

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



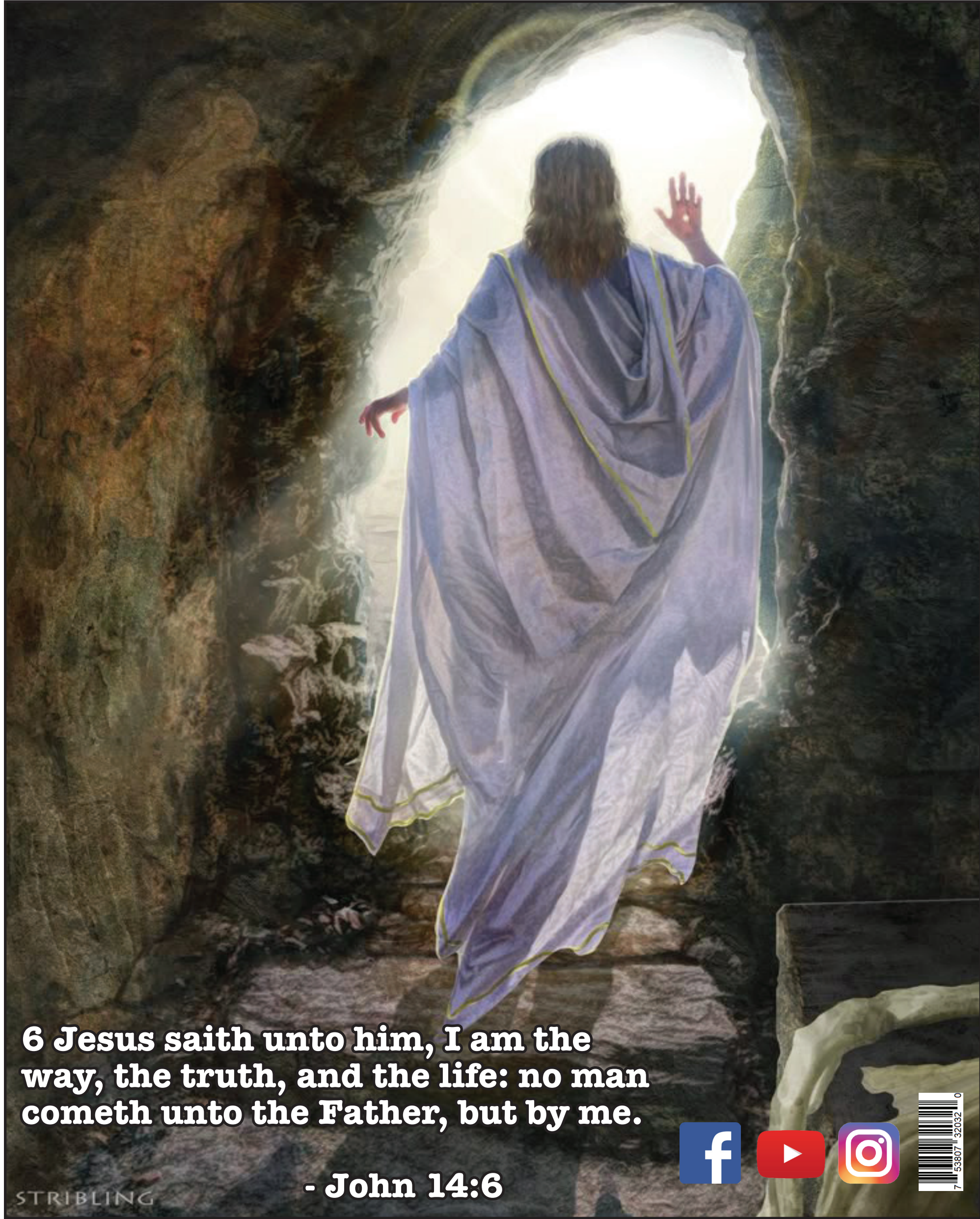
HE IS RISEN!
HAPPY EASTER
EVERYONE!

Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3
 www.mocotoday.com
 Volume 11 Number 14
 Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Your Community. Your News.

75¢



6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

- John 14:6

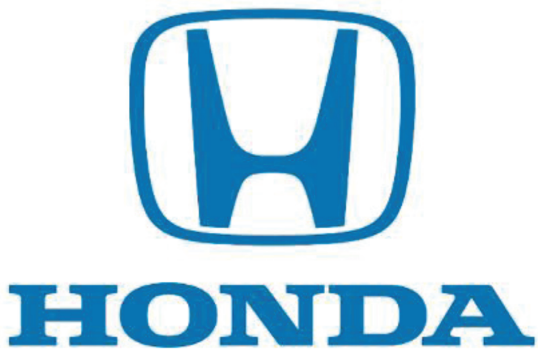


JESUS IS RISEN!

**HAVE A HAPPY EASTER
FROM CHAD CAMPBELL
& THE STAFF OF RUSTY WALLACE HONDA**

RUSTY WALLACE

RustyWallaceHonda.com



KNOXVILLE
I-75 AT CALLAHAN DRIVE

865-938-4222

*see dealer for details

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

Rico's In The Sky

It has been a very long and tiresome week in our war with the geese.

At the beginning of the week, it wasn't to bad. Then BOOM, they were initiating battle left and right 10-12 times a day.



It's a little more difficult since, Ms Ivory and me are down a key fighter in our war with the geese.

You guys remember me telling you all about Lil' Rico. Well, he went to Heaven a few weeks ago. He was suffering so much. Ms Mary made the difficult decision to let him go across the Rainbow Bridge. I just know that my dog-feller Mr Murphy was there to welcome him.

They are doing their part by in the war with the filthy geese by chasing them back to the clouds. I guess that's why I see them literally flying in the sky, sometimes. There they squawk and quack, just taunting Ms Ivory and me.

Any-woof, I am sad that Ms Mary lost Rico and I sure miss my friend and partner in battle. Its bittersweet though because, I am happy that Mr Murphy now has him to play with.

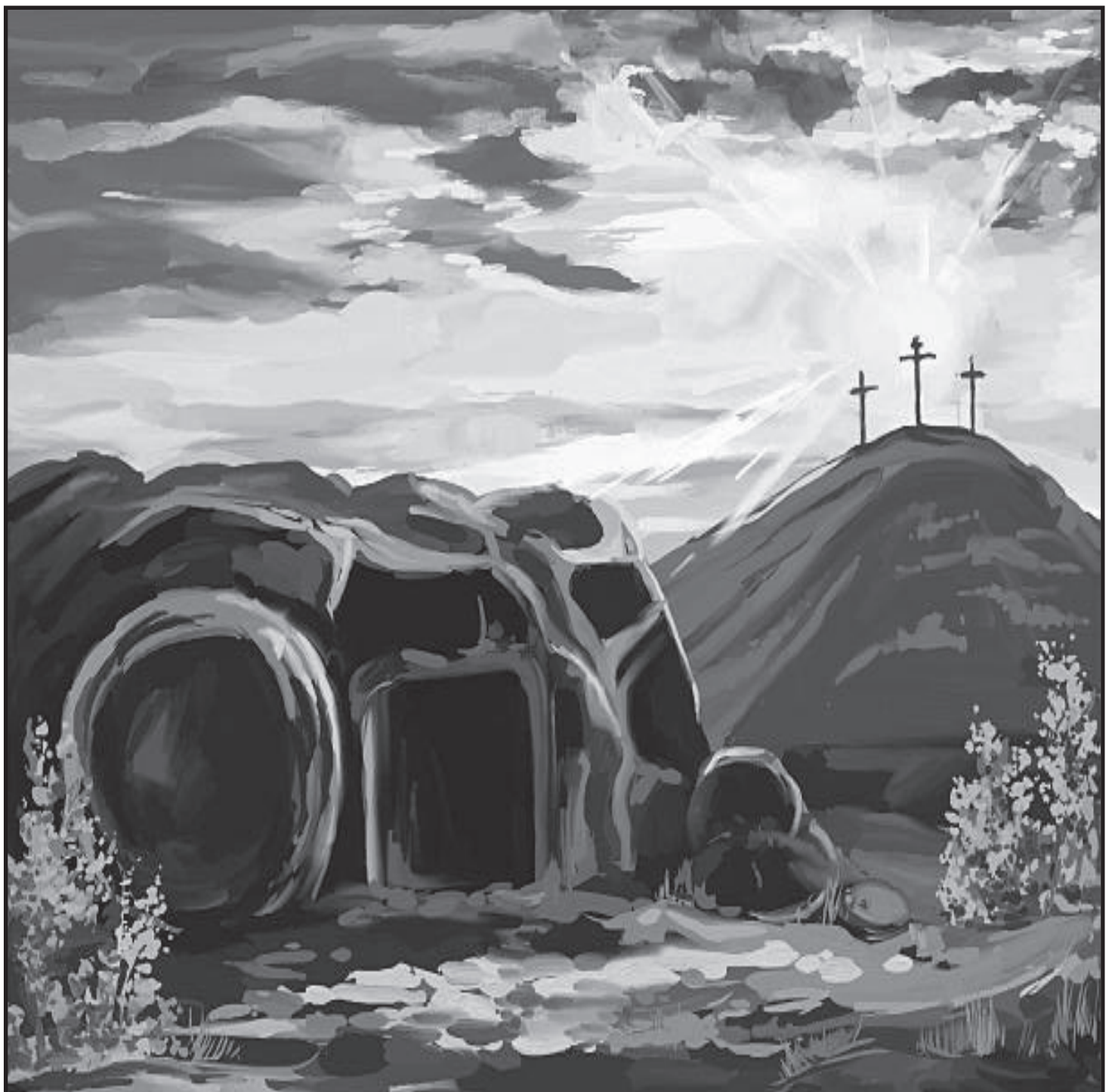
Like and follow me on Facebook at Ms Avery Pearl.

