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Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3

www.mocotoday.com

Volume 12 Number 6

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

More Than A Newspaper.

75¢



**“Grace be with all them that love
our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.
Amen.”**

- Ephesians 6:24



Morgan County Today
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**PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID
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USPS PUBLICATION NUMBER
(15400)**



**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Col-**

Pet Perspective

Petologist, Ms Avery Pearl

Good grief, it has been cold! Ms Ivory has been quick to do her business and fly back to the door, to get back in to the warmth of her cozy little bed and blanket.

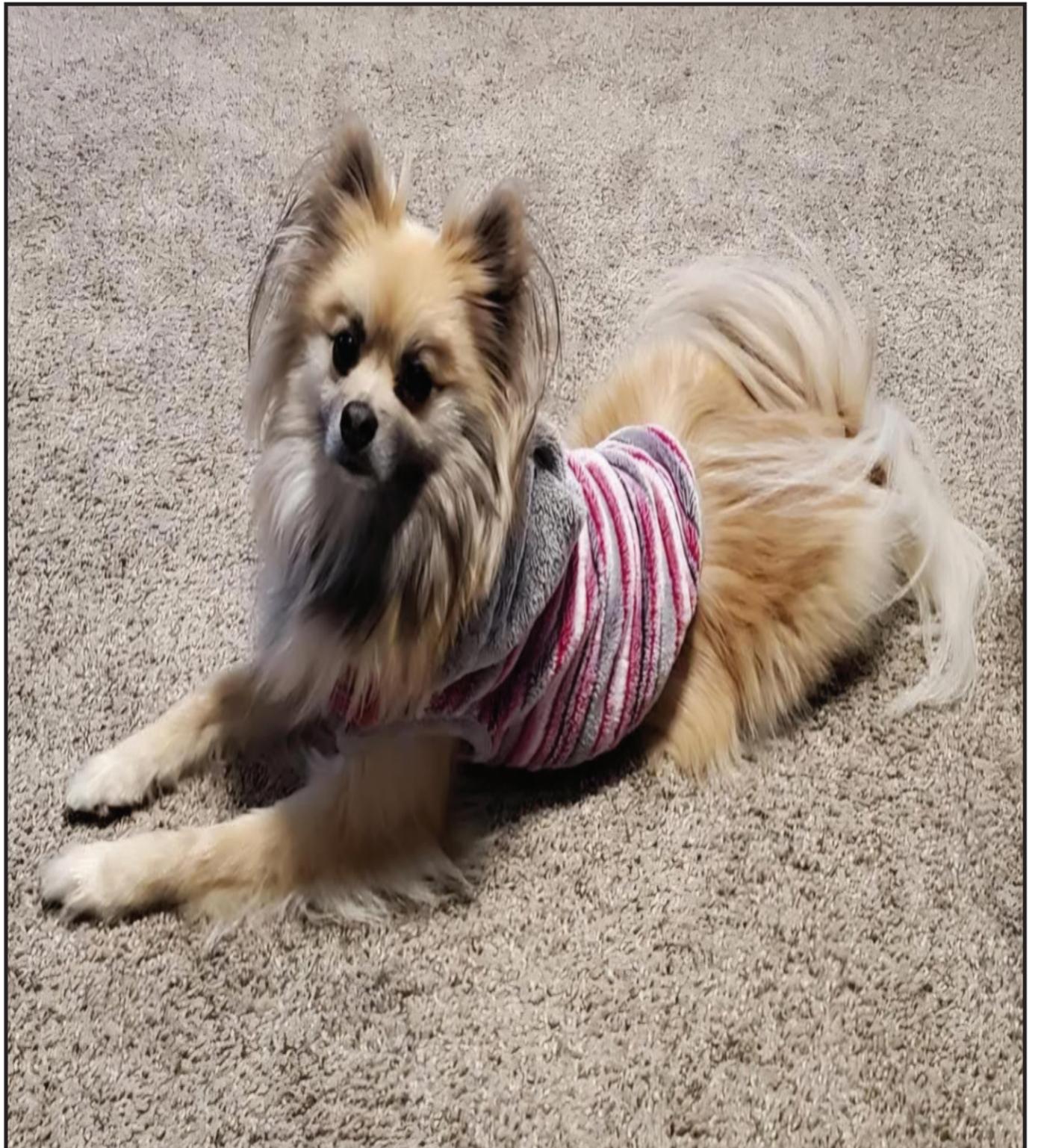
Me, I wuff the cold and I wuff the snow. Ice though, not so much! The ice has made my Pap fall a couple of times. He hurt his shoulder pretty bad a few years ago and had to have surgery. Last year he fell again, hurt his elbow but not bad, thank God. The doorbell caught it and every one has laughed at the video.

