



T-G Photo by David Melsom

Christmas decorations are up and Normandy welcomes passersby on Front Street.

T^{SHELBYVILLE} TIMES-GAZETTE *Weekend*

\$1 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2021 www.t-g.com

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Driver's License Center opens

T-G STAFF REPORT

A grand opening was held Monday for the Shelbyville Driver's License Center, located at 200 Dover Street, Suite 108.

House Speaker Pro Tem State Rep. Pat Marsh, along with several city and county leaders and the commissioner of safety, attended the opening.

"We got the City, the County, and we got the State, and we're opening this fantastic new facility for our people of Shelbyville and Bedford County to come and get their license and do their work here in our town," said Rep. Marsh.

"A lot of hard work has been between state and local officials to get us where we are today, and I want to thank you for your dedication and your

commitment to seeing this reopening through," said Jeff Long, Tennessee Commissioner of Safety & Homeland Security.

The County and City each put in \$10,000 for the remodeling, according to Shelbyville City Councilman Henry Feldhaus. Bedford County is also letting the State of Tennessee use a couple offices at the location for free rent.

"Truly we had outgrown the driver's license center that we had even prior to COVID," said Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham. "As you know, we are over 50,000 people in Shelbyville and Bedford...Even though COVID caused us to close that facility, it really shined a light on the disparities in the areas we're not adequate to serve the

public going forward."

Therefore, location was a major factor in deciding where this new center was to go.

Graham said the facilities at the previous center were not setup correctly (e.g. bathrooms, parking), which threatened the facility from reopening after the pandemic shutdown.

"We had to close the one out on Railroad Avenue when coronavirus hit parking problems and small office," explained Rep. Pat Marsh.

"Having a center here made sense in so many ways," said Paula Shaw, Assistant Commissioner of the State's Driver Services Division. "Not only does it add convenience for the Bedford County residents, but it allows us to reduce foot traffic in the centers

▶ See Center, Page 2A



T-G Photo by Zoe Haggard

Jeff Long, Tennessee commissioner of Safety & Homeland Security (front, right) talks with Shelbyville City Mayor Wallace Cartwright recently during the grand opening of the state driver license center at 200 Dover St., Suite 108. From left, back, are Bedford County Commissioner Janice Brothers, Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham and Shelbyville City Manager Josh Ray. See more photos on page 3A.

Former youth minister arraigned for statutory rape

Indictments list four counts

By **TERENCE CORRIGAN**
Special to the T-G

The former youth minister at Beth Sar Shalom Church in Shelbyville — Esteban David Carrera Valenzuela — was arraigned Nov. 15 on four counts of statutory rape by an authority figure— offenses that allegedly involved sex with a female teenage parishioner.

According to the indictments, Valenzuela, 30, first engaged in sexual relations

with the girl when she was 15 years old, in March 2020. The other three counts allege he had sex with the girl in June, July and November of 2020.

According to the indictments, the incidents all occurred at the church where Valenzuela was the girl's youth minister.

The offense of statutory rape by an authority figure alleges that (Valenzuela) "was, at the time of the offense, in a position of



Esteban David Carrera Valenzuela

trust, or had supervisory or disciplinary power over the victim by virtue of the defendant's legal, professional, or occupational status and used the position

of trust or power to accomplish the sexual penetration."

Valenzuela was arrested in late January of this year and was released on a \$100,000 bond.

Statutory Rape by an authority figure, when the defendant is at least four years older than the victim, is a Class B felony that carries an 8 to 30-year sentence and a fine of up to \$25,000. If convicted, Valenzuela will not be eligible for release on probation.

Valenzuela's father, David Carrera, is the founding pastor of the Beth Sar Shalom Church, where Valenzuela allegedly committed the offenses.

Other arraignments

Beau Dawson Beecham, 31, was arraigned last week on four felony counts and one misdemeanor charge for a violent and chaotic series of events on Dec. 12, 2020.

Beecham is accused of

▶ See Rape, Page 2A

Committee talks of growing pains

By **ZOE HAGGARD**
zhaggard@t-g.com

Growing pains within a county aren't always bad. It just falls on local officials to figure out how to best deal with the growth in a positive manner.

As well, the residual effects of COVID-19 are now being addressed by Bedford County Government. As had been widely discussed among county officials, Bedford County faces both an increase of residents but as well, a decrease of workers.

"Everybody is struggling

with staffing, nation-wide. It's not just a Bedford or Tennessee problem," said Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham at Tuesday afternoon's financial management committee meeting.

EMR program

One of the areas affected by both the increase in population but the decrease in workforce is emergency medical services. However, a high school level program called emergency medical responder

▶ See Talks, Page 2A

POKER NIGHT HELPS CANCER PATIENTS



Submitted Photo

Bedford Cancer Foundation held its second annual Casino Night on Nov. 19 at the Blue-Ribbon Circle. Organizer Shelby Taylor said hundreds enjoyed the special fundraiser. "The community really showed up for our event," said Taylor. See Life and Leisure section today for story.

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OBITUARIES

Mary Lee Harris

November 21, 2021

Mary Lee Harris, 74, of Shelbyville died Sunday, November 21, 2021.

Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Sunday, November 28, 2021, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. Visitation will begin at 12 noon.

OBITUARIES

James Robert 'Bob' Powell

November 24, 2021

James Robert "Bob" Powell, 83, of Shelbyville died Wednesday, November 24, 2021.

A gathering of friends will be held 5-8 p.m. Sunday, November 28th, at Hillcrest Funeral Home.

He was born March 10, 1938 in Atlanta, Georgia; was a retired truck driver for Consolidated Freight of Shelbyville; a member of the Masonic Lodge (Atlanta, Ga.) for 52 years; founding member of the WBTS Station 3 Fire Department; and a veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James William Powell and Essie Mae Burch Bryan; his wife, Hazel Lee Fordham Powell; brothers and sisters, Joe Powell, Joyce Benson, Betty Thompson, Peggy Bramlett and Jackie Powell.

He is survived by his children, Mike Powell and Jan Ragsdale of Shelbyville; a brother, Jerry Powell (Patricia) of Tullahoma; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Center

(Continued from Page 1)

in the surrounding counties." Shaw also said driver services and appointments have been made available online for the past two years.

"When it closed, everybody was upset in the County because they had no place to go. You had to go to Fayetteville, Tullahoma, Manchester, Murfreesboro and wait in line there. We want to wait in line in our own place!" said

Marsh. While speaking at the grand opening, Marsh also complimented the staff of the driver's license center—many of whom previously worked at the Fayetteville location—for their professionalism.

The driver's license center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The center is full-service, meaning citizens can obtain their driver's license, identification card issuant, motor vehicle records, vision testing, knowledge and skills testing and handgun permits, according to Long.

Rape

(Continued from Page 1)

aggravated domestic violence for allegedly hitting his girlfriend in the head with a brick, causing a laceration on top of her head. According to the affidavit of complaint, the woman was "bleeding profusely and the blood was covering her whole face."

On that same night, as Beecham attempted to flee, he allegedly committed the crime of reckless endangerment, driving recklessly through Park Trail Apartments complex at night with no headlights, hitting "multiple vehicles" and cut through a yard where "numerous children were playing..."

Beecham is also charged with aggravated assault for allegedly turning his vehicle toward a Shelbyville police officer, "nearly striking" the officer.

Beecham is also facing a charge of accident resulting in injury for allegedly intentionally striking a vehicle occupied by two people and leaving the scene of the accident. The two people in the vehicle that Beecham allegedly hit were taken to the hospital for treatment of their injuries.

Joel Adam Alexander, 58, of Murfreesboro, was arraigned on three charges alleging domestic violence, destruction of property and burglary. The crimes allegedly occurred on Jan. 1, 2021 at a residence on Shoma Drive in Shelbyville.

Alexander is accused of punching out a window of his ex-girlfriend's home, entering her home and attempting to strangle her.

Alexander is charged with aggravated domes-

tic assault (a felony), Aggravated Burglary (a felony) and Vandalism (a misdemeanor.)

Jason Eric Burke, 40, of Shelbyville, was arraigned on a charge of auto burglary and sexual offender registration form violation. Burke was convicted of statutory rape in 2001.

Andreas Lucas Gomez, 48, of Shelbyville, was arraigned on charges of aggravated domestic assault and public Intoxication. Gomez was arrested on Aug. 2, 2021.

Xavier Lamont Martez Ransom, 22, of Shelbyville, was arraigned on evading arrest risk of death or injury (motor vehicle) and driving with a suspended license. Ransom was arrested on Dec. 16, 2019.

Billy Scott Spurgeon, 46, of Hohenwald, was arraigned on charges of DUI (a 4th offense) and simple possession/casual exchange of drugs. Spurgeon was arrested on May 8, 2020.

Cleon Linus Van Stone, 30, of Shelbyville, was arraigned on two counts of "manufacture, delivery, sale or possession of Methamphetamines," and contraband in penal Institutions (drugs in jail). Van Stone was arrested on Feb. 25, 2021.

Larry Wayne Tyson, 64, of Shelbyville, was arraigned on two counts of DUI (a 4th offense) and driving with a revoked license (a subsequent offense). He was arrested on May 23, 2020. He was released on a \$12,000 bond.

Tyler Jacob Womack, 25, of Shelbyville, was arraigned on five counts of auto burglary and theft of property valued between \$2,500 and \$10,000. He was arrested in January 2021.



County Photo
From left, Ann Marie Morton, Lisa Victory, Suzanne Villemarette, County Clerk Donna Thomas, Mary Kaye Jordan, Samantha Mallard, Donate Life volunteer Donna Orr, Tanya Beal, Cindy Fox, Gabriela Lynch and Tammy King.

Funds raised for Donate Life

The office of Bedford County Clerk Donna Thomas held a pumpkin decorating contest, asking customers to vote for their favorite entry with spare change. The contest raised \$165 for Donate Life Tennessee, which promotes organ donation.

Local Donate Life volunteer Donna Orr matched that amount with a donation to the David Orr/Donate Life Scholarship for Bedford County students.

Donna Orr's husband David Orr, who died in 2015, was a multiple

lung transplant recipient. Donations to the scholarship fund can be made at First Community Bank of Bedford County; more information about Donate Life and organ donation is available at <https://donatelifetn.org/>.



ENJOYING THE FEAST

Submitted Photo
Learning Way students had a pre-Thanksgiving feast earlier this week.

Talks

(Continued from Page 1)

(EMR) is set to help with the labor shortage, county officials said.

"To remind everybody, we worked on a strategy to these ups-and-downs with staffing. So, one of the things were doing—the huge one—is doing their own teaching, really giving them the opportunity to lean in on local folks...That's exciting," said Graham. EMR is the first step for getting into the EMT program. Those who pass those levels can easily transition into the emergency medical technician program right out of high school.

"It's almost like a dual enrollment situation," said Graham, who served as director of Bedford County Emergency Medical Service before taking office.

"They come right out of high school ready to go into that program, whether they've actually locked if they're going to career technical education or further academics."

The programs at Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology and the junior colleges are not meeting the demand that the system needs for EMT and EMTAs, said Graham, mostly due to scheduling conflicts. The Tennessee EMS Education Association wants to see it go from 15 pilot sites to 30, according to Graham.

Assistant Director at Bedford County EMS, Brett Young, said during the meeting that they had a 100% pass rate on skills

in the emergency medical program. Graham complimented their work saying, "One hundred percent pass rate as you just heard on the skills is phenomenal. That's a very difficult challenge for any program."

The county's EMS is short staffed by one paramedic and one EMT, according to Young. They were short around 10 employees at one point.

"So, to be able to turn that around and actually 'grow them at home,' you might say, is huge and significant for our county, so we're grateful for that," said Graham.

Commissioner Linda Yockey added, "The response time looks awesome. So, thank you."

The average emergency response time for the City of Shelbyville is 5:54, while the County is 10:49. The new ambulance is expected to come by June, Young said.

"All this that's been done by our team and this committee and commissioners has set us above a lot of what other counties are able to do and to keep us staffed. So we commend you for that, and just very thankful for the opportunity we have to serve," said Young.

New school and growth

In other business items, a school board resolution was unanimously passed to go to the commission for funds for the new elementary school to be located near the 437 Bypass.

"The resolution is so we can borrow money to pay the architects because

that's the first cost you're going to have until we can get the bond issue," said Bedford County Finance Director Robert Daniel.

Bedford Schools superintendent Dr. Tammy Garrett said they have had to hire two more teachers at Cascade Elementary since the beginning of the school year. "So, we're continuing to add teachers across the district with new students and, with what we hear, as they're building new houses and things like that," said Garrett.

Area continues to grow

Highway Superintendent Mark Clanton presented a grant opportunity from the Tennessee Department of Transportation to conduct a corridor study in the northern part of the county on U.S. 231 to U.S. 41A. The study would include traffic flow and road improvement studies.

