

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

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75 CENTS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023 www.t-g.com

City property tax cut proposed But 11-cent reduction still far from certain

By DAVID MELSON
dmelson@t-g.com

Shelbyville City Council moved closer to a possible property tax decrease during Thursday's February meeting.

But the decrease is far from actually approved, with more steps in the process still needed.

The initial discussion on a proposed ordinance to set the municipal property tax rate for fiscal year 2023-24 specified the current rate of \$1.59 on each \$100 of assessed valuation, Council members were told at a recent study session that number could be changed at Thursday's meeting.

Council member Bobby Turnbow proposed amending the rate to \$1.48, a figure he'd mentioned at the study session. His motion to amend, and a subsequent motion to actually change the number, both passed 4-2 with council members Henry Feldhaus and Stephanie Isaacs opposing.

Feldhaus reminded the council that tax rates, according to Tennessee law, must be based on city budgets approved for each fiscal year. Discussions have not yet begun on Shelbyville's fiscal year 2023-24 budget, making Thursday's vote more of a statement of intent rather than an actual finalized decision.

Courts denied

A resolution which would have allowed Shelbyville Parks & Recreation to apply for a grant for funds to build new tennis and pickleball courts was denied by the council.

Two applications were discussed. One, for \$1.5 million with the city contributing 50 percent - or \$750,000 - was denied 4-2 with Turnbow, Marilyn Ewing, Thomas Christie and Gary Haile voting against. Feldhaus and Isaacs were in support.

That application would have funded two new tennis courts, pickleball courts and upgrades to

existing pickleball courts.

The second option, a \$750,000 request with the city's match \$375,000, would have been for two tennis courts.

Several meetings had been held between Parks & Recreation Director Mike Alsup and H.V. Griffin Park users about their wishes for use of funds. Ewing had earlier expressed concerns about what she felt was a lack of community input.

Those attending the meetings had expressed support for the tennis and pickleball courts, along with upgrades of soccer facilities.

▶ See City, Page 2A



Act of giving

Local/6A



Viqueens roll on

Sports/1B



Strike up the band!

Local/8B

A PRIZE WINNING NEWSPAPER

UT-TPA PRESS AWARDS 2022



County plans to purchase TCAT campus

Structures will provide relief for crowded offices

By ZOË WATKINS
zwatkins@t-g.com

Thursday night's Bedford County Board of Education meeting discussed the system's purchase of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology facility on Madison Street.

This purchase would most likely occur at the end of 2024, and according to Superintendent Tammy Garrett, the school system would lease the facility back to TCAT-S until they fully moved into the new U.S. 231 campus.

"This is one more step in the right direction we want to go," said board chairman Michael Cook.

The building has been appraised at \$5.1 million, so Garrett said they would use two grants — which total \$2.2 million — toward the purchase. The difference would be budgeted, according to Garrett.

One of the grants used would be the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Grant, which the school system received to complete COVID-19 testing. Money left on this grant will go toward the purchase; however, the only requirement is they would need to reserve one room for COVID testing at the TCAT-S building.

Additional funding would come from ESSER 2.0. Both grants have been approved by the state for this

▶ See County, Page 2A



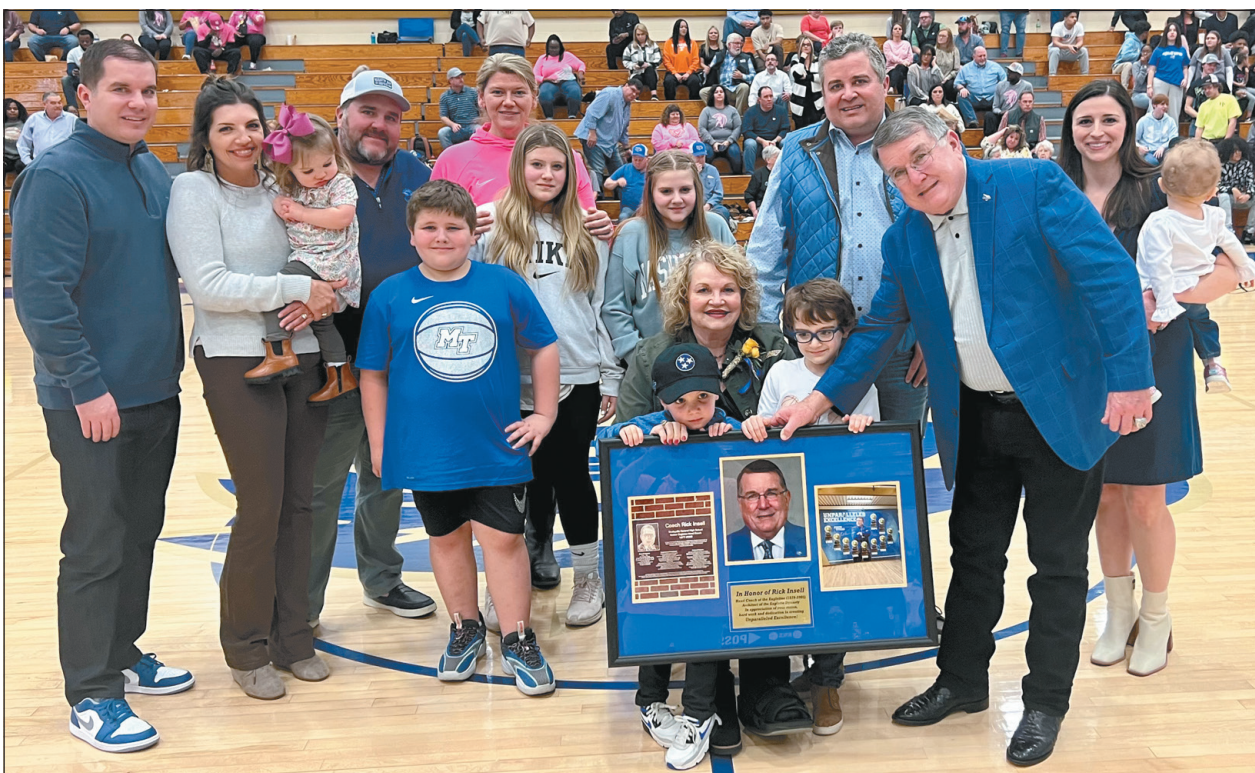
T-G Photo by Zoe Watkins

The current Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Shelbyville complex will be used by Bedford County School System after TCAT-S's upcoming move to a new campus.

Home destroyed by blaze



Photos by Gene Williams
Shelbyville firefighters battle a fire that destroyed the home of Derrick McDaniel and family Friday morning on Riverview Drive. The origin is undetermined but may have been a space heater, Fire Marshal Jason Richardson said Monday.



PLAQUE, MURAL HONOR INSELL

Former Shelbyville Central Golden Eaglette coach Rick Insell was recently honored with an engraved bronze plaque that now hangs on the wall in the main entrance of the gym, along with a wall mural outside the Golden Eaglette locker room. His family joined him for the presentation at a recent game.

T-G Photo by Gary Johnson

DEATH NOTICES

Jennie Hurt

February 9, 2023

Jennie Hurt, age 54, of Chapel Hill died Thursday, February 9, 2023 in Shelbyville.

A Celebration of Life service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Thursday, February 16 from the Chapel of Lawrence Funeral Home, Chapel Hill. Visitation will begin at 11 a.m.

Ann Mickells Sissom

February 10, 2023

Ann Mickells Sissom, age 78, of Unionville, passed away Friday, February 10, 2023.

Funeral services were held Monday, February 13 from the chapel of Lawrence Funeral Home, Chapel Hill, with Jim Mickells officiating. Burial followed in Pressgrove Cemetery in Unionville.

OBITUARIES

Bobby Wayne Gentry

February 8, 2023

Bobby Wayne Gentry, 88, of Shelbyville, formerly of Athens, Georgia, passed away on Wednesday, February 8, 2023.



He was the son of the late Fred Samuel Gentry and Georgia Alene Corder Gentry.; He is survived by brothers, Thomas Samuel (Gail) Gentry of Athens and David E. (Linda)

Gentry of Danielsville, Georgia; his primary caregiver and niece, Karen Gentry Neal of Shelbyville; his sister-in-law, Dorothy Gentry of Shelbyville; and a host of other nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, and great-great-nephews. He was preceded in death by a brother, Ralph Ewing Gentry.

A private graveside service at Simpson Cemetery in Rover will be announced at a later date.

The family would like to thank Lynchburg Nursing Home staff and caregivers for their excellent care and love of Bobby during his stay.

Hillcrest Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Gina Mary Zanchetti Wiser

February 9, 2023

Gina Mary Zanchetti Wiser, age 59, of Chapel Hill, passed away Thursday, February 9, 2023, at NHC Lewisburg, under the loving care and comfort of her family, Caris Healthcare, and the professional staff of NHC Lewisburg.



Visitation was held Sunday, February 12, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. A private burial will be in Woodfin Cemetery in Fosterville, at a later date.

She was born March 6, 1963, in Racine, Wisconsin, to Sandra Shanks Zanchetti and Gene Louis Zanchetti. She was a registered nurse before failing health forced her to retire. She loved music, floating the river, laughter, cooking, travel, and spending time with friends. She was of the Catholic faith.

Preceding her in death were two brothers, John David Zanchetti and Joseph Paul Zanchetti.

In addition to her parents, survivors include her husband of 16 years, Mark Wiser, of Chapel Hill, and a daughter, Alexandria Gina Torrejon.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Moldovan leader outlines Russian 'plan' to topple government

By **STEPHEN McGRATH and CRISTIAN JARDAN**

Associated Press

CHISINAU, Moldova — Moldova's president outlined Monday what she described as a plot by Moscow to overthrow her country's government using external saboteurs, put the nation "at the disposal of Russia" and derail its aspirations to one day join the European Union.

President Maia Sandu's briefing comes a week after neighboring Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his country had intercepted plans by Russian secret services to destroy Moldova, claims that were later confirmed by Moldovan intelligence officials.

