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**Ms. Avery Pearl  
Pet Col-**

# Pet Perspective

## 4th Anniversary!!!!

This week marks the 4th Anniversary for my Pet Perspective column, in Morgan County Today.

A lot has changed in 4 years.

Not the least of which, Mimi and Pap got me a sister, Ms Ivory and I just wuff her!

All the kids have grown so much. We have made new friends. There have been many ball games.

A lot of memories have been made. A few bad but, mostly good. Unfortunately, we have lost some loved ones.

I have to say that through it all, we have been blessed and I am so grateful.

I would like to say, thank you to Mr Tommy for asking me to share with Morgan County Today all about my Pet Perspective and my little world.

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

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— 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.

**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**

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

**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.

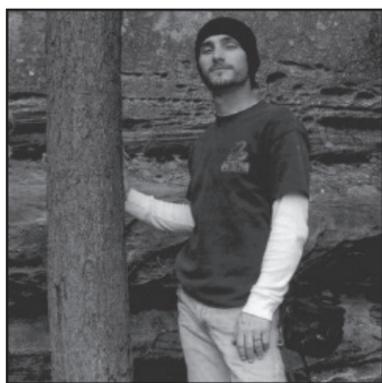
Per her wishes, graveside services will be held at the Flat Fork Cemetery, Wartburg, on Sunday, February 8, 2026 at 2:00 pm. Family and friends are invited to attend. Pastor Darrel Daugherty will officiate. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to the Star of Hope Chapel, Wartburg, TN (mailing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