Any-woof, I still wuff the cold but, even I know you have to be very careful. I guess I am lucky to have all this fur. It keeps me warm and Mimi says, beautiful.

Hope you guys enjoy the next week or so. It's supposed to be warmer but, there will be a lot of rain.

Listen at me, I sound like I work for the weather channel. Maybe they will call me Petologist, Ms Avery Pearl.

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



WEEKLY WEATHER

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

Tue 10	68°/50°	
Wed 11	55°/31°	
Thu 12	53°/36°	
Fri 13	51°/32°	
Sat 14	52°/39°	
Sun 15	47°/38°	
Mon 16	54°/42°	

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

— In Loving Memory —

Billy Ray Gunter, 87



ter Jacqueline Gunter Furney (Tim) of Eaton, Indiana; stepsons Dean Hutchison (Rhonda) of Wartburg and Steve Hutchison (Kandy) of Petros; brother Bacel Gunter (Pam) of Wartburg and sister Sue Russell and friend Jon of Wartburg; several grandchildren, great grandchildren and extended family and friends.

Billy Ray Gunter, age 87, of Wartburg went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, January 25, 2026. He was born in Scott County but lived his entire life in Wartburg. He was of the Baptist faith.

He is preceded in death by his father Shelby (Doc) Gunter; mother Clansy Gunter and daughter Anita Lane Gunter; sister Betty Crabtree.

He is survived by his loving wife of 44 years and caregiver, Sue Gunter; son Gregory Allen Gunter of Wartburg; daugh-

He was a member of the Emerald No. 377 Lodge for 66 years.

The family will receive friends Thursday, January 29, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Bro. Keith Kilby officiating. Graveside Services will be Friday at 11:00 a.m. in the Morgan Memorial Gardens in Wartburg.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Billy Ray Gunter.

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

Denise Weeks, 60



She is preceded in death by her parents Charles and Mary Whitener; brother Rick Whitener.

She leaves behind husband Ricky; daughter Heather (Brad); son Travis (Sandra); grandsons Carson, Damon, KJ, and Brandon; and 3 great grandbabies; siblings Darlene, Allen, and Brenda.

Denise Weeks age 60, of Louisville, Tn. passed away peacefully on January 26, 2026.

The family has chosen cremation. No services are scheduled at this time.

Denise was known for her kind heart, love of animals, and love for her family. She will be deeply missed.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Denise Weeks.

Her memory will forever remain in the hearts of those she touched.

The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

- Lamentations 3:24

Ruth F. (Sargent) Hall, 93



Ruth worked as a secretary in New Hampshire until she and her husband moved to Tennessee in the late 70's. In addition, Ruth worked over 10 years at the Morgan County Board of Education and Morgan County Finance Office in Wartburg. Ruth was a founding and faithful member of the Star of Hope Chapel in Wartburg. In the early 2000, roads led Ruth back to New Hampshire and while there she attended the Brentwood First Baptist Church but over the past few years when she was unable to attend church in person, she was dedicated to joining the virtual services held at the Star of Hope Chapel.

Ruth F. (Sargent) Hall, 93, entered into the loving arms of her Savior Jesus Christ on January 15, 2026, while living in New Hampshire. Ruth was the only child of Trueman and Albertine (Collins) Sargent of Plaistow, New Hampshire.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband of 31 years, Wesley Q. Hall (of Wartburg, TN) and a host of aunts, uncles, sister-in-laws, brother-in-laws, nieces and nephews. Ruth was deeply loved and will be missed by surviving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends of whom she regularly stayed in contact. Special gratitude to cousins Laurie Leeman, Sharon Turcotte, Linda Daggett (NH), Wayne and Linda Glover (FL), niece Teresa Nichols and husband Jeff and niece Donna Jean Pardue (TN), and special friend Pat Steelman (TN) for their support over the years.

