

T^{SHELBYVILLE}
Weekend
TIMES-GAZETTE

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\$1

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2023

www.t-g.com

Commission passes \$43M school bond

By **ZOË WATKINS**
zwatkins@t-g.com

The Bedford County Board of Commissioners voted Tuesday night to pass a resolution passing the \$43,500,000 bond for the new Cartwright Elementary School.

According to finance director Robert Daniel, this will not raise taxes but allow the county to draw the money out as needed, so they only pay interest as they use it.

John Werner from Cumberland Securities is a financial advisor for the county. He explained the bulk of how this multi-million-dollar

bond will work.

Looking at the cost of issuance—assuming everything is purchased “at par,” where every \$1,000 bond that the county sells, they get \$1,000—Werner said they need to make sure there’s enough money to “cover that cost.”

Savings

Werner began working with the county about four years ago to refund all the county’s debt, therefore saving millions of dollars. At the time, the fixed rate

market was “favorable,” according to Werner, locking in the interest rate at 1.51%. “That’s unheard of,” said Werner.

The financial committee passed the resolution with a favorable recommendation to set the bond with a variable-rate. The risk, of course, is interest rates could go up, but they could also go down.

However, as rates have gone up, Werner said it makes more sense to use variable-rate debt versus fixing in at a rate now for the next 20-plus years.

“The county is in good enough

financial position with your fund balance to take on a little bit of risk in the variable-rate debt,” said Werner. “It’s our recommendation that you take advantage of this variable-rate debt.”

He explained that in this particular case short-term rates are almost equal to long-term rates. Basically, if the county goes with the variable-rate with a rate that adjusts every month or they went with something that’s not going to change for the next 20 years, then

▶ See **Bond**, Page 2A

CTE gains popularity

Life & Leisure/1B



Prom stylin’

Life & Leisure/3B



Keith Weaver, from Uncle Nearest Distillery, displays the proposed look and large sign of Classic Hops Brewing Co., a “high-end burger joint” they plan to construct in downtown Shelbyville.

Beer, brains and blasts
City Council hears area progress report

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

Key figures behind several current and proposed ventures presented glowing pictures of progress to Shelbyville City Council members at an informational luncheon Tuesday.

Keith Weaver of Uncle Nearest Distillery, Dr. Laura Monks of Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Shelbyville, and Jeremy Carpenter of Tennessee Downs detailed plans for ventures they say will begin becoming visible by the end of 2023 and beyond.

Uncle Nearest projects

Weaver said Uncle Nearest is on track to become one of the nation’s most visited distilleries by 2026.

“We think we’ll eclipse them,” Weaver said of competitor Jack Daniel’s and other distilleries. “We want to surprise and delight visitors.”

The Humble Baron, touted by Uncle Nearest leaders as the world’s longest bar, will open March 23, Weaver said. Plans are for the facility to become a major music venue with Nashville’s Fender Guitar Co. handling booking.

Another goal for Nearest Green is attracting more tourist traffic from visitors to Nashville. More billboards will be going up soon, Weaver said.

But Weaver was particularly excited about a new Uncle Nearest-operated business restaurant for the northwest side of the Highway 82 Bypass-North Main Street intersection, encompassing the areas around the now-crumbling former Bedford Paper Box Co. building and the former site of Stewart-Potts Motors.

Classic Hops Brewing Co. will be strategically positioned “right where visitors turn to go to Lynchburg,” Weaver said.



Jeremy Carpenter says the upcoming Tennessee Downs complex is a dream come true for him.

▶ See **Report**, Page 2A

State Regent visits local DAR

By **ZOË WATKINS**
zwatkins@t-g.com



T-G Photo by Zoe Watkins

Tennessee Society State Regent Emily Robinson speaks to Shelby Chapter DAR.

The Daughters of the American Revolution State Regent, Emily Robinson, visited the Shelby Chapter on Wednesday to give an update on several state projects.

Robinson joined DAR in 1999 as a member of the Cumberland Chapter in Nashville. An eighth generation Tennessean, she now serves as state regent.

She spoke as guest speaker for the joint meeting that hosted not only the Shelbyville chapter but chapters from Tullahoma, Lewisburg (the Robert Lewis Chapter), and Fayetteville (Kings Mountain Messenger Chapter).

“You have all worked hard to achieve our DAR objectives of preserving history, education, and patriotism,” said Robinson.

The Tennessee poem

One of the main projects TNDAR is working on is preserving the 50th anniversary of Tennessee’s State Poem, called “Oh Tennessee, My Tennessee,” written by Naval Vice Admiral William Porter Lawrence.

A “Tennessee boy,” Lawrence grew up in Nashville. After turning down a scholarship from Yale, Lawrence joined the U.S. Naval Academy. He was a top student and top athlete, according to Robinson, eventually becoming a pilot in the Korean War.

In fact, he was one of the finalists in the Mercury Program, which was the first human spaceflight program of the U.S. However, a slight heart murmur prevented him from joining the program.

After becoming a test pilot for the Navy, he served in the Vietnam War

as a combat pilot. While flying on a mission as one of the commanders, his plane was shot and captured by the Vietnamese. He was held at the Hanoi Hilton for six years.

“It was while he was at the Hanoi Hilton—when they found out he was doing something with the codes they had—they put him in solitary confinement for 60 days,” Robinson retold.

It was in those days, not knowing if he was going to make it through, that he wrote the Tennessee poem. It was most likely written in his head until he could capture the words on paper in 1973.

Robinson, through tears, read the well-beloved prose that many Tennesseans have come to identify with.

*Oh Tennessee, My Tennessee
What Love and Pride I Feel for*

▶ See **DAR**, Page 2A

UT-TPA
PRESS AWARD
2022



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OBITUARIES

Felipe DeJesus Hipolito

January 21, 2023

Felipe DeJesus Hipolito, age 55, of Shelbyville, passed away Saturday, January 21, 2023. A Funeral Mass will be 7 p.m. Friday, January 27, 2023, at St. William Catholic Church. Father Edwain Cardona will officiate. Burial will be in Guerrero, Mexico at a later date.

The family will receive visitors 2-7 p.m. Saturday, January 28, 2023, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel.

Martin Agueros Ortiz

January 21, 2023

Martin Agueros Ortiz, age 44, of Shelbyville, passed away Saturday, January 21, 2023. A Funeral Mass will be 7 p.m. Friday, January 27, 2023, at St. William Catholic Church. Father Edwain Cardona will officiate. Burial will be in Guerrero, Mexico at a later date.

The family will receive visitors 2-7 p.m. Saturday, January 28, 2023, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Betty Ruth Wells

January 23, 2023

Funeral services for Betty Ruth Wells, age 83, of Shelbyville, will be held 12 noon Monday, January 30, 2023, in the chapel of Doak-Howell Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Willow Mount Cemetery. Miss Wells passed from this life Monday, January 23, 2023 at her home surrounded by her friends and family.



Visitation will begin at 10 a.m. at the funeral home.

A native of Bedford County, Betty Wells was born March 6, 1939, to the late Walter W. Wells, Sr. and Ruth Neill Wells and is preceded in death by: sisters, Sarah Wells, Bonnie Pinson and Joan Reed; brothers, Walter W. Wells, Jr., Howard Wells, Robert "Fargo" Wells, George Kenneth Wells, William Richard Wells and Charles Wells.

Betty was loving, caring, hardworking and was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. She retired from Sears & Roebuck after working in collections for 40+ years. She enjoyed watching college football and visiting with family and friends. She was a devoted Christian and attended Gateway Church.

Survivors include: nieces and nephews, Ted "Tooter" (Dawn) Reed II, Stephanie Sherrod, David (Laurel) Pinson, Wayne Pinson, Tammy Gibbs, Jeff (Cindy) Wells, Great nephews and nieces, Elizabeth Reed, Madison Reed, Jacob Sherrod, Claire Pinson, Will Pinson, Colton Pinson, Zoe Pinson, Gage Wells, Bodie Wells and Reed Tate.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family. www.doakhowellfuneralhome.com

Gregory Blake Arvin

January 24, 2023

Gregory Blake Arvin, age 20, of Shelbyville, passed away Tuesday, January 24, 2023.

A Celebration of Life Service was held Friday, January 27, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. Reverend Carl Hall officiated.

He was born April 12, 2002, in Murfreesboro, to Gus Arvin and Rhonda Saylor. A graduate of Shelbyville Central High school, he attended Motlow State Community College. At Motlow, he served as class president in 2022. He was a member of the cross country team and involved in the Fly Arts Center theatrical group.

He was preceded in death by grandparents, August V. Arvin, Sr., Vera Fields Arvin, and Joshua Saylor.

Survivors include his parents, Gus Arvin, of Shelbyville, and Rhonda Saylor, and her husband Peter Trenchi, of Shelbyville; a brother, B J Saylor; a grandmother, Alice Faye Saylor; a host of aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Memorials may be made to Epilepsy Foundation of Middle Tennessee, 318 South Dixie Ave., Cookeville, TN 38501, 931-372-8900.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

DAR

(Continued from Page 1)

Thee. You Proud Ole State, the Volunteer, Your Proud Traditions I Hold Dear.

I Revere Your Heroes Who Bravely Fought our Country's Foes. Renowned Statesmen, so Wise and Strong,

Who Served our Country Well and Long. I Thrill at Thought of Mountains Grand;

Rolling Green Hills and Fertile Farm Land; Earth Rich with Stone, Mineral and Ore;

Forests Dense and Wild Flowers Galore; Powerful Rivers that Bring us Light;

Deep Lakes with Fish and Fowl in Flight; Thriving Cities and Industries;

Fine Schools and Universities; Strong Folks of Pioneer Descent,

Simple, Honest, and Reverent. Beauty and Hospitality Are the Hallmarks of Tennessee.

And O'er the World as I May Roam, No Place Exceeds my Boyhood Home.

And Oh How Much I Long to See My Native Land, My Tennessee.

On the TNDAR website, there is a lesson plan available to teach young students about the story of Admiral Lawrence and the Tennessee poem.

Patriot book project

Robinson also talked about the Patriot Book Project where individuals from each chapter will be writing a page of information about their ancestors—that is, patriots who fought in the American Revolution that lived in Tennessee. This information will be compiled into one bound book.

"This is not an easy project," said Robinson. "This is not stories about them. This is a researched document so that way we can bring to light who these men and women were."

Tennessee artist David Wright was commissioned to do the artwork. More information about purchasing the book can be found at https://tndar.org.

'Project blanket'

Robinson also mentioned "Project Blanket Tennessee Love," which provides either new or handmade blankets to "wherever there is a need," such as nursing homes, veteran services, and women's services. It is done chapter-by-chapter.



T-G Photos by David Mels...

Dr. Laura Monks explains plans for the buildout of Tennessee College of Technology-Shelbyville's new campus, including Bedford County Higher Education Center.



Shane Hooper, president-CEO of Shelbyville-Bedford Partnership, addresses Shelbyville City Council as the informational luncheon begins.

(Continued from Page 1)

Report

"They're going to know Bedford County is serious about higher education," Monks said.

Completion of the new TTC-S building is slated for spring 2025, with equipment moves beginning in fall 2024, the council was told.

Many of the school's programs will have double their current space, Monks said.

Council member Gary Haile, who works as an employment counselor, asked if the school's waiting list will be reduced by the larger capacity. Monks answered affirmatively.

Monks said drawing points for industries will be advisory committees that can advise each program's instructors what specific courses are needed, and a multi-purpose production floor that can quickly be set up for any existing or incoming firm's immediate needs.

The facility will also have a 175-person capacity event space, which Monks said Shelbyville sorely needs.

TCAT update

Monks, president of TCAT-Shelbyville, talked of the school's growth over the past year and gave a timeline for the new campus planned for Highway 231 North.

She said several new programs and additional instructors have been added. In particular, she mentioned a pharmacy assistant program started with help from Middle Tennessee Pharmacy Services of Shelbyville.

"They've said they can hire all the graduates we can produce," Monks said.

Construction will begin soon on Bedford County Higher Education Center, to be located in a separate building on the TTC-S campus, according to Monks. Motlow State Community College and Middle Tennessee State University will also have classroom space on the campus.

"Hopefully we'll see some real earth moving around April," she said, after the unoccupied house now in the location is moved or demolished.

Monks looks forward to completion of the BCHEC building and its message to passersby.

Tennessee Downs

Jeremy Carpenter of GC Performance Classics, who is leading the Tennessee Downs sports car campus project proposed for Eady Road, says he already feels at home in the Shelbyville area.

"I fel like I grew up here," said Carpenter, who spent his youth in Indiana around sports cars and quarter horses.

Visible progress is promised soon. Carpenter said grading permit applications will be applied for within 60 to 90 days.

"We'll start pushing dirt around May," Carpenter said. "We'll eventually employ around 160 on our campus. About 25 percent of our employees will come from Shelbyville.

The overall investment in the facility is an estimated \$50-\$60 million in a three-phase buildout. A total of 160,000 visitors per year are expected, Carpenter said.

Carpenter emphasized races are not planned for the road course, which is intended for sports car owners to drive at high

speeds in a safe, off-highway area. They are planning a karting facility, Carpenter said, which is not what the name implies.

"It's not a race track or NASCAR facility," Carpenter said. "We don't plan to host sanctioned events."

The facilities will be designed to blend in with the horse-related barns and structures in the northern area of Shelbyville, according to Carpenter.

GC Performance Classics has already opened Shelbyville facilities on North Main Street and Prince Street, Carpenter said. They will eventually be part of a large area of high-end sports car technical facilities at Tennessee Downs covering all aspects of vehicles.

Carpenter likes the potential tie-in of Shelbyville with a legendary racer and auto manufacturer.

"I'd like to hold a Shelby Fest and make it an annual event," Carpenter said, name-dropping Carroll Shelby, known primarily for sports cars bearing his own name and Shelby-modified Ford Mustangs.

Carpenter, an admitted fan of Shelby the racer and his cars, said plans for the campus include a Ford Garage restaurant.

A Tennessee Concours d'Elegance is in the works, Carpenter said. He compared the proposed event to the famed Pebble Beach yearly car show. A similar event made a \$30 million economic area in another area, statistics shown to the council indicated. The event will include some of the world's most expensive and rare sports cars.

He also hopes to open a "heritage museum" and invite students from around the area for tours. The museum will include local history as well as vehicles, Carpenter said.

The Tennessee Downs car show, held last year on the Shelbyville square, will hopefully become an annual event, Carpenter said.

New residents are likely to be attracted to the area by the facility, the council was told.

"Several car enthusiasts have told me they're

moving to the Shelbyville area when Tennessee Downs is complete," Carpenter said.

Council member Bobby Turnbow asked Carpenter, who said he'd spent 19 years working in commercial construction and development, if local utility providers had been consulted.

"Did you ever think about infrastructure?" Turnbow said. "Water's going to be an issue."

Carpenter replied that utility providers were consulted. Plans are for the facility to have its own privately-owned system.

"We'd like to have our infrastructure ready for you," Carroll said.

Plans are for what was referred to as the "north course" to be completed by September or October, Carpenter told the council.

The first-year phase will include "commercial services" including auto repair and restoration firms, luxury garages, and the track, Carpenter said.

Luxury garages, a fueling center, administration and welcome center buildings and Ford's Garage will be included in the second-year buildout, and a convention center, banquet hall, the museum, retail shops and the karting track in the third year.