"That seems to be the area that is growing the most right now with all the industrial things we've got going on," said Clanton. "That also helps with my conversation that I've been having with TDOT also about trying to make 231 five lanes — do away with the median in the middle — to be prepared for the heavy influx of traffic we know we're going to have in the next two or three years."

Solid waste

According to Diane Forbes, officer manager for Bedford County Solid Waste, thefts of metal mate-

rial have occurred at the El Bethel locations. "Since metal is up so much, we've had some theft there. But that is basically the only one," said Forbes.

The solid waste department is also in the process of obtaining a safety grant for security cameras to be installed at each of the centers, primarily to monitor accidents. New compactors are scheduled to come in the first week of December.

Archives

Mayor Graham said they are "on track" to finishing up Courthouse renovations by spring.

"They haven't found any money in the walls that freaked them out yet," Graham said. But they are struggling with getting supplies on time. For example, some of the technology supplies going into the courtroom are "all over the place" as "one minute there are too many of them and the next, nobody's got one," Graham said.

Juvenile detention

Bedford County Juvenile Detention Center has a projected annual loss of \$175,000. At a previous financial committee meeting, the juvenile detention was losing some \$224,000 annually. "I think one of the things that's making the juvenile detention numbers improve or look some better is we went through a period where we weren't taking any out of the county during the COVID, right? So, now were back to accepting," Graham explained.

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Stolen farm equipment recovered

By **DAVID MELSON**
dmelson@t-g.com

Expensive farm equipment has been recovered and a suspect jailed after an investigation by the Bedford County Sheriff's Office. Detectives and deputies were able to recover tractors, four-wheelers and a tractor allegedly taken from Bedford County farmland by Douglas Bowen, 19, of West Jackson Street, said Detective Lt. John Sweeney.

James Farrar of Shelbyville notified the BCSO he'd found two four-wheelers belonging to him on Christiana-Fosterville Road in Rutherford County. The four-wheelers had been taken from a shed on his property near Shelbyville a few days earlier, Detective Lt. John Sweeney said.

Deputies recovered a tractor/front loader stolen from a barn on Trott Road and a cattle trailer taken in Warren County at a nearby residence, Sweeney said.

Bowen is charged with two counts of theft of property with a \$35,000 bond set, according to Bedford County Jail records.

Drug charges

A man being sought by police

for drug possession was arrested after being spotted by an officer Monday afternoon driving on South Cannon Boulevard.

Kevin Michael Garner, 49, of South Cannon Boulevard was already wanted for possession of a schedule VI drug and paraphernalia and driving on a revoked license, Sgt. Michael Taylor's report said.

A small box containing one Naloxone pill and one Alprazolam pill was found in the car along with two glass pipes with substance residue on them, Taylor said. Charges of simple possession of schedule II and III drugs and additional counts of possession of drug paraphernalia and driving on a revoked license were added.

Garner posted \$11,000 bond.

Thefts

•Several items have been reported missing from a storage unit on East Lane Street.

Tools, clothing, cooking utensils and a pressure washer were taken between 7:30 p.m. Sunday and midday Monday, according to police. A man who has a key to the unit was named as a suspect.

•Prescription medication was stolen between 8 p.m. Sunday-3 a.m. Monday from a room at Shelbyville Inn, North Cannon Boulevard, police said.

Suspects who may have had a room key were named.

Jail intake

The following were charged since Tuesday by the Bedford County Sheriff's Office. Shelbyville Police Department, Tennessee Highway Patrol or 17th Judicial District Drug Task Force. They are only charged; guilt or innocence will be determined by the courts.

•Jason Graham Barber, 31, Center Street, Normandy; violation of probation, evading arrest, driving on suspended license (two counts), possession of stolen property, resisting arrest; held, \$27,500 bond

•David Bryan Bond Jr., 30, Tullahoma; driving on suspended license; released, no bond

•Douglas Bowen, 19, West Jackson Street; theft of property over \$10,000, theft of property over \$2,500; held, \$35,000 bond

•Jose Azael Enrique Calva, 35, Murfreesboro; probation revoca-

tion, probation revocation amendment; held, \$10,000 bond

•Bradley Wayne Carter, 40, Methvin Drive; violation of probation; released, \$1,000 bond

•Ryan Jordan Cole, 40, South Brittain Street; no insurance, simple possession; released on recognizance

•Philip Daniel Coleman, 37, Germantown Road; violation of probation, failure to appear, bench warrant; held, \$5,000 bond

•Jasmine Leann Corrigan, 19, Tullahoma; failure to appear, bench warrant; held, \$500 bond

•Kevin Michael Garner, 49, South Cannon Boulevard; possession of drug paraphernalia (two counts), driving on revoked license (two counts), possession of schedule II drug for resale, simple possession of schedule III drug, simple possession of schedule VI drug; released, \$11,000 bond

•Joseph Lee Green, 23, Manchester; held on unspecified charges for Franklin County

•Gaspar Palios Hernandez, 21, unknown address; public intoxication; summons issued

•James Anthony Holloway, 35, Shadrick Street; possession of schedule VI drug with intent to sell, possession of drug para-

phernalia; held, \$4,000 bond

•Daylin Edwin Meeks, 20, Sunlite Road; violation of probation; released, \$500 bond

•Elizabeth Meeks, 43, Belmont Avenue; failure to exercise due care, no driver's license; released, no bond

•Michael Shawn Meyers, 34, South Cannon Boulevard; domestic assault; held, \$1,500 bond

•Somer Hiilani Meyers, 41, South Cannon Boulevard; domestic assault; held, \$1,500 bond

•Jonathan Dwayne Prater, 29, U.S. 41A North; aggravated domestic assault; held, \$7,500 bond

•Ernesto Saban Cruz, 18, Smyrna; DUI, no driver's license; released, \$3,500 bond

•Shay Sullivan Sears, 26, Webb Road West, Bell Buckle; violation of probation; released, \$250 bond

•Anthony Ivan Villanueva, 22, Old Pencil Mill Road; DUI (second offense), driving on revoked license, simple possession of schedule VI drug, light law violation (no headlights); released, \$5,500 bond

DRIVER'S LICENSE CENTER OPENS



A grand opening was held Monday morning for the new Shelbyville Driver's License Center, located at 200 Dover Street, Suite 108. Story on page 1A.



Speaker Pro Tem and State Rep. Pat Marsh spoke during the grand opening of the new state driver license center.



T-G Photos by Zoe Haggard

Rochelle Bryant, regional manager of Middle Tennessee drivers license centers, holds the ribbon cut for the grand reopening of the Shelbyville Driver's License Center.



Paula Shaw, assistant commissioner of Tennessee drivers services

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Taking a family trip?

Dear Readers: If you are traveling to visit family or friends, be aware of and follow COVID-19 protocols for your family's safety. This might be the first time many of you have traveled since the pandemic began, so you might have to get back in the groove of traveling and staying together.

When you leave the hotel or motel to begin your day, use your cellphone to snap a picture of all family members and send it to each family member's cellphone. If someone becomes separated or lost, the picture can be shown to guards or police, if necessary.

You can have everyone wear the same color T-shirt or baseball cap, so it will be easy to spot a family member who has wandered off. -- Heloise

RUN OUT OF SILVER POLISH?

Dear Readers: If you are getting ready for a big family event and realized you don't have any silver polish to clean your silverware or silver-plated items, here are two homestyle solutions that will work in a pinch. Give them a try.

1. If the silver is not badly tarnished, just wash it by squirting a good dishwashing liquid onto a sponge and then rubbing. Do not use any abrasive product. Rinse thoroughly under warm water and shine with a soft microfiber cloth.

2. To quick-clean large pieces (but NEVER on thin silver plate or antique pieces), lay a piece of aluminum foil on the bottom of the kitchen sink or a glass baking dish. Place the silverware on top and cover with very hot water and a couple teaspoons of baking soda. Let sit for several minutes. Rinse under warm water with a sponge and polish with a soft cloth. -- Heloise

Hints from Heloise

Heloise



WALKING YOUR DOG DURING WINTER

Dear Readers: As you know, many sidewalks and roads might be covered with salt or chemical deicers that could hurt or create cracks in your dog's paws. Try to avoid slippery spots, and when you get home, do the following right away: Wipe off your dog's paws to remove everything it might have walked through. And wet a microfiber cloth with warm water and wipe its fur clean too. -- Heloise

REMOVING WINDOW DECALS

Dear Readers: Often, we need to put a decal on our car windows for parking or school. But when the time comes to remove them, it can be tough. Here's how to get them off.

Apply a couple coats of household vinegar or a petroleum prewash spray over the decal. Allow this to sit for several minutes. It should be loosened. Then use a scraper to get it all off. -- Heloise

PET PAL

Dear Heloise: This is Atom, our cat, and his brother Ripley, our treeing walker coonhound. -- Alan Almanzar

Readers, to see Atom and Ripley, go to www.Heloise.com and click on "Pet of the Week." -- Heloise

Send a money-saving or timesaving hint to Heloise, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001, or you can fax it to 1-210-HELOISE or email it to Heloise@Heloise.com. I can't answer your letter personally but will use the best hints received in my column.

Send calendar items to tgnews@t-g.com, notify us on Facebook, call 931-684-1200 or drop by our offices, 323 E. Depot St., weekdays from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

YOU CAN HELP

Toy drive

The Shelbyville Central High School Criminal Justice Student Organization is conducting its fifth annual toy drive to raise toys for needy children in Bedford County. The drive is designed to help children ages 3-12 years of age. Donation bins are located at Celebration Feed, Tractor Supply, CO-OP & Dollar General. Families needing donations can call Chris Hobbs at the CTE-Annex, 931-684-1889. Toys will be distributed December 8.

Angel Tree

The annual Angel Tree is now in place at Shelbyville Recreation Center. Pick an "angel" from the tree, purchase gifts for that needy child and return them by December 8.

TODAY

Phelps in concert

Multi-Dove and Grammy Award-winning recording artist David Phelps will be featured tonight at the Annual Christmas Barn Bash, 2659 Culleoka Highway in Culleoka. The concert begins at 7 p.m. Gates to the farm open at 4, with concert seating in the Barn opening at 5:30. Complete information may be obtained by visiting www.davidphelps.com.

Wartrace Christmas

Wartrace is holding a Christmas Marketplace on Saturday, November 27, which is National Small Business Day. Local artisans, bakers, and crafters will be set up on the town square throughout the day. Food and photos with Santa will be available.

Bell Buckle lighting

Bell Buckle's annual Christmas Tree lighting and cookie exchange will

be held at dusk Saturday, November 27 on the quilt square. Hot cocoa and homemade cookies are part of the celebration. Cookie entrants should email Betsy Wheeler, bwheeler58941@gmail.com, by Friday, November 26.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DEC. 1

Retired Teachers meeting

Bedford County Retired Teachers will meet 11 a.m. Wednesday, December 1 at Urban Plantation. Jeff Yoes will be speaking.

DEC. 2

SCHRA board

South Central Human Resource Agency's governing board will meet at 11 a.m. Thursday, December 2 at SCHRA's central office, 1437 Winchester Highway in Fayetteville. Committees will meet at 10 a.m.

DEC. 3

Quilted Christmas

A Quilted Christmas walk featuring historic homes and churches will be held from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, December 3 in Bell Buckle, sponsored by the town's Chamber of Commerce.

Holiday Night Market

Bell Buckle is holding its annual Holiday Night Market from 4-8 p.m. Friday, December 3. Live Christmas music, children's games, Santa and hayrides through town and food vendors are scheduled.

DEC. 4

Christmas Parade

"A Super-Hero Christmas" will be the theme for this year's Shelbyville Christmas Parade, scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. Saturday, December 4 along the traditional route — the Shelbyville square, north on North Main Street and east out Madison Street to Celebration Drive. Entry forms are available on the Shelbyville-Bedford County Chamber of Commerce's Facebook page. The parade is sponsored by the Chamber and the

Shelbyville Jaycees. A pre-parade Christmas party will be held on the square from 2-3:30 p.m.

Pet Parade

Bell Buckle's Pet Parade will begin at noon Saturday, December 4. Sleigh rides with Santa will be available and the Flat Creek Dancers will perform.

DEC. 5

Craft fair

Horton's Holiday Craft Fair is scheduled Sunday, December 5 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Henry Horton State Park's Conference Lodge. Entry is free but visitors are asked to donate a new toy. For more information visit tnstateparks.com/parks/events/henry-horton or email kerry.naccarato@tn.gov.

DEC. 6

Bag Day

Good Samaritan will hold another Bag Day on from noon-2 p.m. Monday, December 6 at 201 E. Highland St.

DEC. 10

Chili supper

Thomas Magnet School PTO is holding a chili supper and silent auction from 4-6 p.m. Friday, December 10. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children. A meet and greet with Elsa, the Ice Princess is included plus a dance party with Elsa for an additional donation. The TMS Drama Club will perform Frozen Jr. beginning at 6 p.m. (ticket must be purchased.)