Per her wishes, graveside services will be held at the Flat Fork Cemetery, Wartburg, on Sunday, February 8, 2026 at 2:00 pm. Family and friends are invited to attend. Pastor Darrel Daugherty will officiate. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to the Star of Hope Chapel, Wartburg, TN (mailing address PO 1651, Harriman, TN 37748).

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Ruth Hall.



— In Loving Memory —

Michael Mikey Williams, 49



Michael Mikey Williams, age 49, departed this world on January 22, 2026.

He is preceded in death by father Mike Williams; grandparents Howard and Betty Jones and James and Marjorie Williams; uncle Jimmy Williams; aunts

Sherry Phillips and Diane Swint; cousins Eric Phillips, Jereme Howard, and Stevie Howard; and Wayne Phillips with whom he had a special bond.

Survived by; Mother Brenda Williams; sons Evan Williams and fiancé Skylar Ferretti and Colton Williams; Soul Mate Forever and a Day Debra Barnett and daughter Felicity; and a host of uncles, aunts, cousins and brother by a different mother Ricky Willilams.

One of Mikey's favorite things in life was music. He was a skilled bass player. He would sit and play for hours, escaping every day life in his music. He enjoyed being outdoors with his beloved

dogs Cate, Vincent and Frankie. He lived his life to the fullest! Going on many adventures, skydiving, rock climbing and repelling. He loved his Harley and would ride every chance he got. Always enjoying a new tattoo every now and then! He was able to turn ordinary moments into stories and would tell everybody with a laugh. He had a huge heart and you could feel that in the way he showed up for the people he loved. If you were his friend you were his family and he had your back! He had a kind soul, big heart never met a stranger and was willing to help anybody.

He will be dearly missed by the people he was the closest too.

Leaving a void behind that will never be filled. But know he is at peace now and his struggles are over.

The family will receive friends Friday, January 30, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. Graveside services will be at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday in the McCart Cemetery in Lancing.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Michael "Mikey" Williams.

Donna Jean Cooper, 64



Donna Jean Cooper, maiden name Green, age 64, passed away peacefully at her home in Wartburg, Tennessee. She was born on July 7, 1961, in North Florida. Donna made Wartburg her home for the past 30 years, where she built a life rooted in love, family, and community.

Donna was preceded in death by her beloved daughter, Christy Cooper Stevens; her mother, Marty Wallace; her father, Art Green; her grandparents; her brother, Art Green; her sister, Tracy Green; her spouse, Jack Armes; and her close friend, Patty Haynes.

She is survived by her children: son Nick Cooper (Katie), daughter Brittany Bond (Griffin), and son-in-law Fritz Stevens. She leaves behind her cherished grandchildren: Shayna McDaniel (Zeke), Raven Stevens (Austin), Cailee Laway, Emmie Nelson, Taylor Bond, Parker Bond, Elijah, Evelyn Bond, her most recent granddaughter and namesake, Hannah Jean Bond, Joel and Trevor. She was also blessed with great-grandchildren Shay and Karson, as well as a slew of unofficially adopted grandchildren whom she loved fiercely as her own.

Donna is also survived by her close friend, Brenda Armes and ex-husband Danny Cooper.

Donna was known to many as "Momma Donna" or "Nanny." She had a heart big enough for everyone and opened her home to countless children over the years, loving them unconditionally while never hesitating to set them straight when needed. She was a guiding presence, a safe place, and a steady source of comfort for so many. She was wonderfully crafty and found great joy in crocheting, pouring love into every stitch she made. Her warmth, strength, and unwavering care for others will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

Donna's legacy lives on in the many lives she touched, the family she nurtured, and the love she gave so freely.

The family will receive friends Monday, February 2, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 12:00-1:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 1:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the Petros Cemetery (School House Hill) in Petros.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Donna Jean Cooper.

Charles McMahan, 66



Charles McMahan, age 66 of Oliver Springs passed away January 28, 2026 at Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge.

Charles loved working on cars, trikes, and loved fishing. Family knew him best as a "wheeler and dealer" who loved the outdoors as well.