"I'm really excited about this. For me, it's definitely a dream," Carpenter said.

Big hopes

"We have got to take advantage of when this many people are coming to this town," Shelbyville-Bedford Partnership President/CEO Shane Hooper told the council following the speakers' presentations. "We need to keep people staying and eating here."

Hooper said too many Shelbyville visitors lodge and dine in Murfreesboro and Tullahoma. He said three hotel chains are looking at Shelbyville and reminded the council that more tax revenue from visitors reduces the burden on local residents.

Bond

(Continued from Page 1)

they're looking at a rate of around 4%.

There are a couple of benefits. One, again, is the county will only pay interest on what they're using over the course of the construction period. This will be "timely draws" through the bank, then making debt payments to

the contractors. Two, there are options. After a certain period of time, such as two years, the county then has the option to go to a fixed rate as markets improve, according to Werner.

"If we did permanent now, we would not have that flexibility," said Commissioner Greg Vick.

'Natural edge'

However, there is only

so much in the fund balance to offset this variable-rate debt, so it couldn't be used for every debt in the county. But Werner said the county has a "natural edge," meaning they can match this school bond almost dollar-to-dollar.

Commissioner Diane Neeley asked where the money will come from to make the payment on this since there will be no tax increase. Daniel responded that it would come from

debt service. "We do have the funds available for it, so we don't have to do a tax increase," said Daniel.

Daniel is projecting that payment to be about \$2 million a year. The bond is set to last 25 years.

"What I'm really excited about is the school system has been able to stay on focus to design the school they need, not chase a dollar amount," County Mayor Chad Graham said.

Keep a phone outside the shower

Dear Heloise: After reading a horrible slip-and-fall story, my husband and I (both seniors) agreed to take a phone and place it just outside the shower when showering at home alone. I actually think everyone should do this! "When alone, take your phone!" -- Nancy, The Villages, Florida

Hints from Heloise



back to my car, where I stash a couple of dollars to give to homeless folks, and grab them to give to the clerk who has just served me.

I also overpay people who come to do work at my home. Although it isn't our fault that the workers are paid too little, that is the way the system is set up.

If we don't support them, who will serve us? Tip if you can afford it! -- M.L., via email

PET PAL

Dear Heloise: Among our three cats, there's a teenager who is very insistent about getting her way. Of course, we are happy to oblige. -- John Meyer, via email

Readers, to see John's cat and our other Pet Pals, go to Heloise.com and click on "Pet of the Week."

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

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

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795001
San Antonio, TX 78279-5001
Fax: 1-210-HELOISE
Email: Heloise@Heloise.com

LOSE THAT HOLIDAY WEIGHT

Did you decide to lose weight after the holidays? Here are some hints that might help you:

-- Use a salad plate at mealtimes instead of a dinner plate.

-- Keep your salad dressing on the side. Dip your fork in it, then into your salad.

-- For every five pounds you lose, reward yourself -- but not with food or drink.

-- Select a diet and workout regimen that works for you. Never mind fad diets.

-- If you sabotage your diet, you're the only one who will suffer the consequences. Don't let others convince you to cheat.

CLEANING THE ICE COOLER

Dear Readers: Before you store a chest-type cooler, wash it well, and when it's dry, sprinkle the inside with baking soda. The next time you need it, it will not have a musty odor. When it's ready to use, just rinse out the baking soda.

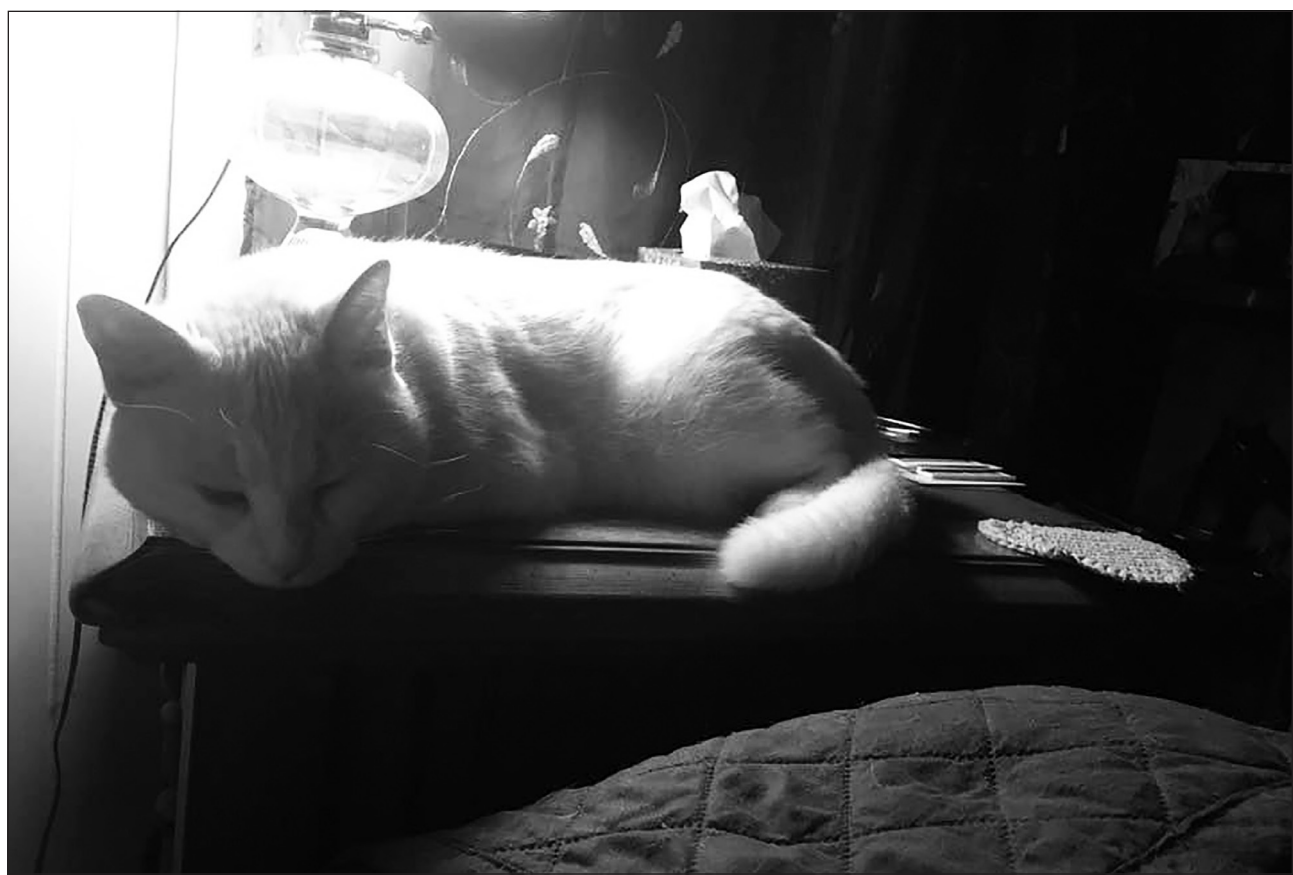
Baking soda works wonderfully for cleaning and deodorizing. I have put together a six-page pamphlet, "Heloise's Baking Soda Hints and Recipes," that touches on the different ways you can clean by using baking soda. Get a copy of this pamphlet by sending \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Heloise/Baking Soda, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001.

FYI: If the dishwasher is stinky, sprinkle baking soda on the bottom of the dishwasher between uses to help control odor. -- Heloise

ALWAYS TIP WELL

Dear Heloise: We always tip well if we can. I have been known to go

RESTING



Submitted photo by Marie Madeiros

This kitty is taking a snooze in a cozy warm place.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TUESDAY

Coaches vs. Cancer

A Coaches vs. Cancer chili supper will be held at Shelbyville Central High School from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31. Basketball games will follow at 6:30 p.m.

FEB. 4

Flat Creek potluck

Flat Creek Community Center's monthly potluck dinner will be 6 p.m. Saturday, February 4th at 6:00 at the community center, 115 New Herman Road. Al Simmons, president of Bedford County Historical Society, will discuss the history of Flat Creek. Attendees may bring old photographs of family and friends from the community.

FEB. 6

Bag Day

Good Samaritan Bag Day will be Monday, Feb. 6 from noon-2 p.m. at 201 E. Highland Ave.

FEB. 7

SCHRA meetings

South Central Human Resource Agency's governing board will meet at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7 at the central office, 1437 Winchester Hwy. in Fayetteville. Subcommittees will meet at 10 a.m.

FEB. 15

ABC's of Medicare

A free ABC's of Medicare class is scheduled Wednesday, Feb. 15 at the South Central Tennessee Development District building, 101 Sam Watkins Blvd. in Mt. Pleasant. The class teaches the basics of Medicare. Volunteer workers are also needed. Advance registration is required because class

01 2023 January

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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

size is limited. Call 1-877-801-0044, 931-379-2927, or email sctn.ship@sctdd.org.

Only Bedford County residents are eligible. Call 931-685-9962 for more information.

(corner of South Cannon Boulevard 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.

FEB. 16

Junior's House

Junior's House, a children's advocacy center providing free services to child abuse victims, will hold an open house at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, at Edgemont Baptist Church, 150 Fairfield Pike.

FEB. 25

Wartrace Alumni Game

An alumni game for anyone with a present or past connection with the newly refurbished Wartrace Gym will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, at the gym. All ages are welcome in the mixed-gender game. Contact Tammy Leverette at wartraceparksandrec@gmail.com no later than Friday, Feb. 3.

MARCH 7

Commodities

A commodity food distribution will be held Tuesday, March 7 from 9-11 a.m. at Bedford County Agriculture Center, 2119 Midland Road, by South Central Tennessee Human Resource Agency.

ONGOING

Healthier Me program

UT/TSU Extension is offering a yearlong online program that focuses on developing one healthy habit each month such as eat breakfast, sugar down, move more, etc. You will receive an emailed newsletter each month with a goal and tracking form. There will be drawings for prizes for completing the challenge for the month and reporting as well as optional special activities like cooking classes and more. Go to https://bedford.tennessee.edu for more information and to register or call the Extension Office at 931-684-5971 for questions.

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.

Head Start

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

Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery meets each Monday at 6 p.m. at International House of Prayer, 865 Union St. Attendees do not have to be a church member. For more information call Doug, 931-703-3159.

Did you know?

AMC's uber-popular and long-running television series "The Walking Dead" introduced audiences to a number of notable characters during its 13-season run. Lauren Ridloff, a former kindergarten teacher and Broadway actress, was a huge fan of the show before she found herself joining the cast in the ninth season of the show. Viewers may not know Ridloff by her actual name, but likely recognize her as "Connie," the compassionate and brave individual who must survive in

the post-apocalyptic, zombie-infested world as a deaf individual. Like her character on the series, Ridloff is deaf and uses American Sign Language to communicate. Ridloff was joined by actress Angel Theory, who played her sister "Kelly" on the show. Like her on-screen persona, Theory is hearing-impaired. As filming "TWD" could be intense and led to a strong camaraderie among cast members, many of the other stars and crew of the show learned some ASL to make Ridloff and Theory

feel more at home — actions that were mirrored on screen. Ridloff said she looked forward to what everyone learned between filming breaks by watching YouTube or using ASL apps. Ridloff also made headlines for Marvel's 2021 "The Eternals," as the cinematic universe's first deaf superhero. She continues to use her voice so others in the deaf community can share their own stories. many of the stars and crew of the show learned some ASL after two deaf characters were introduced on the show.

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Pope discusses his health, his critics and future of papacy

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

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

Baptist

“How Should We Evangelize?” from Romans 10:14-21 will be Pastor Tyler Shoemaker’s message at 10 a.m. at **Calvary Baptist Church**. The service will be livestreamed.

Pastor Jimmy West’s message at 10 a.m. Sunday at **Edgemont Baptist Church** will be “Followers are Disciples” from Luke 14:25-35. The service will be livestreamed.

“God Always Finishes What He Starts” from 1 Peter 5: 10-12 and Philippians 1:6 will be Bro. Bobby McGee’s message at **Grace Baptist Church**.

Thompson Grove Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate Pastor Glenn Sutton and wife on their fourth anniversary on Sunday, Feb. 12. Pastor Corey Davis will be guest speaker at 11 a.m. followed by lunch and guest speaker Pastor Robert McClean at 2:30 p.m.

Christian (Disciples of Christ)

A new sermon series titled “Jesus, the Transformer” will begin Sunday at **First Christian Church**. Pastor Dan Asche’s sermon at 10 a.m. will be “From Religion to Relationships” from John 3, looking at the life of Nicodemus.

Church of Christ

“The Father of Lies” from John 8: 42-44 will be the second in the sermon series “The Fight” by Lance Bennett at **Fairlane Church of Christ**. The service will be livestreamed and broadcast on WLIJ (98.7 FM/1580 AM/wlijradio.com). At Iglesia de Cristo en Fairlane the sermon and scripture will be ¿Que Tienes en tu Maleta? - 1 Corintios 1:10-13a

Jim Gibson will speak on “Not Having a Righteousness of my Own” from Philippians 3:7-9 at 10 a.m. Sunday at **Southside Church of Christ**. Brian Nicholson will present a study of Philippians at 6 p.m. Sunday. Buddy Koonce will speak on “Commitment & Discipleship” at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services are livestreamed at cofcsouthside.com.

“Follow Me: It is worth it!” will be Chris Bobo’s message at **Wartrace Church of Christ** at 11 a.m. Sunday.

Methodist

“The Heavens Declare” from Psalm 19 will be Pastor Abe Zimmerman’s message at **First United Methodist Church**. The 10 a.m. service will be livestreamed on Facebook and broadcast on WLIJ (98.7 FM/1580 AM/wlijradio.com).

By NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY —

Pope Francis says he hasn’t considered issuing norms to regulate future papal resignations and plans to continue for as long as he can as bishop of Rome, despite a wave of criticism from some top-ranking conservative cardinals and bishops about his papal priorities.

In his first interview since the Dec. 31 death of retired Pope Benedict XVI, Francis addressed his critics, his health and the next phase of his pontificate, which marks its 10th anniversary in March without Benedict’s shadow in the background.

Francis’ comments, delivered Tuesday at the Vatican hotel where he lives, came at a particularly difficult time, as the pontiff navigates conservative opposition to his insistence on making the Catholic Church a more welcoming, inclusive place — criticism that he attributed to the equivalent of a 10-year itch of his papacy.

“You prefer that they don’t criticize, for the sake of tranquility,” Francis told The Associated Press. “But I prefer that they do it because that means there’s freedom to speak.”

Some commentators believe Francis might be freer to maneuver now following Benedict’s death. Others suggest that any sort of ecclesial peace that had reigned was over and that Francis is now more exposed to critics, deprived of the moderating influence Benedict played in keeping the conservative Catholic fringe at bay.

Francis acknowledged the knives were out, but seemed almost sanguine about it.

“I wouldn’t relate it to Benedict, but because of the wear-and-tear of a government of 10 years,” Francis said of his critics. He reasoned that his election was initially greeted with a sense of “surprise” about a South American pope. Then came discomfort “when they started to see my flaws and didn’t like them,” he said of his critics.

“The only thing I ask is that they do it to my face because that’s how we all grow, right?” he added.

