

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

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

75 CENTS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2022

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Nursing facility evacuated



Approximately 70 residents were evacuated from Viviant Healthcare's Glenoaks Road facility Saturday afternoon and evening. "Massive areas of the ceiling" were leaking from burst pipes due to Friday's zero-degree temperatures, authorities said. No injuries were reported. Many residents went to family members' homes, while others were taken by a fleet of ambulances, buses, and vans from several counties to long-term care facilities across a wide area. Burst pipes were reported at many other businesses and homes across Bedford County, fire officials said.

T-G Photo by David Melson



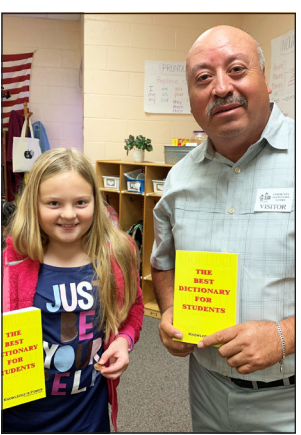
Teachers honored

Local/6A



Rotary donation

Local/8A



Titans struggle

Sports/1B

HORSES PERISH IN BLAZE



Twelve horses died in a fire Friday night at Snug Harbor Farm, a horse dressage facility owned by Cherie Beatty on Hopkins Bridge Road in western Bedford County, according to Bedford County Fire Department.

Photo by Mark Thomas/Bedford County Fire Department

Gunman robs Beech Grove store

By DAVID MELSON
dmelson@t-g.com

An isolated convenience store in far north-east Bedford County was robbed at gunpoint Sunday night, investigators said.

The gunman entered Beech Grove Market, on Highway 64 East near Interstate 24, around 8:40 p.m.

He was described by the store's manager as wearing a black mask and all-black clothing, Det. Lt. John Sweeney of the Bedford County Sheriff's Office.

"An armed suspect approached the store manager as they were closing the store," Sweeney said. "He was armed with what

appeared to be a handgun.

"He ordered the manager and ordered him at gunpoint to give him money."

The amount taken was not disclosed.

Sweeney said the suspect appeared to have left on foot.

Land a must when seeking new industry

By ZOE WATKINS
zwatkins@t-g.com

Part 2 of a series
Once a community has adequate quality of life and a good workforce, recruiting industries also requires having adequate land.

That's one of the issues concerning Shelbyville-Bedford Partnership CEO Shane Hooper and Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham.

Hooper said he gets around two to three calls every week from developers asking about Bedford County.

What many people don't realize is Bedford is competing with other counties and other states when it comes to industrial recruitment. "Companies...set aside a budget for expansion. Who gets those expansion is a competitive environment," Hooper said.

For instance, Hooper explained when the new electrolyte company Duksan Electera America, Inc. was looking to expand in the U.S., they were looking at lands in Georgia.

The new 231 North Industrial Park, which

Duksan is located in, is essentially filled up and officials hope to find another site. But "that's a challenge of its own," said Hooper.

Graham added, "We're well pivoted to continue to evolve this economic model. Just because we're going to fill this industrial park, this is not the end. This is the beginning."

Hooper explained the current industrial park is not a mega-site, which is 1,000 acres.

Bedford County is 475 square miles, or 304,000 acres. Take the roughly 100 acres of the industrial park and we're talking about 0.032% of the county.

"So when people talk about loss of farms to industry. No," he said.

Much more wanted

But even if Bedford has land, Hooper said companies are still looking for sewer, power, water, broadband, and occasionally natural gas. "That's why it's imperative we continue to work with our utility

▶ See Land, Page 2A

Tablets for inmates draw mixed opinions

By DAVID MELSON
dmelson@t-g.com

A proposed three-year contract for tablets to be assigned to Bedford County Jail inmates will be sent to the full Bedford County Commission with a favorable recommendation, but not everyone in attendance at a committee meeting last Tuesday.

Lt. Chris Cook, programs director at the jail, told the commission's Law Enforcement Committee he wants inmates departing the jail to know more than before their sentences began.

"I see this as just another program we offer at the jail," Cook said.

But commissioners Jason Boyette and Drew Hooker expressed disapproval. Both said everyone they'd talked with is against the program. Many constituents disagree with inmates having access to email, videos, and other forms of entertainment in a jail cell, Boyette said.

Boyette is concerned about inmates' ability to "root" a tablet, bypassing internal limitations on their use, and said they'd have many hours each day to take such

▶ See Inmates, Page 2A



The Community Room at Bedford County Courthouse was packed during the first of three committee meetings last Tuesday night. The full commission is being urged to move the committee meetings into the larger room down the hall.

T-G Photo by David Melson

A PRIZE WINNING NEWSPAPER

UT-TPA PRESS AWARDS 2022



OBITUARIES

Barbara Jean Angus

December 27, 2022

Graveside services for Barbara Jean Angus, 78, of Cookeville will be held on Tuesday, December 27, 2022 at 1 p.m. at Willow Mount Cemetery in Shelbyville with Brother Ralph Thomason officiating.

She passed away on Saturday, December 24, at Manchester Healthcare.

OBITUARIES

James Robert Brown

December 21, 2022

Mr. James Robert Brown, age 81, of Shelbyville, passed away Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at his home under the loving care and comfort of his family and Hospice Compassus.

Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Saturday, December 31, 2022, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel with burial to follow at Holden Cemetery.

The family will receive visitors an hour prior to the service.

He was born February 27, 1941, in Bedford County, to the late Frank and Virginia Yates Brown. He was a retired firefighter from the Shelbyville Fire Department.

He is preceded in death by two sons, James Robert Brown, Jr. and Michael Benford; six sisters, and three brothers.

Survivors include a son, Steven Douglas Brown, of Shelbyville, and a daughter, Lisa Renay Brown Toney, of Harvest, Alabama; a brother, Carl Brown, of Nashville; three sisters, Gladys Brown, Elaine Bowers, both of Shelbyville, and Carleen Arnold, of Nashville; ten grandchildren: Antonio Brown, of Shelbyville, Tabitha Brown, of Shelbyville, Jamelia (Shane) Burdette, of Murfreesboro, Talisha Brown, of Shelbyville, Latasha (Marquel) Cobb, of Murfreesboro, Nickolaus Locke, of Tullahoma, Marquesha Benford, Michael Benford, Montoreo Benford, and Mya'Neka Benford, all of Murfreesboro; 16 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Land

(Continued from Page 1)

providers," said Hooper. "In my opinion, those are basics that need to be provided by government."

Money for this should come from the local government, according to Graham. "They are expensive on the front end... Anytime the government has to do it, it's because it's not profitable," said Graham.

Essentially, the government can spend \$2 million to get \$300 million in revenue, Hooper explained. "Where does the value stop? Because it's not just about the \$600,000 for the land. You're getting returns all over the place."

"You're not going to sit here and save your way to prosperity," said Hooper.

Industries like Duksan or aerospace are known as "advanced industry manufacturing." Hooper said they're not the traditional "smokestack" industries people tend to think of.

Many people are concerned about the environmental impact of recruiting industry as well.

However, Hooper assured that companies like Duksan are required to meet high standards. "Duksan's process is a self-contained manufacturing process. Everything is sealed and it goes from one container to the next container without getting on the ground or air," Hooper explained.

"All industries in Bedford are required to comply with federal, state, and local environmental laws," said Hooper.

"There are different levels of manufacturing. The absolute top level is called advanced manufacturing industry energy," said Hooper. "This is what you would call white-collar manufacturing—clean manufacturing. Those are the ones we should try to recruit." These are jobs like aerospace and engineering that pay anywhere from \$80,000 to \$100,000.

Essentially, the whole point of bringing in these kinds of "white collar" industrial jobs is to increase the middle class.

Building the middle class

Essentially, an ideal socio-economic model should be a pyramid, with the bottom being the service jobs and the top being the wealthy.

"We have our fair share of high income. We also have a very good portion of low-income," said Hooper. "What we don't have is a middle class."

As of 2020, the median household income of Bedford County is around \$53,000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, while Hooper said Bedford's unemployment is around 5%.

"The goal is to not displace but to dilute," said Graham. "We need to dilute the amount of economically disadvantaged, not displace." Graham added that typically the higher the income of the household, the less children they have. The lower the income, the more children they have.

According to Hooper, a lot of the jobs here in Bedford are in the \$15 to \$20 an hour range, which can't support a family, a car, or a home. "Today, if you're looking at what it takes to do that, it takes \$60,000 or better. Those are the jobs we don't have," he said.

Part of attracting those economic figures is having appropriate housing. In fact, Hooper said there are 855 homes planned for the northern part of the county. "That development is going to have some apartments and it's going to have market rate housing," he said.

"We're attracting folks that can come here and afford to buy a big farm and they live very nicely. We're missing that middle class," Hooper said. "The middle class drives your success or your failure."

Graham added, "Politicians have got to understand they've got to play the long game, not the short game...We're going to play the long game. We're going to go after what we want, not just what happens."

Sheriff: 6 thought dead in Tennessee house fire

CROSSVILLE (AP) — Authorities believe six people were killed in an early morning house fire in Tennessee on Monday.

Cumberland County firefighters responded to find the Crossville home fully engulfed in flames, a statement from Cumberland County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Gary Howard said. Officials believe that

four adults and two children were killed in the blaze, Howard said.

Authorities said they need to officially identify the victims and notify their family members before releasing additional details about the victims.

No foul play is suspected in the fire, the statement said. Several other agencies also responded and were at

the scene to investigate, including the Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the Cumberland County Rescue Squad.

"Sheriff Casey Cox would like to ask everyone to please keep this family in your prayers," Howard said. "This is a horrific event and a tragic loss for our community."

Holiday sales up 7.6% despite the squeeze of inflation

NEW YORK (AP) — Holiday sales rose this year as American spending remained resilient during the critical shopping season despite surging prices on everything from food to rent, according to one measure.

Holiday sales rose 7.6, a slower pace than the 8.5% increase from a year earlier when shoppers began spending the money they had saved during the early part of the pandemic, according to Mastercard SpendingPulse, which tracks all kinds of payments including cash and debit cards.

Mastercard SpendingPulse had expected a 7.1% increase. The data released Monday excludes the automotive industry and is not adjusted for inflation, which has eased somewhat but remains painfully high.

U.S. sales between Nov. 1 and Dec. 24, a period that is critical for retailers, were fueled by spending at restaurants and on clothing.

By category, clothing rose 4.4%, while jewelry and electronics dipped roughly 5%. Online sales

jumped 10.6% from a year ago and in-person spending rose 6.8%. Department stores registered a modest 1% increase over 2021.

"This holiday retail season looked different than years past," Steve Sadove, the former CEO and chairman at Saks and a senior advisor for Mastercard, said in a prepared statement. "Retailers discounted heavily, but consumers diversified their holiday spending to accommodate rising prices and an appetite for experiences and festive gatherings post-pandemic."

Some of the increase reflected the impact of higher prices across the board.

Consumer spending accounts for nearly 70% of U.S. economic activity, and Americans have remained resilient ever since inflation first spiked almost 18 months ago. Cracks have begun to show, however, as higher prices for basic necessities take up an increasingly large share of everyone's take-home pay.

Inflation has retreated from the four-decade high it reached this summer,

concern that committee meetings start too early. Three committees meet consecutively beginning at 5 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month.

Commissioner Mark Thomas said he feels the acoustics aren't good in the large former courtroom and urged that committee meetings be returned to their former location in the county's Dover Street office building. Thomas cited better sound conditions and a much larger room.

The county's IT director, Josh Carney, said it requires an outside company to set up the larger room, with only two wireless microphones available.

Ethics policy

The Rules and Legislative Committee voted to recommend the full commission adopt the model CTAS updated ethics policy.

Commissioners with conflicts of interest may vote on the entire county budget without verbally declaring a conflict, but must continue doing for individual items.

Zoning change

Two representatives of Bedford Market, Highway 64 West, asked the Rules and Legislative Committee to change the 2,000-foot rule banning beer sales near churches and schools.

Board chair P.T. "Biff" Farrar explained they need to reach out to their district's commissioners, Anita Epperson and Diane Neeley, who can begin guiding the request through the committee process. Neeley was already talking to them before the meeting ended.

Farrar also warned them that the store's location — across the highway from New Bethel Baptist Church and beside Bedford Church of Christ on Bethlehem Church Road — could affect any chance of approval.

Zoning talk deferred

Discussion on a resolution to amend Bedford County's zoning regulations being deferred until the Rules and Legislative Committee's January or February meeting. Commissioner Greg Vick said more study is needed and Bedford County Planning Commission needs to be involved.

Homeless help

The need for shelter for the homeless during extreme cold was discussed.

Castle Ministries on Madison Street is open in extreme conditions, and Fair Haven Baptist Church on Highway 231 North opens as a shelter in the event of extended power outages lasting longer than several hours, the committee was told.

Pop-up kennels, left over from a hoarding case a few years ago, are available from Bedford County Animal Control.

Commissioner Drew Hooker updated the Rules and Legislative Committee on the joint city-county homeless task force being formed.

Shelbyville City Manager Scott Collins is naming the city's members, Hooker said.

"Bedford County does not need to be a resettling ground for refugees," Hooker said, expressing concerns about an influx larger than the area can handle.

Response time

Boyette asked during the Law Enforcement Committee how Bedford County Sheriff's Office handles deputies' response times to service calls.

"We have 480 square miles covered by four to six deputies on each shift," Sheriff Austin Swing said. "You try to get them there with as much as you've got as quick as you can."

Response time are much

Thompson, the lead of consultancy Kearney's Consumer Institute.