WEEKLY WEATHER

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

Tue 08	52°/31°	
Wed 09	61°/46°	
Thu 10	68°/48°	
Fri 11	68°/45°	
Sat 12	68°/47°	
Sun 13	75°/56°	
Mon 14	79°/56°	

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



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

David Baker has applied for a permit to sell beer OFF premises at the location known as:

Bake's Roadkill Grill
1503 Twin Bridge Road
Deer Lodge, TN 37726

Anyone having reason to believe that this permit should not be issued, must appear before the Morgan County Beer Board on the 17th day of April 2025 at 5:00 pm in the Office of the County Clerk.

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.

— In Loving Memory —

Darrell Ray Seiber, 55



(Brian) Phillips of Chatsworth, GA., Robert (Marie) Hamby of Lancing and Jeannie (Levi Sullivan) Wallace of Cheyenne, WY., and a host of great nieces and nephews.

He was a lifelong resident of Tennessee. He enjoyed family and friends and enjoyed 4 wheeling in his jeep. He enjoyed working on vehicles. Darrell enjoyed life and he loved to laugh. He will be deeply missed.

Darrell Ray Seiber, age 55, of Wartburg passed away on Wednesday, March 26, 2025.

He is preceded in death by his parents Glendon and Elsie Seiber.

He is survived by his brothers Kevin (Marlene) Seiber of Meldrim, GA., Gary (Denise) Seiber of Deer Lodge, and Zach Rosell of Fairfield, OH.; and a host of nieces and a nephew Sara Jane Seiber of Bloomingdale, GA.; Jessica (Jimbo) Adams of Statesboro, GA., Misty

Darrell's wishes are to be cremated and there will be a memorial service at a later date.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Darrell Ray Seiber.

Barbara Nell Macklin



Barbara is survived by her brother Franklin "Bunk" Stringfield; special niece Trula Hall and her husband Gene Hall; and a host of nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00-1:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 1:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the Piney Church Cemetery in Oakdale.

Barbara Nell Macklin of Oakdale passed away at her home on Saturday, March 15, 2025.

She is preceded in death by her husband Charles "Charlie" Macklin; parents Roy and Bertha Stringfield; sisters Nellie McCoy, Mable Armes, Betty Armes, and Nancy Knight; brothers Vanus, Vivian, Carl and Roy Stringfield, Jr.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Barbara Nell Macklin.

Psalm 123:1

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

Alan Greg Vespie, 61



Alan Greg Vespie
September 23, 1963 –
March 28, 2025

Alan Greg Vespie, age 61, passed peacefully on March 28, 2025 at his home surrounded by family.

He enjoyed life and loved to laugh. Known as "Bundy" to his closest friends, Alan made a new friend wherever he went. Those who were blessed to know him remember his jokes and stories for every occasion, especially about his favorite pastime fishing at Nemo or the Point.

Alan is preceded in death by his son Anthony Vespie; parents Gus and Carolyn Vespie.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 38 years Tammy Vespie; daughter Heather Vespie

(fiancé Grant Steelman); son Trent Vespie (Hailey); grandchildren Natalya, Cohen, Blake, and Pyper Vespie, Jonas Daughtery-Vespie, Grant, and Braidon Carroll; brother Joe Vespie; sister Jill Caulder (Jeff); sisters-in-law Michelle (Tony) Human and Susie Carroll; nieces Amanda Duncan, Brittany Dyer, and Emily Vespie; nephews Brandon Duncan, Luke and Zeke Vespie, Ryan and Heath Human, Trevor Dyer along with many great nieces and great nephews and special friends.

Alan will be greatly missed as he was loved by many and was a good husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend.

The family is honoring his wishes to be cremated, and there will be Celebration of Life on September 23, 2025.

In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to his wife Tammy Vespie, 135 Vespie Rd., Wartburg, TN 37887.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Alan Greg Vespie.

Joseph "Joe" Daniel Roberts, 39



Survived by mother, Linda Roberts of Coalfield sisters, Kimberly Roberts of the Joyner community, Amy Jones of Wartburg, and a very special niece, Zoe Jones of Wartburg.

Joe enjoyed four-wheeling and racing. Joe had a rescue "doghter" Macey who was his whole world. Joe's dog would follow his every footstep in his daily activities and stay in his truck as he mowed yards for work.

Joseph "Joe" Daniel Roberts died unexpectedly on March 15, 2025, at his residence. He was only 39 years old. The family is so deeply saddened and shocked by his sudden death. Joseph was born on February 24, 1986.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Joseph "Joe" Daniel Roberts.

His passing has left a void in the hearts of his family, friends, and many more whose lives were touched by him. Remember him not for the ways his life ended, but for the way it was, lived, and for the profound impact it had on the lives of those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Preceded in death by his father, Donald Roberts, grandparents Kenneth (Nancy) Goddard and Earl (Bessie) Roberts.



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



— 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.

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.

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.

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 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.

Velma "Elaine" Groom, 58



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;

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.

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.

— In Loving Memory —

Edgar “Eddie” Bunch, 71



Edgar Bunch, better known as Eddie Bunch, age 71 of Petros left this world for a far better place on March 11, 2025.

He was the world’s best father, husband, and grandfather. He provided for his family and would give his shirt off his back to anyone that needed it. He was our hero, our safe place, our everything. No words could ever describe how wonderful my dad was. He worked hard even when he was taking treatments to provide for us.

He worked at Knoxville Custom Cabinets until he couldn’t work anymore. He missed working there so much. He loved everyone there. We will never be the same. He is our world and now he is our angel. Still providing and watching over us. I will miss my dad, and we will always have a void in our hearts.

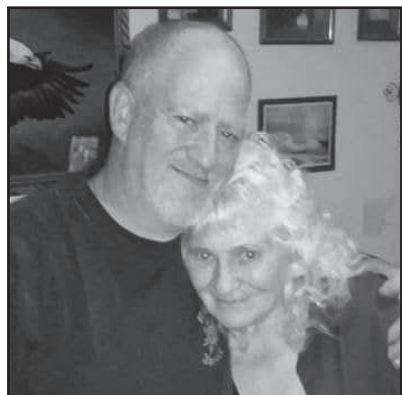
He is preceded in death by his parents Clyde and Mae Bunch; brothers Bo and Johnny Bunch, Robert and Bobby Colston; sisters Faye Cooper, Dean Casey, Jeanette Bunch and Betty Elkins.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years Patty Bunch; daughter Brenda Bunch; grandsons Brandon Bunch, Adam Norton, and Gage Wright; great grand daughter Autumn Woods; brothers Lonnie (Dean) Bunch; sister Ann Dagley; special friends Mark Bunch (which dad always said “my buddy”), Jeff McGinnis, Casey McGinnis and Renee Pemberton and a host of nieces, nephews, and special friends.

The family will receive friends Friday, March 14, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00-1:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 1:00 p.m. with Minister Alysia Jones officiating. Eddie’s wishes are to be cremated.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Edgar Bunch.

Gene T. Myers Jr., 57



Gene T. Myers, Jr., age 57 of Wartburg formerly of Georgia passed away March 31, 2025 at Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge.

He is preceded by his parents Mary Bone and Gene Myers; wife Belinda Myers; daughter Breanna Boswell; brother

Ricky Stanley; grandparents Mamie and Gordon Westmoreland.

He is survived by his daughter Danielle Myers; sons Timothy Myers and Adam Mchan; sisters Star Hamby and Teresa Fields; grandsons Alex and Isaac Smith; granddaughter Charlee Dyer and Merissa Boswell and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family.

The family has chosen cremation, and no services will be scheduled at this time.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Gene T. Myers, Jr.

Bobbie Hester, 64



Mr. Bobbie Hester, age 64, of Mossy Grove passed away on Saturday, March 1, 2025.

