



SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE *Weekend*

Bell Buckle • Flat Creek • Normandy • Shelbyville • Unionville • Wartrace

\$1 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2022 www.t-g.com



15 Days Til Christmas



Loyal workers
Local/3A



Flat Creek
Life & Leisure/1B



Winning streak
Sports/1C

'Could have been worse' Train smashes unoccupied car in Bell Buckle

By DAVID MELSON
dmelson@t-g.com

A disabled vehicle partially on the tracks at the Bell Buckle railroad crossing was struck and destroyed by a passing CSX train Monday night.

No one was in the Volkswagen GTI at the time. But some are questioning why the train failed to stop.

The car's owner, Han Henley of Wartrace, says CSX has reached out to her and is helping handle things.

"I was on the phone with CSX at 6:07 p.m. and the officer, who also spoke to CSX had already notified them by that time," Henley said. "I'd guess that the original call was made around 6:05 but I can't be sure. I believe there was also a bystander who called the CSX emergency line as well."

"I was told on the phone by CSX that someone had already called and notified them of a car on the tracks at that intersection."

The train struck the vehicle approximately 15-20 minutes later,

Henley said.

"My phone had died when the train actually hit my car so I didn't grab the time then either, but if I had to guess it would have been some time after or right around 6:30," Henley said.

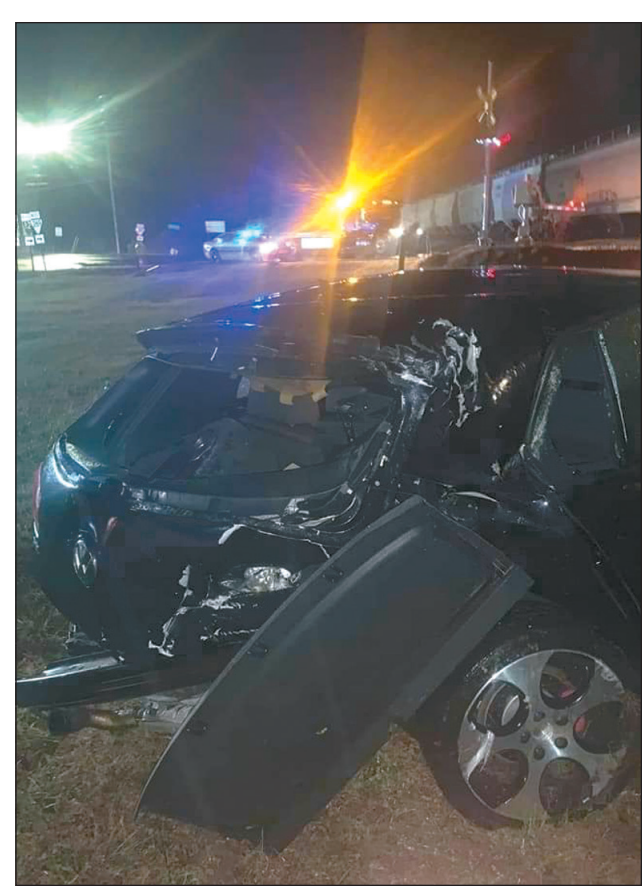
"The last photo I took of my car still on the tracks was at 6:15, and my husband had arrived 5-10 minutes after that and we'd been talking for at least 5-10 minutes before the train hit waiting for the tow truck."

Henley described the crash as a "freak accident."

"It was rainy with low visibility and I turned into a ditch with asphalt by accident and I never imagined it would end with my car being totaled," Henley said.

"I was driving home from work and taking back roads because I just put a spare tire on my car and wanted to avoid the highway. I wasn't used to going through Bell Buckle and due to the rain

▶ See Train, Page 2A



Submitted Photo
The car struck by a CSX train Monday night in Bell Buckle rests alongside the tracks at the Highway 82 crossing.



T-G Photo by Zoe Watkins
Normandy's road repaving will be a relief for many traveling down Cascade Hollow Road, especially on a rainy day.

Normandy grant paves way for smoother roads

T-G STAFF REPORT

Normandy received \$239,543 from a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) earlier this week. The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD) announced the grant will fund a downtown street improvement project in Normandy.

"I was elated," Normandy mayor Charles Whitaker said. "Because it was a competitive grant and there was no guarantee whatsoever that we would get it."

The funds for these grants were allocated under a procedure authorized by the Tennessee General Assembly and are based on priorities set through the public meeting process at the local community level.

Whitaker said they were advised to be "proactive" about applying for the grant to convince the state of the dire needs of the town.

"And surely we have the need," he said. "Normandy is so small and so little population within the city itself."

According to the Census Reporter, Normandy had a population of almost 160 people as of 2020.

This is also coupled with the fact the majority of Normandy's residents are not in the higher income bracket.

Per capita income is around \$27,050, while the median household income is \$53,214. This makes 28.5% of the population below poverty line.

▶ See Normandy, Page 8A

Customers left in the dark on utility payments

By ZOË WATKINS
zwatkins@t-g.com

According to Kelly Waller, the Bedford County Listening Project started advocating during the pandemic to help people pay their utility bills. This came as Shelbyville Power, Water, and Sewerage Systems started cutting people's water and electricity off due to late payments.

But even though the pandemic has ended, many Shelbyville customers are still facing difficulties paying utilities.

It's a problem especially since many leases require the utilities to be kept on or else are threatened with eviction. "Plus, winter is coming and it's going to be cold," said Waller.

Now some renters and homeowners are claiming they can't make partial payments due to a policy change.

However, Jason Reese, General Manager of Shelbyville Power, Water, and Sewerage Systems,

▶ See Payments, Page 2A



Submitted photo
Members of BCLP advocating for renters. From left, Shelbyville city council member Stephanie Isaacs, Tristan Call, Cara Grimes, and another local resident.

New transportation proposal: Build With Us

Roads, bridges, Choice Lanes prioritized in state initiative

T-G STAFF REPORT

Tennessee Governor Bill Lee has announced his infrastructure proposal, "Build With Us," to address critical transportation needs across the state.

The proposed legislation will ensure the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), under the leadership of Commissioner Butch Eley, meets the state's current and future transportation challenges – both urban and rural – to prepare for increased economic

advantages.

"As Tennessee continues to experience unprecedented growth, it's critical we invest in roads and bridges to fully harness our state's success," said Governor Bill Lee.

"I asked Commissioner Eley to look at best practices around the country to see what's working and what isn't. The Build With Us plan will provide quality infrastructure in both rural and

urban communities and blunt congestion without raising the gas tax or going into debt."

Tennessee's growth is far outpacing roadway capacity investments. Over \$26 billion is needed above the 2017 IMPROVE Act to address both urban and rural congestion in Tennessee. The IMPROVE Act enacted the largest

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UT-TPA
PRESS AWARD
2022



Vol. 141, No. 96

DEATH NOTICES

David Leon Draine

December 5, 2022

David Leon Draine, age 61, of Shelbyville, passed away Monday, December 5, 2022, at his home, under the loving care and comfort of his family and Hospice Compassus.

Funeral services were Friday, December 9, 2022, at Edgemont Baptist Church. Burial, with full military honors, followed in Willow Mount Cemetery.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Annie Grissom

December 3, 2022

Mrs. Annie Grissom, age 96, of Shelbyville, died Saturday, December 3, 2022.

Funeral services were Thursday, December 8, 2022 at Lawrence Funeral Home, Chapel Hill.

OBITUARIES

Derrick Leantee Waggoner

December 5, 2022

Mr. Derrick Leantee Waggoner, age 48, of Shelbyville, left this earthly life on Monday, December 5, 2022.

Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Saturday, December 10, 2022, at Fair Haven Baptist Church with burial to follow at Willow Mount Cemetery. Pastor Randall Webster will serve as eulogist.

The family will receive visitors one hour prior to service at the church.

Derrick LeAuntee Waggoner was born April 1, 1974, in Shelbyville, to Vivian Ray Waggoner-Davidson, of Shelbyville, and the late Kenneth Calton Waggoner, Sr. He is the grandson of the late James and Zoe Simmons and James and Hazel Alexander. Derrick was a 1992 graduate of Shelbyville Central High School and a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University where he was affectionately called "D-Luv" by his close friends. He taught high school in the Rutherford County School System and then Bedford County. He was employed at General Mills in Murfreesboro and was a member of Woodfork A.M.E. Church in Shelbyville.

Derrick leaves behind to cherish his loving memory: his mother, Vivian (John) Davidson; a daughter, Jasmyne Owens; three brothers, Reggie (Erica) Waggoner, of Murfreesboro, Brian (Jessica) Waggoner, of Lynchburg, and Kenneth (Katherine) Waggoner, Jr., of Manchester; three special nephews, Jayden, Braxton, and Jaxton; other nieces and nephews, Justin, DeAria, and Breana, all of Manchester; two aunts, Cecelia (James) Randolph, of Detroit, Michigan, and Dr. Phyllis (Ronald) Washington, of Murfreesboro; special cousins, Lacedra, James Randolph II, and Cedasha; two special friends, Larry Hickey "Big Bullet" and Craig Scott; and a host of cousins, relatives, and friends.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Thomas Wendell Ingram

December 2, 2022

Thomas Wendell Ingram, age 61, of Shelbyville, passed away Friday, December 2, 2022.

Visitation will be held 1-2 p.m. Sunday, December 11, 2022 at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel followed by the funeral service at 2 p.m.

He was born September 12, 1961 in South Carolina to the late Lewis Ingram and Mary Carter. Thomas was a skilled carpenter having worked at Swing Cabinet Shop, a very avid disc golfer, movie collector, fisherman, Raiders football fan, and an all around family man.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his twin brother Wendell Ingram.

Survivors include his son, Wendell Ingram and his wife Naomi; brothers Vendor Ingram, Timothy Ingram; sisters, Patricia "Lorie" Kennie, Rosiland Rodgers, Denise Kennedy; grandchildren, Alexis Ingram, Genesis Ingram, Kai Ingram and many nieces and nephews.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Train

Henley said.

CSX and Henley were in contact again following the crash.

"I spoke with CSX after the incident and was told there was a miscommunication on their end, and that we did everything right in that situation," Henley said. "CSX is working with me and my husband on a solution and we're very grateful that they reached out to us and that nobody got hurt.

"People get stuck in ditches frequently and for a lot of reasons... I was just the unlucky one that got stuck on train tracks at the wrong time. I know that this situation could have ended so much worse, but at the very least CSX has taken responsibility and it means a lot to us."

CSX did not return a request for comment by midday Thursday.

(Continued from Page 1)

and darkness I thought I was turning onto the road but accidentally turned into a ditch right next to the road. There is really poor visibility in that spot at night."

The ditch at the location is steep with a mixture of pavement and rocks.

"Initially I tried to get the car out of the ditch but it wouldn't budge, it's a really low-to-the-ground car," Henley said. "As soon as I realized it wasn't moving I called the CSX emergency line immediately."

A passing Bedford County deputy had stopped and was directing traffic, so Henley saw no need to call 911.

"I asked the officer directing traffic to call a tow truck immediately after I got off the line with CSX. And then I called my husband to come over in case anything happened,"

OBITUARIES

Susan Grace Moulder

December 5, 2022

On Monday, December 5, 2022, Susan Grace Moulder passed from this life at the age of 65.

Susan was born on December 13, 1956 to Dr. Samuel and Polly Pearce. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Lee Anne Moulder, who passed away in 2010.

She is survived by her children: Lindsey Moulder (John) Yoes and Todd Moulder,

grandchildren: Mason and Lydia Yoes, Lennox and Cohen Moulder. She is also survived by her siblings Danny Pearce and wife Chrystal of Murfreesboro, Elizabeth (Betty) Royer and husband Philip of Knoxville, and Amy Overcast and husband Johnny of Shelbyville.

Susan graduated with the Class of 1974 at Shelbyville Central High School. She performed with the SCHS Marching Band as a majorette and continued to twirl her baton throughout her life. She graduated from Aquinas College with a degree in dental hygiene. She worked for many years in private dentistry and ended her career in January 2021 at the VA hospital dental clinic in Murfreesboro. She gained many dear friends through her profession. Susan was a beautiful soul who always greeted you with her infectious smile. She was known to many as "Susue." She loved her family and friends and never left without a hug. She loved telling stories and remembering family history. She treasured her grandchildren, always seeking out experiences to have with them.

A gardener who took great pride in her beautiful yard filled with flowers and plants, she worked tirelessly from spring to fall every afternoon pulling weeds, raking, and pruning. Susan loved the river and kayaking. Many times, she would float off alone, just taking in the scenery and the natural habitat of the river. She was always looking for treasures of river glass or geodes. She loved the mystery of what was inside, always forbidding us from opening them and reminding us that using our imagination was better. If you were on the Duck River and heard a Tarzan call, there was a good chance it was Susan — it was a requirement of every float. Susue loved bird watching and identifying bird calls. She enjoyed writing poetry. Also a talented artist who loved oil painting and watercolor, she was her own toughest critic. Susan also enjoyed sewing, reading, cooking, and reading recipe books. She was famous for her carrot cake. As a lover of antiques, she was an avid collector of all things old, cool, and dusty. Rocks were requested as souvenirs when others traveled. She was an eternal optimist who faced every challenge placed before her with her unwavering strength. She was a cancer warrior.

Untitled

by Susan Grace Moulder

It's not long now

Days seemed so many

but it's funny how they passed so quickly

Days seem as hours

Hours seem as minutes

How do minutes seem?

They seem to pass....

The uncomfortable ones drag

the pleasurable ones....

well, they turned into hours

from minutes, from seconds

from life, from love, from spirit

I accept you as my....

Well, as my what?

Anyway, "I do."

My most celebrated thought is that I will never have to go home again,

I'll already be there.

All my love, all my hopes, and all my prayers are for you

Good luck....

The family will receive friends 1-4 p.m. Sunday, December 11, at Doak-Howell Funeral Home with a celebration of life to be held in the spring of 2023 in honor of Susan's wishes.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Bedford Cancer Foundation or any nature conservation charity of your choice.



Payments

(Continued from Page 1)

told the Times-Gazette in an email, "SPWS has always and continues to accept partial payments on customer accounts. There has been no change to this policy."

Yet, there still seems to be confusion among many SPWS customers.

"It seems like the major question [they] need to clarify is whether partial payments will or won't keep the lights on or whether it's case by case," said Tristan Call, who's with BCLP. "When you end up in a situation where one of the biggest agencies that the city has chartered is not telling people what the policy is, it's extremely disruptive to peoples' lives."

For example, SPWS would give out pink door tags as a shut off warning. They were at one time a notice for one week. That dropped down to 24 hours.

Reese said residents will still receive door tag notices; however, this will be discontinued in December 2022.

"A lot of people rely on those," said resident and customer Cara Grimes. After being late on a payment, Grimes said she called and was told by the front desk that she had to pay in full.

Call added, "For most of the last couple of years, especially while TVA had a moratorium on electrical cutoffs, Shelbyville Power gave low-income residents much longer than seven (or 10) days warning before cutoffs."

The power board has changed its policy to go back to the "old" policy before the pandemic.

Reese said, "These notices were started in June 2020 as a courtesy after TVA's emergency 90-day moratorium on service disconnections ended. Late notices will now serve as final notice before disconnection, as they were before the pandemic."

But for those in the low-income bracket who also rely on assistance checks, if those checks happen to be late, power is still cut off. Then, they're charged a \$150 reconnection fee.

Call added, "We've been talking to hundreds of people over the last three weeks over this and everybody has a story."

Whether it's a mom with five kids who gets the power turned off to her fridge or it's someone with medical equipment whose power gets shut off in the middle of the night.

"...Here are so many people in town whose lives literally depend on continuous power because they rely on medical equipment or elderly people who could take a serious hit from a dip in temperatures without heat. And without door tags there are a lot of people who might miss a late notice and thus have their electric cut off mistakenly, sometimes even due to billing errors," said Call.

BCLP came out with a petition earlier in October to find out answers to their questions. Grimes explained, "Our petition is asking them to make it public to let people know so they can prepare as well as tell us why."

Call said, "If [SPWS] means that they will continue to take partial payments and won't cut off power afterwards even after the 10-day mark then this is a huge victory and a really important step for the safety of children and families in Shelbyville this winter!"

Reese explained the service disconnection policy was seven days past the due date until June 2022. The board then increased this to 10 days to be consistent with other utility companies in Bedford County and neighboring counties, according to Reese.

"We are simply enforcing the policies and rules and regulations that have always been in place to make sure that all ratepayers are treated fairly and equally," said Reese.

SPWS also works with organizations including, but not limited to, Catholic Charities, South Central Human Resource Agency, and Good Samaritan to help customers make their utility payments.

"Each of these organizations has their own set of procedures concerning payment relief. Our customer service representatives will gladly help customers through this process," said Reese.

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Proposal

(Continued from Page 1)

tax cut in state history while working towards a safe and reliable transportation network.

The billions needed today include nearly \$14 billion in the four major urban areas — Nashville, Memphis, Chattanooga, and Knoxville. This also includes over \$12 billion for Tennessee's rural interstates commissioned for these urban areas.

To address the state's transportation needs, the Lee administration is developing a modern approach to tackle urban congestion while preserving funds to address rural transportation challenges, providing an expanded set of project delivery tools, and creating a new paradigm

for running a high-performance department of transportation.

The proposal seeks the use of Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) that allow private investment in new roadway infrastructure. Tennessee is the only state in the southeast that does not allow such partnerships for developing roads and bridges.

State Sen. Shane Reeves commented, "We clearly have a massive infrastructure and traffic problem in Middle Tennessee... I want to be open minded to all ideas to resolve this issue."

Choice lanes

Under these arrangements, a private-sector partner contracts with TDOT under a lease agreement to design, build, finance, operate, and

maintain Choice Lanes.

Choice Lanes give drivers the option to pay a user fee to access an additional lane with more reliable trip times, while keeping the option to use traditional highway lanes.

These lanes are used in states like Georgia, Texas, and Florida. The rate, which would be set by an oversight committee, could fluctuate with traffic. This is called "dynamic pricing."

Looking at Georgia, which uses a Peach Pass, toll costs could fluctuate between \$0.50 up to \$6. The more traffic, the higher the cost. The Georgia Department of Transportation website says this helps manage demand of the lanes to give a reliable travel time. According to the state website, Georgia has experienced a 20-mph speed increase in their general-purpose lanes.

Workforce

The Build With Us plan also includes reshaping TDOT's workforce. The TDOT website explains they continue to lose workers "fast," while salaries are 10-15% below market level.

They explain how they hope to eliminate vacancies and use those dollars to increase salaries towards market level.

They are also moving away from the assembly line, which causes delays, and moving toward a "team-based" approach that allows for faster and more efficient projects.

In a similar vein, they also hope to tackle projects faster, which on average take 15 years to complete and typically cost 40% over budget.

Shelbyville employees lauded for service, loyalty

Shelbyville city employees were honored for years of service at this year's annual staff banquet.

Submitted photos

5 YEARS



From left, Brian Dickey (Storm Water Dept.); Eric Haworth (Fire Dept.); LeeAnn Small (Police Dept.); Paul Perry (Airport); Bryan Stevens (Building & Codes Dept.); Phillip Prince (Fire Dept.); Mariah Teal (Animal Control Dept.); Not Pictured: Jared Speirs (Fire Dept.) and Joseph Talley (Public Works Dept.)



10 YEARS

Matt Barnard (Fire Dept.); Not Pictured: Calvin King (Public Works Dept.); Clint Smotherman (Fire Dept.)

15 YEARS



From left, Jason Richardson (Fire Dept.); Jennifer Swann (Recreation); James Milstead (Airport); Lewis Phelps (Public Works Dept.)

20 YEARS



From left, Jason Blanton (Fire Dept.); Chris Cartwright (Fire Dept.)

30 YEARS



From left, Pat Mathis (Police Dept.); Fred Harvey (Police Dept.); Rod Stacy (Police Dept.)

45 YEARS



From left, Kim Nash (Police Dept.); Chief Jan Phillips (Police Dept.)



T-G Photo by Zoe Watkins

CHRISTMAS IN THE COURTHOUSE

Some of the world's most famous Christmas trees include the National Christmas tree in Washington, D.C.; the tree in Trafalgar Square, London; and the tree in the Vatican in Rome, which also features a life size nativity scene. For those here in Bedford County, the Christmas tree in the historic courthouse is looking especially festive and retro this year.

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Not all auto technicians are bad

Dear Heloise: My wife and I have been reading your column for decades in the (Manchester) New Hampshire Union Leader. (Thank you for all the helpful hints.) I took particular interest in the letters you recently published regarding folks who feel they've been "ripped off" by auto mechanics and their shops. Please do not "paint" all auto technicians (mechanics) with such a broad brush. In response, I proffer the following:

Hints from Heloise



APPS TO TEST SMOKE ALARMS

Dear Heloise: Regarding an easier way to check smoke alarms, there are apps you can get that will test your smoke alarm and tell you the battery life. We use Nest. Check it out. -- Marcie Miner, via email

KEEP YOUR SOAP CHIPS

Dear Heloise: Do not throw away soap chips. When you have several, spray the inside of a coffee cup, break the chips into pieces, microwave for two to three minutes, or however long it takes for the chips to blend together. I then put the cup into the refrigerator to harden. Voila! A new cake of soap. -- Billie Moore, The Villages, Florida

PET PAL

Dear Heloise: Lucy was found alone trying to stay warm under the hood of a car. The gentleman who found her took her to the vet, who determined she was four weeks old; however, he couldn't keep her, so I adopted her at six weeks weighing just a pound. She is doing well. -- Kathy Ervin, via email

Readers, to see Lucy and our other Pet Pals, go to Heloise.com and click on "Pet of the Week."

Do you have a furry friend to share with our readers? Send a photo and a brief description to Heloise@Heloise.com. -- 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.

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Send Community Calendar items to tgnews@t-g.com, notify us on Facebook, call 931-684-1200 or stop by our office, 323 E. Depot St.

TODAY

Christmas Village



Compassion Outreach Ministries and Bible Presbyterian Church will be hosting their 10th annual Christmas Village on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Unionville Fire Hall, 3372 Highway 41A North.