In November, shoppers cut back sharply on retail spending compared with the previous month. Retail sales fell 0.6% from October to November after a sharp 1.3% rise the previous month, the government said in mid-December. Sales fell at furniture, electronics, and home and garden stores.

A broader picture of how Americans spent their money arrives next month when the National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, comes out with its combined two-month results based on November-December sales figures from the Commerce Department.

The trade group expects holiday sales growth will slow to a range of 6% to 8%, compared with the blistering 13.5% growth of a year ago.

Analysts will also be dissecting fourth-quarter financial results from major retailers in February.

faster at night due to less traffic, Swing said.

Intruder drills

The Law Enforcement Committee was told by a representative of Bedford County Emergency Management Agency that intruder drills will continue through February in Bedford County schools. A bomb threat drill at Shelbyville Central High was said to have gone well.

Deferred decisions

Commissioner Linda Yockey told the Courthouse and Property Committee, of which she is not a member, that constituents had complained of deferrals they suspect are intentional in the handling of various issues.

She urged the committee — and the entire commission — to give specific reasons why issues are being deferred.

Woodson honor

A proposal in the Rules and Legislative Committee to name the Sims Road bridge over the Duck River for former county executive (as the mayor's office was then known), commissioner, and longtime educator Jimmy Woodson was sent to the full commission with a favorable recommendation.

"He was a great man. We're honored that you shared him with us," Farrar said to Woodson's widow, Charlene Woodson.

Members commented on how much Woodson had done for Bedford County, going back to his years as a teacher and principal. Several commented that Woodson in his later years volunteered to drive a school bus during a driver shortage, and appeared to enjoy that more than all his previous positions.

ANONYMOUS DONOR



Bedford County government photo
For a number of years, a local donor – who prefers not to be recognized publicly – has contributed money to emergency and animal-related services in Bedford County during the holiday season. Receiving checks this year were Bedford County Sheriff's Office, Shelbyville Fire Department, Bedford County Fire Department, Shelbyville Police Department, Bedford County Animal Control, Middle Tennessee Spay and Neuter Clinic, and Shelbyville-Bedford County Humane Association. From left are Shelbyville Fire Chief Matt Doak; Bedford County Animal Control director Josie Lowery; Jane DeAtley and Christine Abbey-Carlton of SBCHA; Tammy Anderson, a board member for MTSNC; and Sheriff Austin Swing.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to Tennessee's Hunger Heroes

To the Editor:
As 2022 rapidly draws to a close and we enter the holiday season, many of us begin to think about gratitude—who and what we are grateful for.
In another unsure year, as families faced record inflation rates and the loss of universal meals, many have struggled and hundreds of thousands of kids here in our state may have faced hunger.
Yet, once again, hunger heroes here in Tennessee have stepped up to make sure children have access to the meals they need to learn, grow and thrive.

Groups of people like principals, teachers, school nutrition staff and members of community organizations—amongst others—have worked vigilantly to feed kids. Even in the face of new and ever-evolving challenges, these hunger heroes have continued to ensure kids have access to school and community meals, and have worked to help guarantee families have access to federal nutrition programs like SNAP and WIC.

We know it takes a village to help kids be successful in and out of the classroom. This season we hope you'll join us in recognizing the schools who feed kids during the day and the community organization sponsors who serve meals after school lets out. Your work is something we're truly grateful for. Feeding kids today is one of the greatest gifts we can give to ensure they're ready to face the challenges of tomorrow.

**Marissa Spady
No Kid Hungry
Tennessee**



CHRISTMAS EVE GIVING

Juanita Morella, a faithful supporter of the Shelbyville Police Department, stopped by Shelbyville police headquarters on Christmas Eve to deliver food and other treats to on-duty personnel. Officers learned that she had recently been involved in an automobile accident and was barely getting around. The officers took up a collection and presented her with a monetary gift. From left are dispatcher Brian Wagner, Morella, and Officer Bryan Lashwood.

Shelbyville Police Department photo

New State Farm office opens in Shelbyville

Jacob Spence is opening a new State Farm Insurance office in Shelbyville, located at 727 N. Main St. The State Farm agent has set Jan. 2 as the opening day and has announced initial plans to hire three new team members for the office.

Spence is a native of Bedford County but has been a resident of Linden for most of his life. He has over four years of insurance background and has served in an agency management role over his career as a State Farm team member. He is also known for his active community service and passion for helping

people uncover the goals for their future.
Spence holds an MBA and bachelor's degree in business administration from Freed-Hardeman University. He is licensed in property and casualty, life, health, and financial services products.

"State Farm is a natural fit for me in starting my business and gives me the best platform to make a lasting impact on the lives of others," Spence said. "My background has always been about helping people and providing personalized service. My clients are like my family, and I am excited

to share the joys of life with them and be there for them when the unexpected happens. I'm here to help people live life confidently and look forward to serving the Shelbyville community."

"State Farm is a company that I am proud to join, and I look forward to offering our products and services that protect the families in this community, and their most valuable assets, from the unexpected," Spence said.

His office is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and by appointments on Saturdays and after hours. You can

reach Spence at 931-488-7138, or via email at jacob@securebyspence.com.

About State Farm®

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China's COVID-19 surge raises odds of new coronavirus mutant

By LAURA UNGAR and ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL
Associated Press

Could the COVID-19 surge in China unleash a new coronavirus mutant on the world?

Scientists don't know but worry that might happen. It could be similar to omicron variants circulating there now. It could be a combination of strains. Or something entirely different, they say.

"China has a population that is very large and there's limited immunity. And that seems to be the setting in which we may see an explosion of a new variant," said Dr. Stuart Campbell Ray, an infectious disease expert at Johns Hopkins University.

Every new infection offers a chance for the coronavirus to mutate, and the virus is spreading rapidly in China. The country of 1.4 billion has largely abandoned its "zero COVID" policy. Though overall reported vaccination rates are high, booster levels are lower, especially among older people. Domestic vaccines have proven less effective against serious infection than Western-made messenger RNA versions. Many were given more than a year ago, meaning immunity has

waned.
The result? Fertile ground for the virus to change.

"When we've seen big waves of infection, it's often followed by new variants being generated," Ray said.

About three years ago, the original version of the coronavirus spread from China to the rest of the world and was eventually replaced by the delta variant, then omicron and its descendants, which continue plaguing the world today.

Dr. Shan-Lu Liu, who studies viruses at Ohio State University, said many existing omicron variants have been detected in China, including BF.7, which is extremely adept at evading immunity and is believed to be driving the current surge.

Experts said a partially immune population like China's puts particular pressure on the virus to change. Ray compared the virus to a boxer that "learns to evade the skills that you have and adapt to get around those."
One big unknown is whether a new variant will cause more severe disease. Experts say there's no inherent biological reason the virus has to become milder over time.

"Much of the mildness we've experienced over the past six to 12 months in many parts of the world has

been due to accumulated immunity either through vaccination or infection, not because the virus has changed" in severity, Ray said.

In China, most people have never been exposed to the coronavirus. China's vaccines rely on an older technology producing fewer antibodies than messenger RNA vaccines.

Given those realities, Dr. Gagandeep Kang, who studies viruses at the Christian Medical College in Vellore, India, said it remains to be seen if the virus will follow the same pattern of evolution in China as it has in the rest of the world after vaccines came out. "Or," she asked, "will the pattern of evolution be completely different?"

Recently, the World Health Organization expressed concern about reports of severe disease in China. Around the cities of Baoding and Langfang outside Beijing, hospitals have run out of intensive care beds and staff as severe cases surge.

China's plan to track the virus centers around three city hospitals in each province, where samples will be collected from walk-in patients who are very sick and all those who die every week, Xu Wenbo of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention said at a briefing Tuesday.

PROS TO KNOW

Email a question and look for the answer **Tuesdays** in the **Times-Gazette** or online at www.t-g.com/advertising
CLICK ON QUIZ AN EXPERT



Wes Trundle
Director of Marketing/Business Development
Heritage South Community Credit Union
Date: October 4, 2022

Q: I've started giving my child an allowance but is there something more I can do to teach her how to save money?

A: Teaching children how to manage and save money is an important thing to do! Did you know that studies have shown money habits are set by age 7? That's why we partnered with My First Nest Egg to help teach healthy money habits to our youngest members. My First Nest Egg is a fun chore and allowance app for three to twelve years old designed by real moms who were worried their kids didn't know how to manage their money. Visit www.heritagesouth.org/kids to learn how our members can use this app for FREE!

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There's no slip of the hand here

Dear Heloise: When I am cooking on the stove and want to add a bit more oil to a pan, particularly to a frying pan, I am always afraid of slippage that may cause me to over-pour, until I thought of a plan. I put several rubber bands around my olive oil and canola oil bottles for a nonslip grip. Sure enough, no more fear of slippage. -- Priscilla Zanni, Vancouver, Washington

Hints from Heloise



an oil company in one of those Dallas skyscrapers. When I arrived at work early each day, the first thing I did was read the Heloise column in the Dallas Morning News that was passed around. Then, throughout my life, I have followed the column and used the many hints both you and your mother provided to the newspaper.

I have lived and worked in many places since then, but your column seemed to always appear in the major newspapers across the U.S., or at least where I lived, in Colorado and West Virginia. Now, I'm back in Texas with my husband, retired and still reading your helpful hints in Central Texas. -- Carolyn Korkmas, Belton, Texas

RESPONSE TO PICTURE STORAGE

Dear Heloise: A reader recently suggested scanning hard copy photos and storing them on the computer or on a flash drive. With constant "advances" in technology, I am concerned that in 25 years or so, when you would like to show your grandchildren what you looked like when you were young, those flash drives and computer files will no longer be accessible with the updated devices of the time.

I will stick with hard copies of my favorite photos and important documents, stored in a box or in a file cabinet. -- Carol Brown, Poultney, Vermont

ARMCHAIR SHOPPER PARKING

Dear Heloise: May I offer an alternative thought to the person who seems to be irritated by the convenience of the armchair shopper parking spaces? What I picture is the employee, who schlepped all over the store fulfilling the order and has to push the cart out to the waiting car and load the order into the car, while the customer just sits behind the wheel. Maybe, just maybe, these reserved parking spaces are meant more to help those employees, not for the convenience of the customer. -- Just a Thought, in Colorado

BACK IN TEXAS

Dear Heloise: In the early 1960s, I worked for

QUALITY WATER FOR HERBS AND HOUSEPLANTS

Dear Heloise: We recently went to our second house in Florida and found that the house plants we brought from Little Rock, Arkansas, started to wilt. This also happened with the parsley we purchased and put in water. So we started using bottled water, and everything perked up with no wilting! Good water (like the water we have in Little Rock) makes a big difference! Thanks. -- Little Rock Bob, in Florida

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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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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-

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.

JAN. 2

Bag Day

Good Samaritan, 201 E. Highland Ave., will hold a bag day on Monday, Jan. 2 from noon-2 p.m.

JAN. 8

Laity Club

Bedford County Laity Club will meet at 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8, at Cannon United Methodist Church for a potluck meal.

JAN. 19

Head Start meeting

South Central Human Resource Agency Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council meeting will meet at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, at the South Central Human Resource Agency Central Office in Fayetteville.

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

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 prepare for winter storms



Winter arrives with fanfare as Christmas, Chanukah and New Year's Eve all take place within days of the first day of the season. Parties and shopping may distract people from the weather around them, but after resolutions are made and the decorations are packed away, it's not long before it's time to confront winter's wrath.

Storms are commonplace in January and February in many parts of the world, and even March storms are not unheard of. Knowing how to prepare for storms can keep people safer and prevent home damage. If a storm is forecasted, follow these guidelines.

- Charge a mobile phone and other electronic devices to full battery in advance of the storm in case power goes out.
- Stock the home with extra batteries for flashlights and battery-powered devices, such as a portable radio.
- Invest in a car charger to charge devices if the power is out for some time.
- Keep a supply of canned or boxed nonperishable items, as well as convenience foods that do

Knowing how to prepare for storms can keep people safer and prevent home damage. If a storm is forecasted, follow these guidelines.

- not need to be cooked, like granola bars.
- Periodically check to ensure that the first aid kit is stocked with items that have not expired.
- Refill medications so that they are on hand in the event weather makes it challenging to get to the store.
- Keep emergency sup-

plies of bottled water. If you forget this, fill the bathtub up with fresh water. Extra water will be needed for toilet flushing if yours is a septic system.

- Have warm blankets on hand and sleeping bags for each person in the home.
- Unplug all electronic devices if the power goes out to protect against a surge and damage when the power is restored.
- Exercise caution when burning candles, opting for flashlights and lanterns instead.
- If it's very cold outside, move refrigerated and frozen items outdoors so they do not spoil in an unpowered refrigerator.
- Do not use gas stoves,

charcoal grills or other open-flame heat sources for warmth indoors. Carbon monoxide gas can build up inside and prove deadly.

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using a backup generator for power.
 - Stock up on gasoline for vehicles and to power gas-driven generators.
 - Use power company websites and apps to report outages and stay apprised of restoration status.
 - Be cautious of downed power lines in the area when driving or walking.
- Winter storms can be beautiful but dangerous without ample preparation.

Public Notice

City Hall Christmas Holiday Closing and Trash Schedule

Christmas:

City Hall will be Closed on Monday, December 26th in observation of the Christmas Day.

Public Works will be closed on Monday 26th in observation of the Christmas Day. Monday's trash will be picked up on Tuesday, December 27th with Tuesday's regular route.