DEC. 11

Gingerbread decorating

A gingerbread decorating contest is being held from 12 noon-2 p.m. Saturday, December 11 as part of Bell Buckle's Christmas events. Signups will begin at 11 a.m. at the downtown pavilion.

DEC. 18

Story with Santa

Shelbyville Recreation Center is hosting Storytime with Santa at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, December 18. Preregistration is required at 931-684-9780. The event includes cookies, milk, a toy for each child and a story read by Santa Claus.

ONGOING

No Raus meeting

Due to construction, the Raus Community Club will not meet in November.

Soup kitchen

Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen serves meals from 4-5 p.m. Tuesdays at the old Save-A-Lot building on South Cannon Boulevard. One take-away meal per person present, with come-and-go service only. Donations may be made to Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen, 122 Public Square N., Shelbyville, TN 37160 and are tax deductible under its 501c3 non-profit designation.

DesJarlais forum

Lynne Davis, field representative for U.S. Rep. Scott DesJarlais, is available from 10-11 a.m. each Thursday at the Bedford County Courthouse to field constituent questions. DesJarlais, who represents the 4th District, will not be present.

Seniors meals

Shelbyville-Bedford County Senior Citizens Center will have meals available for curbside pickup until further notice. Call April, 931-684-0019 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. weekdays for more information or to place an order. A two-day notice is required.

County meetings

Bedford County Courthouse is closed for government meetings until at least March due to remodeling. Meetings of the full County Commission are held at Shelbyville Central High School auditorium on Eagle Boulevard and committee meetings at Bedford County Office Complex on Dover Street.

Make cooking fun for the whole family with this sweet, seasonal snack

(Family Features)

No matter how busy your schedule gets this fall, it's important to take time to nurture your physical and mental health and well-being. With busy schedules underway, remember to take time to cook and eat together with loved ones.

In fact, research from the "Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health" shows regular family meals make it more likely kids and adults will eat more fruits and vegetables.

Making healthy choices, including eating fruits, like those in Apple Nachos, and vegetables have also been

linked to greater happiness, according to research published in "Canadian Family Physician," and can help you through the transition back to school, the office or wherever your routine takes you. Pairing a healthy diet with other science-backed tips and recipes from the American Heart Association's Healthy for Good initiative, supported by Kroger Health, can help you and your family feel your best.

For more free recipes, and to access more health tips, visit [HYPERLINK "https://www.heart.org/en/healthy-living"](https://www.heart.org/en/healthy-living) heart.org/healthyforgood.

Apple Nachos

Recipe courtesy of the American Heart Association's Healthy for Good initiative
 Servings: 6
 1/3 cup dried unsweetened cranberries or raisins
 1/4 cup sliced unsalted almonds
 2 tablespoons unsalted shelled sunflower seeds
 3 medium green or red apples, cored and thinly



Apple Nachos

sliced into 12 wedges each, divided
 1-2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
 2 tablespoons water
 1/4 cup smooth low-sodium peanut butter
 1 tablespoon honey
 In small bowl, stir cranberries, almonds and sunflower seeds.

Layer 18 apple wedges on large plate or platter. Sprinkle with lemon juice to keep apples from browning.
 In small microwaveable bowl, microwave water on high 2 minutes, or until boiling. Add peanut butter and honey, stirring until mixture is smooth.

Using spoon, drizzle half peanut butter mixture over apple wedges. Sprinkle with half cranberry mixture. Layer remaining apples over cranberry mixture. Drizzle with remaining peanut butter mixture. Sprinkle remaining cranberry mixture over top.

Nutritional information per serving: 167 calories; 7.5 g total fat; 1 g saturated fat; 0 g trans fat; 2.5 g polyunsaturated fat; 3.5 g monounsaturated fat; 0 mg cholesterol; 66 mg sodium; 22 g carbohydrates; 4 g fiber; 15 g sugar; 4 g protein.

6	3	8	2	1	5	7	9	4
5	4	7	6	3	9	1	8	2
1	9	2	8	4	7	3	5	6
4	5	6	9	7	1	2	3	8
9	2	1	3	5	8	6	4	7
7	8	3	4	6	2	5	1	9
2	1	5	7	9	4	8	6	3
3	7	9	5	8	6	4	2	1
8	6	4	1	2	3	9	7	5

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Church gives away Thanksgiving meals



T-G Photos by Zoe Haggard

Shirley Owens, left, and Bonita Stewart help to bag cakes for the annual Woodfork Chapel African American Methodist Episcopal Church's free Thanksgiving meal. Woodfork Chapel African American Methodist Episcopal Church gave away free Thanksgiving meals Tuesday night. Due to taking precautions from COVID-19, the church did not have this event. But now in their fifth year, according to Rev. Randall L. Webster, they prepared some 250 orders to give away. On the menu: chicken and dressing, green beans, mashed potatoes, and buttery rolls. Rev. Webster said this effort is to help the community, especially those who need it, appreciate what we normally would appreciate before the pandemic shutdowns--such as being together through serving and having a good meal together.



Come and Experience...

A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

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A Christmas Experience-Outdoor Market Place
4-6 pm-Nativity play begins at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. Families wander through the bustling marketplace and discover what life was like when Jesus was born. You will begin your journey by stopping at the census table to be counted then visit the town photographer, and get a holiday portrait with your family! Then begin exploring the Bethlehem Marketplace. You will visit with the craftsman of Bethlehem including: Pottery Shed, Carpenter Booth, Town Bakery, Hebrew Scribes Tent, and Painters Tent. After touring the city Marketplace, everyone will assemble together in the sanctuary to hear what happened one special night when Christ was born to Joseph and Mary in a stable.



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CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Send church news to tgnews@t-g.com, preferably by noon Wednesday.

Baptist
Calvary Baptist Church's Sunday morning service is at 10 a.m. with Bro. Jimmy Gray presenting the message. Services are livestreamed.

"Worship with Thanksgiving" from 1 Timothy 4 will be Rev. Mark Rosson's sermon at **Eastview Baptist Church**. The church has announced a Christmas Candlelight Service will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22.

"The Promise of Hope" from Luke 2:25-35 will be Pastor Jimmy West's message at **Edgemont Baptist Church**. Services are livestreamed. The church will observe Hanging of the Greens at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

"I Will Dwell In The House Of The Lord

Forever" from Psalm 23:1-6 will be Sunday's message at **Grace Baptist Church**.

Christian (Disciples of Christ)
A new sermon series, "Christmas at the Movies," begins at **First Christian Church**. "Belief" from the movie "The Polar Express" will be Sunday's theme.

Church of Christ
Fairlane Church of Christ's sermon will be "A Faithful Church," part of the series, "The Body," from Matthew 25:31-40.

"The Lord's Church Worshipping" from John 4:23-24, part of "The Lord's Church" series, will be Sunday's message at **Southside Church of Christ**. A guided discussion on developing prayer life is scheduled for 6 p.m. Sunday. A study of 1 Peter continues Wednesday night at 6. The Sunday morning

and Wednesday services are livestreamed at cofcsouthside.com.

Lutheran
Christ Lutheran Church will worship at 11 a.m. with Rev. Anna Robbins preaching and presiding. An Advent series begins this week with the sermon, "Hopeful waiting" There will be a sermon and free activity bags for children.

Methodist
A Hanging of the Greens service for the First Sunday of Advent is scheduled Sunday at **First United Methodist Church**. The Rev. Dr. Paul H. Mullikin's message will be "Looking Forward in Hope" from Luke 21:25-28, 34-36. Services are livestreamed on Facebook and broadcast on WLJ (98.7 FM/1580 AM).

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COMMUNITY BANNERS



Members of the 2019-20 and 2020-21 Community Viking basketball teams pose with banners during Tuesday night's basketball games. Both teams won district and region championships and hosted sub-state games, with the 2020-21 team reaching the TSSAA state tournament for the first time since 1944.

Eagles clinch victory in 2nd half

By **GARY JOHNSON**
gjohnson@t-g.com

FRANKLIN — A great second half performance proved to be the difference as Shelbyville Central's Golden Eagles claimed an impressive 64-59 victory over Siegel in the Thanksgiving Classic hosted by Centennial High School on Tuesday evening.

After trailing 35-27 at the intermission, the Golden Eagles (2-1) outscored the Stars 19-13 in the third period and 18-11 in the fourth for the comeback win.

Senior J.J. Jones led the winners with 20 tallies, Devyn Heath contributed, 14 followed by Zay Reese with 11.

Shelbyville Central 13 14 19 18 64
Siegel 16 19 13 11 — 59
Shelbyville Central (64): Tim Parsons 4, JJ Jones 20, Zay Reese 11, Jason Ragland 5, Devyn Heath 14, Joe Harris 3, Kyle Trice 7.
Siegel (59): Haynes 13, Webb 8, Moss 11, Bass 25, Wilson 2.
Halftime score: Siegel 35, Shelbyville Central 27.
3-Point goals: Shelbyville Central (4): Jones 2, Harris 2, Trice; Siegel (3): Webb 2, Moss.



Shelbyville Central senior Devyn Heath takes it to the basket and scored two of his 14 points in the Eagles' win over Siegel on Tuesday night.

T-G Photo by Gary Johnson

Heupel, Vols hope for strong finish

By **AL LESAR**
Associated Press

KNOXVILLE — Josh Heupel took over a Tennessee program depleted by transfers and rocked by an alleged recruiting scandal with one goal in mind: Getting buy-in.

"A lot of coaches will tell you, when they go into a new program, the older guys are the toughest to get to buy in because they feel they're on the back end of their careers," Heupel said. "To me, that hasn't been the case. (Our seniors faced) adversity and (ran) into it, never losing faith."

Those seniors will be honored Saturday when the Volunteers (6-5, 3-4 Southeastern Conference) host in-state rival Vanderbilt and the Commodores' own first-year coach in Clark Lea. It won't be their last game because Tennessee already is eligible for the program's 54th bowl in program history.

Heupel has turned a Tennessee offense that was a bottom-feeder in total offense ranked 102nd nationally averaging 346 yards a game and even worse scoring 21.5 points a game (108th) to one of the best. His Vols rank among the nation's best at 15th in total offense with 460.6 and 11th scoring 38.3.

Tennessee is coming off a 60-14 rout of South Alabama. Heupel credits that improvement directly to how key Vols bought into what he was teaching.

"Actions speak louder than words," Heupel said.

Vanderbilt has won five of the last nine in this rivalry between schools separated by 190 miles. But Lea brings his Commodores (2-9, 0-7) in trying to snap a 20-game skid inside the SEC. Tennessee has won the last two.

The Commodores are coming off a 31-17 loss to then-

► See Vols, Page 7A

Late Viking comeback bid falls short at Richland

By **RICKEY CLARDY**
Sports Writer

UNIONVILLE — The Community Vikings battled back from a 13-point deficit to tie the game early in the fourth quarter, but could not sustain their momentum as the Richland Raiders won 68-57 Tuesday night.

Community (1-3) came out of the gate with the first six points of the game and took its biggest lead at 13-4 with the help of four points each from Stratton Lovvorn and Maki Fleming. The Raiders went on a 6-0 run and cut the Viking lead to 15-12 heading to the second quarter.

The tide turned in the quarter as Richland scored seven consecutive points to take its first lead at 21-20 with 5:02 left. Lovvorn kept his hot hand with seven points and Trace Broiles added five as the Vikings trailed the Raiders 33-27 at the half.

Richland took control in the third quarter and looked to blow open the game as a 9-0 run powered the Raiders to a 48-35 lead with 2:00 remaining before the Vikings found a spark.

Lovvorn scored eight straight points in the final 34 seconds, including two treys to the delight of the Viking fans as Community cut the margin. Lovvorn had 12 points in the quarter, including a dunk while Fleming had the other seven as the Vikings trailed the Raiders 49-46 with one quarter to play.

Lovvorn started the fourth quarter with another trey as the Vikings tied



Cole Crockett (24) drives to the basket and scores for the Vikings.

T-G Photo by Rickey Clardy

the game at 49-49, but the Raiders rebounded and pulled away. Richland went on a 6-0 run to increase its lead to 62-52 with 2:37 to play. The Vikings pulled within seven late but could not get closer.

Trey Luna led three Raiders in double figures with 25 points. Tyrell Randolph added 16 points while Carter Edwards had

11. Lovvorn led all scorers with 27 points while Fleming added 14 for the Vikings.

The Raiders were 15-of-21 at the free throw line while the Vikings were 8-of-13.

Despite the late third quarter rally, Coach Robbie Davis of the Vikings is looking for more consistency from his team during all four quarters.

"We're a long, long way with a whole new cast of characters," Davis said. "Last night we showed signs of what we're capable of being, but tonight was a good example of shooting yourself in the foot."

"When you put a team in the 1-and-1 in the first quarter of the game because you

won't play defense, you put yourself in a bad position," Davis added.

"We had a nice run in the second half with Stratton carrying us, but we're still way behind in a lot of areas that are crucial to winning basketball games," Davis said.