"The plan for the next period involves actions with the involvement of diversionists with military training, camouflaged in civilian clothes, who will undertake violent actions, attack some state buildings, and even take hostages," Sandu told reporters at a briefing.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine nearly a year ago, Moldova, a former Soviet republic of about 2.6 million people, has sought to forge closer ties with its Western partners. Last June, it was granted EU candidate status, the same day as Ukraine.

Sandu said the alleged Russian plot's purpose is "to overthrow the constitutional order, to change the legitimate power from (Moldova's capital) Chisinau to an illegitimate one," which she said "which would put our country at the disposal of Russia, in order to stop the European integration process."

She defiantly vowed: "The Kremlin's attempts to bring violence to our country will not succeed."

There was no immediate reaction from Russian officials to Sandu's claims.

Sandu said that between October and December Moldovan police and its Intelligence and Security

Service, the SIS, have intervened in "several cases of organized criminal elements and stopped attempts at violence."

Over the past year, non-NATO member Moldova has faced a string of problems. These include a severe energy crisis after Moscow dramatically reduced gas supplies; skyrocketing inflation; and several incidents in recent months involving missiles that have traversed its skies, and debris that has been found on its territory.

Moldovan authorities confirmed that another missile from the war in Ukraine had entered its airspace on Friday.

Last April, tensions in Moldova also soared after a series of explosions in Transnistria — a Russia-backed separatist region of Moldova where Russia bases about 1,500 troops — which had raised fears it could get dragged into Russia's war in Ukraine. Transnistria has a population of about 470,000 and has been under the control of separatist authorities since a civil war in 1992.

Sandu claimed that Russia wants to use Moldova in the war against Ukraine, without providing more details, and that information obtained by intelligence services contained what she described as instructions on rules of entry to Moldova for citizens from Russia, Belarus, Serbia, and Montenegro.

"I assure you that the state institutions are working to prevent these challenges and keep the situation under control," Sandu said.

She said that Moldova's Parliament must adopt draft laws to equip its Intelligence and Security Service, and the prosecutor's office, "with the necessary tools to combat more effectively the risks to the country's security."

Costin Ciobanu, a political scientist at the Royal Holloway University of London, said it's

likely there "was a huge pressure" on Moldovan authorities to explain more to the public after Zelenskyy first went public with the security information last week in Brussels.

"Today's announcement by President Sandu legitimizes the narrative that Moldova needs to focus on its security," he told The Associated Press. "Probably, based on the evidence they received, they are now more sure of these kinds of attempts by Russians."

He added that Sandu going public could also be a preemptive bid to thwart "Russia's attempts to destabilize Moldova," in the same way Western officials called out the Kremlin's war plans before its invasion of Ukraine.

The president added that the plan would "rely on several internal forces, but especially on criminal groups" and went on to name two Moldovan oligarchs, Ilan Shor and Vladimir Plahotniuc, both of whom are currently in exile. Both men last year were sanctioned by the U.S. and the U.K.

Last fall, a series of mass anti-government protests organized by Shor's populist, Russia-friendly Shor Party, also rocked Moldova amid the energy crunch.

The president's press briefing Monday comes after the surprise resignation on Friday of Moldova's Prime Minister Natalia Gavrilita. The same day, Sandu appointed her defense and security adviser, pro-Western economist Dorin Recean, to succeed Gavrilita.

On Friday, after Moldovan authorities confirmed the missile incident, U.S. State Department deputy spokesman Vedant Patel told reporters in Washington that "Russia has for years supported influence and destabilization campaigns in Moldova, which often involve weaponizing corruption to further its goals."

Twitter's plan to charge for crucial tool prompts outcry

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**
AP Technology Writer

In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria, thousands of volunteer software developers have been using a crucial Twitter tool to comb the platform for calls for help — including from people trapped in collapsed buildings — and connect people with rescue organizations.

They could lose access as soon as Monday unless they pay Twitter a monthly fee of at least \$100 — prohibitive for many volunteers and nonprofits on shoestring budgets.

"That's not just for rescue efforts which unfortunately we're coming to the end of, but for logistics planning too as people go to Twitter to broadcast their needs," said Sedat Kapanoglu, the founder of Eksi Sozluk, Turkey's

most popular social platform, who has been advising some of the volunteers in their efforts.

Nonprofits, researchers and others need the tool, known as the API, or Application Developer Interface, to analyze Twitter data because the sheer amount of information makes it impossible for a human to go through by hand.

Kapanoglu says hundreds of "good Samaritans" have been giving out their own, premium paid API access keys (Twitter already offered a paid version with more features) for use in the rescue efforts. But he says this isn't "sustainable or the right way" to do this. It might even be against Twitter's rules.

Monday is the deadline Twitter set for shutting off free access to its API, an added challenge for the thousands

of developers in Turkey and beyond who are working around the clock to harness Twitter's unique, open ecosystem for disaster relief.

"For Turkish coders working with Twitter API for disaster monitoring purposes, this is particularly worrying — and I'd imagine it is similarly worrying for others around the world that are using Twitter data to monitor emergencies and politically contested events," said Akin Unver, a professor of international relations at Ozyegin University in Istanbul.

The new fees are just the latest complication for programmers, academics and others trying to use the API — and they say communicating with anyone at the company has become essentially impossible since Elon Musk took over.

County

(Continued from Page 1)

purchase, Garrett explained.

Possible uses

The reason for this purchase stems from the school system's growth and lack of space. Nothing has been officially determined, but according

to communications director Carol Garrette, they are looking at possibly moving the maintenance department to the old TCAT facility as well as some CTE classes and the central office's boardroom.

School board member Glen Forsee said, "Having sat in that room for 18 years, it was very crowded [Thursday] tonight — people in the hallway. And

this new building will help alleviate that issue to give us space to do all of our business in a much more professional way."

The maintenance department currently is located in a facility off Elm Street behind the King Museum. The current Central Office building on Madison Street is owned by the City of Shelbyville, according to Garrette. Plans

for further uses of this building are undetermined, while challenges lie in the building's lack of ADA compliance.

The next school board meeting will be March 16 at 6 p.m. at Central Office. A groundbreaking for Cartwright Elementary School will be 11 a.m. Feb. 21 at 1753 Fairfield Pike.

City

(Continued from Page 1)

More actions

Other council actions, all passed unanimously Thursday and discussed at previous study sessions:

- An annexation request for 124 acres on the south side of Union Street for the proposed Swing Acres development, was passed on to Shelbyville Regional Planning Commission for further study.
- A \$165,000 professional services agreement with Griggs & Maloney, a Murfreesboro engineering firm, was approved. The firm will do a preliminary engineering report on repairs and upgrades to Shelbyville's ailing flume system. Also

approved was a contract with Neel-Schaffer, another engineering firm, for work on the city's greenway/riverwalk trail system.

- Ordinances passed on first reading concerning rezonings of properties on Sevier Street (commercial to medium-high density residential) and Calsonic Way (low-density residential to light industrial, allowing an access road to the new Cartwright Elementary School). Public hearings must be conducted before second and final readings, scheduled for the council's March meeting.
- Three Ford pickup trucks, with a combined cost of approximately \$143,000, will be purchased from a dealer in Henderson through a statewide contract. One truck, to be used by Shelbyville Police

Department's Criminal Investigation (detective) Division, will be paid for through the police drug fund at no cost to taxpayers. The other trucks will be used by Shelbyville Fire Department first responders and the Parks and Recreation Department.

- A 2012 Honda Civic, seized by Shelbyville Police Department in a drug case, will be sold as surplus. Proceeds will be placed in the city's drug fund.
- The reappointment/redistricting map for Shelbyville, based on the 2020 census, passed first reading. That map was published in the Tuesday, Feb. 7 Times-Gazette and can be seen at t-g.com.
- A resolution to adopt a new Planning and Community Development fee schedule was approved.

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Blue Monarch graduates celebrate

T-G STAFF REPORT

On Sunday, Feb. 5, more than 150 people gathered at Blue Monarch — a long-term, residential recovery home in Coffee County — to celebrate the accomplishments of graduates, Amanda Cox and Mallory Sircy.

Blue Monarch, which began in 2003, focuses on helping women and children in domestic abuse relationships recover after the fact.

Each Blue Monarch resident described how her own personal surrender is helping to heal her children and herself from past traumas including childhood abuse, domestic violence, and/or addiction.

So, “surrender” was the theme of their graduation ceremony. According to a recent press release, “The women recognize that the hard choice to surrender can forever change their family trees by breaking destructive cycles.”

Graduates Cox and Sircy gave their personal testimonies including their plans and goals following graduation. Both described how they now have “hope for their future and for their families.”

Sircy accepted a job at a local doctor’s office and plans to pursue her certification as a medical assistant. Cox is excited about the next steps of her journey and is exploring careers where she can help others in need while providing for herself and her Jeannie Campbell, Blue Monarch’s program director, shared her thoughts on the journeys of Cox and Sircy.

“The thing about surrender is that you have to choose it. We have watched both of you choose to surrender the tremendous weight of the guilt that you carried around for a long time,” she said.

“You trusted us but most of all you learned to trust God. You chose to surrender your control and that’s sometimes one of the hardest. But, as you both have grown in your faith, surrender has become easier because you have gotten to know the one you are surrendering to.”

Before presenting the graduation certificates, Susan Binkley, Blue Monarch’s founder and president, shared that what Amanda and Mallory have accomplished, “is so much more than getting sober. In many ways it’s like arriving in baby shoes and leaving in combat boots. Their journey of self-discovery has been painful and yet exciting, scary and yet hopeful, exhausting and yet comforting.”

Binkley also said, “Both Amanda and Mallory’s journeys represent some of the most memorable experiences for me, personally, in the history of Blue Monarch.”

The nonprofit provides parenting classes and work ethic programs as well as the opportunity for women to work making “Out of the Blue” granola, a unique and popular treat that started at a restaurant Binkley had in



From left, Mallory Sircy, Susan Binkley, and Amanda Cox.

