



Big Dreams Start with Small Steps

Build strong money habits with a **KTVAECU® Spend Account and Debit Card.**

Learn More! ☎ (865) 544-5400 🖱 tvacreditunion.com

Federally Insured by NCUA. Available to qualifying Members. Some restrictions may apply. Ask for details.



Morgan County Today

Psalms 100:3

www.mocotoday.com

Volume 12 Number 29

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

More Than A Newspaper.

75¢



Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

PUBLISHER:

TOMMY LEE FRANCIS

PUBLISHER@MOCOTODAY.COM

EDITOR:

HEATHER FRANCIS

EDITOR@MOCOTODAY.COM

ADVERTISING:

ADVERTISING@MOCOTODAY.COM

MAIL DELIVERY
SUBSCRIPTIONS

CALL 423-346-2329

POSTMASTER:

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO

P.O. BOX 451,
WARTBURG, TN 37887

IN-COUNTY RATES

\$40; \$35 FOR SENIOR
CITIZENS & VETERANS

OUT OF COUNTY RATES

\$55; \$50 FOR SENIOR
CITIZENS & VETERANS

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID
AT WARTBURG, TN

USPS PUBLICATION NUMBER
(15400)

WEEKLY WEATHER



TUE
8/11



90° 68°

WED
8/12



87° 69°

THU
8/13



84° 70°

FRI
8/14



86° 65°

SAT
8/15



85° 66°

SUN
8/16



86° 64°

MON
8/17



84° 63°



Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

Happy Anniversary!!!

Guess what y'all? This week is my Mimi and Pappys Anniversary! Yay!

That means it is also, Happy Gotcha Day, for me!

You see, I was an Anniversary present to Mimi from Pappy! The 30th Anniversary is the Pearl Anniversary, that's how I got the Pearl part of my name. Avery is after my Mamaw (Mimis mom).



Pap says that I am the very BEST Anniversary present that, he ever has ever given to Mimi, in 37 years.

So, Happy Anniversary to my Mimi and Pap and Happy Gotcha Day, to me!

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

10 th Annual Dylan Kennedy Memorial @ Wartburg Speedway

Sept. 6, 2026 (Sunday before Labor Day)

75 laps

\$13,037 to win \$500 to start

Limited Late Model

Group A and B qualifying

Fastest overall qualifier: \$137 sponsored by 423 Cerakote and Guns

Heat 1: \$137 sponsored by Chris Summers (10 laps)

Heat 2: \$137 sponsored by MBM Heating and Air (10 laps)

Heat 3: \$137 sponsored by 22 Speed Shop

Heat 4: \$137 sponsored by Morgan Pro Hardware

Fast car dash: \$137 (top 3 in group A and B)
sponsored by Billy Ward – 5th District school board member (10 laps)

Football toss: sponsored by St. Paul Lutheran Church (at intermission)

— In Loving Memory —

Patsy Ruth Davis, 89



Patsy Ruth Davis, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 25th, 2026 surrounded by family.

Patsy was born on March 5th, 1937 in Oklahoma to Melvin and Ruth Hulsey. They later moved to California where eventually Patsy would meet the love of her life, Harry Davis. Together they had 4 children. Diana, Marjorie, Harry Jr., and Dennis.

Harry and Patsy relocated to Tennessee where they continued to raise their family. She was a devoted mother to her kids.

Once her kids were grown, Patsy enjoyed spoiling her grand kids with time. She could be found playing games with her grand kids. Teaching them to play multiple card games and pretty pretty princess with the girls.

She became a member of Mossy Grove Baptist Church in 1994. She was devoted to being a deacon's wife and studying her Bible. She served as a door greeter and rode with her husband to pick up some of the ladies of the church that could no longer drive. She also was part of the Stitching Sisters.

Once her great-grand kids came along, Patsy lit up with a new joy. She loved her greats fiercely.

Patsy was known for her wonderful smile and bright disposition. She would help anyway she could.

Once her beloved husband of 63 years went on to heaven,

Patsy lost a piece of herself. She longed to be with her husband and Heavenly Father.

Patsy is finally resting in the arms of her Savior.

She is proceeded in death by her husband, Harry Davis, daughter Marjorie Davis, daughter in law Vickie Davis, great granddaughter Ella Davis, her mother and father, Melvin and Ruth Hulsey, Sister Peggy Marsh, and Brothers Chuck Hulsey and David Hulsey.

She is survived by daughter Diana (Edgar) Brown, sons Harry "Buddy" Davis Jr, and Dennis (Ellen) Davis.

Grandchildren Ray Brown, David (Nikki) Brown, Holly (Matt) Davis, Shawn (Nikki) Davis, Sierra (Ryan) Hamby, Cassie (Tyger) Herbst, Courtney (Drew) Drummond, Samantha Davis and a host of great grandkids. Brother, Larry (Esther) Hulsey of California.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, July 29, 2026 at Mossy Grove Baptist Church in Harriman from 2:00-3:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 3:00 p.m. with Pastor Jim Disney officiating. Interment will follow in the Mossy Grove Church Cemetery.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to Quality Hospice for taking such great care of Patsy.

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

Jerry Loyd Sr, 84



Jerry Loyd, Sr., passed away July 26, 2026 at his home. He was born June 19, 1942 in Cincinnati, Ohio to Ruth and Odell Loyd.

Jerry spent his younger years in Oneida, Tn., with his cherished grandparents Barry and Eldora Loyd, and beloved aunt Rema and uncles Donald and Audney Loyd.

He is preceded in death by parents Barry and Eldora Loyd, Ruth and Odell Loyd; aunts Edna Cassidy Rema Terry Eugene Loyd, Audney Loyd, Donald Loyd.