"The good thing is it's still November." Community will host

Huntland for a 7:30 p.m. game next Tuesday night.

Richland 12 21 16 19 - 68
Community 15 12 19 11 - 57
Richland: Trey Luna 25, Tyrell Randolph 16, Carter Edwards 11, Gage Kirk 7, Jace Derryberry 3, Andrew Huff 5, Ben Teegarden 1, Alonzo Alvarez.
Community: Stratton Lovvorn 27, Maki Fleming 14, Trace Broiles 5, Cole Crockett 4, Jacob Flannagan 4, Jason Cullum 3, Corey Paterick, Noah Newkirk, Gunnar McGowan, Ramon Hernandez, Dallas Grooms, Landon Lovvorn.
3-Point goals: Richland (5): Edwards 3, Luna, Derryberry; Community (7): S. Lovvorn 4, Fleming 2, Broiles.
Halftime score: Richland 33, Community 27.

Vols

(Continued from Page 6A)

No. 10 Mississippi, and Lea, a Nashville native who played at Vanderbilt and in this series, says this is an emotional game that means a lot to him personally and to the team.

“We’ve been proud of how our programs performed in this game in the recent past,” Lea said. “But I think still there’s an element of of this year that that our focus is on us.”

Hooker stacks up

Vols quarterback Hendon Hooker has thrown a touchdown pass in 10 straight games, sixth-best in Tennessee history. He’s chasing Erik Ainge (2004-05) and Peyton Manning (1996) who are tied for fourth with 11. Heath Shuler (1992-94) is No. 1 with 18. Hooker is fourth nationally with a 183.42 rating, and he’s thrown 22 passes with only two interceptions in nine games as the starter.

Wright at QB

Vanderbilt quarterback Mike Wright will start his second straight and fourth game overall after leading the Commodores to their best offensive performance this season. They rolled up a season-high 454 yards on 93 plays against Ole Miss, and Wright threw for 241 yards. He also ran for 61 yards. Vanderbilt topped 200 yards both rushing and passing.

Ken Seals had surgery for a hand injury and will be available.

Jones’ numbers

Tennessee returner and receiver Velus Jones had quite a day last week against South Alabama. Jones had 103 receiving yards on six catches, a kickoff return for a 96-yard TD and three punt returns for 47 yards.

“I have been truly blessed,” said Jones, a transfer from Southern California. “All of my coaches believing in me, putting me in a position to be successful in any way I can help my team.”

Defenses

The Vols had 13 tackles for loss against South Alabama, giving them 89 for the season. They currently are tied for second nationally with Miami (Ohio) trailing only Oklahoma State (93).

Vanderbilt ranks 17th nationally and second in the SEC with 13 interceptions. The Commodores have at least one interception in eight straight games thanks to linebacker Ethan Barr’s pick against Ole Miss. They also held Ole Miss to its second lowest rushing and total yards on offense this season.

Tide’s goal: Avoid more misadventures

By JOHN ZENOR
AP Sports Writer

Alabama’s recent trips to Auburn’s Jordan-Hare Stadium have been filled with uncharacteristic misadventures for the college football powerhouse.

The third-ranked Crimson Tide (10-1, 6-1 Southeastern Conference, No. 3 CFP) have been bedeviled by pick-sixes and even a Kick Six when visiting the Tigers (6-5, 3-4).

“We’ve kind of been our own worst enemy,” Alabama coach Nick Saban said.

Auburn may need a little help Saturday as well with the Tide coming in as 19 1/2-point favorites, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

The Tigers are trying to avoid ending coach Bryan Harsin’s first regular season with four consecutive losses.

Alabama has already locked in an SEC Championship Game matchup with No. 1 Georgia, with designs on making the playoffs.

Late free throws seal Viqueen win

By RICKEY CLARDY
Sports Writer

UNIONVILLE – After scoring just one point in the first six minutes of the fourth quarter, the Community Viqueens found themselves in a tie with the Richland Lady Raiders, but the Viqueens met the challenge and stayed unbeaten with nine free throws in the final two minutes to outlast the Lady Raiders 47-42 in a basketball contest Tuesday night.

Community (4-0) used a pair of 6-0 runs to take the lead in the opening quarter. Haley Mitchell scored six points and M. J. Simmons netted four before picking up her second foul midway through the quarter. Shelby Cawthon came off the bench to add four points as the Viqueens took a 16-11 lead to the second quarter.

Led by five points from Mitchell and four from Breanna Whitaker, the Viqueens took their biggest lead at 27-15 with 1:18 remaining in the quarter. The Lady Raiders scored the final five points to cut the Community margin to 27-20 heading into the intermission.

The Viqueens led 33-23 before an 8-0 Richland run in a span of just over a minute pulled the Lady Raiders to within 33-31 with 1:49 remaining in the third quarter. Community scored the last four points to take a 37-31 lead to the final quarter.

A Mitchell free throw put the Viqueens up 38-31 with 5:36 remaining, but Community went through a dry spell as Viqueen turnovers helped the Lady Raiders to pull even at 38-38 with 2:15 to play.

The Viqueens took the lead for good as Simmons

canned two free throws with 1:44 remaining. With Simmons and Zoey Dixon fouling out, the Lady Raiders stayed close and twice pulled to within one point down the stretch, but Community stayed in front with its efficiency at the free throw line. Addison Brothers connected on four free throws and Mitchell added two foul shots in the final seconds as the Viqueens took the win.

Mitchell scored 18 points to lead the Viqueens.

Gracie Braden had 17 points and Katie Garner added 12 to lead Richland.

The Viqueens were of 16-of-22 at the free throw line, including a 9-of-11 performance in the final 1:44.

The Lady Raiders were 12-of-16 at the line.

“We maintained the lead pretty much the whole game, but just played sloppy tonight,” Coach Cody Pierce of the Viqueens said. “It was our first game back to back this season, so I was a little worried how we would come out.”

“We couldn’t stay out of foul trouble and we couldn’t get anything going,” Pierce added. “That’s why we struggled a little bit.”

“We found a way and hit some big free throws in the end,” Pierce said.

Community entertains Huntland for a 6 p.m. game next Tuesday night.

Richland 11 9 11 11 - 42
Community 16 11 10 10 - 47
Richland: Gracie Braden 17, Katie Garner 12, Shelby Higgins 7, Kristen Garner 4, Katelyn Bass 2, Danica Bridgers, Gracie Adams, AC Hewitt.
Community: Haley Mitchell 18, M. J. Simmons 8, Zoey Dixon 4, Breanna Whitaker 4, Addison Brothers 4, Shelby Cawthon 9, Jacey Collier.
3-Point goals: Richland (6): Braden 2, Garner 2, Higgins, Garner; Community (1): Mitchell.
Halftime score: Community 27, Richland 20.



Shelby Cawthon (30) of the Viqueens faces pressure from two Richland Lady Raiders but still manages to make the basket during first quarter action. Cawthon scored nine points off the bench as Community stayed unbeaten.

Brentwood overcomes Harris, Eaglettes

T-G STAFF REPORT

FRANKLIN — The heroics of Jaleigha Harris weren’t enough for the Shelbyville Central Golden Eaglettes as Brentwood was able to capitalize off a monster fourth quarter to claim the 65-43 win on Tuesday evening.

Brentwood placed just two players in double figures, but S. Ryan and Lorenzi combined for 41 of the the Lady Bruins’ 65 total points.

The Eaglettes relied on their heavy hitter in Jaleigha Harris, who posted a team-high 18 points, including three 3-pointers.

Shelbyville trailed by just five points after the first frame, but Brentwood stretched its lead to eight by the half.

Brentwood was never truly able to pull away, as the Eaglettes continued to hang around in the third.

Brentwood out-scored Shelbyville, 15-11 in the third frame before the Lady Bruins erupted for 22 in the decisive fourth.

Everything fell Brentwood’s way in the final period, with three made 3-pointers and a near perfect 8-of-9 attempt at the free throw line.

The Eaglettes struggled to maintain the consistent scoring of Brentwood and connected on just three field goals in the third and posted a 3-of-7 showing at the line.

Shelbyville Central 7 13 11 12 — 43
Brentwood 12 16 15 22 — 65
Shelbyville Central (43): Jaleigha Harris 18, Jaz Western 9, Paige Blackburn 6, Taylor Wessner 3, Lanaya Young 2, Sammie Brown.
Brentwood: S. Ryan 27, Lorenzi 14, B. Ryan 9, Halstead 6, Lambright 4, Keating 3.
3-Point goals: Shelbyville (7): Harris 3, Western 2, Wessner, Blackburn; Brentwood (8): S. Ryan 4, Halstead 2, Lorenzi, B. Ryan.
Halftime score: Brentwood 28, Shelbyville Central 20.



Jaz Western pulls up for a jumper against Brentwood on Tuesday night. She finished with nine points for the Eaglettes.

George brings TSU back into spotlight

By TERESA M. WALKER
AP Sports Writer

NASHVILLE — Deion Sanders has been all over national TV, putting Jackson State in the spotlight every time his insurance commercials air.

Hiring Eddie George has had a similar effect at Tennessee State.

Thanks to their high-profile coaches, Jackson State and Tennessee State are reaping benefits from bigger crowds and more interest from top recruits to companies wanting to tap into all the hype, making deals with both universities and players under the new name, image and likeness rules.

Just as university officials hoped. “It’s just reestablishing our football brand that was so dominant for many decades and just restoring that,” Tennessee State athletic director Mikki Allen said of George. “He’s been everything that I could ask for in a head coach.”

Allen said Tennessee State’s enrollment already is up, and four-and five-star recruits are looking closely at George and the Tigers. Tennessee State hosted 317 recruits one weekend.

Tennessee State has had corporate interest from companies including The General, Best Buy and bottling sponsor Coca-Cola. A six-figure gift from trucking company Western Express started a new weight room project for the indoor complex.

The Tigers also have partnered with OpenDorse to help athletes who’ve signed deals with restaurants, vendors, barbershops and cell phones on handling name, image and likeness issues. Allen said brands wanting to tap into George’s star power is transferring to his players.

“There’s a lot of brands who want to be connected, obviously, to our head coach,” Allen said. “But then I think a lot of that star power that he has transferred over to our student athletes in the sport of football.”

The Southwestern Athletic Conference, home to Jackson State, ranked 17th nationally through Oct. 31 among leagues for NIL deals tracked by OpenDorse. The SWAC also will be looking at both attendance and TV ratings to see how that might translate into new packages and more money.

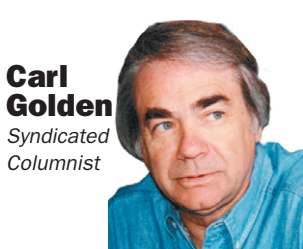
“Deion Sanders coaching has brought more notoriety from a Jackson State perspective,” SWAC Commissioner Charles McClelland said. “Clearly, the conference benefits because if they are looking at Jackson State playing another institution, that other institution continues to get that benefit as well.”

Attendance is also up. With Sanders, Jackson State averaged 41,633 at home games this season. That’s a jump of 6,605 per game from 2019, the last full season before the pandemic and a year before Jackson State hired Sanders in September 2020.

Jackson State did not return messages left by The Associated Press seeking interviews for this story.

Sanders’ son and starting quarterback, Shedeur, got his own endorsement deal with Beats by Dre. On the field, Sanders has Jackson State (10-1) playing in the Southwestern Athletic Conference championship game on Dec. 4. Tennessee State (5-6) just wrapped up its season.

Support for Biden still flailing despite infrastructure success



Carl Golden
Syndicated Columnist

Ocasio-Cortez, leader of the House progressives, warned any delay in Senate action or dramatic changes in the legislation could lead to a refusal by the progressives to support other administration initiatives in the future.

How much of her remarks are bluff and bluster and how much are threats and promises remains to be seen.

The outlook in the Senate for the social infrastructure bill is reasonably optimistic, a reflection of the urgency to deliver a major victory to the administration.

West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, key to success in the evenly divided Senate, is opposed to the bill's paid family leave provisions and has continued to express concern over the proposal's cost and the tax increases to fund it.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders has remained adamant that the bill include an expansion of Medicare to cover vision, dental and hearing treatments. He has been equally resistant to raising the cap on income tax deductions for state and local taxes (SALT), ridiculing it as a giveaway to the rich. In Bernie world, there is no great sin imaginable than coddling the wealthy.

While the effects of inflation on the country have dominated the political climate, it follows a series of mishandled issues which has called the competency of the administration into question.

The crisis of illegal immigration at the southern border, the messy and tragic withdrawal of U. S. military forces from Afghanistan, rising violent crime in many cities and the often disjointed response to meeting the COVID-19 pandemic have all contributed to the perception of an Administration in disarray.

Democrats foresee a disaster on the horizon. For the first time in decades, Republicans lead in the generic ballot — one party versus the other rather than a specific candidate matchup — an ominous portent that a landslide loss is in the making.

Supporters are fond of using the phrase “putting shovels in the ground” to describe the crucial need to restore the nation's infrastructure to the excellence it once possessed and the envy it once attracted.