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 <p>Was: \$47,577 <b>BEST PRICE: \$12,677</b> 21 NISSAN VERSA S REAR VIEW CAMERA, #R7705B</p>	 <p>Was: \$47,774 <b>BEST PRICE: \$12,774</b> 22 NISSAN KICKS S BACKUP CAMERA, #R7760A</p>	 <p>Was: \$47,777 <b>BEST PRICE: \$12,777</b> 14 TOYOTA SIENNA 3RD ROW SUNROOF, 147K, #R7762A</p>	 <p>Was: \$48,799 <b>BEST PRICE: \$13,799</b> 19 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 S CRUISE CONTROL #N391469B</p>	 <p>Was: \$48,882 <b>BEST PRICE: \$13,882</b> 09 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SAHARA, 4WD #R7319A</p>
 <p>Was: \$49,522 <b>BEST PRICE: \$14,552</b> 15 JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA 4X4, REMOTE START, V6, #R7522B</p>	 <p>Was: \$20,277 <b>BEST PRICE: \$15,277</b> 15 HONDA CR-V TOURING EDT SUNROOF, 34MPG, LTHR, #R7684A</p>	 <p>Was: \$20,557 <b>BEST PRICE: \$15,557</b> 14 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT 4WD, 6CYL, #R7376A</p>	 <p>Was: \$20,663 <b>BEST PRICE: \$15,663</b> 21 TOYOTA COROLLA SE 40MPG!! IN-CAR WIFI, #N009714M</p>	 <p>Was: \$20,772 <b>BEST PRICE: \$15,772</b> 20 KIA SPORTAGE S SUNROOF, LEATHER, #D7825M</p>
 <p>Was: \$20,777 <b>BEST PRICE: \$15,777</b> 16 HONDA ODYSSEY EX-L 3RD ROW SEATING, #R7503B</p>	 <p>Was: \$20,992 <b>BEST PRICE: \$15,992</b> 21 NISSAN SENTRA SV BACKUP CAMERA, #R7438A</p>	 <p>Was: \$20,977 <b>BEST PRICE: \$15,977</b> 23 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 SV 75K MILES #N344555A</p>	 <p>Was: \$22,555 <b>BEST PRICE: \$17,555</b> 24 NISSAN SENTRA S 16K MILES #N382162A</p>	 <p>Was: \$22,877 <b>BEST PRICE: \$17,887</b> 20 NISSAN ROGUE SV NAVIGATION, #R7566A</p>
 <p>Was: \$22,955 <b>BEST PRICE: \$17,955</b> 21 NISSAN ALTIMA SR REMOTE START, #N048257B</p>	 <p>Was: \$22,997 <b>BEST PRICE: \$17,997</b> 24 NISSAN KICKS SV CERTIFIED, 17,498 MI., #R7322A</p>	 <p>Was: \$23,433 <b>BEST PRICE: \$18,433</b> 24 NISSAN SENTRA SV 37,891 MI., BLUETOOTH #R7739B</p>	 <p>Was: \$23,399 <b>BEST PRICE: \$18,477</b> 20 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT NAVIGATION, SUNROOF #R7226A</p>	 <p>Was: \$23,488 <b>BEST PRICE: \$18,488</b> 23 NISSAN KICKS SV BACKUP CAMERA, #R7499A</p>
 <p>Was: \$23,699 <b>BEST PRICE: \$18,699</b> 24 NISSAN SENTRA SV SUNROOF, LEATHER #R7621B</p>	 <p>Was: \$23,977 <b>BEST PRICE: \$18,977</b> 21 NISSAN ROGUE SPORT S AWD #N444884A</p>	 <p>Was: \$23,899 <b>BEST PRICE: \$18,899</b> 21 NISSAN KICKS SV BACKUP CAMERA, #R7235A</p>	 <p>Was: \$24,555 <b>BEST PRICE: \$19,555</b> 24 FORD ESCAPE ACTIVE REAR V. CAM. #NA53908A</p>	 <p>Was: \$24,377 <b>BEST PRICE: \$19,377</b> 22 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 SV 37MPG, REMOTE START, #R7536A</p>
 <p>Was: \$24,688 <b>BEST PRICE: \$19,688</b> 20 NISSAN PATHFINDER S 3RD ROW SEATING, #R7139B</p>	 <p>Was: \$24,772 <b>BEST PRICE: \$19,772</b> 23 NISSAN SENTRA SV 31K MI, SUNROOF #R7211A</p>	 <p>Was: \$24,856 <b>BEST PRICE: \$19,855</b> 19 HONDA HR-V LX 4WD, BACKUP CAM., #R7759A</p>	 <p>Was: \$25,288 <b>BEST PRICE: \$20,288</b> 15 FORD F-150 XLT 4WD, TOW PKG., #R7573A</p>	 <p>Was: \$25,377 <b>BEST PRICE: \$20,377</b> 21 NISSAN ROGUE SV SUNROOF, REMOTE START, #N518824B</p>
 <p>Was: \$25,877 <b>BEST PRICE: \$20,877</b> 24 NISSAN SENTRA SV 8,912 MI, 40MPG, HTD SEATS, #R7247A</p>	 <p>Was: \$26,488 <b>BEST PRICE: \$21,488</b> 23 KIA SPORTAGE EX NAVIGATION, BLUETOOTH #R7580A</p>	 <p>Was: \$26,577 <b>BEST PRICE: \$21,577</b> 22 SUBARU OUTBACK WILDERNESS, AWD #R7347B</p>	 <p>Was: \$26,577 <b>BEST PRICE: \$21,577</b> 22 HYUNDAI SANTA CRUZ SEL NAVIGATION #R7601A</p>	 <p>Was: \$26,566 <b>BEST PRICE: \$21,566</b> 24 NISSAN SENTRA SR SUNROOF, BACKUP CAM., #R7737A</p>
 <p>Was: \$26,799 <b>BEST PRICE: \$21,799</b> 22 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.0 SR TURBO CHARGED ENGINE #D7840A</p>	 <p>Was: \$26,933 <b>BEST PRICE: \$21,933</b> 25 NISSAN KICKS SV BLIND SPOT MONITOR #N326404A</p>	 <p>Was: \$28,992 <b>BEST PRICE: \$23,992</b> 23 DODGE CHARGER SXT 14,693 MI #R7094A</p>	 <p>Was: \$29,277 <b>BEST PRICE: \$24,277</b> 23 TOYOTA COROLLA XSE 28K, IN-CAR WIFI, 35MPG, #N606998B</p>	 <p>Was: \$30,777 <b>BEST PRICE: \$25,777</b> 24 SUBARU CROSSTREK LTD HTD LTHR, REMOTE START, #R7742A</p>
 <p>Was: \$31,772 <b>BEST PRICE: \$26,772</b> 23 NISSAN ROGUE PLATINUM 4WD, NAVIGATION #R7773A</p>	 <p>Was: \$31,993 <b>BEST PRICE: \$26,993</b> 18 CHEVROLET SILVERADO LTZ 4WD, NAVIGATION #N604207A</p>	 <p>Was: \$32,555 <b>BEST PRICE: \$27,555</b> 22 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE HYBRID 24K, NAVIGATION, #R7541A</p>	 <p>Was: \$32,655 <b>BEST PRICE: \$27,655</b> 23 NISSAN MURANO SV 4WD, ALLOY WHEELS #D7836A</p>	 <p>Was: \$33,774 <b>BEST PRICE: \$28,774</b> 21 NISSAN MAXIMA PLATINUM NAVIGATION, SUNROOF #N512385A</p>
 <p>Was: \$34,337 <b>BEST PRICE: \$29,337</b> 23 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER L 3RD ROW SEATING #N047949A</p>	 <p>Was: \$34,774 <b>BEST PRICE: \$29,774</b> 24 KIA CARNIVAL LX 3RD ROW SEATING #N394402A</p>	 <p>Was: \$34,777 <b>BEST PRICE: \$29,777</b> 26 JEEP COMPASS LATITUDE ALTITUDE, 4WD #R7696B</p>	 <p>Was: \$36,883 <b>BEST PRICE: \$31,883</b> 22 KIA TELLURIDE EX 3RD ROW SEATING #N853922B</p>	 <p>Was: \$37,338 <b>BEST PRICE: \$32,338</b> 22 NISSAN FRONTIER PRO-4X 4WD, NAVIGATION #R7740A</p>