Submitted photos



Granola “with a purpose” can be purchased at New Covenant Christian Bookstore on North Main. The proceeds support Blue Monarch, a women and children’s residential recovery program in Monteagle.

Sewanee. It is now produced onsite at the Blue Monarch facility.

Both families plan to remain on-site as participants of Blue Monarch’s WINGS (Women In Newly Grounded Success) transitional program for graduates. During this next season, both Cox and Sircy will be able to gradually transition

back into the community as they begin working or pursuing education, while still benefitting from the supportive Blue Monarch staff and community.

For more information about Blue Monarch contact Kate Cataldo, operations director, at 931-924-8900 or visit www.bluemonarch.org.

Governor lists ideas for state

This past week’s big event was Governor Lee’s State of the State address, which happened Monday night just after our regular floor Session. Governor Lee’s speech lasted for about an hour. It was a moving presentation on all the great things happening in our state.



Pat Marsh

Governor Lee also shared some of his ideas to improve our state. Some of the significant points of interest are

- Investing three billion dollars in our state’s roads
- \$300 million for county roads
- \$350 million increase in K12 education
- \$50 million for school safety
- Almost \$1 billion for TCAT colleges (with six new schools across the state)
- \$125 million for teacher salary raises
- 142 new state troopers will be hired
- Over \$400 million in proposed tax cuts
- Three months of no taxes on food items - around \$300 million in savings for our citizen
- Cutting approximately \$65 million in business taxes
- \$190 investment into the Department of Children’s Services
- \$350 million for our StatePark System
- \$250 million into the Rainy-Day Fund
- All while adding zero new debt

It was an exciting speech that made me proud to be a Tennessean. It’s an honor to be a small part of many of these great achievements.

The bill filing date was January 31 and there were 1,530 bills filed this year. Approximately half will be signed into law.

We had a presentation by TVA in our Business

“Civility is not a weakness; it is a strength.”

— Gov. Bill Lee

& Utilities Committee this week. TVA has about 7,000 employees (13,000 retired employees), 153 power generators, and covers most of seven states. They have control over 170,000 acres of public land and lakes while paying about \$350 million in taxes.

On Tuesday, Farm Bureau had their Bell Ringer Luncheon at the Musician Hall of Fame and there were over 600 in attendance. I sat at the table with several Bedford County agents and board members. I also got to visit with the Lincoln County and Moore County groups that attended.

The Farm Bureau does a great job of taking care of our Agricultural initiatives, opportunities, or problems, and they are a great resource for all of us in the legislature.

Wednesday was UT day on the Hill and they had a huge reception at the Sheraton Hotel. Just about everyone around the Capitol was wearing Orange. Coach Barnes came by the office building for a short visit and Coach Heupel was taking pictures with everyone who wanted one at the reception.

I usually get out of the office here at the state capitol around noon on Thursday and head back to Shelbyville. I get to spend the weekend at home before I have to return around noon on Monday for leadership meetings.

I’m honored to serve as your state representative and please call or email if I can ever help. 615-741-6824 --rep.pat.marsh@capitol.tn.gov.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More than just tax cuts needed

Dear Editor,

In the recent David Melson Times-Gazette article titled “City Property Tax Could be Cut”; it was apparent there was massive confusion amongst numerous City Council members. The statement by Mr. Melson “Some council members appeared confused about the process for setting tax rates” is a confirmation of their bewilderment.

Police, fire, garbage, roads, recreation, power, sewer, drainage, cable TV, economic development, housing, homeless, dogs, chickens and rodents are just a few of the items in which municipal elected officials have responsibility. There are some have to one-time expenditures that are needed in the Shelbyville community – the big drainage pipe along with the pumps comes to mind. So would it be prudent to at least obtain an understanding of upcoming expenditures and revenue, before one starts pitching property tax rates – based on who knows what?

I am a member of a couple of Shelbyville related Facebook pages. Reading the participants responses – I draw one conclusion – people in Shelbyville want a lot of stuff; good schools, good roads, recreation, restaurants, shopping, high paying jobs etc. The problem is not the wanting, but the capacity and knowledge to obtain all those things that makes a community live able and desirable.

A city or community is a human creation. I have been in communities where an employer closed the doors and the town economy dissipated and never recovered. I have seen communities that have been almost completely abandoned. I have seen community infrastructure in disrepair. But I have also seen where a small town is vibrant, for no other reason than the skill of the residents and local officials. Those inhabitants understand that no one will get stuff for you. You have to get it yourself.

Shelbyville is positioned geographically between two rapidly expanding large municipalities – Nashville and Huntsville. Shelbyville will continue to grow. The question is - what do Shelbyville residents want it to look like? Each of the Shelbyville City Council members should answer that question and also their plan to implement their vision. That should be an issue in every local election; it was not in the most recent, unless you believe that just cutting taxes will somehow magically make Shelbyville the land of milk and honey.

Van Ayers
Chair, Bedford County Democratic Party

State soil, water agency to meet

The Tennessee Soil and Water Conservation Commission will meet Feb. 19 in Franklin.

The meeting will begin at 4 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 820 Crescent Centre Dr. It is open to the public.

The agenda includes approval of the previous meeting’s minutes and reports from partner agencies, organizations, and ex-officio members. Commission members will also approve appointments of Tennessee’s Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors.

The Tennessee General Assembly created the commission in 1939 to assist in developing local soil conservation districts. Today the commission advises the Tennessee Department of Agriculture on matters of soil conservation and water quality improvement.

Deputy Director Open Position

The Shelbyville Housing Authority (SHA) is currently accepting resumes for a Deputy Director to serve as Financial Controller and Assistant to the Executive Director. Under the direction of the Executive Director, the Deputy Director will administer the financial and operational activities of the agency. Resumes should include a cover letter and references. No phone calls. Only qualified resumes will be considered. Send to:

Shelbyville Housing Authority
PO Box 560
Shelbyville, TN
APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28TH, 2023

The SHA is subject to Section 3 hiring requirements; is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and Drug-Free Workplace. The SHA abides by the requirements of 41 CFR 90-741.5(a), which prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals on the basis of disability or protected veteran status; and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

Pre-employment physical and drug screen required for new hires. Upon request, reasonable accommodations may be provided as required by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

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AG NOTES

By **JOHN TEAGUE**
UT/TSU Extension

SPECIALTY FRUIT WORKSHOPS

The UT Extension Center for Profitable Agriculture and the Tennessee Fruit and Vegetable Association are teaming up to host educational workshops for farmers interested in growing specialty fruit crops across the state. Current and prospective fruit producers are invited to attend. The workshops will be offered 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. local time on March 6 at the Middle Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center in Spring Hill.

While the sessions will focus on blueberries, elderberries, and persimmons, other specialty fruit crops will also be addressed. Dr. David Lockwood, UT Extension commercial fruit specialist, Dr. Natalie Bumgarner, UT Extension residential and consumer horticulture specialist, and the Extension Fruit and Vegetable workgroup will address production practices including a live pruning and plant management demonstration.

Rachel Painter, marketing specialist in the Center for Profitable Agriculture, will present blueberry budgeting tools developed by Dr. Margarita Velandia in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and marketing considerations for commercial fruit producers.

There is no cost to attend the workshop, but registration is required a minimum of one week in advance of the training. Register at tiny.utk.edu/fruit2023.

This workshop is provided as part of a specialty crop project funded in part by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. For additional information about the workshop, contact Rachel Painter at rpainter@utk.edu.

BASIC MASTER BEEF PRODUCER

I will be having this class on February 28, March 2, 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, and 16. This is a live in-person class designed for those who have never had any Master Beef Producers classes. We will cover reproduction, genetics, animal health, nutrition, marketing, grazing management, carcass quality, beef quality assurance, and other topics related to beef production.

The class will be held here at the Extension office at 2105 Midland Road, beginning at 6 pm. Contact me at 684-5971 or email me at jteague1@utk.edu for registration details.

VIRTUAL MASTER BEEF PRODUCER

The Animal Science Department has announced a virtual program whereby producers can watch videos of previous sessions. Completing at least 7 of the 10 sessions will allow for Master Beef Producer certification and eligibility for the 50% cost-share level for the Tennessee Ag Enhancement Program. I suggest that this is a good way to learn for home on your own pace.

There is a master list of videos that indicate which module area is satisfied by that video. You may choose 7 videos from the master list of 52, then complete a survey to confirm completion. Call or email me for these details. For those of you whose master status has expired or who have never had this certification, contact me at 684-5971 or by email or come by the office to register. This is the first time for this format, but I really like the flexibility and the information available.

BEEKEEPING SCHOOL

The Duck River Beekeepers Association will hold its annual Beekeeping School March 13th, 14th, 16th and 17th (Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri) at the Farm Bureau Building at 323 Bethany Lane, Shelbyville, TN 37160. Classes will start at 7:00 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m. Some lucky beginner will win some equipment to get started. Check with the beekeeper association about the details.

Don't forget the bee school. This is a great way to learn from experienced beekeepers. Contact Debra McKill at 931-581-5415 (call or text) or email tbneassoc@gmail.com.

WEED CONTROL

It's time to start thinking about weed control in our pastures. It's still February, but grass is about to start growing, and so are the weeds.

Poison Hemlock W 325, Buttercups W 323, and Spiny Amaranth W 353. These three publications are important sources of information about common weeds in pastures. It is relatively easy to control these weeds. The poison hemlock poses a danger and the other two are real production problems.

It will soon be time.

One option that is gaining a lot of use is the addition of your weed control to your fertilizer. Check with your supplier for more details. The common effort is to spray these fields in the fall, or now in late winter/early spring, March or April. Three days of temperatures in the 60's will help activate the chemical response and the plat absorption. These publications list chemical control products that are very effective.

Go to <https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Pages/default.aspx> and search for these publications. If you need help finding them send me an email and I get you a copy or the link.