They can only hope the shovels aren't used to prepare the final resting place for their political fortunes.

• *Carl Golden is a senior contributing analyst with the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University in New Jersey. You can reach him at cgolden1937@gmail.*



All instances of hatred, bias should be treated equally



Christine Flowers
Syndicated Columnist

About a month ago, I was traveling on the subway in Philadelphia when I was attacked by a young African-American male in a hoodie, who was angry that I was filming him after he'd punched me in the head moments before.

I made a report, and other than anger that SEPTA is incapable of guaranteeing my safety for the increasingly expensive fare they charge, I'm fine. In fact, I'd basically forgotten about the incident until last week, when I saw a video of a few African-American girls attacking Asian students in a Philadelphia subway car.

It is a disgusting display of inhumanity, with the aggressors yelling and screaming curses at the victims, who seem to be covering in their seats and very much afraid for their lives. The attackers appear to be unarmed in the video, but they are feral and brutal, and much more violent than the teen who attacked me.

When the first reports were issued about the attacks on the train, local media and officials twist-

ed themselves into Philly soft pretzels to avoid addressing the elephant in the room. One news channel posted an article about how they were “investigating” if this was a hate crime, ignoring the fact that on the video you can, if you listen closely, discern racial epithets screamed at the victims. It's not conclusive, but it matters.

More important, though, were the official announcements tweeted out by people like Mayor Jim Kenney, who wrote:

“I'm appalled by yesterday's assault involving students on the Broad Street Line. Those involved in the assault have been identified and will be held accountable. I want our residents to know that we will not tolerate any acts of hate.”

At first glance, it's not bad, although he doesn't mention the race of the assailants, nor the race of the victims. You can be certain that if it were a gang of Proud Boys attacking a person of color, we'd not only know the races of all parties involved, we'd have marches in the streets.

Imagine if a bunch of white girls from the suburbs had called a bunch of Black girls racial epithets, and that was caught on video. You know that this would be the number one story on the news for the next two cycles, and there would be op-eds written, community activists

consulted and sensitivity trainings initiated.

Here, though, there seems to be a much lower sense of urgency. WHYY, Philadelphia's local public radio station and “voice of the community,” barely mentioned the race of the attackers when they posted articles about these “alleged” hate crimes. I looked on their website, and could only find one reference to “African-American” teens embedded far down in the article.

Contrast that with what happened in Georgia last year, when there was the attack on Asian women by a white male. Before any of the details became known and the actual motives assessed, the media were in full “white supremacy” mode with the man going after women of color because of his toxic white masculinity. It was only after the real motive was determined to be the misogyny of a mentally unhinged man who couldn't get a date did the media recalibrate its narrative to be something along the lines of the dangers faced by women of color with the emphasis on domestic abuse as opposed to racial animus.

We don't even need to go that far back to see the hypocritical gymnastics the media does when discussing race. After Kyle Rittenhouse was justifiably acquitted of all charges in Wisconsin, the usual race baiting suspects

came out with comments about how if it had been a Black boy who shot white guys, he'd be sentenced to life. They inject race where it's irrelevant, but ignore it when it is actually relevant, as when Africa-American teenagers are brutalizing Asian students.

Time after time, if the aggressor is white and the victim is not, it automatically becomes a narrative about bigotry and white supremacy. The “Through the Looking Glass” moment came when Rittenhouse, who is white, shot three men, who were also white, and he's still attacked as an example of white privilege. This is madness, and we are in societal quicksand.

Refusing to point out that race was very likely a factor in the attack by these Black students on Asian youth is racism by omission, namely, refusing to even consider the possibility that bias was a central part of the equation.

If we really want to have an honest discussion about race, we have to discuss all the messy, uncomfortable aspects about it.

We need to treat all instances of hatred and bias equally, because if we don't, we are proving that only some lives matter.

• *Christine Flowers is an attorney and a columnist for the Delaware County (Pa.) Daily Times, and can be reached at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*

Rittenhouse is new darling of the right



Elwood Watson
Syndicated Columnist

Not guilty on all counts. That was the verdict rendered in the trial of Kyle Rittenhouse, the armed teenager who shot three people — killing two — during racial justice protests in Kenosha, Wis. last year.

To be honest, I can't say I was totally surprised. Witnessing the numerous acts of deference toward the defense by Judge Bruce E. Schroeder undoubtedly blew the judicial winds in Rittenhouse's direction. He forbade the prosecution from calling the three men Rittenhouse shot “victims,” referring to it as a “loaded term.” The judges' periodic outbursts at the prosecution team and his flippant remark about “bad Asian food being delivered on boats,” was hardly enlightening.

Predictably, critics across the political spectrum have wasted no time weighing in on the verdict and what they see as its potential ramifications. Left-wing commentators, including MSNBC

analyst Jason Johnson and The Nation columnist Elie Mystal, argue the verdict further emboldens right wing vigilantes, reassuring them that their wanton antics will result in little, if any, consequences for them. Conservative commentators, such as Tucker Carlson and Sean Hannity, celebrated the outcome, telling the nation and their followers that the jury understood Rittenhouse acted in self defense, and that the second amendment as it relates to the constitution still stands.

One thing's certain: Rittenhouse has become a darling of the political, social and cultural right. Paul Gosar, the politically unhinged, far-right Republican congressman, along with his equally seedy colleague Matt Gaetz, have talked of giving Rittenhouse a position in their offices. Their politically ideological sidekick, Matthew Cawthorne, brazenly stated after the verdict on YouTube, “Kyle Rittenhouse is not guilty, my friends.”

Rittenhouse, with the aid of his mother, went to Kenosha in the wee hours of the morning with an AR-15 gun he was not licensed to carry. He needlessly injected himself into a dangerous situation and fatally shot two people, Anthony

Huber and Joseph Rosenbaum, and almost killed a third person, Gaige Grosskreutz. While the panel of 12 jurors ultimately concluded that he exercised justifiable self defense, the truth is had he not taken it upon himself to engage in an act of vigilantism, he would never have found himself in such a position to begin with.

Most people realize there is virtually not a snowball's chance in hell that a non-white teenage boy would have been able to cross state lines armed with a deadly weapon they were not authorized to use, kill two protesters, then walk by an armed tank truck without being stopped by police. That kid would have been arrested on the spot, and its a good chance their parents would have been as well. Conservative commentator Charlie Sykes said it best: “If Kyle were black, he'd be dead.”

If there is anything good to come out of the trial, it was Rittenhouse telling Carlson in an interview Monday night he was a supporter of Black Lives Matter and that he acknowledged there are racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

Immediately following the verdict, there were those on social

media arguing that race “had nothing to do with the trial” because all of the people involved were white. While all the central characters in the Rittenhouse saga were white — from the attorneys, to the judge, to the defendant, to most of the jurors — the fact is for many racially bigoted white people on the far right, those the join their non-white brothers and sisters to fight for social justice are often perceived as “aiding and abetting” the enemy. Race traitors so to speak. Thus, their lives and livelihoods are seen as unworthy of preservation as well.

To me, the most alarming result from this verdict is it emboldens a segment of racially-hyper white people to travel across the nation, armed to the teeth, and levy violence against any person they deem as a potential threat.

So many on the right are already neurotically paranoid about issues such as immigration, declining white populations, and what they see as their diminishing status in American society. This culturally volatile climate is ripe for disaster.

• *Elwood Watson is a professor of history, Black studies, and gender and sexuality studies at East Tennessee State University.*

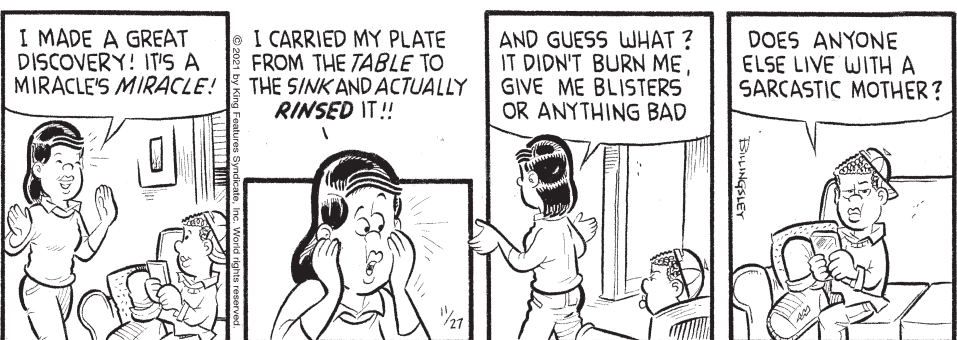
Guidelines for letters to the editor

The Times-Gazette publishes letters to the editor as space allows, and reserves the right to refuse any letter and to edit for content and length. All letters become the property of the Times-Gazette upon submission. Letters must be typed or clearly handwritten, and must include the phone number and address of the writer for verification purposes. Please submit letters to tgnews@t-g.com, or mail them to: Times-Gazette, Attn: Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 380, Shelbyville, TN, 37162.

THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN ® by Stan Lee-Larry Lieber



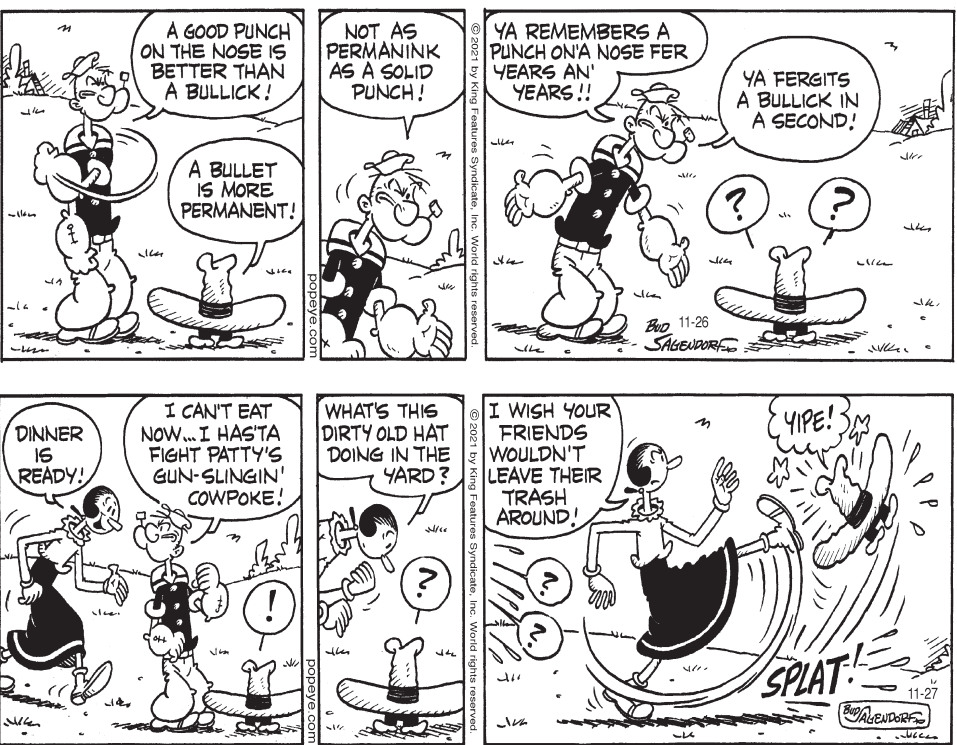
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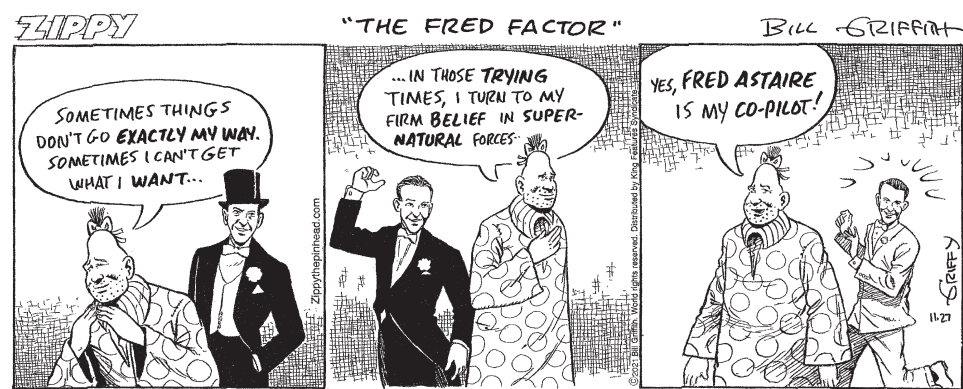
HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the number 1 through 9 without repetition.