Fly Dinner Theater

The Fly Arts Center is bringing back The Fly Dinner Theater for its first holiday performance since 2019. "Dashing Through The Snow" is a family-friendly play in which a parade of eccentric guests arrive at the Snowflake Inn and deck the halls with holiday hilarity. Also included at extra cost, if desired, is a meal consisting of chicken and dressing with sides. Times are 6 p.m. for dinner and 7 p.m. for the performance Saturday, Dec. 10, and a 2 p.m. performance with no meal on Sunday, Dec. 11. Tickets ranging from \$15-\$25 are available at www.flyartscenter.com.

VFW fundraiser breakfast

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5019, and its Auxiliary will host their second Saturday of the month fundraiser breakfast Dec. 10, from 7-9:30 a.m. at the VFW Post, 1320 Depot St. Carry-outs are available. For more information call Alex, 615-513-7959.

Gilliland House

The Gilliland House, 803 Lipscomb St., is having a Christmas holiday event from noon-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10. Cookies and hot

chocolate will be served and photos with Santa will be available in the cabin behind the main house.

Gingerbread contest



Bell Buckle is holding its annual Gingerbread Decorating Contest from 11 a.m. (sign-up)-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, at Main Street Pavilion. Age categories are 9-under and 10-up.

Sleigh and S'mores



Sleigh rides with Santa, and a s'mores pit, will be available in Bell Buckle from noon-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, and Saturday, Dec. 17.

TUESDAY

Holiday Open House



First Community Bank is hosting a Holiday Open House from 4-6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, in the main lobby of their main office, 207 Elm St.

Shelbyville meeting

Shelbyville City Council will hold a workshop concerning the downtown flume at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, at Shelbyville Recreation Center.

Bell Buckle meeting

Bell Buckle Board of Mayor & Aldermen will meet Tuesday, Dec. 13 at

December 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Holidays

18th - Hanukkah Begins in the evening
21st - Winter Begins
25th - Christmas

6 p.m. in Town Hall.

County Commission

Bedford County Commission will meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, at Bedford County Courthouse.

DEC. 15

Bell Buckle parks

Bell Buckle Parks & Recreation Committee will meet Thursday, Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. in Town Hall.

ONGOING

Meals on Wheels

Shelbyville Senior Citizens Center is in need of Meals on Wheels volunteers to deliver meals to the homebound of Shelbyville. For more information, call 684-0019 and ask for Amy Wilson.

Soup kitchen

Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen serves meals from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at 336 S.

Cannon Blvd. (corner of South Cannon and Pickle Street). Donations may be made to Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen, P.O. Box 2259, Shelbyville, TN 37162, and are tax deductible under its 501c3 non-profit designation.

Boxed non-perishables are available. Takeouts are no longer distributed.

Head Start

Bedford County Head Start Centers are currently taking applications. For more information or to complete an application contact any Head Start Center. Phone numbers are: Wartrace 931-389-6406, Harris Head Start 931-773-0033, North Side Head Start Center 931-773-0141, and Bedford Early Head Start 931-685-0876. Head Start is a free child development program for children 6 weeks to 3 years and their families. Early Head Start enrolls pregnant women for monthly prenatal educational visits.

How to make Christmas Eve special for kids

Christmas Eve is viewed differently by different people, even those who live under the same Santa-ready roof. Adults may see Christmas Eve as crunch time when they must prepare food for the next day or set up presents for their children to open in the morning. Children, on the other hand, are focused on Santa's visit and little else.

Parents naturally want to make Christmastime as special as possible for their children, and that may involve ensuring that Christmas Eve is just as memorable as Christmas Day. The following are some ways to impart more magic into Christmas Eve celebrations.

Attend Mass at midnight

Practicing Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas. On Christmas Eve, churches often hold celebrations that may include late-evening or midnight masses that celebrate the birth of Christ when the calendar switches over to December 25. While it does make



The following are some ways to impart more magic into Christmas Eve celebrations.

for a late night, it can be thought-provoking for kids and a unique experience unlike any other.

Bake fresh cookies

Children like to leave

out a plate of cookies and a glass of milk for Santa. That makes Christmas Eve a perfect time to whip up a fresh batch of cookies. Explore different recipes to come up with a unique

offering each year.

Read a Christmas story

Watching television or looking at a tablet or

mobile phone before bed can be too stimulating when it's time for children to wind down for bed. Choose a holiday tale or tales that can be read as a Christmas Eve bedtime

story. Reciting the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas ("Twas the Night Before Christmas)" is a great way to set the Christmas Eve mood.

Make a batch of 'reindeer dust'

Why should Santa's reindeer be left out when it comes to receiving treats? Reindeer dust, made from a combination of oatmeal, rice cereal, dried fruits, and glitter (if desired), is purported to attract Santa's reindeer and provide them a nibble at the same time. Plus, it's generally safe for other animals in the yard to eat.

Go caroling

Caroling may not be the norm, but some families may want to revive it. Close-knit communities can organize family-centric caroling opportunities and roam the cul-de-sacs and other pedestrian-friendly areas singing popular songs.

Christmas Eve is a great time to embrace various traditions that help to make the season even more special.



SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

USPS 492-660
HOLLER MEDIA, LLC

323 E. Depot St. • P.O. Box 380 • Shelbyville, Tenn. 37162 • 931-684-1200 • Fax 931-684-3228
The Bedford County Times (Est. 1886) The Shelbyville Gazette (Est. 1874)

Consolidated Feb. 1, 1948

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SCHS NHS GIVES TO POLICE

Shelbyville police officer Derek Wessels accepts Christmas goodie bags for the department from Shelbyville Central High School's National Honor Society.

Submitted Photo

Business filings highest ever for 3rd quarter

New business filings in the third quarter of 2022 were the highest for a third quarter in the 24-year history of the data being collected, according to the new Quarterly Business and Economic Indicators report issued by Secretary of State Tre Hargett's office.

The 1.1% year-over-year growth in new business filings from the third quarter of 2021 shows that businesses continue to establish

in Tennessee at a record pace.

During the third quarter of 2022, 18,752 new entities filed in Tennessee. Over the past year, 76,941 new businesses filed and employment rose by 140,200 jobs. State unemployment remained low at 3.4%, below the national rate of 3.5%.

"Tennessee continues to create and attract new businesses, growing even

on last year's record pace as we emerged from the pandemic," said Secretary Hargett. "Our state leaders work hard to preserve a business and financial environment that supports investment and jobs for Tennesseans."

A high level of business filings typically leads to jobs, personal income and state revenue growth.

Davidson and Shelby counties saw the largest

number of filings in the third quarter, followed by Knox and Hamilton counties. These four most-populous counties accounted for 44% of new filings state-wide, a slight drop in their share of total filings from the third quarter of last year. Tennessee's other 91 counties grew year-over-year by 5%.

"The Tennessee labor market remains very strong and continues to grow

heading into this holiday season," Boyd Center director Don Bruce said. "Our exceptional business environment supports a record level of new business filings and low unemployment, alongside robust tax revenue growth."

This report provides a snapshot of the state's economy based on key indicators, including new business data from the Secretary of State's

Division of Business and Charitable Organizations. It is published through a partnership with the University of Tennessee Knoxville's Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research and the Secretary of State.

To review the complete Q3 2022 Tennessee Quarterly Business and Economic Indicators report and past reports, visit sos.tn.gov.

Welcome the World to Holiday Gatherings

FAMILY FEATURES

The traditional dishes served year after year at your family's holiday gatherings may bring comfort and a sense of nostalgia, but you can open your loved ones up to a whole new world by incorporating recipes from around the globe.

People of all different cultures across the Earth are often connected by food, whether it's a classic holiday dish or a unique take on a traditional dish, like this raisin-infused Challah. While the dishes themselves may drastically differ, using similar ingredients can be a unifying thread.

For those looking to pull off worldly cuisines this holiday season, consider a familiar and nearly universal ingredient like raisins, an innovative and delicious addition incorporated in culturally diverse dishes. On top of their versatile flavor, Sun-Maid Raisins offer a better-for-you whole fruit option with no added sugar per 1/4-cup serving.

Consider these global recipe ideas enjoyed at holiday gatherings around the world.

Germany

- **Apple Strudel:** Quite possibly one of the most famous German desserts of all, raisins add a delicious chewiness to this traditional strudel.
- **Lebkuchen:** A traditional German cake similar to gingerbread that's full of sweet spices, walnuts, dates and raisins.

Italy

- **Cuccidati Siciliani:** Typically at their most popular during the holiday season, these Italian fig cookies feature raisins inside the deliciously fruity filling.
- **Panettone:** Also a holiday favorite, Panettone is a towering round of sweet bread speckled with raisins, citrus and almonds.

England

- **Fruitcake:** Traditional fruitcake is chock-full of dried raisins, golden raisins, cherries, dates, pineapple and apricots soaked in dark tea overnight.
- **Bread Pudding:** This English staple uses stale bread, spices, sweetener and raisins to create a dense and delicious cake.

Poland

- **Cinnamon-Raisin Rugelach:** These flavorful pastries are characterized by a melt-in-your-mouth cheese-based dough with a sweet cinnamon, raisin and walnut filling.

Greece

- **Christopsomo:** Considered sacred in many Greek households and translating to "Christ's Bread," this revered dish is usually prepared the day before Christmas Eve and is served with nothing but bare hands at the table. Raisins, nuts, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg are all found throughout the loaf.

Armenia

- **Ghapama:** A baked pumpkin stuffed with partially cooked rice, raisins, nuts, cinnamon and honey.

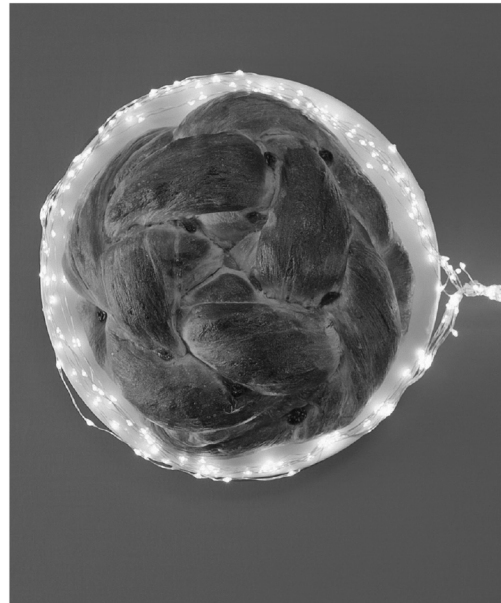
Ireland

- **Irish Soda Bread:** The cakey texture of this Irish favorite is complemented by sweet, chewy raisins throughout the loaf.

Visit SunMaid.com to find more recipes perfect for holiday gatherings.



Photo courtesy of Getty Images



Crown Raisin Challah

Yield: 3 loaves

Dough:

- 2 envelopes (1/4 ounce each) active dry yeast
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup honey
- 3 cups warm water
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 2 extra-large eggs, plus 3 egg yolks
- 2 tablespoons kosher salt
- 1 cup Sun-Maid raisins
- 3 cups bread flour
- 6 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

Egg Wash:

- 2 extra-large eggs
- 2 tablespoons sugar

To make dough: In big bowl, mix yeast, sugar, honey and warm water. Let yeast bloom about 7 minutes.

Add cinnamon, oil, eggs, egg yolks and salt. Mix well. Add raisins. Add

flours and mix until sticky. Dough should be creamy yellow.

Turn dough out onto floured surface and knead 12-15 minutes, or until smooth. Oil bowl, place dough back in bowl and cover tight with plastic wrap. Let rise in warm place about 1 1/2 hours, or until doubled.

Punch dough down, cover and let rise another 45 minutes. Punch down again and cut into three equal pieces. Let rest about 10 minutes then roll each piece into snakes about 30 inches long; taper at one end. Starting with thick end, roll each snake into spiral shape like snail shell. Use a little water and stick tapered end onto body of spiral. Mold into place with hands.

Oil loaves lightly, cover with plastic wrap and let rise until poofy, about 25 minutes.

Preheat oven to 375 F.

To make egg wash: In small bowl, whisk eggs and sugar. Gently brush loaves with egg wash, taking care not to deflate them.

Bake 45 minutes, or until loaves are golden. Let cool completely.

5 Tips to Pull Off Holiday Hosting

Family Features

With stay-at-home holidays a thing of the past for many families, they're now busy preparing for full-blown celebrations. The return of traditional festivities brings seemingly never-ending to-do lists and pressure to be the perfect host.

From mastering a mouthwatering menu and donning your home with decadent decor to ensuring guests enjoy the evening to the fullest, hosting duties bring plenty of responsibilities. This year, though, you can avoid those anxious feelings with some preparation ahead of the big day.

To help pull off a sensational seasonal soiree, consider these tips from the entertaining experts at Sun-Maid to make the holidays brighter and more manageable so you can navigate the stresses of hosting.

Invite Others to Share Favorite Traditions

Especially with stay-at-home holidays in recent years, some friends and family members may have developed their own special traditions from new recipes and foods to seasonal games and activities. Inviting your guests to bring or share something that represents



their favorite part of the holidays can help everyone feel welcome.

Take Time for Yourself

Remember to make time for yourself so you can enjoy the fruits of your labor right alongside guests. The busyness of this time of year can add stress but reflecting on the true meaning of the season and reveling in your favorite parts of the holidays can help you avoid feeling overwhelmed.

Add New Ingredients to Your Menu

While pairing this year's tur-

key or ham with the classics provides comfort and calls to mind holiday memories of the past, cooking with new ingredients and adding fresh recipes to the menu can put a fun spin on the season and maybe even create your own traditions to carry forward.

For example, baking with an option like Sun-Maid Raisins provides a whole fruit option with zero grams of added sugars per 1/4-cup serving. They're an easy, better-for-you substitution to reduce overall sugar intake without compromising flavor or texture when compared with dried cranberries, which contain 27 grams of added sugars per 1/4-



cup serving. The natural sugars of raisins make them a versatile, useful addition to a wide variety of holiday-worthy dishes.

Hop On Hot Food Trends

One of this year's most popular trends in the kitchen is food boards, a fun and easy way to elevate flavor while incorporating favorites like cured meats, cold cuts, cheese slices and cubes, dips, nuts and more. Plus, you can keep your board balanced with nutritious items like vegetables and fruit, such as raisins, which provide sweet flavor without the added sugars.

A Time for Truce

Gathering for the holidays is about coming together with loved ones, family, friends and neighbors - and pulling it off means catering to everyone's needs and wants. It's a time for compromises and truces. To help add a little extra spark this year, try incorporating a theme to the party or coordinate fun activities and games that can be enjoyed by all. For example, holiday-themed charades, a seasonal "name that tune" game and gift exchanges all give guests ways to get in on the excitement.



The instantly recognizable “Jingle Bells” has become a wildly popular Christmas carol despite not mentioning Christmas or any other holiday.

Jingle Bells

The instantly recognizable “Jingle Bells” has become a wildly popular Christmas carol despite not mentioning Christmas or any other holiday. Written by New England native James Lord Pierpont, “Jingle Bells” is commemorated with plaques in two different cities, each of which claims to be the place where Pierpont wrote the song in the 1850s. One plaque is in Medford, Massachusetts, where Pierpont is said to have written the song from a tavern while watching sleigh races taking place outside. The other plaque is in Savannah, Georgia, where locals believe Pierpont wrote the lyrics prior to leading a sing-along of the song at a local church in 1857.

“Jingle Bells”

(Extended version)

*Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way*

*Bells on bobtail ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight! Oh,*

*Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh. Hey!*

*Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.*

*A day or two ago
I thought I'd take a ride
And soon, Miss Fanny Bright
Was seated by my side,
The horse was lean and lank
Misfortune seemed his lot
He got into a drifted bank
And then we got upsot.*

Jingle bells, jingle bells

*Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh. Hey!*

*Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.*

*A day or two ago,
The story I must tell
I went out on the snow,
And on my back I fell;
A gent was riding by
In a one-horse open sleigh,
He laughed as there I sprawling lie,
But quickly drove away.*

*Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.*

*Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.*

*Now the ground is white
Go it while you're young,
Take the girls tonight
and sing this sleighing song;
Just get a bobtailed
Two forty as his speed
Hitch him to an open sleigh
And crack! you'll take the lead.*

*Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.*

*Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.*

Lyrics written by James Lord Pierpont
Lyrics courtesy of Digital Music News

Chaplains provide spiritual care as church attendance falls

By **WENDY CADGE**
Brandeis University

From The Conversation

When Americans picture a chaplain, many of them likely think of someone like Father Mulcahy, the Irish American priest who cared for Korean War soldiers in the classic TV show “M.A.S.H.”

The reality is much more complex. Today’s chaplains are diverse in gender, age, religious background and sexuality. They serve people from all backgrounds, including those with no affiliation. And their roles may become more significant as more Americans step away from traditional religious congregations. Three in 10 adults in the United States say they are atheists, agnostics or “nothing in particular.”

In the U.S., chaplains have been present in the military since the Revolutionary War – initially all Christians. Jewish leaders began to work as chaplains with the advent of Jewish hospitals in the 19th century. In 1861, at the start of the Civil War, a rabbi named Arnold Fischel lobbied President Abraham Lincoln to let Jewish chaplains serve in the military. Lincoln stretched the phrase in federal legislation that required chaplains to be of “some Christian denomination” far enough to formally include Jews as chaplains in government positions for the first time.

The number of non-Christian chaplains has increased ever since. While rabbis frequently visited Jewish inmates, it was not until 1895 that New York state funded an official Jewish chaplain position in the state prisons.

Non-Christian chaplains began appearing on college and university campuses in the 1920s. Today, there are campus chaplains from a broad range of religious and spiritual backgrounds, including humanists who see and emphasize the goodness in all people. They are often able to quickly connect with young people, one-third of whom are not religiously affiliated.

Chaplains have become increasingly diverse in other ways, as well. Little has been written about chaplains of color, for example, but African American newspapers suggest that the first Black chaplains served in the military, which was segregated until 1948.

Today chaplains work in a variety of settings. Beyond the military, federal prisons and veterans’ centers, they are also present in most health care organizations, and places as surprising as the Olympics, research stations in Antarctica, airports and some polling places.

Several interviewed in the greater Boston area all said they work around end of life care, and almost all engage with people’s big-picture life questions – what one chaplain described to me as people’s peripheral vision, the questions hovering just out of sight until a crisis forces them into view. Rather than offering answers, chaplains offer a listening ear. Describing her work in a hospital, one explained her role as

creating “a bit of a holding space” and to “validate what a person is feeling and give them some sense of hope or stability in the midst of chaotic times.”

According to our recent survey on demand for chaplains’ services, about half of people who connected with a chaplain did so in health care settings, including hospices. Respondents said that chaplains listened to them, prayed, offered spiritual or religious guidance, or comforted them in a time of need. “He was just so compassionate with my mom and I when we lost my grandfather, and it was a sudden loss,” one participant recalled of meeting with a chaplain. “I knew then God had sent him there to help me deal with the pain and loss.” Another said: “We talked for hours and he truly seemed to understand the path my life had been on. I will never forget his kindness!”

Others said chaplains helped them negotiate conflict, advocated on their behalf, or directed them to resources. Loss, mental and emotional health, death and dying, and dealing with change were frequent topics of conversation. Respondents described chaplains as compassionate, good listeners, knowledgeable, helpful and trustworthy. Those who were not religiously affiliated interacted with chaplains in similar ways as those who are not.

In many churchyards across the U.S., “for sale” signs have been hammered into the ground as places of worship fail to keep afloat. Attendance and membership have been declining for years, and many congregants who switched to virtual attendance during the pandemic are not coming back in person.

As membership in formal religious groups continues to decline, enrollment in theological schools is shifting, with growing numbers of new students and programs focused on chaplaincy as opposed to more traditional work in a congregation. About a quarter of new students in the Master of Divinity programs at Boston University and Union Theological Seminary in fall 2022 were in a chaplaincy track. That number is closer to three-quarters at Iliff School of Theology and at Emmanuel College in Canada.

Chaplains have long provided spiritual support, and continue to do so as religious demographics shift. They meet people as they are, where they are, and they will provide more and more spiritual care for the future. Closed churches do not signal the end of religious leadership, but a change in where and how it is provided.

•The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts. This story was distributed by The Associated Press, but The Conversation is wholly responsible for the content.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Send church news and events to tgnews@t-g.com.

Baptist

The sermon Sunday at **Calvary Baptist Church** will be “Herod vs the Wise Men” from Matthew 2:1-18. The service will be livestreamed.

“The Heart of Christmas Brings Joy in all Circumstances” from John 1:14 will be the sermon at **Edgemont Baptist Church**.

Grace Baptist Church’s message will be “The First Sign Of The Holy Spirit Living In You, Is Love” from Galatians 5:22.

Christian (Disciples of Christ)

Sunday’s sermon at **First Christian Church** in a series on angels and Christmas will be from Luke 1, with the angel Gabriel and Mary, the mother of Jesus. The Advent candle of joy will be lit.

Church of Christ

The “Songs of the Season” series continues at **Fairlane Church of Christ** with the sermon “O Little Town of Bethlehem” from Luke 2:1-7. The service

will be livestreamed and broadcast on WLII (98.7 FM/1580 AM/wlijradio.com).

Southside Church of Christ’s lesson Sunday morning will be “The Cross” from 1 Corinthians 2:1-3. A Christmas party with gifts, games and Santa is scheduled at 4 p.m. Sunday. A study of James continues Wednesday night. Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services are livestreamed at cofcsouthside.com.

“Hold On” will be Sunday morning’s sermon at **Wartrace Church of Christ**.

Methodist

Blankenship United Methodist Church, 3602 Midland Road, is holding a Musical Christmas Celebration Sunday through Saturday nights from 7-8 p.m., with special performances. A soup and sandwich fellowship will be held each night except Monday from 5:30-6:45.

Presbyterian

First Presbyterian Church’s sermon for the third Sunday of Advent will focus on Isaiah 35:1-10, “God Comes & Saves.” All services are streamed live on Facebook.

MUSICAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION!

A week long celebration of Christmas through the joy of music.