GRASS TETANY

As we enter the extended part of the winter, cold days, warm days, cold nights and freezing are all still ahead. Nutrition today will have an impact on calving, rebreeding, milk production, and the overall health of cows and calves. We continue the recommendation to evaluate your mineral program and consider adding a mineral with added magnesium to your cattle nutrition program.

It is not unusual to see some green grass pop-up in February and Early March. If you wait until grass turns green, you may be late on the elevated magnesium levels in your cows to help prevent this deficiency. We recommend at least three weeks prior to the time you suspect some grass to start growing.

YOUTH AMBASSADOR



Submitted photo
Emma Armstrong of Bedford County (center) has been named one of five Tennessee Cattlemen's Association (TCA) and Tennessee Cattlemen's Youth Association (TCYA) Youth Ambassadors. Armstrong, 17, is the daughter of Matthew and Brandi Armstrong of Bedford County and is a junior at Community High School. She is very involved in her family's multi-generational Angus operation. She has earned several awards and held numerous leadership positions in the Tennessee and National Junior Angus Associations. She is also involved in the Community High School FFA Chapter and Bedford County 4-H. Other ambassadors are, from left, RuthAnn Johns of Rutherford County, Caroline Garrell of Lincoln County, Sydney Cherry of Chester County, and Augustus Rye of Houston County.

TDA investigator honored by governor

Gov. Bill Lee has recognized Special Agent in Charge Greg Whitehead of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture with the Governor's Excellence in Service Award as an outstanding state employee at the forefront of improving the way Tennessee State Government delivers services.

Whitehead leads TDA's Agricultural Crime Unit (ACU), a team of law enforcement officers who enforce state laws and regulations related to agriculture, forestry, animal health, and agribusinesses in Tennessee. ACU is also the primary agency responsible for investigation of suspected wildland arson statewide.

"Special Agent in Charge Whitehead was one of our first commissioned officers more than 20 years ago," Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, D.V.M. said. "Under his leadership, our crime unit responds faster and resolves cases quicker. Those efforts lead to increased safety and security for the citizens of Tennessee."

Whitehead began his work with TDA in 1995 as a Forestry Aide in Sullivan County. Following numerous promotions and law enforcement training, Whitehead was appointed to ACU at its inception in 2000. He was promoted to Captain in 2008 and to Special Agent in Charge in 2021.

Whitehead sets high expectations for the unit's delivery of services and equips his team to serve at the highest level. He oversees casework assignment and completion and emphasizes team training and response time. Exceptional performance metrics, timely and accurate communication, and overall service to other law enforcement officers and to the public have been noted by Whitehead's constituents.

"It's an honor to be recognized for work with a vast reach of agricultural law enforcement areas," SAC Greg Whitehead said. "As ACU special agents,



Submitted photo
Special Agent in Charge Greg Whitehead of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, left, is recognized by Gov. Bill Lee.

we never know what the day will bring, from wildland fire investigations to conducting livestock welfare examinations, but we are each ready to serve alongside other officers and the general public thanks to our continuous training and teamwork."

Whitehead earned a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Management from the University of Tennessee at Martin, an

associate degree in Ministry from Welch College in Gallatin, and is slated to graduate later this year with a master's degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology from East Tennessee State University in Johnson City. He is also a 2019 graduate of the state's inaugural Criminal Justice Leadership Academy and a member of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

In addition to law enforcement service, Whitehead is dedicated to service through leadership in his community. For 20 years, he has served as pastor of the Morgan Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Roan Mountain. He is also the president of the Carter County Cattlemen's Association and an assistant scout master for the Boy Scouts.

Whitehead and his wife, Celena, have been married for 20 years and are parents to a teenage son, Seth. They run a small cattle operation on the family farm in Carter County.

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WINCHESTER 3:15-4:00P @ TRACTOR SUPPLY CENTER
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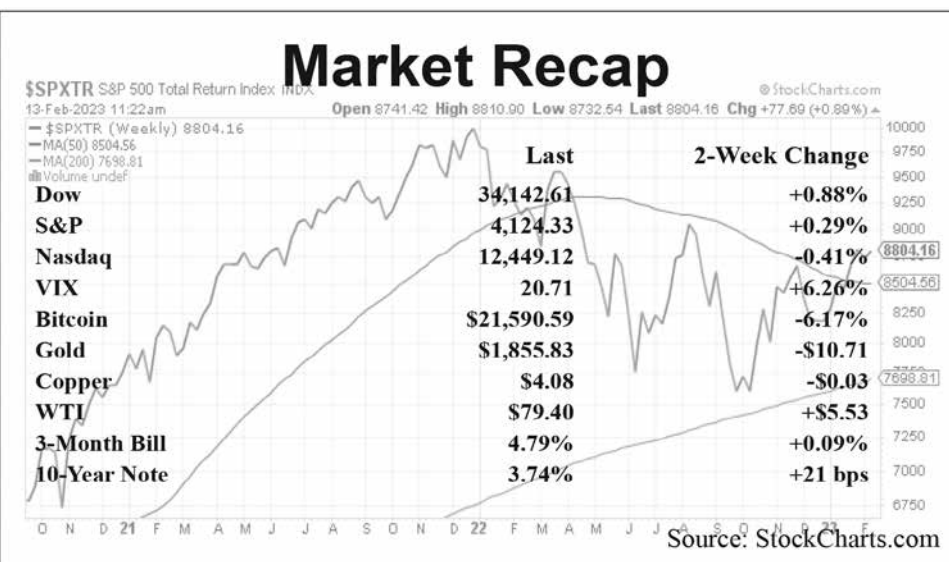
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Submitted photo

ARS/Rescue Rooter of Nashville installed a free HVAC system in the home of Shelbyville resident Lydia Droz-Reyes (far right) as part of its ARS Cares Program.

HVAC firm donates unit to late employee's wife

ARS/Rescue Rooter of Nashville, an affiliate of the American Residential Services Network of Brands, recently surprised Shelbyville resident Lydia Droz-Reyes with a home services makeover.

As part of the company's ARS Cares Program, Droz-Reyes had a brand-new HVAC system installed in her home at no charge.

The ARS Cares initiative was launched to give back to the communities ARS serves. Past recipients have included veterans,

community volunteers, first responders, and healthcare heroes. Since 2016, more than 190 home services installations have been completed, with ARS donating more than \$1.3 million of equipment and services to deserving recipients.

ARS/Rescue Rooter of Nashville lost a member of its family with the death of John Reyes, an HVAC installer and service technician in 2022. His widow is now raising the couple's youngest children

on her own, and her home HVAC system was in dire need of replacement.

"John Reyes was a valued member of the ARS team, and we are proud to give back to our extended family," said Dave Haswell, General Manager of ARS/Rescue Rooter of Nashville. "Thanks to the ARS Cares program, we've been able to make a difference for this family and for many families in the many communities we serve."

New cost share for agricultural, forestry businesses announced

Agricultural and forestry businesses have a new opportunity to strengthen or expand operations with an innovative program.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) joins Governor Bill Lee in announcing the Tennessee Forestry, Agriculture, and Rural Markets (FARM) cost share.

"Agriculture drives Tennessee's economy, and this strategic investment will ensure that the industry continues to thrive," said Governor Lee. "We remain committed to rural Tennessee, and I am confident that the FARM program will strengthen farm families and agribusiness across our state."

Financial Stimulus Accountability Group for the allocation to support Tennessee's farming and forestry families with this FARM cost share," Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, D.V.M. said. "We will disperse this funding to bolster rural economies and to maintain agriculture and forestry as the top industries in the state."

The fund will provide financial assistance to agricultural, food, forestry, and nonprofit agricultural entities in Tennessee. Applications are accepted online from March 1 until March 31, 2023.

The FARM cost share program will fund projects that promote stabilizing and strengthening the supply chain to prevent future

challenges. Businesses that receive financial assistance from the FARM program are not required to repay the funds. Funding is disbursed on a reimbursement basis.

TDA will conduct two webinars on Feb. 15, 2023 with information on the FARM program, the eligibility guidelines, the program timeline, and the application process. There is no charge to attend but registration is required at <https://horne1lp.zoom.us/j/99ySpqfisiGszystXA>.

FARM cost share details can be found online at www.tn.gov/FARM. Contact TDA's Business Development Division at business.development@tn.gov with questions.

Forest Service reaches out to Black college students

By SHEILA HOLIFIELD

Southern Region, U.S. Forest Service

The U.S. Forest Service is teaming up with three historically Black colleges and universities, also known as HBCUs, to expand forest fire prevention and management training opportunities.

Florida A&M University, Southern University in Louisiana, Tuskegee University in Alabama, and Alabama A&M University have joined together to create the 1890 Land Grant Institution Wildland Fire Consortium. The partnership is modeled after Alabama A&M University's successful FireDawgs program, a student-led forest firefighting team created in 2009. Since its creation, the FireDawgs have mobilized for several wildfires, rescues and prescribed burning operations in partnership with the Forest Service.

Hands-on training offers students their first experiences with live fire while under the instruction of experienced wildland firefighters. Students learn to use drip torches, a common tool for prescribed burning, as well as how to operate and maintain chainsaws safely. In addition to the practical skills, they also learn how fires behave under weather conditions and in different types of fuels, like in heavily wooded areas or in tall grass.

"I am learning so many skills and techniques about fire that I will be able to use one day in my future career," said Bradley Massey, Alabama A&M University forestry student and Fire Consortium participant. "Our instructors make this experience impactful with their years' worth of knowledge and service."

Once the students receive their Wildland Fire Consortium training, and pass the test, they are certified to fight wildland fires. Like the FireDawgs, the program also provides additional response capacity that benefits the surrounding communities, as students are on call to respond to local incidents like fires and floods.

"The collaboration between the Forest Service and these institutions is making for an excellent program. The skills and experience that the students are learning will serve them well as they mature in their natural resources education and, ultimately, their careers," said Jeremy Whigham, a forester who leads the FireDawgs program. "Wildland fire affects us all.