SUDOKU

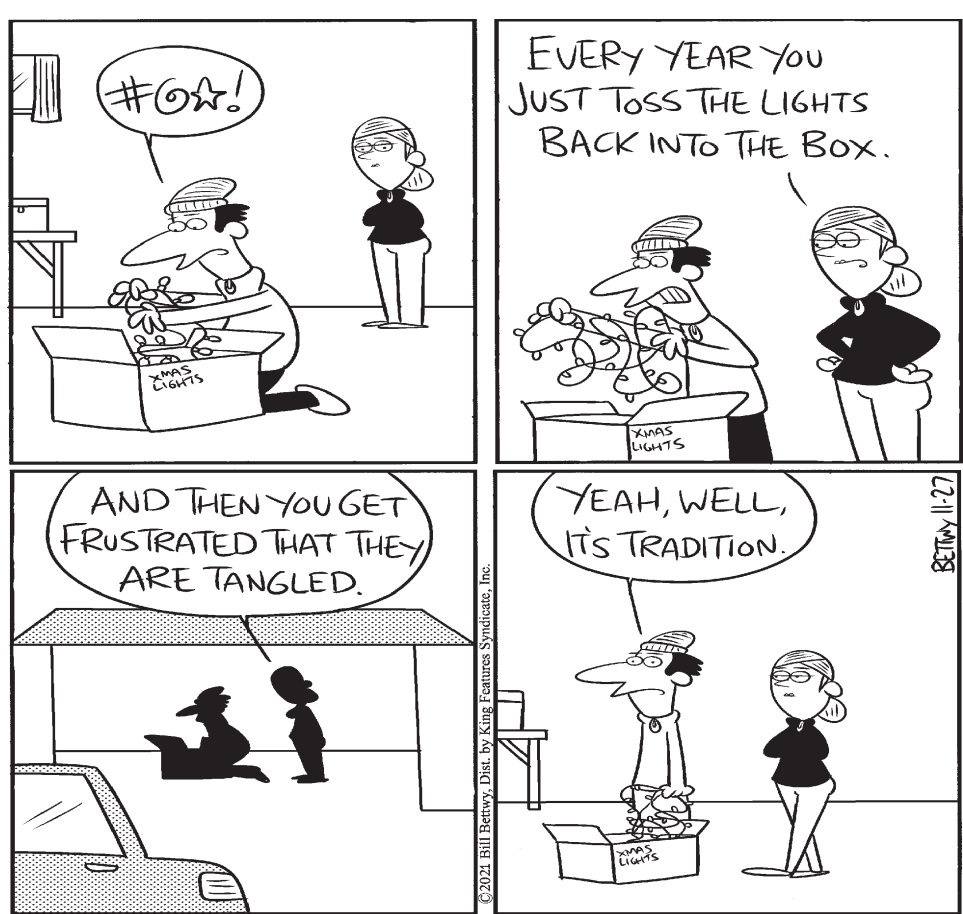
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See answers to the Sudoku on Saturday's page 4A

ZIPPY THE PINHEAD ® by Bill Griffin



TAKE IT FROM TINKERSONS ® by Bill Bettwy



NOVEL WRITING WORD SEARCH

L W R O T A R R A N C A C M W H L S U C
 G C B T W K M E S O L L E D I T O R R R
 Y N Y D W E E R U R V L A N G U A G E U
 M O I N P I K S L S N B T R N O K I T Y
 T I E W T F R P O A G U R E M X F A C G
 O T O U O P V B R R O P H S S N B X A U
 A C G I G D I R H B P T P O K O O D R M
 V I L O M O A R C V S G R L C V M E A K
 H F U B B T L H C W H C K U H E V N H S
 C L H X I T F A S S L D Y T S L V O C W
 O U B V X K B N I E U S I I F N N T A M
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 T S G B O H T G N E L I I Y F P Y O G P
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 A Y K A K C O N F L I C T O W O O N V
 R C F R I V W X A M I L C P P R R X I H
 D I H D X K W A A L K F U E S X N M S D
 Y L K T X S W I I Y R E G A M I E E T V

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ANTAGONIST
- CHARACTER
- CLIMAX
- CONFLICT
- COPY
- DENOTATION
- DIALOGUE
- DRAFT
- EDITOR
- EXPOSITION
- FICTION
- FORESHADOWING
- IMAGERY
- KEYBOARD
- LANGUAGE
- LENGTH
- MANUSCRIPT
- MOOD
- NARRATIVE
- NARRATOR
- NOVEL
- PLOT
- PROSE
- RESOLUTION

CRYPTO FUN

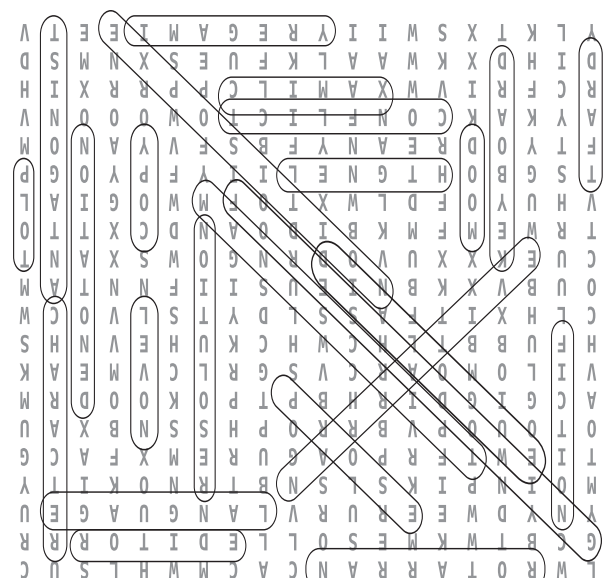
Determine the code to reveal the answer!
 Solve the code to discover words related to novel writing.
 Each number corresponds to a letter.
 (Hint: 25 = E)

A. 1 11 17 25 21
 Clue: Type of book

B. 5 4 24 12 25
 Clue: Put words on page

C. 9 23 12 2 11 4
 Clue: Writer of something

D. 22 23 6 21 24 10 2
 Clue: Release a written work



Answers: A. novel B. write C. author D. publish



Once again, as the holidays approach, the food pantry run by Community Outreach Partnership is available to assist those in need. And again this year, Thomas Magnet School Student Council, under the leadership of guidance counselor Danielle Moscato, came through to make sure there was plenty of non perishables.



Throughout November, the entire student body at Thomas has been gathering canned goods of all kinds in a spirited classroom competition. This culminated on Monday, Nov. 22, with over 4,000 cans loaded up for transport to the COP pantry!

Community Outreach food pantry available to those in need



Happy COP volunteers include, from left, Thomas Magnet Guidance Counselor Danielle Moscato, student council members, Walker Marsh, Ava Simons, Addison Whaley, Nichole Lopez and Ava Anderson.

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If you or someone you know needs assistance with food, please reach out to the Outreach Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon at 1005 Belmont Ave. (rear door) or call 931-639-0143.

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Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital

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Doug Dezotell
Musings and Memories

Many Thanks

Thank you!
I like to say those two words.
Thank you!
Thank you!
Thank you!
We just celebrated the National Holiday of Thanksgiving this past week, and I have so many things to be thankful for... so many people to be thankful for...
I have experienced so many health issues in the past year, with my lungs and my heart. But I am so thankful that I have two lungs and a beating heart. I really am.
I am thankful that I have not contracted COVID-19. I have so many "underlying conditions" that kept me concerned about that since February of 2020. I was tested for the virus numerous times and, thank God, every test was negative.
Thank You Lord!
Thank you!
I want to thank you for reading my columns week after week. Thank you for putting up with my multiple "Musings and Memories."
I want to thank you for sending me your emails and calling me thanking me for my columns. Thank you for thanking me in the aisles of the grocery store and in the aisles of the drug store or in the aisles of a church.
Thank you!
I want to thank my family for taking such good care of me this past year.
I want to thank my Sweet Wife, Patricia Lynn Dezotell, RN., for walking by my side all these years, for always being there when I need her, and sometimes listening to my stories and my musings and my memories. Sometimes she just walks away.
I want to thank my precious daughter, Laura Michelle Dezotell, for making me proud every day. She has helped me in so many ways throughout the year, and she sometimes listens to my stories and my musings and memories.
I want to thank my sons, Gabriel Paul Dezotell and Michael Robert Dezotell, for representing our family so well in the community. I want to thank them for being there for their mother and me and coming to our "rescue" when needed.
I want to thank my live-in granddaughters, Kori and Jojo, for being my "gofers" and stopping what they're doing to come to their Papa's aide.
I want to thank my oldest granddaughter, Charlie, for telling me her stories (I love stories) about her daily schoolhouse esca-

▶ See **Doug**, Page 3B



Formerly of California, Lisa Cruz and family are now making their home in Bedford County.

Former California mom enjoys homeschooling here

By **ZOË HAGGARD**
zhaggard@t-g.com

Admittedly one to always be involved in her community, Lisa Cruz has begun a Little Free Library in her front yard.

This love of books springs from her childhood, where her parents weren't as involved as she is today in her own kids' lives. Rather, she says she lived with an abusive stepfather for 10 years; she and a sibling, then teenagers, were sent to foster care.

"So, my childhood wasn't full of books," Cruz said. "If there had been little free libraries, I would have loved it because nobody took me to the library."

It was time spent with her paternal grandmother that encouraged Cruz to love books when she was very young.

"Reading somebody's story helps you understand yours better," Cruz said.

"When you're a child and you read a book, it's like going into

another world. It's not escapism... it's a distraction from pain."

Now Cruz, through the Little Free Library, gets to relate to other people among the community through the Lending Library.

One mother approached her through the Lending Library community about what books she should give her new foster child. Cruz, who knows what it's like to own only "a trash bag full of clothes," said, "When she comes, you take her somewhere... let her pick out the books she wants. They don't have choices in their lives for very many things. Let her control what she can."

For the love of family

This love of books and community has served Cruz well as she homeschools her kids... which she said will change you and your kids' lives.

"Because not only do the kids slow down, but you do to," she said.

The Census Bureau recently

reported that the number of households homeschooling their school-aged children nearly doubled between the spring and fall of 2020, growing from 5.5 to 11.1 percent. That, in large part, was due to COVID-19, according to the Institute for Family Studies. But many families are choosing to maintain homeschooling, the report said.

For Cruz, the decision to homeschool her kids sprang from wanting to be involved in her kids' lives.

"The main thing is I can control the influences in their lives. And that's huge because I think the majority of problems parents are dealing with, especially with teenagers, is the negative influence of certain kids," Cruz explained. Homeschooling helps take out the peer pressure and comparisons many students face at school.

And when Cruz and her family made the move to Shelbyville from the Los Angeles, California area, the adventure just began.

▶ See **Mom**, Page 3B



Lisa Cruz has begun her own Little Free Library



Mark McGee
My Take

Life is full of surprises

All of us would like to think we are in control of our lives, especially our destiny, but that is seldom the case.

We make plans. We think our futures are certain. But through what I like to think is divine intervention our lives are usually filled with surprises, both good and bad.

This week I was informed I will be inducted into the Tennessee Sports Writers Association Hall of Fame. I am one of three who will receive the honor in June at the TSWA's annual awards banquet in Lebanon.

I always loved sports. I played most sports to some degree. Football would end for me after junior high. Basketball lasted through my freshman year. But I played baseball through high school and even dabbled a little bit in an over-30 league.

Not once during those years did I think I would become a sportswriter. I had plans to go to medical school, but there were too many labs in chemistry and biology and college life was too short to spend all those hours poring over textbooks. I switched to business management my sophomore year with plans to go to law school. I did go through law school, ironically, while I was working as a sportswriter for the "Nashville Banner."

I could have made more money as an attorney I guess, or I could have pursued a career in business, but journalism always had a stronger draw for me. No day was the same. I can truthfully say that seldom did I ever go to work in sports writing, as editor of the "Times-Gazette" or as media relations director for Lipscomb University athletics without looking forward to what might be ahead.

My first exposure to writing sports for money was in high school when I worked for the late "Bo" Melson at the Times-Gazette. He taught me the basics of game coverage as well as tips on how to deal with different personalities.

Timing was everything when I was given my job at the "Banner". They told me I was an excellent photographer and an average writer but promised they would make me a better writer. For my first couple of years there I would photograph and write about a game. They came through on their promise of making me a better writer though I am still far short of the "excellent" category.

When I started at the "Banner" I wondered what would happen to

▶ See **Mark**, Page 3B



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Pack a snack for Christmas parade

SEE YOU THERE

By **DAWN HANKINS**
 dhankins@t-g.com

Shelbyville's Christmas Parade kicks off 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, along the traditional route across the public square, down North Main and east out to Madison Street to Celebration Drive.

This year's theme is, "A Super Hero Christmas."

The parade is sponsored by Shelbyville-Bedford County Chamber of Commerce and Shelbyville Jaycees.

A pre-parade party will be held on the public square from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

There are also a lot of shopping events and open houses going on now and until Christmas. Whew!

The Christmas season has begun.

Here's a quick snack for any holiday event.