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## Historically Speaking How Nuclear Science Week helped Oak Ridge firms and future workers

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Matt Mullins, Marketing and Communications Manager for the American Museum of Science and Energy Foundation, led the effort to bring Nuclear Science Week to Oak Ridge in October 2025. The week included a wide variety of activities, including tours, presentations, exhibits, and panel discussions. The focus was on the nuclear renaissance happening in Oak Ridge. This introductory column is intended to set the stage for a five-column series, written by Carolyn Krause, on the “Dirt Tour” featuring many of the new companies coming to Oak Ridge as a part of the state’s effort to make Oak Ridge the epicenter for Nuclear Energy expansion in the nation.

\*\*\*

Last year was an appropriate one for the American Museum of Science and Energy (AMSE) of Oak Ridge to host the national Nuclear Science Week (NSW) in the third week of October, starting on Oct. 20, 2025. This annual, international, broadly observed, week-long celebration focuses local, regional, national, and international interest on all aspects of nuclear science. Oak Ridge is becoming a nuclear energy hub that is winning national attention. Some people even call the city the “core of Tennessee’s nuclear renaissance.” Here’s why.

Four nuclear firms announced in 2025 their intentions to buy land or establish nuclear facilities – from nuclear reactors to makers of reactor fuel – in East Tennessee Technology Park in Oak Ridge. Between 2021 and 2024, three nuclear companies had purchased tracts in ETPP, which is near the decades-old site on which the Tennessee Valley Authority plans to build its first of possibly four small modular nuclear reactors.

NSW enables attendees to learn about the contributions and innovations of nuclear scientists and engineers, as well as about the opportunities available to explore nuclear science and get jobs in the field.

During the week, educators, students, employers and the community participate in a national recognition of how nuclear science plays a vital role in the lives of Americans – and the world. Activities during the week are intended to build awareness of the contributions of the nuclear science industry and those who work in it every day.

Many local events take place all over the nation during Nuclear Science Week. It is celebrated in cities big and small, and any community is invited to get involved and host a Nuclear Science Week celebration. Each year, a different city is chosen to host the national celebration, and 2025 was the year for the Oak Ridge science museum.

The NSW is an international event, but the American museum that was founded and leads the coordination of the U.S. version of the event is the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History (NMNSH) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Smithsonian Affiliate like AMSE, the museum consulted with industry partners in 2009 to create the week, and it serves as the official, congressionally chartered resource for nuclear history and science.

Oak Ridge was chosen for 2025 because of a successful proposal submitted in 2024 to the NSW committee by Alan Lowe, executive director of AMSE, and the Atomic History Campus at K-25, and Matt Mullins, director of marketing and communications for the AMSE Founda-

tion. They had been aware of NSW for several years, had visited other museums hosting the main NSW event and had participated in holding events during the NSW at AMSE and other museums they visited.

“In 2023, Matt Mullins and I attended the NSW events in the host city of San Diego and began discussions then about Oak Ridge hosting NSW in the future,” Lowe said. “In 2024, AMSE worked with various partners in the city to host larger events and educational activities around NSW. We hosted a three-part movie series discussing nuclear misinformation that culminated in a Godzilla double-feature.”

“While visiting Idaho National Laboratory, the NSW host site in 2024, Jennifer Hayden, the NMNSH president, whom I had spoken with several times, suggested we submit a proposal,” Mullins said. “The proposal AMSE submitted was based on four key ideas: Oak Ridge’s workforce, educational opportunities, amazing history, and future for nuclear development.