His father Charles Perkey, Mother Violet Perkey, and Nephew Jeffrey preceded him in death.

He is survived by his beloved wife Linda Hester, Daughter Erica Hester and Fiancé Mi-

chael Underwood; son Matthew Hester; brother Franklin (Syble) Hester; sister Debbie (Jesse) Haney; nephew and nieces, the Abston sisters and his church family at New Life Apostolic.

Graveside services will be held Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 4:00 PM at Montgomery Cemetery in Lancing Tennessee with Bishop Anthony Pemberton officiating. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mr. Bobbie Hester.

Martha Delores Heidel



Martha Delores Heidel of Lancing passed away peacefully on March 13, 2025, surrounded by her husband Kevin and daughter Isabell (Izzy).

Martha enjoyed taking trips with Kevin and Izzy. She enjoyed watching Izzy cheer and spending time with her family.

She is preceded in death by her father John David Lewandoski, Sr.; step-father Jimmie Northrup; brother John David Lewandoski, Jr. (Mijo); and niece Tasha Cruz.

She is survived by her husband Kevin Heidel; daughter Isabell Valentina Rita Heidel; mother Valentina Northrup; sister Delores Henry and brother-in-law Samuel Henry; sister Nancy

Jackson and brother-in-law Curtis Jackson; mother-in-law Rita Heidel and father-in-law Rex Heidel; sister-in-law Karrie Walker and brother-in-law Larry Walker; special nieces and nephews Maurice Zapata, Toni Howard, Andrew Polder, Linda Polder, Deborah Elias, Tyler Walker, Colton Walker, Aaron Walker, Antanita Elias. Arthur Elias, Jeffery Cruz and a host of extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends Monday, March 17, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 4:00-6:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 6:00 p.m. with Deacon Vic Landa officiating. Graveside services will be Tuesday at noon in the Heidel Cemetery in Wartburg.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Martha Delores Heidel.

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





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



Tom Redmon

Room at the White House at 7:09 pm. Harry Truman thought he would be playing poker instead of holding a Bible and repeating the oath of office to Chief Justice Harlan F. Stone.

Mr. Truman certainly had a major task in front of him with both battle fronts going on. Germany was on the cusp of defeat, but Japan certainly wasn't ready to give up their fight. Japan should have given up after our victories of the battle of Midway and the battle of the Solomon Islands but the warring faction in the nation of the rising sun wanted to keep fighting until the last soldier was killed.

Though obviously shaken, the first lady was in her moment of grief, a tower of dignity and strength. With the up-lifting spirit that had given heart to thousands of wounded soldiers and millions of poor Americans, she stood and put her hand on the shaken Truman's shoulder.

"Is there anything I can do for you?" Truman asked her.

"Is there anything we can do for you?" Mrs. Roosevelt answered. "You are the one in trouble now."

Harry Truman's Part in WWII



First, they had to take care of the war ending in Europe and President Truman had to meet with Churchill and Stalin several times; two men he hardly knew. On July 24, 1945, they met at Potsdam, Germany to work out a settlement in which Russia wanted to gain a foothold in Europe. Truman, according to Secretary of War Henry Stimson, would be the advisor to Mr. Truman. He felt the topic of the Manhattan Project could wait no longer, so he wrote Truman a letter. He explained in the letter that he had delayed the meeting because of the pressure Truman had been under.

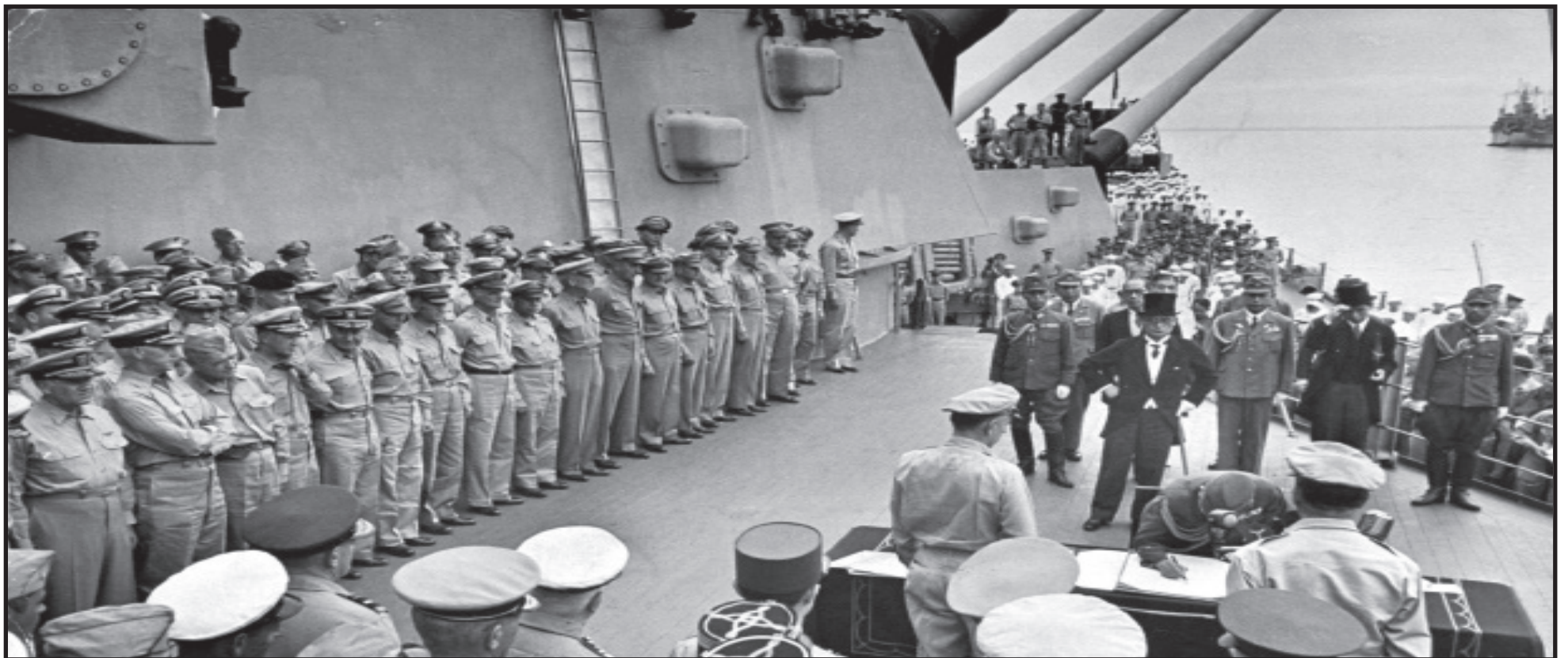
President Truman had many important decisions to make, and none were bigger than whether to drop the atomic bomb or not. Many officials including Ike didn't want to drop the bomb on a defeated nation, but others felt we had lost enough of our young men.

So, on August 6, 1945, the bomb called "Little Boy" was dropped on Hiroshima by a B-29 named Enola Gay.

The war was over later after the U.S. dropped the second atomic bomb on Nagasaki. On September 2, 1945, aboard the USS Missouri the Japanese surrendered for peace. World War II was finally over.



Harry Truman had been Vice President for 83 days when he was sworn into the White House after the death of President Roosevelt who had been our president since 1933. Truman knew nothing about the Manhattan Project which was assigned "Top Secret" to a group of top scientists. In Los Alamos, New Mexico they were working on developing a destructive weapon that would be the most terrible weapon ever known in human history. Truman was now in charge of how and when this weapon would be used on Japan.