We must learn to live with fire, and firefighting is a necessary component of living with fire."

The varying experience the instructors bring to the table is what has made the program so dynamic.

"The diversity of people and experiences with varying fields of study has made our discussions very engaging," said Kendall Brown, wildlife ecology major at Tuskegee University. "The viewpoints and knowledge have helped me to see the bigger picture when it comes to fighting wildland fire."

The program is helping to bring more people of color into the forestry and wildland fire professional fields. According to the Society of American Foresters, White non-Hispanic persons receive a higher share of bachelor's degrees in agriculture and natural resources, making up 91% of all bachelor's degrees. While African American and Hispanics make up 1.9% and 3.6% of degree recipients respectively.

"Nationally, minority students are underrepresented in careers in forestry and wildfire," said Darrius Truss, fire and heritage management staff officer for the National Forests in Alabama.

Truss, an alumnus of Alabama A&M University's accredited forestry program, said the agency's multi-institutional partnership seeks to remove barriers to underrepresented communities in careers related to forestry.

"Beyond the boots on the ground, students will be able to concentrate their studies in forest fire management, which eventually should create a more inclusive workforce," said Truss. "Having a pipeline of students pursuing an education in forestry and fire is crucial as the wildland fire crisis continues to rise."

In July, at the height of the 2022 fire season, more than 70 large fires burned across the nation, with more than 22,000 personnel responding – nearly three times more than the 10-year average for the month of July.

As the agency strives to confront the wildfire crisis from all angles, the 1890 Land Grant Institution Wildland Fire Consortium is helping to meet a critical staffing need at the agency. The consortium is opening the door for agencies to recruit and retain a diverse and representative workforce.

ABSOLUTE AUCTION Saturday, Feb. 18th 10:00 AM



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AUCTIONEER: REX BICKNELL 931-580-0116 Lic #1970 REFERRED BY: KAY PETTY

DIRECTIONS: From Shelbyville, take Hwy. 64 West (Lewisburg Hwy). Property is on the right. TERMS: 10% down day of sale, balance due in 30 days. 10% Buyer's Premium added to bid to determine final sale price. TAXES: Prorated POSSESSION: With Deed SPECIAL NOTE: Homes built prior to 1978 are subject to have lead-base paint. In accordance with federal law, all potential buyers will be allowed 10 days prior to sale to have the home inspected at their expense.

ABSOLUTE ESTATE AUCTION Saturday, Feb. 18th 10:00 AM



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Home sells at 11AM, Personal Property at 10AM.

PERSONAL PROPERTY:

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NOT THIS CHEAP!



T-G Photo by David Melsion Gas prices are up and down lately, but good luck finding it this cheap. This 69-cent per gallon sign is in front of the long-closed Hopps Express store on Union Street, where the former store building is being remodeled.

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PREPARING A NEW PATH



T-G Photo by David Melson

A construction crew was beginning a new roadway into 231 North Industrial Park on Saturday morning.

Pot in open results in arrest

By DAVID MELSON
dmelson@t-g.com

Marijuana in a driver's lap got him in trouble Friday afternoon, according to a Shelbyville Police Department report.

Thomas Chad West, 49, of Colonial Avenue allegedly had no functioning tail-lights on his vehicle when stopped on South Cannon Boulevard last Friday afternoon.

Officer Brandi Merlo's report said she saw the pot and later found a marijuana "roach" in a cigarette pack in his pocket during a search.

West was charged with simple possession, driving on a suspended license and violation of the vehicle light and registration laws. He was released on \$4,000 bond.

Several others have been charged over the past week:

- Herman Austin Caldwell III, 48, of Frank Martin Road was arrested Saturday afternoon after being stopped for a window tint violation and driving on a possible flat tire.

- Officer Ramon Castillo said he smelled marijuana and appeared nervous. Castillo obtained permission for a vehicle search and allegedly found .4 grams of marijuana, .25 grams of methamphetamine and several non-prescribed pills.

- Caldwell was charged with possession of schedule II (two counts) and schedule 6 drugs and a window tinting violation. He posted \$4,500 bond.

- Savannah Storme Da Costa, 26, of Shelbyville was charged with possession of a schedule 2 drug and violation of probation when a Bedford County deputy saw her Thursday on Blue Ribbon Parkway and knew she was wanted.

- A bag containing .3 grams of cocaine was found in her purse, the report said.

- She was held on \$5,000 bond.

- Brandon Jamarcus Thompson, 22, of Warners Bridge Road was cited for simple possession when a deputy allegedly smelled marijuana during a traffic stop Thursday on Warners Bridge Road.

- Thompson allegedly had 6 grams of marijuana in his vehicle, the report said.

- Michelle Lynn Davis, 50, no address available, was cited for simple possession and a light law violation Thursday on North Main Street.

- A deputy snelled marijuana during a traffic stop and allegedly found a jar containing six marijuana cigarettes and 0.6 grams of marijuana.

Jail intake

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

- Raequan Eddrelle Armstrong, 29, Columbia; failure to appear; released on recognizance

- Natalie Renae Barajas, 19, Fairground Heights; failure to appear; released on recognizance

- James Tyler Cobble, 35, New Center Church Road; DUI; released, \$1,500 bond

- Savannah Storme Da Costa, 26, address not specified; possession of schedule 2 drug, violation of probation; held, \$5,000 bond

- William Keith Davis, 52, Lewisburg; driving on revoked license, financial responsibility, registration law; released on recognizance

- Zachary Thomas Davis, 28, Lower Halls Mill Road; failure to appear; released, no bond

- Andrew Ryan Day, 27, Maplewood Drive; domestic assault; released on

recognizance

- Danielle Morgan Dunn, 27, Hickerson Road; accessory after the fact, possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession; held, \$2,250 bond

- Angel Basureto Florina, 37, East Depot Street; failure to appear; released on recognizance

- Judy Colene Johns, 63, Ridgeway Avenue; driving on suspended license; released on recognizance

- Javier Emmanuel Leyva Jr., 34, Charlie Shaw Road; failure to appear; released on recognizance

- Abacut Moreno Apolonio, 37, Barnwell, South Carolina; driver to exercise due care, no driver's license/exhibited on demand; released, \$2,000 bond

- Lionel Morris Jr., 32, Anna Lane; aggravated assault; held, \$10,000 bond

- Donald Wayne Nowlin, 38, North Jefferson Street; possession of schedule 2 drug, possession of schedule 4 drug, shoplifting; held, \$6,000 bond

- Heather Starr O'Donnell, 27, Wildcreek Road; bench warrant, failure to appear; held, no bond listed

- Manuel Rizo Mojica, 47, Eagle Boulevard; violation of probation; released on recognizance

- Sadie Killian Parsons, 43, Nashville; violation of order of protection; released on recognizance

- Bobby Lee Shook, 34, El Bethel Road; light law, no driver's license/exhibited on demand; released on recognizance

- Felicia Minniebell Smith, 34, Manchester; violation of probation; released on recognizance

- Zykaria Adrionno Velasquez, 22, Burt Street; driving on revoked license, failure to appear, violation of probation; held, \$6,500 bond

- Thomas Chad West, 49, Colonial Avenue; driving

- on suspended license, light law, simple possession, registration law; released, \$4,000 bond

- Charles Brian Whitsett Sr., 48, Nashville; driving on revoked license, seat belt law; released, \$5,000 bond

- Isaac Eugene Williams, 47, Highland Court; bench warrant, failure to appear (two counts); held, no bond

- Lauren Paige Witkowski, 32, no fixed address, Shelbyville; violation of probation; released, \$4,500 bond

- Dilery Mitchell Arriaga, 23, Edgemont Drive; no driver's license/exhibited on demand, speeding; released on recognizance

- Bradley J. Baker, 43, Tullahoma; driving on a revoked license; released, \$500 bond

- James Bradley Blair, 29, Central Avenue; driving on a revoked license; \$5,000 bond

- Bryant Burnett, 24, Anthony Lane; simple domestic assault, DUI; \$6,000 bond

- Herman Austin Caldwell III, 48, Frank Martin Road; possession of schedule II drug (two counts), possession of schedule 6 drug, window tinting; released, \$4,500 bond

- Zenon Dominguez, 50, Estill Springs; driving on a revoked license, open container law; released, \$500 bond

- Eufrocina Galindo Fuentes, 44, Kingwood Avenue; no driver's license/exhibited on demand, speeding; released on recognizance

- Dony Orlando Garcia Mendoza, 24, Bethany Lane; driver to exercise due care, no driver's license/exhibited on demand; released on recognizance

- Ryan Heflin, 26, Chapel Hill; simple domestic assault (two counts); \$5,000 bond

- Benedicto Herrera, 26,

POLICE ANNIVERSARY



Shelbyville Police Department photo

Lt. Charles "Chucky" Merlo is marking 25 years of service with the Shelbyville Police Department. Merlo leads the Criminal Investigation Division.

Shelbyville Mill Road; DUI, financial responsibility, no driver's license/exhibited on demand; \$4,000 bond

- Joshua Lee Hill, 29, Christiana; violation of probation; \$5,500 bond

- Darius Deontrea Johnson, 38, Tullahoma; driving on a revoked license, light law, possession of drug paraphernalia; \$4,500 bond

- Zacarias Lopez Perez, 28, King Avenue; no driver's license/exhibited on demand, traffic control device (stop sign); released on recognizance

- Ezequiel Morales Ramirez, 29, Collier Avenue; DUI, financial responsibility, no driver's license/exhibited on demand; released, \$4,500 bond

- Dylan Dakota Pardon, 24, Evans Street; simple possession; released on recognizance

- Trevor Lee Powell, 45, Barksdale Lane; driver to exercise due care, driving on a revoked license, DUI,

financial responsibility, open container law, running a red light/stop sign; \$12,000 bond

- Domingo Santiago Ramirez, 18, King Arthur Court; financial responsibility, no driver's license/exhibited on demand, reckless/careless driving; released, \$1,500 bond

- Carol Lynn Ratleph, 51, Tullahoma; criminal trespassing; \$3,500 bond

- Brian Lynn Smith, 43, Butler Street; violation of probation; \$2,500 bond

- Coty Kaleokalani Tate, 28, Knoxville; attachment; released, \$1,000 bond

- Juan Carlos Villanueva, 28, Myers Street; light law, no driver's license/exhibited on demand; released on recognizance

- Christopher Eugene Walpole, 32, Kennedy Road; failure to appear; no bond

- Jason Cole Williams, 37, Roy Moore Road, Unionville; violation of order of protection; released, \$2,500 bond

Union: Fired EMTs didn't get enough info in Nichols response

MEMPHIS (AP) — The head of a union representing most of the Memphis Fire Department said three employees who were fired after the death of Tyre Nichols weren't given enough information as they responded to the call for medical help.