He is survived by his loving wife Jane Katherine Lloyd of 62 years; two sons Jerry (Anita) Loyd, Jr., of Lansing, TN., Steven (Janice) Loyd of Decula, GA.; daughter Melissa Tate of Oklahoma City, OK.; grandchildren Jeremy Loyd, Jordan (Kaitlyn) Loyd, McKenzie

(Chyanne) , Chase and Hannah Loyd, Morgan and Emily Loyd, Gabriel Loyd and Sophia Loyd; brothers Gary and Linda Loyd of Augusta, GA., Terry Loyd of Friendsville, TN.; great grandchildren McKenlee, Kyson, Bentley, Augustus, Qwenn, Monroe, Talullah, Aurelia, Garrett, Elliot and a host of nieces, nephews, friends and family.

Jerry was a kind and gentle soul. Very soft spoken man that never raised his voice. He was a great listener that could talk about a lot of things. He enjoyed driving down in the woods (at 2 mph) watching and listening for wild life... while enjoying his cigar. He was a man of few words but spoke a lot of wisdom in the those few words. He will be great missed and cherished forever.

The family will receive friends Friday, July 31, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. Grave-side services will be Saturday at 11:00 a.m. in the H C Smith Cemetery in Wartburg.

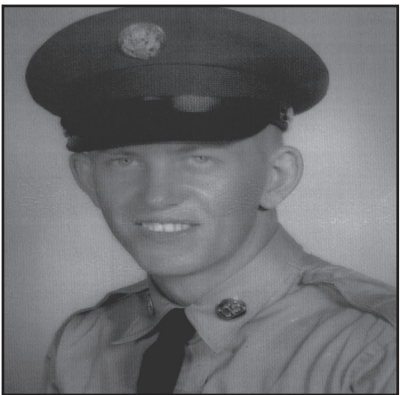
Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jerry Loyd.

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.

Bobby Dee Nunley, 85
United States Army Veteran



Bobby Dee Nunley, age 85 of Petros passed away July 31, 2026 at his home. He was born February 5, 1941 to Robert R. & Eva Lee Trail Nunley.

Bobby was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He belong to the Mason Lodge of Petros and Shriners. He loved history, hunting, outdoors and loved being around his kids. He was of the Baptist faith.

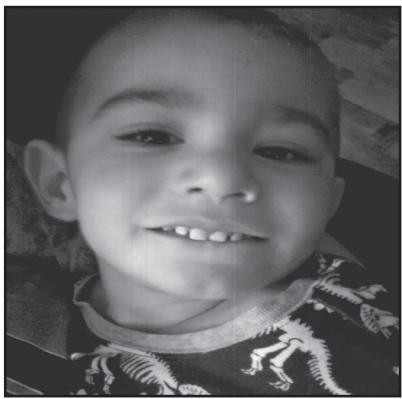
He is preceded in death by his parents; sister Della Long; brother Baxter Trail; brothers-in-law Floyd Long, Boyd Franklin and Emmett Massengale, Jr.; nephew Wade Trail

He is survived by his sister Barbara Massengale and Judy Franklin; brother George Nunley and Von; sister-in-law Shelby Trail and a host of extended family and friends. The family will have a grave-side service Monday, August 3, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the Petros Cemetery (COG) with Dr. Jim West officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Bobby Dee Nunley.

— In Loving Memory —

Zamuel Brin Copeland, 12



Zamuel Brin Copeland, age 12, went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Monday, July 27, 2026.

Though his time on earth was far too short, Samuel filled every day with joy, laughter, and love. He was a sweet, fun-loving, and happy child who never met a stranger. His kind heart, gentle spirit, and infectious personality touched the lives of everyone blessed enough to know him. Samuel's smile could light up any room, and his laughter was truly unforgettable. He was proudly recognized with the "Best Laugh" award, a fitting honor for a boy whose contagious laugh brought happiness to so many.

More than anything, Samuel was deeply loved. His kind heart, playful personality, and gentle soul left an everlasting impression on his family, friends, teachers, classmates, and all who were blessed to know him. The love he shared will remain in our hearts forever.

Zamuel loved life and found joy in simple things. Whether spending time with his family, making new friends at school, or sharing his bright smile with those around him, he had a special gift for making others feel loved and happy. His life was a beautiful reminder of unconditional love, innocence, and kindness.

Left to cherish his precious memory are his loving parents, Bryon and Crystal Copeland; his siblings, Amber and Chas Shannon, Kristen and Jeff West, Breanna and Cody Campbell, Brent Copeland, Brylie Copeland, Colton Copeland, Trey Copeland, and Jada Copeland; along with a host of loving aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and countless people whose lives

were forever changed by knowing Samuel.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents, William and Nella'Mae Hutcherson and James and Brenda Copeland; his beloved sister, Latisha Hawn; and his nephew, Bryson Hawn.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation to the special people who played such an important role in Samuel's life. A sincere thank you to his devoted teachers, Ms. Paula Winn and Ms. Lori Love, for the love, patience, and encouragement they showed him each day. The family is also deeply grateful to his school bus driver, Ms. Amanda Woodall, and bus aide, Ms. Renee Jones, whose kindness and care meant so much to Samuel's family knowing he was safe on those school days.

Although our hearts are shattered by this unimaginable loss, we find comfort in knowing that Samuel is now resting peacefully in the arms of Jesus.

His beautiful smile, infectious laughter will live on forever in the hearts of those who loved him. He leaves behind an imprint of joy, kindness, and unconditional love that will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew him. While we grieve the loss of his earthly presence, we rejoice in the promise that we will see him again.