Ranch Sausage Stars

- 1 lb. cooked sausage, drained and crumbled
- 1 1/2 C. grated sharp Cheddar cheese
- 1 1/2 C. grated Monterey Jack cheese
- 1 C. ranch dressing
- 1 pkg. fresh or frozen wonton wrappers, cut in quarters or may use phyllo shells

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Blot sausage dry with paper towel. Combine sausage with cheese and dressing. Lightly grease a muffin tin and press one wrapper into each cup. Brush with oil. Bake 5 minutes until golden brown. Remove from tins and place on baking sheet. Fill with sausage mixture. Bake for 5 minutes or until bubbly. Yields 4 to 5 dozen.

Has Christmas Eve become Groundhog Day, John-Boy?

This may get me on Santa's naughty list, but I honestly can't remember whether I watched "The Homecoming: A Christmas Story" when CBS first aired it on December 19, 1971.

Since my mother is an antique collector and regales everyone with tales of growing up during "hard times," and since many of my ancestors came from Virginia, it's certainly PLAUSIBLE that I got in on the ground floor of Earl Hamner Jr.'s heartwarming classic about the Great Depression.

(Granted, being old enough to have been ELIGIBLE for watching that premiere, I also struggle to remember having written the previous paragraph. Hey, why did I enter the room with the laptop in it?)

At the very least, I watched the reruns of the holiday special after it spawned the long-running series "The Waltons." (If you thought I was going to type that it spawned the long-running series "Joanie Loves Chachi," the Baldwin Sisters have probably slipped a little too much of "papa's recipe" into your eggnog.)

And I'm looking forward to the November 28 airing of 50th anniversary remake "The Waltons' Homecoming" on the CW network.

My wife and I love CW, but its reputation for comic-book adaptations, social justice pandering and quirky casting gave me momentary trepidations about a Waltons makeover.

Imagine the remake containing dialogue such as "Nooo! You tugged the wrong cow's udder and ripped a hole in the time-space continuum!" or "We're anxiously waiting for the family PATRIARCH to get home in a snowstorm? Isn't this a good opportunity to be DONE with the patriarchy and its systemic evils, especially if Daddy doesn't bring that new dolly?"

No, I'm going to put those fears out of my mind. I'm genuinely heartened that films such as this and "Dolly Parton's Christmas of Many Colors" can add a little

variety to the types of yuletide movies offered nowadays.

Let's face it: except for the occasional special-effects Santa fantasy, most Christmas movies settle into two comfort zones. They glamorize dysfunctional families and sex-starved singles, or they use an algorithm to sell greeting cards via mix-and-match happy endings.

As for the former, I would hate to see John Walton, Sr. experience a full-blown Clark Griswold meltdown when his Christmas bonus comes up short – even if it would trigger the lucrative sequel "Avalanche on Walton's Mountain."

Regarding the other style of movie, it would pain me to see Jim-Bob and Elizabeth getting such an unrealistic view of world events. Franklin Roosevelt and Adolf Hitler would get off to a rocky start, but by the final act they would be roasting marshmallows during a fireside chat. ("Mussolini – keep those chestnuts running on time!")

Wait – I forgot the action-oriented Christmas movies. Wouldn't you hate to see Bruce Willis's cop John McClane show up with guns blazing near the outhouses? Instead of "Die Hard," it would be "Wipe Fast."

What about it? Is watching "The Waltons' Homecoming" part of your holiday plan? Would you like it to launch a wholesome weekly series and have "Good night, John-Boy" reverberate throughout the land again? While I await your email (tyree-tyrades@aol.com), I'll be shopping for coal at Ike Godsey's store.

"I'll be breaking and entering for Christmas, if only in my dreams..."

• *Danny welcomes email responses at tyree-tyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades."*

Danny Tyree

Tyrades



Submitted Photos

Cancer Foundation's Casino Night eventful

Over 150 people attended Bedford Cancer Foundation's second annual Casino Night Friday, Nov. 19, at the Blue-Ribbon Circle. The charity event, as a result, raised over \$10,000 for local cancer needs.

Organizer Shelby Taylor said all in attendance

enjoyed a night of Craps, Roulette, Poker, and Blackjack. "The community really showed up for our event."

She thanked during the festivities the sponsors who made the event possible. "We look forward to the 2022 Casino Night."



Our Wedding Policy ...

The Times-Gazette now runs all wedding, engagement and anniversary announcements on Saturday.

Pictures and announcements must be received 10 days prior to the issue in which you'd like your announcement to appear.

Wedding announcements must be received no later than six weeks after the date of the wedding. Forms can be picked up at our offices, at 323 E. Depot St. in Shelbyville, or may be filled out and submitted from our web site at www.t-g.com.

Wedding and engagement announcements may also be submitted to our office in person, or by e-mailing tgnews@t-g.com.

Forms must be neatly printed or typed, and the spelling of all names should be double checked before submitting them to us. A phone number must be included.



The Cruz family enjoys their Bedford County Farm.



Little Free Library books have given many the opportunity to read without a lot of expense.

Mom

(Continued from Page 1)

“I knew when I had kids, I was going to do it all up the holidays, books, toys, Mommy and Me the things I didn’t have.”

From city to farm

Cruz and her husband, a retired Los Angeles police officer, have five children, ranging from 16 (the twins) to 32 years old.

They also have seven dogs and a multitude of sheep, turkeys, cows, and rabbits on their 29-acre homestead in Shelbyville.

Cruz said California was a great place to live in the 80s and 90s. But after the Reagan era, she said things turned for the worse. Her LAPD husband witnessed firsthand more crime in the city, while businesses became regulated and housing expensive.

When her husband retired in 2017, they made their plans to get out of the state and buy a farm.

“There are so many people in those states who are stuck there who don’t want to bring the same sort of things to this state. They want to escape it,” Cruz said.

The family decided on the Volunteer State, bought their 1900s farm home virtually, and packed everything up. Using an old RV and two trucks, they made it to Tennessee in five days that July of 2019.

“We really pushed,” said Cruz.

Now settled into their homestead, Cruz has her home already decorated for Christmas while her two teens finish schooling for the semester.

Homeschool life

Homeschooling is an intimidating undertaking, Cruz said. But it’s doable.

“When you think about it, you as a parent are a

teacher. You teach them to talk, walk, to have manners, affection, right from wrong.” You are a teacher. And it’s a God-given right to teach your kids, Cruz said.

“I’ve always tried to be involved in my kids’ schooling. And whatever community I was in, I tried to be involved.” Her three older kids were in public school back in California and she was involved then. But Cruz soon realized she didn’t know what her kids were being taught. And when a student brought a gun to school, that was it.

“It is overwhelming and it’s not something I ever

thought I needed to do because I was just trusting the school system to do what they needed to do for the kids.”

Cruz went online, talked with other moms, and studied. “I just did it,” Cruz said. They do follow an umbrella school, which provides what the state requires as well as what requirements need to be met for college or trade schools.

Living on a farm helps, too, as “There’s more than one way to learn.” And with online resources available like never before, Cruz finds material for her kids beyond a text-

book. They also find the time to go out to church or the recreation center with friends so they can have continuing involvement in the community.

And for her kids, Cruz says she teaches them accountability for their own futures. “I tell them ‘It’s up to you’...You find your niche...And we kind of wing it,” Cruz joked.

Where her kids were usually withdrawn after attending a regular public school day, they are now closer, and find more time to relax and de-stress from the “go-go-go.” Now, Cruz says, “We’ve had a much better relationships.”



CASCADE BAND A WINNER

ABOVE: Cascade High Marching Band recently placed in Division II State Marching Band Championships at Stewart’s Creek High School. The band placed 4th out of 19 bands.

TIME MARCHES ON

LEFT: Senior Cascade High Band members, front row, are Natasia Chunn, Makayla Sutter, Rylee Waggoner, middle row, David Bass, Isaiah Smith, Cole McBee, Ella Kilpatrick, Kiersten Oseguera, Rebecca Bennett, back row, Aiden Wesenberg, Conner Johnson, Adrien Lopez, Adam Whitley and Logan Philpott.

Submitted Photo

Mark

(Continued from Page 1)

me. I looked around the room and there was Kent Heitholt, a University of Missouri graduate, Pat Embry from the University of Illinois and Pam Clark from the University of Kansas. All were journalism majors. I had never even been in a journalism class.

But I climbed the ladder through the guidance of editors like Joe Biddle who served as my mentor in many ways and ended my career there

covering Vanderbilt before becoming the editor of the “Times-Gazette”.

I still write part-time for Associated Press, the “Times-Gazette”, Lipscomb athletics and the “Walking Horse Report”. I miss sports writing on an everyday basis, but it is nice to still be around it.

Never thought I would be a writer. Never thought I would be in a hall of fame. Sometimes it is nice to be surprised.

• Mark McGee is executive director of United Way of Bedford County and a former editor of the Times-Gazette.

Doug

(Continued from Page 1)

pades. And she helps me out when she can.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

I also want to thank Carol Spray and Mary Cook and David Melson and Melanie Hankins for letting me share my Musings and Memories with the public through the outlet of the printed page.

Those four wonderful people are hardworking, dedicated professionals who make the Shelbyville

Times-Gazette available to all of us. Thank you!

I want to thank all the medical professionals who have been there for me over the past year. Thank you!

My awesome primary care professional, Kristen McBay, FNP-C, and her wonderful staff, have been there for me to calm my fears and...and...and...and...and everything else. Thank you!

My amazing cardiologist, Dr. Ifeoluwa Okusanya, MD, and her great staff, have been so helpful and kind. Thank

you!

My podiatrist, Dr. Russell Oliver, DPM, and his super staff, are there when I need them in (what I consider) an emergency. Dr. Oliver and I always get to share our musings and memories with each other. Thank you, Doc, for listening!

Thank you to all my absolutely amazing, totally awesome, delightful and inspiring members of the Cannon Methodist church family for listening to all my musings and memories and messages and being there for me and one

another. Thank you for all you do! Thank you!

I have so much to be thankful for.

You have so much to be thankful for.

We all have so much to be thankful for.

Giving thanks is a good thing...all year long.

Thank you!

Doug Dezotell is the pastor of Cannon UMC. He is a grateful columnist for the Times-Gazette, and he is a grateful husband, father, grandfather, and a grateful friend to many. He can be contacted at dougmdezetell@gmail.co or at 931-607-5191.

SALLY FORTH

by Francesco Marciuliano

THE FORTHS ARE HEADING THIS WAY.

START SHEDDING NEEDLES! OR SCREAMING! ANYTHING TO NOT GO HOME WITH THAT FAMILY!

OKAY, TED, TRY TO TAKE LESS THAN THREE WEEKS TO CHOOSE A CHRISTMAS TREE THIS TIME.

HA. HA. YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THE LOT CLOSES AT 8 AND THEY NEVER LET ME CONTINUE LOOKING ON MY OWN.

JUST PLEASE REMEMBER THIS PLACE DOESN'T HAVE A BATHROOM AND HIL AND I HAVE BECOME RATHER FOND OF NOT SKIPPING LUNCH AND DINNER.

DON'T WORRY. THIS YEAR I HAVE A SYSTEM—I JUST STAND HERE AND WAIT FOR THE RIGHT CHRISTMAS TREE TO COME TO ME!

TED, EITHER TELL ME YOU'RE JOKING RIGHT NOW OR HIL AND I AM GOING TO KEEP DRIVING UNTIL WE HAVE TO SHOW PASSPORTS.

OF COURSE I'M KIDDING! THE PERFECT TREE IS RIGHT THIS WAY!

DAD JUST WALKED OFF THE TREE LOT AND INTO THE WOODS.

TED!

I'M ON A QUEST! ASK IF THE LOT SELLS CHAIN SAWS!

WHAT A LEAD!

MY LADS ARE TOO EAGER TO BE OUT FRONT ALL THE TIME...

THEY'LL LEARN THE DOWNSIDE OF THAT LESSON BY THE TIME WE MAKE CAMP IN THE ATOLLS TONIGHT...

MEANWHILE, ON THE MORI COAST...

NAYO!

ABEO!!

MY GUYS ARE PAYING THE PRICE FOR THAT WINNING PACE THEY SET ALL DAY!

TOMORROW WE'LL SEE HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT HANGING BACK AND LETTING SOME OTHER CREW WEAR THEMSELVES OUT.

TONY DePaul & Jeff Weigel 11-28-21

THE PHANTOM

by Lee Falk

PUT UP THE LIGHTS...

BUY A TREE...

START SHOPPING...

AND STOP BEING A SCROOGE.

JUST CALL ME "HIRAM HUMBUG."

Hi and Lois

by BRIAN and GREG WALKER

ANY MINUTE NOW.

NOW THAT THANKSGIVING IS OVER...

I KNOW, I KNOW.

GET OUT THE DECORATIONS...

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

HOW WAS SCHOOL TODAY, GUYS?

CRAZY!

IF WE WIN TONIGHT'S GAME, WE'LL BE DISTRICT CHAMPS!

GO VIKINGS!

THE WHOLE SCHOOL IS GOING WILD!

LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE!

POSTERS EVERYWHERE!

