he preferred radio for several reasons. With radio he could take as many calls as he needed to cover the subject of the day and he felt his voice was what sold his program. I remember seeing several of his T.V. programs and they were good. I really thought he had a sense of humor that was suited for television and so did my brother who remained a fan of his until Rush passed away. Like President Trump said in his tribute to Rush in 2021. He was fantastic, talented and people weather they loved him or not, they respected him for his stand on conservative issues. The people said that Rush could say the things that they were thinking. He certainly was the mouth piece for conservatives.

Rush came from the part of Missouri that could be called a peculiar place. His grandfather was nearing 100 years of age and was still practicing law. His dad had been a pilot in WWII. Rush was not fond of public schools and he dropped out. He started out in early life as a radio announcer and ended up losing his job more than once. He ended up announcing major league baseball games but his real claim to fame was on conservative radio where he would take calls from listeners. He knew more about politics than anyone in Washington D.C. did. He had a legion of fans that numbered up into the millions and his salary was up in the millions and like I have already stated he was on air over 650 stations. Conservatives all over America couldn't hardly wait until twelve o'clock when Rush Limbaugh would come on the radio.

Rush was married several times. His marriages probably didn't last because he put so much time into his job. He got acquainted with Donald Trump and really supported him. As a matter-of-fact Trump was one of Rush's top fans. It is too bad that Rush died early before Trump made a return to Washington D.C. He would have a field day with what happened in the election when Trump became our 47th president.

Rush Limbaugh will always be remembered as the greatest conservative radio commentator in history.

We Miss Rush Limbaugh



IRS plan to cut half of employees



David Zubler
Columnist

The IRS is making plans to lay off up to half of its 90,000-person workforce. Over six thousand employees have already been terminated.

The Department of Government Efficiency has been slashing federal government jobs. In addition to the planned layoffs, the Trump administration intends to lend IRS workers to the Department of Homeland Security to assist with immigration enforcement. DHS Secretary Kristi Noem asked Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to borrow IRS workers to help with ongoing immigration crackdown efforts.

Multiple tax experts and organizations have voiced their concern regarding the impact of the huge cut in employees and the ability of the IRS to continue to function.

The Financial Accountability and Corporate Transparency Coalition was one of the organizations that voiced their concern. "A fair, transparent, and well-funded tax system is vital to a functioning democratic society" said Ian Gary, executive director of the Financial Accountability and Corporate Transparency Coalition, in a statement. "The FACT Coalition is alarmed by reports of cuts of up to half of the 90,000-person IRS workforce. Cuts at such a massive scale would destroy the ability of our nation's revenue agency to effectively operate. These cuts are also likely to disproportionately affect recent investments and hiring in the tax agency that have greatly improved its capacity to audit wealthy tax cheats and unscrupulous corporations. At the same time, such drastic staffing cuts will affect service levels for ordinary Americans."

Former IRS commissioners have been critical of the plan for major IRS employee layoffs. A reduction in force of tens of thousands of employees would render the IRS "dysfunctional," said John Koskinen, a former IRS commissioner.

Koskinen and six other former IRS Commissioners wrote in the New York Times earlier this month: "Aggressive reductions in the I.R.S.'s resources will only render our government less effective and less efficient in collecting the taxes Congress has imposed."

The Professional Managers Association expects the layoffs to be problematic for taxpayers and tax professionals. "When tax professionals, taxpayers and businesses encounter difficulties receiving assistance from the IRS this filing season, it is important to recognize that IRS employees are doing their best under the circumstances" said PMA executive director Kelly Reyes. "Challenges in customer service and workforce capacity stem from decisions made by policymakers and leadership that have shaped the agency's resources and operations. Understanding the broader factors that contribute to these issues can help ensure that concerns are directed toward those responsible for funding and policy decisions."

The IRS must submit a workforce reduction plan to the White House by March 13. It is unclear when the IRS will conduct the layoffs, and which departments will be affected.

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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John Chapter 2



Melvin Howard

(John 2:1-12) The Miracle at Cana:

On the third day after Nathanael's call, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Cana is believed to have been a small community about nine miles north of Nazareth. Mary, Jesus, and his disciples had been invited to the event (evidence that this was not Jesus' marriage, as some have ignorantly alleged). During the festivities, the "wine" failed. The Greek term for "wine" is generic; it can denote grape juice (Isa. 16:10;

Rev. 19:15) or a beverage with a degree of alcohol (Eph. 5:18). Mary reported the situation to her son, but he kindly pointed out it was not her motherly responsibility to direct his activities.