"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." — Matthew 19:14

Forever loved. Forever missed. Forever our sweet Samuel.

The family will be having a private service.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Samuel Brin Copeland.

Maelee Rain Lowe



In Loving Memory of Maelee Rain Lowe

With hearts shattered by unimaginable loss, yet forever grateful for the precious gift of her life, we announce the birth and passing of our beautiful daughter, Maelee Rain Lowe, who was born peacefully asleep on July 26, 2026.

For 25 weeks, Maelee was carried safely beneath her mother's heart. From the instant we learned of this little life, our hearts were forever changed. Every heartbeat, every tiny movement, every dream we held for the future became a beautiful part of our story. Though our time together

was far too short, she brought so much joy, hope, and unconditional love to everyone who knew of her and eagerly awaited her arrival, the love we have for our babygirl will last a lifetime. She knew nothing but the warmth of her momma's embrace, her daddy's tickles, her big brother's giggles, and the endless love of all her family.

Maelee was the cherished daughter of Chelsey Smith and Bradley Lowe, and the adored little sister of Carson "Bub", who will forever hold the title of proud big brother.

Born weighing 7 ounces and measuring 8 inches long, Maelee was tiny beyond words, yet her life made an immeasurable impact. She will always be remembered for the love she inspired and the lasting imprint she leaves on the hearts of all who loved her.

She is lovingly remembered by her grandparents, Charlis Davis; Jennifer Lowe and Luc; and Chad Strunk and Dianna; her great-papaw, Ricky Lowe, her

great great grandmother Moana Human; her aunts and uncles, Samantha and Charles, Madeline and Asher, Jakob, Jolie, and Hudson; her godparents, Jessica and Dillon; and a host of other aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family members, and dear friends who loved her long before they had the chance to meet her.

As heartbreaking as it is to say goodbye, we find comfort in knowing that Maelee was welcomed into Heaven by so many loving arms. She is now being held by her beloved Nanna Cyn-di Wicks, Uncle Amos Wicks, Papaw Tommy Petrey, Great Papaw Charles Davis, and Great Mamaw Deloris Galloway, Great Great Papaw David Wicks, where she is surrounded by perfect peace, everlasting joy, and unconditional love.

While we grieve the future we longed to share with her, we find comfort in believing she now rests peacefully in the loving arms of Jesus. Maelee's life has forever changed ours. She taught us that love is not mea-

sured by the length of time we have with someone, but by the depth with which they are loved. She will forever be our daughter, our sister, our granddaughter, and our greatest blessing.

Our hearts will ache until we meet again, but we rejoice in the promise that this goodbye is not forever. Until that beautiful day, we will carry Maelee in our hearts with every sunrise, every rainfall, and every breath.

Forever loved. Forever missed. Forever our little girl.

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." — Psalm 34:18

"There is no footprint too small that it cannot leave an imprint on this world."



— In Loving Memory —

Justin Eugene Clark, 38
United States Air Force Veteran



Justin Eugene Clark, affectionately known as “Clark” to many and “Justy” to his cousins, nieces, and nephews, passed away on July 31, 2026, at the age of 38.

Justin was born on October 18, 1987, in Harriman, TN, and was raised in Oakdale, TN, by his loving family. He was the son of Nancy Kay Stewart and Bradley Lynn Clark and was also blessed with the unwavering love and support of his stepfather, Ricky Stewart.

A proud graduate of Oakdale School, Justin was involved in high school drama, baseball, and football. His personality, school spirit and the kindness he showed to others earned him the title of Mr. OHS. Following high school, he attended Roane State Community College before answering the call to serve his country in the United States Air Force.

Justin earned a degree in Civil Engineering and worked as a laborer in the Union. His journey was filled with both victories and struggles, but through every chapter of his life, Justin continued to fight, to love deeply, and to bring laughter to those around him. That resilience became one of the many things people admired most about him.

Few things brought Justin more joy than baseball, especially cheering on his beloved Atlanta Braves. He was a devoted fan whose love for the game never faded. One of the proudest moments of his life came in 2024 when he had the unforgettable honor of throwing the ceremonial first pitch at an Atlanta Braves game -a dream come true for someone whose heart had always belonged to baseball.

Justin also shared a special bond with Georgie, a dog who brought him endless joy and companionship. Anyone who knew Justin knew how deeply he loved her, and the two were rarely far apart whenever they had the chance.

He was preceded in death by his beloved mother, Nancy Kay Stewart, His father, Bradley Lynn Clark, his uncle, Joseph Gilbert; and his cherished grandparents, Betty Sampson, Georgia Sue

Gilbert (“Nanny”), and Wendell Eugene Gann (“Papaw”).

Justin is survived by his grandfather, Bob Clark, his loving sisters, Kayla (Jacob) Taylor, Aaleya (Kendall) Rogers, and Linsey Gilbert, aunts and uncles, Bobby (Tasha) Clark, Michael (Nancy) Gilbert, Lil Stewart, Larry Clark, Step-father Ricky Stewart, nieces and nephews, Harper and Landon Taylor, Miley Jo, Rhett and Carter Rogers, Akira Gilbert, Alyiah Bright, and special friend Amran Adkisson.

To know Justin was to laugh. He had a way of turning ordinary moments into unforgettable memories, making people feel welcome, and finding humor even on the hardest days. His smile was contagious, his love was loud, and his loyalty never wavered.

More than the milestones of his life, Justin will be remembered for the way he made people feel. He had a larger-than-life personality that drew people to him wherever he went. He never met a stranger, and within minutes of meeting him, you felt like you had known him for years.