“We made the case that Oak Ridge has a tremendous network of people already doing amazing work preparing to build advanced reactors and manufacture new reactor fuels to help meet anticipated increases in demand for electricity. We asserted that making AMSE the host for the 2025 NSW provided an excellent opportunity to showcase the existing efforts in Oak Ridge to move the nation into a new nuclear era – what is called the nuclear renaissance.”

Before submitting the proposal, Mullins sought advice, guidance, and support from local organizations. From the beginning, he said, the East Tennessee Economic Council and the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce provided whatever assistance was needed. Word about the event was spread by local organizations affiliated with the American Nuclear Society, U.S. Women in Nuclear and universities such as MIT and Penn State.

These and other partners, along with AMSE, invited numerous companies in Oak Ridge and Knoxville, as well as Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Y-12 National Security Complex, to showcase their nuclear projects. One such company based at ORNL is making nuclear medicine from nuclear waste. These companies conveyed information on their accomplishments and plans through talks, PowerPoint presentations, and posters.

Another effective way was the New Nuclear “Dirt Tour” luxury bus tour on Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025, featuring stops at 11 sites (including a new museum for lunch). The bus passengers were treated to talks by representatives of the companies and a chance to ask questions and take photos of buildings and bobcats – compact tractors, not animals – on the sites.

Carolyn Krause, volunteer journalist for The Oak Ridger, took the tour and wrote a series of five articles for the newspaper’s Historically Speaking column on the plans of eight companies and the Tennessee Valley Authority, the nation’s largest public utility. Her first article appears next week.

In one event at the Oak Ridge Playhouse, speakers gave histories of Oak Ridge, TVA, and the U.S. nuclear industry’s response to and recovery from the accident at one nuclear power plant at Three Mile Island in 1979. That same event included a live taping of the AMSE Foundation’s podcast, AMSEcast, with writer Michelle Shocklee about her novel, *The Women of Oak Ridge*.

One of the major successes of the Nuclear Science Week in Oak Ridge was matching companies with people in or close to entering the workforce who have the appropriate skills and academic or vocational interests.

According to Mullins, “Our partners and I

asked company representatives to show up to the event ready to talk about hiring opportunities on Tuesday, tell students of all ages what education they need to work for nuclear companies on Wednesday and meet with the public individually and give public talks on Friday at the Nuclear Tech Expo.

“People were showing up with resumes and wearing suits, ready to get a job. We had well over 30 companies represented at the main campus of Roane State Community College in Oak Ridge. The interactions visitors had with those companies were exceptional.

“As I walked through the booths and spoke with each of the representatives of the companies that were participating, they were shuffling through resumes and making positive notes, and each of them had a positive experience with potential workers.”

“It is fantastic to have multi-national, multi-million, and billion-dollar companies seeking out opportunities to engage with folks in our local communities and workforce.” Mullins captured the talks during the weeklong event in audio and video recordings that will be released to the public.

“Oak Ridge is the center of the nuclear universe, so we were very proud to host Nuclear Science Week,” Lowe said. “Our team, including our terrific Matt Mullins, who was an unstoppable force on this initiative, worked very hard with so many partners to create an amazing array of activities for people of all ages.

“We are deeply grateful for being chosen by our colleagues in New Mexico to be the NSW host, and to everyone in Oak Ridge and beyond who made the week such a resounding success. “AMSE is committed to initiating, supporting, and promoting interactions between million-dollar and billion-dollar companies in our local thriving nuclear ecosystem, who are eager to engage with our regional partners and evolving workforce.

“Nuclear Science Week has been a great way to let a national audience know about the growing nuclear energy hub in Oak Ridge. Truly, every week is Nuclear Science Week at AMSE!”

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Please be on the lookout for the upcoming series of Historically Speaking columns featuring the “Dirt Tour” of Nuclear Science Week.