Sunday, December 11th - Saturday, December 17th

♪ Sunday, Tuesday-Saturday ♪
 5:30 pm - 6:45 pm
Small Fellowship Soup & Sandwiches Dinner

Each Night • 7:00 - 8:30
 Christmas Music Performed by a
 Fantastic Lineup of Guests!
Blankenship UMC
 3602 Midland Road, Shelbyville

Band of Pearls • Eloise Gaither • The Tucker Sisters
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Bryan Smotherman

Joyful Praises

Mala Patterson

The Singing Believers

Johnathan Bond

Jerry Fox

Blankenship
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
We Feed The Body & The Soul
3602 Midland Rd
Shelbyville, TN

Restaurant worker charged with stealing funds

By DAVID MELSON
dmelson@t-g.com

An employee of a Shelbyville restaurant was charged Tuesday with stealing from her employer, police said.

The owner of Wayback Burgers, North Main Street, showed police video footage he said showed Elena Marie Dubose, 41, of North Main Street, allegedly taking money from a cash register. Another video allegedly showed Dubose taking money paid by a customer and placing it in her pocket. Total loss was estimated at \$300-500 bond.

Dubose was charged with theft of property and held on \$10,000 bond.

Other thefts reported to area authorities:

- Five pairs of Nike Air Jordan shoes were stolen overnight Tuesday from Steppin' Kicks and Clothing, Sevier Street, police said.

A rock was used to smash the front door and gain entry.

- The license plate was stolen from a vehicle Wednesday afternoon at Walmart.

- Five vehicles were entered late Friday afternoon, Dec. 2, at The White Dove Barn, a wedding and event venue on Highway 64 East in Bedford County just outside Beech Grove.

Windows were broken from each vehicle between approximately 5:10-6:30 p.m., a report by Deputy Shaquille Thompson said.

A \$2,000 Louis Vuitton bag, \$400 card holder, \$700 worth of gift cards, cash, purses, and wallets were reported taken.

- Two men dumped the contents of several Lego kits into a Walmart shopping cart and attempted to leave without paying Monday, police were told.

Hudson Cotton Beard and Avery Walker Dabbs were detained by store security until police arrived. They were cited for shoplifting.

- A man attempted to steal several types of portable lights, knives, a backpack, and a baseball bag Monday before being stopped by store security, police said. The suspect was able to get away and was last seen riding off on a bicycle.

- Amber Paige Fox, 31, of North Jefferson Street, was charged with trying to steal \$52 worth of items Monday from Dollar General Market, North Main Street.

- The mailbox was stolen from a home on Highway 231 South, a deputy was told Thursday, Dec. 1.

- All the belongings of two women were taken from a storage shed at a Locust Street home on Nov. 19 or 20, Shelbyville police were told Tuesday.

Violence

A man was stabbed in the back during an argument Saturday night, Dec. 3, at a Davis Street residence.

Rene Bartolon Ramirez, 19, was allegedly attacking his wife when Marcos Bartolome attempted to stop him, Shelbyville police said.

Bartolome had a severe cut on his head and complained to officers that his hoodie was "soaked." He took off the hoodie and officers saw the stab wound on his back.

Ramirez was being held down by three people when Officer Bailey Dineen arrived. He was allowed to stand and allegedly began trying to attack Bartolome again as more officer arrived.

Dineen deployed her taser, striking Ramirez in the chest, after he allegedly refused orders to calm down. The taser shock and handcuffs didn't deter Ramirez, who allegedly kept trying to reach Bartolome until being placed inside a patrol vehicle. A blood-covered knife was found with reach of where Ramirez had been.

Ramirez allegedly kept yelling and trying to get out of his handcuffs while being taken to Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital for treatment of minor injuries. He was charged with aggravated assault, domestic assault, resisting arrest and public intoxication.

Faye Mari Bermudez, 21, Ramirez's wife, was charged with disorderly conduct for allegedly slapping, pushing and cursing officers and resisting arrest.

- A Bedford County man was charged Tuesday with attacking a woman at a home near Chapel Hill where he allegedly sometimes stays, according to the Marshall County Sheriff's Office.

Roger Dale Christa, 50, whose address is listed as Halls Mill Road, is charged with attempted rape, aggravated assault, and kidnapping. Bond was set at \$22,500.

Christa told deputies he "has wanted to be with" the victim and what he described as a "scuffle" resulted when she resisted. The victim said they were not involved in a relationship but he "stays" at her home.

The assault allegedly began when the victim returned home and Christa threw her on a bed, grabbed her neck and attempted to remove her clothing. The victim fled to a neighboring residence and called 911.

Drug charges

- Marijuana was found on a man found sleeping between air conditioning units Tuesday night behind Quik Mart, Lane Parkway, police said.

Michael Shane Mullins, who was listed as "homeless" on the Bedford County Jail intake, allegedly possessed 1.64 grams of marijuana in a glasses case.

He was charged with simple possession of a schedule 6 drug and paraphernalia and held on \$2,000 bond.

- A man initially described by police as an "armed suspect" turned out to be carrying airsoft guns Friday night, Dec. 2.

Aaron Fabian Ledesma was lying in a grassy area on Sandusky Road off Highway 130 West as Shelbyville police officer Ramon Castillo, who had just finished his day shift, passed by and stopped to check on him. Deputy Joshua Cox smelled marijuana; Ledesma allegedly admitted having a small amount in his nearby vehicle.

Ledesma was cited for simple possession.

- Methamphetamine and portions of suboxone pills were confiscated from a driver during a traffic stop Sunday, Dec. 4.

Christopher Shane Pittman, 22, of Couch Lane, ran a stop sign on Green Lane at Northside Professional Drive, police said.

Pittman was initially charged with driving on a suspended license. A subsequent search revealed 1.7 grams of crystal methamphetamine and the pills.

Additional charges of simple possession of schedule 2 and 3 drugs, driving while in possession of methamphetamine, and

failure to obey a traffic control device were added. Bond was set at \$5,000.

- The passenger in a vehicle stopped for allegedly speeding through a school zone Friday, Dec. 2, was cited for simple possession of marijuana.

Thomas Taylor, age and address not available, handed over a bag containing approximately 2.5 grams of marijuana to Officers Tracy Teal and Brock Horner. The driver, who was not charged with a drug-related offense, was allegedly driving 25 mph in a 15 mph zone in front of Southside School on South Cannon Boulevard.

Jail intake

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

- Dakota Ryan Adkins, 25, Murfreesboro; public intoxication; released, no bond

- James Baugher, 56, L. Fisher Road; violation of community supervision for life; released, \$2,500 bond

- Thomas Lynn Brummitt, 34, Glendale Road; aggravated assault; held, no bond

- Geavony Castellanos, 42, Smyrna; driving on suspended license, financial responsibility; released, no bond

- Beau William Cerniglia, 37, Smyrna; violation of probation; released, no bond

- Matthew Ray Clanton, 26, Ledgeview Drive; violation of probation; released, no bond

- Ronald Cecil Coope, 57, East Cedar Street; violation of probation; held, \$2,500 bond

- Rodney Shane Crosslin, 43, Lewisburg; criminal conspiracy; held, no bond

- Jeffrey Brent Cunningham, 56, Railroad Road; failure to appear; released, no bond

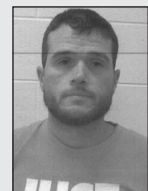
- John Densford, 40, Millington; joyriding-temporary taking of vehicle; held, \$2,500 bond

- Elena Marie Dubose, 41, North Main Street; theft of property; held, \$10,000 bond

- Maria Salas Falcon, 48,

Deputy's accuser was lying: TBI

A Franklin County man faces charges of filing a false report following an investigation by special agents from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.



Martin

On September 29th, TBI agents received a request from 17th Judicial District Attorney General Rob Carter to investigate a sexual assault allegation made against a lieutenant at the Bedford County Sheriff's Office, after the Tennessee Department of Children's Services received a tip to its Child Abuse Hotline.

Agents determined the tip was bogus, that no sexual assault occurred, and identified the man responsible as George Rayburn Martin, 40, of Cowan.

Martin was charged with one count of false reports and one count of false reporting of child sexual abuse.

On Monday, the Bedford County grand jury returned indictments against Martin. He is currently being held on unrelated charges.

no address listed; driving on suspended license, speeding; released, no bond

- Ashley Marie Flowers, 29, Jennifer Circle; truancy; released, no bond listed

- Carl A. Foster, 50, Nashville; failure to appear; held, no bond

- Amber Paige Fox, 31, North Jefferson Street; shoplifting; released, \$1,000 bond

- Adam James Gadowski, 36, Murfreesboro; failure to appear; held, no bond

- Herlinda Giron Godinez, 39, Bridlewood Drive; no driver's license/exhibited on demand, window tinting; citation issued

- Argelio Godinez, 38, Maplewood Drive; no driver's license/exhibited on demand, running red light/stop sign; released, no bond

- Antonio Herrero, 39, Fairview Avenue; public intoxication; held, \$750 bond

- Shaunessy Keefe Jackson, 41, Carlisle Avenue; domestic assault; \$2,000 bond

- Esmeralda Zuseth Ledesma, 46, Green Lane; domestic assault; held, \$1,000 bond

- William Glen Lynch, 33, Highway 130 East; aggravated assault, domestic assault, failure to appear; held, no bond

- Brian J. Martin, 41, Petersburg; driver to exercise due care, DUI, financial responsibility, seat belt law; released, no bond

- Michael Shane Mullins, 51, no fixed address,

Shelbyville; possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession; held, \$2,000 bond

- Erika Navarro, 32, Halls Mill Road; violation of probation; released, \$2,500 bond

- Celestine Torian Newsum, 47, Frank Martin Road; failure to appear; held, no bond

- Joshua Parker, 27, Possum Trott Road; driver to exercise due care, DUI; held, \$3,000 bond

- Melissa Rosario Soriano, 31, White Street; failure to appear; citation issued

- Desmond Larell Teasley, 27, Enden Avenue; possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of schedule 2 drug; held, no bond listed

- Casimiro Pena Urena, 63, Moreland Avenue; driving on revoked license, driving on wrong side of road, implied consent; released, \$10,000 bond

- Jakob Ryan Weeks, 20, Manchester; bench warrant, failure to appear; held, no bond

- Michael Henry Welter Jr., 43, Lewis Avenue; shoplifting, unlawful possession of a weapon; held, \$2,000 bond

- Frankie Lee Wilhoite, 42, Couch Lane; domestic assault, public intoxication; held, \$3,000 bond

- Mikayah Mikhel Wilson, 23, Landers Street; driving on suspended license, financial responsibility, registration law; released, no bond

BUSINESS LICENSES

Business listings—New Businesses	Shelbyville, Jamie Cooper
11/30/2022—12/07/2022	Milan Environmental Contractors LLC—
Cutting Edge Optical LLC—2556 Highway	5010 W. Van Hook St., Milan, TN, Josh Laster
41A N., Shelbyville, Nick Ellis	Sugar Rose—307 Redbud Lane,
JMC Designs—233 Possum Trott Rd.,	Unionville, Heather Herman

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

11/29/2022—12/05/2022	Larry G. Philpott, Johnny Philpott—0 money, 9.88 acres, Harts Chapel Rd.	Higgins, Lisa Hix Schmiede, Angela Hix Travis, Angela Hix Grissom—0 money, 1.34 acres, no address
Emilia Ocasio Aldarondo, Jose Luis Ortega	Michael Sharp, Dolly Sharp to Jeffery Hurst, Donna Hurst—\$175,000, 0 acres, Bethany Church Rd.	Sheila Hix Higgins, Henry Holt Hix to Sheila Hix Higgins, Lisa Hix Schmiede, Angela Hix Travis, Angela Hix Grissom—0 money, 33.75 acres, no address
Hernandez, Yolanda Ivette Figueroa to Yolanda Ivette Figueroa—\$10, 0 acres, Davis St.	HHK Investments LLC to Emily Green, Brenda Green—\$195,000, 0 acres, Hendon Memorial Rd.	SDH Nashville LLC to Nathaniel Ware—\$259,990, 0 acres, Townsend Ave.
James David Miller Construction LLC to Benito Luciano Moreno—\$559,976, 1.99 acres, Hwy 82 E.	Daniel F. Delacruz Moreno, Lucero M. Perez Olivares to Silvestre Osorio Ramirez—\$150,000, 0 acres, Fairfield Pike	OP Gold LLC, OP Gold Holdings LLC, Offerpad Holdings LLC to Lydia Droz Reyes—\$264,600, 0 acres, Robinwood Dr.
Irby C. Simpkins Jr., Muriel Robinson to Marcus Peter Bak Joint Revocable Trust, Jill Elaine Bak Joint Revocable Trust—\$2,485,321.43, 92.56 acres, Blue Stocking Hollow Rd.	Vinnie Rucker to Robert David Boyer, Katelyn Mary Boyer—\$565,000, 11.45 acres, Unionville Deason Rd.	Leslie Renee Lusk vs Jason Eugene Lusk
William Frederick Wilde Jr., Gail Marie Wilde to William Frederick Jr. Wilde Joint Revocable Living Trust, Gail M. Wilde Joint Revocable Living Trust—0 money, 0 acres, no address	Dalton Leonard Gortney III, Megan Adeline Gortney to Kelsey Montgomery, Joseph Montgomery—\$299,900, 2.59 acres, Snell Rd.	Brian Keith Potts vs Peggy Michele Potts
Charles Tim Lokey, Patricia A. Lokey to Kenneth B. Calvert, Rebecca B. Calvert—\$350,000, 0 acres, Rosewood Dr.	Pamela L. Jarrell, Paul Jarrell to Pamela L. Jarrell—0 money, 0 acres, Academy Lane	Alyscia Danielle Spence vs Neil Davis Greenway
Margaret Winningham Burby, Richard Burby to Steven R. Hazelwood, Margaret Ann Winningham Hazelwood—0 money, 15.63 acres, Cortner Rd.	John Roach to Ladd Limited Partnership—\$263,500, 0 acres, Sandy Lane	Michael Lee Swift Jr. vs Shanna Beasley Swift
Sandra L. Farrar, Clifford Ray Farrar to Timothy Eschbach, Sharon Caroland—\$295,000, 0 acres, Ligon Dr.	William Holton, Shannon Holton to Matthew R. Giffe—\$230,000, 0 acres, Sub Station Rd.	Lauren Elizabeth Thompson vs Matthew James Thompson
Larry G. Philpott to	Steven C. Emmert, Julie A. Emmert to Steven V. Brannon, Megan N. Brannon—\$382,499, 0 acres, Fairfield Pike	Theresa Lucille Walker vs Corey Jarrod Walker
	Sheila Hix Higgins, Henry Holt Hix to Sheila Hix	Manuel Bautista Zarraga vs Maria Campos

DIVORCE CASES GRANTED

Bedford County Chancery Court	November, 2022
Thomas Edward Beech vs Natalie Shae Beech	Natalie Campos vs Kyle Brandon Davis
Heather Nicole Driver vs Heather Nichole Begley	Robert Lee Dye vs Amanda Lee Dunham
Sophia Ashley Ensey vs David Ryan Ensey	Karlie Nicole Franks vs Dillon Chase Franks
Shannon Nicole Haynes vs Jeffrey Steven Kochheiser	Russell Raymond Helm vs Dawn Michelle Helm
Anne Heather Higgins-Campos vs George Leobardo Campos	Leslie Renee Lusk vs Jason Eugene Lusk
Brian Keith Potts vs Peggy Michele Potts	Alyscia Danielle Spence vs Neil Davis Greenway
Michael Lee Swift Jr. vs Shanna Beasley Swift	Lauren Elizabeth Thompson vs Matthew James Thompson
Theresa Lucille Walker vs Corey Jarrod Walker	Manuel Bautista Zarraga vs Maria Campos
MARRIAGE LICENSES	James Horace Sutton and Kimilee McCrobieuphold
Calvin Duddley Floyd and Brittany Danielle Mullins	Justin Mark Baker and Kristin Leana Payne
Timothy James Dye and Andy Nicole Taylor	Christopher Rashad Morton and Savanna Sunshine Damron
CITY COURT	11/07/2022
Speeding—Sajjad M.	

PUBLIC RECORD

Abdel Rassoul, Bethany F. Bennett, Charles Henry Bess, Maria Campos Mendoza, Jacob H. Carlton, Jarren Lee Griffin, Kanen A. Guinn, Melissa Dawn Hambes, Yesenia Hernandez Estrada, Earl Gwynenn Locke, Mary Lynn Sanders, Jama Marie Southall, Michael B. Walker, Adrianna Danielle White, Tamra Shenell Whitley—all \$125, James W. Childers, Kieran Mitchell Craig, Holly Marie Donnell, Caleb A. Reid, Leeann M. Soden, Jose D. Villanueva—all \$130, Mark T. Clark, Jennifer N. Daniels Snelgrove, Morgan S. Floyd, Tyler N. Holman, Lucian Blaine Simmons—all \$105, Celeste Longoria \$155, Brianna H. Pinkston, Jesse A. Tussing—both \$185	Financial Responsibility (Insurance)— Toney Darnell Anderson Jr., Jennifer L. Duke, Nina Gail Evans, Adam Seth Mills, Ernesto Monterosas-Geronimo, Heidi L. Morris, Cierra A. Richards, Yovanny E. Ruiz, Michael G. Solis Loaiza, John David Wiser—all \$130, Charles Henry Bess, Mark T. Clark, Jennifer N. Daniels Snelgrove—all \$25, Claudia Solis Nunez \$115, Alice M. Wilson \$20	Registration Violation— Toney Darnell Anderson Jr., Angela M. Chism, Ernesto Monterosas-Geronimo—all \$10, Melanie K. Jackson, Tanya I. Sapero, Rachel A. Smith, James Edward Stem—all \$115
Animal Not Having Vaccinations— Bridgette N. Buntley, Roy Ben Mullins—both \$50	Dog Running At Large— Bridgette N.	

Buntley, Sandra Ann Garrett, Roy Ben Mullins—all \$155	Light Law Violation— Angela M. Chism \$115	Failure To Use Turn Signal(s)— Susan Marie Clanton \$125
Seatbelt Law— Gerald Joseph Delucia, James T. Lawrence—both \$55	Speeding In School Zone— Steve E. Elliott, Addison R. Woods—both \$190, Patricia A. Hutchinson \$105, Molly M. Marcum \$130, Robert Michael Mooneyham, Evie L. Robinson, Kylie A. Transki—all \$125	Failure To Yield Right Of Way— Chelsea R. Feldhaus, Ana Maria Perez Flores—both \$130, Alice M. Wilson \$105
Traffic Control Device (Red Light)— Dianne Gibbs \$125	Following Too Close— Mia C. Gordon \$190, Fathy T. Tawadrous \$130	Violation Window Tint Law— Phillip Allen Hammermeister, Deandre Leshawn Niece, Wesley C. O'Neal—all \$115
Traffic Control Device (Stop Sign)— Meghan Joan Hays, Rachel C. Lindsey, Andrew K. Ramkoomar—all \$125, Madison M. Polansky \$105	Distracted Driving (Hands Free)— Brittany E. McKee, Cierra A. Richards—both \$60	

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Nearest Green Distillery sales exceeded \$100 million

Uncle Nearest Premium Whiskey, the most-awarded Bourbon and American Whiskey of 2019, 2020, and 2021, announced that its sales exceeded \$100 million through October 2022, with an on-track forecast to more than double that total by the end of 2023.

Its recently expanded 233-acre distillery on U.S. 231 has already welcomed more than 100,000 guests with that number increasing significantly every week.

The company was founded by its CEO Fawn Weaver in 2017. She was then joined by Chief Business Officer Katharine Jerkens and, shortly after, Butler, the great-great-granddaughter of the company's namesake, Nearest Green, and four-time Master Blender of the Year recipient.

"For the longest time, folks were sitting around waiting for us to fail," said Victoria Eady Butler. "Well, more than five years into this level of growth, y'all can stop waiting. We are not a fad or some trendy brand — we are a purpose-driven, mission-oriented company. Uncle Nearest and Nearest Green Distillery aren't just here to stay, but to grow and sustain at a pace never seen before in our industry."

In June 2021, an expanded Nearest Green Distillery opened to the public, a project that has cost approximately \$50 million.

Last year, Uncle Nearest announced it had become the best-selling black American-founded, owned, and led spirit brand in U.S. history. With today's announcement, the company has taken on the world's largest.

The company's whiskey portfolio of seven offerings, available at its distillery in Shelbyville and in all 50 states, territories, and districts nationwide, ranges in suggested retail price from \$49.99 to \$149.

"To reach this and every other milestone on our horizon, we continue to push nonstop. Every penny this company has earned has gone back into the business, as well as to put Nearest Green's college-age descendants through college and to invest in minority-owned businesses and entrepreneurs through our Black Business Booster program (BBB), the Nearest and Jack Advancement Initiative (NJAI) and Uncle Nearest Ventures," said Weaver.

"Every cent we make in the future will continue



A display case of Uncle Nearest Whiskey at the Shelbyville distillery.

to do the same. We have an entire generation of women and people of color, who represent 70 percent of our country but still feel marginalized and underrepresented, counting on us. This group continues

to look to Uncle Nearest as proof that anything is possible. We will not let them down. With the support of one of the most loyal consumer bases in spirits, we will continue to do the 'impossible' so

they know, as long as they operate in excellence and refuse to give up, they can achieve whatever their heart believes."

On Black Friday, the company released its much-anticipated Single

Barrel Black Label at the distillery for \$79 and sold out of the first set of barrels immediately, requiring an additional bottling before doors opened the following morning.



T-G Photo by Zoe Watkins

Normandy mayor Charles Whitaker said it will be several months before they can begin the process of repaving.

Normandy

(Continued from Page 1)

"We don't have the fuel taxes and the funds coming in that every town gets because of our size. The size of those incomes is quite small, and we would never accumulate enough money to do our street repairs," Whitaker said.

They plan to repave all roads in the city limits — which many traveling on roads like Cascade Hollow will find to be a relief.

Whitaker said it will be several months before they can award a contract and begin the process of repaving the roads.

"It was a competitive grant and after the governor signs off on it, then we're able to start doing our environmental assessments and other paperwork we need to fill out," he said. "There was a lot of hard work done to get to this point and we're not there yet, but we're going to get there."

The CDBG program

is funded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development and administered in Tennessee by the Department of Economic and Community Development.