Justin found humor in absolutely everything. His quick wit, playful teasing, and unapologetic sense

of humor could make anyone laugh, no matter the situation. He was the loudest person in the room, and somehow his laughter was even louder. It was contagious, impossible not to join in, and is a sound that will be deeply missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

Although our hearts are broken in a way that can never truly be repaired, we find comfort in knowing that the love, laughter, and unforgettable memories Justin gave us will remain with us forever. He will always be loved, always missed, and never forgotten.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, August 8, 2026, from 5-7 pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral Services will follow at 7 pm.

*Schubert Funeral Home
is honored to serve the family
of Justin Eugene Clark.*

David Woodrow “Woody” Garrett, 60



David Woodrow “Woody” Garrett of Lancing, TN passed away August 1, 2026, at the age of 60. Woody was born on December 8, 1965, in Mooresville, NC and raised in Lancing, TN.

Woody is survived by his wife, Louann Brown Garrett; Children: Joshua and wife Crystal, Whitney and husband Chris. Stepchildren: Samantha and husband Nathan, Nick and wife Jessica, and their mother, Cynthia Garrett. Grandchildren: Colton Isham, Emery Redmon, Kara Redmon, Henry Garrett and Lily Garrett. 4 Step-Grand-

children. Parents: David and Bobby Garrett. Sisters Elizabeth and husband Keith Hawn; Pamela Garrett and a host of nieces, nephews, friends and family.

Woody retired from TDOC after many years of dedicated service. Woody lived a life filled with kindness, laughter, and service to others. Woody was an avid outdoorsman, loved fishing, four-wheeling and piddling around in the garage and barn. Woody is very loved and will be missed dearly by all.

A Graveside Service will be held for family and friends on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Annadale Baptist Church Cemetery.

*Schubert Funeral Home is
honored to serve the family
of
David Woodrow “Woody” Garrett.*

Glena Mae Hamby Taylor Nelson, 90



Glena Mae Hamby Taylor Nelson, age 90, of Wartburg passed away Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at Life Care Center of Morgan County.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill Nelson; parents Albert and Etta Hamby; sisters Martha Ellen Hamby and Mary Kay Nelson; brothers Ronnie Hamby and Roy Hamby.

She is survived by daughters Darlene Jones and Regina Davis; sisters Louise Wilkes, Rita Leaf, Joyce Roach, and brother Don Hamby. Grandchildren:

Jennifer (Jeremy) Ridge, Kristen (Matt) Justice, Jessica (Andy) Moehl, and Andrew Davis. Great-grandchildren: Addison and Maverick Davis, Rosalyn and Vivian Justice, Walker and Elliot Ridge and Heidi and Jill Moehl.

The family would like to thank the staff at Life Care Center of Morgan County for their loving care.

The family will have a graveside service Friday, August 7, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. in Elizabeth Cemetery with Frank Kirby officiating.

*Schubert Funeral Home
is honored to serve the family
of
Glena Mae Hamby Taylor Nelson.*

RustyWallaceKiaKnoxville.com



865-688-8886

KNOXVILLE
I-75 AT CALLAHAN DRIVE



RUSTY WALLACE KIA

Name: _____ Age: _____

Phone Number: _____

Coloring
Contest

Overall
Winner
\$50
Gift Card

Category
Winners
\$25
Gift Card

Entry Due by 9am
August 21st.

Mail entry to
RWK
Coloring Contest
701 Callahan Drive
Knoxville, TN 37912

or
Drop-off at
Boys & Girls Club
17025 Alberta St,
Oneida, TN 37841

There are two age categories:
3 - 7 yrs | 8 - 12 yrs





Big Dreams Start with Small Steps

Build strong money habits with a **KTVAECU® Spend Account and Debit Card.**

Learn More! ☎ (865) 544-5400 🖱 tvacreditunion.com

Federally Insured by NCUA. Available to qualifying Members. Some restrictions may apply. Ask for details.



Caring for our community



Griffith Family PHARMACY



Your Community
Health Mart
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

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

GET YOUR BEACH BODY BACK

 **FDA Approved Semaglutide Plus and Tirzepatide Injections**



 Physician Supervised

 Prescription Diet Plans

 Lipo Myoden

 B12 Injections

 Wellness Supplements



DR'S WEIGHT LOSS CLINIC

Walk-ins welcome!

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

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

FREE CONSULTATION





Randy McFarland

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

www.randyismyagent.com



COLDWELL BANKER

Jim Henry & Associates



Glenda Johnson

Real Estate Agent

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.



Splash Into Summer!

NOW OPEN!

Hours: Mon - Sat 11a-7p, Sun 123p-6p

I-75 to Williamsburg, KY (Exit 11) 606-549-6065

Admission
(3 & Under Free)

\$20



HVAC SUPER HEROES

YOUR COMFORT HEROES ARE HERE!



CALL NOW!

423-663-3175



TEXT US!

423-663-7042

\$76/MONTH

**FINANCING
AVAILABLE!**



1532 Baker Hwy
Huntsville, TN



sextonsheatandair.com



essexton@highland.net



DAIKIN
COMFORT FOR LIFE.

Historically Speaking

A Brief History of the Oak Ridge-Naka

Sister City Exchange Program

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Ram Uppuluri, son of Ram and Shigeko Uppuluri provides us his insight into the history and evolution of the sister city exchange program between Oak Ridge and Naka, Japan. Ram has personal involvement in the program and has accompanied the Oak Ridge group to Japan. He also is very much aware of his mother's involvement over the years. Enjoy looking at the very important program from Ram's perspective.