He is preceded in death by his parents Charles Everette McMahan and Nadiene Hunter McMahan; sister Marilyn Elaine McMahan; mother and father-

in-law Naomi Fay and Archie Ray Hutchins.

He is survived by his wife of 25 years Patty McMahan; daughter Billie (Tim) Barnes; sons Brand McMahan, Butch Baker and fiancé Lena, Donnie Baker, and Derek Baker; brothers Danny Clyde McMahan, David Eugene McMahan, Paul Edward McMahan, and Christopher Aaron McMahan; and a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 12:00-2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m.

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



— In Loving Memory —



Merly Rose Jones



Merly Rose Jones of Sunbright passed away at home Friday, January 30th 2026.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 43 years Eddie Jones; Her parents Virgil and Lula Durham; brothers JP, Russell, Harold D. and Dainel Durham.

She is survived by her son Jason and daughter-in-law Christina Jones; grandchildren Logan and Hannah Jones; sisters Carolyn and Ray Howard, Wanda and J. Harold Johnson, Ger-

aldine and Charlie Young and a host of nieces and nephews. Merly was a loving mother, a proud wife and dedicated fiercely to her family. She loved going to yard sales, goofing off with her grandkids and striking up a conversation with just about anyone she met. She had missed her husband dearly since his passing. Now, by the grace of God's will, she has been reunited with that lost piece of herself and they are together again.

The family will have a graveside service Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at Friends Chapel Cemetery in Deer Lodge.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Merly Rose Jones.



Historically Speaking Touring Oak Ridge's future nuclear energy hub (part 1), Centrus Energy, Type One Energy

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Carolyn Krause is exploring what's happening in Oak Ridge. She has read that new companies are investing in building facilities on Oak Ridge land, partly to create tomorrow's nuclear reactors and to make the special fuels they need to power future data centers that will advance artificial intelligence.

The companies will help to meet the goals of the Department of Energy's Manhattan Project 2.0. DOE is aiming to ensure that the United States maintains its global leadership in AI and its competitiveness in national security, economic prosperity, and scientific discovery through supercomputing and quantum computing. AI data centers require electricity 24/7, and of all the energy sources, nuclear power is the most reliable, generating electricity more than 90% of the time.

Past accomplishments can lay a path for future achievements. As this Historically Speaking column has often mentioned, researchers in Oak Ridge and elsewhere learned in the past century how to make nuclear fuel and nuclear reactors that have used the fuel for decades to produce electricity worldwide. Oak Ridge helped chart the way for developing advanced nuclear fuels and coolants and for designing easier-to-build, safer, more efficient, and less expensive small modular reactors that will require the new fuels to meet 21st century needs for power.

On Tuesday, Oct. 21, during Nuclear Science Week sponsored by the American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge, Carolyn took the New Nuclear "Dirt Tour" on a luxury bus paid for by Kairos Power. It helped her find out more about how and why Oak Ridge is becoming the "core of America's nuclear renaissance." The tour "guides," lunch speaker, and passengers who were well-educated on nuclear companies' plans for Oak Ridge, along with her internet searches using AI chatbots, provided Carolyn with excellent information, much of which she presents in this five-part series.

More than 18 billion dollars! (NOTE: This is a rough estimate based on local or state statistics. – Ray.) That's the projected total of promised capital investments by all the companies that have so far announced plans to build fission and fusion reactors that produce electricity, as well as plants that produce or recycle nuclear fuel in or near Oak Ridge. (NOTE: The East Tennessee Economic Council states 154 nuclear-related companies in our Oak Ridge-Knoxville region employ 40,000 people. The new nuclear companies may add another 2,500 jobs over the next 10 years. – Ray)

It's clear that nuclear will be good for the local economy. But it's unclear whether all the nuclear companies will survive and prosper. (If only half of them survive, their impact will be larger than the Manhattan Project's impact on this region. – Ray.)

Even so, Oak Ridge is on its way to becoming one of the nation's largest advanced nuclear energy hubs. The future of nuclear power in the United States may have been saved more by artificial intelligence (and its power-hungry data centers) than by an intelligent concern about the dangers of climate change.