**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



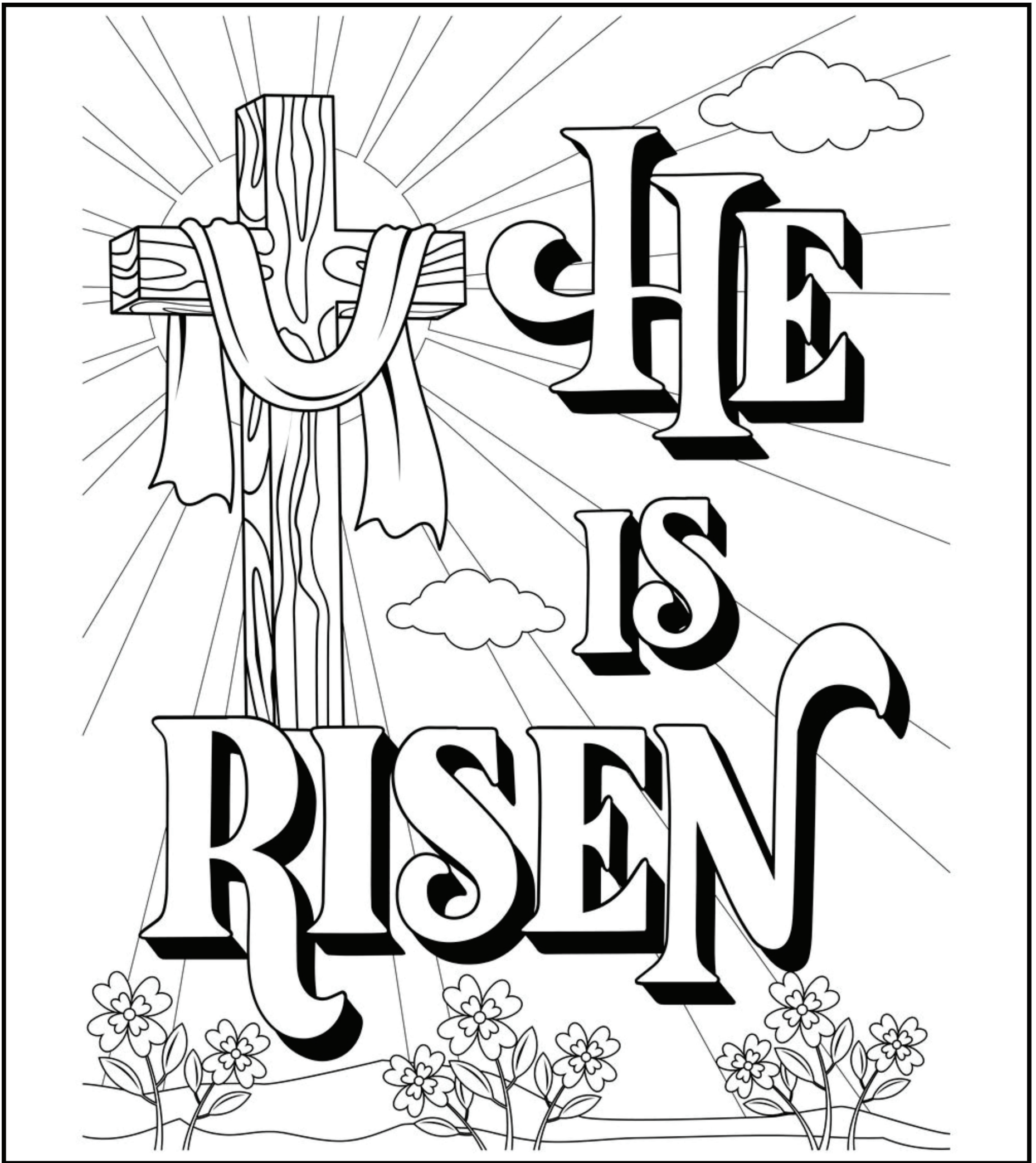
**RustyWallaceHyundai.com - 865-963-3400
505 Callahan Drive, Knoxville - Exit 110 - 75 North**

Have a Happy & Blessed Easter!



ED 
BUTLER
State Representative
DISTRICT 41





RUSTY WALLACE

865-688-8886

KIA KNOXVILLE
I-75 AT CALLAHAN DRIVE

RUSTY WALLACE

865-938-4222



KNOXVILLE
I-75 AT CALLAHAN DRIVE

RUSTY WALLACE





NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION MONTH

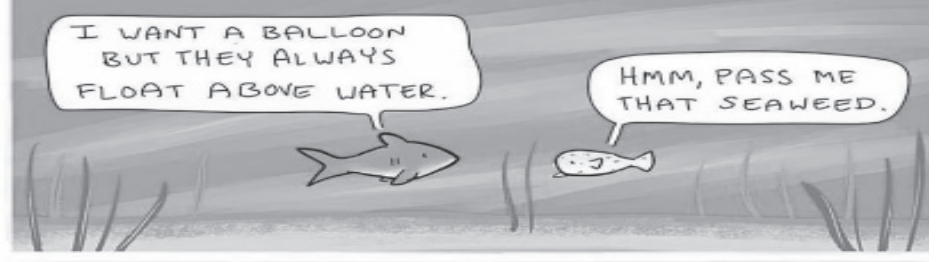
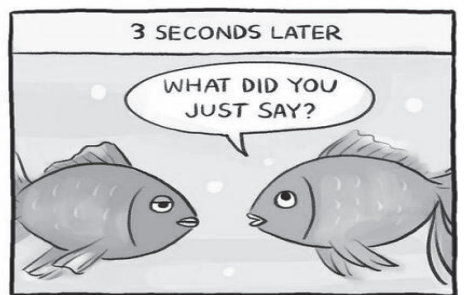
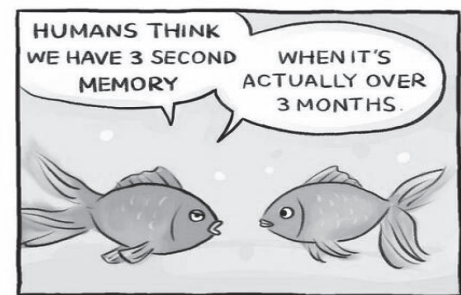
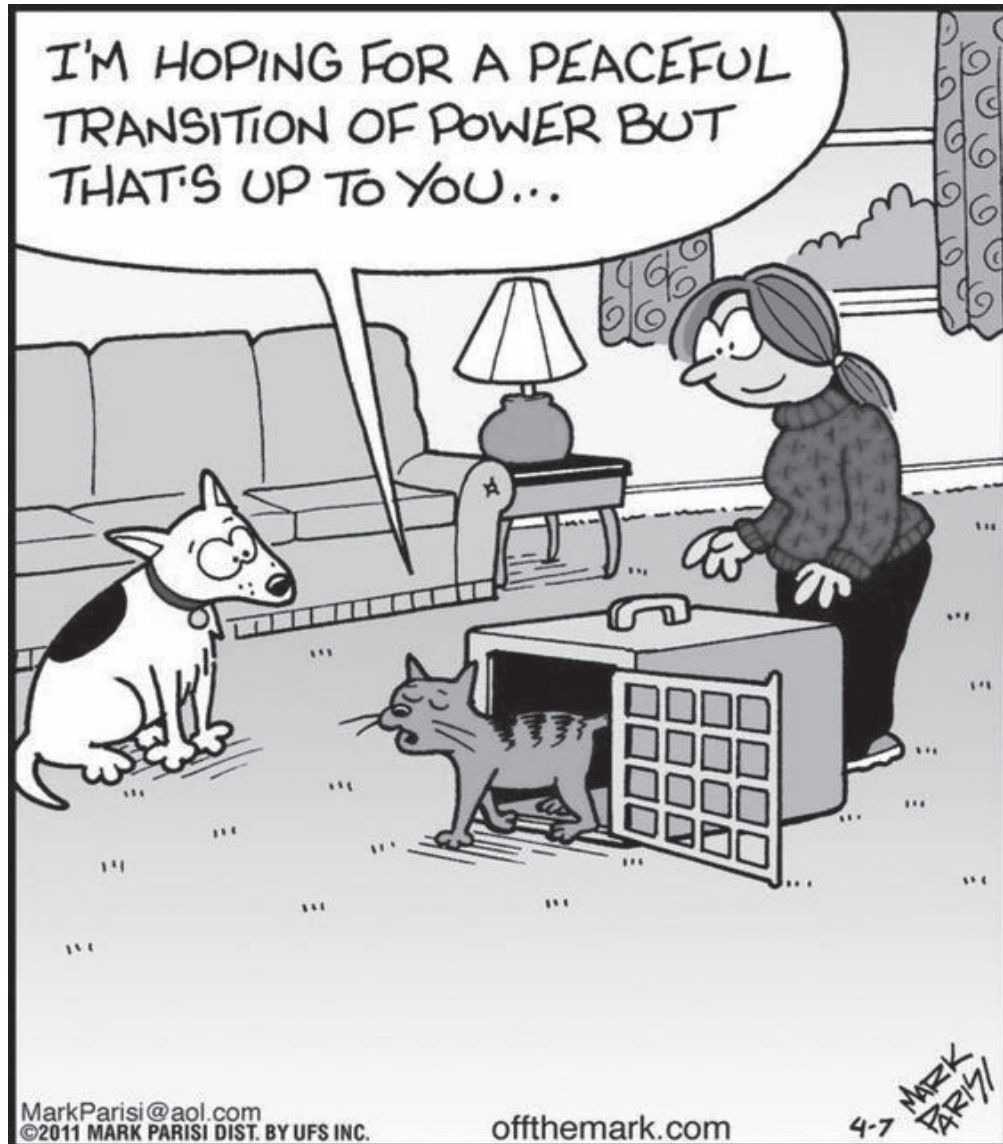
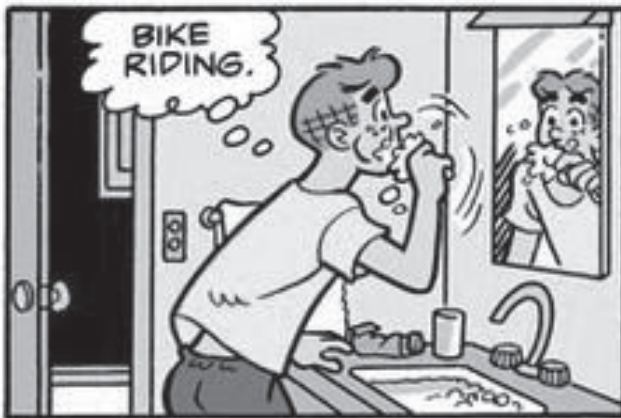
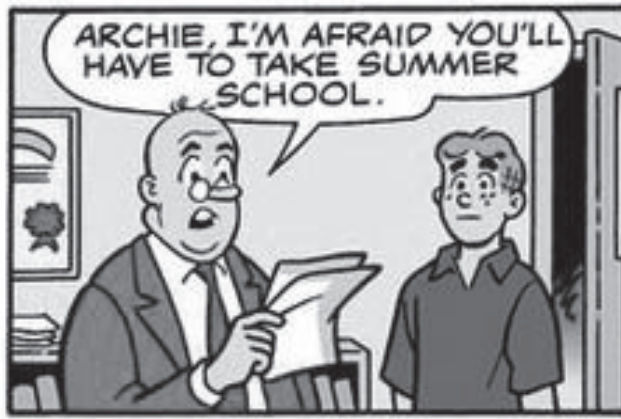
THANK YOU TO ALL OUR LINEMEN