Funds are available for water and sewer improvements, housing rehabilitation, health and safety projects and other improvements to enhance the quality of life in Tennessee's rural communities. In addition to sidewalk improvements, the grants assist communities with other infrastructure improvements, housing rehabilitations and health and safety initiatives.

State Sen. Shane Reeves commented in a recent press release about Normandy's grant, saying, "I'm thrilled Normandy is receiving this grant that will make downtown Normandy safer and more accessible to pedestrians."

He continued, "Local officials did a fantastic job in securing this sizeable grant, and I look forward to the improvements made possible with this funding."

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KESHA CASSEUS
FNP-BC



CLEMENT ALUYI
M.D., MPH/TM, FACP

Merry Christmas!

Dr. Aluyi



What Did Santa Leave Under The Tree?

1. MOST BANDS HAVE SOMEONE PLAYING THESE _____
2. TURN THE CRANK AND HE WOULD JUMP OUT _____
3. HIS NAME IS "TEDDY" AND HE IS A _____
4. THIS GAME HAS PLACES LIKE BOARDWALK AND PARK PLACE _____
5. KEN HAD A GIRLFRIEND DOLL AND HER NAME WAS _____
6. CAUTION: "YOU'LL SHOOT YOUR EYE OUT" _____
7. A COLORFUL SMALL KEYBOARD, TWO STICKS, MAKE MUSIC _____
8. THIS CAN FLY AND TAKE PHOTOS ALSO WHILE FLYING _____
9. TOM BRADY GOT ONE AND STILL PLAYS WITH ONE _____
10. THESE DOLLS CAME WITH A NAME AND A CERTIFIED# _____
11. TALK TO EACH OTHER OUTSIDE OR IN DIFFERENT ROOMS _____
12. IF IT SHOULD SNOW YOU WOULD USE THIS _____
13. FOR THE FUTURE COOKIE BAKER, SANTA LEFT AN _____
14. MAYBE A NEW ONE FROM THE APPLE STORE _____
15. FOR DAD, SANTA LEFT A TOY MADE BY LIONEL _____
16. FOR MOM HE LEFT A STRAND OF _____
17. FOR THE FUTURE DR. OR NURSE _____
18. COUNTRY COWBOYS WANTED THIS TO PLAY _____
19. RADIO FLYER WAS THE NAME OF ONE MAKER OF THESE _____
20. "THE REAL STORY OF CHRISTMAS IS IN THIS BOOK" _____



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FTC sues to block Microsoft-Activision Blizzard \$69B merger

By MATT O'BRIEN
 AP Technology Writer

The Federal Trade Commission on Thursday sued to block Microsoft's planned \$69 billion takeover of video game company Activision Blizzard, saying it could suppress competitors to Microsoft's Xbox game consoles and its growing games subscription business.

The FTC's challenge could be a test case for President Joe Biden's mandate to scrutinize big tech mergers. The commission voted 3-1 to issue the complaint after a closed-door meeting, with the three Democratic commissioners voting in favor and the sole Republican voting against.

The complaint points to Microsoft's previous game acquisitions, especially of well-known developer Bethesda Softworks and its parent company ZeniMax, as an example of where Microsoft made some popular game titles exclusive despite assuring European regulators it had no intention to do so.

"Microsoft has already shown that it can and will withhold content from its gaming rivals," said a prepared statement from Holly Vedova, director of the FTC's Bureau of Competition. "Today we seek to stop Microsoft from gaining control over a leading independent game studio and using it to harm competition in multiple dynamic and fast-growing gaming markets."

Microsoft's president, Brad Smith, signaled in a statement Thursday that the company is likely to challenge the FTC's decision.

"While we believed in giving peace a chance, we have complete confidence in our case and welcome the opportunity to present our case in court," Smith said.

The company had been ramping up its public defense of the deal in recent days as it awaited a decision. Smith said Microsoft has been committed to addressing competition concerns and brought proposed concessions to the FTC earlier this week.

"We continue to believe that this deal will expand competition and create more opportunities for gamers and game developers," Smith said.

Microsoft announced the merger deal in January but has faced months of resistance from Sony, which makes the competing PlayStation console and has raised concerns with antitrust watchdogs around the world about losing access to popular Activision Blizzard game franchises such as Call of Duty.



Doug Dezotell
Musings and Memories

Candlelight Christmas Eve service

I want to invite you to join me on Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. for a Candlelight Communion Service at Cannon Methodist Church. We will rejoice together as we celebrate the Birth of Christ through music and the Word. I won't be preaching, but I will read the Story of Christmas from the Bible. We will sing together...others will share Christmas Hallelujahs and songs of rejoicing on this Holy Evening... And we will share Holy Communion in the Light of Candles together. Bring your family, invite your friends, or come by yourself and join me and my family and friends as we bring Honor and Glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Let me share with you a story I read about an 18th century composer, a Christian songwriter who fought depression as he went through life... At one point in his life he battled with the successes of the past and the fears of the future. He was broke, bankrupt, and filled with fear. On top of that he had a cerebral hemorrhage that left him partially paralyzed. He was afraid that the musical genius that had made him a wealthy man was gone. And he was filled with sorrow. The Bible verses that were once his friends and had brought him hope and comfort and peace, seemed to disappear and all that his soul could hear were texts such as "Why have you forsaken me?"

In the midst of his depression, a friend came by with a collection of Bible verses he had organized for him. The man suggested that his friend put some music to the texts that he gave him. The composer looked at the text that read, "He was despised and rejected of man." And that was exactly how he felt himself. He read other Bible verses such as the "one for whom no one had pity." He read about the one who trusted God in spite of it all. He read the words, "I know my Redeemer liveth."

Then he saw the words "rejoice" and "hallelujah." That night, the songwriter, George Frederic Handel, one of the greatest composers of all time, was blessed by what he referred to as a "gentle cosmic light." Through the prayers of his friend and the Word of God that he shared with him, Handel slowly came out of the darkness. That sorrow and darkness was overwhelmed by the Light, and a desire to write music once again flooded his soul. Handel read those Bible verses over and over, again and again, and God's Word flooded his soul. He then worked and wrote tirelessly for days until his manuscript was finished. Handel then went to his bed, and he slept for 17 hours straight.



Mark McGee
My Take

Colonoscopy

She didn't have to die. The death of actress Kirstie Alley is a tragedy. What is even more tragic is she died from colon cancer.

Colon cancer can be contained and cured if caught early enough, more than most cancers. I know because it happened to me earlier this year. I have written about it before, but Alley's death at 71 and the fact her cancer had only recently been discovered, prompted me to write about it again.

The American Cancer Society suggests starting screening at the age of 45 though some think it should start at 40 since colon or colorectal cancer is increasing in younger people.

Any sign of bleeding either in your stools or as part of your bowel movements should prompt you to seek a doctor's advice immediately. It was first determined I had hemorrhoids, but I was later instructed to have a colonoscopy as a precaution.

Thanks goodness I followed those instructions. Two polyps were discovered. One was benign and was removed. The other showed early signs of cancer...so early it didn't even have a stage. I had undergone a colonoscopy five years before, which is considered to be a reasonable interval before you should schedule the next one. No one could really pinpoint how long the cancer had been growing.

Due to the early discovery, there was no sense of urgency to schedule my surgery. I underwent it a few months after the diagnosis. It was determined the cancer had been contained in the polyp and had not spread to my lymph nodes or any other part of my body.

"You are cancer free," my gastroenterologist said. You can't receive a more exciting statement from a physician.

Colon issues are not something we talk about in casual conversation, but everyone should be diligent. No one wants a fatal surprise from an easily curable cancer.

The preparation for a colonoscopy is not a lot of fun. I won't get into the specifics, but I do suggest you select a good book to read before starting the prep process.

The surgery is even less fun. The soreness in your stomach takes a few days to ease and for the month following surgery you eat a bland diet. The emphasis is on bland. I still have trouble looking at mashed potatoes.

Two days after Christmas I have another colonoscopy scheduled to make sure everything is still good. I think for awhile this may be an annual part of my holiday festivities.

This is a time for family celebrations and for making New Year's resolutions. Make a promise to yourself to get tested so you can be around next year.



FLAT CREEK VOLUNTEERS



Submitted Photos
ABOVE: Roger and June Debatin of Flat Creek had some fun Saturday night taking this photo with Santa at the community center.
LEFT: These two teens demonstrate that you're never too old to sit on Santa's lap. Well, at least one did.

'No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.'

Charles Dickens, author of "A Christmas Carol."

Small community, big hearts, in Flat Creek

'Tis the season to give

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

The Flat Creek community reportedly had a great time hosting Santa at the community center last Saturday! But even the jolly guy in the red suit couldn't knock the shine off what the community is doing this season for its own.

The community's Bryant Morton made a presentation at the Dec. 3 community center meeting for a smoked ham fundraiser for Flat Creek's own, Carol McGee, who is starting chemotherapy.

It was agreed that this benefit meat sale will be Saturday, Dec. 17. Purdom's BBQ and 931 BBQ in Flat Creek will smoke hams for \$55 each.

The hams can be ordered through Lynchburg Veterinary Hospital, located on Majors Boulevard in Lynchburg. Those interested may stop in at the clinic or order by phone at 931-759-5550 through Wednesday, Dec. 14. Pick up will be 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec 17, at the Flat Creek Fire Hall.

"This will bless a family that has blessed so many in our area," said Roger Debatin, a FCVFD volunteer.

In other Flat Creek news:

Barking Pig BBQ will be cooking during Flat Creek's regular, Christmas Eve meat sale. Details forthcoming.

The Barking Pig BBQ team recently competed and placed seventh during the World Food barbecue competition in Dallas, Texas.

Share Christmas memories, traditions

IT'S A FAMILY TRADITION

What are some of your long-standing family traditions on Christmas Eve or Day—playing a game of football, cooking that traditional recipe together or reading a favorite quote or story? We invite readers to share thoughts and or photos with us at tgnews@t-g.com.

WHEN YOU BELIEVE . . .

There are many ways to put the heart into Christmas decor this season. But most of all, shop local to find those spiritual elements.



Santa letters

Email your Santa letters to: tgnews@t-g.com or deliver to the Times-Gazette news department at 323 E. Depot Street.

SOUP KITCHEN



Submitted Photo
Kay Bartley, left, presented a program for the Shelbyville Rotary Club about the Community Soup Kitchen. At right is Rotary president Darin Hasty.

'Cheers star' Kirstie Alley dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kirstie Alley, a two-time Emmy winner whose roles on the TV mega hit "Cheers" and in the "Look Who's Talking" films made her one of the biggest stars in American comedy in the late 1980s and early 1990s, died Monday. She was 71.



Alley died of cancer that was only recently discovered, her children True and Lillie Parker said in a Twitter post. Alley's manager, Donovan Daughtry, confirmed the death in an email to The Associated Press.

"As iconic as she was on screen, she was an even more amazing mother and grandmother," her children's statement said.

She starred opposite Ted Danson as Rebecca Howe on "Cheers," the beloved NBC sitcom about a Boston bar, from 1987 to 1993. She joined the show at the height of its popularity after the departure of original star Shelley Long.

Alley would win an Emmy for best lead actress in a comedy series for the role in 1991. "I only thank God I didn't have to wait as long as Ted," Alley said in her acceptance, gently ribbing Danson, who had finally won an Emmy for his "Cheers" role as Sam Malone in his eighth nomination the previous year.

She would take a second Emmy for best lead actress in a miniseries or television movie in 1993 for playing the title role in the CBS TV movie "David's Mother."

She had her own sitcom on the network, "Veronica's Closet," from 1997 to 2000.

In the 1989 comedy "Look Who's Talking," which gave her a major career boost, she played the mother of a baby who's inner thoughts were voiced by Bruce Willis. She would also appear in a 1990 sequel "Look Who's Talking Too," and another in 1993, "Look Who's Talking Now."

John Travolta, her co-star in the trilogy, paid her tribute on Instagram. "Kirstie was one of the most special relationships I've ever had," Travolta said, along with a photo of Alley. "I love you Kirstie. I know we will see each other again."

She would play a fictionalized version of herself in the 2005 Showtime series "Fat Actress," a show that drew comedy from her public and media treatment over her weight gain and loss.

She dealt with the same subject matter in the 2010 A&E reality series "Kirstie

Alley's Big Life," which chronicled her attempt to lose weight and launch a weight-loss program while working as a single mother in an unconventional household that included pet lemurs.

Alley said she agreed to do the show in part because of the misinformation about her that had become a tabloid staple. "Anything bad you can say about me, they say," Alley told the AP at the time. "I've never collapsed, fainted, passed out. Basically, anything they've said, I never. The only true thing is I got fat."

In recent years she appeared on several other reality shows, including a second-place finish on "Dancing With the Stars" in 2011. She appeared on the competition series "The Masked Singer" wearing a baby mammoth costume earlier this year.

She appeared in the Ryan Murphy black comedy series "Scream Queens" on Fox in 2015 and 2016. One of her co-stars on the show, Jamie Lee Curtis, said on Instagram Monday that Alley was "a great comic foil" on the show and "a beautiful mama bear in her very real life."

Alley's "Cheers" co-star Kelsey Grammer said in a statement that "I always believed grief for a public figure is a private matter, but I will say I loved her."

Another "Cheers" co-star, Rhea Perlman, recounted how she and Alley became friends almost instantly after she joined the show. She said Alley organized large Easter and Halloween parties and invited everyone. "She wanted everyone to feel included. She loved her children deeply. I've never met anyone remotely like her. I feel so thankful to have known her."

A native of Wichita, Kan., Alley attended Kansas State University before dropping out and moving to Los Angeles.

Like Travolta, she would become a longtime member of the Church of Scientology.

Tyree publishes second book, "Why Pro Life"

Author addresses liberty, personal responsibility

By DAWN HANKINS dhankins@t-g.com

Marshall County resident and longtime Times-Gazette contributor, Danny Tyree, announces the publication of his second inspirational book, "Why Pro Life."

He writes in the pages that ironically, these thoughts actually began 40 years ago when he was a student at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. It was at time that someone wrote him a scathing letter about some words he published in the student newspaper about abortion.

It was insulting. The writer stated his mother should have aborted him.

The words were easy to store away at the time but hard to forget, especially with all that's in the news today. Read the book to uncover more of Danny's feelings even today on the ongoing debate.

Within the pages of "Why Pro Life," Tyree examines the issue of unplanned pregnancies, abortion and sanctity of life. The book is dedicated to Marshall County native, Andrew Wood, executive director of Hope Resource Center in Knoxville—a program providing free, holistic assistance to women with reproductive needs.

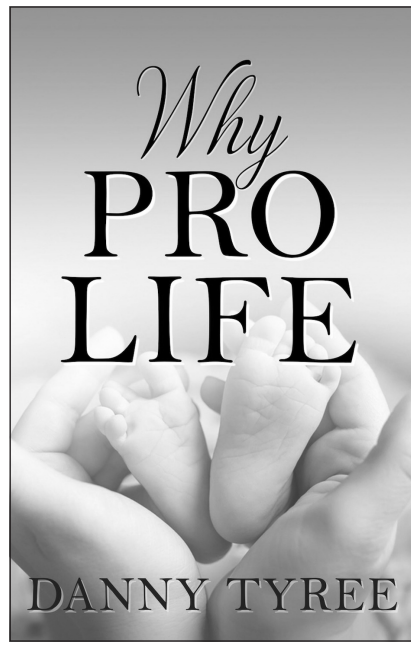


Danny Tyree

"Why Pro Life" is available in both paperback and Kindle ebook formats, just in time for Christmas. Amazon permits potential purchasers to preview the first two chapters free of charge.

The societal nature of this book

With the fall of the landmark ruling of Roe v. Wade, the war over abortion has entered a peril-fraught new stage, according to Tyree. "Activists on both sides have retreated to the comfort zone of their ideological foxholes, leaving millions



of Americans to wander aimlessly in No Man's Land."

So into the "fray" so marches this veteran author and self-proclaimed political science enthusiast. Tyree draws upon his Biblical background and his years of personal experience as a syndicated columnist for media outlets, like the Times-Gazette, to present thoughts on the subject of women's reproductive health.

Editor's note: November 2023 is the scheduled date for the publication of a 25-year celebration of Tyree's nationally syndicated Tyrades! column, featuring 50 favorite essays. Stay tuned!

Did someone say... "Shazam"?

Saint Nick wasn't the only man in a red suit that magical Christmas season 50 years ago.

On Saturday December 23, 1972, I walked from my house to Sharp's Drive-In Market and splurged on four 20-cent comic books.

One of my selections was heavily influenced by an ad appearing in DC Comics: "Coming in December...DC's Christmas gift to you! Shazam is coming!"

I could scarcely wait to rush home and open my copy of "Shazam!" #1. Unfortunately, my gut reaction upon seeing the interior artwork was, "What's this cartoony junk???" You see, I had recently sworn off "kiddie" comics. But "Shazam!" grew on me. By the second issue, it was my favorite title.

"Shazam!" #1 featured the triumphant return of "the original Captain Marvel" and his extended family. Introduced in Fawcett's "Whiz Comics" #2 (cover-dated February 1940), Captain Marvel was the alter ego of boy reporter Billy Batson. By speaking the magic word "Shazam!,"

Billy summoned a mystical bolt of lightning and transformed into a costumed adult super-hero who saved the world from countless threats.

During the 1940s (what comics aficionados refer to as the Golden Age of Comics), Captain Marvel appeared in his own 12-chapter Republic movie serial and even outsold Superman on the newsstands.

But "the world's mightiest mortal" went into limbo in 1953 because of (a) the declining popularity of super-heroes and (b) a long-running lawsuit in which DC accused the good captain of being a rip-off of Superman.

That's why "Shazam!" was such a big deal in 1972, bringing Captain Marvel and the rest of the Marvel Family back to a nostalgia-crazed world after almost 20 years. (The comic had to be named "Shazam!" after the magic word and the wizard who gave it to Billy, because in the ensuing decades rival Marvel Comics had trademarked the name Captain Marvel and introduced the first of a series of heroes bearing

that name. Countless fans over the past half-century have gotten the book title and hero name confused, so DC officially changed the hero's name to Shazam circa 2012.

Still...even though the revival spawned a fondly remembered live-action CBS Saturday morning program and a 1981 NBC animated version, the Big Red Cheese (as arch-villain Doctor Thaddeus Bodog Sivana dubbed him) never matched his former glory. (When I was writing for "Comics Buyer's Guide" magazine in 1987, I received a letter from Captain Marvel co-creator C.C. Beck, lamenting that the modern handlers had made the character either too silly or too grim, rarely capturing the delicate balance of whimsy and suspense that marked the original incarnation.)

I'm glad DC keeps going back to the drawing board, trying to let the do-gooder live up to his potential. My family enjoyed the 2019 movie and looks forward to next year's sequel, "Shazam! Fury of the Gods."

I hope that this Christmas some lucky child



Danny Tyree Tyrades

finds Shazam! graphic novels or a DVD of the aforementioned movie under the tree.

We still need to believe in the triumph of good over evil.

We still need some good, clean fun.

And we sometimes need to comfort ourselves with the fantasy that one magic word could endow us with the strength to solve all our problems.

I heard rumors that the concept has even reached the White House, whose current occupant perhaps read the 1940s adventures of Captain Marvel.

"With one magic word...fourscore and seven years ago..."

Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades."

Toying with Santa's snacks

Courtesy of The Dairy Alliance

The winter holidays are full of fun traditions for children and the rest of the family. Decorating the house, watching classic movies, and more fill the colder months.

One fun and simple tradition for many children is leaving a snack of milk and cookies for their favorite person: Santa Claus. Every year, Santa finds a special plate of cookies and a tall glass of milk by the tree. But every year, at every house, does Santa find the same snack awaiting him?

The jolly old elf is grateful, of course, but there's nothing wrong with adjusting a classic, especially when it leads to family fun in the kitchen. During the holiday season, change up the fun tradition of what



you serve to Santa Claus on his yearly visit to your children.

Here are some ideas:

- ✓ Create a goody for the "elves." They're enjoying the holiday back in the North Pole, but they would love to hear from the kids they spend the year building toys for. Suggest a holiday card, a note, or a small goody bag for Santa to deliver.
- ✓ Swap out the cookies.

Santa deserves a sweet dessert, but it doesn't have to be cookies. Let your child make their favorite dessert to share with the jolly old elf. It can be a slice of pie, a mini dessert, or whatever treat the family can enjoy before bedtime.

✓ Add veggies for the reindeer. They do lots of the heavy lifting—er, flying. While they may not be able to enjoy the same snack as the big man of the

North Pole, they deserve some recognition. Set out some carrots or leafy greens for a treat they can enjoy between houses.

✓ Add flavor to his milk and cookies. Santa loves his white milk and cookies, but after stopping at every child's home, give Santa Claus some flavored milk for a tasty surprise. Or switch out the milk for some holiday eggnog!

FLAT CREEK CELEBRATES HOLIDAY



Christmas came early at Flat Creek Community Center last Saturday. Residents enjoyed everything from festive music to family photos with St. Nick.

Submitted Photo

Two long-time Shelbyville physicians retire

HISTORY IN SHELBYVILLE

CLOSING UP THE OFFICE



T-G Photo by Dawn Hankins

Dr. Sammy Sells has a long history of serving as a medical professional in this community. His office team recently finished up the move from the North Side Professional Building. Dr. Sammy (far right) recently made the decision to retire. From left, wife, Shedra Sells, and Kelly Cochran, medical assistant.



T-G Photo by Dawn Hankins

Dr. Danny Melson (center) recently closed his long-time practice at North Side Professional Building. He has served several generations as local pediatrician. Assisting him in closing up the front office recently, from left, were Angela Vincent, LPN for 20 years, and wife, Linda Melson, who has worked in the practice alongside Dr. Danny for many years.

Watch for 'charity' scams

Charitable giving grew in 2021. According to Blackbaud Institute, a social good innovator, giving not only increased after COVID-19, but actually rebounded more than it had in a decade — increasing in the United States by 9 percent overall.

Annual private philanthropy as a percentage of GDP is about 1.44 percent in the United States. Philanthropy Roundtable reports that rate in Canada is 0.77 percent.

People tend to give the most to charity at the end of the year. While legitimate organizations may step up their solicitation of donations at this time, scammers also real-

ize the months of November and December is prime giving season. So many scammers increase their deceptive tactics to cheat unsuspecting individuals at this time of year. Here are four common charity scams that every prospective donor should be aware of.