The bus tour I took was one of the events of the national Nuclear Science Week, sponsored

this year by the American Museum of Science and Energy of Oak Ridge. The talks on the bus and at lunch by representatives of the different companies offered insights into the goals and progress of each nuclear project.

On the first part of the tour, we stopped at the sites of Centrus Energy, Type One Energy, Orano USA, TRISO-X, and BWXT. During the first hour and a half, we saw no dirt – just buildings, forests, fields and a bobcat (the compact tractor, not the animal!).



The Centrus Energy complex (Courtesy of Centrus Energy)

While eating pizza at the William J. Wilcox K-25 Interpretive Center in the Heritage Center, we heard a talk by an executive with LIS Technology. We talked about the unique plans of the nuclear startup Oklo. After lunch, on the second part of the tour, we visited the sites of Standard Nuclear, Kairos Power, and the Clinch River Nuclear Site of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the nation's largest public utility.

Along the way, we also heard on the bus from representatives of Energy Solutions, a company in Oak Ridge that manages, transports (mostly by its own train cars), and disposes of low-level radioactive materials, and the Uranium Processing Facility at the Y-12 National Security Complex. It's the largest construction project in Oak Ridge since the Manhattan Project, with a cost exceeding \$10 billion!

Centrus Energy. Our first stop was at the original 100-ft-tall Boeing building on Centrifuge Way. This site on South Illinois Avenue is where Boeing made gas centrifuges and later airplane parts. In 1992, a U.S. government corporation called the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) was established to manage and operate the uranium enrichment activities previously carried out by the Department of Energy through its power-hungry gaseous diffusion plants in Oak Ridge, Paducah, Kentucky, and Piketon, Ohio.

The idea was to transition uranium enrichment to the private sector and ultimately transition from 1950s-era gaseous diffusion enrichment to a more efficient enrichment technology: the gas centrifuge. The reason: gas centrifuges use less power and can produce enriched uranium at a lower cost than gaseous diffusion. USEC bought the site in Oak Ridge – now known as the Technology and Manufacturing Center – to manufacture its centrifuges. The company later restructured as Centrus Energy Corp., which is headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland.

In Oak Ridge, Centrus is designing and building improved, more-efficient gas centrifuges that are roughly 40 feet tall and two-and-a-half feet in diameter. Each centrifuge has an output several times higher than a European centrifuge design, making it the most productive centrifuge design in the world. Centrus operates the cen-

trifuges for enriching uranium at its American Centrifuge Plant in Piketon, Ohio, which sits on DOE's Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant reservation.

When natural uranium is mined from the ground, it contains less than 1% of the fissile uranium-235 (U-235) isotope. More than 99% of the weight is uranium-238 (U-238). Most of the nuclear power plants in operation today – including the entire U.S. civilian reactor fleet – require uranium to be enriched so that the U-235 concen-

tration is between 3 and 5%. This is known as Low-Enriched Uranium, or LEU.

Many of the future advanced reactors, including small modular reactors that will likely be built in Oak Ridge and elsewhere in the nation, require a more advanced uranium fuel with a U-235 concentration between 5% and 20% (19.75% is considered desirable for high-temperature, low-pressure, small modular reactor demonstration projects). Nuclear fuel with these enrichment levels is known as High-Assay, Low-Enriched Uranium, or HALEU, fuel.

In 2023, Centrus Energy began producing HALEU fuel at a demonstration cascade of advanced centrifuges at the Piketon site, making it the only facility in the U.S. currently licensed to enrich uranium up to HALEU levels.

In 2025, Centrus announced plans for a multi-billion-dollar expansion of its uranium enrichment capacity to include large-scale production of both LEU for existing reactors and HALEU for advanced reactors that will be in demand for powering AI data centers. The Ohio facility has just 16 centrifuges today, but it has room for many additional machines, which will be manufactured in Oak Ridge. Centrus is expanding its manufacturing capacity in Oak Ridge and rapidly growing its workforce to do the job.

On Jan. 23, 2026, Centrus announced that it will invest \$567 million in the planned expansion of its centrifuge manufacturing operation in Oak Ridge, creating almost 430 jobs. As a result, Centrus will receive a portion of Tennessee's \$70 million Nuclear Energy Fund.