PEC

PLATEAU ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE





Beware of non-credentialed tax preparers



David Zubler
Columnist

Millions of people hire tax preparers each year. They expect their returns to be prepared accurately and filed according to the law.

Auditors from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) posed as taxpayers and made 19 visits to several tax return preparation chains. The auditors discovered that 17 of the 19 returns were done wrong with variations of several thousand dollars. It was expected that considerably more than 10% of the returns would be correctly prepared.

In 2023, over 60 percent of all returns were prepared by professionals without professional credentials (i.e., individuals other than CPAs, enrolled agents, and attorneys).

A recent report by the Senate Finance Committee shared that non-credentialed tax preparers are not required to meet any education or ethics requirements. The lack of accountability has resulted in an environment where preparers are prone to errors and fraudulent practices.

The absence of federal oversight of non-credentialed preparers can be costly for taxpayers. The consequences can range from unclaimed tax benefits to penalties, audits, and fraudulent returns.

Studies by the (GAO) and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) demonstrate the frequency of inaccuracies by non-credentialed preparers. The findings stress the need for more effective oversight of the tax preparer industry.

In 2023, 33.5 percent of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) payments were estimated to be improper, which would amount to \$21.9 billion. Non-credentialed preparers were responsible for a staggering 98 percent of all disallowed claims. Many taxpayers were unaware their preparer had incorrectly claimed the EITC and were subject to fraud and other penalties.

Anyone can become a professional tax by simply obtaining a PTIN. Getting a PTIN requires no continuing education, ethical standards, and little IRS oversight. If the preparer pays the annual renewal fee, they can

keep their PTIN and continue preparing taxes.

The National Taxpayer Advocate (TAS) has recommended stronger oversight of preparers and urged Congress to establish minimum standards for return preparers similar to those required for CPAs, enrolled agents, and attorneys for many years. TAS has also recommended that the IRS be given the authority to revoke their PTIN for standards violations. However, the authority to regulate non-credentialed preparers must come from Congress.

Tax return preparers play a crucial role in the country's tax system. TAS has proposed creating minimum standards for non-credentialed preparers, which would help to ensure that taxpayers receive the tax benefits to which they are entitled and protect them from penalties caused by untrained and unethical preparers.

Due to the lack of accountability, TAS recommends being careful when using non-credentialed preparers to file taxes. You are responsible for any penalties for your preparer's lack of knowledge and ethics.

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.

April 2025

Morgan County Schools

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 SPRING BREAK	2 SPRING BREAK	3 SPRING BREAK	4 SPRING BREAK
7 Breakfast Cinnamon Roll Juice Lunch Pizza or Garlic French Bread Steamed Corn, Carrot Coins Caesar Salad Fresh Veggies & Dip Berry Cup	8 Breakfast Chicken Biscuit Fresh Fruit Lunch Chicken Cheesy Potatoes Steamed Broccoli, Soup Beans Hot Roll Chilled Peaches	9 Breakfast Breakfast Wrap or Breakfast Pizza Fruit Parfait Lunch Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Garden Salad Hot Roll, Fruit	10 Breakfast Muffin Fruit Smoothie Lunch Oriental Chicken Bowl or Crispos Steamed Broccoli Garden Salad Fortune Cookie Side Kick	11 Breakfast Sausage Biscuit Yogurt Taco Lunch Fish or Hamburger Macaroni & Cheese Salad or Slaw Baked Onion Rings Hush Puppies Strawberries
14 Breakfast Mini Pancakes Fruit Smoothie Lunch Popcorn Chicken Macaroni & Cheese Roasted Brussel Sprouts Fresh Garden Salad Fresh Fruit	15 Breakfast Cinnamon Roll Juice Holiday Meal Chicken or Pork & Gravy Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Garden Salad, Hot Roll Fresh Fruit, Dessert	16 Breakfast Breakfast Pizza, Cereal Fresh Fruit Lunch Chicken Sandwich Seasoned Fries Baked Beans Pasta Salad, Tossed Salad Fresh Fruit	17 Breakfast French Toast Banana National Banana Day Eggs, Gravy & Biscuit Chicken or Sausage Potato Patty, Grits Fresh Fruit Fruit Parfait Bar	18 GOOD FRIDAY
21 Breakfast Chicken on a Roll Juice Lunch Hamburger on Wheat Bun Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese Pickle, Onion Crisp Baked Fries Veggies w/ Dip Seasonal Fresh Fruit	22 Breakfast Sausage Biscuit Fruit Lunch Chicken Nuggets Whipped Potatoes Steamed Broccoli Garden Fresh Salad Fresh Veggies w/ Dip, Wheat Roll Fresh Fruit	23 Breakfast Pancake on a Stick Fruit Lunch Pizza Steamed Corn Garden Fresh Salad Carrot Coins Fresh Veggies & Dip, Fresh Fruit Apple Slices	24 Breakfast Breakfast Pizza Chilled Applesauce Lunch Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce Broccoli Salad Garden Fresh Salad Green Beans Veggies w/ Dip, Garlic Bread Fresh Fruits	25 Breakfast French Toast Orange Wedges Lunch Corn Dog Tater Tots Baked Beans, Vegetable Medley Fresh Veggies & Dip Fresh Seasonal Fruit
28 Breakfast Mini Cinnamon Roll Juice Lunch Chicken Alfredo Steamed Broccoli Green Beans Caesar Salad Garlic Bread Side Kick	29 Breakfast Sausage Biscuit Fruit Smoothie Lunch Hoagie Bar: Deli Meat Baked Fries Fresh Veggies & Dip Pasta Salad, Tossed Salad Orange Wedges	30 Breakfast Breakfast Burrito Banana Lunch Frito Chili Pie Lettuce, Tomatoes, Cheese Steamed Corn Tossed Salad Fresh Fruit		

All Morgan County Students will receive a reimbursable breakfast and lunch at **NO CHARGE**

Variety of Milk & Juice
Variety of Fresh Fruit & Veggies
Available Daily

Breakfast & Lunch Menu are subject to change due to availability

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

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

*NO-OBLIGATION ANNUITY RATES *FEATURES MAY VARY

WHAT EVERYBODY WANTS FOR THE NEW YEAR !!!

NEW FDA Approved Semaglutide Plus and Tirzapatide

Injections Now at Dr's Weight Loss Clinic!

“Walk-ins” Welcome

*Call to schedule your FREE
Consultation*



Physician Supervised
 Prescription Diet Pills
 Lipo Myoden
 B12 Injections
 Health and Wellness Supplements

DR'S WEIGHT LOSS CLINIC

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

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



Historically Speaking

Rediscovering the Forgotten Creators of the German Atomic Bomb (Part 1 of 2)

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

EDITOR'S NOTE: This "Historically Speaking" column contains the opinions of Dr. Todd H. Rider based upon the research and information contained in his book, "Forgotten Creators: How German-Speaking Scientists and Engineers Invented the Modern World, And What We Can Learn from Them." [<https://riderinstitute.org/revolutionary-innovation/>]

I now bring to you Historically Speaking readers yet another most interesting insight into Germany during the Manhattan Project and World War II era. This one is based on extensive research and is published

online for your review...see above link in Editor's Note. Todd Rider has also been featured on Hidden

History: Stories from the Secret City:

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0j4vsrz5XE&t=175s>

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1pPh048r0o>

Part 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQ8AQm6kboY&t=20s>

Part 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHss4fDGcAY&t=76s>

Get ready to have your mind filled with new information regarding the history of German atomic weapons.