In 1990, as the State of Tennessee and scientists at Oak Ridge National Laboratory were forging new partnerships in Japan, the City of Oak Ridge launched a remarkable initiative of its own. That year, Oak Ridge established a Sister City relationship with Naka, Japan, creating a lasting bridge of friendship, education, and cultural understanding between the two communities.

One of the most enduring features of the partnership has been the Sister City Exchange Program. Each year, ten middle school students from Robertsville and Jefferson Middle Schools have traveled to Naka-shi, where they live with Japanese host families, attend local schools, and experience everyday life in a culture very different from their own.

In return, Japanese students travel to Oak Ridge to experience life in East Tennessee with local host families. For many participants, the exchange has been one of the most memorable and formative experiences of their lives.

Today, some of the program's earliest participants on both the Japanese side and the Tennessee side have children of their own who are beginning to consider making the same journey.

The students are accompanied by two chaperones—one teacher from each of the middle schools—and usually a representative of the city government or of the community of Oak Ridge. This year, Oak Ridge Historian Ray Smith was our community representative, as well as making his first trip to Japan.

The Sister City Exchange Program has been an opportunity for many Oak Ridgers in and out of city government to visit Japan and to continue to build on the bonds of friendship that have developed between the State of Tennessee, East Tennessee, and Oak Ridge, and the people of Japan since the period of the 1980s and 1990s, when this relationship began.

It wasn't always this way.

In the late 70s and early 80s, tensions between the United States and Japan were high. There were concerns that Japanese companies were taking over important aspects of America: its jobs, its industries, its real estate. Tennessee's young governor at the time, Lamar Alexander, bucked the trend of stoking divisions between the two countries by creating and promoting a novel win-win solution: he invited the Japanese car manufacturing company Nissan to build and operate a manufacturing plant in Tennessee, creating jobs here and lessening tensions between the two countries.

Today, there are more than 200 Japanese-owned companies operating in Tennessee, employing more than 50,000 Tennesseans and accounting for more than \$21 billion in investment, according to the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.



This picture was made at the first meeting of the sister city mayors in Oak Ridge (l to r) Consul General Watanabe, Mayor Gooch, Mayor Massaki, and ORNL Director Stephen Strieffer, taken in August 2024 (Courtesy of Ram Uppuluri)

Other states have adopted similar strategies, recruiting global car companies to build their cars in America, but Nissan, and Tennessee, were an early notable example.

The relationship between Japan and Tennessee is so strong the Japanese government decided to relocate its consulate general office from New Orleans to Nashville. The Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville officially opened in October 2008, assuming jurisdiction over Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

During this year's World Cup, the Japanese national team, which has qualified for every World Cup since 1998, housed its players in Nashville and practiced on Nashville's MLS soccer team's facilities. (Chattanooga's prestigious Baylor School hosted Spain's national team, energizing Chattanooga's support for Spain, which has reached the finals of the World Cup as of this writing!).

The Knox Asian Festival, which is organized by Kumi Alderman, a great friend of Oak Ridge and supporter of Oak Ridge's Sister City Exchange Program, has been recognized as one of the best festivals in the southeastern United States, attracting as many as 75,000 visitors to World's Fair Park in August to celebrate the cultures and cuisines of the many Asian countries represented in the Knoxville area.

In Oak Ridge, the history of our relationship with Japan is certainly unique. The International Friendship Bell, a project that started two years after the Sister City Exchange Program was established, recognized the historic relationship born of war between Oak Ridge and Japan, but also the many scientific exchanges that had taken place between Oak Ridge and Japan in the years since the end of World War II.

One of the elements of the collaboration between Oak Ridge and Japan was around fusion energy research, and the center of fusion energy research in Japan was at the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute in Tokai-mura, which is adjacent to Naka-machi. Oak Ridge scientist Larry Dresner and Blanche Dresner lived in Tokai for a while, and it was during that period of time in the late 1980s that conversations got started around the idea of establishing a sister city program between Oak Ridge and Naka.

The relationship was formalized by an agreement that was signed by the Oak Ridge mayor Roy Pruett and the Naka Mayor Asakawa in 1990.

My mother, Shigeko Uppuluri, a native of Japan, was instrumental in helping to set up the formal mechanisms recognizing the sister

city relationship and facilitating relationships among people on both sides. I remember it as a time when the international aspect of Oak Ridge was celebrated and thought of as a strength, and many Oak Ridgers and Oak Ridge scientists were happy to support both the Sister City Exchange Program and International Friendship Bell project.

In my eyes, the two projects are intertwined and represent a lasting legacy of Oak Ridge: its sense of openness and adventure, the welcoming of others, curiosity about the outside world, and a willingness and capacity to act and to do things, and to make exciting and life-changing things happen in the lives of young people.

That's a legacy of the Oak Ridge Sister City Exchange Program that I'm very proud of, and I'm glad that Ray Smith got to experience the program for himself this year. I agree with him that the story of the Sister City Exchange Program is worthy of Historically Speaking.

Thank you, Ram Uppuluri, for giving us the history of this amazing exchange program between Oak Ridge and Naka, Japan. Ram mentioned that I was able to experience the program this year. It was an amazing opportunity and I am thankful to the Oak Ridge City Council and the City Manager for allowing me to represent the City of Oak Ridge on the June 22-29, 2026, program. Jim Dodson first approached me about the possibility, and I readily agreed I would really like to do that.

What I agreed to was further defined as we approached the time for the trip and I was able to discuss the expectations with John Smith, Kelly Williams and Randy Hemann. The closer I got to the time to go, the better I understood what was going to happen. Yet, as I watched with amazement, what took place when we arrived in Japan was much more than I ever dreamed.