Thomas Malone, president of the Memphis Fire Fighters Association, also wrote in a letter to city councilmembers that information was withheld from those first responders by people on the scene.

Nichols, who is Black, was beaten by Memphis police after he was pulled over Jan. 7 for an alleged traffic violation. However, police Chief Cerelyn "CJ" Davis has said publicly released footage failed to show why Nichols was stopped at all.

The union leader came to the defense of the fire department as a whole, saying its more-than-1,600 employees "serve this city and its citizens with purpose and intent each

and every day."

The Daily Memphian reported on and published a copy of the letter, which says "there is no way any member could be truly prepared for a situation that occurred on January 7, 2023."

"Our members were not given adequate information upon dispatch or upon arrival of the scene," Malone wrote. "Quite frankly, there was information withheld by those already on the scene which caused our members to handle things differently than they should have."

Three fire department employees were fired after Nichols died. In all, 13 police officers have either been disciplined or are under investigation for their roles in Nichols' death. Six were fired, and five of them are charged with murder. Two Shelby County sheriff's deputies were also suspended.

Two of the former fire department employees, EMT Robert Long

and advanced EMT

JaMichael Sandridge, had their professional licenses suspended by a state medical board. Lt. Michelle Whitaker was the third employee let go. Her license was not considered for suspension, though state Emergency Medical Services board members commented that more actions could follow.

Memphis city spokeswoman Arlenia Cole told the Daily Memphian that all three former fire department employees have appealed their firings.

Fire Chief Gina Sweat has said the department received a call from police

after someone was pepper-sprayed. When the workers arrived at 8:41 p.m., Nichols was handcuffed on the ground and slumped against a squad car, the statement said.

Long and Sandridge, based on the nature of the call and information they were told by police, "failed to conduct an adequate patient assessment of Mr. Nichols," the statement said. Whitaker remained in the vehicle with the driver during the response to Nichols' beating, the department said.

An ambulance was called, and it arrived at 8:55 p.m., the statement

said. An emergency unit cared for Nichols and left for a hospital with him at 9:08 p.m., which was 27 minutes after Long, Sandridge and Whitaker arrived, officials said. Nichols died three days later.

An investigation determined that all three violated multiple policies and protocols, the statement said.

"They were reacting to what they saw, what they were told at the scene," Sweat recently told city council members. "Obviously, they did not perform at the level that we expect, or that the citizens

of Memphis deserve."

Before suspending the licenses of Long and Sandridge earlier this month, the state EMS board watched 19 minutes of surveillance video that showed the two first responders as they failed to care for Nichols, who couldn't stay seated upright against the side of the vehicle, laying prone on the ground multiple times.

EMS board member Sullivan Smith said it was "obvious to even a lay person" that Nichols "was in terrible distress and needed help."

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CHILI COOKOFF WINNERS



Heritage South Community Credit Union held its annual in-house Super Bowl Chili Cookoff. Winners (from left) Jody Stovall, Sandra Hughes and Brett Young from the accounting department are with judges Scott Peoples of the Bedford County Sheriff's Office, Shelbyville-Bedford Partnership CEO Shane Hooper and Times-Gazette sports editor Chris Siers.

BIRD POOP



T-G Photo by Zoe Watkins

Anyone walking under the BellSouth Telecommunications AT&T tower near the Shelbyville Square will notice the hundreds of white dots that coat the sidewalk. Effigies were put up several months ago to ward off the dozens of birds that congregate on the tower. However, it seems the effigies themselves have flown away, leaving businesses, cars, and people vulnerable to the droppings.



State proposal to forgo school funds termed 'political posturing'

NASHVILLE. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Education is criticizing a proposal floated by a top Tennessee Republican lawmaker to cut off federal K-12 funds, describing the proposal as "political posturing."

"Our students need more — not less — to support their academic recovery and address the youth mental health crisis," a department spokesperson told The Associated Press. "This political posturing will impede the basic education of young people throughout the entire K-12 school system and limit opportunities — particularly for students most in need — to access tutoring and academic support, afterschool and summer programs, school counselors, mental health professionals, and other assistance."

The agency added that anyone in favor of such a plan "should have to answer to their local educators and parents in their community about the detrimental impact it would have on their community's education system and their

students' futures."

Earlier this week, Tennessee House Speaker Cameron Sexton confirmed that he has introduced legislation that would allow Tennessee to reject the nearly \$1.8 billion of federal K-12 education funds that help provide support for low-income students, English learners and students with disabilities. Sexton said Tennessee is currently in the financial position to use state tax dollars to replace federal education funds and doing so would free the state from burdensome requirements that come with accepting federal dollars.

Sexton said the Department of Education's response encapsulated "everything wrong with federal bureaucrats."

"The Washington education regime is afraid of freedom, hates states' rights, and knows that us rejecting federal money for overbearing policies like common core will ultimately lead to a total demise of their bureaucratic big brother approach," he said in an email.

Federal dollars make up

about 20% of Tennessee's K-12 education funding, which had an almost \$8.3 billion budget as of fiscal year 2023. The federal money is seen as a key tool to supporting schools in low-income areas and special education.

To date, no state has successfully rejected federal education funds, but many Republican politicians and candidates at the federal level have made a habit of calling for the outright elimination of the U.S. Department of Education.

Yet in Tennessee, Sexton's effort has sparked alarm among education advocates who argue the state already isn't spending enough on public education.

It's unclear whether Tennessee would have fewer conflicts with the federal government if the state chose to forgo the education funding. While the U.S. Constitution says public education is a state responsibility, states are still required to follow federal laws.

Did you know?

Reptiles may not require the level of daily attention that dogs and, to a lesser extent, cats need. However, it's a misconception that reptiles are hands-off, maintenance-free pets. The pet experts at Petco note that reptiles often start small but can grow to be rather large. So it's easy for first-time reptile owners to see a small lizard or snake

and assume it will always remain roughly that size and thus require the same habitat and level of maintenance. However, as reptiles grow, owners may need to put in extra effort to maintain a habitat. In addition, parents considering reptiles as a pet for their children should know that experts advise against assigning children primary caregiver



duties for these types of animals. Supervision is always necessary when children are near reptiles, which adds to the responsibilities adult reptile owners must accept. The Pet Advocacy Network also notes that certain reptiles, including lizards, have specific needs regarding the temperature of their habitats. Ensuring temperatures within a reptile's habitat are suitable requires daily attention, which underscores how misleading the notion that reptiles are maintenance-free pets can be.

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Tuesday, February 14, 2023



T-G Photos by Rickey Clardy

Six Viqueen basketball players and other representatives of the team were honored on Senior Night. From left are Paige Simmons, Haley Mitchell, Zoey Dixon, M.J. Simmons, Shelby Cawthon, Addison Brothers, Jacey Collier, and Rocio Barrio.

Mitchell reaches 1,000 points as Viqueens win

By **RICKEY CLARDY**
Sports Writer

UNIONVILLE — Haley Mitchell reached the 1,000-point plateau for her basketball career and the Community Viqueens closed out the regular season and Senior Night with an undefeated record in District 7-AA play as the Viqueens defeated the Grundy County Lady Jackets 86-49 Friday night.

Community (20-6, 6-0) scored 56 points in the middle two quarters to put the game out of reach.

The Viqueens took the early lead and never trailed as Mitchell opened the game with two treys.

Meanwhile, M.J. Simmons scored 10 points inside as the Viqueens jumped out to a 14-2 lead.

Community took an 18-12 advantage to the second quarter.

A three-pointer by the Lady Jackets eight seconds into the quarter got Grundy County within three, but it was as close as the Lady Jackets would get as the Viqueen offense went into another gear. The Viqueens went on a 10-0 run, culminated with a field goal by Mitchell at the

6:16 mark that put the Community senior over 1,000 points.

"She's a great offensive player and she's glad to get past that now," Coach Cody Pierce of the Viqueens said.

With Jacey Collier coming off the bench to score eight points and Simmons, Mitchell, Shelby Cawthon, and Addison Brothers each adding five, the Viqueens went on another run of eight consecutive points to take a 36-18 advantage. When the dust had settled, Community finished with 31 points in the quarter and took a 49-28 lead to the intermission.

It was more of the same in the third quarter as the Viqueens stayed hot with 25 points.

Simmons had 11 points while Cawthon added seven and Mitchell had five as the Viqueens went on an 11-0 run to take a 62-31 lead with 4:30 left. Community added the final eight points of the quarter and led 74-40 with one quarter to play.

The game finished with a running clock as the Viqueens won their 20th game of the season.

"Grundy did a good job of hitting a lot

▶ See **Viqueens**, Page 2B



Haley Mitchell is flanked by her parents, Bryan and Heather Mitchell, and holds a ball commemorating her milestone of reaching 1,000 points in her Viqueen career.



T-G Photos by Rickey Clardy

Six Vikings were honored in festivities on Senior Night. From left are Emery Smith, Corey Paterick, Dallas Grooms, Jacob Flannagan, Ramon Hernandez, and Cole Crockett.