Please be advised per the Residential Solid Waste Rules of the Shelbyville Public Works Department trash must be curbside no later than 6:00 AM on the scheduled day of collection. To see a complete list of Rules & Regulations please refer to the Public Works Department website www.shelbyvilletn.org/publicworks.htm

Lisa Smith, City Recorder
Buck Vallad, Public Works Director

Public Notice

City Hall Holiday Closing & Shelbyville Trash Schedule

New Year's:

City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 2nd, 2022.

Public Works will be closed on Thursday, December 29th in observation of New Year's Day. Thursday's trash will be picked up on Monday, January 2nd with the Monday's regular route.

Please be advised per the Residential Solid Waste Rules of the Shelbyville Public Works Department trash must be curbside no later than 6:00am on the scheduled day of collection. To see a complete list of Rules & Regulations please refer to the Public Works Department website www.shelbyvilletn.org/publicworks.htm

Lisa Smith, City Recorder
Buck Vallad, Public Works Director

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AG NOTES

BY JOHN TEAGUE
 UT/TSU Extension

WHO ARE WE?

We've been around over a hundred years, but there are a lot of folks who do not know what and who Extension is. Let us introduce ourselves.

We have our beginning back in 1862, when President Abraham Lincoln and the Congress saw the value in establishing a system referred to as the land-grant colleges. I wasn't around then, but I heard about it. These were to be schools of higher learning devoted to agricultural research and then teaching what was learned from that research to a growing population who would feed the country while it also began industrial growth. Up to that point most folks farmed and simply existed.

This system was expanded in 1890 to provide the same opportunities for minorities to learn about agriculture and mechanical arts, the early stages of the industrial movement. Later, both systems had instruction in the area of home economics, now referred to as family and consumer sciences. In Tennessee, the 1862 land-grant college was what would become the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and the 1890 college was what would become the Tennessee State University in Nashville.

These land-grant systems provided for a school site and actual farm land that would be used in researching all areas involved in plant and animal production for food and fiber. Later, there was a need to take that information the schools were discovering and teaching to their students on campus to those citizens in the countryside who would never attend one of these colleges. The Smith-Lever Act in 1914 was passed that established a service that would extend that information to the people in the states at the county level. That's us.

There were boys' corn

clubs as early as 1906, and there were girls' canning clubs in 1910. It was recognized even then that if the youth were taught new ideas and principles of farming and homemaking they would be more ready adopters and their skeptical parents would then follow suit.

There were many side-by-side plots with father and sons competing to see who could grow the most corn, etc. The sons would get the new hybrid varieties to plant, while their fathers would stick to their old favorites, and time after time the boys would win the yield contests. The same happened with the development of fertilizers.

The same thing happened with the girls and their mothers, learning how to cook, preserve and can, increase the level of sanitation and personal health, and other issues of the day. These groups became the 4-H clubs, now embracing the traditional subjects of agriculture and family and consumer science plus modern technology and personal development topics.

The first county agent educator representing the University of Tennessee here was Julius R. Hickerson in 1917, and I have his report on file.

The first home demonstration agent was here a few years later. It is really interesting to read their reports, giving an insight into how people lived. Very rural is a good description. There have been great educators to follow them over the years that improved the lot of the people in all of these areas. And the 4-H Clubs of Bedford County have had a great history, with the first state project winner in 1946, in the horse project. Imagine that!

We are now UT-TSU Extension, with a blend of agents supported by both universities. Here is a short profile of those agents.

Whitney Danhof is the family and consumer science educator here now. She works with groups in

special interest areas of nutrition, food preparation, health areas, family economics, etc., and on one-to-one with other issues. She maintains an active Family and Community Education Club program, with several community clubs with members well over one hundred in number.

Emily Osterhaus and Jeffrey Hester are the agent educators responsible for the 4-H youth development program. They maintain nearly one hundred clubs and some 2,500 members who study personal development, workforce preparation, and many who are involved in projects from animals and plants to computer technology and environment.

We have a program assistant who works with the food and nutrition programs of the Tennessee Nutrition and Consumer Education Program for those who need special assistance. Yesenia Lira-Garcia has been on our staff for some time now, and she is a great resource. She is bilingual and is a big help to us and our community.

Kim Harvey is our administrative person who directs the public to the appropriate source of information and help. She's been here a long time and is a huge help in working with us and our clients.

I'm John Teague and I serve those who have an interest in agriculture, both full and part time farmers with operations of all sizes. I also work with residents who do not farm but do have issues with lawns, landscaping, household pests, etc. Although my specialty is livestock management, and this is one of the largest livestock counties in the state, I do work with a wide range of areas. If I don't know the answer, I'll try to find the one who does.

UT-TSU Extension provides equal opportunity in all of our programs and employment. We are located at 2105 Midland Road in Shelbyville, and our phone number is 931-684-5971.



Mid-South Livestock Regional Center LLC - Unionville, TN

AMS Livestock, Poultry, & Grain Market News

Tennessee Dept of Ag Mkt News

Mon Dec 12, 2022

Email us with accessibility issues with this report.

Livestock Weighted Average Report for 12/12/2022 - Final

AUCTION	This Week	Last Reported 12/5/2022	Last Year
Total Receipts:	665	1,278	1,001
Feeder Cattle:	563(84.7%)	1,099(86.0%)	801(80.0%)
Slaughter Cattle:	93(14.0%)	157(12.3%)	157(15.7%)
Replacement Cattle:	9(1.4%)	22(1.7%)	43(4.3%)

Compared to last week, Feeder Steers/Bulls 4.00-8.00 higher; Feeder Heifers 3.00-7.00 higher; Slaughter Cows 2.00-4.00 higher; Slaughter Bulls steady to 2.00 higher. Supply included: 85% Feeder Cattle (34% Steers, 44% Heifers, 22% Bulls); 14% Slaughter Cattle (85% Cows, 15% Bulls); 1% Replacement Cattle (100% Bred Cows). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 46%.

FEEDER CATTLE

STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
3	310-330	318	170.00-195.00	178.25	
3	350-385	365	187.50-197.50	191.02	
10	404-440	418	180.00-195.00	185.39	
5	490-495	494	187.50-192.50	190.80	
10	500-540	516	170.00-180.00	176.35	
2	500-510	505	185.00-186.00	185.50	Value Added
7	555-595	581	167.00-179.00	173.81	
5	600-640	621	158.00-166.00	160.85	
9	610	610	171.50	171.50	Value Added
8	660-690	669	151.00-156.00	153.51	
11	653-682	667	159.00-167.50	161.23	Value Added
10	700-745	710	142.00-150.00	145.21	
2	710-740	725	153.00-156.00	154.53	Value Added
5	775-795	784	144.00-151.00	147.40	
4	755-777	772	156.50-158.00	156.87	Value Added
1	845	845	135.00	135.00	
7	800-845	817	150.50-155.00	151.65	Value Added
2	870-880	875	148.00-150.00	149.01	Value Added
2	1150-1155	1153	120.00-122.00	121.00	

STEERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	335	335	150.00	150.00
2	425-430	428	150.00-172.50	161.32

Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News

Page 1 of 4

TN Dept of Ag Market News

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www.ams.usda.gov/pgmn

<https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/> | <https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/2069>

Woes from deadly winter storm continue

By CAROLYN THOMPSON
and JAKE BLEIBERG
 Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The deep freeze from a deadly winter storm that walloped much of the United States will continue into the week as people in western New York deal with massive snow drifts that snarled emergency vehicles and travelers across the country see canceled flights and dangerous roads.

The massive storm has killed at least 34 people across the U.S. and is expected to claim more lives after trapping some residents inside houses and knocking out power to tens of thousands of homes and businesses.

The extreme weather stretched from the Great Lakes near Canada to the Rio Grande along the border with Mexico. About 60% of the U.S. population faced some sort of winter weather advisory or warning, and temperatures plummeted drastically below normal from east of the Rocky Mountains to the Appalachians.

The National Weather Service said Sunday the frigid arctic air “enveloping much of the eastern half of the U.S. will be slow to moderate.”

That's especially unwelcome news for Buffalo, which saw hurricane-force winds and snow causing whiteout conditions that paralyzed emergency response efforts.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said almost every fire truck in the city was stranded Saturday and implored people Sunday to respect an ongoing driving ban in the region. Officials said the airport would be shut through Tuesday morning. The National Weather Service said the snow total at the Buffalo Niagara International Airport stood at 43 inches (1.1 meters) at 7 a.m. Sunday.

Huge snowdrifts nearly covered cars and there were thousands of houses, some adorned in unlit holiday displays, dark from a lack of power.

With snow swirling down untouched and impassable streets,

forecasters warned an additional 1 to 2 feet (30 to 60 centimeters) of snow was possible in some areas through early Monday morning amid wind gusts of 40 mph (64 kph). Police said Sunday evening that there were two “isolated” instances of looting during the storm.

Two people died in their suburban Cheektowaga, New York, homes Friday when emergency crews could not reach them in time to treat their medical conditions. Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz said 10 more people died there during the storm, including six in Buffalo, and warned there may be more dead.

“Some were found in cars, some were found on the street in snowbanks,” Poloncarz said. “We know there are people who have been stuck in cars for more than two days.”

Freezing conditions and power outages had Buffalonians scrambling to get to anywhere with heat amid what Hochul called the longest sustained blizzard conditions ever in the city. But with streets under a thick blanket of white, that wasn't an option for people like Jeremy Manahan, who charged his phone in his parked car after almost 29 hours without electricity.

“There's one warming shelter, but that would be too far for me to get to. I can't drive, obviously, because I'm stuck,” Manahan said. “And you can't be outside for more than 10 minutes without getting frostbit.”

Ditjak Ilunga of Gaithersburg, Maryland, was on his way to visit relatives in Hamilton, Ontario, for Christmas with his daughters Friday when their SUV was trapped in Buffalo. Unable to get help, they spent hours with the engine running, buffeted by wind and nearly buried in snow.

By 4 a.m. Saturday, their fuel nearly gone, Ilunga made a desperate choice to risk the howling storm to reach a nearby shelter. He carried

6-year-old Destiny on his back while 16-year-old Cindy clutched their Pomeranian puppy, following his footprints through drifts.

“If I stay in this car I'm going to die here with my kids,” Ilunga recalled thinking. He cried when the family walked through the shelter doors. “It's something I will never forget in my life.”

Travelers' weather woes continued, with hundreds of flight cancellations already and more expected after a bomb cyclone — when atmospheric pressure drops very quickly in a strong storm — developed near the Great Lakes, stirring up blizzard conditions, including heavy winds and snow.

The storm knocked out power in communities from Maine to Seattle. But heat and lights were steadily being restored across the U.S. According to poweroutage.us, fewer than 100,000 customers were without power Monday at 6 a.m. CDT — down from a peak of 1.7 million.

Concerns about rolling blackouts across eastern states subsided Sunday after PJM Interconnection said its utilities could meet the day's peak electricity demand. The mid-Atlantic grid operator had called for its 65 million consumers to conserve energy amid the freeze Saturday.

Storm-related deaths were reported in recent days all over the country: 12 in Erie County, New York, ranging in age from 26 to 93 years old, and another in Niagara County where a 27-year-old man was overcome by carbon monoxide after snow blocked his furnace; 10 in Ohio, including an electrocuted utility worker and those killed in multiple car crashes; six motorists killed in crashes in Missouri, Kansas and Kentucky; a Vermont woman struck by a falling branch; an apparently homeless man found amid Colorado's subzero temperatures; and a woman who fell through Wisconsin river ice.

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BCS teachers honored



Learning Way Elementary



Community Elementary



East Side Elementary



Liberty Elementary



Southside Elementary



Cascade Elementary

STAFF REPORT

Over the last couple of weeks, the Bedford County School System has been honoring Level 5 Pre-K and Kindergarten Portfolio teachers.

According to school communication director Carol Garrette, since not being “tested” grades or subjects, these teachers have the opportunity to complete a portfolio of their work. Garrette added that this “takes a considerable amount of time, effort and expertise to successfully do so.”

Teachers achieve a Level 5 score if they successfully complete all the requirements as outlined by the Tennessee State Department of Education.

The school system announced that 41 out of 43 of the Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers in Bedford County achieved a level 5 on their portfolios submitted to the state.

Portfolios support teachers in non-tested grades and subjects by providing them with an individualized measure to capture their students’ learning. Additionally, the reflective nature of the portfolio process—in which teachers collect, review, and submit student work samples throughout the year, including video, audio, and photos—is considered a valuable professional learning experience.

“We are personally recognizing these outstanding teachers at their individual

schools with a framed certificate and group pictures...” said Garrette.

Cascade Elementary School’s Level 5 teachers are Candice Lane, Wendy Littrell, Ashley Cook, and Suzanne Adcock.

Community Elementary School’s Level 5 teachers are Meghan Brown, Julie Daniel, Melissa Neeley, Elizabeth Ganues, Patricia King, Kelly Mayo, and Nancy McGee.

Deery Eakin Elementary’s Level 5 teachers are Kimberly Burkey, Misty Byrom, Cari Doss, Trishta McGee, Monica Reese, Kelsey Sommers, Kristin Wexler, and Rebecca Wilson.

East Side Elementary’s Level 5 teachers are Renee Crowder, Amanda Masters, Shelby Summers, and Austin Walker.

Learning Way Elementary’s Level 5 teachers are Rebecca Bradshaw, Jean Domergue, Kristina Griffin, Laura Gutierrez, Shelli Hord, Carolee Napper, and Rachel Porter.

Liberty Elementary’s Level 5 teachers are Angela Bean, Heather Condit, Jennie Haskins, and Melissa Themm.

South Side Elementary’s Level 5 teachers are Tena Melson and Macy Ray.

Thomas Magnet School’s Level 5 teachers are Rebecca Hellmann, Delicia Hyatt, Shelby Joerger, Regina McGriff, and Kelsey Thomas.