1. Impersonating another charity . . . Most philanthropic groups have an online presence in some shape or form. Scammers will replicate the look of the charitable group's website or social media account, or may contact you through email or text to solicit funds. Thinking it is a legitimate charity, you may follow a link to enter

donation information.

To avoid this scam, do not click on any links. Rather, enter the exact email address of a charity, if you know it, or use a trusted resource like Charity Navigator for contact information. If you're still leery about online transactions, call the charity and ask to be sent a donation statement in the mail, which you should be able to mail back postage-paid.

2. The hard sell. A legitimate charity is happy to welcome a donation any time you're able to give it. A scam operation may employ a hard sell or a deadline by which the donation must be made. In addition, a fraudulent

"charity" might ask for payment only by cash, gift card or wire transfer (because it is difficult to trace), and this should raise a red flag that something is amiss.

3. A thank-you for your donation. AARP warns that some scammers will send you a thank-you for a donation that you supposedly already made to entice you to give again. This is designed to lower your inhibitions about a soliciting charity. It's always a good idea to keep records of charitable giving, especially for tax-related reporting, so you can easily verify if you gave to a group in the past.

4. Cryptocurrency wallet. As methods of making



payments change, scam groups often ride the wave. The Federal Trade Commission learned that when the government of Ukraine announced it would be accepting donations to support their efforts via a cryptocurrency wallet, scammers started getting in on the action. But instead of the

funds getting sent to the government's wallet, the donations headed to a private wallet.

Always conduct an online search of the wallet address to confirm that money is being sent to the right place. Typically you can't reverse cryptocurrency payments, so due diligence is required.

Doug

(Continued from Page 1)

His friends thought he might be dead, and they called a doctor to examine him.

But, Handel was alive and he woke up filled with Joy.

Out of that depression and darkness came the Light of Handel's "Messiah."

Someone wrote, "Out of that depression was left for us a light that would light the corridors of the lives of countless millions for all ages. Out of that darkness, a man in a deep depression began punching holes in the darkness."

God punches holes in the darkness through His

Son, Jesus the Messiah... The Light of the World.

And He can and will punch holes in the darkness of your life too.

Put your trust in Jesus the Messiah, and celebrate the Heavenly King.

"Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!"

•Doug Dezotell is the pastor of Cannon United Methodist Church. He is a columnist for the Times-Gazette, a husband, a father, a grandfather, and your friend. He can be reached at dougdezotell@gmail.com or at 931-607-5191. Join him on Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. for the Candle Light Communion Service. The church is located at 1001 South Cannon Blvd. in Shelbyville.

A sweet, melty holiday sandwich

(Family Features) All that holiday hustle and bustle can work up some real hunger. Between decorating, baking and preparing for entertaining, hosts often earn an afternoon snack.

When you and your loved ones need a boost of energy before guests arrive, turn to a fresh ingredient like Envy apples, which provide an easy way to whip up a delicious sandwich due to their sweet taste and availability. The sweet, sophisticated flavor; uplifting, fresh aroma; delightfully satisfying crunch; beautiful appearance; and naturally white flesh all lend themselves to this Apple Cranberry Havarti Melt. As a quick, simple way to reenergize before the big party, it's a perfect snack the whole family can enjoy together.

Visit EnvyApple.com to



Apple Cranberry Havarti Melt

find more holiday-worthy recipes from breakfast and snacks to the main course and sweet desserts.

Apple Cranberry Havarti Melt

Servings: 4
2 tablespoons melted butter
8 oat-wheat bread slices

1/2 cup cranberry sauce
12 ounces Havarti cheese
2 Envy apples
Preheat oven to 450 F.
Lightly butter one side of each bread slice and place on baking sheet butter side down. On side without butter, spread cranberry sauce on half of bread slices.

Slice Havarti cheese about 1/4-inch thick and place over cranberry layer. Thinly slice apples and layer over cheese. Top with remaining bread slices with butter side up.

Bake 5 minutes then carefully flip each sandwich. Bake 3-5 minutes until cheese is melty.

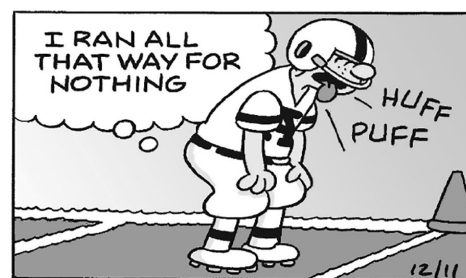
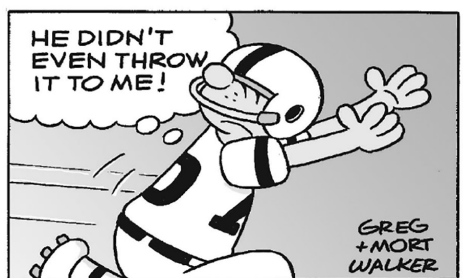
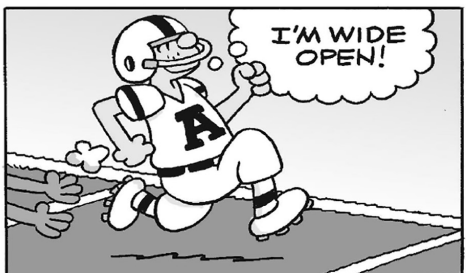
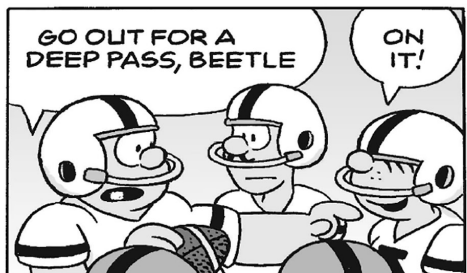
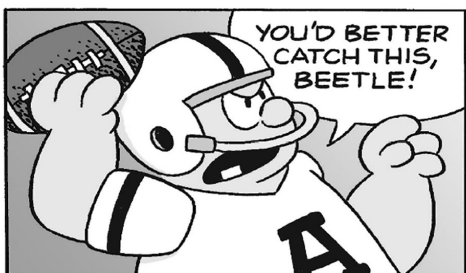
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Mort Walker's **beetle bailey**



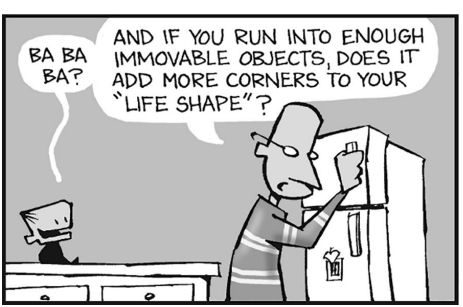
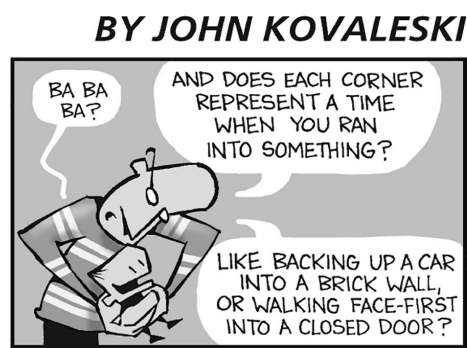
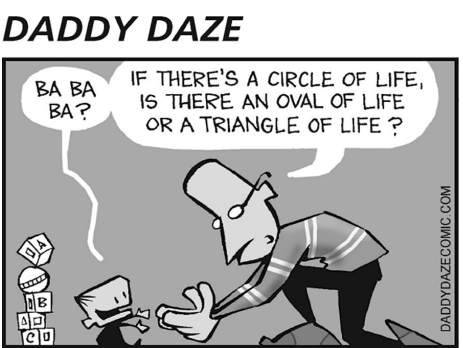
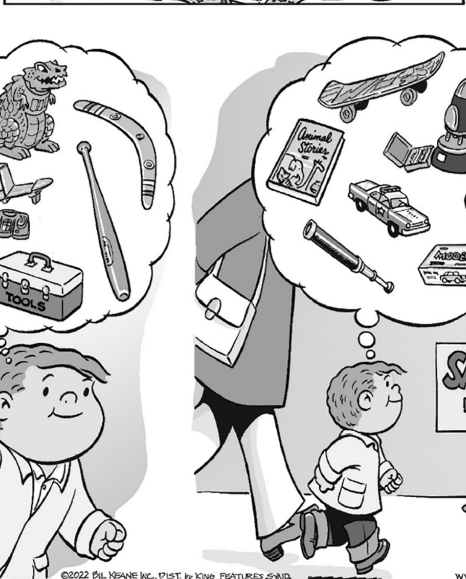
Hank Ketchum's **Dennis the Menace** SONNYSIDE UP!



BLONDIE BY DEAN REGAN & JOHN MARSHALL



The FAMILY CIRCUS By Bill Keane



SALLY FORTH

by Francesco Marciuliano

HEY, RONAN, I WAS WONDERING IF WE COULD TALK ABOUT... AND OF COURSE YOU'RE EXPERTLY CHOPPING WOOD.

HEY, TED, WHAT'S UP?

SO I GOT WORRIED WHEN SHE SAID SHE'D MET SOMEONE BECAUSE I DON'T WANT HER TO GET HURT AGAIN. SHE DESERVES THE BEST.

BUT OF COURSE SHE KNOWS WHAT SHE'S DOING—AND YOU'VE DONE NOTHING BUT BE KIND AND ATTENTIVE TO MY MOM, SO I'M REALLY HAPPY YOU TWO FOUND EACH OTHER.

12-11

LISTEN, I... I WANT TO APOLOGIZE.

NO WORRIES. ANYONE CAN CLOG UP A TOILET.

THANK YOU, TED. THAT... THAT MEANS A GREAT DEAL TO ME.

WHAT? NO, I MEAN, YEAH, THAT WAS ME AND I'M GONNA HELP. BUT I MEAN I'M SORRY I'VE BEEN STANDOFFISH WITH YOU. MY MOM DIDN'T HAVE THE EASIEST TIME WITH MY DAD. HE DEMANDED A LOT AND DIDN'T GIVE MUCH IN RETURN...

SOOO... YOU GONNA NEXT USE THAT AX TO RESCUE PEOPLE FROM FIRES OR JUST SLAM IT INTO ROCK FACE AND SCALE A MOUNTAINSIDE?

ACTUALLY, I'M GONNA FINISH CHOPPING FIREWOOD SO WE CAN HAVE S'MORES. WANNA SEE IF WE HAVE ENOUGH MARSH-MALLOWS?

KEEFE

The PHANTOM

by LEE FALK

ERRRRR... RROOOWWII... WE'VE GOT HER... SHE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE...

MARVELOUS! NOW TELL ME WHY!

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO CAPTURE THIS... THIS...?

I-I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO CALL IT!!

WHAT'S DONE IS DONE... SHE'S COMING WITH US.

ERRRRR...

WITH US!?

THINK OF HER AS THE...? ...THE WORLD'S MOST EXOTIC PET!

OH, I DON'T KNOW...

AT LEAST UNTIL WE GET TO THE SURFACE. WE'LL RELEASE HER THERE.

www.thephantomcomics.com

CAPTURED BY THE PHANTOM IN THE TEMPLE OF THE GODS!

ERRRRR... ERRRRR...

THINGS ARE LOOKING UP, DIANA! IF SHE HAD RUN AWAY, SHE MIGHT BE LEADING THE REST OF HER SPECIES HERE RIGHT NOW.

ERRRRR...

DARLING, WHY ON EARTH WOULD YOU WANT TO CAPTURE THIS THING?

IT WASN'T MY IDEA. SHE HAD A CHANCE TO RUN... SHE CAME AT ME ON THE ATTACK!

WHATEVER SHE IS, THAT SORT OF FURY MUST BE THE NATURE OF HER SPECIES.

YOU KNOW... THAT... THAT...

...ACTUALLY IS A GOOD THING, ISN'T IT?

Tony DePaul & Jeff Weigel 12-11-22

Hi and LOIS

by BRIAN and GREG WALKER

CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE

WE'LL TAKE IT!

DAD!

WE NEED TO SET IT UP QUICKLY.

WHY IS THIS ONE SO MUCH CHEAPER?

IT'S A LITTLE SCRRAWNY ON ONE SIDE.

CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE

THAT LOOKS NICE.

YOU'D NEVER KNOW.

DON'T TELL YOUR MOTHER.

WHAT?

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ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

JEREMY, THERE'S SOME MAIL FOR YOU ON THE COUNTER.

'K.

WHAT IS IT?

A CHRISTMAS CARD FROM MY GRANDMA...

...WITH A FIFTY-DOLLAR BILL INSIDE!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH IT?

I DUNNO.

EXCHANGE IT FOR A GIFT CARD, I GUESS.

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THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER

2'RUAHTRA

LORETTA HAS GOTTEN GOOD AT DISGUIISING HER VOICE. SO IF SOMEONE WHO SOUNDS LIKE MORGAN FREEMAN CALLS, I'M NOT HERE.

"I FOUND HIM IN THE 'TEN BRAIN CELLS OR LESS' AISLE IN THE SUPERMARKET."

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FUNKY WINKERBEAN

by TOM BATIUK

SO, NOW THAT I'VE FOUND OUT WHO YOU ARE... DOES THAT RUIN THINGS IN REGARD TO MY BOOK?

NO... YOU FIGURED IT ALL OUT ON YOUR OWN, SO... OBVIOUSLY, IT WAS MEANT TO HAPPEN.

ONE LAST QUESTION... AFTER I WRITE 'WESTVIEW', DO I WRITE OTHER BOOKS... OR CAN'T YOU TELL ME THAT?

SINCE YOU ASKED, I CAN... AND YOU DON'T.

THAT'S DISAPPOINTING.

IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION...

YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER WILL WRITE YOUR BIOGRAPHY!

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SLYLOCK FOX

BY BOB WEBER JR.

The gym manager suspects that while he was retrieving towels from the storeroom, a glove-wearing Harry Ape sneaked behind the counter and guzzled liquid protein. Harry's fingerprints were not on the containers. On what surface behind the counter did Slylock Fox find Harry's prints?

Answer -- Slylock found a match for Harry's fingerprints on the floor behind the counter. Like humans, gorillas have fingerprints on the floor.

WEBER/SATU 12-11

Spot six differences between these panels.

Answer -- Coin, piggy bank, pillow, freckles, cat's eyes and sock.

NEW! Slylock Fox: Spot the Six Differences book is here! Available at www.slylockfox.com

"THE LENHARTS JUST UNSUBSCRIBED FROM OUR CHRISTMAS CARD LIST."

HOW TO DRAW an owl

YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Shrushti, age 17

How many eyes do spiders have?

a) Eight
b) Six
c) Four
d) Two
e) Zero

Answer -- All of the above. Most spiders have eight eyes, but some can have six, four, two or zero eyes.

"CAN'T WE EVER TAKE THE LANE LEGS TRAVELED?"

BUSY LOCAL PERFORMERS



T-G Photo by David Melson
Mid-State Cloggers have been busy this holiday season, performing last Saturday in Bell Buckle and during the Shelbyville Christmas Parade. This Saturday, Dec. 10, they will travel to Winchester.

Community Foundation accepting scholarship applications

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, a charitable organization connecting generosity with need in 40 middle Tennessee counties and beyond, announces its annual scholarship application process opened Dec. 1, and will continue through Feb. 1, 2023.

Applicants can go online at <https://www.cfmt.org/grants-scholarships/scholarships/>. CFMT administers about 160 scholarship funds, established by individuals, companies and civic groups. Students may be eligible for multiple scholarships and need only to submit one application. Whether a student is studying law or horticulture, planning a career in criminal justice or teaching, or studying at a technical school or four-year university, The Community Foundation's scholarship program supports individuals from various backgrounds and communities seeking funding for educational opportunities.

Scholarships also are available for students in middle Tennessee who are legally blind or are cancer survivors. "There are many wonderful ways to give back, but seeing members of our community give to ensure students across Middle Tennessee can access education is, in my opinion, one of the best," said Shelbyville native, Kelly Pietkiewicz, CFMT's scholarship coordinator. "Education is the true key to so many successes in life, and our donors are making it possible for students from all walks of life." In 2022, a total of



\$830,373 was awarded to 323 individual students from 97 of The Community Foundation's scholarship funds. The students are attending 162 unique colleges and universities from 33 states. For a complete list of scholarships and the online application, visit The Community Foundation's website at <https://www.cfmt.org/grants-scholarships/scholarships/>. Applicants will be notified of results in mid-April.

About the foundation

The Community Foundation accepts gifts of any size from anyone at any time. The non profit strives to empower individuals, families, companies, non-profits, and communities to respond to needs and opportunities that matter.

For more information, call 615-321-4939 or visit www.cfmt.org.

CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM



T-G Photo by Dawn Hankins

There's nothing better than a Tennessee Christmas, especially on the farm. These area residents kept the theme of their country home within their Christmas decorating.

MOO-VING ON TO THE HOLIDAY



At first glance . . . no, it's not a real calf. But what a great Christmas decoration for this area farm.



Fire safety protocols for holiday decorating

Decorating the interior and exterior of a home is a beloved holiday season tradition in millions of households. Such decor makes it easy to dive into the festive nature of the season.

Many people could not imagine a holiday season without decorating their homes, and it's vital that celebrants do so safely. Fire safety is especially important during a time of year when string lights and potentially dried out trees feature so prominently. These fire safety tips can ensure this holiday season is safe.

- Buy the safest lights. It might be tempting to buy the most inexpensive lights, especially given all the extra costs already associated with the holiday season. However, safety should be the utmost priority when buying new lights. Testing laboratories such as CSA, Intertek and UL certify products to ensure they're safe for use. Products that aren't certified should be avoided.

- Use lights and cords where they're intended to be used. The packaging on lights will indicate if the product is intended to be used indoors or outdoors. It's vital that individuals decorating their homes with lights pay attention to these labels. Never decorate the exterior of a home with interior lights, and vice versa. Extension cords made for indoors also should not be used outdoors and vice versa.

- Be especially careful with candles. Candles should only be burned when adults are in the room and should always be extin-

guished before leaving the room or going to bed. When burning candles, place them on heat-resistant surfaces that are beyond the reach of curious kids and pets. Never place candles within arm's length of Christmas trees or houseplants, including poinsettias.

- Ask an electrician to inspect your exterior outlets and circuits. Ground fault circuit interruptor (GFCI) outlets are designed to prevent electric shocks and reduce the risk of electrical fires. Most areas now require new homes be built exclusively with GFCIs, which are recognizable because they feature two buttons between the outlets. But older homes may not be equipped with GFCIs, particularly with exterior outlets. GFCI installation is not an especially expensive job, so homeowners should ask an electrician to inspect their interior and exterior outlets and replace non-GFCIs with GFCIs.
- Do not pinch light cords. Stringing lights can be a hassle, but cords should never be pinched in doors or windows or beneath interior and exterior furniture. Doing so increases the risk of damage to the cord, which in turn increases the likelihood of fire.

- Avoid overloading circuits. Overloaded circuits pose a significant fire hazard. When plugging in lights, choose outlets that aren't already occupied by devices and other electronics. If need be, unplug appliances like televisions and devices while lights are on and plugged in.

HEY BUDDY!



NDDR Photo

Sponsor dogs like little "Buddy" with Christmas items. A need is good food for mature dogs like Buddy. At around 14 years of age, he has no eyes but loves to play just the same. Drop off items Thursdays through Saturdays at New Destiny Dog Rescue, 202 East Highland Avenue.



Jack Daniel's barrel tree sales on

Proceeds benefit military families

T-G Staff Report

Whiskey barrels from Jack Daniel's Barrel Trees constructed around the country are now available for purchase. Proceeds benefit Jack Daniel's Operation Ride Home—a program in partnership with the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA.)

Each year, Operation Ride Home assist junior-enlisted service members and families with travel from their respective military bases to the arms of their loved ones.

The Jack Daniel's Barrel Tree event is a tradition that started in 2011 at the Jack Daniel Distillery in Lynchburg. More than 1,300 Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey barrels were used.

Barrels from the trees are now available for purchase through Dec. 21 for \$150 with 100% of proceeds going to Operation Ride Home. Barrels purchased will be available for pickup at each local site. Visit operationridehome.com for more details and to purchase a barrel.

Since 2011, Operation Ride Home has raised more than \$2.3 million in donations and helped send more than 10,000 individual service members and those with families home. Men and women from the U.S. Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard have been assisted with travel to all 50 states.



Crowd-Pleasing Appetizers

for Holiday Entertaining

Finger-Lickin' Shrimp

Makes 12

A tantalizing first course, courtesy of Bob Blumer's "Surreal Gourmet Bites" (Chronicle)

- 3/4 C. best-available olive oil
- 2 Tbsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 Tbsp. minced fresh Italian parsley
- 2 tsp. minced fresh oregano or thyme or 1 teaspoon dried 12 colossal shrimp, shells on
- 1/2 C. kosher salt or coarse sea salt

- Preheat grill to medium-high heat.
- In a small bowl, prepare dipping sauce by whipping together 1/2 cup of the olive oil, the lemon juice, garlic, parsley, and oregano. Reserve.
- Using a paring knife, make a 1/4-inch incision down the backs of the shrimp. De-vein them, but do not remove the shells.
- In a medium bowl, add remaining 1/4 cup olive oil and the shrimp. Toss the shrimp in the oil, then sprinkle salt over top, and toss thoroughly so that the shrimp are coated in salt.
- Grill shrimp directly over the heat or pan cook for approximately 3 minutes per side, or until shrimp are opaque throughout.

Mini Cheese Ball Bites

Makes 12

Delicious bite-sized morsels, courtesy of "Spectacular Spreads: 50 Amazing Food Spreads for Any Occasion" (Rock Point) by Meagan Brown

- 8 oz. light cream cheese, softened
- 1 C. shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 3 Tbsp. drained, chopped pimentos
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. paprika
- Pinch kosher salt
- Pinch freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 C. crushed pecans
- 1/4 C. chopped chives
- 12 pretzel sticks

• In a large bowl, stir together the cream cheese, cheddar, pimentos, garlic powder, paprika, salt, and pepper until well combined. Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.