The pontiff, meanwhile, said he was in good shape, that a slight bone fracture in his knee from a fall had healed without surgery and was ready to get on with his agenda.



AP Photo by Domenico Stinellis

Pope Francis speaks during an interview with The Associated Press at The Vatican on Tuesday.

“I’m in good health. For my age, I’m normal,” the 86-year-old pontiff said, though he revealed that diverticulosis, or bulges in his intestinal wall, had “returned.” Francis had 33 centimeters (13 inches) of his large intestine removed in 2021 because of what the Vatican said was inflammation that caused a narrowing of his colon.

“I might die tomorrow, but it’s under control. I’m in good health,” he said with his typical wry sense of humor.

Speculation about Francis’ health and the future of his pontificate has only risen following the death of Benedict, whose 2013 resignation marked a turning point for the Catholic Church since he was the first pontiff in six centuries to retire.

Francis praised Benedict as an “old-fashioned gentleman,” and said of his death: “I lost a dad.”

“For me, he was a security. In the face of a doubt, I would ask for the car and go to the monastery and ask,” he said of his visits to Benedict’s retirement home for counsel. “I lost a good companion.”

Some cardinals and canon lawyers have said the Vatican must issue norms to regulate future papal retirements to prevent the few hiccups that occurred during Benedict’s unexpectedly long retirement, during which he remained a point of reference for some conservatives and traditionalists who refused

to recognize Francis’ legitimacy.

From the name Benedict chose (pope emeritus) to the (white) cassock he wore to his occasional public remarks (on priestly celibacy and sex abuse), these commentators said norms must make clear there is only one reigning pope for the sake of the unity of the church.

Francis said issuing such norms hadn’t even occurred to him.

“I’m telling you the truth,” he said, adding that the Vatican needed more experience with papal retirements before setting out to “regularize or regulate” them.

Francis has said Benedict “opened the door” to future resignations, and that he too would consider stepping down. He repeated Tuesday that if he were to resign he’d be called the bishop emeritus of Rome and would live in the residence for retired priests in the diocese of Rome.

Francis said Benedict’s decision to live in a converted monastery in the Vatican Gardens was a “good intermediate solution,” but that future retired popes might want to do things differently.

“He was still ‘enslaved’ as a pope, no?” Francis said. “Of the vision of a pope, of a system. ‘Slave’ in the good sense of the word: In that he wasn’t completely free, as he would have liked to have returned to his Germany and continued studying

theology.”

By one calculation, Benedict’s death removes the main obstacle to Francis resigning, since the prospect of two pensioner popes was never an option. But Francis said Benedict’s death hadn’t altered his calculations. “It didn’t even occur to me to write a will,” he said.

As for his own near-term future, Francis emphasized his role as “bishop of Rome” as opposed to pontiff and said of his plans: “Continue being bishop, bishop of Rome in communion with all the bishops of the world.” He said he wanted to put to rest the concept of the papacy as a power player or papal “court.”

Francis also addressed the criticism from cardinals and bishops that burst into public in the weeks since Benedict’s death, saying it’s unpleasant — “like a rash that bothers you a bit” — but that is better than keeping it under wraps. Francis has been attacked for years by conservatives and traditionalists who object to his priorities of social justice issues such as poverty, migration and the environment.

“If it’s not like this, there would be a dictatorship of distance, as I call it, where the emperor is there and no one can tell him anything. No, let them speak because ... criticism helps you to grow and improve things,” he said.

The first salvo in the latest wave of attacks came from Benedict’s longtime secretary, Archbishop Georg Gaenswein, who

revealed the bad blood that accumulated over the last 10 years in a tell-all memoir published in the days after Benedict’s funeral.

In one of the most explosive sections, Gaenswein revealed that Benedict learned by reading the Vatican daily newspaper L’Osservatore Romano that Francis had reversed one of the former pope’s most significant liturgical decisions and re-imposed restrictions on celebrating the Old Latin Mass.

A few days later, the Vatican was rattled anew by the death of another conservative stalwart, Cardinal George Pell, and revelations that Pell was the author of a devastating memorandum that circulated last year that called the Francis pontificate a “disaster” and a “catastrophe.”

The memo, which was initially published under the pseudonym “Demos,” listed what it considered problems in the Vatican under Francis, from its precarious finances to the pontiff’s preaching style, and issued bullet points for what a future pope should do to fix them.

Francis acknowledged Pell’s criticism but still sang his praises for having been his “right-hand man” on reforming the Vatican’s finances as his first economy minister.

“Even though they say he criticized me, fine, he has the right. Criticism is a human right,” Francis said. But he added: “He was a great guy. Great.”

Historic Black churches receive \$4M in preservation grants

NEW YORK (AP) — Administrators of a trust fund established to preserve historic Black churches in the United States have revealed a list of houses of worship receiving \$4 million in financial grants.

The list of 35 grantees includes 16th Street Baptist Church Inc. in Birmingham, Alabama, where crucial civil rights organizing meetings were held during Jim Crow segregation in the 1960s and where four Black girls were killed after a bombing by members of the Ku Klux Klan in 1963.

Black churches in nearly every region of the U.S. are among the fund’s first round of recipients receiving grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$200,000.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation’s African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund launched its “Preserving Black Churches” program in 2021 to help support ongoing or planned restoration work in historic congregations that are caretakers of cultural artifacts and bear monumental legacies. Some church renovations were imperiled or severely postponed three years ago

after the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, which reduced the capacity of many houses of worship to serve the public at an unprecedented time of need.

“Leaving an indelible imprint on our society, historic Black churches hold an endearing legacy of community, spirituality and freedom that continues to span generations,” said Brent Leggs, the fund’s executive director, who is also senior vice president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Rev. Monica Marshall couldn’t agree with that sentiment more. She was a teenager in the 1970s when she became a member of Varick Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York. It is the oldest continuous Black congregation in the borough and has been ministering in the community for more than 200 years.

Marshall, 66, has fond memories of joining the church’s youth choir, playing the keyboard and leading its music ministry, before accepting the call to preach many years later.

In 2010, she became the pastor. There are about 75 active members.

Varick Memorial’s current building dates back to 1951, but is deteriorating and has roofing issues. The church has been mostly uninhabitable since 2020, the reverend said.

“The pandemic made it harder to maintain the building,” Marshall said. “I just heard God tell me, ‘You’re not going back into the same building that you came out of.’ The people have been very faithful, they’ve been waiting on my vision and it just came true.”

The congregation received a grant of \$200,000 to support critical restoration of the building’s structural integrity. Marshall said the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund’s efforts have restored hope that Varick Memorial can resume a wider array of services to the community.

“If you don’t know where you’ve come from, it’s hard to press on and go to even greater heights, to deeper depths in your life and in your legacy,” the reverend said.

Many Black churches, both historic and modern, experience challenges related to deferred

renovation, insufficient funds for regular maintenance and threats of demolition due to public hazards.

Since before the abolition of slavery, the Black church has been an epicenter for the cultural, social and educational pursuits of its members. The church has also played a role in brokering congregants’ relationship to political power. It’s not uncommon for politicians, most often Democrats, to campaign from Black church pulpits.

The church is a domain for the prophetic tradition in which preachers weave Scripture with criticisms of racism, corruption and poverty. “Souls to the polls” is a get-out-the-vote campaign common in the Black church, encouraging congregants to take advantage of early voting periods to counteract voter suppression and intimidation.

“After all, these are our sacred sites, which our ancestors built from the ground up, and we must do everything we can to ensure their survival,” said Henry Louis Gates Jr., the professor and historian who sits on the action fund’s national advisory council.

In 2021, Gates executive

produced and hosted a four-hour docuseries for PBS called “The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song,” based on his New York Times bestselling book of the same title.

“Preserving these structures is a visible way of preserving a crucial chapter of Black history,” Gates said.

The action fund’s other grantees include First Bryan Baptist Church in Savannah, Georgia, which is considered to be one of the oldest Black Baptist churches in the U.S.; Cory United Methodist Church in Cleveland, where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X spoke in 1963 and 1964; and St. Paul Christian Methodist Episcopal, a church located on the historically Black campus of Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee.

The action fund’s administrators said they received proposals for 1,266 Black churches across the U.S., with \$189 million in total funds requested. The effort is supported by a \$20 million seed donation received last year from the Lilly Endowment Inc., which supports religious, educational and charitable causes.

Young's 21 leads Eaglettes to district win



By **GARY JOHNSON**
Sports Writer

Shelbyville Central built a nice lead only to see it disappear before taking control of the game once again in a 56-44 win over visiting Franklin County in a District 6 4A contest on Tuesday evening.

The Eaglettes claimed their first district victory after posting a 15-5 advantage after the opening frame and took a 27-15 lead into halftime.

Franklin County went on a run and cut the led to 30-29 midway through the third stanza but Shelbyville Central was able to regain control and close out the game from that point.

Lanaya Young dashed through the lane and scored a game-high points while Paige Blackburn contributed 13 points for the winners.

Katlyn Walker's 19 points topped Franklin County.

The Eaglettes hosted Coffee County for Homecoming on Friday night.

Franklin Co.	5	14	10	15	— 44
Shelbyville Central	15	12	15	14	— 56

Franklin Co.: Nakjayah Holman 7, Madison King 4, Baylor Russell 4, Danica Stovall 2, Katlyn Walker 19, Paislie Edge 3, Kennly 5.
Shelbyville Central: Jady Lee 3, Jaz Western 2, Yasmine McFarland 8, Paige Blackburn 13, Lilly Brown 3, Rayne Pointer 1, Sammie Brown 5, Lanaya Young 21.
3-point goals: Shelbyville Central (7): Blackburn 3, McFarland 2, Lee, S. Brown; Franklin County (5): Walker 4, Edge.
Halftime score: Shelbyville Central 27, Franklin County 19.

Shelbyville Central point-guard Lanaya Young scored 21 points to lead the Eaglettes to their first district win of the season on Tuesday night.

T-G Photo by Gary Johnson

Eagles come up short in district loss

By **GARY JOHNSON**
Sports Writer

Shelbyville Central's Golden Eagles fell short in a 56-45 loss to visiting Franklin County in a District 6 4A contest on Tuesday night.

The Eagle were able to keep it close throughout the first half, only trailing 18-14 at the end of the first quarter and 32-26 at the intermission.

The Rebels outscored the Eagle 17-6 in the third quarter and a strong comeback effort by Shelbyville Central in the fourth period wasn't enough.

Kai Baker led the winners with 19 points with Kenyon Fuqua adding 14.

Kyler Trice pitched in 13 points with Terrence Johnson contributing 11 to pace the Eagles.

Shelbyville Central hosted Coffee County on Friday night for Homecoming.

Franklin Co.	18	14	17	7	— 56
Shelbyville Central	14	12	6	13	— 45

Franklin Co.: Keandre Johnson 6, Kai Baker 19, Kenyon Fuqua 14, Sam Vincent 4, Kaleb Riggsby 8, Jacob Sanchez 2, Brandon Walker 3.
Shelbyville Central: Zyon Bonner 5, Terrence Johnson 11, Marquis Wilson 2, Tae'Shawn Shelton 5, Isah Alexander 1, Joe Harris 8, Kyler Trice 13.
3-point goals: Shelbyville Central (5): Johnson 2, Harris 2, Trice; Franklin County (1): Walker.
Halftime score: Franklin Co. 32, Shelbyville Central 26.

Shelbyville Central's Kyler Trice looks to drive to the basket in the Eagles' district opener Tuesday night.

T-G Photo by Gary Johnson



Hot start powers Cascade win

T-G STAFF REPORT

WATERTOWN — A hot start by the Cascade Champions (18-4) on Tuesday night was more than the Watertown could counter in the Champs' 71-47 non-district win.

Seniors Lucas Clanton and Jackson Davis provided the bulk of the hot start on the offensive end, with Davis totaling nine and Davis piling on seven to spur the 20-point quarter.

Defensively, Cascade held Watertown to just three made field goals in the opening quarter.

With a 14-point lead in hand, Watertown eventually was able to knock down a few shots to make it interesting into the second quarter.

Still, Cascade was able to add 14 of its own to double up the Purple Tigers for a 34-17 halftime lead.

Not much changed in the second half as Cascade was able to execute its offense and closed the game with a 21-point effort in the fourth.

Cascade	20	14	16	21	— 71
Watertown	6	11	14	16	— 47

Thomas Gentry led all scorers with 18 points, including three treys, while Clanton added 17 with two three-pointers.
Davis also hit double figures and finished with 11 points.
Trent Spradlin and Chase McConnell lead the hosts with 11 points each.
While Cascade didn't spend a ton of time at the charity stripe, the Champs did make good on 5-of-7 attempts.
The win marked the sixth-straight for Cascade and was the eight in the last nine games.
The Champs were back on the road on Friday night, taking on county rival Community at 7:30 p.m.

Champs fall in tri-match

T-G STAFF REPORT

LEBANON — Cascade had a pair of tough matches in Tuesday night's tri-match at Friendship Christian, falling to the hosts, 48-27 and to Stewarts Creek, 54-30.

Despite the team losses, several individuals still had standout nights in the tri-match.

Against Friendship Christian, Vayden Moore earned a pin at the 126-pound weight class in just 45 seconds. At 182, Hayden Dowell earned a hard-fought 7-3 decision.

Against Stewarts Creek, Chase Sutter took down Kaiden Hughes in 1:46 to earn the pin, while Dowell earned his second win of the night against Yamil Rashid in a marathon that ended with a pin in 4:37.

Cole West also earned a pin at 220 in 3:59, while Mason Crowder pinned Joen Jack in 1:40.

Viqueens rally past Cannon County

T-G STAFF REPORT
WOODBURY — After a sluggish start on Tuesday at Cannon County, the Community Viqueens rallied past the Lady Lions for a 49-44 non-district win. Community fell behind early and managed just eight points in the opening frame, four of which came courtesy of Zoey Dixon, who was a perfect 4-of-4 at the free throw line in the period.

The Viqueens continued to work their way to the paint and draw fouls and in the first half, shot 10-of-12 free throw attempts. Still, Cannon County clung to a 22-19 lead at the half. It wasn't until the third quarter that M.J. Simmons took control and rattled off six points, while Addison Brothers and Anna Haskins knocked down some timely three-pointers.

By the end of the quarter, Community held a one-point lead over Cannon County. The usual cast of suspects continued to find their open shots and made the most of their time at the free throw line, making 5-of-7 attempts in the quarter to help preserve the five-point win. Simmons led three Viqueens in double figures with 15 points, while Dixon

added 11 and Haskins knocked down 10. Community returned home on Friday night and hosted cross-county district rival Cascade at 6 p.m.

Community 8 11 14 16 — 49
 Cannon Co. 10 12 10 12 — 44
 Community: M.J. Simmons 15, Zoey Dixon 11, Anna Haskins 10, Haley Mitchell 8, Addison Brothers 3, Shelby Cawthon 2.
 Cannon Co.: Annaston Holt 11, Abbilyn Tater 9, Jenna Bush 8, Bella Pelham 7, Addie King 5, Abi Alexander 2, Alli Lawson 2.
 3-Point goals: Cannon Co. (6): Holt 3, Tater 3; Community (4): Haskins 2, Mitchell, Brothers.
 Halftime score: Cannon Co. 22, Community 19.