Spring 2025 is the 80 th anniversary of the end of the World War II German nuclear weapons program. Although the standard historical view since the war has been that the German nuclear program was quite small and primitive compared to the U.S. Manhattan Project, recently declassified and rediscovered archival documents reveal a very different story.

According to information now available, between 1938 and 1945, Germany acquired thousands of tons of uranium and thorium ores from German territory, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Belgium, Portugal, and possibly additional countries.

One route to producing fission fuel for nuclear weapons is enriching uranium—separating the highly fissionable uranium-235 isotope that constitutes approximately 0.72% of natural uranium from the rest that is relatively inert. During World War II, the United States enriched uranium primarily using a combination of "calutrons" or electromagnetic separators (the Oak Ridge Y-12 facility) and gaseous thermal diffusion (the Oak Ridge K-25 facility).

Documents that are now available show that the Nobel-Prize-winning German physicist Dr. Gustav Hertz invented gaseous thermal diffusion enrichment in 1923, and the German government considered his research so important that he was able to work throughout the war despite his Jewish ancestry. In 1940 Auergesellschaft, a major German uranium company, invented an improved method of diffusion enrichment.

When Soviet forces entered Germany in 1945, they discovered that factories in the town of Neustadt an der Orla were uniquely skilled at producing nickel membrane filters for diffusion enrichment. What exactly had those factories been doing during the war?

In September 1946, General Leslie Groves of the Manhattan Project sent Percival C. Keith,

chief designer of Oak Ridge K-25, on a Top-Secret two-week trip to Czechoslovakia. What mission would have required Keith's unique knowledge and would have justified the risk if he were captured by Czech or Soviet forces? Was Keith sent to inspect, strip, or sabotage a former German enrichment plant in Czechoslovakia?

Unfortunately, all other details are still classified even today. What we do know from the available documents is that Gustav Hertz, personnel from Auergesellschaft, those factories in Neustadt an der Orla, and resources from Czechoslovakia all played vital roles in the postwar Soviet nuclear weapons program.

Similarly, rediscovered archival documents reveal that the German scientist Manfred von Ardenne, one of the inventors of television and the electron microscope, built a prototype calutron electromagnetic isotope separator in 1941. After successfully demonstrating his calutron, he called upon the German government and German industry to mass-produce his calutrons for large-scale uranium enrichment.

Documents from the U.S. Army Air Forces and Office of Special Services (OSS) reveal that at least three large facilities were built for von Ardenne's machines and that at least one of those facilities was destroyed by Allied bombing. Further information about this wartime work remains classified, although von Ardenne is known to have played a leading role in the postwar Soviet nuclear program.

Perhaps most importantly, Germany developed gas centrifuges, which are more efficient than calutrons and gaseous diffusion for uranium enrichment, and which therefore have now become the preferred method of enrichment worldwide. Documents show that the German scientist Dr. Georg Bredig invented gas centrifuges sometime before 1895.

By World War II, uranium gas centrifuges were being produced in Kiel (by two different groups), Munich, Freiburg, Göttingen, Thuringia, Breslau (now Wrocław, Poland), and even factories in nominally neutral Switzerland for export back to Germany. How many uranium gas centrifuges did Germany produce and use during the war? Again, the details remain unavailable even 80 years later.

If Germany had built one large Oak-Ridge-like facility for all its uranium enrichment machines, it would have been straightforward for Allied bombers to destroy that facility. To minimize the risk from Allied bombing, Germany would have been strongly motivated to divide up its uranium enrichment machines among many smaller sites far apart, especially in the eastern regions of German-controlled territory (further from U.S./U.K. bombing) and in the numerous large underground facilities that were highly resistant to aerial bombing. That is what Germany did with most of its other major industries as the



Dr. Todd H. Rider with the Ohrdruf military base in the background (Courtesy of Lori Rider)

war progressed. Indeed, a declassified October 1944 report from a highly placed OSS spy cites several leading German industrialists as privately admitting that is exactly how Germany distributed its nuclear production facilities.

Other declassified wartime and early postwar documents actually name many of the German nuclear sites: twin I.G. Farben factories in Opava and Ostrava, Czechoslovakia, said to have 30,000 workers each and to be producing an important new type of explosive material for nuclear weapons; a similar 30,000-person facility underground in Thuringia; underground factories with huge numbers of workers making explosive nuclear material south of Hamburg; one or more uranium enrichment facilities on the outskirts of Berlin; an underground facility at Redl-Zipf, Austria processing what sounds like uranium hexafluoride through hundreds of unusual vertical cylindrical "boilers" that sound like centrifuges or gaseous diffusion cells; heavily guarded and energy-consuming underground facilities near Landsberg in southeastern Germany that were making a critical new explosive material; a similar heavily guarded underground facility at Dubnica (now in Slovakia); highly secretive underground facilities near Stechovice (now in Czechia) powered by a German-built hydroelectric plant; facilities in Silesia (now part of Poland); and many other specific sites in Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Austria.

From the official Manhattan District History, during the final year of the war, all of Oak Ridge (both the facilities and the town itself) consumed an average of 0.189 gigawatts of electrical power. According to postwar reports by the U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey and the British Intelligence Objectives Subcommittee, at the end of 1944 the Greater German Reich was producing over 22 gigawatts of power despite all the Allied bombing. Including all other countries aiding Germany during the war, the total was probably around twice that amount.

Thus, operating enrichment facilities fully comparable to Oak Ridge would have required less than 0.86% of the power of the Greater German Reich, or probably less than 0.5% of the total power aiding Germany. Other documents indicate that German enrichment (especially centrifuges) was more efficient than Oak Ridge and that German bomb designs used methods more efficient than the U.S. Little Boy, so Germany would have needed much less power than Oak Ridge.

Historically Speaking Rediscovering the Forgotten Creators of the German Atomic Bomb (Part 1 of 2)

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Another route to producing fission fuel for nuclear weapons is to use a fission reactor to convert natural uranium-238 into highly fissionable plutonium-239, or alternatively to convert natural thorium-232 into highly fissionable uranium-233. For that purpose, the United States built several large graphite-moderated fission reactors at Hanford, Washington during and after World War II, plus several large heavy-water-moderated fission reactors at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina after the war.

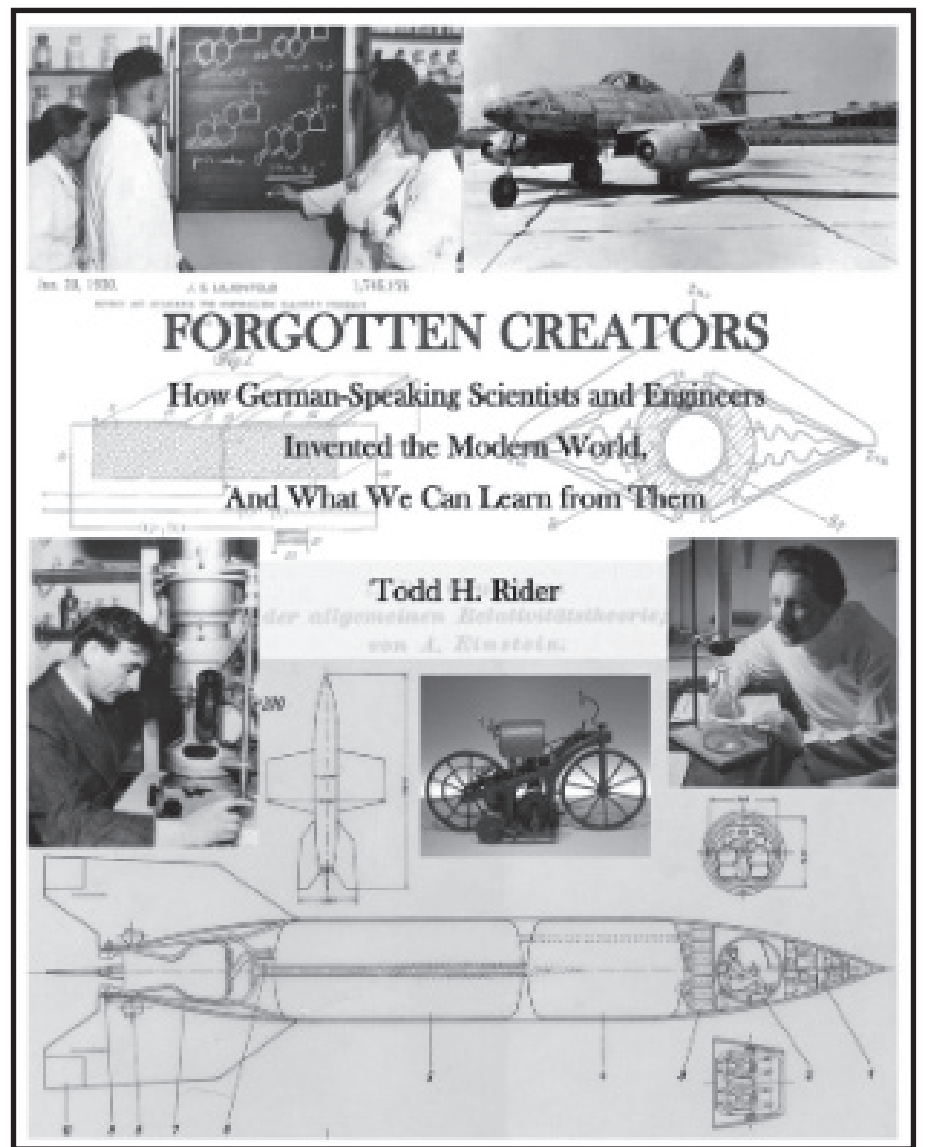
The most famous wartime fission reactor in Germany was a small experimental reactor that was supervised by Dr. Werner Heisenberg and his associates and that never managed to achieve criticality (self-sustaining fission reactions) by the end of the war. However, recently rediscovered archival documents mention several other wartime reactors that may have achieved criticality and may have also been much larger.