Nevertheless, using his own divine insight, he proceeded. There were six water pots nearby (each holding about twenty gallons), normally used for purification purposes. The Lord instructed the servants to fill these "to the brim" (no possibility of adding something else). A sample was to be secured and taken to the ruler of the feast. The water had become wine (the nature of which should be determined by the character of him who made it [Hab. 2:15]) and the ruler praised the quality of the drink. It was quite superior to that served earlier (v. 10).

The servants who had drawn the water knew what had happened (v.9)---something supernatural! This was the first of his signs---a sign being a miracle pointing to an ultimate truth, namely, his identity as the Messiah, the Son of God. John says his disciples believed on him. This was the purpose of the miracle---to produce faith (20:30-31). The faith was growing but had a distance yet to go. The Lord, together with his mother and half-brothers (Mt. 12:46), traveled down to Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee, which was about sixteen miles east-northeast of Cana. There they remained for a brief time (v. 12).

Man makes alcohol-free wine. Why? Because many people believe sanity is much healthier than insanity. Alcohol does not solve any problems, it only creates problems.

Jesus said: (Matthew 6:34b) Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. Satan is always working against us (mankind), so why give assistance to Satan with alcohol. (James 4:7) "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Jesus was God in human flesh. James 1:13 "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man". There is at least 66 scriptures which in one way or another shows the lack of wisdom in playing with drugs and alcohol in particular.

The alcohol-related disease impact application estimates that each year there are more than 178,000 deaths attributable to excessive alcohol use, making alcohol one of the leading preventable causes of death in the US, behind tobacco, poor diet...

Anybody who knows Jesus Christ by way of the scriptures, (which is the only way to know him). 2 John 1:9 "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."

All of the New Testament is the doctrine of Christ. Jesus the Christ would not have turned water into alcoholic wine. Those, who say that Jesus did, have devised an excuse for them to practice evil and are charging Jesus with evil. John 12:48 "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge

him in the last day." Jesus says: John 8:46 "Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?"

Wvbs.org "The Truth About...Drinking Don Blackwell

(John 2:13-22) The first cleansing of the temple: The event that follows is not to be confused with a later episode at the end of Jesus' ministry (Mt. 21:12; Mk. 11:15; Lk. 19:45). The Passover of the Jews was near and the Lord went up to Jerusalem (note the elevational increase from Capernaum to Jerusalem; the Bible is always topographically precise), a distance of some ninety miles by the most direct route. This is the first Passover mentioned in John's Gospel; the reference is helpful in determining the length of Christ's ministry. The Passover occurred at the time of the March-April full moon. The annual commemoration, however, was greatly corrupted by this time. For a discussion of what was transpiring, through on a later occasion, see Matthew 21:12.

Jesus observed the crass commercialism that was taking place in the temple (the Greek term indicates the entire temple complex; here, one of the outer courts). The Lord drove out the animals being sold as sacrifices, and overturned the moneychangers' tables. He charged: "Make not my Father's house a house of merchandise" (v. 16). John stated that when the disciples heard this, it reminded them that "it was written, Zeal for your house shall eat me up" (Psa. 69:9).

Note: (a) The expression, "my Father's house," implies a unique relationship between Jesus and the Father; it is an affirmation of his deity. (b) The phrase, "it was written," indicates a past writing with an abiding effect. (c) Psalm 69 has a primary application to David (Rom. 11:9) and the sufferings to which he was subjected on account of his zeal for Jehovah. But both John and Paul (Rom. 15:3) see and ultimate fulfillment in Christ sufferings. In fact, Psalm 69 is cited six times in the New Testament with a messianic application (Jn. 2:17; 15:25; 19:28; Acts 1:20; Rom. 11:9-10; 15:3). The disciples appear to have viewed the language of Psalm 69 as messianic in its ultimate import with the obvious application to Jesus as they observed his actions on this occasion.

(John 2:23-25) Superficial faith: While the Lord remained at Jerusalem, he performed certain "signs" (miracles), and as a result many believed on his name in some sense, as they beheld (scrutinized) his signs. But in some instances their faith appears to have been more emotional than substantive. Christ did not "trust himself unto them," for he could discern the condition of their hearts (Mt. 12:25; Lk. 6:8). He had an innate knowledge of all men and did not need the testimony of others from which to draw his judgments.

BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo
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