Middle quarters cost Vikes in defeat

T-G STAFF REPORT
WOODBURY — Despite a 19-point, fourth-quarter finish on Tuesday night at Cannon County, a lack of consistency on the offensive end of the court in the middle quarters proved costly as Community fell, 53-42. Community hung tough

with its host through the first quarter, trailing just 11-10 after the first quarter. But an 11-5 run in the second quarter and a 15-8 run in the third period was more than Community could overcome. Community spread 19 points in the fourth quarter among six players and

added three treys in the quarter, but couldn't overcome the sluggish second and third quarter. Jacob Flannagan led the Vikings with 11 points, while Jason Cullen added 10. Community was back in action on Friday night, hosting Cascade.

Community 10 5 8 19 — 42
 Cannon Co. 11 11 15 16 — 53
 Community: Jacob Flannagan 11, Jason Cullen 10, Moe Berman 5, Cole Crockett 5, Corey Paterick 3, Landon Lovorn 2, Zac Leathers 2, Ramone Hernandez 2, Noah Watson 2.
 Cannon Co.: Lukas Phillips 16, A.J. Armstrong 13, Eli Pelham 10, Antonio Jones 7, Preston Hamby 3, Austin Ferrell 2, Eli Garrett 2.
 3-Point goals: Cannon Co. (6): Phillips 3, Armstrong 2, Hamby; Community (4): Crockett, Berman, Cullen, Paterick.
 Halftime score: Cannon Co. 22, Community 15.

UT extends athletic director's contract

KNOXVILLE (AP) — Tennessee Chancellor Donde Plowman announced a contract extension for athletic director Danny White on Wednesday, a day after the Volunteers disclosed a big pay raise for football coach Josh Heupel. Plowman said White agreed to an extension that starts at \$2.2 million a year with an annual pay increase of 5%, up from his original \$1.8 million salary. Plowman signed the updated contract on Dec. 1. "Danny White's strong

and innovative leadership of our athletics department has created a championship culture and excellence across all sports in record time," Plowman said of the athletic director hired in January 2021. Since White took over, Tennessee has won six Southeastern Conference team championships in women's soccer, women's swimming & diving, men's basketball and baseball. The Vols won their first SEC men's basketball tournament since 1979 in March.

Tennessee football finished No. 6 in both the AP Top 25 and CFP rankings with an 11-2 record that was its best since 2001. Baseball and men's tennis earned No. 1 rankings in 2022, with baseball earning the No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament. Men's basketball finished No. 5. White said he's fortunate to be in the right place at the right time with university leadership and fan support. "We're just getting started on Rocky Top," White said. "I can't wait to see what's

next!" Tennessee set a single-season record by selling 17,297 new season tickets for football in 2022, with more than 7,500 new season tickets sold for the 2023 season since September. Fundraising also is coming off a record year for 2021-22 for total money, cash receipts and total donors. White announced in December that Tennessee had commitments of \$361 million toward a campaign of raising \$500 million by summer 2026.

Heupel gets big payday from Vols

KNOXVILLE (AP) — Tennessee gave coach Josh Heupel a big raise that puts him among the highest-paid coaches in college football after he led the Volunteers to their best season in more than 20 years. Heupel will make \$9 million per year through the 2028 football season under the contract extension announced by the school Tuesday and signed Jan. 19. That's an increase from the \$5 million extension signed last July that pushed his deal through 2027. Athletic director Danny White said Heupel's results speak for themselves with an 18-8 record, including 11-2 last season, capped by a win over Clemson in the Orange Bowl. White said Heupel and his staff have energized the program and fans with his aggressive style of football. "We just needed an innovative leader like Josh Heupel to reignite the spark," White said of program that dealt with

what he called a brief period of dormancy. "It's been fun to crash the party, but as Josh said after our Orange Bowl triumph, the best is yet to come." The Vols have beaten seven Top 25 teams since Heupel was hired in January 2021, which ranks third nationally among FBS head coaches in that span. Tennessee went 3-7 in 2020 before Heupel was hired to replace



Jeremy Pruitt. Tennessee finished Heupel's second season ranked sixth by The Associated Press college football poll, the Vols' highest finish since 2001. The pay increase features a \$225,000 base salary with \$8.725 million in supplemental pay. Heupel's bonus if he wins a national championship was doubled from \$500,000 to \$1 million. He now is among at least 10 head football coaches at public schools making at least \$9 million.

Mahomes shrugs off pain, plans to play Sunday

By DAVID BRANDT
 AP Sports Writer

Patrick Mahomes has a very sore right ankle. Jalen Hurts has a bum right shoulder. Even so, neither quarterback is complaining in the lead up to Sunday's NFL conference championship games. Mahomes went through a normal morning walkthrough Wednesday and then headed out for an afternoon practice with the rest of the Kansas City Chiefs, four days after a Jacksonville pass rusher landed on his ankle and forced him to hobble off the field in pain. The Chiefs host the Cincinnati Bengals in the AFC title game Sunday. "The last few days has been an all-day thing," Mahomes said, "where you're doing treatment and rehab and watching film. You're trying to make sure you're prepared for the Bengals, a great football team, mentally and physically."

Mahomes, a two-time All-Pro, was still pretty good on one ankle against the Jaguars. He left in the second quarter after the injury but returned for the second half and performed well enough to push the Chiefs to a 27-20 victory. They advanced to their fifth consecutive conference title game.

Philadelphia's Hurts — who is a finalist for MVP along with Mahomes, Josh Allen, Justin Jefferson and Joe Burrow -- has a sore right shoulder and told Fox Sports before the team's 38-7 win over the Giants that he was "nowhere near 100%." He looked fine against the Giants, completing 7 of 7 passes for 89 yards in the first quarter and eventually threw for two touchdowns and ran for another score in Philadelphia's lopsided win. Hurts said Wednesday his shoulder is still sore, though he didn't seem concerned. "I've felt better, but it doesn't really matter," Hurts said. "I've got to get it done." The Eagles will host the San Francisco 49ers and rookie quarterback Brock Purdy in the NFC Championship on Sunday. The



After suffering a high ankle sprain in last week's divisional round, Patrick Mahomes plans to play this weekend in the AFC Championship. AP Photo/Ed Zurga

two winners from the conference championship games will advance to the Super Bowl on Feb. 12 in Glendale, Arizona. Purdy is set for perhaps his toughest test yet Sunday, when he faces an Eagles defense that led the NFL with 70 sacks and must deal with an imposing road environment. Two of the four remaining teams are in the midst of long winning streaks. The 49ers have won 12 straight games while the Bengals have won 10 straight. Here are some other things to know during the postseason:

What's the upcoming schedule?
SUNDAY
 San Francisco 49ers at Philadelphia Eagles, 2 p.m. CST, Fox
 Cincinnati Bengals at Kansas

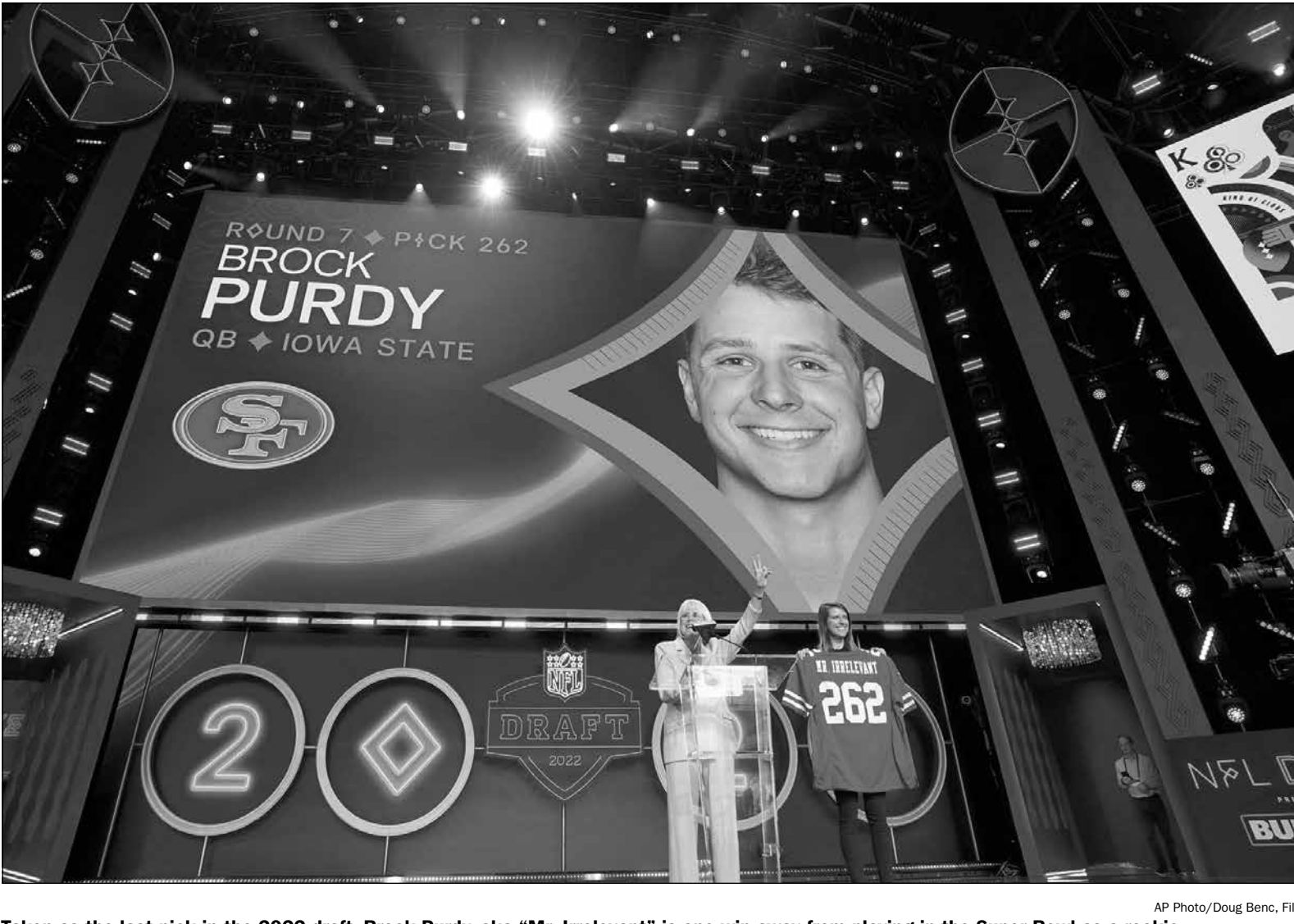
City Chiefs, 5:30 p.m. CST, CBS

No need for neutral
 The AFC title game would have been played in Atlanta next weekend if the Buffalo Bills had beaten the Bengals, under a rule adjustment approved by NFL owners. The league decided on the first of its kind conference championship neutral site setting because the Bills (13-3) finished the season a half-game behind the Chiefs (14-3) after their game at Cincinnati was canceled on Jan. 2 when Bills safety Damar Hamlin went into cardiac arrest and had to be resuscitated on the field. Hamlin has since been making a remarkable recovery and attended Sunday's game in Buffalo, waving to fans from a stadium suite. In the end, all the Atlanta

hypotheticals weren't needed. That's because the Bengals and Burrow are rolling. Cincinnati beat Buffalo 27-10 and is one win away from playing in a second straight Super Bowl. "Better send those refunds," Burrow said, referring to the 50,000 or so tickets already sold for a game that will never be played.

What's the format for the playoffs?
 This is the third straight year of the current playoff format, which included the top seven teams from both the AFC and the NFC. The four division winners in both conferences automatically get the top four seeds, regardless of record, and then the top three teams with the best record that didn't win their division are the wild-card selections. That's why

it's fairly common for a wild-card selection to have a better record — but worse playoff seeding — than a team that finished as a division winner. The No. 1-seeded team in each conference gets a bye into the second round — that's the Chiefs and Eagles — while No. 2 hosts No. 7, No. 3 hosts No. 6 and No. 4 hosts No. 5 during the wild-card weekend. The NFL re-seeds teams after each playoff round. That means no matter how the bracket started, the lowest-seeded team always travels to the highest-seeded team. There are four rounds to the playoffs: The wild-card round was last weekend, the conference championship games are this Sunday and the Super Bowl is scheduled for Feb. 12 in Glendale, Arizona, at the home stadium of the Arizona Cardinals.



AP Photo/Doug Benc, File

Taken as the last pick in the 2022 draft, Brock Purdy, aka "Mr. Irrelevant" is one win away from playing in the Super Bowl as a rookie.

Purdy goes from 'Mr. Irrelevant' to brink of reaching Super Bowl

By JOSH DUBOW

AP Pro Football Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Brock Purdy's NFL career started with the moniker of "Mr. Irrelevant" and the weeklong trip to Newport Beach to celebrate the player picked last in the draft.

With one more win, Purdy's rookie season in the NFL will end on the brightest stage of all as a starting quarterback in the Super Bowl for the San Francisco 49ers.

It's been an improbable nine-month journey from the trip to Disneyland, golf tournament, and a roast where he received the Lowsman Trophy as the last draft pick to the NFC title game on Sunday when the 49ers (15-4) visit the Philadelphia Eagles (15-3).

"Going to the NFC championship, it means a lot to us and for myself," Purdy said. "When I take a step back, it's pretty cool. Very thankful."

Purdy is set for perhaps his toughest test yet on Sunday, when he faces an Eagles defense that led the NFL with 70 sacks and must deal with an imposing road environment.

Purdy handled the crowd noise well in his first road start at Seattle last month, with coach Kyle Shanahan telling him at the time it was important to deal with that

before the postseason.

"He did say it was good preparation for what we might have to play in terms of the playoffs, going on the road for road games and obviously Philadelphia," Purdy said. "In these kind of games, it's all about communication. How can you operate smoothly, get in and out of the huddle, get the play off the right way, make sure everyone is on the same page. So that's definitely a big emphasis this week."

Purdy has aced every test he's faced so far and has already become perhaps one of the most productive "Mr. Irrelevant" since the title was first handed out in 1976.

He is the third rookie quarterback ever to win two playoff starts, the fifth to reach the conference title game as a starter and will look to be the first to reach the Super Bowl.

Pretty impressive for the ninth QB taken in the draft. But not a complete surprise to the supremely confident Purdy or the Niners, who saw flashes during Purdy's limited work in training camp.

San Francisco cut Nate Sudfeld in order to keep Purdy as the third QB and the team didn't lose any confidence when he was forced to take over early in Week 13 after Jimmy Garoppolo got hurt.

Purdy helped the Niners win that game against Miami and has won all seven starts since then, posting an NFL-best 111.4 passer rating in that span with 16 TDs and only three interceptions.

A San Francisco offense filled with playmakers such as Christian McCaffrey, Deebo Samuel, George Kittle and Brandon Aiyuk has gotten better instead of regressing with a rookie running the show.

"We stopped looking at him as our rookie quarterback when he took over and he stopped looking at himself like that probably when he got drafted," right tackle Mike McGlinchey said. "He's done a great job. I can't say enough good things about him."

The history of rookie QBs making it this far in the postseason is not very successful with Shaun King (1999), Ben Roethlisberger (2004), Joe Flacco (2008) and Mark Sanchez (2009) all losing in that round.

The four combined for a 51.8 passer rating in the title game, second in a row and third in four years. They're 7-10 overall.