A U.S. aerial surveillance photo of St. Georgen an der Gusen, Austria from March 15, 1945, shows what appears to be largely underground octagonal pool-type fission reactors under construction or operational. An aerial surveillance photo of this same site on April 16, 1945, shows that German forces filled the site with earth and concrete and sealed it before U.S. troops arrived.

ventilated before each public opening, visitors cannot remain in the tunnel longer than one hour, and a plastic barrier had to be installed to block even higher levels of radioactive gases coming from the off-limits tunnels beyond. Requests to conduct industrial archaeological excavations at the site have been rejected by the Austrian government.

Other archival documents mention known or suspected wartime fission reactors at Leverkusen, Hamburg, Leipzig, Lichterfelde, Gottow, Unterraderach, Bodenbach (now Decin, Czechia), Königsberg (now Kaliningrad, Russia), an underground installation in Thuringia, and perhaps other sites as well. Once again, detailed reports on those sites remain unavailable to this day.

Most reactors include a moderator material that increases the probability that neutrons released by one fission reaction will cause more fission re-



Forgotten Creators: How German-Speaking Scientists and Engineers Invented the Modern World, And What We Can Learn from Them
(Courtesy of Todd Rider)

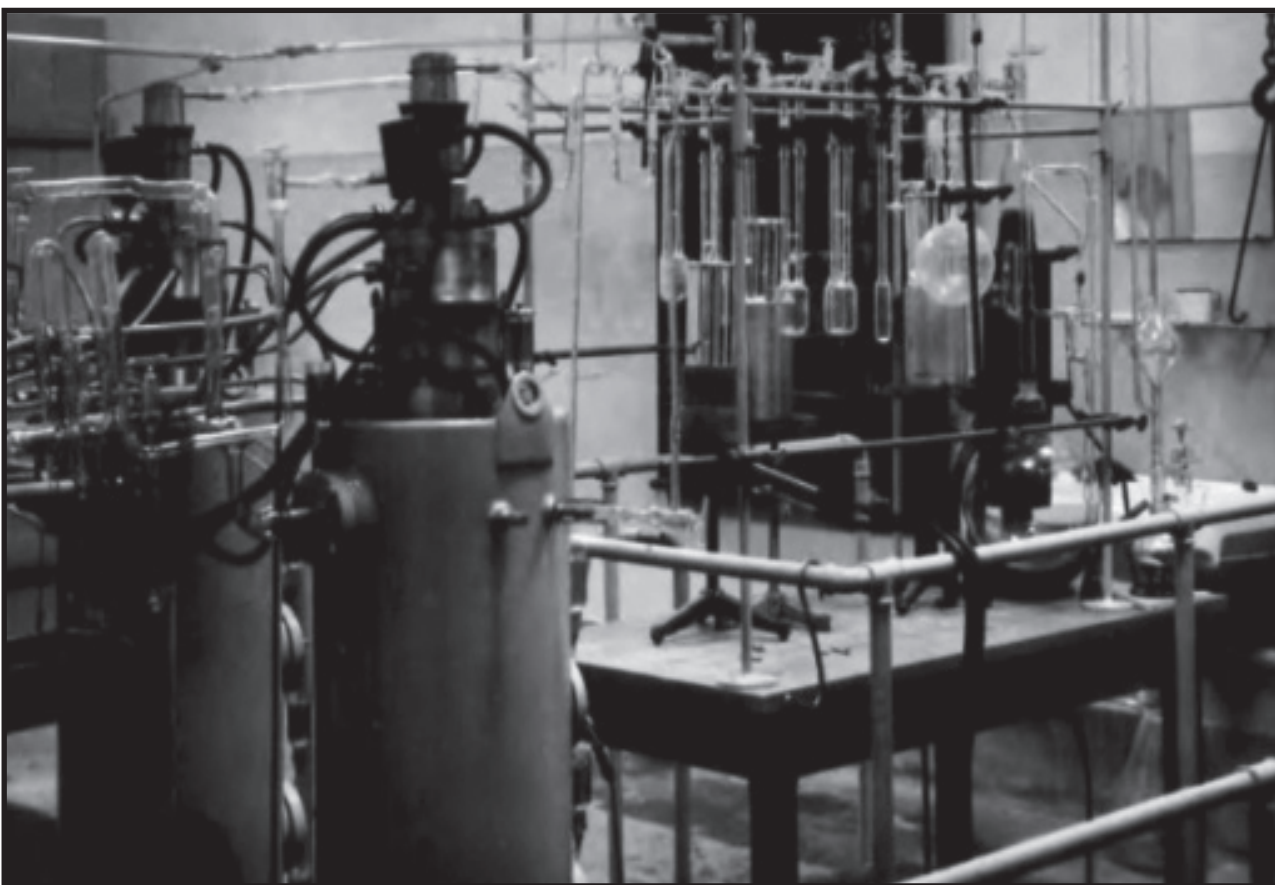
spite other urgent wartime needs strongly suggests that the heavy water was required for operational fission reactors or other aspects of a nuclear weapons program.

In fact, currently available documents show that wartime Germany was also producing enormous quantities of other materials that a serious nuclear weapons program would require tens of thousands of tons of graphite, thousands of tons each of fluorine, aluminum, calcium, nickel, and cadmium, hundreds of tons of lithium, tons of beryllium and zirconium, and large quantities of boron. Some sites such as I.G. Farben's Bitterfeld facility were producing multiple nuclear-related materials all at the same location. These activities began as early as 1938 and continued as a high priority to the very end of the war in Europe.

In Part 2 next week, we will discuss what recently rediscovered archival documents tell us about the design, construction, and successful testing of German atomic bombs, as well as the transfer of German nuclear technologies and personnel to the United States and other countries after the war.

All of the archival evidence mentioned in these two articles and much more is available for free at: <https://riderinstitute.org/revolutionary-innovation/> (Everything discussed there and in these articles is based entirely on unclassified and declassified sources.) If you find this evidence of interest, please use it as a starting point and see how much more evidence you can find in public archives and private collections around the world, or (very carefully, with all appropriate precautions, permissions, and procedures!) at some of the suspected wartime sites in Europe.

Thanks Todd! What a great start to the insights Dr. Rider has discovered. Look forward to the next part of the story...



Uranium gas centrifuges, Hellige & Co., Freiburg, circa 1943 (Courtesy of Deutsches Museum archive, FA 002/811)

Surviving Austrian construction plans for this site list "two atomic piles." 1944 Austrian train logbooks show that several other suspected nuclear sites sent regular shipments of code-named products to this Gusen site. The cover letter for a 1946 U.S. Army Air Forces report on this site is prominently hand-labelled "Underground Pile" with three underlines—and the actual report is still classified. After the war, the son of the SS commandant of Gusen stated that the purpose of the facility was to produce atomic bombs.

Of the reported 30-40 kilometers of tunnels at this underground facility, only one small portion is now opened to the public twice per year—and it contains such a high concentration of radioactive gases that it must be thoroughly

actions. The U.S. nuclear program used a graphite moderator in its Hanford reactors and heavy water (oxygen with deuterium instead of regular light hydrogen) moderator in its Savannah River reactors.