• Place the crushed pecans and chives in a small bowl. Set aside.

• Roll the cheese mixture into twelve 1-inch balls. Evenly coat each ball with the pecan-chive mixture. Press a pretzel stick into the top of each cheese ball just before serving. Serve at room temperature or chilled.

Creamy Cashew Spread

Makes about 1/2 cup

A crowd-pleasing tasty vegan spread from "Vegan Cooking for Beginners" (Publications International Ltd.) by the editors of Publications International

- 1 C. raw cashews
- 2 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp. tahini
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 2 tsp. minced fresh herbs, such as basil, parsley or oregano (optional)
- Assorted bread toasts and/or crackers

• Rinse cashews and place in a medium bowl. Cover with water by at least 2 inches. Soak 4 hours or overnight. Drain cashews, reserving soaking water.

• Place cashews, 2 tablespoons reserved water, lemon juice, tahini, salt, and pepper in food processor or blender; process for several minutes or until smooth. Add additional water, 1 tablespoon at a time, until desired consistency is reached.

• Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve. Stir in herbs, if desired, just before serving. Serve with assorted bread toasts and/or crackers.

Tip: You can also use this dip as a spread for sandwiches, as a pasta topping, or in place of sour

cream on tacos and chili. Thin it with additional liquid as needed.

Bring on the Fa-la-la-la fun!



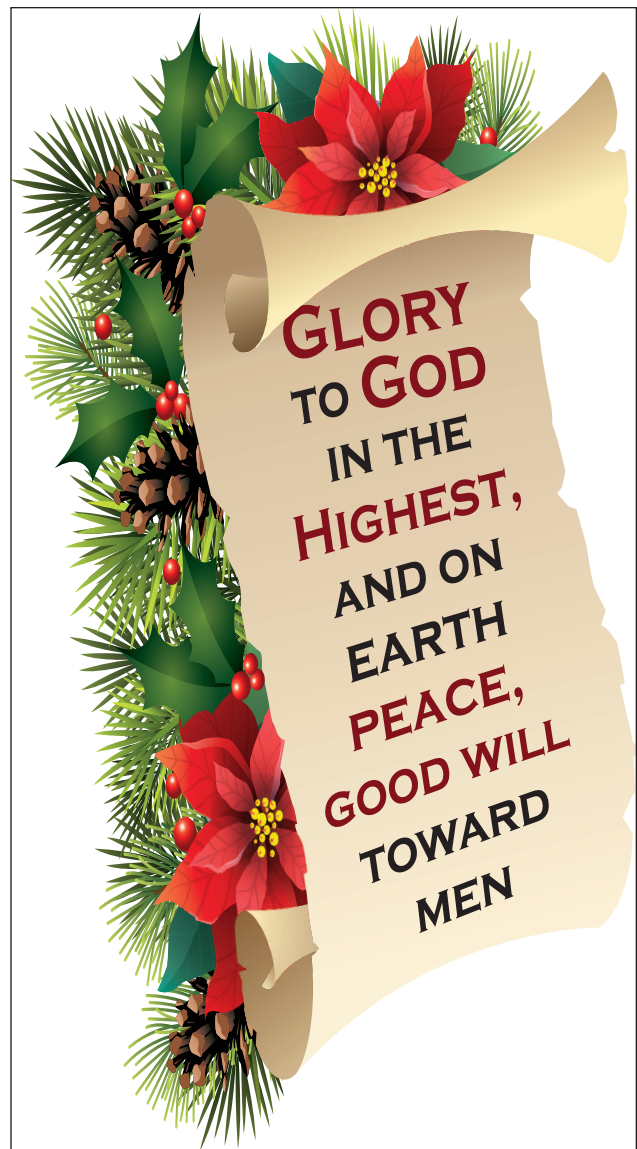
HAVING A HOLLY, JOLLY CHRISTMAS

Submitted Photos
ABOVE: The kids at Joli Cheval raise money every year through a bake sale to help children in need. These bright, shining faces greeted local shoppers on the public square last Saturday morning as they purchased their holiday cookies and cakes.



SHOP LOCAL!

LEFT: From headbands to boots, Joli Cheval Boutique at 112 Public Square East specializes in southern fashion with accents of equestrian pieces whether it be jewelry or clothing.



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 Wednesday Refueling - 6:30 pm

First Church of the Nazarene
 834 Union St., Shelbyville • 931-684-3664
 Rev. Andrew Lee Keffer • shelbyvillefirstnaz.com
 Sunday School - 9:00 am • Morning Service - 10:00 am
 Prayer Meeting - Wednesday at 6:30 pm
 Youth Meeting - Wednesday at 6:30 pm

Grace Baptist Church
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 Wednesday night 6:00 pm

Longview Baptist
 101 Cooper Rd., Unionville • 931-294-2281
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Saturday, December 10, 2022

Champs' tough defense keeps win streak going

By **CHRIS SIERS**
sports@t-g.com



T-G Photo by Chris Siers
Jackson Davis flies past the Watertown defense and caps a fast break with a layup.

BELL BUCKLE — Even just six games into the season, it's becoming almost a broken record of what to expect from the Cascade Champions—quality scoring from the senior starters, lock down defense and different players chipping in off the bench.

That trend continued in Monday night's non-district matchup against Watertown (3-5) as Cascade improved to 6-0 with a 30-point, 68-38 win over the Purple Tigers.

"The biggest thing that I think we take the most pride in is our defense. Holding a team to 38 points is a big, big deal for us. That's what I've tried to build the foundation on," Champion coach Chris Lawson said.

In the Champs' six-game win-streak to start the season, opposing teams are scoring an average of 48.2 points per game.

On Monday, every player that dressed for Cascade (6-0) saw playing time and 10 total players penciled their name in the scoring column.

It wasn't the best of starts for Cascade against the Purple Tigers, at least on the offensive end of the court.

Cascade jumped out to a 6-2 lead, but saw a scoring lull for the following three minutes.

"We've definitely got to get better in half court execution on our offense. We have to do a better job of getting good shots. We had six possessions in a row that were negative at one point. Just a lull right there.

Things like that, as we go through the season, we will get better and better at not having those low spots," Lawson said.

Still, Cascade locked down on defense and aside from a buzzer-beater three-pointer by Watertown's Trent Spradlin that came from well beyond half-court, the Purple Tigers managed a single field goal against a stingy Champion defense.

Following the lull to start, Cascade eventually broke loose and saw five different players total 22

points in the second quarter, which allowed the Champs to build a 33-17 halftime lead.

Not much changed into the second half as Lawson was able to work the entirety of his bench onto the floor.

"We played everybody, didn't play any starters in the fourth quarter, extended the lead and still continued to play good defense," he said.

That depth will continue to play a key factor in what Cascade is able to do this season.



T-G Photo by Chris Siers
Senior Thomas Gentry pulls up for a jumper against the Purple Tigers. Gentry scored 11 points and canned three treys in Cascade's win over Watertown.

But in a busy week of three games, being able to put every player on the floor and not just maintain, but build on their lead, the Champions are comfortable with no matter who is on the floor.

"We tried to play more guys tonight. That means less minutes for the top guys, but we have a quick turnaround. We play again

tomorrow night and we play again Friday night. Both of those are going to be tough games," Lawson said.

Clanton went for a game-high 20 points, while senior Thomas Gentry chipped in 11.

In total, 10 players for Cascade scored.

Spradlin was the top-scorer for the Purple Tigers, totaling 16 points, including

four treys.

While it's still early in the season, the challenge for Lawson's squad is to not be complacent with a hot start and to continue playing at a high level through Christmas and into January when district play starts.

"It's not easy at all. I was worried today. I didn't think they were as focused as they

White Co. outruns Eaglettes

By **GARY JOHNSON**
Sports Writer

SHELBYVILLE — Shelbyville Central was able to keep the game close in the first half but White County proved to be too tough in the second half as the Eaglettes fell 58-37 in a non-district matchup at home on Tuesday evening.

White County led 10-6 at the close of the first quarter and held a 23-19 advantage at the intermission.

The Eaglettes were outscored 17 points in the second half and trailed 40-27 going into the fourth stanza.

Knia Powers pitched in a team-high 16 points for the winners with Celeste Reed notching 11 followed by Ava Jones with 10.

Eaglette Paige Blackburn led all scorers with 22 points, including four 3-pointers.



T-G Photo by Gary Johnson
Shelbyville Central junior Paige Blackburn scored a game-high 22 points in the Eaglettes loss to White County on Tuesday night.

White County 10 13 17 18 — 58
Shelbyville Central 6 13 8 10 — 37
White County: Ava Jones 10, Bella Winningham 5, Knia Powers 16,
Lakelyn Gretsley 5, KB Fraiser 3, Celeste Reed 11, Lexie Golden 5, Karley Gentry 3.
Shelbyville Central: Jadya Lee 3, Paige Blackburn 22, Lilly Brown 4, Lanaya Young 4.
3-Point goals: Shelbyville (5): Blackburn 4, Lee; White County (4): Gretsley, Frazier, Golden, Gentry.
Halftime White County 23, Shelbyville Central 19.

Lady Champs start slow, can't catch up

By **CHRIS SIERS**
sports@t-g.com

BELL BUCKLE — A sluggish first quarter on Monday night against visiting Watertown ultimately put Cascade in a hole the Lady Champs couldn't crawl out of in a 62-42 loss to the Lady Purple Tigers.

"We talked about how we needed to settle down and look for our shots. That's one thing we're struggling with is just looking for our shots. We have to get out of the set-play mindset and look for the open shots within our plays," Lady Champion coach Janie Demonbreum said.

Cascade was plagued with turnovers in the opening frame and struggled from the floor until Kaydence Miller connected with 28 seconds left in the opening frame.

Still, Watertown went for 18 points in the opening quarter and led by 15 points heading into the second

quarter. But after a lopsided first, Cascade adjusted well and for the most part, took away Watertown's attack in the paint.

Eventually, Cascade started knocking down shots and Miller rattled home a pair of threes in the second quarter as Cascade notched 11 points in the frame.

Watertown still held a commanding 33-14 lead by the end of the half.

"I told them we had to buckle down and if we were going to scrap our way back, we were going to have to shoot the gaps and we were going to have to defend. I



T-G Photo by Chris Siers
Kaydence Miller takes aim and rattles home a three-point. She hit five treys and led all scorers with 21 points.

feel like they didn't give up and I couldn't ask for more than that," Demonbreum said.

Those adjustments worked well as Watertown only outscored Cascade 29-28 in the second half.

Coupled with a better defensive effort in the half-court and a career night from Miller, who went for a game-high 21 points, the Lady Champs fought to

the bitter end of Monday night's non-district clash.

"I thought we made the adjustments well. We did put ourselves in a hole being down 18-3 and we had nine turnovers—it's hard to dig yourself out of that kind of a hole," Demonbreum said.

Of her game-high total, Miller had the hot hand and shot it well from the perimeter, connecting on

Eagles fall in battle of 3s

By **GARY JOHNSON**
Sports Writer

SHELBYVILLE — In a game that featured a total of 22 combined made three-pointers, Shelbyville Central's Golden Eagles fell 86-51 to visiting White County on Tuesday night.

White County connected on 13 three-pointers while the Eagle nailed nine.

Joe Harris canned three treys early as the Eagles built an 11-4 lead before settling for a 14-14 tie by

the end of the first period. The Warriors outscored Shelbyville Central 18-7 in the second stanza to hold a 32-21 advantage at the intermission.

The winners outscored the Eagles 54-30 in the second half to secure the win.

Jake Davis led White County with 16 points along with five three-pointers.

Japheth Richmond netted 16, Thomas Paul 14 and Thomas Brock added

13. Joe Harris led the Eagles with 14 points, including four treys while Tyler Trice connected on a dozen.

White County 14 18 22 32 — 86
Shelbyville Central 14 7 14 16 — 51
White County: Jake Davis 20, Thomas Paul 14, Thomas Brock 13, Japheth Richmond 16, Tripp Parson 6, Christian Henderson 5, Logan Dickerson 4, Keaun Lewis 6, N. Griffin 1.
Shelbyville Central: Zyon Bonner 6, Terrence Johnson 8, Tae' Shawn Shelton 5, Isah Alexander 3, Joe Harris 14, Tyler Price 12, Malek Johnson 1, Evan Condit 2.
3-Point goals: White County (13): Davis 5, Brock 3, Paul 2, Lewis 2; Shelbyville Central (9): Harris 4, T. Johnson 2, Trice 2, Alexander 1.
Halftime score: White County 32, Shelbyville Central 21.

▶ See **Cascade**, Page 2C



Laina Carter fights her way to the rim and goes up for two.

T-G Photo by Chris Siers

Cascade

(Continued from Page 1C)

they needed to be. They came out and proved me wrong. They did what we were supposed to do,

defensively. We didn't have a great offensive start. But on defense, we just continue to do a good job," he said.

Cascade continues its busy week of action closing the week on Friday night at Fayetteville City.

Watertown 5 12 13 8 — 38
 Cascade 11 22 21 14 — 68
 Watertown: Trent Spradlin 16, Chase McConnell 10, J.J. Goodall 4, Greer Davis 4, K.J. Woods 2, Garner Creswell 2.
 Cascade: Lucas Clanton 20, Thomas Gentry 11, Jackson Davis 8, Saebyn Burris 8, Isaac McElroy 7, Tucker McGee 4, Henry Stone 2, Eli Elliott 2, Nick Harris 2, Zach Crosslin 2.
 3-Point goals: Cascade (7): Clanton 3, Gentry 3, McGee; Watertown (4): Spradlin 4.
 Halftime score: Cascade 33, Watertown 17.

Champs

(Continued from Page 1C)

five three-pointers in the game.

"That's the way Kaydence Miller has to play. She came in over the weekend and got up 400 or 500 shots in one day. That's exactly what it takes. We just have to be consistent. That's not the last you're going to see her

shooting like that, though," Demonbreum said.

While stringing together a series of wins hasn't happened yet for the Lady Champs and their first-year head coach, Demonbreum is seeing growth from her squad.

"If we can narrow down our turnovers, that's a victory for me. If we can crash the offensive rebounds, that's a victory for me. If we're starting

to make our shots, that's a victory for me," she said.

Cascade closes a busy week at Fayetteville City on Friday night.

Watertown 18 15 14 15 — 62
 Cascade 3 11 12 16 — 42
 Watertown: Madison King 17, Claire Manos 14, Kierah McKlary 8, Gwen Franklin 6, Miranda Nix 4, Mallory Race 4, Macie Brejle 3, Presley Clark 3, Rachel Cromer 2.
 Cascade: Kaydence Miller 21, Kaegan Young 10, Laina Carter 4, Suzanna Crews 4, Isabella Rhodes 2, Sophie Ray.
 3-Point goals: Watertown (7): King 3, Manos, Race, Clark, McKlary; Cascade (6): Miller 5, Young.
 Halftime score: Watertown 33, Cascade 14.

Simmons, Mitchell lead Viqueens past Sycamore

T-G STAFF REPORT

PLEASANT VIEW — After trailing by six points at the half on Tuesday night at Sycamore, the Community Viqueens rallied past the Lady War Eagles with a stellar second half and coasted to the 49-39 non-district win.

Sycamore put the Viqueens in an early hole, out-scoring the Purple and Gold 27-21 through the first half.

It was a balanced effort of four Lady War Eagles who combined for the 27 first-half points to cling to the six-point lead at the break.

But fouls became an issue and in the third quarter alone, Community was able to cash in on 8-of-9 free throw attempts to spur on an 18-point third quarter.

Anna Haskins also drilled a pair of three's as Community rallied for a 39-33 lead by the end of the third.

While the offense wasn't coming in droves in the fourth, Community did extend its lead with 10 more, including five from senior Haley Mitchell, while holding Sycamore to six points for the second-straight quarter.

Senior M.J. Simmons, along with Mitchell, combined for 30 points to lead the Viqueens to the comeback victory on Tuesday.

Community was back on its home court on Friday night, hosting Huntland in Unionville, however results were unavailable by press time.

Community 12 9 18 10 — 49
 Sycamore 14 13 6 6 — 39
 Community: M.J. Simmons 18, Haley Mitchell 12, Anna Haskins 9, Zoey Dixon 5, Addison Brothers 3, Shelby Cawthon 2.
 Sycamore: Anna Knight 11, Izzy McPherson 9, McKinleigh Young 5, Persia Bishop 2, Kyra Shearon 2.
 3-Point goals: Community (6): Mitchell 3, Haskins 3; Sycamore (4): Shearon 3, McPherson.
 Halftime score: Sycamore 27, Community 21.

Hot start fades away as Vikes fall on road

T-G STAFF REPORT

PLEASANT VIEW — Community got about as hot of a start as it could have asked for in Tuesday night's non-district clash at Sycamore.

But that hot start couldn't be sustained into the final three quarters as the War Eagles rallied past the Vikings for a 61-44 win over the Purple and Gold.

Community scored at will against Sycamore in the opening quarter, showcasing the ability to drive to the rim, connect from the perimeter and battle its way to the free throw line.

The Vikings drilled three treys in the opening stanza, with Landon Lovvorn knocking down a pair.

Ramon Hernandez also connected on a pair of free

throws and a basket, while Jacob Flannagan added a pair of shots.

By the end of the opening quarter, Community led 21-19.

But as hot as the Vikings were in the opening frame, the offense cooled a bit in the second and Community was only able to add nine points.

Lovvorn added five more, but it was Sycamore who rallied to a slim, 31-30 lead by the half.

That scoring drought slowed even more for Community into the third quarter as the Vikings were only able to muster up a pair of field goals from Lovvorn and Flannagan, while Sycamore steamed ahead with 15 points.

Community did get a bit of a rally going in the fourth, spurred by

three-pointers by Lovvorn and Corey Paterick, but the damage was done as Sycamore coasted to the win with a 15-point fourth frame.

Lovvorn led the Vikings with 16 points, while Flannagan added 10.

Sycamore's Marshall Bega led all scorers with 21 points.

Community returned to its home court on Friday night, hosting Huntland, however results were unavailable by press time.

Community 21 9 4 10 — 44
 Sycamore 19 12 15 15 — 61
 Community: Landon Lovvorn 16, Jacob Flannagan 10, Corey Paterick 8, Jason Cullen 6.
 Sycamore: Marshall Bega 21, Lucas Morris 18, Rhett Hunt 14, Josh Strother 3, Brandon Pennington 3, Brendan Saylor 2.
 3-Point goals: Sycamore (7): Bega 5, Hunt, Strother; Community (6): Lovvorn 4, Paterick 2.
 Halftime score: Sycamore 31, Community 30.

Cascade grapplers sweep tri-match

T-G STAFF REPORT

LYNCHBURG — The Cascade Champions wrestling squad continued their strong start to the season with a tri-match sweep at Moore County High School on Tuesday night against the hosts and Lawrence County High School.

Cascade defeated the Raiders with a score of 60-5 and the Wildcats 54-12.

Against the Raiders,

only first-year wrestler Christian Casey competed on the mat for the Champions with the other 13 matches being decided by forfeit.

Casey was defeated by technical fall in two minutes and 57 seconds with a score of 16-0.

There was more action in their duels with the Wildcats with four Champions getting time on the mat.

Tyler Haddock and

Isaac Chapa were the only Champions to secure victories not by forfeit in the tri-match with wins via pin in a minute and 17 seconds and a minute and nine seconds respectively.

The only other Champions to compete were Bryson Redd and Nicholas Lineberger who were both pinned by their Wildcat opponents.

With the sweep, Cascade improved to 8-2 on the season.

GOING FOR TWO



T-G Photo by Gary Johnson

Shelbyville Central's Kyler Trice lays up a shot in the Eagles' matchup with visiting White County on Tuesday night.

Vrabel: Titans owner demands titles

By TERESA M. WALKER
 AP Pro Football Writer

NASHVILLE — Tennessee controlling owner Amy Adams Strunk left coach Mike Vrabel to explain her decision to fire the team's general manager during one of the best stretches in franchise history.

Strunk fired Jon Robinson on Tuesday with five games remaining in his seventh season as general manager with the Titans (7-5) holding a big lead while chasing a third straight AFC South title.

Vrabel said Wednesday that Strunk informed him of the decision and he couldn't speak to either the timing or what prompted the move. The Titans coach, whose contract was extended in February along with Robinson's, spoke for nearly 23 minutes addressing the stunning move instead of Sunday's game with Jacksonville (4-8).

Strunk's statement came through pretty clearly.

"The message is the same as it's always been, is we're charged to win," Vrabel said. "We're here to win championships, that we all have a job to do and we're held to a high standard and that we're evaluated each and every day on that job. And it's the same thing I told the football team and the players this morning."

The Titans have done a lot of that since Robinson took over a team that went a combined 5-27 in 2014 and 2015. Since being hired in January 2016, Robinson oversaw a streak of six straight winning seasons that is the second-longest active streak in the NFL and trails only the Kansas City Chiefs' stretch of 10.

Robinson was the franchise's GM with the most winning seasons and a 69-47 overall record that trails only the late Floyd Reese.



Tennessee went 12-5 last season, winning the AFC's No. 1 seed for the first time since 2008.

The Titans also are closing in on a third straight division title, which would be the franchise's first such run since Strunk's late father, Bud Adams, founded the then-Houston Oilers in 1960 in the AFL.

Strunk mentioned roster construction in her statement announcing the firing, and the man who drafted two-time NFL rushing champ Derrick Henry and two-time All-Pro safety Kevin Byard never signed one of his first-round draft picks to a contract extension. Henry and Byard are the only players still left from his first draft.

Robinson has had several high draft busts with the worst being offensive lineman Isaiah Wilson. The 29th pick overall in 2020 was suspended by the team before his rookie season ended, and Dillon Radunz, a second-round pick in 2021, is a backup.

The offensive line Robinson built gave up a season-high six sacks in last week's loss to Philadelphia, a game featuring the wide receiver the Titans traded to the Eagles during the first round of the NFL draft in April. A.J. Brown has more catches, yards and touchdowns by himself than the Titans' top two receivers combined.

Vrabel said he appreciated how Robinson included himself and

the rest of the coaching staff in the evaluation process. Vrabel, who said he ultimately reported to Robinson and that they talked every day, was in no mood to second-guess the decision to trade away the franchise's best receiver in years.