Home-field advantage is the difference in this one. Purdy has only made two road starts in Seattle and Las Vegas. Philadelphia is just different. The Eagles have hostile fans who won't let up.

EAGLES 24-23

Cincinnati (14-4) at Kansas City (15-3)

Joe Burrow is 3-0 against Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs, including a comeback win in overtime last year in the AFC championship game also played in Arrowhead Stadium.

The Bengals are slight favorites because Mahomes has a high ankle sprain. He returned from the injury to help lead the Chiefs to a win over Jacksonville last week, but there's no doubt it should limit his ability to do superhuman things on the field.

The Chiefs are making their fifth straight appearance in the AFC title game with all five at home. They're 2-2 in that span with one Super Bowl victory.

Before last season, the Bengals hadn't won a playoff game in 31 years. Now, they're 5-1 over the

past two seasons with Burrow leading the way. He has plenty of help in Ja'Marr Chase, Tee Higgins and Joe Mixon.

Cincinnati's banged-up offensive line held up well against Buffalo. The Chiefs will look to take advantage this week.

The Chiefs will have to protect Mahomes and give him time to stay in the pocket so he's not trying run around on a gimpy ankle. Expect Mahomes to target fellow All-Pro Travis Kelce quite often.

Kelce had 14 catches last week. Bengals defensive coordinator Lou Anarumo designed a scheme to confuse Josh Allen and held Buffalo's dynamic offense to just 10 points. He'll have to do it again against one of the top play-callers in the NFL.

Kansas City's Andy Reid is coaching his 10th conference championship game, but only has one Super Bowl trophy on his mantle. He's going to need Mahomes to be magical at some point.

If anyone can be spectacular with an injury such as the one he has, it's Mahomes.

CHIEFS, 30-27 2022 RECORD

Last Week: Straight up: 4-0. Against spread: 2-2.

Season: Straight up: 179-101. Against spread: 140-135-5.

Stats tell story of offensive finalists

By ROB MAADDI

AP Pro Football Writer

Jalen Hurts, Justin Jefferson and Patrick Mahomes are finalists for The Associated Press 2022 NFL Most Valuable Player and Offensive Player of the Year awards.

The winners will be announced at NFL Honors on Feb. 9. A nationwide panel of 50 media members who regularly cover the league completed voting before the start of the playoffs.

Bills quarterback Josh Allen and Bengals QB Joe Burrow also are finalists for MVP.

Hurts had 3,701 yards passing, 760 yards rushing and 35 touchdowns combined, leading the Philadelphia Eagles to a 14-3 record in the regular season and the No. 1 seed in the NFC. The Eagles (15-3) are in the NFC championship game for the second time in six seasons.

Jefferson led the NFL with 128 catches and 1,809 yards receiving in his third season with the Minnesota Vikings. Jefferson was one of two unanimous choices for AP All-Pro along with Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce.

Mahomes, the 2018 NFL MVP, helped Kansas City go 14-3 to earn the No. 1 seed in the AFC. The Chiefs (15-3) are in the AFC title game for the fifth straight season. They'll host the Bengals. Mahomes led the NFL with 5,250 yards passing and 41 TDs. He received 49 of 50 votes for AP first-team All-Pro.

San Francisco 49ers edge rusher Nick Bosa, Chiefs defensive tackle Chris Jones and Dallas Cowboys edge rusher Micah Parsons are the finalists for AP Defensive Player of the Year.

Bosa led the NFL with 18 1/2 sacks, Jones had 15 1/2 and Parsons got 14 1/2.

Brian Daboll, Doug Pederson and Kyle Shanahan are the finalists for AP Coach of the Year award. Daboll led the New York Giants to a 9-7-1 record in his first season as head coach. Pederson guided the Jacksonville Jaguars to a 9-8 record and an AFC South title in his first year with the team. Shanahan led the San Francisco 49ers to a 13-4 mark, including 5-0 down the stretch with third-string rookie quarterback Brock Purdy.

Purdy, Seattle Seahawks running back Kenneth Walker III and New York Jets wide receiver Garrett Wilson are the finalists for AP Offensive Rookie of the Year.

Purdy, the last player selected in the draft, began the season as third-string QB and stepped in after injuries to Trey Lance and Jimmy Garoppolo. He led San Francisco to a 5-0 record down the stretch, two playoff wins and an appearance in the NFC championship game at Philadelphia.

Walker led all rookies with 1,050 yards rushing and nine TDs. Wilson led all rookies with 83 catches and 1,103 yards receiving.

Jets cornerback Ahmad "Sauce" Gardner, Detroit Lions defensive end Aidan Hutchinson and Seahawks cornerback Tariq Woolen are the finalists for AP Defensive Rookie of the Year.

New York Giants running back Saquon Barkley, 49ers running back Christian McCaffrey and Seahawks quarterback Geno Smith are the finalists for AP Comeback Player of the Year.

Lions offensive coordinator Ben Johnson, 49ers defensive coordinator DeMeco Ryans and Eagles offensive coordinator Shane Steichen are the finalists for AP Assistant Coach of the Year.

Conference title games evenly matched

By ROB MAADDI

AP Pro Football Writer

It's been 25 years since both NFL conference championship games were this evenly matched from an oddsmakers standpoint. The San Francisco 49ers are 2 1/2-point underdogs against the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday in the NFC championship game, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

In the AFC title game, the Cincinnati Bengals are 1 1/2-point favorites on the road against the Kansas City Chiefs. The previous time both conference championship games featured spreads under 3 points was 1998. The Packers were 2 1/2-point favorites at San Francisco in the NFC game. The Broncos were 2 1/2-point favorites at Pittsburgh in the AFC matchup. Both road teams won.

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the NFC game. The Broncos were 2 1/2-point favorites at Pittsburgh in the AFC matchup. Both road teams won.

The Eagles and Chiefs have history on their side. No. 1 seeds are 32-14 in conference championship games, but only 4-3 since the 2017 season when the Eagles became the last No. 1 seed to win a Super Bowl.

Home teams are 34-18 in the NFC title game, 36-16 in the AFC.

San Francisco (15-4) at Philadelphia (15-3)

The 49ers have won 12 straight games, including seven in a row since rookie seventh-round pick Brock Purdy took over at quarterback after Jimmy Garoppolo was injured.

The Eagles opened 13-1 behind Jalen Hurts, earned the No. 1 seed and a bye and dominated the New York Giants in the divisional round.

This game pits the two top defenses in the NFL, two of the best rushing offenses and plenty of playmakers on both sides. Miles Sanders, AJ Brown, Devonta Smith and Dallas Goedert for the Eagles. Christian McCaffrey, Deebo Samuel, George Kittle and Brandon Aiyuk for San Francisco.

It should be a tough, physical game involving teams who are no strangers to reaching this point. The Eagles are in the NFC championship game for the seventh time

in 22 seasons and are seeking their third trip to the Super Bowl in that span. They won it all after the 2017 season.

The Niners are making a record 18th appearance in the NFC title game, second in a row and third in four years. They're 7-10 overall.

Home-field advantage is the difference in this one. Purdy has only made two road starts in Seattle and Las Vegas. Philadelphia is just different. The Eagles have hostile fans who won't let up.

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THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN® by Stan Lee-Larry Lieber

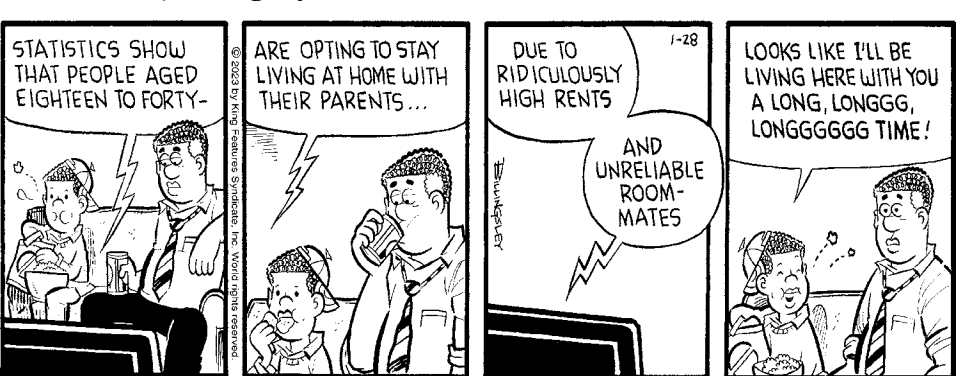


SUDOKU

8		5		4				7
								2
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Level: Intermediate

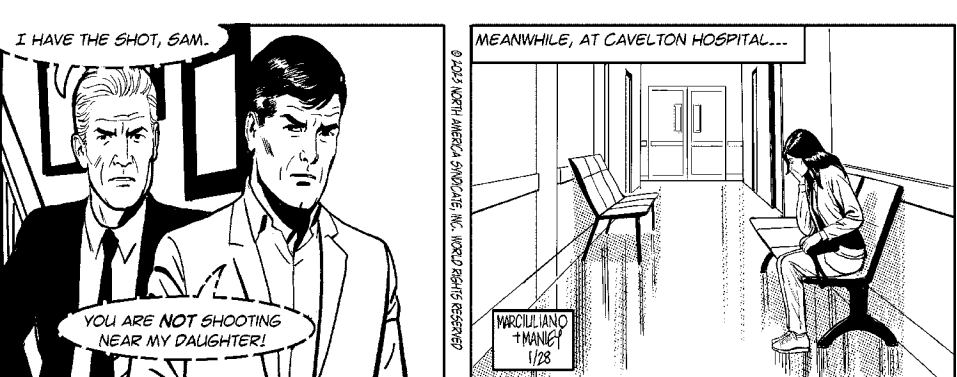
CURTIS® by Billingsley



THATABABY® by Paul Trap



JUDGE PARKER® by Marciuliano-Manley



POPEYE® by Bud Sagendorf



CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to donating blood. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 14 = O)

- A. 3 14 12 5 15 8 14 12**
Clue: Gift of money or something
- B. 22 21 14 1 15 5 4 6**
Clue: Not enough
- C. 17 8 2 6**
Clue: Growth and sustenance
- D. 19 5 1 8 12 4**
Clue: Compassionate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:

Answers: A. donation B. shortage C. life D. caring

PUBLIC NOTICE

ance of the debt authorized herein, the County is hereby authorized to borrow money and incur indebtedness in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$43,500,000 by the issuance of, bonds, in one or more emissions, or by obtaining loans by entering into one or more loan agreements with a public building authority in Tennessee. Such indebtedness shall bear interest at a rate or rates not to exceed the maximum interest rate as permitted by applicable Tennessee law and shall be payable from unlimited ad valorem taxes to be levied on all taxable property within the County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Bedford County, Tennessee that the County Clerk be, and is, hereby directed and instructed to cause the foregoing initial resolution relative to the issuance of general obligation bonds or general obligation loan agreements to be published in full in a newspaper having a general circulation in the County, for one issue of said paper followed by the following statutory notice:

NOTICE
The foregoing resolution has been adopted. Unless within twenty (20) days from the date of publication hereof a petition signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the registered voters of the County shall have been filed with the County Clerk protesting the issuance of the County's bonds and/or the County entering into one or more loan agreements, such bonds will be issued and/or such loan agreements shall be entered into as proposed.

Donna Thomas, County Clerk
This Resolution shall be in immediate effect from and after its adoption, the public welfare requiring it.
(Jan. 28, 2023)

Public Notice
The Shelbyville City Council will meet for a Special Called Meeting on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 5:45 PM at the Shelbyville Recreation Center Meeting Room B, 220 Tulip Tree Road.

The following matters will be up for consideration at this meeting:

- Special Called Meeting: January 31, 2023
Time: 5:45 PM
Place: Shelbyville Recreation Center, 220 Tulip Tree Road, Shelbyville, TN 37160
- I.Call to Order
- II.Roll Call
- III.Adopt the Agenda
Consideration of a motion to allow City Attorney to read captions only on Resolutions
- IV.Resolutions
A. A Resolution of the City of Shelbyville, Tennessee Authorizing a Grant Application with FEMA/Homeland Security for the Assistance to Firefighters Operation and Safety Grant (AFG)
- V.Announcements
- VI.Adjourn
Mayor Randy Carroll
(Jan. 28, 2023)

PUBLIC NOTICE
The following vehicle will be sold at public auction at US Towing & Recovery, 433 Depot St., Shelbyville, TN 37160 on February 13, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Liable for storage & repairs.
2018 KIA SPORTAGE VIN# KNDPMCAC1J7468177
(Jan. 28, 2023)

Advice for avoiding tax season stress and scams

By **ADRIANA MORGA**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — For many people filing U.S. tax returns — especially those doing it for their first time — it can be a daunting task that's often left to the last minute. But if you want to avoid the stress of the looming deadline, start getting organized as soon as possible.

Whether you do your taxes yourself, go to a tax clinic or hire a professional, navigating the tax system can be complicated and stressful. Courtney Alev, a consumer financial advocate for Credit Karma, recommends you go easy on yourself.

"Take a breath. Take some time, set out an hour, or go through it over the weekend. You'll hopefully see that it's a lot simpler than you think," Alev said.

If you find the process too confusing, there are plenty of free resources to help you get through it.

Here are some things you need to know:

WHEN IS THE DEADLINE TO FILE TAXES?

Taxpayers have until April 18 to submit their returns from 2022.

WHAT DO I NEED TO FILE MY TAX RETURN?

While the required documents might depend on your individual case, here is a general list of what everyone needs:

- Social Security number
- W-2 forms, if you are employed
- 1099-G, if you are unemployed
- 1099 forms, if you are self-employed
- Savings and investment records
- Any eligible deduction, such as educational expenses, medical bills, charitable donations, etc.
- Tax credits, such as child tax credit, retirement savings contributions credit, etc.

To find a more detailed document list, visit the IRS website.

Tom O'Saben, director of tax

content and government relations at the National Association of Tax Professionals, recommends gathering all of your documents in one place before you start your tax return and also having your documents from last year if your financial situation has drastically changed.

Theresa Grover, site coordinator for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, also recommends taxpayers create an identity protection PIN number with the IRS to guard against identity theft. Once you create a number, the IRS will require it to file your tax return.

HOW DO I FILE MY TAXES?

You can either file your taxes online or on paper. However, there is a great time difference between the two options. Paper filing can take up to six months for the IRS to process, while electronic filing cuts it down to three weeks.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE OUT THERE?

For those who make \$73,000 or less per year, the IRS offers free guided tax preparation that does the math for you. If you have questions while working on your tax forms, the IRS also offers an interactive tax assistant tool that can provide answers based on your information.

Beyond the popular companies such as TurboTax and H&R Block, taxpayers can also hire licensed professionals, such as certified public accountants. The IRS offers a directory of tax preparers across the United States.

The IRS also funds two types of programs that offer free tax help: VITA and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly program (TCE). People who earn \$60,000 or less a year, have disabilities or are limited English speakers, qualify for the VITA program. Those who are 60 or older, qualify for the TCE program. The IRS has a site for locating organizations hosting VITA and TCE clinics.

If you have a tax problem, there are clinics around the country that can help you resolve these issues. Generally, these tax clinics also offer services in other languages such as Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese.

HOW CAN I AVOID MISTAKES IN MY TAX RETURN?

Many people fear getting in trouble with the IRS if they make a mistake. Here's how to avoid some of the most common ones:

—Double check your name on your Social Security card.