It is well known that Germany was receiving shipments of heavy water from the Vemork plant in German-occupied Norway, and that Allied forces and the Norwegian resistance launched several attacks against that plant. Recently rediscovered documents indicated that Germany was also receiving heavy water from at least 24 other plants all over German-controlled Europe. Detailed reports on those heavy water plants remain classified even today. The fact that Germany was producing heavy water at ~25 or more plants de-

John Chapter 6



Melvin Howard

(John 6:1-15) Feeding the Five Thousand (Mt. 14:13-32; Mk. 6:30-46; Lk. 9:10-17): If Matt. 5:1 refers to a Passover festival, then verse four of this chapter would be the third Passover mentioned in John's record (2:13; 5:1; 6:4), to be concluded by the one of the passion week. Additionally, John alone mentions that the crowds followed Jesus to the Transjordan region, where the miracle of the loaves and fish was performed, "because they beheld the signs which he did on those who were sick" (v.2). Too, at the conclusion of this episode, the people said: "This is of

a truth the prophet that comes into the world" (v. 14), likely referring to Deuteronomy 18:15, the prophet "like unto" Moses.

(John 6:16-21) Jesus Walking on the Water (Mt. 14:24-26; Mk. 6:47-56) Uniquely, John mentions that when the disciples launched their boat, heading westward across the lake, their destination was Capernaum. Too, whereas Mark comments that the boat was midway across the sea when Jesus came to them, John specifies they were three or four miles out. This counters the rationalistic charge that the Lord merely was walking in the shallow surf along the beach and the disciples just imagined he was walking on the water. Finally, John states after the Lord entered the boat, "immediately the boat was at the land where they were going" (v. 21). Unquestionably, this was a miraculous event, though not normally included in the lists of Christ's miracles.

(John 6:22-40) Jesus Speaks to the Crowd on the Western Shore: The following day, when the crowds Jesus had fed discovered he was gone, they got into boats and sailed to Capernaum. One thing puzzled them. There had been only one boat the previous day and the disciples had taken it---Christ not being with them. But now here he was, on the western shore. How did he get here? The Lord ignored their question and addressed a weakness they needed to consider.

With kindly rebuke the Lord charged that the people were not looking for him because they were impressed with his miracles and wanted to consult him as a Teacher, but because they had satisfied their bellies with food and wanted more. He commanded: "Stop working for the food which is temporary, [giving your attention primarily to the material] but [work; verb implied] for that which will last, and lead to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you." His miracle-working power was God's "seal," or certification, that Jesus was his Son (v.27). Note that Christ did not believe that "working" and receiving a "gift" were mutually exclusive; they complement one another.

The people responded: "What must we do that we may work the works of God?" They understood he was enjoining works to be done and that these works were required by God. The Lord replied that the "work" which God required was that they "believe" on him who had been sent. Belief is a work! Away goes the quibble that salvation is void of all works. Incredibly, they asked for a "sign" so that they might believe. Had they forgotten yesterday? They then cited the case of the manna given to the Hebrews in the wilderness---obviously hinting for more food.

The Lord pointed out that the bread which God supplied back then was but a prophetic picture of the true bread who would come to satisfy the soul and to provide ultimate life. He emphatically declared: "I am the bread of life" (v. 35). Such could only be accessed, however, through "believing" on him, which was the equivalent of "coming" (v. 35). Both verbal tenses indicate faithful, sustained action. True faith is yielding faith---not mere intellectual assent (v. 32-35). Tragically, they had seen him, but had not believed. Those who chose to "come" to him were depicted as those "given" to him. It was not an unconditional election, as some today allege. Christ stated that those who "come" (verb reflects steadfast action) to him will not be cast out (v. 37). This text is cited often as a proof for the impossibility of apostasy; it only affirms that one will not be cast out as long as he maintains the steadfast "coming" fidelity.

Jesus again affirms that his mission was to do his Father's will. It was God's ideal will that none be lost (2 Pet. 3:9), but the ideal cannot prevail when men choose to exercise their free will and rebel against the Lord. All who behold the Son (identify and reverence him) and who sustain a belief (so the force of the verb) in him will receive eternal life and will be raised to glory on the last day (v.40).

(John 6:41-58) Discourse on the Bread of Life: The Lord's reference to coming down from heaven disturbed the Jews and they murmured about it, rhetorically asking: "This is Joseph's son, isn't it? We know his father and mother, and he did not come down from heaven." Jesus rebuked them, telling them to stop their murmuring. The Savior went to the heart of their problem---ignorance. They needed to be taught and to learn; only then could they come to him. In making his argument, as authority for his case, the Teacher declared: "It is written in the prophets, 'And they all shall be taught of God.' Every one that has heard from the Father, and has learned, comes to me" (Isa. 54:13).

The Savior indicated that the "drawing" power of God is exercised through the teaching of his word, not by means of some non-definable influence of the Holy Spirit. If the term "draw" connoted an irresistible force,

then all would be saved, for later in this Gospel the Lord says: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto myself" (12:32). The "drawing" is a beneficent pull. The Lord said to ancient Israel: "I have loved you with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn you" (Jer. 31:1; Song of Sol. 1:4). Jesus did not subscribe to the false notion that the "elect" had been chosen before the foundation of the world; hence, salvation is entirely independent of human response. He affirmed that one must receive teaching, understand what is taught, and thereby come to him. The verb "come" in the Greek text indicates a sustained activity resulting from a personal action (v. 44-45).

Jesus continues his discussion about spiritual bread. Several points are emphasized. (a) The one who practices the divinely prescribed faith is promised eternal life (v. 47). (b) The manna in the wilderness sustained life only when voluntarily consumed, and even then temporarily; the true bread of life was Jesus. If one "eats" of this bread (not literally, but in terms of ingesting the Savior's teaching), he will not die (spiritually). (c) The bread which Christ gave involved the sacrifice of his life for the remission of sins (v. 51).

The Jews misunderstood the nature of Christ's symbolic language (as many today do). Surely, they thought, he cannot give his flesh for food (v. 52). Jesus spoke of "eating" his flesh and "drinking" his blood. This is not to be pressed literally, as evidenced by the fact that: (a) the law of Moses forbade drinking blood (Lev. 17:10); (b) he spoke of those who already were "eating" and "drinking" (verbs revealing contemporary activity) his flesh and blood (v. 54).

This eating and drinking are said to produce: (a) eternal life and (b) a relationship in which "you abide in me, and I in you." Elsewhere, these blessings are attributed to (a) believing in Christ (v. 40) and (b) keeping his commandments (1 Jn. 3:24). "Eating" and "drinking" are figurative expression; "believing" and "keeping commandments" are literal. The abuse of this text, in an attempt to support the Catholic dogma of transubstantiation, is void of any justification. Nor does this text have reference to the Lord's supper, though many well-meaning souls have misapplied it in this fashion.

The art of deception is a Catholic priest pretending that his prayer turns unleavened bread into the actual flesh of Jesus Christ. For Jesus says in verse 63 that the flesh profiteth nothing. The Catholics, Protestant and Jews need to start eating the words of the Christ and vomit out the doctrines of men.

(John 6:59-65) Many Disciples Abandon the Lord: Because of the symbolic nature of the previous discourse, many of his disciples viewed it as a "hard" teaching to take, and they grumbled about it. The Lord commented that if they were so easily offended over such a matter, what would they do if they should see him ascending back into heaven? This was a diplomatic way of referring to his coming death. Jesus tries again to emphasize that his words had been "spiritual" not fleshly. They had not comprehended the nature of his language (v. 63).

John informs the reader that Jesus knew well that some of the disciples were having a "faith" problem, and he was aware of the movement of Judas in the direction of complete apostasy, and had been since the beginning of his ministry. One must remember, however, divine foreknowledge does not imply forced human action. Judas was responsible for his own conduct and he acknowledged it (Mt. 24:3-4).

(John 6:66-71) Peter's Pledge of Steadfastness: At this point, many of his disciples (in the larger company of disciples) turned back and walked no more with him. Observe that they did the turning. They were not forced to turn any more than they were forced to "come" or to "be drawn." Free will was involved in all these actions. Then the Lord asked the twelve: "You won't leave me too, will you?" He already knew what was coming. It may, perhaps, reveal disappointment in the Savior's heart. Peter responded: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of life. And we have believed and know that you are the Holy One of God" (v. 68-69). This text is key. It reveals again that being "drawn" to him, "given" to him, "coming" to him, being his, receiving the promise of eternal life, was conveyed---not by some independent, sovereign act of God, but by their submission to "the words," the body of teaching, he had imparted.

Christ responded: "Did I not choose you the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" (v. 70). It is important to observe the two verbs of this sentence. "Choose" points to a particular act in the past; "is" underscores a present status. Judas was not devilish in disposition when chosen; he became so along the way. The question framed in verse sixty-seven, therefore, was merely rhetorical. There was a significant difference between Judas, "a devil," and Peter, once designated as "Satan" (Mk. 8:33). Peter made a temporary, though misguided, blunder; Judas had become a hardened adversary.

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*