Deery Eakin Elementary



Thomas Magnet School



GOP stumbles with independents contributed to midterm woes

By **THOMAS BEAUMONT**
and **HANNAH FINGERHUT**
Associated Press

EAGAN, Minn. — As Republican Tyler Kistner's closing ad aired last month in one of the most competitive congressional districts in the U.S., Vickie Klang felt that something was missing.

The 58-year-old veterinary technician and self-described independent voter watched as the 30-second spot showed grainy black-and-white images of President Joe Biden with two-term Democratic Rep. Angie Craig superimposed alongside him. The narrator ominously described life in America as "dangerous and unaffordable" because of an alliance between the two Democrats.

Absent from the ad, Klang thought, was anything close to a solution beyond electing Kistner.

"You're never telling me what you're going to do for the state or the country," Klang recalled. "That's a huge turnoff."

Klang ultimately backed Craig, contributing to a 5 percentage point win for a Democratic incumbent whom Republicans spent more than \$12 million to unseat. From Maine to California, Republicans faced similar unexpected setbacks with the small but crucial slice of voters who don't identify with either major party, according to AP VoteCast, a sweeping national survey of the electorate.

Republican House candidates nationwide won the support of 38% of independent voters in last month's midterm elections, VoteCast showed. That's far short of the 51% that Democrats scored with the same group in 2018 when they swept into power by picking up 41 seats. The GOP's lackluster showing among independents helps explain why Republicans flipped just nine seats, securing a threadbare majority that has already raised questions about the party's ability to govern.

Some Republican strategists say the finding is a sign that messages that resonate during party primaries, including searing critiques of Biden, were less effective in the general election campaign because independent voters were searching for more than just the opposition.

"You've got to tell them what you're going to do," said David Winston, a Republican pollster and senior adviser to House Republicans who had been critical of GOP candidates' messaging strategy this year. "Somehow the Republican campaigns managed not to do that. And that's a real serious problem."

In the northern reaches of Minnesota's 2nd congressional district, a swath of lakes and onetime farm country teeming with development near the Twin Cities, more than a dozen independent voters echo Winston's assessment.

Unlike Klang, who grew up in a union Democratic household, Steve Stauff of Shakopee, 20 miles (32 kilometers) west, was raised in a rural, conservative Republican home. The two share a recent history of voting for Republican and Democratic statewide candidates, as well as for independent candidate for governor Jesse Ventura in 1998.

But Kistner's message, like those of other losing Republican challengers in targeted races, appeared aimed more at Republicans than swing voters: simply linking Craig with Biden, whose job disapproval ratings had outpaced approval, and Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, widely unpopular with Republicans.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy came out with a campaign proposal in September titled "Commitment to America," billed as a GOP agenda. However, the proposal, a collection of repackaged goals such as increased domestic petroleum production, was light on details and mentioned little during the campaign.

"We were just being told, 'Pelosi bad, Biden bad, therefore Craig bad,' instead of hearing 'This is my plan to represent this district,'" said Stauff, a 42-year-old sales representative. "If you don't bring me solutions to whatever problems you think we have, how can I take you seriously?"

VoteCast suggests that independent voters distinguished between the problems facing the U.S. and Biden's culpability for them. While few independents said the economy is doing well and about two-thirds disapproved of Biden's handling of it, independents were slightly more likely to say inflation is the result of factors outside Biden's control than that Biden is to blame, 51% to 47%, according to the survey.

But that nuance was often missing from the GOP's political message.

An October Kistner ad included the claim, "Feeling hopeless? Thank Joe Biden and Angie Craig," a point that failed to land with Kathy Lewis, an independent voter from Lakeville, Minnesota.

"I understand how that is so hard on people," said Lewis, a 71-year-old school board member in the Republican-leaning exurb southwest of St. Paul. "I've never really believed the president, no matter who it is ... ever really controlled the inflation. They may have had an effect on it, but they didn't really control it one way or the other."

Democrats did significantly better among true independents and those who lean toward a party than they have in recent midterms when they have also held the White House, according to analysis of Pew Research Center post-election surveys of self-identified voters in 2014, 2010 and 1998.

While questions remained into the fall about the role the Supreme Court's June decision overturning the 1973 landmark abortion rights precedent Roe v. Wade would play in the election, several 2nd District Minnesota independents cited it as a driving issue in their support for Craig.

About 7 in 10 independent voters who don't side with either party think abortion should be legal in most or all cases, according to VoteCast, which also found many voters across party lines were hesitant to support candidates who were considered extreme.

Pamela Olson, an independent from rural Farmington, Minnesota, said she doesn't typically vote on a single issue. Nor did she vote for Craig in 2020. That changed with the court's decision, in light of Craig's support for abortion rights and Kistner's opposition in most cases.

"It's about freedoms in this country. And I think it is completely up to a woman and her doctor," said Olson, a 56-year-old engineer. "There needs to be a choice for those individuals, not for somebody else to tell you what to do."

Besides the contention that GOP candidates did not focus on independents, Winston suggests that independent voters might be hesitating to lurch toward the alternative after the turmoil of Donald Trump's presidency.

"Change has to be something they are willing to vote for, as opposed to just the kneejerk reaction that 'this is bad so I'm just going to go another direction,'" Winston said.

Pope on Christmas: Jesus was poor, so don't be power-hungry

By **FRANCES D'EMILIO**
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Recalling Jesus' birth in a stable, Pope Francis rebuked those "ravenously" for wealth and power at the expense of the vulnerable, including children, in a Christmas Eve homily decrying war, poverty and greedy consumerism.

In the splendor of St. Peter's Basilica, Francis presided over the evening Mass attended by about 7,000 faithful, including tourists and pilgrims, who flocked to the church on a warm evening and took their place behind rows of white-robed pontiffs.

Francis drew lessons from the humility of Jesus' first hours of life in a manger.

"While animals feed in their stalls, men and women in our world, in their hunger for wealth and power, consume even their neighbors, their brothers and sisters," the pontiff lamented. "How many wars have we seen! And in how many places, even today, are human dignity and freedom treated with contempt!"

"As always, the principal victims of this human greed are the weak and the vulnerable," said Francis, who didn't cite any specific conflict or situation.

"This Christmas, too, as in the case of Jesus, a world ravenous for money, power and pleasure does not make room for the little ones, for the so many unborn, poor and forgotten children," the pope said, reading his homily with a voice that sounded tired and almost hoarse. "I think above all of the children devoured by war, poverty and injustice."

Still, the pontiff exhorted people to take heart.

"Do not allow yourself to be overcome by fear, resignation or discouragement." Jesus' lying in a manger shows where "the true riches in life are to be found: not in money and power, but in relationships and persons."

Remarking on the "so much consumerism that has packaged the mystery" of Christmas, Francis said there was a danger the day's meaning could be forgotten.

But, he said, Christmas focuses attention on "the

problem of our humanity — the indifference produced by the greedy rush to possess and consume."

"Jesus was born poor, lived poor and died poor," Francis said. "He did not so much talk about poverty as live it, to the very end, for our sake."

Francis urged people to "not let this Christmas pass without doing something good."

When the Mass ended, the pope, pushed in a wheelchair by an aide, moved down the basilica with a life-sized statue of Baby Jesus on his lap and flanked by several children carrying bouquets. The statue then was placed in a manger in a creche scene in the basilica.

Francis, 86, has been using a wheelchair to navigate long distances due to a painful knee ligament and a cane for shorter distances.

Traditionally, Catholics mark Christmas Eve by attending Mass at midnight. But over the years, the starting time at the Vatican has crept earlier, reflecting the health or stamina

of popes and then the pandemic.

Two years ago, the start of Christmas Eve Mass in St. Peter's Basilica was moved up to 7:30 p.m. to allow faithful to get home before for a nighttime curfew imposed by the Italian government as a measure to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Although virtually all pandemic-triggered restrictions have long been lifted in Italy, the Vatican kept to the early start time.

During Saturday evening's service, a choir sang hymns. Clusters of potted red poinsettia plants near the altar contrasted with the cream-colored vestments of the pontiff.

On Sunday, tens of thousands of Romans, tourists and pilgrims were expected to crowd into St. Peter's Square to hear Pope Francis deliver an address on world issues and give his blessing. The speech, known in Latin as "Urbi et Orbi" (to the city and to the world), generally is an occasion to review crises including war, persecution and hunger, in many parts of the globe.

SHELBYVILLE POWER, WATER & SEWERAGE SYSTEM

P.O. BOX 530

SHELBYVILLE, TN 37162

SHELBYVILLE SEWER SYSTEM

RATE SCHEDULE

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023

INSIDE CITY: Residential

Customer Charge				\$	16.70	MINIMUM BILL
0	10,000	Gallons	@	\$	7.40	PER THOUSAND
10,100	20,000	Gallons	@	\$	5.75	PER THOUSAND
20,100	99,999,900	Gallons	@	\$	5.10	PER THOUSAND

INSIDE CITY: Small Commercial

Customer Charge				\$	25.00	MINIMUM BILL
0	10,000	Gallons	@	\$	7.40	PER THOUSAND
10,100	20,000	Gallons	@	\$	5.75	PER THOUSAND
20,100	99,999,900	Gallons	@	\$	5.10	PER THOUSAND

INSIDE CITY: Large Commercial/Industrial

Customer Charge				\$	50.00	MINIMUM BILL
0	10,000	Gallons	@	\$	7.40	PER THOUSAND
10,100	20,000	Gallons	@	\$	5.75	PER THOUSAND
20,100	99,999,900	Gallons	@	\$	5.10	PER THOUSAND

OUTSIDE CITY: Residential

Customer Charge				\$	21.50	MINIMUM BILL
0	10,000	Gallons	@	\$	9.55	PER THOUSAND
10,100	20,000	Gallons	@	\$	7.00	PER THOUSAND
20,100	99,999,900	Gallons	@	\$	6.15	PER THOUSAND

OUTSIDE CITY: Commercial

Customer Charge				\$	25.00	MINIMUM BILL
0	10,000	Gallons	@	\$	9.55	PER THOUSAND
10,100	20,000	Gallons	@	\$	7.00	PER THOUSAND
20,100	99,999,900	Gallons	@	\$	6.15	PER THOUSAND

SHELBYVILLE POWER, WATER & SEWERAGE SYSTEM

P.O. BOX 530

SHELBYVILLE, TN 37162

SHELBYVILLE WATER SYSTEM

RATE SCHEDULE

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023

INSIDE CITY:

Residential, Small Commercial, Large & Industrial Commercial

Customer Charge				\$	13.40	MINIMUM BILL
0	10,000	Gallons	@	\$	4.30	PER THOUSAND
10,100	20,000	Gallons	@	\$	2.75	PER THOUSAND
20,100	99,999,900	Gallons	@	\$	2.40	PER THOUSAND

OUTSIDE CITY:

Residential, Commercial

Customer Charge				@	\$	15.20	MINIMUM BILL
0	10,000	Gallons	@	\$	6.00	PER THOUSAND	
10,100	20,000	Gallons	@	\$	3.85	PER THOUSAND	
20,100	99,999,900	Gallons	@	\$	3.30	PER THOUSAND	

Rotary Club supports student literacy

For over 17 years, the Rotary Club of Shelbyville has distributed dictionaries to third grade students as part of their efforts to promote literacy. This year over 650 English dictionaries were provided to students in eight elementary schools throughout Bedford County.

Additionally, Spanish-to-English dictionaries were distributed to Eakin Elementary to assist with the language barrier that many of teachers experience with their students.

With 52% of the student population using English as their second language, the Rotary club was happy to expand their project to assist teachers at Eakin with this need.

The Rotary Club purchases special student dictionaries through the non-profit organization, The Dictionary Project. Third grade students receive the dictionaries in their formal education as most primary schools teach the children to use an English dictionary in the third grade.

Through this effort, each student is the proud owner of what is often their first dictionary. Students are encouraged to take them

home so that the entire family may benefit.

“Rotarians were happy to personally present students their own dictionary this year,” said Darin Hasty, President of Rotary Club of Shelbyville. “We value our relationship with the Bedford County School System and are happy to continue supporting literacy in Bedford County with this project.”

The Dictionary Project is one way that the Rotary Club of Shelbyville has chosen to help meet that goal of literacy.

About The Rotary Club of Shelbyville

The Rotary Club of Shelbyville supports multiple literacy initiatives throughout the year with members volunteering to serve the Bedford County community.

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service and help to build goodwill and peace in the world.

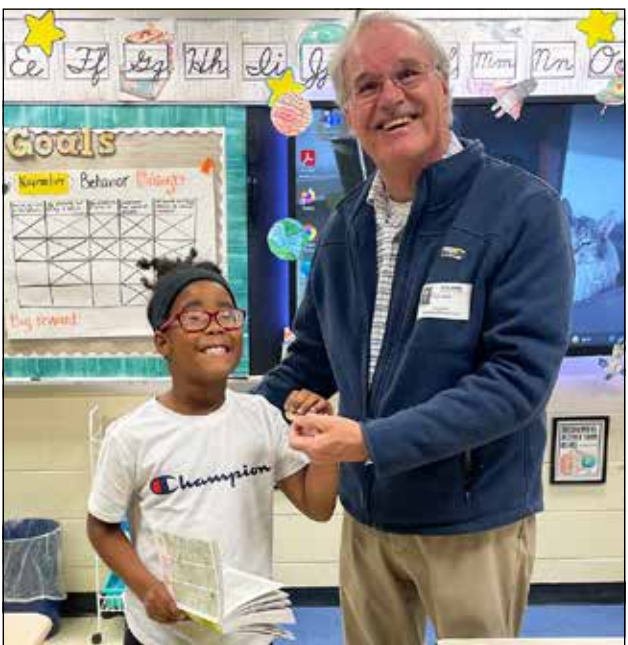
There are approximately 1.2 million Rotarians who are members of more than 32,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries.