"We made a decision, I mean, that we felt like was in the best interest of the football team and the decision and (direction) that we wanted to head at the time," Vrabel said. "And so A.J. is in Philadelphia, and we're moving forward."

The firing surprised the Titans. Byard learned of the firing on Twitter, quickly refreshing for more information. Byard said his wife is close with Robinson's wife, but the owner made a decision that they all have to respect.

Now the attention has to turn to the Jaguars with a chance to eliminate Jacksonville from playoff contention Sunday and take a step closer to another division title.

"Everything that we want to accomplish and that we set to accomplish this year during the offseason and training camp, it's still right in front of us," Byard said. "To go out and try to win a division and make a run in this playoff and try to go win a championship, so that doesn't change. It's not going to change at all."

Notes

The Titans activated the 21-day practice window for WR Racey McMath (hip) and DB Josh Thompson. Vrabel made clear Monday they would be cautious with McMath, who was placed on IR before the season opener. WR Treylon Burks (concussion protocol) did not practice after being knocked out of the previous game.

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Photo Courtesy of David Smith

Lucas Clanton powers his way to the rim and scores. He led all scorers on Tuesday with 30 points.

Champs explode in 2nd half as Clanton's shots lead way

T-G STAFF REPORT

LYNCHBURG — After a closely-contested first half on Tuesday night at Moore County on Tuesday night, the Cascade Champions went for 52 second-half points and claimed their second win of the week, beating the Raiders in Lynchburg, 73-60.

Senior Lucas Clanton provided the fireworks for the Champion offense and went for a game-high 30 points.

Cascade clung to a slim, 11-10 lead after the first quarter, but saw the Raiders knot the game at 22 by halftime on an 11-10 run in the second period.

Out of the intermission, Clanton and fellow senior Jackson Davis provided a one-two punch for Cascade and combined for 20 points in the third period to help reclaim the lead.

It wasn't until the fourth quarter that Cascade was able to put the game away

with consistency from virtually everyone who stepped to the free throw line.

In the final eight minutes, the Champs shot a total of 15-of-19 free throw attempts as part of a 27-point quarter to put the game on ice.

Davis, along with Isaac McElroy, joined Clanton in double figures with 13 and 15 points, respectively.

Moore County's Alex Copeland led the home team with 20 points.

Cascade closed out the busy week on the hardwood on Friday night at Fayetteville City, however results were unavailable by press time.

Cascade 11 10 25 27 — 73
 Moore Co. 10 11 22 37 — 60
 Cascade: Lucas Clanton 30, Isaac McElroy 15, Jackson Davis 13, Saebyn Burris 7, Thomas Gentry 5, Sawyer Lovorn 2, Jayden Gulick.
 Moore Co.: Alex Copeland 20, Dawson White 14, Will Baker 8, Keller Morey 7, Blakely Bobo 3, Payton Martin 3, Brently Hill 3, Wes Clifton 2.
 3-Point goals: Moore Co. (7): Copeland 3, White 2, Morey, Hill; Cascade (2): Clanton 2.
 Halftime score: Cascade 21, Moore Co. 21.

Former Bills punter won't be charged in alleged gang rape

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Former Buffalo Bills punter Matt Araiza will not be charged in connection with an alleged gang rape of a 17-year-old girl at an off-campus party last year when he played football for San Diego State University, prosecutors said Wednesday.

The San Diego County District Attorney's Office said no charges will be filed against any of Araiza's former Aztec teammates who were also accused in the reported assault in October 2021.

"I am grateful that the district attorney and the San Diego Police Department have discovered all the facts and found no criminal wrongdoing. I am excited to continue my NFL career," Araiza said in a statement issued by his agent, Joe Linta.

The decision followed an investigation involving more than 35 witness interviews and evidence derived from 10 search warrants that included cellphone data and video from the night in question, the DA's office said in a statement.

"Ultimately, prosecutors determined it is clear the evidence does not support the filing of criminal charges and there is no path to a potential criminal conviction. Prosecutors can only file charges when they ethically believe they can be

proven beyond a reasonable doubt," the statement said.

Araiza's lawyer, Kerry Armstrong, said he and his client were "elated" by what he called the right decision.

"It is my hope that Matt can join an NFL team again and do the thing that he does best—punt footballs eighty yards down the field," Armstrong said.

The accuser's attorney Dan Gilleon tweeted, "I am never surprised when a prosecutor does not file sexual assault charges when the victim was intoxicated."

"It's a very rare case where the criminal justice system achieves anything satisfactory for the victim of a sexual assault," Gilleon continued. "Prosecutors cannot file charges unless they can get a unanimous decision (from jurors) who cannot vote to convict unless they're convinced beyond any reasonable doubt."

However, Gilleon said he expected a better verdict in his client's civil lawsuit, where "the focus is on the harm defendants caused her."

"The defendants will have no sympathizers once the evidence comes out," he wrote.

The Buffalo Bills declined to comment.

The Bills released the rookie punter in August just days after backing Araiza based on the findings of

what the team called its "thorough examination" of the allegations included in the lawsuit.

The accuser, now 18, alleged in the suit that Araiza, then 21, had sex with her in a side yard at an off-campus residence before bringing her into a bedroom where a group of men took turns raping her. She said she went in and out of consciousness as the men assaulted her for about 90 minutes.

She told her friends that night that she'd been raped and reported the assault to police the following day, according to the court filing.

The lawsuit named Araiza along with two former Aztec teammates who are no longer with the team.

The university has been heavily criticized for delaying an administrative inquiry into the allegations. San Diego State officials have said they deferred investigating at the request of police for fear that conducting their own might harm the criminal investigation.

Araiza was nicknamed the "Punt God" and honored as a consensus All-American for his booming kicks that helped SDSU to a school-best 12-2 season in his senior year. In April, he was selected by the Buffalo Bills in the sixth round of the 2022 NFL Draft.

USC quarterback voted AP Player of the Year

By GREG BEACHAM
 AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Southern California quarterback Caleb Williams is The Associated Press college football player of the year, becoming the school's first winner of the award since 2005 with his stellar debut season for the Trojans.

Williams received 32 of the 46 first-place votes and 117 total points from AP Top 25 poll voters to win the award presented by Regions Bank. The Heisman Trophy favorite finished well ahead of TCU quarterback Max Duggan, who came in second with six first-place votes and 64 points.

Ohio State quarterback C.J. Stroud was third, with Tennessee's Hendon Hooker in fourth and Georgia's Stetson Bennett fifth.

Alabama linebacker Will Anderson Jr., the first repeat SEC Defensive Player of the Year, was the only non-quarterback in this year's top eight vote-getters, finishing sixth after coming in fourth last season.

Stroud and Hooker got two first-place votes apiece, while one first-place vote each went to Bennett, Anderson and star running backs Bijan Robinson of Texas and Blake Corum of Michigan.

The clear favorite was Williams, the elusive passer and runner with an electrifying arm and strong leadership skills. The sophomore followed Lincoln Riley from Oklahoma to the West Coast last winter, and the duo immediately returned USC (11-2) to national prominence with a seven-win improvement on last season's record.

Williams has passed for 4,075 yards with an FBS-leading 37 touchdowns and just four interceptions this season, completing

66.1% of his passes while winning the Pac-12's Offensive Player of the Year award.

His ability to avoid defensive pressure has bordered on the supernatural at times, and he has racked up 372 yards rushing and 10 touchdowns while setting the USC school records for total touchdowns and total offensive yards (4,447) in a season.

"I think he's just elegant in the way he plays the game," USC receiver Kyle Ford said. "That's the only word to describe it. He's out there and he's in the backfield, zigzagging around and doing spin moves, and he doesn't get touched and has a first down, and he's out of bounds. Stuff like that is amazing to me, stuff that he pulls off during a game. He's a gamer, and he's a winner."

Perhaps most impressively, Williams has played a critical role in bringing cohesion, teamwork and 11 victories to a program returning from a four-win season with a new coaching staff and more than two dozen veteran player additions through the transfer portal.

Although he usually deflects questions about his own play by praising his teammates, Williams admits leadership "means everything" to him.

"I've been trying to lead more," he added. "Being in a position where you can go and do something bigger, or do something that you've always dreamed of as a child, it brings that understanding that the time is right now."

From his first weeks in Los Angeles, Williams welcomed the responsibility of organizing and motivating this group of new teammates. He swiftly cemented friendships across the roster with

his charisma and upbeat personality.

"Talk about a dude you can count on for anything," USC left guard Andrew Vorhees said. "A guy who genuinely cares, is supportive in every way, really tries to be a guy that brings people together. It's a brotherhood to him."

USC went 11-1 in the regular season, and Williams put up one spectacular game after another down the stretch, capped by rivalry victories over UCLA and Notre Dame. Although the Trojans missed out on the College Football Playoff after losing the Pac-12 title game to Utah while Williams hobbled through the evening with a hamstring injury, No. 8 USC will finish its turnaround season in the Cotton Bowl against Tulane.

Williams is the third winner of the AP award in six years for Riley, who also coached Oklahoma quarterbacks Baker Mayfield (2017) and Kyler Murray (2018) to Heisman trophies in the same years.

USC is enjoying its best season since the tenure of former coach Pete Carroll, and the Trojans now have their first AP Player of the Year since those glory days. Quarterback Matt Leinart won the award in 2004, and tailback Reggie Bush claimed it the next year.

Both went on to claim the Heisman Trophy, and Williams is favored to claim USC's record eighth as the school's first finalist since 2005.

Williams, Stroud, Duggan and Bennett are the finalists for the Heisman, which will be presented in New York on Saturday. The winner of the AP award has differed from the Heisman winner just twice in the past two decades.

Deion Sanders' arrival takes buzz from Broncos

By ARNIE STAPLETON
 AP Pro Football Writer

DENVER — Deion Sanders sauntered into the Arrow Touchdown Club for what felt more like an old-fashioned tent revival than a news conference to introduce the University of Colorado's splashy new hire of "Coach Prime" as its head football coach.

At that very moment Sunday afternoon, the Denver Broncos were predictably blowing another late lead in their death spiral under Nathaniel Hackett and Russell Wilson, who this time couldn't even reach the red zone much less the end zone in a 10-9 loss at Baltimore.

Folsom Field has been college football's wasteland for the better part of this century, but a perfect storm has brewed over Boulder that could allow the Buffaloes to turn things around overnight from a 1-11 team that was one of the worst in the nation to a relevant program again.

The university recently launched a collective for donations that will create a pool of money so that Colorado can compete with its conference rivals in name, image and likeness deals. And the school has relaxed its rules regarding transfer credits, a move that will allow Sanders' program to compete with established football powerhouses across the country.

Combine that with the hiring of Sanders and Colorado suddenly can compete with traditional powerhouses in luring five-star recruits and prominent players in the transfer

portal.

Suddenly it's cool to be at Colorado, and with Coach Prime's arrival, the Buffs have swiped the buzz that the Broncos have owned in the Centennial State for decades.

Now, it's the Broncos who are at the bottom of the barrel in the NFL. At 3-9, they've lost 13 of their last 16, the franchise's worst such stretch since the 1970 merger.

It was the state's professional football team and not its flagship university that had all the buzz this spring.

When the Buffs were embarking on a season that would see them win just one game and fire coach Karl Dorrell midseason, the Broncos were boasting about their acquisition of Wilson, whom they would reward with a contract extension before the season that was worth just shy of a quarter-billion dollars.

Broncos fans were thrilled that the team's new owners were members of the wealthiest family in America. Walmart heir Rob Walton, the oldest child of Walmart co-founder Sam Walton, bought the Broncos for \$4.65 billion, a global record for a professional sports franchise.

Things were looking up in Denver before it all took a bad turn on opening weekend when Hackett settled for a Brandon McManus 64-yard field-goal attempt in Wilson's horrible homecoming at Seattle.

McManus missed, just as he did Sunday when he came up short on a 63-yarder at Baltimore.

Wilson has thrown for

just eight touchdowns in 11 starts, and the Broncos have reached the end zone three times since Halloween.

Detroit Lions running back Jamaal Williams has as many touchdowns himself — 14 — as the entire Broncos roster this season.

The Broncos managed just three field goals Sunday but still throttled the Ravens all afternoon before allowing Lamar Jackson's backup, Tyler Huntley, to drive them 91 yards in 16 plays for the game's only touchdown with 28 seconds left.

Meanwhile, the Dallas Cowboys scored 33 points in the fourth quarter Sunday against the Indianapolis Colts, or 18 more points than the Broncos have managed in the third quarter all season.

It's "Groundhog Day" in Denver with the Broncos' maladroit offense unable to score and its stellar defense incapable of closing out opponents.

Not helping matters was a rare slip-up by the Broncos' social media team over the weekend after the week's poster on the team's Twitter account showed Denver's leading tackler Alex Singleton alongside Jackson, Baltimore's dynamic starting quarterback who went out in the first quarter with a knee injury.

Critics wondered why they highlighted Singleton rather than say, cornerback Patrick Surtain II or safety Justin Simmons, who would record two interceptions Sunday.

Logano eyeing 3rd championship after Cup title

By **TERESA M. WALKER**
AP Sports Writer

NASHVILLE — Joey Logano has a simple target for the future even as he celebrates his 2022 NASCAR Cup championship.

Add yet another. Logano this season joined Kyle Busch as the only active NASCAR drivers with multiple Cup series titles, adding to the first Cup championship he won in 2018. Being the only active driver with three Cup titles would be even sweeter.

“That’s where my head is at right is, ‘Let’s go get another one,’” Logano said Thursday before he was feted at NASCAR’s annual awards ceremony.

“It is something special though for sure. Winning championships is hard in professional sports, right? This is so hard to come by, and so hard to do, and everything has to come together at the right time,” he continued. “It’s not just the driver, but it’s the team, the cars. Everything has to be clicking at the right time to be able to do it.”

Logano, at 32, was already the oldest of the four drivers in the championship finale. Credit— or blame — the new Next Gen car for evening out competition to where the Cup Series had 19 different winners, with five first-timers and two drivers making their first appearance in the championship race.

Logano won his second NASCAR championship by finishing first in a winner-take-all finale at Phoenix Raceway, giving Team Penske both the Cup and IndyCar titles in the same season for the first time in 31 tries.

Roger Penske, owner of Logano’s No. 22 Ford, knows how hungry Logano is to win a third title. He’s



Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images

After winning his second NASCAR Cup championship, Joey Logano already has his sights set on winning a third.

part of a roster that includes Ryan Blaney and Austin Cindric, who both made the playoffs with Team Penske, and Harrison Burton in an affiliate Wood Brothers Racing car.

“We’ve got the same team, so we should,” Penske said. “We should be able to compete now. A lot of great talent out there today. New talent, young talent. Teams and the cars brought us closer together. But I think we’re someone you’re going to have to beat in ‘23.”

The immediate celebration of his second Cup championship was a bit muted for Logano with the death of Joe Gibbs Racing vice chairman Coy Gibbs

hours before that season finale. Logano started his career at JGR, where he spent four Cup seasons.

Coming to the NASCAR awards in Nashville allowed Logano time and space to really enjoy his latest championship.

He posed with the trophy on a bridge over the Cumberland River and suggested a visit to the NFL’s Tennessee Titans, where Logano visited with two-time rushing champ Derrick Henry and swapped his helmet for a No. 22 Henry jersey. He also got to spend time on the team’s practice field.

Logano said he loves picking up tips and ideas on how other people at the

top of their sports work to stay there because he’s learned that nobody, even in the same sport, sees or approaches things the same way.

“So it’s good to learn all that for sure,” Logano said.

Logano also knows he’s among one of NASCAR’s older current drivers and wants to embrace being more of a leader and help grow the sport. He’s still young enough to relate to all the young drivers coming into NASCAR, yet old enough to remember what it was like over a decade ago.

“I feel like that’s a huge responsibility for all of us as an industry to care about the next generation of our sport,” Logano said.

Kevin Harvick, the 2014 Cup champion, said Logano doesn’t give himself enough credit for being a leader in the sport already.

“He has a voice that he uses and participates in a lot of the activities and things that it takes to help us progress forward,” said Harvick, the 2014 champion who once feuded with Logano. “It’s been an interesting year to understand where everything is at, and I’m guilty of it as well and not participating in doing the things that we need to do.”

As Logano prepares to chase his third championship, Busch wore his two big championship rings because the NASCAR

awards offer a perfect opportunity to flaunt what he’s earned. Busch pointed out he can’t wear them when he’s getting into a race car.

“I might as well wear (them) when we come to the functions in which you can show people what they’re going after anyway,” Busch said.

Busch already has cleared out his gear from Joe Gibbs Racing after 15 years as he switches to Richard Childress Racing for the upcoming season. He admitted showing off the spoils of victory might offer motivation that works against him in the future.

“You know we’d love to get more,” Busch said.

Report: Snyder had role in Commanders culture

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Washington Commanders created a “toxic work culture” for more than two decades, “ignoring and downplaying sexual misconduct” by men at the top levels of the organization, according to a report published Thursday by the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Commanders owner Dan Snyder was involved in the misconduct, according to the report, which said he inappropriately touched a former employee at a dinner, had staffers produce a video “of sexually suggestive footage of cheerleaders,” and ordered that women who were auditioning to be cheerleaders walk on the field “while he and his friends gawked from his suite through binoculars.”

Snyder also interfered in what is known as the Wilkinson investigation, which the NFL eventually took over, that stemmed from former employees alleging in 2020 rampant sexual harassment by team executives, the report said. He also had a separate shadow investigation going, which the report said was used by his lawyers to “cast him as the victim of a defamation campaign ... and deflect responsibility for the team’s toxic work culture.”

The team owner also interfered with the House committee’s investigation by “intimidating witnesses,” “refusing to release former employees from their confidentiality obligations” and blocking “the Committee’s access to tens of thousands of documents collected during the Wilkinson

Investigation.” When Snyder did testify in a deposition to the committee, the report said, he was evasive and misleading and said more than 100 times that he did not recall things.

The NFL is not shielded from criticism in the report, which says the league “misled the public about its handling of the Wilkinson Investigation,” “continues to minimize workplace misconduct across the league,” “has not protected workers from sexual harassment and abuse,” and “has not sought true accountability for those responsible.”

Neither the NFL nor Snyder’s legal team immediately responded to messages seeking comment.

The Commanders’ legal counsel, John Brownlee and Stuart Nash, said in a statement

the committee’s work was “one-sided” and there were “no new revelations” in Thursday’s report.

“And, ironically for an ‘investigative’ body, supposedly engaged in an ‘investigation,’ the investigators actually criticize the team and Mr. Snyder for providing evidence to the Committee -- such as e-mails former team employees sent from their workplace accounts -- that reveal the actual causes of the formerly dysfunctional workplace environment at the team,” the statement said.

The legal counsel said the team is “proud of the progress it has made in recent years in establishing a welcoming and inclusive workplace, and it looks forward to future success, both on and off the field.”

Lisa Banks and Debra Katz, who represented more than 40 ex-Commanders employees, said in a statement Thursday that the “committee’s work resulted in important legislation limiting the use of non-disclosure agreements, which will help prevent this type of widespread harassment from happening in other American workplaces.”

The House committee opened its investigation after the NFL did not release a written report of attorney Beth Wilkinson’s review of the team’s workplace culture in the summer of 2021 that resulted in a \$10 million fine. That was prompted by several former employees saying they were sexually harassed while working for the team.



TWRA Photo

Trout are stocked in a stream by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency,

TWRA winter trout stocking underway

NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has begun its 2022-23 winter trout stocking schedule. TWRA plans to release approximately 75,000 rainbow trout into Tennessee waters through March.

The program provides numerous close to fishing opportunities for anglers during the winter months. These fisheries also provide a great opportunity to introduce children or first-time anglers to fishing. Ponds, streams, and small lakes across the state are stocked with rainbow trout during the winter months when water temperatures are cold.

There are more than 40 locations for this year’s winter trout stocking program. The full list of locations and stocking dates can be found on TWRA’s website, www.tnwildlife.org

“The winter trout stocking program provides family friendly fishing opportunities in areas where there are only few or no other trout fisheries,” said Brandon Simcox, TWRA Trout Program Coordinator. “TWRA is excited to bring these unique opportunities to various communities across the state for people to enjoy.”

Many of these locations are in urban-areas and include walking trails, playgrounds, and pavilions making them the perfect place to take the family or first-time angler. It also makes a great place for anglers wanting to catch some tasty trout.

The trout will average about 10 inches in length. The daily creel limit is seven, but there is no size limit. Anglers are reminded that a trout license is needed in addition to the fishing license.

Please note that the dates and locations are subject to change. Updates can be found on TWRA’s website. For areas not listed in this program, see the 2023 stocking schedule and tailwater schedule on the website.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

BEDFORD COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Agenda December 15, 2022

1 Public Square Suite 200 at 5:30 PM Roll call.

Approval of November 17, 2022, minutes.

Approval of the Agenda. New Business.

Owner requests a special exception at 132 Church Cross Rd. Bell Buckle

Owner requests a variance at Corner of Longview and Coopertown Rd.