How does uranium enrichment using centrifuges work? The uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) gas pumped into a tall, thin cylinder called a centrifuge is spun at an extremely high speed, causing the slightly heavier U-238 molecules to be flung toward the outer wall. The slightly lighter U-235 molecules stay closer to the center.

By heating the cylinder's bottom and cooling its top, a circulating current is created that pushes the gas enriched in U-235 toward one end and the depleted gas toward the other. To reach almost 20% enrichment in the UF₆ gas, it must pass through thousands of centrifuges linked together in a cascade. – Continue on Page 7

Historically Speaking Touring Oak Ridge's future nuclear energy hub (part 1), Centrus Energy, Type One Energy

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Type One Energy. Our next stop was Tennessee Valley Authority's retired Bull Run Steam Plant, which for 56 years burned coal to make electricity for Tennessee residents and businesses and provided revenues to TVA. It is now the site for Type One Energy, a new company with offices headquartered in Hardin Valley in Knox County.

The company was the first recipient of a grant (\$4.5 million) from Tennessee's Nuclear Energy Fund in exchange for Type One Energy's committed capital investment of \$223.5 million for its project in Tennessee. The investment is expected to create 330 new jobs.

In January 2026, the company announced that it would establish, at TVA's newly named Bull Run Energy Complex, a facility to test materials under the intense heat that an operating fusion device would experience to determine which materials hold up the best. This materials research would be done through the company's partnership with the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the University of Tennessee. The cost of the new High-Heat Flux Facility on the new "fusion development campus" at Bull Run would be shared by DOE, the state of Tennessee, and Type One Energy.

In 2023, TVA, Type One Energy, and ORNL signed a tri-party memorandum of understanding to establish the original Project Infinity. In February 2024, Type One Energy announced its plan to relocate its headquarters to Tennessee and use the Bull Run site to build its stellarator fusion prototype machine, named Infinity One.

The startup staff is working to bring to fruition a new source of commercial electricity – fusion. In the same process that powers the sun, the nuclei of specific hydrogen isotopes combine, rather than split apart. This is unlike nuclear fission, which splits heavy atomic nuclei to power nuclear reactors and provide electricity.

As I thought whimsically, "From Bull Run to Type One," a Type One Energy representative got my attention by saying that the company is "working on a project called Project Infinity, and we are doing that in two phases, Infinity One and Infinity Two.

"Infinity One is an engineering platform, so it is not a power plant per se, but it does follow the design of the power plant." It will offer opportunities to test plant materials and components and train people to build and operate Infinity Two, he added.

He noted that the company's goal is that Infinity Two, its planned 350-megawatt fusion pilot plant, will generate power by the mid-2030s using a new building, as well as TVA's turbine building, switch yard and transmission system at the Bull Run site.

Type One Energy plans to build a fusion reactor called a stellarator, one of two types of magnetic confinement fusion reactor designs, the other being a doughnut-shaped tokamak. Both machines hold promise for generating commercial electricity by the 2030s, but Type One Energy researchers believe the stellarator technology offers important advantages.

A stellarator plant relies on a complex, twisted, magnetic field from external coils to confine a superheated heavy hydrogen gas, called



A rendering of the future Infinity Two Fusion Pilot Plant at TVA's Bull Run
(Courtesy of Type One Energy)

plasma, in which atomic nuclei fuse and release enormous amounts of steady-state, baseload energy. The captured heat turns water into steam that spins a turbine and makes electricity.

While the stellarator technology has been proven in several research platforms, no commercial stellarator power plants are currently in operation. But recent advances in supercomputing and high-temperature superconducting magnets suggest such plants may be generating electricity earlier than previously believed.

One reason for optimism is that Wendelstein 7-X(W7-X) in Germany, the world's largest and most advanced stellarator prototype, has demonstrated record-breaking plasma performance. Importantly, the former director of the W7-X stellarator in Germany is now serving as the chief technology officer at Type One Energy.

Type One Energy is one of many private fusion companies that are taking advantage of modern engineering techniques, powerful computing and improved materials to design and build various types of fusion machines. Some of these startups use magnetic confinement technology while others use more exotic approaches. The stellarator is the most advanced magnetic confinement fusion technology.