We were met at the Tokyo airport and taken to Naka on a bus. When we arrived, we were welcomed by the families who would host the Oak Ridge middle school students. There was such a warm welcome and obvious excitement exhibited by the families that I felt our students were somewhat overwhelmed but glad to be treated so warmly and welcoming.

The next day was full of special tours and ceremonies. We began the day at the municipal building conference room and the office of the mayor. Again, warm welcomes and obvious joy at having us there. The mayor and his deputy gave us a tour of the office complex, and we made lots of photos. - Continued on Page 10

Historically Speaking

A Brief History of the Oak Ridge-Naka Sister City Exchange Program

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Next, we toured the JT-60SA Tokomak fusion experiment facility in Naka at the National Institutes for Quantum Science and Technology which has the world’s largest fusion plasma containment vessel that first produced a plasma in October 2023. This project is also affiliated with the ITER project in France which Oak Ridge National Laboratory has a lead managerial role for the US involvement. The three facilities represent a closely linked global network working to make commercial nuclear fusion a reality. Imagine my excitement to be allowed to participate in a tour of this awesome record-setting fusion experiment. The presentation was informative and I captured photos of many of the images used to illustrate fusion energy research.

As is my usual practice when I travel, I made many photos and posted some of them to Facebook daily. On that day one of my friends commented my post saying, “Wouldn’t you know Ray Smith would find the nuclear facility!” Haha, I was just along as a part of the group.

Then we attended a middle school class and were seated with the students as they were being taught. They demonstrated their ability to speak English and one student that I sat next to let me autograph his workbook and then several other students brought their workbooks as well. But what amazed me the most was when we were leaving and were putting our shoes back on, this student had followed me and he approached me with a gift of a pencil he had made to look like a walking cane by adding something on the eraser end that formed the handle of the cane. I treasure that gift above all others!

Lunch was at a traditional restaurant where the table was very low allowing only sitting on the floor. Not something I did very well and wondered if I would be able to stand after being in that position. But I made it...

Our next stop was the school superintendent’s office where I found a most memorable display honoring Shigeko Uppuluri. It showed the Friendship Bell and Iris flowers in bloom with a faint image of Shigeko’s face in the background. I was glad to find that piece of special art on display “Remembering Shigeko Uppuluri.”

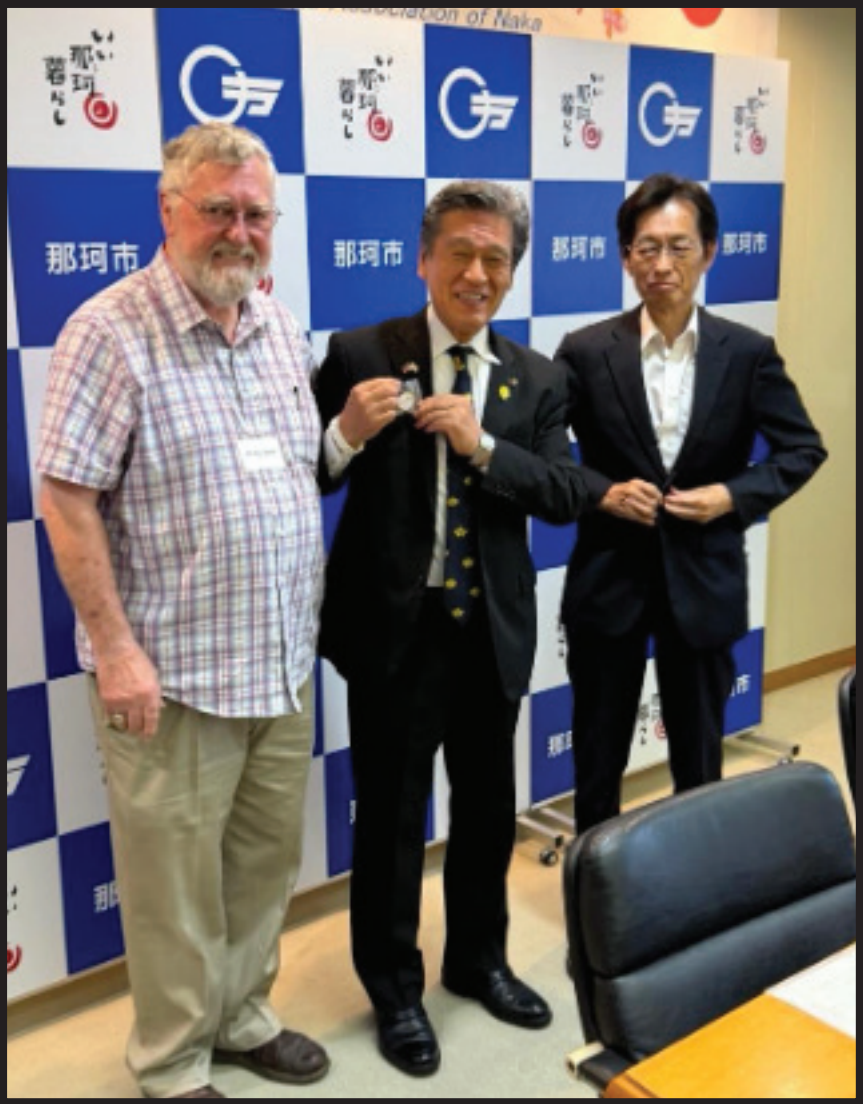
We also experienced dying a small cloth and weaving a small table mat. I have my mat on the dresser in my bedroom now. Proud of that memory.