Rotarians Darin Hasty and Bartolo Pina present dictionaries to Liberty School.



Rotarians Darin Hasty and Dawn Hobbs present Spanish-to-English dictionaries to teachers of Eakin School.



Rotarian Ivan Jones and a student from Eakin.



Rotarian Dawn Hobbs and a student from Community Elementary.



Rotarian Bartolo Pina and a student from Community Elementary.



From left, assistant superintendent Tim Harwell with Melissa Brannon, Heidi Farris, and Leigha Featherstone.



Many Level 4 teachers were recognized at the last Board of Education meeting.

Faculty and staff recognized at the Board of Education

Employees from the payroll department were given certificates of appreciation at the last Board of Education meeting on Dec. 15. Melissa Brannon, Heidi Farris, and Leigha Featherstone were recognized at the meeting for their hard work and dedica-

tion. Also recognized at the meeting were many TVAAS & TN Ready Growth Level 4 teachers for the 2021-2022 school year. They are as follows: Allison Adcock (East Side Elementary), Tristea Bankston (Harris Middle), Angie

Bivvins (Southside Elementary), Marie Gilbert (Community Elementary), Julie Hill (East Side Elementary), Donna Jackson (Cascade High), Adrian Keeley (Harris Middle), Ben Liddell (Harris Middle), Brittany McCoy (Eakin Elementary), Susan Olsen

(Thomas Magnet), Kelley Reason (Thomas Magnet), Kristen Reese (Community High), Haley Richardson (Community Elementary), Deborah Smith (Cascade Middle), Rebekah Spreser (Shelbyville Central High), Alyssa Stanford

(Shelbyville Central High), Morgan Tipps (Liberty), Elizabeth Wheelon (Community Elementary), Beverly Whitaker (Community Middle), Leann Wooten (Thomas Magnet), Lisa Yates (Cascade High), James Yates (Community Elementary).

Submitted photos

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Times-Gazette SPORTS

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www.t-g.com/sports
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Photos courtesy of the Tennessee Titans

Derrick Henry was the lone bright spot for the Titans' offense on Christmas Eve. He totaled 126 yards on 23 carries and a touchdown.

Rebuilding may be best move for Titans

It's officially time to hit the panic button for the Tennessee Titans.

On Christmas Eve, the Titans saw the Houston Texans snap a nine-game skid in Nashville and the Titans' grip on the AFC South lead slip away with the 19-14 Houston victory. For years, the Titans have been reliant on a stellar defense and a top-tiered ground game.

The formula can only work for so long, though, when the Titans' roster is as banged up as it is.

With Ryan Tannehill likely out for the season, it became Malik Willis' show to run the offense.

If one thing is clear, it's the Titans' third-rounder is not ready to be an everyday NFL starter.

While the Titans' offense hasn't been a true gun-slinging, air out out system, Willis couldn't even generate 100 passing yards against the Texans.

Willis went 14-of-23 for 99 yards and two interceptions.

The Titans' receivers haven't done a whole lot for Tannehill as it is, but the passing game was blatantly non-existent on Saturday.

Henry turned out his typical 126 yard day with a touchdown, but if anything has been learned over the last five games, he can't do

Chris Siers

The Extra Point



it by himself.

Plenty of fans have been calling for Todd Downing's job all season, and for good reason.

The Titans rank 27th in the NFL with 17.9 points per game, with only Tampa Bay, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, Houston and Denver being worse.

At this point, the Titans are limping to the finish line with injuries across the board, including Tannehill, Dylan Cole, Amani Hooker and Kristian Fulton.

And the Titans' schedule isn't any easier in the last two weeks either, with Dallas up next on a short week for Thursday Night Football, and the season finale at now-AFC South leading Jacksonville.

With the Titans' loss on Saturday, all eyes are now turned to the finale against Jacksonville, which will decide the AFC South champion.

The Jags certainly have been playing better as of late, winning four of their last five games and averaging over 30 points per game in each of those four wins.

So what happens if the Titans lose their last two games?

Where should the front office go from here?

In a loaded AFC, featuring the likes of Josh Allen, Patrick Mahomes, Joe Burrow and Justin Herbert, it begs the question as to what direction the Titans should be heading.

When John Robinson was fired earlier this month, it became clear the Titans' ownership wants to head another direction.

It should also be asked if it's time to blow up the Titans' roster and start rebuilding.

Tannehill isn't the quarterback to compete against the top gunslingers of the NFL and with the number of injuries across the board, it may be time for the ownership and new general manager, whenever they are hired, to start shipping off key pieces from the Robinson era and start rebuilding from scratch, at least on the offensive side of the ball, because the status quo hasn't been producing, and with a quick glance at the schedule, it's not looking like much can change over the last two weeks of the season.

•Chris Siers is sports editor of the Times-Gazette. Email him at sports@t-g.com.



Malik Willis went 14-of-23 for 99 yards and two interceptions as the Titans' starting quarterback on Saturday.

Viqueens top East Hickman in Classic

T-G STAFF REPORT

TULLAHOMA — In the Tullahoma Classic, the Community Viqueens relied on some lock-down defense and another stellar outing from M.J. Simmons as the Purple and Gold rolled past East Hickman in a 44-27 blowout win.

Simmons jump-started the scoring for Community, logging 10 of her game-high 21

points in the opening frame.

Freshman Anna Haskins highlighted the quarter with a three-pointer as well.

Both teams saw scoring slow in the second frame, with Community only going on an 8-4 run, but still led 25-12 at the half.

Community put the game out of reach with a 9-1 run in the third frame. Community is back in

action this week at the Smoky Mountain Classic in Gatlinburg and will face Soddy Daisy in the opener on Wednesday at 11:30 a.m.

E. Hickman 8 4 1 14 — 27
Community 17 8 9 10 — 44
E. Hickman: Hillary Harris 11, Taylor Holt 6, Ki-Litta Sowell 4, Ruby Cox 3, Braylee Clark 3.
Community: M.J. Simmons 21, Anna Haskins 8, Shelby Cawthon 6, Haley Mitchell 5, Stevie Dickenson 2, Zoey Dixon 2.
3-Point goals: Community (3): Haskins 2, Mitchell 5; E. Hickman (3): Holt 2, Harris. Halftime score: Community 25, E. Hickman 12.

Gonzaga looks hard at its future

By TIM BOOTH
AP Sports Writer

SPOKANE, Wash. — Snowflakes were just starting to fall in earnest as students hurriedly erected tents with the intent of camping out for a basketball game more than 24 hours away.

The overnight party was eventually called off over concerns about the snow and frigid temperatures from the late autumn storm.

But it still illustrated that there's nothing else in West Coast college basketball to rival what Gonzaga has created over the last two decades.

"I am an undergrad degree-holder of the institution and so have been part of it for over 35 years and I've seen sort of what it was before we have experienced the modern era of basketball and what it has been during that time,"

Gonzaga President Thayne McCulloh said. "And then some of the things that we now find ourselves challenged with and have opportunities around and it's very clearly been an important dimension of who we are and how we're seen."

Gonzaga is no longer the plucky up-and-comer with the frequently
▶ See **Gonzaga**, Page 2B

Gonzaga

(Continued from Page 1)

mispronounced name, and it no longer really fits in the “mid-major” category, not with its resume. And with college sports realignment back in play, the Zags are being talked about as a potential target for bigger conferences that once never would have looked to Spokane.

The possibility of a future somewhere other than the West Coast Conference is on the table for Gonzaga, which has been a member since 1979.

“There’s always the need to look and the need to evaluate and it’s not simple math, it’s calculus,” Gonzaga athletic director Chris Standiford said. “I think you just have to stay open-minded and you have to be willing to look at the existing ecosystem and recognize that it’s not static, it’s very dynamic. And you have to anticipate what some of that dynamism means, and not be complacent.”

The talk surrounding Gonzaga is not new. There has been talk in the past of a move to the Big East or the Mountain West. More recently, the Zags have been linked to the Pac-12 and Big 12 following the latest realignment moves involving those conferences.

All those moves were based on football. Texas and Oklahoma to the SEC; USC and UCLA to the Big Ten; the Big 12 adding Cincinnati, UCF, Houston and BYU, which is a WCC member in basketball.

But the realignment juggle may be hitting its peak with regards to football. That’s left the question of what’s next and what still could be done with college basketball, the next most profitable college sport.



Gonzaga forward Anton Watson (22) gets loose for a dunk against Alabama.

AP Photo/Vasha Hunt

Gonzaga wouldn’t bring television market size. It would definitely offer brand relevance.

The Zags’ basketball resume is impressive: two national championship game appearances for the men, 23 straight NCAA Tournament berths, 21 WCC regular-season titles. The women’s basketball program is also regularly ranked in the AP Top 25 and has made three Sweet Sixteen trips and one Elite Eight appearance.

The Bulldogs are regularly strong in other sports like baseball and soccer, all helping to create national recognition.

“I think that’s probably the lesson that I get taught over and over is we underappreciate the power of our brand nationally,” Standiford said. “I think it means a lot to the sport of college basketball. I think it means a lot to the collegiate model because it inspires people to recognize that you still have a pathway to get there and it’s not economically driven, it’s opportunity-driven.”

One of those opportunities for Gonzaga could be with the Big 12, whose commissioner has not been shy about expressing his desire to have a presence on the West

Coast. In Las Vegas earlier this month, Brett Yormark reiterated statements he’s made several times about the future of the Big 12 being larger than the four schools joining in 2023.

“We want to go coast-to-coast at some point in time,” Yormark said. “We would love to get into that fourth time zone and we will at some point.”

Yormark also said he views basketball as being undervalued and that he would be open to adding a member that doesn’t play football: “If there is a stand-alone basketball opportunity that creates value enterprise, value for

the conference, absolutely.”

His statements appears to point toward Gonzaga, which seems to stand alone in its potential value because of its basketball program, at least out West. But the Pac-12 is also evaluating its future with the pending departure of the Los Angeles schools.

Any substantial consideration by the Pac-12 likely must wait until its next media deals are finalized. The Big 12 finished its TV deals earlier this year.

When asked generally if Gonzaga feels wanted, Standiford simply replied, “yes,” although there are no

offers from potential suitors yet.

There is also the possibility that Gonzaga ends up staying put, deciding the WCC — all of its member schools are private, faith-based institutions — is the right fit.

“It’s not as easy or as simple as I think perhaps some people might want to think it is,” McCulloh said. “We are still a small-to medium-sized university that’s in a town called Spokane and our success as an institution has been very interrelated with our community and with our alumni.”

Rankin’s 4 field goals power MTSU in Hawaii Bowl victory

By KALANI TAKASE
Associated Press

HONOLULU— Zeke Rankin kicked four field goals, including a 37-yarder for the go-ahead score with 2:05 left, and Middle Tennessee State beat San Diego State 25-23 in the Hawaii Bowl on Saturday night.

The Blue Raiders (8-5) overcame a 14-0 first-quarter deficit to turn back the Aztecs (7-6) in a game that featured six lead changes.

Rankin converted four of his five field goal attempts to tie the Hawaii Bowl record for field goals. He made kicks from 44, 49, 26 and 37 yards and missed from 42.

“What a ball game,” Middle Tennessee State coach Rick Stockstill said. “I’m just really proud of our team. We struggled offensively up front protecting us at the line of

scrimmage, but we found a way on that last drive to make things happen to get us down here and Zeke made a big-time field goal. It was just a very tough, hard-fought, competitive football game.”

San Diego State took a 23-22 lead with 5:43 to play on a 52-yard field goal by Jack Browning, but Middle Tennessee State drove 55 yards in 12 plays, capped by Rankin’s 37-yard field goal to put his team ahead for good.

“We stayed positive, we stayed the course and there’s going to be adversity in every game. We faced some adversity early, but we overcame it,” Stockstill said.

Middle Tennessee State finished with 170 yards of total offense to 364 total yards for San Diego State.

Chase Cunningham was 26-of-43 passing with one interception for 236

yards and two touchdowns. Jaylin Lane finished with 10 receptions for 111 yards and a 16-yard TD grab that put the Blue Raiders back ahead 22-17 with 13:25 left to play.

Lane’s touchdown catch came two plays after Jordan Ferguson came down with an interception of a San Diego State pass that was tipped by linebacker Parker Hughes.

The Blue Raiders won despite allowing seven sacks and being held to minus-61 yards rushing. They were just 3 of 17 on third downs.

San Diego State was 4 of 16 on third downs.

“We got to play better football, especially offensively,” Aztecs coach Brady Hoke said. “I think it was a great game, it was a great bowl game to be in, especially with a really good Middle Tennessee State team.”

San Diego State led 14-13 at halftime.

It was the first meeting between the schools.

The takeaway

Middle Tennessee State: After being picked by league media to finish eighth (out of 11 teams) in the C-USA preseason poll, the Blue Raiders finished the season out in a strong way by winning their final four games, capped off by their sixth bowl in eight seasons and 10th overall in 17 seasons under coach Rick Stockstill.

San Diego State: The Aztecs were projected by Mountain West media to finish second in the West Division behind Fresno State. Their season saw personnel changes at offensive coordinator, quarterbacks coach and quarterback, which helped to spur five wins in seven

games following a 2-3 start to the year.