# Historically Speaking

## How Nuclear Science Week helped Oak Ridge firms and future workers

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian



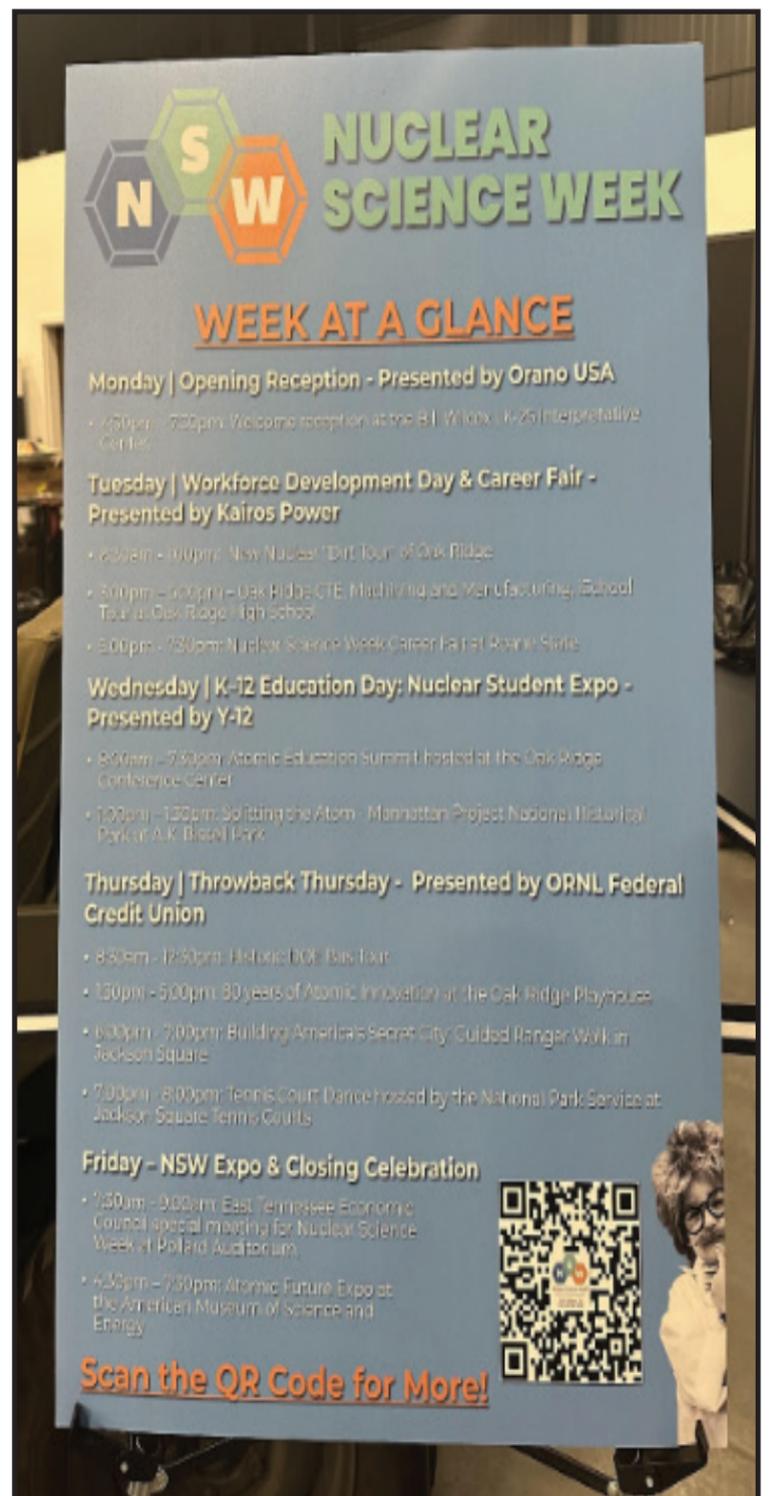
Jennifer Hayden, President and CEO of the National Museum of Nuclear History and Science, founding organization for Nuclear Science Week, speaks to the large Nuclear Science Week crowd at the William J. Wilcox, Jr. K-25 Interpretive Center



Sponsors of Nuclear Science Week



Alan Lowe welcomes the Nuclear Science Week participants, getting the week's events off to a rousing good start



Nuclear Science Week events

# Romans 4



Melvin Howard

(Romans 4:1-12) Old testament examples of justification: the apostle introduces the greatest example from the Patriarchal period of Old Testament history---Abraham, the founder of the Hebrew nation. What shall we say about Abraham? Was he justified as a result of the strength of his "flesh" (by human effort)? If he was justified by perfectly keeping law, he might well have gloried in that fact; but

no glory would be attributed to God (v. 2). Old Testament Scripture argues against this view. Abraham "believed" (trusted and obeyed (Hebrews 11:8 "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.") (James 2:21-26 "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. 24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. 25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."), and Jehovah "credited" him (the force of the Greek) with the status of "right standing" (v. 3).