Later we had dinner, a ceremony, and entertainment by a very talented flute player. The mayor and others gave remarks about the sister city program, and I was able to make a brief talk about Oak Ridge and how proud we

were to be a part of the sister city exchange program. Kelly Williams spoke about the school’s part in the exchange. And finally, two of the students and one of the chaperones gave well received talks in Japanese. I admired them and the Japanese people really seemed to appreciate their efforts to use the language.

The rest of the week each student experienced the culture of Japan by living with host families and being a part of their daily lives. This is an important element of the experience that allows the students time to gain a good understanding of the Japanese way of life. While they experienced life with their host families, I took the opportunity to visit Mount Fuji, Kyoto, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. While I knew pretty much what to expect at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Kyoto was an exceptional experience of shrines, temples, and early history of Japan as it was the capital city for a long period of Japan’s early history. Nagasaki also had a great museum focused on the early history of Japan as its seaport city. Those experiences gave me much appreciation for the Japanese culture.

So, I am glad to have been asked to represent the City of Oak Ridge in this magnificent exchange program! We will have some Japanese students visit Oak Ridge in a few weeks.



I am joined by Mayor Hikaru Massaki and Deputy Mayor Akira Tamagawa (Courtesy of Ray Smith)



This is the art remembering Shigeko Uppuluri that is in the School Superintendent’s office. It was obvious that the Japanese people think highly of Shigeko and understand her important role in the Sister City Exchange Program. (Courtesy of Ray Smith)

2 Corinthians Chapter 2



Melvin Howard

(2 Cor. 2:1-4) Further explanation: The apostle repeats his rationale. Because he loved them so much, he had not wanted to come bringing “sorrow.” It implies that on a previous visit he had made them sorrowful, and he hesitated to repeat that experience. The exact time of that visit is a matter of speculation, but likely it was after the writing of 1 Corinthians. Apparently on that occasion a “bad scene” occurred, and Paul was not anxious to repeat it, with the potential of such harming their relationship. He had determined, therefore, that he would not return until the spiritual atmosphere regarding the sinful brother (1 Cor. 5) was more conducive to congeniality.

Paul mentions having written them previously (v.3). Some see this as a reference to a letter not preserved (like that referenced in 1 Cor. 5:9); others believe the allusion is to 1 Corinthians. The latter is the traditional view. He felt that his coming at the afore-promised time might be premature and create even more sorrow, which he did not want to happen. He wanted them to know, however, that his previous letter was not written with an inflamed disposition. He agonized deeply over the matter and shed many tears as he contemplated the issue and composed the epistle. It was not that he would avoid all sorrow; that could never be the case in dealing with a vilely sinful situation. “My aim was to move you to repentance; and that issued from a heart overflowing with love for you” (v. 4).

(2 Cor. 2:5-11) The penitent offender: The apostle speaks of the one who “has caused sorrow.” “If” is not tentative, but an expression of sensitivity. Many see this as a reference to the fornicating brother (1 Cor. 5); as noted earlier, this is the longstanding traditional view. More recent writers apply it to some unknown person. The identification of this person does not warrant intense dogmatism. “This brother has caused sorrow not to me alone, but to you all.” He had not wanted to intensify that by being too hard on them; yet, there could not be compromise.

There is general agreement on the meaning of verse six. The “punishment” (church discipline) that had been implemented had been sufficient to accomplish its divine design. The rogue had come to his senses. Some suggest that the expression, “the many,” hints of a rebellious minority that refused to back it. At times Paul identified church troublemakers by name (1 Tim. 1:20; 2 Tim. 2:17); at other times, as in this case, he did not. Not all people have this common sense. The Corinthian’s are encouraged to forgive the brother and comfort him so that he might be comforted and not overcome by his own grief. Discipline is to save the offender, not crush him into spiritual oblivion (v. 7). They thus were to reaffirm their love for the penitent soul (v. 8).

Three reasons had been given for Paul’s previous letter: to prepare for his coming (v. 3); to express his love for them (v. 4); and now, to test whether they would be obedient “in all things” (v. 9). Partial obedience is no obedience! The apostle endorsed their forgiveness of the wayward soul, acknowledging that the presence endorsed their forgiveness of the wayward soul, acknowledging that the presence of Christ himself would authenticate such (v. 10; Mt. 10:15, especially v. 20). The withholding of forgiveness from a

penitent brother would surely give Satan an advantage (1 Cor. 5:5). Paul viewed Satan as a real adversary (so did Jesus), not a myth. Christians must be aware of the crooked ways of his operations (Eph. 6:11), otherwise, we become his victims (v. 11).

(2 Cor. 2:12-13) Anxiety at Troas: Troas was a seaport city in western Asia. Paul possibly ended up here after hastily leaving Ephesus following the riot there (Acts 19:23). This stop is not mentioned in Acts 20:1. His travels were always in the interest of “gospel of Christ.” He was thrilled that in the providence of God a “door” of opportunity was opened to him “in the Lord,” to accommodate his Christian mission (v. 12). He would return later (Acts 20:6). But he was stressed; he had expected Titus to meet him there (according to a prearranged plan), but his co-worker had not appeared. What had happened? Was his brother dead or alive? Presumably Titus would have word about how things were going in Corinth. Accordingly, the apostle headed westward toward Macedonia, hoping to find him.

(2 Cor. 2:14-17) Triumph in Christ: There is a remarkable change of tone, from the no-relief dejection of verse thirteen, to the triumphal explosion of the following verse. Paul and Titus connected again in Macedonia (7:5-7); and there was good news about the state of affairs in Corinth. Paul therefore erupts with thanksgiving to God, who has a long and consistent record of leading his people to victory through Christ (Rom. 8:28, 37-39). Through the apostolic preaching, the fragrance of the knowledge of God was being made known in every place (v. 14).