When working with clients, O'Saben always asks them to bring their Social Security card to double-check their number and their legal name, which can change when when people get married.

"You may have changed your name but you didn't change it with Social Security," O'Saben said. "If the Social Security number doesn't match to the first four letters of the last name, the return will be rejected and that will delay processing."

—Search for tax statements when you have opted out of paper mail.

Many people like to opt out of snail mail but when you do, it can also include your tax documents.

"If you didn't get anything in the mail doesn't mean that there isn't an information document out there that you need to be aware of and report accordingly," O'Saben said.

—Make sure you report all of your income.

If you had more than one job in 2022, you need the W-2 forms of each — not just the one from the job you ended the year with, says Christina Wease, interim director of the tax clinic at Michigan State University.

Additionally, if you have a business that uses PayPal or Venmo as a service, it must be reported in your tax return. For 2022, the use of those services needs to be reported if they amounted to 200 transactions in the calendar year and more than \$20,000 in sales from goods or services.

WHAT IF I MAKE A MISTAKE?

Mistakes happen, and the IRS takes different approaches depending on each case. In general, if you make a mistake or you're missing something in your tax records, the IRS will audit you, Alev said. An audit means that the IRS will ask you for more documentation.

"Generally, they are very understanding and willing to work with folks. You're not going to get arrested if you type in the wrong field," Alev said.

WHAT IF I HAVEN'T FILED FOR YEARS?

Wease explains that you can file taxes late and, if you were supposed to get a refund, you might still get it. If you haven't filed for years and you owe money to the IRS, you may be hit with penalties but the agency will can work with you to manage payment plans.

HOW CAN I AVOID SCAMS?

Tax season is prime time for tax scams, according to the IRS. These scams can come via phone, text, email and social media. The IRS uses none of those means to contact taxpayers.

Sometimes scams are even operated by tax preparers so it's important to ask lots of questions. If a tax preparer says you will get a refund that is larger than what you've received in previous years, for example, that may be a red flag, O'Saben said.

If you can't see what your tax preparer is working on, get a copy of the tax return and ask questions about each of the entries.

HOW LONG SHOULD I KEEP COPIES OF MY TAX RETURNS?

It's always good practice to keep a record of your tax returns, just in case the IRS audits you for an item you reported years ago. Both Wease and O'Saben recommend keeping copies of your tax return documents for up to seven years.

Suspect in Half Moon Bay farm killings faces 7 murder counts

By **OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ** and **JOCELYN GECKER**
Associated Press

HALF MOON BAY, Calif. — A farmworker accused of killing seven people in back-to-back shootings at two Northern California mushroom farms was charged Wednesday with seven counts of murder and one of attempted murder.

Chunli Zhao, 66, was set to make his first court appearance Wednesday but it was postponed until Feb. 16, San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said. His two attorneys did not immediately respond to calls and emails seeking comment.

Wagstaffe, speaking outside the courthouse, declined to share any additional details on a motive in the killing of Zhao's current and former coworkers, saying he wanted to keep the details out of the public eye to ensure a fair trial. Sheriff's officials have said it was workplace violence.

It was California's third mass shooting in eight days, and the largest in San Mateo County's history, Wagstaffe said. It followed the killing of 11 people in the Los Angeles area amid Lunar New Year celebrations Saturday.

Authorities believe Zhao acted alone Monday when he entered a mushroom farm where he worked in Half Moon Bay, shot and killed four people and seriously wounded a fifth. He then drove to a nearby farm where he worked previously and killed three more people, said Eamonn Allen, a sheriff's spokesperson.

Erlin Ortiz and her sister, Miriam Ortiz, pack mushrooms at the farm where Zhao is accused of killing four people.

They were sitting in their car after their shift when they saw Zhao, who was about 40 feet (12 meters) away, pull a gun from a backpack, shout something in Mandarin to a fellow Chinese farmworker and then shoot the

man, they told the Bay Area News Group.

Zhao then shot a second worker, and gunned down the first worker who had gotten to his feet and tried to run away, Erlin Ortiz said.

"He was super red and very angry," she said of Zhao.

Shocked and horrified, Miriam Ortiz's husband, who was behind the wheel, started the car and prepared to drive away.

Zhao turned to look at them, then hopped onto a forklift and headed toward an encampment on the farm where he and the sisters lived. His demeanor had changed, they said.

"He was laughing, he was smiling," Erlin Ortiz said. "We saw him get on the forklift, and when he turned to see us, he was making fun of the situation."

Erlin Ortiz said Zhao, who grew onions for himself and his wife in a little garden plot, would wave and greet them but always seemed serious.

The charges against Zhao include additional allegations that could result in the death penalty or life in prison without parole, though Gov. Gavin Newsom has issued a moratorium on executions. Among those allegations are that Zhao used a gun, caused great bodily injury and killed multiple people.

The coroner's office named six of the victims: Zhishen Liu, 73, of San Francisco; Marciano Martinez Jimenez, 50, of Moss Beach, California; Aixiang Zhang, 74, of San Francisco; Qizhong Cheng, 66, of Half Moon Bay; Jingzhi Lu, 64, of Half Moon Bay; and Yetao Bing, 43, whose hometown was unknown. The charging documents identify Jose Romero Perez as the other person killed and Pedro Romero Perez as the eighth victim, who survived the shooting.

Officials have said some of the people killed were migrant workers. Some people were shot in trailers on the property, Wagstaffe

said.

Servando Martinez Jimenez said his brother Marciano Martinez Jimenez, one of the victims, was a delivery person and manager at one of the farms. He never mentioned Zhao or said anything about problems with other workers.

"He was a good person. He was polite and friendly with everyone. He never had any problems with anyone. I don't understand why all this happened," Martinez Jimenez said in Spanish.

Marciano Martinez Jimenez had lived in the United States for 28 years after arriving from the Mexican state of Oaxaca. Servando Martinez Jimenez said he is working with the Mexican consulate to get his brother's body home.

It would not have been Zhao's first fit of workplace rage, the San Francisco Chronicle reported. In 2013, Zhao was accused of threatening to split a coworker's head open with a knife and separately tried to suffocate the man with a pillow, the Chronicle reported, based on court documents.

The two were roommates and worked at a restaurant, and the man, identified as Jingjiu Wang, filed a temporary restraining order against Zhao that was granted but is no longer in effect. Wang could not be immediately reached, the Chronicle reported.

Zhao is from China and has lived in the United States for at least a dozen years, Wagstaffe said. He had legal paperwork to live in the country at one time and investigators were determining whether it was still valid, Wagstaffe said. They were also looking into his prior contact with law enforcement.

The shootings broke out at California Terra Garden, previously known as Mountain Mushroom Farm, and nearby Concord Farms.

The majority of farmworkers in the area are Latinos but the

Mountain Mushroom Farm was one of the few that employed Asian workers, said Belinda Hernandez, executive director of ALAS, a farmworker advocacy group based in Half Moon Bay. She said that mushroom farms offer the benefit of year-round work.

David Oates, a California Terra Garden spokesperson, said that he did not know how long Zhao worked there and that he was one of 35 employees who had stayed when ownership changed. He declined to comment further Wednesday, saying he would defer to law enforcement. And Aaron Tung, part owner of Concord Farms, did not respond Wednesday to a request for additional comment.

Half Moon Bay is a small, laid-back, coastal and agricultural city about 30 miles (50 kilometers) south of San Francisco. Its sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean make it a popular spot for hikers and tourists, who flock there to surf and for an annual giant pumpkin festival.

The new year has brought six mass killings in the U.S. in fewer than three weeks, accounting for 39 deaths. Three have struck California since Jan. 16, according to a database compiled by The Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University. The database tracks every mass killing — defined as four dead, not including the offender — in the U.S. since 2006.

The shootings in Half Moon Bay and Monterey Park followed the killing of a teenage mother, her baby and four others at a home in California's Central Valley on Jan. 16. Officials discussing the investigation mentioned a possible gang link to the killings.

UNITED COMMUNICATIONS CEO VISITS ROTARY



Submitted Photo

William Bradford, center, CEO of United Communications, was the guest speaker at the Shelbyville Rotary Club. At left is Dawn Hobbs, program chairperson. Darin Hasty, club president, is at right.

HOOPER PROMOTES WOMEN'S REHAB



Photo by Mark McGee

Sarah Hooper provided background on Talbot House and the need for a rehab facility for women in Bedford County for the Shelbyville Rotary Club. At left is club president Darin Hasty. Finny Edwards, right, was the program facilitator.

TOLLGATE ROAD FIRE



T-G Photo by David Melson

Bedford County firefighters leave a home on Tollgate Road after a blaze broke out Tuesday morning. Damage was confined to the interior and flames were quickly extinguished.

Google sued over digital advertising dominance

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department and eight states filed an antitrust suit against Google on Tuesday, seeking to shatter its alleged monopoly on the entire ecosystem of online advertising as a hurtful burden to advertisers, consumers and even the U.S. government.

The government alleged in the complaint that Google is looking to “neutralize or eliminate” rivals in the online ad marketplace through acquisitions and to force advertisers to use its products by making it difficult to use competitors’ offerings. It’s part of a new, if slow and halting, push by the U.S. to rein in big tech companies that have enjoyed largely unbridled growth in the past decade and a half.

“Monopolies threaten the free and fair markets upon which our economy is based. They stifle innovation, they hurt producers and workers, and they increase costs for consumers,” Attorney General Merrick Garland said at a news conference Tuesday.

For 15 years, Garland said, Google has “pursued a course of anti-competitive conduct” that has stalled the rise of rival technologies and manipulated the mechanics of online ad auctions to force advertisers and publishers to use its tools. In so doing, he added, Google “engaged in exclusionary conduct” that has “severely weakened,” if not destroyed, competition in the ad tech industry.

The suit, the latest legal action brought by the government against

Google, accuses the company of unlawfully monopolizing the way ads are served online by excluding competitors. Google’s ad manager lets large publishers who have significant direct sales manage their advertisements. The ad exchange, meanwhile, is a real-time marketplace to buy and sell online display ads.

Garland said Google controls the technology used by most major website publishers to offer advertising space for sale, as well as the largest ad exchange that matches publishers and advertisers together when ad space is sold. The result, he added, is that “website creators earn less and advertisers pay more.”

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, demands that Google divest itself of the businesses of controlling the technical tools that manage the buying, selling and auctioning of digital display advertising, remaining with search — its core business — and other products and services including YouTube, Gmail and cloud services.

Alphabet Inc., Google’s parent company, said in a statement that the suit “doubles down on a flawed argument that would slow innovation, raise advertising fees, and make it harder for thousands of small businesses and publishers to grow.” Digital ads currently account for about 80% of Google’s revenue, and by and large support its other, less lucrative endeavors.

Tuesday’s lawsuit is increasingly looking to rein in Big Tech’s

dominance, although such legal action can take years to complete and Congress has not passed any recent legislation seeking to curb the influence of the tech industry’s largest players.

The European Union has been more active. It launched an antitrust investigation into Google’s digital ad dominance in 2021. British and European regulators are also looking into whether an agreement for online display advertising services between Google and Meta breached rules on fair competition.

An internet services trade group that includes Google as a member described the lawsuit and its “radical structural remedies” as unjustified.

Matt Schruers, president of the Computer & Communications Industry Association, said competition for advertising is fierce and the “governments’ contention that digital ads aren’t in competition with print, broadcast, and outdoor advertising defies reason.”

Dina Srinivasan, a Yale University fellow and adtech expert, said the lawsuit is “huge” because it aligns the entire nation — state and federal governments — in a bipartisan legal offensive against Google. In December 2020, 16 states and Puerto Rico sued Google over the exact same issues.

The current online ad market, Srinivasan said, “is broken and totally inefficient.” The fact that intermediaries are getting 30% to 50% of the take on each ad trade

is “an insane inefficiency to have baked into the U.S. economy.” She called it “a massive tax on the free internet and consumers at large. It directly affects the viability of a free press” as well.

As with many highly complex technical markets, it has taken time for federal and state regulators and policymakers to catch up with and understand the online ad market. Srinivasan noted that it took a decade before they woke up to the perils of high-speed trading in financial markets and began adopting measures to discourage it.

This lawsuit seeks to apply to the digital ad market the same rules that apply to the financial markets, she said. Brokers, banks and other companies that have sometimes competing interests aren’t permitted to own the New York Stock Exchange.

Google held nearly 29% of the U.S. digital advertising market — it includes all the ads people see on computers, phones, tablets and other internet-connected devices — in 2022, according to research firm Insider Intelligence. Facebook parent company Meta is second, with nearly 20% of the market. Amazon is a distant, but growing, third.

But that’s not the lawsuit’s concern. It is focused on the technical market mechanisms that Google controls, including the ad server it developed building on the 2008 purchase of market-dominating DoubleClick. DOJ says Google has a more than 90% share of the business that serves

ads to websites and controls about 80% of the “buy-side” Google Ads network where advertisers compete to place ads.

Google, the lawsuit states, has over the past 15 years “used acquisitions and market power across adjacent ad tech markets to quash the rise of rivals, tighten its control over the manner and means through which digital advertising transactions occur, and prevent publishers and advertisers from working effectively with Google’s rivals.”

This is the latest legal action taken against Google by either the Justice Department or local state governments. In October 2020, for instance, the Trump administration and 11 state attorneys general sued Google for violating antitrust laws, alleging anticompetitive practices in the search and search advertising markets.

Asked why the Justice Department would bring the suit when a similar complaint has already been filed by states, Assistant Attorney General Jonathan Kanter, the department’s top antitrust official, said, “We conducted our own investigation, and that investigation occurred over many years.”

The states taking part in Tuesday’s suit include California, Virginia, Connecticut, Colorado, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Tennessee.

CTE gains popularity



Welding manufacturing students in Ronnie Hudson's class. The class lasts about 45 minutes and takes place at the Shelbyville Central High CTE Annex.

T-G Photos by Zoe Watkins

Expanding high school CTE through ICON

By **ZOË WATKINS**
zwatkins@t-g.com

Bedford County Schools has applied for a \$5 million grant to be given over the next three years to expand CTE (Career and technical education) classes.

It's a non-competitive grant that was included in Gov. Bill Lee's bud-

get that passed in May. Every high school across the state of Tennessee that had a population over 100 received \$1 million each. Middle schools received \$500,000.

"The purpose of that is to reimagine time, space, and modes of learning to create a unique high school experience for students so they can feel a

sense of belonging and have achievement," said Lori Sexton, director of CTE.

So, what is Bedford planning to do with the funds?

First, CTE is important because the college-going rate since 2020 has dropped drastically, according to Sexton.

"But what we're finding is a lot of students don't need to go to earn a four-year degree to have a high-wage profession," said Sexton. "Most of our employers...want you to be able to communicate, to work in teams, to show up to work on time."

That is, they want students to become coachable and teachable all while maintaining a professional atmosphere—something you can gain with non-traditional classes.

Right now, there are 16 CTE courses across the three high schools.

At Cascade High there are five classes including animal and veterinary science, teaching as a profession, criminal justice, dietetics and nutrition program, and emergency services.

At Community High, they have accounting and business, fashion design, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), medical therapeutics, as well as dietetics and nutrition.

At Shelbyville Central, they have advanced manufacturing and welding, automotive, cosmetology, marketing, emergency services, educational guidance and support (that is, non-teaching roles), web design, and criminal justice as well.