Out with a bang

Middle Tennessee State defensive end Jordan Ferguson entered the game one sack shy of setting the all-time school record. The redshirt senior didn’t get the record-setting sack Saturday, but still did enough to be selected as MVP of the bowl game. Ferguson tallied five tackles, including three solo stops, one tackle for loss, an interception, one pass break-up and a quarterback hurry. Ferguson also was on the receiving end of an 8-yard TD pass from Chase Cunningham in the second quarter.

“I say this about all of our players, they’re more concerned about the alphabet than they are in numbers and (Ferguson), all he wanted was a ‘W,’ he

didn’t care about a number,” Stockstill said. “He wanted a W and he got a W. ... He’s had a wonderful career, he’s a great man and he’s going to be a great NFL player.”

In the aftermath of his TD reception, Ferguson drew a penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct after he spiked the football in the end zone. Stockstill gave him a pass for the snafu.

“We won, I’m happy for him. ... He’s an emotional guy and he apologized; He knew he was wrong, but we overcame it,” Stockstill said.

Lucky No. 7

Blue Raiders’ cornerback Decorian Patterson recorded his seventh interception of the year at the 11:33 mark of the second quarter, which matches Buffalo’s Marcus Fuqua for the most in FBS this season.

Mavs unveil Nowitzki statue before Christmas game vs. Lakers

By SCHUYLER DIXON
AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — Dirk Nowitzki stood with his son Max, both ready to push the lever that would unveil the statue of the retired Dallas Mavericks star outside the team’s arena.

It already had been revealed that the statue depicted Nowitzki’s signature one-legged fadeaway jumper. Not that there ever was any question.

“That jump shot, just going up to the sky, creating all type of rain,” said Los Angeles Lakers coach Darvin Ham, whose

team lost to the Mavericks 124-115 in the Christmas Day game that followed the Nowitzki ceremony Sunday.

Nowitzki has a street named after him not far from American Airlines Center, where his jersey is in the rafters. And now there’s a nearly 24-foot statue on the plaza south of the arena, unveiled on a chilly but sunny morning.

“It was emotional,” said Nowitzki, the only NBA player to spend all 21 seasons with the same franchise. “When the thing went up, felt like the sun

was just perfect today, just shining right on it.”

The biggest of those multiple moments honoring Nowitzki’s career came on the 11th anniversary of the only other Christmas home game for the Mavericks.

Nowitzki was the face of the franchise then, opening defense of the club’s only NBA title in the lockout-delayed 2011-12 season.

The new face, 23-year-old star guard Luka Doncic, watched the ceremony from just behind Nowitzki with several teammates and coach Jason Kidd.

“I’m just happy for

him,” said Doncic, who was Nowitzki’s teammate his rookie year. “He deserves all those things that are happening to him. The statue looks amazing.”

Kidd, Nowitzki’s point guard on the 2011 title team, had to throw in at least a couple of barbs, deciding to poke fun at the defense of the NBA’s highest-scoring foreign-born player.

“They picked the right move,” Kidd told reporters later. “I don’t think they were going to use the swipe (on defense) or him passing the ball. You see his stats

on passing? He was a ball hog.”

Sculptor Omri Amrany has created statues of other retired NBA stars in Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Shaquille O’Neal. He worked mostly with Nowitzki mentor Holder Geschwindner, who shaped the 7-foot German’s one-legged fadeaway.

Nowitzki’s family came from Germany along with Gershwindner, and the 44-year-old couldn’t say enough times what it meant to have his mom and dad witness the ceremony.

It came four days after

Nowitzki was nominated for the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame alongside Gregg Popovich, coach of Texas rival San Antonio, retired Spurs guard Tony Parker and Dwyane Wade, who beat Nowitzki in the 2006 NBA Finals with Miami before losing to him with LeBron James in 2011.

Nowitzki’s title came the year James and Chris Bosh joined Wade and the Heat, who went on to win the next two championships. Nowitzki stayed through some lean final years in Dallas, mostly because he had what he wanted most.

Broncos embarrassed by Mayfield, Rams

By DAN GREENSPAN
Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Russell Wilson, ever the optimist, couldn't find a way to rationalize the Denver Broncos' dire 51-14 loss to the Los Angeles Rams on Sunday.

"Well, the bottom line is unacceptable, you know, and it starts with me," he said. "The bottom line is that I let us down. It can't happen, and it's been disappointing."

Wilson threw interceptions on the Broncos' first two possessions, allowing the Rams to build a 17-0 lead before the visitors had even gained a first down in a performance that looked to be Denver's rock bottom in a season that will be remembered for all the wrong reasons. And

without any help from their offense, the Broncos' defense finally buckled, allowing the Rams to score on eight straight possessions before they took a knee with six seconds to go.

"This was an entire team loss. Nobody played good enough to win. It's across the board, whether it's offense or defense," Broncos coach Nathaniel Hackett said. "Everybody's got to do better."

The Broncos (4-11) didn't expect to be in this position when the schedule came out in May — one that included a nationally televised spot on Christmas Day. They had traded for Wilson, finally giving a team that had all the other components the top-tier

quarterback it had lacked in the quest for another Super Bowl appearance.

Instead, erratic play from Wilson and the offense doomed the Broncos to a seventh straight season without a playoff berth.

His second pass of the game sailed over the head of wide receiver Courtland Sutton and into the waiting hands of Rams cornerback Cobie Durant, who returned it to the Denver 34. The Rams scored three plays later to go up 10-0.

Wilson's next attempt, a throw over the middle to tight end Greg Dulcich, was picked by linebacker Bobby Wagner, his longtime Seattle teammate. Cam Akers ran for the first of three touchdowns two plays

later, and the game was effectively over with 4:45 left in the first quarter.

"It's been a storm all year, and not what we hoped for and what we dreamed for," said Wilson, who threw for 214 yards, one touchdown and three interceptions. "But it doesn't mean it's gonna end that way, you know, for years to come. We got to change it, and, like I said, it starts with me and I'm gonna be the first one to make sure I do everything I can, that we can to change it."

Wilson is seemingly assured of sticking around to try and reverse those struggles with a five-year, \$245 million contract extension he got in September. But the pieces around him could be different, especially

after frustration showed up Sunday on the sideline and field.

Backup quarterback Brett Rypien got into a confrontation with the offensive line, and left guard Dalton Risner shoved him in response. Outside linebacker Randy Gregory was penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct in the second quarter following a Rams touchdown pass and was briefly benched. Then Gregory got into a skirmish with Rams right guard Oday Aboushi after the game and they traded blows to the helmet.

"I think we're all frustrated because we feel like we can be better," Wilson said, who threw at least three interceptions for just the fifth time in his 11-year career. "We feel

like we're more capable, capable of being better. We feel like we've had some good moments and all that, but nobody wants to put out what we put out today. That was terrible. That was not us."

This is the second straight season in which Wilson has a losing record, but count Wagner among those who believes the Broncos will turn things around next season — led by their quarterback.

"I don't expect this to be a long-term thing," Wagner said. "I know that he's going to get right and perform at a high level and lead that team to victory. So I'm confident in him. I'm always confident in him. My money is always on Russ."



AP Photo/Jacob Kupferman

Ex-Clemson quarterback D.J. Uiagalelei has announced he will transfer to Oregon State.

Former Clemson QB eyes Oregon St.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quarterback DJ Uiagalelei is transferring from Clemson to Oregon State, he announced on social media.

Uiagalelei entered the transfer portal two weeks ago after an up-and-down two seasons as Clemson's starter. He has two years of eligibility remaining.

"Next stop ... Corvallis," he tweeted Saturday, along with a picture showing himself in a Beavers uniform.

No. 17 Oregon State (10-

3) used a two-quarterback system in its 30-3 victory over Florida in the Las Vegas Bowl on Dec. 17. Starter Ben Gulbranson was told beforehand that Tristan Gebbia would get at least two series. Gulbranson didn't let the decision faze him, completing 12 of 19 passes for 165 yards and a touchdown. He was named game MVP.

Uiagalelei, meanwhile, was benched after two series in Clemson's 39-10 victory over North Carolina in the Atlantic Coast Conference

championship on Dec. 3, and coach Dabo Swinney announced that freshman Cade Klubnik would start for the 10th-ranked Tigers in the Orange Bowl against No. 6 Tennessee on Friday.

The Tigers (11-2) started 8-0, but Uiagalelei struggled in the Oct. 22 game against Syracuse and was pulled in the second half. Klubnik came off the bench to spark a 27-21 victory over then-ranked Syracuse.

Klubnik was called on again in relief two weeks later in a 35-14 loss at

Notre Dame. Then, when Uiagalelei started with two three-and-out series against the Tar Heels with a league title at stake, Swinney put in Klubnik and never looked back.

The 6-foot-4, 235-pound Uiagalelei was one of the top recruits in the country out of St. John Bosco High in Bellflower, California. Over 35 games in three seasons for Clemson, he threw for 5,681 yards and 36 touchdowns with a 59.8% completion rate and 17 interceptions.

Buckeye defense motivated to limit big plays vs. 'Dogs

By JACOB BENGE
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — J.T. Tuimoloau stood in front of the Buckeyes before practice the week after Ohio State's second straight loss to Michigan.

As the sting of defeat began to set in and the prospect of missing the playoff remained a possibility, the second-year defensive end offered a reminder to his teammates.

Ohio State still has a chance.

"I felt like we just needed to get back on track, and these boys push me to go my hardest and bring out the best in me every day," Tuimoloau recalled. "I know what we can bring so I just wanted to come and just reiterate that. The job's not finished."

That's the focus for Ohio State's defense ahead of the College Football Playoff semifinal matchup against No. 1 Georgia (13-0) in the Peach Bowl on Dec. 31: Correct mistakes and limit big plays.

Ohio State (11-1) allowed 530 yards of offense during its loss to the Wolverines on Nov. 26, including five plays of 45 yards or more that went for touchdowns. Those explosive plays have been on the mind of defensive coordinator Jim Knowles.

Knowles said he takes ultimate responsibility for Ohio State's miscues in its only loss of the season.

"Any call that goes for an explosive, you have to look at, take responsibility for," Knowles said. "You got to evaluate the call from top to bottom and the game plan."

Coach Ryan Day said Michigan's 85- and 75-yard touchdown runs were enough to "ruin the whole day," but he's taking the good with the bad when evaluating his defense.

"There was still a lot of good things that happened," Day said. "It wasn't like you watch the film and you're like, 'Jeez, we just got completely outmatched.' It was just a lack of execution and too many big plays."

Occasional questions on defense have lingered for much of Day's tenure.

In 2019, Day and the Buckeyes won the Big Ten and advanced to the CFP behind a stout defense that held teams under 260 yards and 14 points per game.

But in 2020 and 2021,

those numbers ballooned. Ohio State gave up 401.6 yards and 25.8 points per game in his second season and were 372.9 yards and 22.8 points on average during his third, which prompted him to seek out Knowles and make changes on the defensive coaching staff.

Knowles' defense allowed just under 304 yards per game and ranked No. 12 in total defense this season, and he's been doing his part to quickly turn the focus toward the CFP.

"We've been having some of the best practices we've had all season," safety Ronnie Hickman said. "Being able to have this second chance is huge, so we're just doing everything we can to not let it slip through our fingers."

The defending national champion Bulldogs boast the No. 7 overall offense and topped 500 yards in seven games this season.

Georgia's passing and rushing offense both rank among the top 20 in college football, and its duo of running backs between Daijun Edwards and Kenny McIntosh topped over 681 rushing yards apiece.

Ohio State's defensive line consisting of Tuimoloau and Zach Harrison will also be challenged by Georgia quarterback Stetson Bennett, a Heisman Trophy finalist. Harrison thinks it's been a source of motivation to set the tone up front.

"Everything under the sun, we've heard it," Harrison said. "This team's got a lot of fight and this team's got a lot of heart. We're just not going to give up on this team and not going to give up on this year and just try to win it all."

Explosive plays kept the Buckeyes from the conference championship game for a second year, and Ohio State will need its defense to bounce back if it hopes to make the title game Jan. 9 against either TCU or the rival Wolverines.

"It was a big loss, but after going through everything and seeing our outcome play out, for me and my family and my family here, it's been like, 'Hey, we got a shot,'" Tuimoloau said. "We got an opportunity. Let's go do this thing."

Former USC, Pitt QB moving again

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quarterback Kedon Slovis is transferring from Pittsburgh to BYU, he announced Saturday on social media.

Slovis, who had transferred from USC to Pitt, has one year of eligibility remaining. He will compete for his starting job at BYU in its first season in the Big 12 Conference, which the

Cougars join after playing as an independent since the 2011 season.

Slovis struggled in his only season with the Panthers. He completed just 59% of his passes with 10 touchdowns and nine interceptions, his numbers dipping in the second half of the season as Pitt became a more run-first team.

"I will always be

grateful for Coach (Pat) Narduzzi and the time I got to spend with all of my teammates at the University of Pittsburgh," Slovis wrote in a tweet showing him pictured in a BYU uniform. "I'm excited for this new chapter and can't wait to get to work."

Pitt (8-4) takes on No. 18 UCLA (9-3) in the Sun Bowl on Friday. Narduzzi

has not said whether senior quarterback Nick Patti or freshman Nate Yarnell will start.

BYU beat SMU 24-23 last weekend in the New Mexico Bowl, stopping a late comeback by the Mustangs. With three inexperienced quarterbacks on the Cougars' roster, the redshirt freshman Jay Maiava-Peters got the nod.



Daily News

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Defending champs want to dominate

By CHARLES ODUM
AP Sports Writer

ATHENS, Ga. — Kearis Jackson insists he and his Georgia teammates are not content even after adding this year's Southeastern Conference championship to last season's drought-breaking national title.

The Bulldogs are motivated to keep winning.