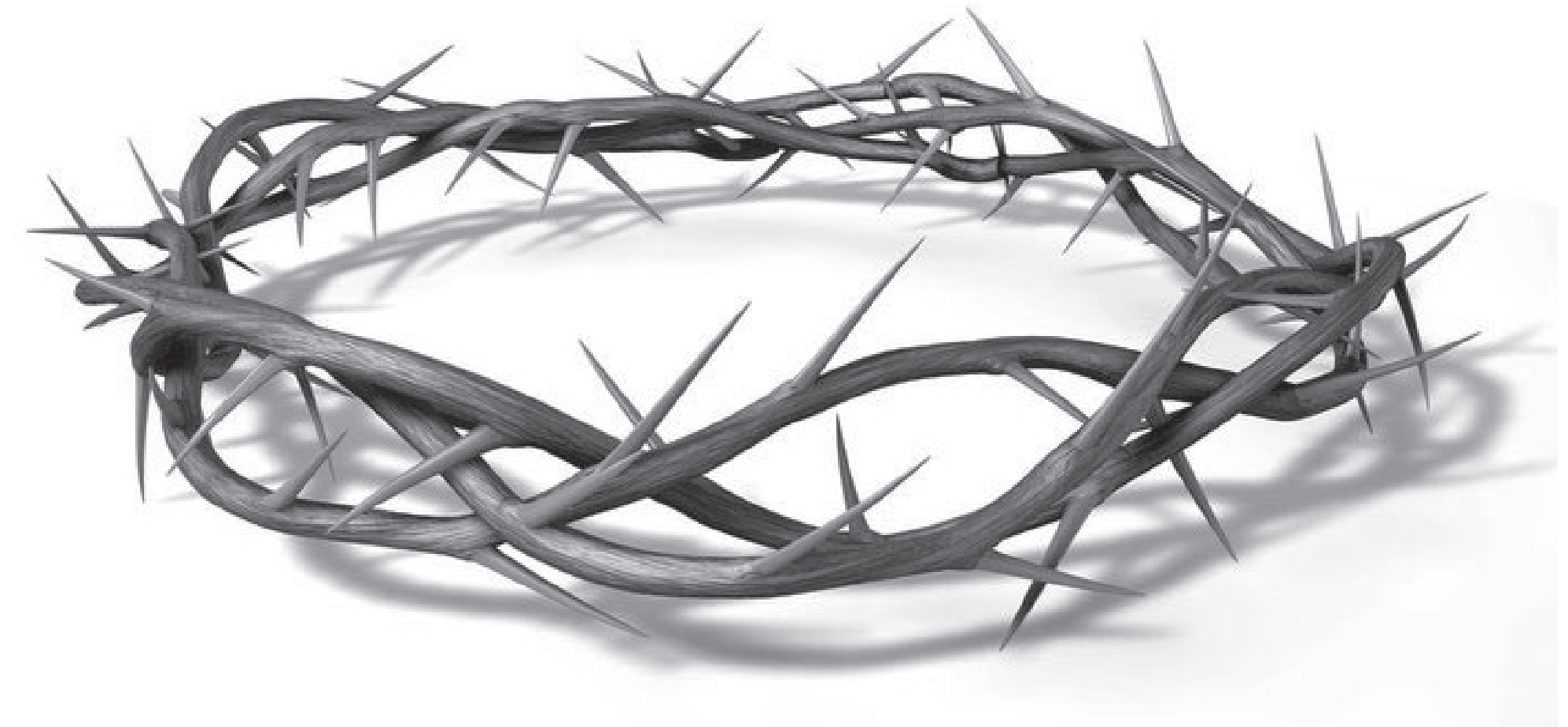
By means of their teaching, the sweet smell of divine knowledge of Christ was proclaimed, both to those in the process of being saved and those perishing. Both regeneration and degeneration are ongoing processes. Some are hardened by the truth, and they decay---from a dying stench to the foulness of outright death. Others exude a sweet fragrance resulting in eternal life. Can any of us believe we are sufficient for such a reward (v. 15-16)? Not on our own, but through Christ we are! Or was Paul speaking of his sufficiency in proclaiming the gospel versus the teachers subsequently described?

The apostle places himself in vivid contrast to certain false teachers (11:4, 12-15). “We are not as the many” is a bold (not arrogant) yet true assessment. “The many” embraces the entire anti-Paul faction. They are “corrupters of the word of God” (v. 17). The verb hints of someone who is a cheap, cheating huckster. They do not teach pure truth; they combine it with death-dealing poison. Some today peddle a form of the “gospel” for gain, and there is no lack of them. Paul says: “We are not like that; we are sincere and operate under the oversight of God.”

BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo
FortifyYourFaith.org

Melvin Howard’s Weekly column is sponsored by
The Lord’s Church
102 Paxton Road, Lancing

Opinions expressed by readers and columnists do not necessarily reflect those of Morgan County Today



RustyWallaceKiaKnoxville.com

YOUR
SUMMER
ADVENTURE
STARTS
HERE!!!

NOW IS THE
BEST TIME TO
GET YOUR NEW KIA!

WE'VE GOT
THE LENDERS!

WE'VE GOT
THE INVENTORY!



2026 Kia Sorento



2026 Kia K-5



2027 Kia Telluride



HOME OF THE

200,000 MILE WARRANTY!

RUSTY
WALLACE



865-688-8886
KNOXVILLE

*see dealer for details