Type One Energy recently published a series of peer-reviewed physics papers that are considered the "gold standard" in commercial fusion power, according to the prestigious Journal of Plasma Physics. A company representative said, "The exciting news for us recently is that we signed what's called a letter of intent with TVA, and what that means is that we're working with them to chart the path for a power plant."

The representative said that the company will use deuterium (hydrogen isotopes that each have one proton and one neutron in their nuclei) in Infinity One's plasma. In Infinity Two, the company will use both deuterium and tritium (one proton and two neutrons per atomic nucleus) to power a fusion reaction. Deuterium is abundant and can be derived from seawater, but tritium is harder to find. Fortunately, the stellarator machine can breed its own supply of tritium during operation.

The tritium will be pumped continuously back into the machine's burning plasma. The fu-

sion process generates only low-level radioactive waste that requires no long-term storage, unlike the radioactive wastes from fission reactors. Enriched uranium has a half-life of hundreds of millions of years, whereas the half-life of tritium is only 12 years! The stellarator's non-radioactive waste is helium, which is useful to scientists at ORNL and the University of Tennessee. Perhaps most importantly, the fusion reaction is incredibly safe with no risk of a meltdown or nuclear accident.

Then it was time for the bus to return to Oak Ridge Turnpike and go west for miles past the road to my house on Black Oak Ridge. The destination was a site across from the first of two relatively new industrial parks – Horizon Center and Heritage Center – in East Tennessee Technology Park. I thought about how much old, current, and new fuel types – coal, enriched uranium and deuterium-tritium plasmas – means to our city.

Next: A visit to the Orano USA site, where nuclear fuel (enriched uranium) for advanced reactors will be produced in the 2030s in Oak Ridge, and a review of Oklo, a new company planning to build the nation's first privately funded advanced nuclear fuel recycling facility in Oak Ridge.

Thank you, Carolyn, for documenting the Nuclear Science Week's "Dirt Tour" featuring several nuclear companies in Oak Ridge or planning to locate here. This is the first of a five-part series being published in Historically Speaking.

Romans 5



Melvin Howard

(Romans 5:1-5) the benefits of justification: Paul continues his theme of justification; note the “therefore” connective. He affirms these saints had been “justified.” The verbal action was completed already. When? That is answered in chapter six: when they were “raised from the dead” to “walk in newness of life” (6:4; v 7). This occurred at the time of their baptism (6:3). The expression, “by faith,”

explains the means of justification. It is the obedient faith discussed so frequently in this letter (1:5). The result is “peace with God” (no more enmity (Eph. 2:16). From the divine side, such is achieved as a result of Christ’s death. This entire process allows one “access...into this grace.” Clearly, grace is not unconditionally bestowed, as numerous religionists contend. Moreover, in this state we must “stand” (the verbal tense suggests with abiding resolution (Acts 13:43) if we would embrace the “hope of the glory of God.”

Romans chapter 6:1-12 shows the application of John 3:5. This is how the Romans received justification of chapter 5. This is when the blood of Christ is applied. The blood of Christ was applied to the Ephesians in Acts 19:1-7---they were justified.

The blood of Christ was applied to 3,000, mostly Jews (Acts 2:37-47). They were justified [verse 47]. The Lord adds those to whom his blood has been applied to his church and no other.

The blood of Christ was applied to Saul (Paul) in Acts 9:18 and 22:16. The blood of Christ was not applied by him seeing a blinding light from heaven, neither by him praying a sinner’s prayer for 3 days and nights.

The blood of Christ was applied to the Samaritans in Acts 8:12 and 13. They were justified.

The blood of Christ was applied to the eunuch in Acts 8:35-39. He was justified. Yes, he was born again.

The blood of Christ was applied to Lydia in Acts 16:14-16, she was justified, born again.

The new birth must happen this way today or it is not; the way, it is not truth, and does not bring life.

Romans chapter 10 is an inditement against the Jews. They demonstrated no faith in Old Testament times either (Leviticus 8:5 and Deuteronomy 30:11-14). Romans 10:16 “But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?”