Vikes score too late in loss

By **RICKEY CLARDY**
Sports Writer

UNIONVILLE — The Community Vikings warmed up in the fourth quarter with 29 points, but it was not enough to offset a hot-shooting night that included 12 treys by the Grundy County Yellow Jackets as the Vikings fell 85-66 in a District 7-AA game and regular season finale Friday night.

Community (1-24, 0-6) stayed close with the Yellow Jackets for most of the first quarter and trailed 10-9 with 2:06 remaining

before Grundy County used five treys and a 9-0 run to take a 19-9 lead to the second quarter.

It was another run for the Yellow Jackets in the second quarter that extended the Grundy County lead.

The Vikings trailed 31-22 with 3:29 left before the Yellow Jackets scored the last eight points with the help of two three-pointers in the final minute to take a 39-22 lead into the intermission.

Ramon Hernandez had five points to lead the Vikings in the third quarter,

but the Yellow Jackets continued the pressure by scoring 27 points as Grundy County took a 66-37 lead to the final quarter.

There were plenty of points for the Vikings in the quarter with Jason Cullum, Landon Berman, and Jaxon Williams each scoring five points as nine Community players netted points.

A flurry of treys pulled the Vikings to within 15 at 78-63 with 2:38 remaining, but it was as close as Community would get.

"Grundy shot well and we helped them by giving

them one open look after another," Coach Robbie Davis of the Vikings said.

"Tuesday night, we played extremely hard on defense to where we were down six with the ball with a few minutes left in the game. Tonight, we played with no intensity or desire to compete and Grundy took advantage of it," Davis added.

Isaac Campbell had 18 points to lead four Yellow Jackets in double figures. Sam Parson had 17 points

▶ See **Vikings**, Page 2B



Community Viking Assistant Coach Steve Simmons was honored Friday night. Simmons has been an assistant coach for the Vikings since 2013 and is stepping down from his position at the end of the current basketball season. He is pictured with his wife Jeni and daughters M.J., Lanie, and Paige.

Champs' Davis delivers in closing seconds

By **CHRIS SIERS**
sports@t-g.com
CHAPEL HILL —
Time and time again, when

Champion coach Chris Lawson needed big point production or a key play, it's been one of the senior

leaders on the team that has delivered. When the shots weren't falling on Friday night at

Forrest, it was another couple of key plays by a senior that helped secure the 39-36 win in the regular season

finale. "When we had to have something, it was one of our seniors—Jackson Davis who came up with a steal and it was Jackson Davis who came up with a big rebound. At the end of the game, that put us over the top," Lawson said.

It was a titanic struggle for both teams shooting, but both teams found ways to put themselves in position to win.

In a back-and-forth fourth quarter, the two squads swapped control of the scoreboard six times until Isaac McElroy hit a basket with 1:09 left in regulation to give Cascade a 37-36 lead.

While McElroy's shot put Cascade (23-5, 6-0) ahead, Forrest (3-21, 2-4) charged down the floor and it was Davis who came through with a key steal and ensuing layup to make it a three-point game with 50 seconds left.

Forrest took the following possession and launched what would have been a game-tying three-pointer with nine ticks left.

Again, it was Davis who hauled in the rebound, drew the foul and headed to the line for a one-and-one attempt.

After missing the front end, Forrest again charged the floor and fired off another three-pointer that caught the iron.

This time, Forrest got its own rebound and senior Davin Porter banked in a three-pointer, but after the buzzer sounded, which allowed Cascade to escape with the win and finish the unbeaten run through the district schedule.

"We didn't play our best and Forrest didn't necessarily play their best either. It

was a shooting display we don't want to see very often. Both ways—nobody shot it well tonight," Lawson said.

"We were 8-for-16 from the foul line and we threw the ball away a little bit. But at the end of the game, the big thing was we found a way to get it done. Nobody is going to remember the way they almost got beat. They're going to remember we found a way to get it done."

Even with the struggles shooting, senior Lucas Clanton still scrapped together 16 points to lead all scorers.

Davis went on to finish with nine points.

Porter led the Rockets with 13 points.

Friday night's game capped a busy week for the Champions, which included a win over Grundy County and a close loss to non-district opponent Franklin County.

The win also secured No. 1 for Cascade in the District 7-AA tournament, which begins this week.

Getting a full week off to prepare for the postseason comes at a good time for Cascade, according to Lawson.

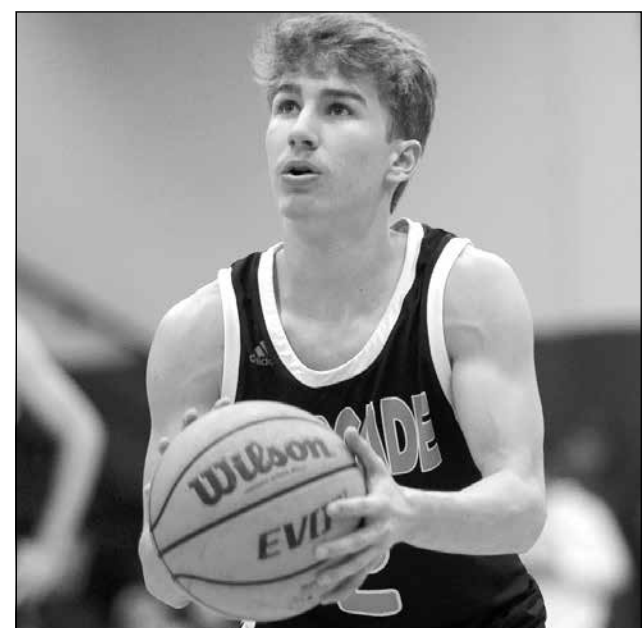
"Having a little time off here will be good for us. We'll get our legs under us a little bit and we'll get back to practice and work on a few things to get ready to play in the tournament," he said.

Cascade will face No. 4 seed Community at Forrest at 7:30 on Friday evening.

Cascade	11	8	10	10	—	39
Forrest	8	13	7	8	—	36
Cascade:	Lucas Clanton 16, Saebyn Burris 9, Isaac McElroy 6, Jackson Davis 5, Jayden Gulick 3.					
Forrest:	Davin Porter 13, Ben Villazon 8, Jimmy Bond 5, Mason Harper 4, Ryan Meglis 4, Bray McCown 2.					
3-Point goals:	Cascade (1): Clanton.					
Halftime score:	Forrest 21, Cascade 19.					



Lucas Clanton flies in and blocks a shot by Forrest's Ryan Meglis.



Jayden Gulick steps to the line and knocks down one of two free throw attempts in the second quarter.

T-G Photos by Chris Siers

Vikings

(Continued from Page 1B)

and Jarod Huntley scored 13, while Brendan Marsh added 10 points for Grundy County.

Jacob Flannagan had 11 points to lead a balanced-scoring attack for the Vikings as 13 of the 14 Community players scored in the contest.

Grundy County was 23-of-35 at the free throw line while the Vikings were 12-of-21.

Community now begins

District 7-AA tournament play which will be played at Forrest. The Vikings take on top-seeded Cascade Friday at 6 p.m. in a semifinal matchup.

Grundy Co.	19	20	27	19	—	85
Community	9	13	15	29	—	66
Grundy Co.:	Isaac Campbell 18, Sam Parson 17, Jarod Huntley 13, Brendan Marsh 10, Alex Parson 5, Junior Crisp 5, Aidan Lusk 5, Colton Rogers 3, Jacob Crisp 3, Brady Everett 2, Dylan Sanders 2, Nic Campbell 2, Garrick Easterly, Nate Roberts.					
Community:	Jacob Flannagan 11, Jason Cullum 9, Cole Crockett 7, Landon Lovorn 5, Ramon Hernandez 5, Emery Smith 6, Corey Paterick 6, Landon Berman 5, Jaxon Williams 5, Noah Watson 3, Mo Berman 2, Dallas Grooms 1, Austin Stickler 1, Zach Leathers.					
3-Point goals:	Grundy Co. (12): I. Campbell 4, Huntley 3, Marsh 2, S. Parson, A. Parson, Junior Crisp; Community (6): Paterick 2, Cullum, Crockett, Williams, Watson.					
Halftime score:	Grundy Co. 39, Community 22.					

The Viqueens were 13-of-21 at the free throw line while Grundy County was 4-of-8.

The focus is now on the district tournament which will be played at Forrest.

Community opens play against Grundy County in a 6 p.m. game Thursday night.

"Everybody's 0-0 now," Pierce said. "Now we've got a job to do and we need to take care of the district once again."

Community opens play against Grundy County in a 6 p.m. game Thursday night.

"Everybody's 0-0 now," Pierce said. "Now we've got a job to do and we need to take care of the district once again."

Community opens play against Grundy County in a 6 p.m. game Thursday night.

Grundy Co.	12	16	12	9	—	49
Community	18	31	25	12	—	86
Grundy Co.:	Carlee Smartt 19, Wrylee McDaniel 15, Jaidys McDaniel 9, Kasadee Crabtree 4, Kati Davidson, Elyce Rymer 2, Kathryn Lusk, Gracie Panter, Mallory Woodlee, Haley Smith.					
Community:	M.J. Simmons 28, Haley Mitchell 16, Shelby Cawthon 14, Addison Brothers 9, Zoey Dixon 6, Jacey Collier 10, Anna Haskins 3, Izzy Martinez, Stevie Dickenson.					
3-Point goals:	Grundy Co. (7): Smartt 3, W. McDaniel 2, J. McDaniel 2; Community (7): Mitchell 4, Brothers, Dixon, Haskins.					
Halftime score:	Community 49, Grundy Co. 28.					

New Mexico St. cancels season after allegations

By **EDDIE PELLIS**
AP National Writer

New Mexico State's men's basketball season came to an abrupt halt Sunday after the release of a police report that detailed three players ganging up on a teammate and attacking him in a case that includes allegations of false imprisonment, harassment and criminal sexual contact.

"It's time for this program to reset," chancellor Dan Arvizu said in the statement that announced the end of the season.