Owner requests a special exception at 3300 Hwy 64 E Wartrace. Adjourn. (Dec. 10, 2022)

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S FORECLOSURE SALE

Sale at public auction will be on January 10, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. local time at the usual and customary location at the Main Entrance, Bedford County Courthouse, 1 Public Square, Shelbyville, TN 37160, pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by Randolph Lee and Nancy L. Lee for the benefit of U.S. Bank National Association ND, dated July 13, 2009, of record in Book TD720, Page 784, Instrument Number 09004700, in the Register of Deeds Office for Bedford County, Tennessee. ("Deed of Trust"), conducted by James E. Albertelli, P.A. d/b/a ALAW, a Florida corporation duly authorized to conduct business in Tennessee, having been appointed Trustee, all of record in the Register of Deeds Office for Bedford County, Tennessee. Default in the performance of the covenants, terms, and conditions of said Deed of Trust has been made and the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable. Party entitled to enforce the debt: U.S. Bank National Association Other Interested Parties: The hereinafter described

real property located in Bedford County will be sold to the highest call bidder subject to all unpaid taxes, prior liens and encumbrances of record: THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE LYING AND BEING IN THE SECOND (2ND) CIVIL DISTRICT OF BEDFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A STAKE IN THE NORTH PROPERTY LINE OF DURR, THE SAME BEING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THIS TRACT; THENCE WITH THE LINE OF G. M. WIX NORTH 10 DEGREES 45 MINUTES WEST 700 FEET TO A STAKE, THE SAME BEING THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THIS TRACT AND THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF TRACT BELONGING TO G. M. WIX, IN THE SOUTH LINE OF CROWE PROPERTY; THENCE NORTH 72 DEGREES 30 MINUTES EAST ABOUT 120 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 45 MINUTES EAST 360 FEET WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF CROWE TO A STAKE, BEING THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THIS TRACT; THENCE LEAVING THE SOUTH LINE OF CROWE SOUTH 6 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 555 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE SOUTH 86 DEGREES 15 MINUTES WEST 40 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE SOUTH 22 DEGREES 30 MINUTES WEST ABOUT 200 FEET TO A STAKE, THE SAME BEING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THIS TRACT AND THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF A FORTY (40) FOOT RIGHT-OF-WAY LEADING SOUTHERLY TO UNION RIDGE ROAD; THENCE NORTH 72 DEGREES 22 MINUTES WEST ABOUT 190 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE WESTERLY ABOUT 25 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE G. M. WIX TRACT, AND BEING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THIS TRACT, AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING BY ESTIMATION ABOUT 5.5 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. SUBJECT TO ALL EASEMENTS, COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESERVATIONS, LEASES AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, ALL LEGAL HIGHWAYS, ALL RIGHTS OF WAY, ALL ZONING, BUILDING AND OTHER LAWS, ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS, ALL RIGHTS OF TENANTS IN POSSESSION, AND ALL REAL ESTATE TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS NOT YET DUE AND PAYABLE. BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED BY DEED RECORDED IN VOLUME 294, PAGE 834 OF THE BEDFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE RECORDS. Street Address: The street address of the property is believed to be 235 Union Ridge Rd., Wartrace, TN 37183, but such address is not part of the legal description of the property. In the event of any discrepancy, the legal description herein shall control. Map/Parcel Number: 002073 00903 Current owner(s) of the property: Tracy Randall Lee a/k/a Tracy R. Lee This sale is subject to all matters shown on any applicable recorded Plat or Plan; and unpaid taxes and assessments; any restrictive covenants, easements or setback lines that may be applicable; rights of redemption, equity, statutory or otherwise, not otherwise waived in the Deed of trust, including right of redemption of any governmental agency,

state or federal; and any and all prior deeds of trust, liens, dues, assessments, encumbrances, defects, adverse claims and other matters that may take priority over the deed of Trust upon which this foreclosure sale is conducted or are not extinguished by this foreclosure sale. THE PROPERTY IS SOLD WITHOUT ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, RELATING TO TITLE, MARKETABILITY OF TITLE, POSSESSION, QUIET ENJOYMENT OR THE LIKE AND FITNESS FOR A GENERAL OR PARTICULAR USE OR PURPOSE. The title is believed to be good, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Trustee. The right is reserved to adjourn the sale to another time certain or to another day, time, and place certain, without further publication upon announcement on the day, time, and place of sale set forth above or any subsequent adjourned day, time, and place of sale. If you purchase the property at the foreclosure sale, the entire purchase price is due and payable at the conclusion of the auction in the form of a certified check made payable to or endorsed to Albertelli Law Trust Account. No personal checks will be accepted. To this end, you must bring sufficient funds to outbid the Lender and any other bidders. Insufficient funds will not be accepted. Amounts received, in excess of the winning bid, will be refunded to the successful purchaser at the time the foreclosure deed is delivered. This property is being sold with the express reservation that the sale is subject to confirmation by the Lender or Trustee. This sale may be rescinded by the Trustee at any time. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. James E. Albertelli, P.A. d/b/a ALAW, Trustee 401 Commerce Street, Suite 150 Nashville, TN 37219 PH: (615) 265-0835 FX: (615) 265-0836 File No.: 22-005199 A-4766926 (Dec. 10, 17, & 24, 2022)

this meeting: Special Called Workshop: December 14, 2022 Time: 2:00 PM Place: Shelbyville Recreation Center, 220 Tulip Tree Drive, Shelbyville, TN I. Call to Order II. Discussion of MTSU Project - Purpose, Scope and Intent III. Announcements IV. Adjourn Mayor Randy Carroll (Dec. 10, 2022)

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR ACCOUNTING AND BOOKKEEPING SERVICES (ISWA - RFQ 2022)

The Interlocal Solid Waste Authority (ISWA) is issuing this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from qualified vendors, firms and/or individuals, for the purpose of selecting a Vendor/Contractor with which to negotiate professional services contract(s) to provide Accounting and Bookkeeping services to ISWA in connection with the management and operation of a Tennessee Solid Waste Authority as described in the ISWA - RFQ 2022 for ACCOUNTING AND BOOKKEEPING SERVICES RELATED TO A TENNESSEE SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY'S MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLABLE MATERIALS HANDLING, TRANSFER STATION OPERATIONS, MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION, AND DISPOSAL SERVICES. Qualification submittals must be sealed and received by ISWA no later than 4:00 p.m. CST on Friday, January 6, 2023. Interested vendors may obtain a copy of a detailed Request for Statement of Qualifications online at www.ISWArecycle.net or at no charge from: Interlocal Solid Waste Authority 419 Joyce Lane Winchester, TN 37398 carol@ISWArecycle.net or epierce@tullahomatr.gov ISWA Phone: 931.703.2435 By: Eric Pierce

ISWA Treasurer, City of Tullahoma Public Works (Dec. 10, 2022)

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Poll: Biden approval, views of economy steady, sour

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fresh off his party's better-than-anticipated performance in the midterm elections, President Joe Biden is facing consistent but critical assessments of his leadership and the national economy.

A new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds 43% of U.S. adults say they approve of the way Biden is handling his job as president, while 55% disapprove. That's similar to October, just weeks before the Nov. 8 elections that most Americans considered pivotal for the country's future.

Only about a quarter say the nation is headed in the right direction or the economy is in good condition. Both measures have been largely negative over the course of the year as inflation tightened its grip, but were more positive through much of Biden's first year in office.

Mishana Conlee said she tries to be optimistic about the coming year, but she thinks things are going to the gutter because "our president is incompetent" and not mentally fit for the White House. The 44-year-old in South Bend, Indiana, said she's frustrated about rising expenses when she's living paycheck to paycheck as a dietary aide at a nursing home.

"The more I work, I just can't get ahead," Conlee said. "That's just all there is to it."

She doesn't blame Biden for the state of inflation, but "I feel like he's not doing anything to change it," said Conlee, an independent who voted for former President Donald Trump. Biden's "not doing us any good."

The Biden administration in its second year in the White House relished economic growth, a series of legislative wins and relative success for the president's party in the midterms. But that has yet to translate to glowing reviews from a pessimistic public.

"I don't understand why his approval ratings are so low," said 56-year-old Sarah Apwisch, highlighting the administration's investments in infrastructure and computer chip technology.

Apwisch recognizes that it's been "a tough year" and that prices are higher, but she's hopeful because of the midterm results as a Republican-turned-Democrat who worries about the "Make America Great Again" movement's influence on the GOP.

"We're headed in the right direction," said the Three Rivers, Michigan, resident who works for a market research company's finance department. She is eager to see Democrats press forward on a wide-ranging agenda, including codifying abortion rights.

Even as Republicans took control of the House, Democrats defied historical precedent to stunt GOP gains and even improve their Senate majority, which was cemented with this week's runoff win for Sen. Raphael Warnock, the lone Democrat

in Georgia this year to be elected statewide.

Glen McDaniel of Atlanta, who twice voted for Warnock, thinks the Biden administration has moved the country forward and weathered the economic storm as well as possible.

"I think that this administration has done as much as they can" to fight inflation, the Democrat said.

But McDaniel, a 70-year-old medical research scientist, also thinks the nation faces "social headwinds" that he wants Biden and the party to prioritize.

"I think that the Democrats can be a little bit more aggressive" in legislating on things like marriage equality, reproductive rights and voting reform, he said.

The poll shows majorities of Democrats and Republicans alike think things in the country are on the wrong track, likely for different reasons.

But Democrats have shown renewed faith in Biden, boosting his overall job approval rating from a summer slump. Even so, the 43% who approve in the new survey remains somewhat depressed from 48% a year ago and much lower than 60% nearly two years ago, a month after he took office.

Seventy-seven percent of Democrats, but only 10% of Republicans, approve of Biden.

While many Americans don't entirely blame Biden for high inflation, AP-NORC polling this year showed Biden consistently hit for his handling of the economy.

As in recent months, the new poll shows only a quarter of U.S. adults say economic conditions are good, while three-quarters call them bad. Nine in 10 Republicans, along with about 6 in 10 Democrats, say the economy is in bad shape. Ratings of the economy have soured amid record-high inflation, even as Biden touts falling gas prices and a low unemployment rate at 3.7%.

Joshua Steffens doubts that the job market is as good as indicators show. The 47-year-old in St. Augustine, Florida, said he has been unemployed and struggling to find an information technology job since September.

"Even though they're trying to claim that things are looking good," Steffens said, "in the trenches, it definitely does not appear that it's so accurate."

Biden's shopping and vacation, captured on broadcast news, is "tone deaf," said the Republican, who called the president "a habitual liar."

Steffens said he and his wife are experiencing rising expenses for electricity and groceries, and relying on his wife's income has "put a strain" on their holiday shopping. He doesn't think Biden is handling high inflation well.

"If he has policies that he's trying to push through, then they're not working currently," Steffens said.

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To find more holiday recipe inspiration, visit Culinary.net.



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Start Holiday Celebrations with a Salad

With a bed of tender, leafy green spinach and pops of red cranberries, a salad lends itself perfectly to the colors and flavors of the holiday season. Plus, as a lighter bite ahead of the big meal, it makes for a delicious introduction to festive dinner parties, family gatherings and get-togethers.

This Spinach Christmas Tree Salad offers a fresh, festive option that adds a seasonal presentation to the table while inviting guests to take a bite. Harvested at the peak of flavor, tender Fresh Express Baby Spinach has a mild and delicate taste that makes it an ideal addition to recipes throughout the holidays.

Find more ways to freshen up your holiday menu at FreshExpress.com.

Spinach Christmas Tree Salad

Servings: 6

- 2 packages (5 ounces each) Fresh Express Baby Spinach
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries, divided
- 1/3 cup pistachios, divided
- 1/2 cup feta cheese, divided
- 1 red pepper, cored, cut into thin strips
- 1 large apple, thinly sliced, cut into star shapes

Dressing:

- 1 cup whole berry cranberry sauce
- 3 tablespoons cranberry juice
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 tablespoon light brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt



In large bowl, toss baby spinach with 1/4 cup dried cranberries, 1/6 cup pistachios and 1/4 cup feta cheese. Transfer to Christmas tree cake mold. Neatly arrange spinach leaves to create smooth surface.

Arrange red pepper strips, trimming as needed, to create garland. Arrange remaining dried cranberries, remaining pistachios and remaining feta cheese as "ornaments" on top of spinach. Create tree topper with one apple star; place remaining apple stars around "tree."

To make dressing: In blender, process cranberry sauce, cranberry juice, balsamic vinegar, honey, olive oil, brown sugar and salt until smooth.

A Hearty Holiday Side Dish

From appetizers and snacks to the main course, sides and sweets, almost everyone has a favorite holiday dish. However, it's the pairings and complementary dishes that make festive get-togethers special.

This Creamy Au Gratin Potatoes with Kale and Gruyere is an ideal example of a savory side that goes well with a variety of holiday meals, making it a perfect option for families seeking a versatile recipe to serve with dinner. Rosy-skinned and white-fleshed, Wisconsin Round Red potatoes have a firm, smooth and moist texture, making them well-suited for roasting in this hearty dish.

Visit eatwisconsinpotatoes.com to discover more recipes fit for serving your loved ones.

Creamy Au Gratin Potatoes with Kale and Gruyere

Recipe courtesy of Wisconsin Potatoes

- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, smashed
- 3 sprigs fresh thyme
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 3 cloves shallots, diced
- 4 large kale leaves, finely chopped (discard stems)
- 2 pounds red potatoes, sliced 1/8 inch
- 2 ounces gruyere cheese, grated
- 1 ounce Parmesan cheese, grated

Heat oven to 325 F.

In small saucepan over medium heat, combine cream, salt, black pepper, garlic and thyme; stir constantly, until cream starts to bubble, 4-6 minutes. When bubbling, remove from heat and stir until slightly cooled. Let cream sit.

Heat large (12-inch) oven-safe skillet over medium-high heat. Add butter. When butter melts, add shallots and kale leaves. Sauté until kale is tender and bright green, about 4 minutes. Turn off burner.

Add sliced potatoes to skillet, fanning over top of kale.

Use slotted spoon to remove garlic and thyme from heavy cream. Pour heavy cream over potatoes.

Cover skillet tightly with foil and bake until potatoes are tender, 75-85 minutes.

Remove skillet from oven and turn on broiler. Discard foil. Sprinkle gruyere and Parmesan cheeses over potatoes, tucking some cheese between potato slices.

Return skillet to oven and broil until top is golden brown, 5-6 minutes.



Dish Up a Divine Holiday Dessert

Give your holiday gatherings a new twist this year with a creamy cranberry delight that's a cause for celebration all on its own. Smooth, divine taste at the dessert table can be the memorable moment your family craves year after year.

This rich, festive Cranberry Cheesecake combines classic flavor with a homemade cranberry compote-infused layer above a crust sweetly made using C&H Light Brown Sugar and graham crackers. Top it all off with fresh and sugared cranberries, rosemary sprigs and whipped cream for a tempting treat that tastes as good as it looks.

To find more sweet eats to celebrate the holidays, visit chsugar.com.

Cranberry Cheesecake

Prep time: 45 minutes

Cook time: 1 hour, 15 minutes

Cranberry Compote:

- 2 cups fresh cranberries
- 1 cup C&H Light Brown Sugar
- 1/4 cup freshly squeezed orange juice
- 1 teaspoon freshly grated orange zest



Crust:

- 2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 3 tablespoons C&H Light Brown Sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Cheesecake:

- 3 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, at room temperature
- 2 cups C&H Organic Raw Cane Sugar
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 4 large eggs, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup sour cream, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup cranberry compote

- fresh cranberries
- sugared cranberries
- rosemary sprigs
- whipped cream

To make cranberry compote: In medium saucepan, bring cranberries, brown sugar, orange juice and orange zest to boil. Lower heat and simmer 10-15 minutes, or until most cranberries burst. Remove from heat. Cool completely at room temperature then transfer to bowl; refrigerate.

To make crust: Preheat oven to 350 F. Butter 8-inch springform pan and line bottom with parchment paper. Set aside.

In medium bowl, mix cracker crumbs, butter, brown sugar and salt. Press crumb mixture into bottom of prepared pan. Bake 15 minutes. Remove from oven and set aside. Reduce oven temperature to 325 F.

To make cheesecake: In bowl of electric mixer fitted with paddle attachment, beat cream cheese at medium speed until smooth. Add cane sugar and beat 2-3 minutes. Scrape sides of bowl as needed. Add flour, vanilla and salt. Beat 1 minute until incorporated.

Add one egg at a time, mixing until incorporated. Add sour cream and mix 1 minute. Scrape sides of bowl as needed. In medium bowl, mix half of cheesecake batter with 1/2 cup cranberry compote.

Wrap springform pan with aluminum foil and place in large roasting pan. Pour cream cheese and cranberry mixture into prepared pan. Top with remaining cream cheese batter. Place roasting pan in oven and add hot water to 1-inch of springform pan. Bake 1 hour, 15 minutes, or until cake looks set in center. Remove from oven and rest 1 hour. Refrigerate in pan overnight.

Decorate cake with fresh and sugared cranberries, rosemary sprigs and whipped cream.

Gas prices fall to cheapest state average since January

T-G STAFF REPORT

The state gas price average in Tennessee fell below \$3 per gallon this weekend for the first time since January 4.

Since last Monday, gas prices in Tennessee have fallen 12 cents, on average. The Tennessee Gas Price average is now \$2.98 which is 30 cents less expensive than one month ago and eight cents less than one year ago.

“We’re now seeing gas prices at 11-month lows in Tennessee thanks to low oil prices and strong gasoline supplies,” said Megan Cooper, spokeswoman, AAA - The Auto Club Group.

“We can still expect to see fluctuating gas prices across the state as gas prices begin to normalize after recent drops in crude oil pricing. Barring any big market changes, it’s likely that Tennesseans will continue to see prices trend downward again this week.”

Quick facts

- 66% of Tennessee gas stations have prices below \$3.00
- The lowest 10% of pump prices are \$2.65 for regular unleaded
- The highest 10% of pump prices are \$3.34 for regular unleaded
- Tennessee is the 8th least expensive market in the nation

National gas prices

The recent steep plunge in domestic gas prices may be affected by the results of Sunday’s meeting of OPEC+, a group of 23 oil-producing nations, including Saudi Arabia and Russia.

Domestic gasoline prices have dropped 26 cents nationally in the past two weeks. But OPEC+ decided to maintain output cuts of 2 million barrels per day, about 2% of world demand. The purpose of the move is to boost the global price of oil, which has fallen recently on fears of demand weakness, specifically in China. Regardless, the national average pump price for a gallon of gas dropped 14 cents in the past week to \$3.40.

According to data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), gas demand held steady at 3.2 million b/d. Meanwhile, total domestic gasoline stocks rose by nearly 2.8 million bbl to 213.8 million bbl. Increasing supply and steady gasoline demand have contributed to pushing pump prices lower.

Today’s national average of \$3.40 is 39 cents less than a month ago and 5 cents more than a year ago.

National oil market dynamics

At the close of last Friday’s formal trading

session, WTI decreased by \$1.24 to settle at \$79.98. A weaker dollar contributed to decreasing prices.

Earlier in the week, crude prices were boosted by the EIA reporting that total domestic commercial crude stocks fell dramatically by 12.6 million bbl. The domestic commercial crude supply is 14 million bbl lower than at the end of November 2021.

For this week, crude prices could rise in response to the European Union, Australia, Japan, United States, Canada, and the U.K. beginning to implement a \$60 per barrel price cap on Russian seaborne crude oil, which is meant to limit the country’s revenues in response to the Ukrainian invasion.

This effort follows Sunday’s virtual meeting for the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies, also known as OPEC+, where the cartel agreed to keep its production reduction agreement of 2 million b/d unchanged through 2023.



T-G Photo by Zoe Watkins

Travelers this holiday season will find a little relief at the gas pump due to cheaper prices.



SEASON OF GIVING

These children were selling baked goods outside Joli Cheval to raise money to help the needy for Christmas. They do this each year.

T-G Photo by Diandra Womble

Ukraine: Russia put rocket launchers at nuclear power plant

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian forces have installed multiple rocket launchers at Ukraine’s shutdown Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Ukrainian officials claimed Thursday, raising fears Europe’s largest atomic power station could be used as a base to fire on Ukrainian territory and heightening radiation dangers.

Ukraine’s nuclear company Energoatom said in a statement that Russian forces occupying the plant have placed several Grad multiple rocket launchers near one of its six nuclear reactors. It said the offen-

sive systems are located at new “protective structures” the Russians secretly built, “violating all conditions for nuclear and radiation safety.”

The claim could not be independently verified.

The Soviet-built multiple rocket launchers are capable of firing rockets at ranges of up to 40 kilometers (25 miles), and Energoatom said they could enable Russian forces to hit the opposite bank of the Dnieper River, where each side blames the other for almost daily shelling in the cities of Nikopol and Marhanets. The plant is in a

southern Ukrainian region the Kremlin has illegally annexed.

The Zaporizhzhia station has been under Russian control since the war’s early days. Russia and Ukraine accuse each other of shelling the plant and risking a radiation release. Although the risk of a nuclear meltdown is greatly reduced because all six reactors have been shut down, experts have said a dangerous radiation release is still possible. The reactors were shut down because the fighting kept knocking out external power supplies needed to run the reactors’

cooling systems and other safety systems.

The U.N.’s nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, has stationed inspectors at the plant and has been trying to persuade both sides in the conflict to agree to a demilitarized zone around it. The agency did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the reported Grad installation. Ukraine has accused the Russians before of having heavy weapons at the plant. The Kremlin has said it needs to maintain control of the plant to defend it from alleged Ukrainian

attacks.

With renewed focus on the dangers at Zaporizhzhia in the war, dragging on past nine months, the Kremlin is sending new signals about how to end it. It said Thursday it’s up to Ukraine’s president to end the military conflict, suggesting terms that Kyiv has repeatedly rejected, while Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed to press on with the fighting despite Western criticism.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that “(Ukrainian President Volodymyr) Zelenskyy knows when it may end. It may end tomorrow if he wishes so.”

The Ukraine war has deteriorated relations between Russia and much of the rest of the world, but limited cooperation continues in some areas, such as exchanges of prisoners. On Thursday, in a dramatic swap that had been in the making for months, Russia freed American basketball star Brittney Griner while the United States released a jailed Russian arms dealer.

The Kremlin has long said that Ukraine must accept Russian conditions to end the fighting. It has demanded that Kyiv recog-

nize Crimea — a Ukrainian peninsula that Moscow illegally annexed in 2014 — as part of Russia and also accept Moscow’s other land gains in Ukraine.

Zelenskyy and other Ukrainian officials have repeatedly rejected those conditions, saying the war will end when the occupied territories are retaken or Russian forces leave them.

In an acknowledgement that it’s taking longer than he expected to achieve his goals in the conflict, Putin said Wednesday that the fighting in Ukraine “could be a lengthy process” while describing Moscow’s land gains as “a significant result for Russia.”

During a conference call with reporters, Peskov said Moscow wasn’t aiming to grab new land but will try to regain control of areas in Ukraine from which it withdrew just weeks after incorporating them into Russia in hastily called referendums — which Ukraine and the West reject as illegal shams. After earlier retreats from the Kyiv and Kharkiv areas, Russian troops last month left the city of Kherson and parts of the Kherson region, one of the four illegally annexed Ukrainian regions.

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