The reward is not credited to one who works (perfectly submits to) the requirements of law (such is, in fact, impossible). Even if he could, his righteous standing would have been of "debt," and not of "grace" (v. 4). God would be completely removed from the equation. But to him who "works not" (does not rely on his own effort to attain perfection) but believes (trust, yields to) the great Justifier, his faith (faithfulness) will be credited to him (deposited in his account) as righteousness.

And what of the testimony of David (in the Mosaic dispensation (vv. 4:6-8)? He set forth the same principle of justification. He did not contend for justification on the ground of perfect law keeping. Instead, he trusted in God to "cover" (forgive, his sins) (Psa. 32:1).

Back to Abraham: what about the matter of circumcision in which the Jews so glory? Is justification solely for the "circumcision" (the Jews) or might the non-circumcised (Gentiles) be justified? If you reply "Only the circumcised," how will you explain the example of grandfather Abraham? When God credited Abraham with righteousness on account of his faith (Gen. 15:6), he was around eighty-six years of age (16:16). At the time he received circumcision, he was ninety-nine (17:1). Accordingly, he was accounted righteous at least thirteen years before his circumcision; thus, it was not on the basis of his circumcision that he was counted as righteous. His example thus demonstrated that he foreshadowed all who later would believe; in other words, justification would be on the ground of faith. That comprehensive adjective, "all", included the Gentiles as well (Rom. 4:11 & 3:22).

As we have emphasized repeatedly, the faith under consideration was not one characterized by rebellion, but a faith in submission to whatever conditions might be required. To follow the example of Abraham was to "walk in the steps of that faith of Abraham." John 8:39 "They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham." The "steps" (plural) of Abraham's faith were the steps of obedience (Heb. 11:8). His obedience earned him nothing; it did make him a recipient of divine grace (v4, 16).

(Romans 4:13-17) the larger scope: Paul continues his argument against Jewish contenders. The promise to Abraham was "not through the law" (Moses' law). This is obvious since Abraham lived four centuries before the law was given. The great pa-

triarch was characterized as the "heir of the world" (v 13). In this context "heir" is not used of receiving an allotment from a predecessor. It conveys the idea of a future bequeathal, namely the vast throng of spiritual "seed" (Gen. 12:3; 18:18; 22:18; Gal. 3:29). If the heirs are those who depend upon the law for their salvation, then the "justification by faith" principle is made void. This runs counter to the examples employed earlier; moreover, the promise is nullified, and wrath is the net result (since none can keep the law perfectly (Gal. 3:10). The law, by its very nature, creates an environment of transgression (v. 15), which, without remedy, brings nothing but punishment. The law condemns; it cannot negate violation. That requires grace.

This logic drives one to the conclusion that the righteous status must be by faith (faithful submission to God) who extends such out of grace (v. 16). Yet it is not an unconditional grace (Eph. 2:8-9; Acts 19:1-7; Tit. 3:5-7), as many modern religionists contend. The promise extends not just to those "of the law" (the Jew), but also to those who live by the type of obedient faith possessed by Abraham (the Gentiles). The great founder of the nation is the father of all the redeemed, as promised to him twenty centuries earlier (17; Gen. 17:5). The Lord gave "life" to Sarah's "dead" womb, and spoke of Abraham's numerous seed long before there were such in reality (v. 19).

(Romans 4:18-25) the quality of Abraham's faith: the nature of Abraham's faith is now characterized: (a) Though his situation seemed hopeless, the patriarch believed God's promise, namely that he would be the "father of many nations," though doubtless at that time he did not understand the nature of that "seed". (b) Even though both he and Sarah were reproductively "dead", he did not permit his faith to be "weakened", but trusted the promise of the Lord. (c) The fact is, he became stronger through his faith, glorifying God. (d) He was confident that if God promised something, he was "able to perform" it. (e) On account of this steadfast faith that pursued obeying the divine will---in spite of seeming insurmountable odds---he was credited with being righteous.

What is the application of this sketch? The date regarding Abraham, as to his being credited as righteous, was not recorded in Scripture for his sake alone. It is for our sake as well---namely to those who yield to obedient faith in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. Christ was delivered up for our trespasses, and was raised for our justification. This was a manifestation of divine grace. But as Paul is about to affirm: it is not a non-conditional faith. This point must be emphasized repeatedly in this book that is so abused in the matter of faith and grace.

2 Peter 3:15-18 "And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo  
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