In fact, Jackson, a senior wide receiver, insists No. 1 Georgia is working harder than at this time last year as they seek a new goal — back-to-back national championships. The Bulldogs won their first national title since 1980 last season.

Jackson says motivation isn't an issue as the Bulldogs prepare for their Peach Bowl College Football Playoff semifinal against No. 4 Ohio State on Dec. 31. He says some observers will think Georgia players might be satisfied following their 50-30 win over LSU for the the SEC championship.

It's a change from one year ago, when Georgia players had extra incentive following a loss to Alabama in the SEC title game.

"Last year after the SEC championship, it was like we came in with a chip on our shoulder because of the loss," inside linebacker Smael Mondon said. "This year, I feel like we came with that same intensity, without coming off of a loss. We still have that same fire and intensity that we bring in practice."

Jackson also says winning the conference championship hasn't taken away the team's hunger as they enter another playoff.

"I feel like this year coming off a conference win I think we will work harder than we did last year coming off a loss," Jackson said. "It's crazy because people can look at it and think they're complacent, they're happy about their win."

Jackson was thrilled and relieved after Georgia's first SEC title since 2017. He was a member of three teams that lost in the SEC championship game.

"Shoot, that's just another checked box that we wanted as one of our goals," he said. "I mean, our season is not complete yet. We still have goals we want to reach."

The win over LSU left the Bulldogs (13-0) undefeated and the top seed in the CFP. They will return to Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium, the site of the SEC championship game, for the Peach Bowl as they pursue their biggest goal.

No Georgia team has won back-to-back national titles, and the Peach Bowl winner will earn a spot in the Jan. 9 national championship game in Los Angeles against No. 2 Michigan or No. 3 TCU.

"We're excited we get that opportunity to play in that game," said Jackson of the Peach Bowl. "Just know that we're motivated because we haven't completed anything bigger than what we already want."

Georgia's defense is motivated by the challenge of facing quarterback C.J. Stroud, a two-time Heisman Trophy finalist, and the high-scoring Ohio State offense.

Coach Kirby Smart's Bulldogs posted their second consecutive undefeated regular season despite losing a record 15 NFL draft picks, including five defensive players in the first round. Former walk-on quarterback Stetson Bennett became an unlikely Heisman Trophy finalist and the defense reloaded to rank second in the nation in points allowed.

Defensive tackle Zion Logue said the Bulldogs avoided a letdown during the season by maintaining focus.

"We treat every day like a game," Logue said. "You try to make practice harder than the game so that by the time Dec. 31 gets here, we've seen everything and done everything to get ready for that moment."



AP Photo/Morry Gash

Drew Smyly is staying with the Chicago Cubs, agreeing to a \$19 million, two-year contract.

Cubs, Smyly agree to 2 year deal

CHICAGO (AP)—The Chicago Cubs and pitcher Drew Smyly finalized a \$19 million, two-year contract on Saturday.

Smyly has an opt out after the 2023 season. The left-hander will make \$8 million next year and \$8.5 million in 2024. There is a \$10 million mutual option for 2025 with a \$2.5 million buyout.

The 33-year-old Smyly went 7-8 with a 3.47 ERA

in 22 starts for Chicago last season.

Smyly joins a group of potential starters that includes Marcus Stroman, Jameson Taillon and Kyle Hendricks. The Cubs also have Justin Steele, Adrian Sampson and Keegan Thompson in the mix.

Chicago went 74-88 this year and finished third in the NL Central. But it went 40-31 in its last 71 games. The rotation had

a 2.89 ERA after the All-Star break, third in the majors behind the Astros (2.70) and Dodgers (2.73).

Smyly's deal is part of a flurry of moves by the Cubs. They have finalized contracts with All-Star shortstop Dansby Swanson, 2019 NL MVP Cody Bellinger and Taillon. They also agreed to terms with Gold Glove-winning catcher Tucker Barnhart, pending a

physical.

Smyly broke into the majors in 2012 with Detroit. He is 53-47 with a 4.10 ERA in 239 big league appearances, including 156 starts.

Smyly went 11-4 with a 4.48 ERA in 29 games, 23 starts, for the World Series champion Braves in 2021. He agreed to a one-year deal with Chicago in March that included a \$10 million option for 2023,

but he turned down that option last month.

Smyly also signed a \$10 million, two-year contract with the Cubs in December 2017, but he never pitched for Chicago during that deal. Working his way back from Tommy John surgery, he ran out of time to get into a big league game in 2018 and was traded to Texas that November.

Bauer reinstated by MLB's independent arbitrator

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Trevor Bauer was reinstated Thursday by Major League Baseball's independent arbitrator, allowing the pitcher to resume his career at the start of the 2023 season.

The 31-year-old Los Angeles Dodgers star was given an unprecedented two-season suspension without pay by baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred on April 29 for violating the league's domestic violence and sexual assault policy after a San Diego woman said Bauer beat and sexually abused her last year, an accusation the pitcher denied.

The players' association filed a grievance on behalf of the former Cy Young Award winner, and a three-person panel headed by independent arbitrator Martin Scheinman started hearing the case on May 23.

Scheinman upheld a 194-game suspension rather than Manfred's intended 324-game penalty but reinstated Bauer immediately, assigning 50 games to cover part of the lengthy time Bauer was put on administrative leave while MLB investigated during the 2021 season and early this year.

"Can't wait to see y'all out at a stadium soon!" Bauer wrote on Twitter.

Bauer will lose more than \$37 million in salary for the final 144 games of last season and for the first 50 games of next season, through May 23. The lost salary next year is effectively a clawback from part of his administrative leave, when he continued to receive pay.

MLB said Scheinman affirmed that Bauer violated the domestic violence policy.

"While we believe a longer suspension was warranted, MLB will abide by the neutral arbitrator's decision, which upholds baseball's longest-ever



AP Photo/D. Ross Cameron

Trevor Bauer has been reinstated to the MLB beginning in 2023.

active player suspension for sexual assault or domestic violence," MLB said in a statement. "We understand this process was difficult for the witnesses involved and we thank them for their participation."

While Scheinman issued his award to the parties, a full written decision is not expected until later. The panel included MLB Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem and union assistant general counsel Bob Lenaghan.

"While we are pleased that Mr. Bauer has been reinstated immediately, we disagree that any discipline should have been imposed," Bauer's representatives, Jon Fetterolf, Shawn Holley and Rachel Luba, said in a statement. "That said, Mr. Bauer looks forward to his

return to the field, where his goal remains to help his team win a World Series."

The players' association declined comment on Scheinman's decision.

Bauer was never charged with a crime. His accuser sought but was denied a restraining order against him, and Los Angeles prosecutors said in February there was insufficient evidence to prove the woman's accusations beyond a reasonable doubt.

Bauer, who hasn't played since the allegations surfaced and MLB began investigating, repeatedly has said that everything that happened between him and the woman was consensual.

An email sent after business hours Thursday

seeking comment from the woman's attorney, Bryan Freedman, wasn't immediately returned.

Bauer sued his accuser in federal court, a move that came less than three months after prosecutors decided not to file criminal charges against the pitcher. Bauer named the woman and one of her attorneys, Niranjan Fred Thiagarajah, as defendants in the lawsuit. The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they have been victims of sexual assault.

The lawsuit said that "the damage to Mr. Bauer has been extreme" after the woman alleged that he had choked her into unconsciousness, punched her repeatedly and had anal sex with her without her

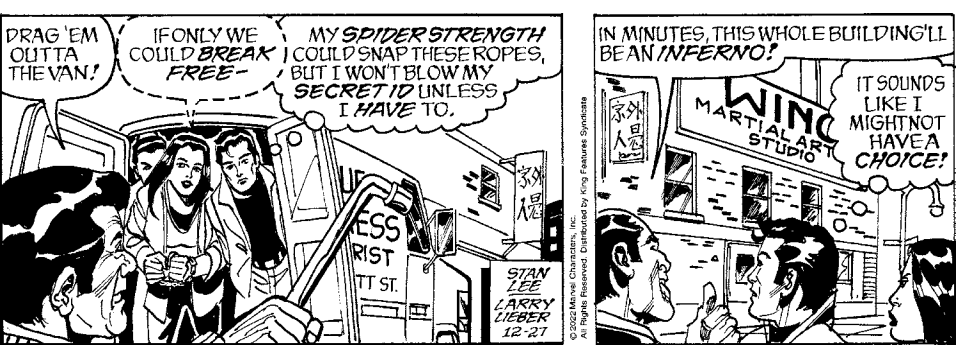
consent during two sexual encounters last year.

The pitcher has said the two engaged in rough sex at his Pasadena home at her suggestion and followed guidelines they agreed to in advance.

Another woman, from Columbus, Ohio, told The Washington Post that Bauer repeatedly choked her without her consent and sexually assaulted her over the course of a years-long relationship. Bauer, in a statement through his representatives, said their relationship was "casual and wholly consensual."

The suspension will cost Bauer \$37,594,233 from his \$102 million, three-year contract: \$28,131,868 of his \$32 million salary in 2022 and \$9,462,365 of his \$32 million salary in 2023.

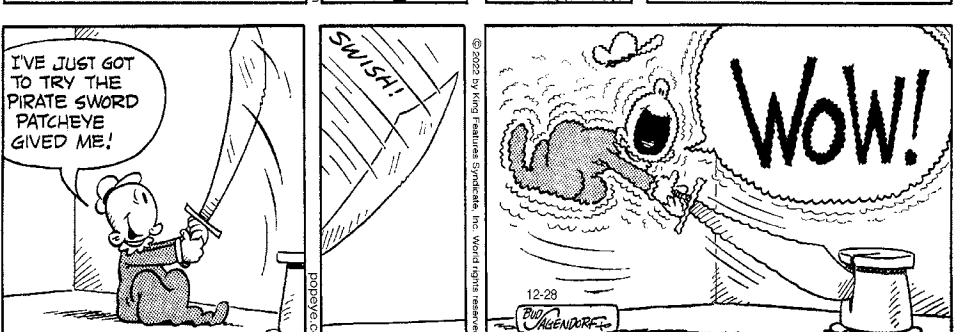
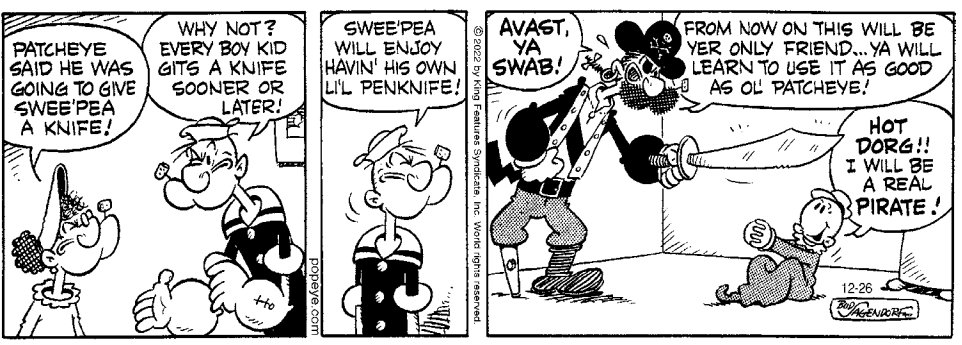
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JUDGE PARKER® by Marcuiliano-Manley



POPEYE® by Bud Sagendorf



THATABABY® by Paul Trap



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-70.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Product or __ (abbr.)
4. Zodiac sign
9. S. China seaport
14. Former OSS
15. Early English printer
16. Aphid genus
17. General's assistant (abbr.)
18. Aussies
20. Dissuades
22. Make law
23. Drench
24. Soak in a liquid
28. Male child
29. It cools your home
30. Small constellation
31. To call (archaic)
33. Explores beneath the Earth
37. Commercial
38. W. hemisphere organization
39. You can find it in a can
41. "Land of the free"
42. 36 inches
43. Footwear
44. Challenges
46. They hold things together
49. Of I
50. Partner to flow
51. Not connected by kinship
55. Worries
58. Garlic mayonnaise
59. A way to take by force
60. Legendary English rockers
64. Your consciousness of your own identity
65. Fencing swords
66. Silly
67. Actor DiCaprio
68. Encircles with a belt
69. Mails a message
70. Longing

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Horse mackerels
2. It can be viral
3. Prickly plants
4. Consciousness
5. Type of sarcoma
6. Tax collector
7. Sun up in New York
8. One who scorches
9. Influential psychotherapist
10. Situated at an apex
11. Communicative
12. Forearm nerve
13. Former CIA
19. Folk singer DiFranco
21. Employee stock ownership plan
24. Large-scale
25. School environment
26. Remove
27. Male parents
31. Large rodent
32. Weighed down
34. Held tightly
35. __ route: going there
36. Explains again
40. Exclamation of surprise
41. Courteously
45. Lying down
47. Judge
48. Forcefully took
52. Loosely compacted sediment
53. High mountain
54. Portable conical tents
56. Cereal grass
57. Dining utensil
59. Thoughtful
60. Helps you walk
61. Indicates near
62. Midway between northeast and east
63. Local area network

PUZZLE SOLUTION

Grid for puzzle solution with letters N, E, A, S, D, N, E, S, S, D, R, I, G, O, E, T, E, N, V, N, I, S, E, E, D, E, O, G, E, N, I, T, E, P, P, E, Z, D, E, T, P, A, N, D, I, K, I, T, O, I, V, S, R, V, E, F, D, E, L, V, T, E, R, N, U, B, B, E, E, W, S, G, E, P, S, E, R, V, A, D, S, E, O, H, S, A, D, Y, A, S, U, E, N, I, D, R, A, V, S, S, V, O, D, A, R, E, R, A, V, C, E, P, E, T, C, A, R, Y, L, A, C, A, V, N, O, S, D, E, T, A, N, I, R, V, A, W, E, S, U, O, S, T, L, C, V, N, E, S, R, S, E, T, E, D, S, N, V, I, T, A, R, T, S, U, V, C, D, V, S, I, H, P, A, D, E, R, O, W, A, I, C, O, A, C, A, M, A, S, E, R, I, A, C, V, S

ASTROGRAPH

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
Cleaning and organizing can wait for another week, Aries. This week you should focus on having fun with your family and friends.
TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, work is on your brain, but it could be because you're wired to focus on getting things done.
GEMINI - May 22/June 21
Your bank account may not be as healthy as it could be, Gemini.
CANCER - Jun 22/July 22
You have been feeling less motivated of late, Cancer.
LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, practicality is your middle name.
VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Planetary energies could be affecting those around you and their reception to your ideas, Virgo.
LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Your thoughts this week are about setting goals for the future, Libra.
SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, issues with your professional life may be on your mind.
SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
New responsibilities have left little time to spend with your significant other, Sagittarius.
CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
Have you been plotting a move, Capricorn?

TUESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 27, 2022

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, A&E, AMC, ANIMAL, BET, BRAVO, CARTOON, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISCOVERY, DISNEY, ESPN, ESPN2, FOOD, FREEFORM, FX, HGTV, HISTORY, LIFETIME, MTV, NEWSNAT, NICK, PARM, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TRAVEL, TV LAND, USA, VH1, HBO, MAX, SHOW).

WEDNESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 28, 2022

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, A&E, AMC, ANIMAL, BET, BRAVO, CARTOON, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISCOVERY, DISNEY, ESPN, ESPN2, FOOD, FREEFORM, FX, HGTV, HISTORY, LIFETIME, MTV, NEWSNAT, NICK, PARM, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TRAVEL, TV LAND, USA, VH1, HBO, MAX, SHOW).

THURSDAY EVENING DECEMBER 29, 2022

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, A&E, AMC, ANIMAL, BET, BRAVO, CARTOON, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISCOVERY, DISNEY, ESPN, ESPN2, FOOD, FREEFORM, FX, HGTV, HISTORY, LIFETIME, MTV, NEWSNAT, NICK, PARM, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TRAVEL, TV LAND, USA, VH1, HBO, MAX, SHOW).

FRIDAY EVENING DECEMBER 30, 2022

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, A&E, AMC, ANIMAL, BET, BRAVO, CARTOON, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISCOVERY, DISNEY, ESPN, ESPN2, FOOD, FREEFORM, FX, HGTV, HISTORY, LIFETIME, MTV, NEWSNAT, NICK, PARM, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TRAVEL, TV LAND, USA, VH1, HBO, MAX, SHOW).

SATURDAY EVENING DECEMBER 31, 2022

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, A&E, AMC, ANIMAL, BET, BRAVO, CARTOON, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISCOVERY, DISNEY, ESPN, ESPN2, FOOD, FREEFORM, FX, HGTV, HISTORY, LIFETIME, MTV, NEWSNAT, NICK, PARM, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TRAVEL, TV LAND, USA, VH1, HBO, MAX, SHOW).

SUNDAY EVENING JANUARY 1, 2023

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, A&E, AMC, ANIMAL, BET, BRAVO, CARTOON, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISCOVERY, DISNEY, ESPN, ESPN2, FOOD, FREEFORM, FX, HGTV, HISTORY, LIFETIME, MTV, NEWSNAT, NICK, PARM, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TRAVEL, TV LAND, USA, VH1, HBO, MAX, SHOW).

MONDAY EVENING JANUARY 2, 2023

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, A&E, AMC, ANIMAL, BET, BRAVO, CARTOON, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISCOVERY, DISNEY, ESPN, ESPN2, FOOD, FREEFORM, FX, HGTV, HISTORY, LIFETIME, MTV, NEWSNAT, NICK, PARM, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TRAVEL, TV LAND, USA, VH1, HBO, MAX, SHOW).

TUESDAY EVENING JANUARY 3, 2023

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, A&E, AMC, ANIMAL, BET, BRAVO, CARTOON, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISCOVERY, DISNEY, ESPN, ESPN2, FOOD, FREEFORM, FX, HGTV, HISTORY, LIFETIME, MTV, NEWSNAT, NICK, PARM, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TRAVEL, TV LAND, USA, VH1, HBO, MAX, SHOW).



AP Photo by Mindaugas Kulbis

A boy cools off in a public fountain in Vilnius, Lithuania, during a heat wave on June 26.



AP Photo by Andrew Harnik

First responders salute as a U.S. flag is unfurled at the Pentagon in Washington at sunrise on Sept. 11, 2022, on the 21st anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

AP's top 2022 photos capture planet bursting at seams

By **TED ANTHONY**
AP National Writer

Taken together, they can convey the feeling of a world convulsing — 150 Associated Press images from across 2022, showing the fragments that make up our lives and freezing in time the moments that somehow, these days, seem to pass faster than ever.

Here: a man recovering items from a burning shop in Ukraine after a Russia attack. Here: people thronging the residence of the Sri Lankan president after protesters stormed it demanding his resignation. Here: medical workers trying to identify victims of a bridge collapse in India. And here: flames engulfing a chair inside a burning home as wildfires

sweep across Mariposa County, Calif.

As history in 2022 unfolded and the world lurched forward — or, it seemed sometimes, in other directions — Associated Press photographers were there to bring back unforgettable images. Through their lenses, across the moments and months, the presence of chaos can seem more encircling than ever.

A year's worth of news images can also be clarifying. To see these photographs is to channel — at least a bit — the jumbled nature of the events that come at us, whether we are participating in them or, more likely, observing them from afar. Thus do 150 individual front-row seats to history and

life translate into a message: While the world may surge with disorder, the thrum of daily life in all its beauty continues to unfold in the planet's every corner.

There is grief: Three heart-shaped balloons fly at a memorial site outside the elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, where 19 children and two teachers were killed by a gunman.

There is determination: Migrants in a wooden boat float across the Mediterranean sea south of an Italian island, trying to reach their destination.

There is fear: A man looks skyward over his shoulder, an expression of trepidation on his face, as he walks past homes damaged by a rocket attack in

Ukraine.

There are glimpses into calamity: Villagers gather in northern Kenya, in an area stricken by climate-induced drought.

There is perseverance: A girl uses a kerosene oil lamp to attend online lessons during a power cut in the Sri Lankan capital.

Don't be blinded by all of the violence and disarray, though, which can drown out other things but perhaps should not. Because here, too, are photos of joy and exuberance and, simply, daily human life.

A skier soaring through the air in Austria, conquering gravity for a fleeting moment. Chris Martin of the band Coldplay, singing toward the sky in Rio de Janeiro.

A lone guard marching outside Buckingham Palace days after the death of Queen Elizabeth II. An 8-year-old Afghan girl, her eyes locked with the camera, posing for a photo in her classroom in Kabul, days after a bombing attack at her school. Women taking a selfie at a ski resort in Lesotho.

lly, allow a moment to consider one of those pauses in humanity's march: a boy drenching himself in a public fountain in a heat-wave-stricken Vilnius, Lithuania, reveling in the water and the sun and the simple act of just being. Even in the middle of a year of chaos on an uneasy planet, moments of tranquility manage to peek through.

'Avatar' sequel sails to 2nd week atop the box office

By **ANDREW DALTON**
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — "Avatar: The Way of Water" sailed to the top of the box office in its second weekend, bringing in what studios estimate Sunday will be a strong \$56 million in North America — a sign that the sequel may stay afloat into the new year and approach the massive expectations that met its release.

James Cameron's digital extravaganza for 20th Century Studios has made \$253.7 million domestically in its first 10 days of release, compared to \$212.7 million in the same stretch for 2009's first "Avatar," which would go on to become the highest-grossing film of all time.

While Cameron's films like the "Avatar" original and "Titanic" tend to have serious legs at the box office, sequels tend to open big and decline quickly, complicating

guesses on where the film will end up. Its second-weekend drop-off from the \$134 million it made in its first was not precipitous, given the way blockbusters open.

"This is James Cameron's first \$100 million opener," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore "For this movie to have opened that big and only dropped 58%, it shows it has staying power."

Globally, "The Way of Water" is already the third highest-grossing film released in 2022, bringing in \$855 million — putting it behind only "Top Gun: Maverick" and "Jurassic World Dominion" — and is a lock to surpass \$1 billion.

It's also clear sailing for the film looking ahead, with more holiday time coming and no comparable competition until February, when Marvel's "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" is released.

Storms across the U.S. could keep people home, however.

"The biggest foe that Avatar is facing at this moment is the weather," Dergarabedian said.

Universal's animated Shrek spinoff, "Puss in Boots: The Last Wish," featuring the voices of Antonio Banderas and Salma Hayek, finished a distant second with \$11.35 million in its opening weekend.

Sony's biopic "Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody" finished third with \$5.3 million.

The weekend's biggest disappointment was "Babylon," the epic of early Hollywood from "La La Land" director Damian Chazelle starring Brad Pitt and Margo Robbie. In a nationwide release it brought in just \$3.5 million, finishing fourth.

The tepid, \$6.5 million opening weekend in October of director

David O. Russell's "Amsterdam," another film, set in a similar period, that combined prestige, scope, star power and a celebrated auteur, brought industry worries that audiences just weren't flocking to theaters for such films.

The concerns proved justified, as "Babylon" barely made more than half of the opening of "Amsterdam."

The coming weeks in theaters, streaming showings and any nominations it may get could help "Babylon" rise above bomb status.

"I would say Babylon is a movie that isn't about the opening weekend," Dergarabedian said. "We'll have to see what it does in the coming weeks then into the new year, particularly if it gets more awards buzz."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according

to Comscore, with Wednesday through Sunday in parentheses. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Avatar: The Way of Water," \$56 million.
2. "Puss in Boots: The Last Wish," 11.35 million.
3. "Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance with Somebody," \$5.3 million.
4. "Babylon," \$3.5 million.
5. "Violent Night," \$3.14 million.
6. "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," \$3 million.
7. "The Whale," \$924,000.
8. "The Menu," \$617,000.
9. "The Fabelmans," \$550,000.
10. "Strange World," \$410,000.

Cold delays Titans kickoff an hour

By **TERESA M. WALKER**
AP Pro Football Writer

NASHVILLE — Houston coach Lovie Smith took a nap, and the Texans simply pushed back their pregame schedule by an hour.

While the Tennessee Titans had little desire to talk about anything other than finding a way to end a skid that now has reached five straight after a 19-14 loss to the Texans on Saturday and not the delay before playing the coldest home game in franchise history.

The extreme cold and power outages in the region forced the delay announced about 90 minutes before kickoff. Smith said he might've napped for about 20 minutes after telling his Texans they had an extra hour before getting into their pregame routine.

"Got a little bit more time to get mentally prepared," Smith said. "We're not postponing the game. The game is going on, so get ready to go, and that's what they do."

When the Texans finally kicked off, the temperature was 20 degrees with the wind chill making it feel like 6 degrees. That made it the coldest home game in Titans history, topping the previous mark of 23 degrees on Dec. 31, 2017. The previous lowest wind chill was 14 degrees on Dec. 25, 2000, against the Dallas Cowboys.

The Titans said the decision to delay was made with the NFL, the local Office of Emergency Management, the Nashville Electric Service and the Mayor's Office out of "an abundance of caution to ensure that the game would not negatively impact our community in any way."

The team also said it worked to cut all nonessential power around Nissan Stadium.

"At all times, the operation of the game remained secondary to the well-being of our community and we can't thank the OEM and NES enough for their dedication to the safety of our neighbors," the Titans said in a statement.

Nashville Mayor John Cooper wrote on social media asking everyone, especially all nonessential businesses, to cut back their power usage with the Tennessee Valley Authority using rolling blackouts to protect the power grid.

After the delay was announced, Cooper quickly thanked the Titans.

"I appreciate the @Titans delaying kickoff for one hour as @TVAnews commits to immediately ending the rolling blackouts," Cooper wrote. "NES continues to work hard to minimize disruption for residents this holiday weekend."

The TVA said in a statement

that the power grid was stabilized an hour before the originally scheduled kickoff and the Titans agreed to delay the game "in order to be absolutely sure that the grid had stabilized."

Photos of the lights being on all Friday night at Nissan Stadium spread on social media while residents dealt with power outages. After Saturday's game ended, fewer than 3,000 customers in the Nashville area still had no power, down from approximately 75,000 when outages spiked Friday.

The lights stayed on with crews working throughout the night repairing at least 36 water pipes that burst around the stadium. High winds as the front moved in Thursday night also blew open some windows. A couple of luxury suites remained closed Saturday because of water damage.

The Titans, who fell to 7-8, face a quick turnaround from Saturday's game. The Dallas Cowboys are scheduled to visit Thursday night.

Workers used blowers to clear light snow from the field around 90 minutes before the previously scheduled 1 p.m. EST kickoff. The Titans covered the field with a tarp and used heaters, including the heated benches used by the team, underneath to keep the ground from freezing.

Mills said he simply wore an overcoat to the game and knows other NFL games Saturday were played in colder weather.

But this was the coldest game he could recall playing. The biggest challenge was the field itself.

"The field was a little slick, icy at times," Mills said. "Once the wind picked up, we noticed that,

but we were pretty good."

The NHL's Nashville Predators lost 3-2 in overtime, to the Colorado Avalanche on Friday night. The team president noted on social media Friday night that the Predators powered their arena with generators. That team recently had a burst water main flood parts of its arena, forcing the postponement of two games.

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