These classes aren't picked at random. Rather, the Tennessee Department of Education is conducting studies with data pointing to the "high demand, high wage" jobs for the region, while the school system glean information from students about which courses are the most popular, according to Sexton.

There is also an increase in graduation requirements. "We're holding our students to a bit of a higher standard than what we've been previously holding them to. The grant just provides the equipment to start up some of these new programs," said Sexton.

Under the grant, there are several CTE options that Sexton said they would like to expand.

This ICON program, or Innovative Career Opportunities Network, is geared toward juniors and seniors. They get to have four hours of on-site training in place of a class, under the work-based learning umbrella.

For instance, at Cascade High they would like to look into implementing a beef cattle agriculture program where students get to raise and sell cattle. This will capture not only students interested in the agricultural community but also those interested in animal science and marketing.

This is part of their "school-based enterprise" where students can take their work-based learning course or practicum at the school, making it as on-site as possible with the same objectives.

At Community High School, they will look into multi-purpose building, where students will get to construct a tiny house. "Construction is a huge need. It's an in-demand career here and across the state," said Sexton.

Not only will students get hands-on construction work, but Sexton says they will get to touch on that STEM component with engineering.

This will be in addition to building up the agricultural program currently there.

Expanding CTE at Shelbyville Central did present a challenge due to the lack of building expansion available. SCHS does have a CTE Annex where

▶ See **CTE**, Page 3B

Mark McGee
My Take

Dating

I find myself in a situation I never thought I would have to deal with again.

At almost 66 years of age, it is time for me to wade back into the dating pool.

My relationship of more than 25 years with my girlfriend ended abruptly with her death in July. I miss her every day, but I would like to find someone to go with me to dinner, watch a ballgame or movie or attend a concert.

Using a baseball analogy like a batter who has been sitting on the bench for too long I am finding it difficult to get my timing back.

Through the years I always had a three-strike rule in trying to date someone new. If the person I was asking had a previous engagement, which could happen, it was strike one. If I asked a second time and there were plans she could not change that was strike two. If on the third try she was unable to find time for me it was strike three and I was out.

On my first attempt this past week to seek a new relationship I was quickly thrown two strikes. On the baseball field I used to be a pretty good third strike hitter, but I am hesitant to attempt a third time.

Asking someone for a first date is never easy no matter what your age. During my college years and my 20s I didn't hesitate to ask a woman out if I was interested in them. During those times I was motivated to try based on an inscription in my high school yearbook my senior year at Central High School.

I had a crush on a young woman from the first time I saw her in the seventh grade. But I never dared to ask her out. The fear of her rejecting me would have been a heavy burden to bear. In my yearbook, she wrote, "I would have loved to have had the opportunity to get to know you better, but since you never asked me out, I never got the chance." Talk about crushing a crush.

From then on, I never let the fear of rejection stand in my way. I was also moved by this statement—"the saddest thing in life is a missed opportunity". I first heard this said by Woody Allen in one of his films. It could be applied to almost any area of life where a person has hesitated but in this context he was talking about a relationship.

We all have to be moved out of our comfort zones from time to time. Despite my discouraging start, I am going to keep on trying. As songwriter Harry Nilsson wrote, "One is the loneliest number that you will ever do". But he also adds "two can be as bad as one it's the loneliest number since the number one."

Looking on the bright side, at least this year I don't have the pressure of finding the perfect Valentine's Day present.



Doug Dezotell
Musings and Memories

Live a life of service

In the 25th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew we read these words:

"Then the King (that's Jesus) will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and take you in, or naked and clothe you? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'"

(Matthew 25:34-40)

In this Gospel account Jesus says that helping those in need is the same as doing it unto Him.

We are called to serve the Lord and serve others.

Serving others is a part of our service to God. My wife and I have spent all of our adult lives in service to others.

Lynn and I both have seen that as our calling.

Over the years I have served the Lord in a medical alcohol and drug rehabilitation center; in inner-city street ministry; in jail and prison ministry; in long-term, residential Christian discipleship programs for addiction recovery; and in pastoral ministry.

I also serve God and man in the writings of my "Musings and Memories" column for the Times-Gazette.

Before we married, Lynn served the Lord in a long-term, residential Christian discipleship program for women in addiction recovery; and in learning and implementing American Sign Language for ministry to the hearing impaired.

Since we have been married, Lynn has served the Lord and others in full-time ministry as a Registered Nurse, and in particular as a Labor and Delivery Nurse, helping in the delivery of hundreds of babies over the years.

And she has served in partnership with me in ministry for as long as we have been married.

Our most important ministry over the years has

▶ See **Doug**, Page 3B



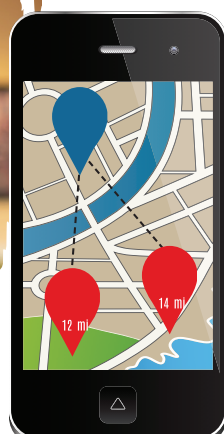
In CTE courses, students get hands-on experience that takes them out of the desk and into the workshop.

BABY ANNOUNCEMENT



Submitted photo

Story **Elise Coggins** was born on Jan. 18 to parents **Jason and Tiffany Coggins**. She weighed **7 pounds and 12 ounces** and stretched **20.5 inches** long. She will be joining proud sibling **Sella, Kye, Ali and Chapel Coggins**.



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Danny Tyree
Tyrades

Brother, can you spare an excuse?

Middle-class philanthropy may be dying.

Citing a study released by the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, "National Review" magazine says the share of American households donating to charity nosedived from 66 percent in 2000 to 50 percent in 2018.

And only one-third of the decline was directly attributable to economic hardships, with the remainder coming from decreases in interpersonal trust, decline in empathy and an unfortunate "give until it hurts" loophole that lets people identify as the Princess and the Pea. ("Ouch! I got whiplash signing that donation. This lawsuit will pay for a heck of a lot of pea-free mattresses.")

Sure, millionaire donors and prestigious foundations are doing a bang-up job of funding museums, metropolitan hospitals and trendy causes ("I'm pledging one million dollars to the Make A Wish Foundation For Endangered Mussels, just as soon as the mussels, um, develop enough of a brain to actually make a, you know, WISH"); but local charities such as animal shelters, soup kitchens and libraries are continually tightening their belts and dealing with neighbors who mutter, "I gave at the Zoom meeting. Yeah, that's the ticket."

(Ever notice that the people who insist "charity begins at home" are the same jokers who grab the last piece of chicken, hog the blanket and leave a trail of dirty laundry? But I digress.)

No matter how many veterans need rides or parks need beautifying, we find ways to create even more dilemmas. ("Ow! I detached my retina AND walked into traffic while trying not to make eye contact with fundraisers. A little help, please?")

Some analysts connect the dots between the erosion of community involvement and the decline in religious affiliation. In 2004, 46 percent of households gave money to churches or other religious organizations. As of 2018, that had dropped to just 29 percent of households. ("What Would Jesus Do? YOU say he would volunteer at the homeless shelter. I say he would change water to Roth IRAs. Agree to disagree.")

I know there are highly motivated, civic-minded young people out there; but by and large, there is a discernible difference in the work ethic and charity ethic of different generations. ("But, like if the old dude dies because he can't pay his heating bill, he can buy another life, can't he? What? For real?")

Let's all keep our eyes open for opportunities and dig a little deeper for good causes to which we can contribute our money, time, talents or hideous sweaters that we can convince great-aunt Hilda need drycleaning every time she inquires about them.

Widespread giving has been described as the "lifeblood of civil society" and we must brainstorm ways to get the blood pumping again.

I know it won't be easy. The law of inertia has worked mightily to chip away at traditional dedication to charity. People got out of the habit of giving because of a temporary economic setback or because government agencies seemed to have things under control, and it's hard to get back in gear.

Unfortunately, identifying that problem leads to other problems. Since it's the law of inertia getting the blame, some rabblouser will inevitably lead a group of volunteers to desecrate the grave of Sir Isaac Newton.

("I'm not too keen on the law of universal gravitation, either. And his fig bars stink.")

Sigh Anybody want to volunteer as a tutor?

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

MTSU educator named Teacher of Year by Christian foundation

MURFREESBORO — Special education teacher and College of Education alumnus Marshall Ellson did not know at first that his school administrators had nominated him for the Herzog Foundation Christian Teacher of the Year award.

"Our head of school let me know," said Ellson who works as director of academic support and K-12 analytics at Westminster Christian Academy in Huntsville, Ala. "I felt honored because I have high regard for our school leadership. It was rewarding to have earned their respect."

The Stanley M. Herzog Charitable Foundation, which promotes and supports Christian schools and education, names Christian Teachers of the Year annually and gifts each winner with \$5,000 to split for personal use and within their schools along with a trip to the awards gala in Washington, D.C., which Ellson and the 11 other winners attended in the fall.

"These awards are a small token of our appreciation for the amazing Christian teachers all across the nation," said Herzog Foundation President Darrell Jones.

A phone call from the Missouri-based foundation's representatives brought Ellson the good news.

"I felt both humbled and honored," he said. "There are many students who have inspired me along the way. I wanted to win for them and was thrilled because I felt like they won, too."

Originally from Nashville, Tennessee, Ellson graduated from the College of Education, or COE, in 2014 and worked for three years at Currey Ingram Academy in Brentwood, Tennessee, a private boarding school for students with learning differences. Ellson then relocated to Huntsville to advance his education and take the administrative position at Westminster where he has shared his knowledge of and experience with special education students to help staff better serve them.

"I would like to teach other private schools how to accommodate the needs of all learners," Ellson said about his short-term career goals. "While I definitely do not have all the answers, I am eager to share what I have experienced, based on successes with students since I started teaching."

A "True Blue" road to success Ellson said the teaching strategies and student-teaching experiences he had at MTSU prepared him to lead his own classroom and now other staff.

"MTSU's partnership with the Rutherford County Schools Transition Academy, Special Olympics and public schools in the area gave me all of the 'real world' experiences any aspiring educator would need," he said.

Ellson also credited the diverse and unique perspectives of his classmates and MTSU's faculty for his success.



Submitted photo
Marshall Ellson, MTSU alumnus and special educator, was named a Christian Teacher of the Year by the Herzog Foundation and accepted his recognition at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C.

"One of my classmates had a passion for assisting students who were visually impaired, and I witnessed his creativity and work ethic," he said. "He was just one of many with whom I collaborated, and I learned from so many of them."

Ellson called the guidance and expertise of his main special education professor, Tom Black, "invaluable."

"He was always willing to have open conversations, and I felt comfortable sharing my ideas," Ellson said. "He and I had good conversations about how to change special education, and I hope I've started to do that here."

Black said Ellson was an excellent student.

"Marshall was very driven to be successful, so I'm not surprised by his success as a teacher."

Black said the COE's philosophy of

valuing teaching as a noble profession combined with its student teaching experiences have helped produce numerous award-winning graduates.

"Our teaching faculty have been in the field as teachers themselves," he said. "Our faculty and students are engaged in the community and have positive relationships with area schools, principals, teachers, students and their families. Many of our students are hired by local schools directly after graduating, and we are serious about them having a successful career, continuing to support and work with them as teachers and professionals in their own schools and communities."

To learn more about opportunities at MTSU's College of Education, visit the website at <https://www.mtsu.edu/education/> or the Facebook page.

FCE CLUBS MEET

Liberty FCE explores self-sufficient lightbulb

The Liberty FCE club met Jan. 16 for their monthly meeting. President Judy Smith called the meeting to order. Lyndia Jernigan read the call to order. Reporter Ann Spencer gave the devotion. Roll Call was answered with 9 members present. Ardis Rittenberry gave the treasurer's report. Judy Smith announced the upcoming events. Bonnye Catron gave the educational lesson called "Lifestyle Factors in

Improving Immunity." There was a unique club member demonstration. Judy Smith brought a light bulb that works in a lamp but will use its own battery during a power outage so the lamp will still give off light. Liberty FCE's next meeting will be Feb. 10.

Wheel FCE donates to Clothe Our Kids

The FCE club in Wheel met on Jan. 12. Jerry Sue Boyce called the meeting to order. Peggy Haynes, Trent Boyce, John

and Tina Diller were also present. Peggy Haynes read the devotion, which said, "God will lead us out of the desert if we turn to Him" and "Keep the faith." John Diller read the last meeting minutes while Tina Diller gave the treasurer's report. In other business, the new 2023 Yearbook was filled out, while a donation of \$100 for "Clothe Our Kids" was approved. The club also discussed how to keep high immunity for core health. John and Tina also reported that they attended a recent County Commission meeting.

TEA PARTY



Submitted photo
Fourth graders in Ms. Summer Monroe's class at Eastside Elementary enjoyed a tea party to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party.



Ronnie Hudson helps a student in the welding manufacturing department.



With tape measure in hand, Ronnie Hudson demonstrates to students.



One student is in deep concentration.



CTE Annex assistant principal Michael McCoin with Ronnie Hudson, welding instructor.



One student in stage 2 of the welding process.

CTE

(Continued from Page 1)

students can take welding and automotive. But Sexton said they would like to build a greenhouse with the grant money for students to study horticulture and even landscape. “Just to show them that going to process concept is going to be huge,” said Sexton.

Partnering with the horticulture department, they would also like to expand studies into culinary classes to teach students a skill as well as how to run a sustainable business.

They also hope to implement a dog grooming business, called Golden Eagle Dog Grooming, where students can have hands-on experience with animal science as well as provide a service to the community such as working with the local animal shelter.

How does CTE work?

Students can start their freshman year and go through their senior year. If a student decides to change their CTE area of study, Sexton said they will still receive high school credit, but they encourage students to take at least three years of a subject.

For example, Level 4, which is where the school system needs the most growth, usually involves a practicum and more hands-on experience and is reserved for senior year.

“Students who are completers tend to stick with their programs of study more than students who just dabble,” said Sexton.

Sexton said they will be in contact with local industry partners. She added that said she hopes more local industries and small businesses continue to reach out to her to partner with the school to aid in this workforce development.

The recent change to block scheduling has helped make adding more CTE curriculum possible as well, Sexton explained.

The state passed an Industry 4.0 Diploma Distinction for students who know they don’t want to seek a four-year degree and this ICON program will help with that by allowing them to earn credits as early as junior year.

Introducing ICON would require more school positions to help students through the transitions, which is a challenge among the statewide teacher shortage. However, Sexton said

they already filled all the added CTE positions (that is, seven positions) for next year.

“I think that’s probably a benefit for current teachers. You can teach something for eight or 10 years but to add something new like this is really exciting for our current teachers to teach a new subject area. It’s invigorating,” said communications director Carol Garrette.

These teachers are required to be work-based learning certified which is a two-year certification consisting of an online module and in-person training.

Transporting students from school to their workplace is another challenge. But the grant allows the school to purchase new vans for this purpose.

Sexton said they do have to provide a “sustainability plan” to ensure the programs can continue once the grant money runs out.

“I think this is going to change the trajectory for students’ lives in Bedford County...We need to amp up the opportunities for those students who are not choosing a post-secondary degree and understand that it’s okay they’re not pursuing a post-secondary degree,” said Sexton.

Doug

(Continued from Page 1)

been to raise three children, and to assist in the raising of three granddaughters.

All of that has kept Lynn and me busy throughout the past, and with God’s strength and empowering we will continue to serve

both Him and others as long as we live.