CHEERLEADERS IN THE CAFETERIA!

HONKING! BULL-HORNS! FACE PAINT!

WAS THERE A PEP RALLY?

I DON'T THINK "PEP" REALLY COVERS IT.

THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER

"ALL THESE ARE EMAILS ASKING YOU IF YOU'RE SATISFIED WITH YOUR PURCHASES."

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY FOUND, BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD."

"SEE... HE SAID NAGGING IS PROTECTED SPEECH."

FUNKY WINKERBEAN

by TOM BATUK

TAKE CARE... DRIVE SAFELY!

SO LONG... GLAD YOU COULD COME!

GOODBYE... THANKS FOR COMING!

I THINK THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM.

FINALLY... WE CAN RELAX!

AS SOON AS WE DO THE DISHES, WASH THE TABLE LINENS AND TAKE THE FOLDING CHAIRS TO THE BASEMENT!

SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

BY BOB WEBER JR.

Slylock Fox stopped by his buddy Billy Bobcat's garage before Billy was about to transport his car to the Forest 500 Racetrack. Unfortunately, a trailer tire had a slow leak, and an embedded nail was not found. How did Slylock find the leak before they plugged it?

Spot six differences between these panels.

THAT'S ME!!

THAT'S ME!!

NEW! Spot the Six Differences collection is here! Get your fun-filled book at www.slylockfox.com

Answer -- Chicken wattle, feather, light, window, sign and spat on roof.

HOW TO DRAW a baby hippo

Bob Weber Jr and SR 11-28

YOUR DRAWING Today's terrific artist is Eden, age 8

Janet Guthrie became the first woman race car driver to compete in both the Indianapolis 500 and the Daytona 500 in... a) 1957 b) 1969 c) 1977

Submit your black-and-white drawing to www.slylockfox.com

WHENEVER LEROY SAYS WE SHOULD PUT MY MOTHER IN A HOME, I TELL HIM TO FIX UP THE SPARE BEDROOM.

Submit your black-and-white drawing to www.slylockfox.com



Harris Middle School Fall Festival is success

Submitted Photos



THOMAS MAGNET SCHOOL
WinterFest
 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2021

Schedule of Events

- 4:00 - 6:00 PM Chili Supper \$10 adult | \$8 child
- 4:00 - 6:00 PM Silent Auction
- 4:00 - 5:15 PM Meet & Greet with Ice Spirit Queen & Olaf Free with Chili Supper
- 5:20 - 5:40 PM Sing-a-long & Dancing with the Ice Spirit Queen \$5

Disney **FROZEN JR.** Play presented by the THOMAS MAGNET SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB begins at 6PM

Tickets: \$7 adult | \$5 ages 12 & under





Make use of those seasonal cranberries

The winter temps are upon us. So cozy up by the fire with a slice of this Christmas Cranberry Cake and a cup of this holiday favorite drink—Cranberry Orange-Spice Cooler.

Christmas Cranberry Cake

Recipe of the late Andrea Bolden

3 eggs
2 C. sugar
3/4 C. butter, softened
1 tsp. vanilla
2 C. all-purpose flour
12 oz. fresh cranberries
Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

With a mixer, beat eggs with sugar until slightly thickened and light in color, about 5 to 7 minutes. The mixture should almost double in size. The eggs work as the leavening agent in this recipe, so important not to skip this step. This mixture should form a ribbon when you lift the beaters out of the bowl. Add the butter and vanilla. Mix two more minutes. Stir in flour until just combined. Add the cranberries and stir to mix throughout. Spread in a buttered 9x13 pan. Bake for 40 to 50 minutes or until very lightly browned and toothpick inserted near the center of the cake comes out clean. (Cook hint: I bake mine for 43 minutes.) Let cool completely before cutting into small slices. (Another cook hint: I cut mine into fairly

small pieces, about 1 to 2 inches so that they could be easily eaten at a party. Enjoy!

Cranberry-Orange Spice Cooler

From the Dairy Alliance

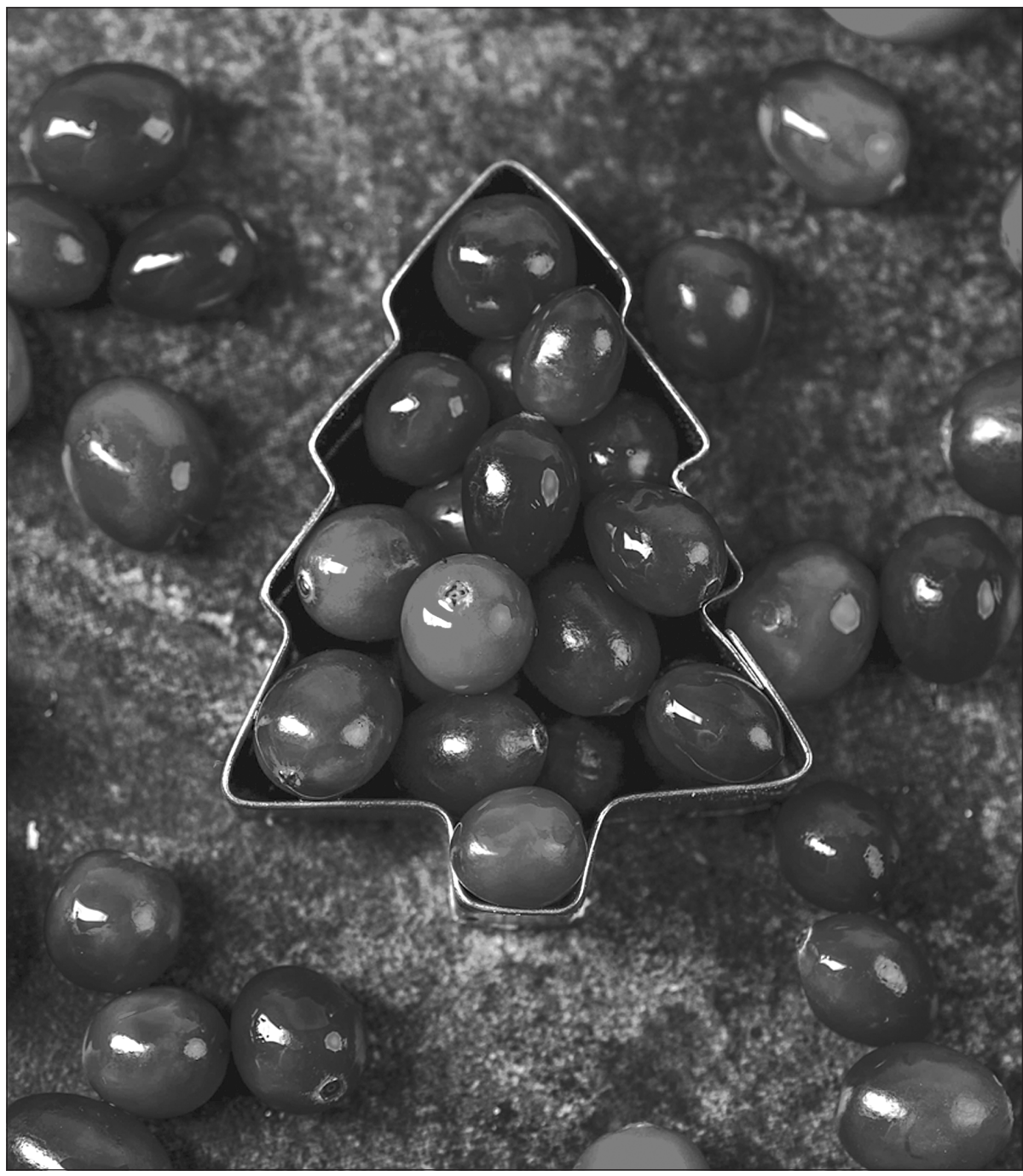
Blender drinks are all the rage. Make the cranberry mixture the night before and transfer to a pitcher filled with orange slices and cinnamon sticks. Blend with ice cream just before serving.

Servings: 20

1 (64-oz.) bottle cranberry juice or fresh
4 C. orange-tangerine juice
3 cinnamon sticks
Pinch of nutmeg
3 spice tea bags
1/4 C. sugar
1/2 gal. vanilla ice cream
Garnish: Fresh orange slices and ground nutmeg

Bring first four ingredients to a boil in a Dutch oven over medium-high heat about 8 to 10 minutes. Reduce heat to medium and simmer 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Add tea bags; steep 10 minutes. Remove tea bags. Stir in sugar. Cool 20 minutes. Cover and chill 8 to 24 hours.

Pulse 2 cups vanilla ice cream and 2 1/2 cups chilled cranberry mixture in a blender until smooth. Repeat 3 times. Garnish, if desired. Serve immediately.



Holiday travel news

With around 59% of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and vaccination being essential for getting the economy back on track, WalletHub today released updated rankings for the safest states in regard to COVID-19.

In order to find out the safest states during the COVID-19 pandemic, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across five key metrics. WalletHub data set includes the rates of COVID-19 transmission, positive testing, hospitalizations and death, as well as the share of the eligible population getting vaccinated.

Below, are highlights from the report. Note: rankings are as of Monday,

Nov. 22. The safest is District of Columbia

Safest Least Safe

1. District of Columbia
42. Colorado
2. Connecticut
43. Missouri
3. Rhode Island
44. Arizona
4. Florida
45. Ohio
5. Massachusetts
46. North Dakota
6. Vermont
47. Idaho
7. California
48. Kentucky
8. Maryland
49. West Virginia
9. New York
50. Montana
10. Hawaii
51. Wyoming



MTSU singers present 35th annual 'Messiah' concert

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — MTSU School of Music students, their professor and a special guest will blend their voices in concert with an orchestra to help usher in the winter holiday season with George Frideric Handel's "Messiah" Tuesday, Nov. 30.

The performance by the MTSU Schola Cantorum and Middle Tennessee Choral Society is scheduled for 7 p.m. Nov. 30 at Murfreesboro's First United Methodist Church at 265 W. Thompson Lane.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12.50 for seniors and \$10 for children 12 and younger and are available online at <https://mtchoralsociety.org> and at the door. MTSU students, faculty and staff will be admitted free with current IDs.

Raphael Bundage, a professor of vocal performance in MTSU's School of Music and the Choral Society's longtime music director/conductor, is guiding the MTSU-community performance of this beloved classical work, which con-

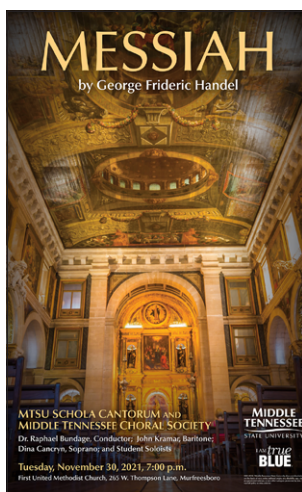
cludes with the triumphant "Hallelujah" chorus.

This season's concert marks MTSU's 35th annual presentation of "Messiah," in full or in part, for the community.

Handel, a German-British musician who introduced Londoners to Italian opera in the early 18th century, composed the English-language "Messiah" oratorio in 1741. His patron, Charles Jennens, used scripture from the King James Bible and the Anglican Communion's Book of Common Prayer to create the text for the three-part libretto's popular recitatives, arias and choruses.

This community concert features 11 student soloists, including MTSU voice majors Alex Baldwin, a junior from Manchester, freshman Walker Barnett, sophomore Hannah Blankenship and senior Anna Cooper, all of Murfreesboro, sophomores Haylee Casper of Smyrna, Jesse Lowery of Columbia and Kyla Mahaffey of Nashville.

Seniors include Tyler Middleton of Maryville, Josh



Smith of Morristown and Skylar Carson-Reynolds, a junior from Madison, majoring in organismal biology and ecology, and senior music major Hayley Gretz of Thompson's Station.

Baldwin, Barnett, Casper, Middleton and Smith are fresh off their performances in this month's MTSU Theatre production of "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street." Baldwin, Blankenship, Casper, Cooper, Lowery and Middleton also were soloists in the Schola Cantorum-Choral Society performance



MTSU School of Music professor Raphael Bundage, center, conducts the MTSU Schola Cantorum and Middle Tennessee Choral Society in concert at Hinton Music Hall in the Wright Music Building on campus in this file image.

of Mozart's "Requiem" in October.

Guest soloists returning for this year's "Messiah" concert are soprano Dina Cancryn, an MTSU vocal music professor, and bass John Kramar, professor and chair of the Vocal Studies Department at East Carolina University School of Music in Greenville, North

Carolina.

The Schola Cantorum comprises MTSU's best upper-division vocal majors and graduate students. The internationally recognized Choral Society includes top student vocalists alongside outstanding singers from the surrounding community.

For more information on concerts and events in the

MTSU School of Music, call 615-898-2493 or visit <https://www.mtsumusic.com> and click on the "Concert Calendar" link under the blue "Events Calendars" button.

For details on joining the Middle Tennessee Choral Society, visit <https://mtchoralsociety.org>.

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