With this confident realization, we can even rejoice under tribulations (various kinds of pressures). When one embraces the proper attitude, tribulation produces many positive qualities, endurance, tested character, and the hope that never disappoints us. Our confidence should not waver because we may be certain of God’s love as a result of the Holy Spirit that generously was given (a past action with abiding results) to us. Most likely this refers to the gift of the Spirit subsequent to our baptism (Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 4:6). It is not miraculous in nature or an intermittent infusion; moreover, it provides no special “illumination” into the meaning of the Scriptures. Our knowledge thereof, however, is wonderfully comforting. The Spirit guides us through his inspired word (Eph. 6:17) and providential operations (1 Cor. 10:13; Phil. 2:13; Philem. 15).

(Romans 5:6-11) the necessity of Christ’s death: an example of God’s love for the Christian lies in the fact that even when we were “weak,” “ungodly,” “sinners,” and “enemies” (6, 8, 10), Christ died “for” (in the place of) us. Paul’s next point issues from a premise of lesser objection to one greater. It sometimes is the case that one is willing to sacrifice his life for a good person; it almost is never the case that one is willing to die for a wretch. Yet Jesus died for wicked humanity! How breathtaking is it then that God’s love is so richly generous that he gave his Son to die

in our place (7-8)? Utterly incredible! The Christian is “justified” (counted as just), therefore, by means of the sacrifice of Christ, in the shedding of his blood as the atoning payment. As a result we “Shall be saved from the wrath of God” (v. 9). Note the future tense “shall be saved”; this is the final consummation of our salvation when earthly life is over (13:11; 2 Tim. 2:10; 4:18). Prior to his conversion, the Christian was an enemy of God because of his sinful conduct. We simply do not fathom the enormity of sin! But we were reconciled to God by means of his Son’s death. Reconciliation involves bringing together formerly estranged parties. That reconciliation also is confirmed by Christ’s life, his resurrection (4:25) and his ongoing intercession (Heb. 7:25). For this beneficence we rejoice.

(Romans 5:12-21) the effect of Adam’s sin: through one man (Adam; Eve was complicit) sin entered into the world. Physical death came because of sin (Gen. 2:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:22). There is no support for the theory that all humans inherit the “guilt” of Adam’s sin. Adam, as the representative of the human family, was on trial; he was the “stand-in” for the whole of humanity. When he sinned he became subject to physical death. All his offspring suffer the same fate, for the whole race sinned in the representation of its original father. We inherit the penalty of Adam’s sin, through not the personal guilt (f. 12). Before the law of Moses was given, sin was in the world (therefore there was law (4:15; Jn. 3:4); but physical death (from Adam to Moses) was not due to personal sins. It came as a result of Adam’s sin (v. 13).

In some sense, Adam was a “figure” of Christ (v. 14). But the figure is more of contrasts than similarities: (a) Adam introduced a reign of sin and terror; Jesus brought a system of righteousness and peace. (b) Adam opened the door to death; Christ opened the door to life. (c) Adam was disobedient; Jesus was obedient. (d) Adam’s actions introduced sin-guilt; Christ death provided a way of forgiveness from sin-guilt. (e) Adam’s sin had a temporal consequence, the death of the body; Christ gift of grace issues in eternal glory.

Some see verse nineteen as a proof text for universal salvation. Such a conclusion would conflict with scores of texts teaching the doctrine of eternal punishment for the wicked. The correct sense is this: As a result of Adam’s disobedience, sin entered the world (v. 12). Subsequently, Adam’s offspring (“the many”), by the exercise of their own will power, committed sin; hence were constituted sinners. By way of contrast, through Christ’s obedience in dying for sin, a plan of redemption was made available for “the many” (equivalent to “all”) (v. 12). In obeying the requirements of that plan, Christians are released from the guilt of their sins (6:17-18); hence are accounted as “righteous” (3:21-26).

In the concluding two verses, the apostle seems to be responding to a question. “What then was the purpose of Moses’ law?” It was given to throw a spotlight on the nature and consequence of sin (7:7, 13). Thus, by the law’s illumination sin was shown to be more comprehensive and hideous than anyone could have imagined. On the other hand, the contrast of salvation makes the effect and beauty of grace all the grander. Finally, as sin brought a reign of death, even so the reign of grace resulted from the mission of Christ. Heaven’s plan for righteousness (1:16) issues in eternal life.

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