I believe that is what we are here for: to serve God and others.

When we look closely at the teachings of Jesus Christ we see that all of us are called to serve others, not just those of us who are in professional ministry or in caring professions such

as the medical field.

God wants all of us to minister to His children, to help those in need however and whenever we can.

Jesus said, ‘Feed the hungry....Give drink to the thirsty....Welcome the stranger....Clothe the naked....Visit the sick and the prisoners.’

In His teachings He said,

‘Bless and do not curse.’

He said, ‘Love one another.’

He said, ‘Pray for one another.’

(If you are going to talk behind someone’s back, make sure you are talking to God, not others. That’s praying for one another.)

Don’t ruin your day by hating and despising

someone, but with God’s help—Love One Another.

Don’t judge one another. Leave that up to the Ultimate Judge, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are all sinners in need of a Savior.

His Name is Jesus.

And He has called us ALL to serve Him and others.

Let’s do it!

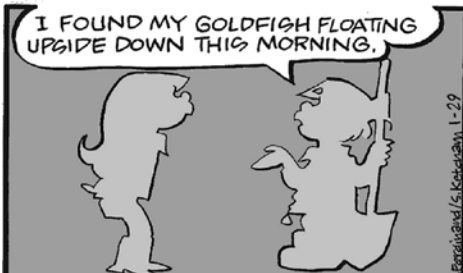
•Doug Dezotell is the pastor of Cannon United Methodist Church, and a columnist for the Times-Gazette. He is a husband, a father, a grandfather, and your friend. He can be contacted at dougmdezotell@gmail.com, or at 931-607-5191.

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

Mort Walker's **beetle bailey**



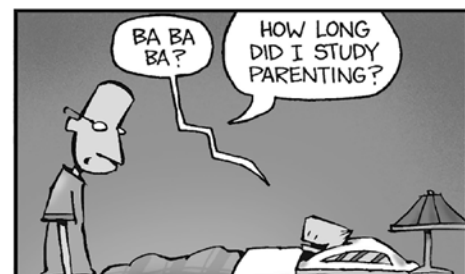
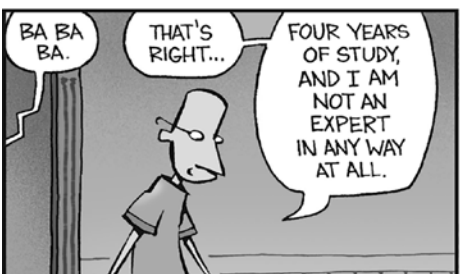
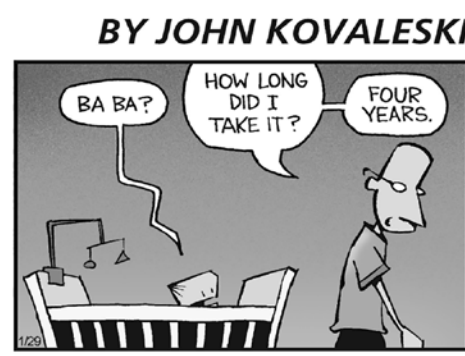
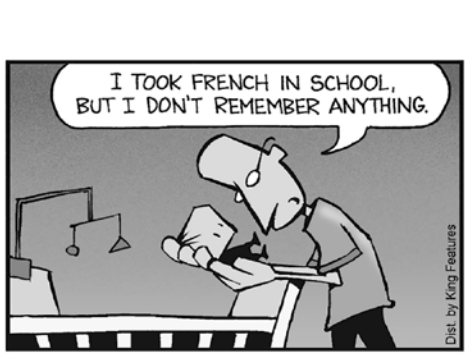
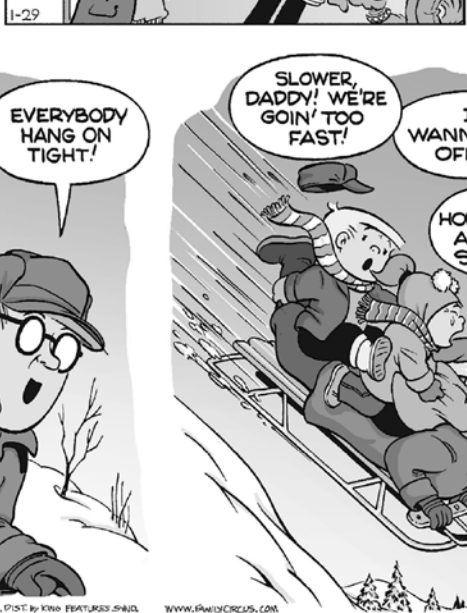
Mark Fatchan's **Dennis the Menace** **GRAVE ERROR**



BLOWDIE BY SEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL



The FAMILY CIRCUS BY PIL KEANE



SALLY FORTH

by Francesco Marciuliano

HUH...

WE'RE NOT REALLY INTO MAKING A SNOWMAN TODAY, ARE WE?

WE'RE NEVER INTO MAKING A SNOWMAN ANYMORE. SO WHY DO WE KEEP DOING IT EVERY YEAR?

MAYBE WE JUST HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THIS IS THE END OF AN ERA. ANOTHER DOOR CLOSED TO OUR CHILDHOOD.

WE'VE SIMPLY GROWN UP.

YEAH...

I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE IT'S A COMFORT THING. LIKE WHEN YOU GO THROUGH ALL YOUR STREAMING CHANNELS ONLY TO WATCH WHAT YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN BEFORE.

BUT THEN AT LEAST YOU'RE IN A WARM HOUSE, LYING ON A SOFA, NOT FREEZING OUTSIDE LIKE THIS.

WANNA USE THE HEAD TO CREATE SOME SORT OF NEW SPORT? COULD BE THE NEXT PICKLEBALL.

I SAY WE JUST KEEP PELTING EACH OTHER WITH SNOWBALLS UNTIL LUNCH.

The PHANTOM

by Lee Falk

THAT DAY, I WAS TRACKING--HUNTING--THE LESSER HUMAN THAT PREYED UPON THE MALE HUMAN...

I ARRIVED BEFORE IT COULD PREY UPON THE FEMALE.

BLAM

CRASH!

SHIK CHIK

BLAM

GRRAARRR!

I GUESSED RIGHT...! YOU DO KNOW HOW TO USE THIS.

Tom DePaul & Jeff Weigel 1-29-23

Hi and LOIS

by Brian and Greg Walker

WHERE IS EVERYBODY?

HI TOOK THE KIDS TO THEIR GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE.

SO YOU HAVE THE ENTIRE WEEKEND TO YOURSELF?

YES.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I DON'T KNOW. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

SOMETHING YOU CAN'T DO WHEN THE FAMILY IS HOME.

AHH... SO MUCH TO DO AND SO MUCH TIME TO DO IT.

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

JEREMY, YOUR MOM IS TALKING TO YOU.

I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING.

OH.

THAT'S WHY.

ALL AND A DISGRACE NEVER OVER THE FLOOR LET THIS ROOM CLEANED UP IMMEDIATELY! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

YES MOM.

HER VOICE CAN BE KIND OF SHRILL.

THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER

"YOU DON'T GET BONUS POINTS FOR CURSE WORDS, LEROY."

"THERE'S TOO MUCH CARBON IN YOUR CARBONARA SAUCE."

"I DIDN'T KNOW THEY HAD A SETTING FOR 'DAWDLE'."

CANDORVILLE

BY DARRIN BELL

WE CAN DO THIS THE EASY WAY OR WE CAN DO THIS THE WAY THAT'LL GET ME A SLAP ON THE WRIST AND SIX MONTHS' PAID VACATION.

darrinbell.substack.com 1-29 WWW.CANDORVILLE.COM ©2023 Darrin Bell dist. by King Features Syndicate

SLYLOCK FOX

BY BOB WEBER JR.

At high tide, bank robber Harry Ape waded into this tidal cave to hide. Slylock Fox and Max Mouse pursued and captured Harry. Unfortunately, they have become lost in the cave's twisted tunnels. How will Slylock find his way back to the cave opening?

WEBER/situ

Spot six differences between these panels.

Answer -- Cat's eyes, bucket handle, window, smoke, cat's food and shadow, weight in insects, bats can eat their body.

"I'VE BEEN TRYING TO THROW THIS GARBAGE CAN AWAY FOR TWO YEARS!"

"DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ."

HOW TO DRAW a baby elephant

YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Michelle, age 11

Submit your drawing to www.slylockfox.com

How many mosquitoes can a bat eat in an hour?

a) 100
b) 300
c) 600
d) 1,000

Answer -- d) Each night...

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



This model, Damonai, wears a beautiful, elongating dress from Enchanted Bridal.



Model Sarah wears a silky, red halter top dress from Enchanted Bridal.



This model, MJ, wears a stylish tiered dress.

Prom dress fashion showcase

The Bedford County Board of Education along with Enchanted Bridal Boutique hosted a fashion show event on January 12, featuring new prom dresses as well as dresses from the school system's free Promise of Hope Closet. If you or someone you know is interested in trying on a dress from the Promise of Hope Closet, contact Kim Joyce at 931-684-3284 ext. 2115 or email joycek@bedfordk12tn.net to set up appointment.

Submitted photos



Model Lindy wears a baby blue, empire-waisted dress from the Promise of Hope Closet.



This dress featured from the Promise of Hope Closet has unique, colorful sequence.



Model Hayden wears an elegant Promise of Hope dress with a slit up the side.



Model Mariah looks lovely in this warm red dress from Promise of Hope.



This model, Savannah, shows off a flattering black dress from Promise of Hope.



Model Maddie shows the crowd a strapless, beaded gown.



Model Rocio wears a simple yet elegant black dress. Behind her stands a model wearing a tux. Tuxes were donated for the show by Torso and Corner Cleaners.

Wartrace to host alumni basketball game

The first official basketball game at the newly renovated Wartrace gymnasium is finally here after five long years of “being on the bench,” according to a recent press release.

The popular Fred Russell Gymnasium reopened in October following a massive rehabilitation project which provided for ADA compliance, a new heat/air system and venting, fresh paint, new murals, and more.

To honor former players and fans of the gym, the Wartrace Parks & Recreation Committee is hosting an alumni basketball game on Feb. 25 at 2 p.m.

“This iconic landmark has been so important to this community and to the individuals who have been blessed to gather here,” said Tammy Leverette, chairman of the Parks & Recreation Committee. “We would like to honor those who played here at the Wartrace gym by keeping the team spirit alive while training the next generation of Champions. We can only accomplish this by making sure this historic building stays in good shape. Events like this one will help us fund any ongoing expenses and we hope this will be a yearly event.”

Anyone with an affiliation with the gym (past or present) is encouraged to sign up and put their “hoop skills” to the test. The event will be a mixed game (male and female) and include all ages. To play or volunteer to work, contact Tammy Leverette at wartraceparksandrec@



The newly renovated Fred Russell Gym in Wartrace.

Submitted photos

gmail.com no later than Feb. 3.

About the gym

The gym was built in 1926. They know this from a 1925 article from the Times-Gazette, which described a “unique campaign” in which pupils, along with a K.W. Hudgins, sold goats, fowls, eggs, butter, pumpkins, cakes and candies to raise money for a new gym.

They did so successfully. And by February

of 1926, a second double-header in basketball was played in the new gymnasium, featuring boys teams from St. Andrews and Wartrace as well as the Wartrace girls against the Unionville girls. Wartrace won in both games.

Little tidbits like this have given history to the gym. And many others who either played or had grandparents play at the gym contributed their own personal histories to the collection.

The gym then served

Wartrace High School from 1926 to 1972.

The gym was named after Fred Russell, a Wartrace native who went on to become the sports editor and vice president of the Nashville Banner. He gained national attention in the 1940s and 1950s for writing the “Pigskin Preview” for the Saturday Evening Post.

The county owned the gym as part of the school system. It was then acquired by the town of Wartrace several years

ago.

The gym was in bad repair when the town of Wartrace decided to close its doors in 2016.

For the gym’s modern-day campaign, through the nonprofit “Friends of the Wartrace Gym,” they raised nearly \$130,000, with donations coming from across the country.

They also received a \$75,000 grant from the State of Tennessee.

The newly renovated gym is open for class reunions, movie nights,

an indoor track, and of course basketball games for the Junior Pro kids.

Other upcoming events

Pi Day 3.14: order pies on Feb. 24 through March 3. They will be ready for pick up March 10.

The next Movie Night will be March 11. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the movie will start at 6 p.m. (Movie was not announced by press time).



Submitted photos

Whole team photo in front of pool, from left, Dijana, Ben, Buster, Jacob, Brandon, Ally (Grace not pictured).



Whole team photo in front of banner, from left, Jacob, Brandon, Dijana, Ally, Ben, Buster (Grace, not pictured).

Swim team success

These regular qualifiers competed at the MTHSSA Region Meet in Nashville Friday. They each had to qualify for their events by swimming a fast enough qualifying time.

For Shelbyville Central High, qualifiers include Jacob Betzelberger (50 free, 100 free), Ben Betzelberger (50 free, 100 free), Brandon Cruz (100 free), Buster Maddox (homeschooled and representing Central - 200 free, 500 free)

The men will also be competing together in the 200-medley relay and the 400-freestyle relay.

For Cascade, qualifiers include Dijana (Beeman) Geary (homeschooled



Dijana (Beeman) Geary and Ally Maybee.

and representing Cascade - 200 free, 500 free) and Ally Maybee (200 free, 100 free)

So far, Ben Betzelberger and Grace Moody have both qualified for state.



Jacob Betzelberger, Ben Betzelberger, Brandon Cruz, and Buster Maddox.



FRESH STREAMS

“As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.” (Psalm 42:1 ESV) The psalm holds the idea of thirsting for God. In the New Testament, Jesus says He is our living water, and that blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Jesus is our living water and we “drink” from Him to sustain us just as a deer sustains itself with fresh water.

T-G Photo by Zoe Watkins

BEDFORD COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE



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Wednesday Refueling - 6:30 pm

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

Grace Baptist Church
1019 Madison St., Shelbyville • 931-684-1087
Pastor: Bro. Bobby McGee
Sunday School - 9:00 am • Sunday Worship - 10:00 am
Wednesday night 6:00 pm

Longview Baptist
101 Cooper Rd., Unionville • 931-294-2281
Rev. Jonathan Osterhaus
longviewbaptistchurch.org • servingoursavior@yahoo.com
Sunday School - 9:30 am • Worship - 10:30 am & 6:00 pm
Life Points (age 3 - youth) - 5:45 pm • Wednesday Worship - 6:00 pm

Unity Baptist Church
EC Arnold Lane, Shelbyville
Pastor: Frelan George
Sunday Worship - 11:00 am • EVERYONE WELCOME

St. William of Montevergine Catholic Church
Father Edwain Cardona
500 South Brittain Street, Shelbyville • 931-735-6004
Saturday Mass: 4:30pm (English Mass) 7:00pm (Spanish Misa)
Sunday Mass: 9:00am (English Mass) 11:30am (Spanish Misa)
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Confessions: Thursday/Jueves 5:45pm-6:45pm
Saturday/Sabado 5:45pm-6:45pm
Sunday/Domingo 10:15am-11:15am

Hurricane Grove Baptist Church
2117 Fairfield Pike, Shelbyville
Pastor Tim Miller • 931-205-4191
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