Arvizu said the shutdown was in response to a report filed to campus police on Friday by a player against three teammates. According to the report, the victim said that on Feb. 6, his teammates held him down "removed his clothing exposing his buttocks and began to slap his (buttocks). He also went on to state that they also touched his scrotum."

The victim, whose name was redacted in the report along with those of the other players, said other incidents involving

inappropriate physical and sexual touching had been occurring in locker rooms and on road trips since last summer. Regarding the latest instance, the victim told police he had no choice but to let this happen "because it's a 3-on-1 type of situation."

Arvizu, who will be leaving the university in June after regents recently chose not to renew his contract, said "this action is clearly needed, especially after receiving additional facts and reviewing investigation reports related to the hazing allegations involving student-athletes on the team."

"We must uphold the safety of our students and the integrity of our university," said Arvizu, who had initially suspended the program on Friday, then revealed what he called hazing allegations a day later.

He said he had spoken with the commissioner of the Western Athletic Conference, which said it was reviewing how to treat the six New Mexico State

games that will be wiped off the schedule in regards to seeding for next month's conference tournament.

The report said the victim went to campus police to report a possible assault, but did not want to press criminal charges for the time being.

The allegations come less than three months after the suspension of forward Mike Peake, who is being investigated in the case of the fatal shooting of a student from rival school, University of New Mexico, in Albuquerque on Nov. 19.

Peake has not been charged in that case, which included state police stopping the team bus on Interstate-25 as it headed back to Las Cruces shortly after the shooting. Missing from the bus were Peake and three of his teammates, who had taken him to the hospital with an injured leg.

New Mexico State finished the season at 9-15, with only two conference wins in 12 games. The Aggies, long a source of pride on their 13,000-stu-

dent campus in Las Cruces, have been to eight NCAA tournaments since 2007. They are scheduled to move from the WAC to Conference-USA next season.

The next big decision for this program appears to be coming Tuesday, when university regents will hold a closed meeting to discuss "limited personnel matters concerning individual employees." It did not name the employees who were to be discussed. The scheduling of the meeting came Saturday, the day after Arvizu placed coach Greg Heiar and his staff on administrative leave at the same time he suspended the season.

The scrubbing of the 2022-23 campaign came a day after two players quit following the initial reports of the hazing incident.

One of them, redshirt freshman Shahar Lazar, said he was leaving because "I don't think the program that I originally committed to aligns with my beliefs and core values."



T-G Photos by Chris Siers
Cascade's Anna Clanton (20) and Laina Carter catch their breath during some free throws in the second half.

Lady Champs' fast start fades in second half

By CHRIS SIERS
sports@t-g.com

CHAPEL HILL — A monster first half by the Forrest Lady Rockets was more than Cascade could overcome in Friday night's regular season finale.

The Lady Rockets went on an absolute tear in the opening quarter and held off Cascade in a 71-52 win.

Forrest was lights out from the perimeter in the opening quarter and thanks to eight points from Lady Rocket sophomore Kinslee Inlow, built a 28-9 lead by the end of the quarter.

Aside from that lop-sided opening frame, Cascade essentially played Forrest even through the remaining three quarters.

Senior Macyn Kirby drilled a corner three-pointer with 5:31 left in the first and never let off the throttle.

Forrest knocked down five treys in the opening quarter and it wasn't until Sophie Ray caught fire in the third did Cascade's

offense find its rhythm.

Ray scored eight points in the third, but went on to finish with a team-high 25 points.

Fouls became an issue in the second half and as a team, Cascade made a living at the charity stripe.

After going 4-for-7 at the line in the first half, Cascade shot a much more efficient 15-of-20 in the second half.

While Ray was providing the bulk of the offense for Cascade by attacking the paint, Inlow added another 14 points in the second half to finish with a game-high 31 points.

Isabella Rhodes joined Ray in double figures and finished with 11.

With the regular season in the books, it will be a Forrest-Cascade rematch as the No. 2 and No. 3 seeds meet in the District 7-AA semifinals on Thursday night at 7:30 p.m.

Cascade	9	8	15	20	—	52
Forrest	28	9	17	17	—	71



Hailey Giel takes a hard foul and gets to the line in the third quarter.

Cascade: Sophie Ray 25, Isabella Rhodes 11, Laina Carter 5, Kaegan Young 3, Kaydence Miller 3, Hailey Giel 2, Kaydence Bynum 2, Sarah Floyd.
Forrest: Kinslee Inlow 31, Macyn Kirby 10, Megan Mealer 7, Meagan Scaggs 4, Carli Warner 4, Kaylin Pope 4, Samantha Hopkins 4, Josie Brown 3, Camreigh Warner 2, Neveah Patterson 2.
3-Point goals: Forrest (7): Inlow 4, Kirby, Mealer, Brown; Cascade (2): Carter, Miller.
Halftime score: Forrest 35, Cascade 17.

Outstanding Hurts effort falls short

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Pro Football Writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Whether it was through the air or on the ground, Jalen Hurts dominated the Super Bowl offensively for the Philadelphia Eagles.

It just wasn't enough to outduel Patrick Mahomes.

Hurts delivered a record performance on football's biggest stage, throwing for 304 yards and a touchdown, running for 70 yards and three scores and adding a game-tying 2-point conversion.

But Hurts could only watch from the sideline as Mahomes drove the Chiefs to the go-ahead field goal with 8 seconds remaining for a 38-35 victory on Sunday.

"It's tough," Hurts said. "We worked really hard to have this opportunity and to come up short it's tough. There's always a lot to learn from, to have an opportunity to reflect on some of the things we didn't do and could have done. There is a lot to learn from tonight."

Despite ending up with the loss, Hurts put together one of the most prolific games in Super Bowl history, but became the first QB ever to lose the big game while leading his team to at least 35 points.

He set the record for most yards rushing ever by a quarterback in a Super Bowl, he tied Terrell Davis' record for most TD runs by any player, tied James White's mark with 20 points scored and joined Hall of Famers Steve Young and Joe Montana as the only players ever to account for at least 370 yards and four TDs (rushing and passing) in a Super Bowl.

"Jalen played the best game I've seen him play and in the two years we've been together," coach Nick Sirianni said. "He was outstanding. I really thought he was in complete control and he did things with his legs in the run game, he did things with his arm in the pass game, made some unbelievable throws, unbelievable reads. I thought he played outstanding."

But the breakthrough season that ended with Hurts as the runner-up to Mahomes in the MVP voting also led him to be runner-up in the Super Bowl as Hurts became the first player to lose a Super Bowl despite accounting for four touchdowns.

Hurts started the game fast and never slowed down — but couldn't get a chance to win it at the end thanks to a defensive holding call against James Bradberry that gave the Chiefs a first down in field-goal range and helped them run out almost the entire clock.

Hurts had one last chance and his desperation pass fell way short and he waked off the field in dejection.

It was a crushing way to end a brilliant performance.

"Jalen played a hell of a game," center Jason Kelce said. "On ground through the air. He made obviously some huge throws. Both offenses came ready to go. It was kind of one of those things where probably whoever had the ball last was going to be in a good situation. We knew if we gave it back with five minutes (remaining), you're hoping somebody makes a play. But that's a tough task. Patrick Mahomes is MVP for a reason."

Hurts scored on one of his patented sneaks on the opening drive, delivered a 45-yard scoring strike to A.J. Brown on the first play of the second quarter, added a 4-yard run late in the second quarter and then engineered a signature drive in the fourth quarter.

He connected on a 45-yard pass to DeVonta Smith and then capped off the drive with a 2-yard run. He then ran it in himself for the game-tying 2-point conversion but was mostly a spectator after that.

"That was a special performance that I don't want to get lost because of the loss they had," Mahomes said.

About the only thing Hurts didn't do right came when he fumbled while switching hands holding the ball, leading to a 36-yard fumble return TD for Nick Bolton in the first half.

"I touch the ball every play so obviously you want to protect it," Hurts said. "It hurt us. You never know what play it will be, but it hurt us."

But that one mistake did little to slow down Hurts, who converted a 28-yard run on a fourth-down keeper on the next drive to set up his second TD run of the game from 4 yards.

Spring training's start brings pitch clocks, shift limits

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

PALM BEACH, Fla. — Jeff McNeil thinks he'll adapt quickly to baseball's big shift — really, an anti-shift.

"I'm playing a normal second base now instead of in short right field. I've been playing second base my whole life so it shouldn't be too hard to adjust to," the New York Mets All-Star

infielder and big league batting champion said.

Spring training opens Monday in Florida and Arizona for players reporting early ahead of the World Baseball Classic, and the rest of pitchers and catchers will start workouts two days later.

Following an offseason of record spending in which the New York Mets approached a \$370 million payroll, open-

ing day on March 30 will feature three of the biggest changes since the pitcher's mound was lowered for the 1969 season:

— Two infielders will be required on either side of second base and all infielders must be within the outer boundary of the infield when the pitcher is on the rubber.

— Base size will increase to 18-inch squares from 15 inches, causing a decreased

distance of 4 1/2 inches.

— A pitch clock will be used, set at 15 seconds with no runners on base and 20 seconds with runners.

"This has been an eight-year effort for us," MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred said Thursday, thinking back to when the first experiments were formulated. "I hope we get what our fans want — faster, more action, more athleticism."

MLB may take over local TV broadcasts

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

PALM BEACH, Fla. — About \$1 billion of Major League Baseball's revenue is at risk if a cable television company fails to make payments for local broadcasting rights to 14 teams, and the sport is preparing to take over telecasts.

"I think you should assume that if Diamond doesn't broadcast, we'll be in a position to step in," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said Thursday after an owners' meeting. "Our goal would be to make games available not only within the traditional cable bundle but on the digital side, as well."

Sinclair acquired 21 regional sports networks in 2019 from The Walt Disney Co., which had taken them over as part of its purchase of 21st Century Fox. Sinclair also holds rights to 16 NBA teams and 12 NHL franchises, and teams fear in an era of cord-cutting they may not get payments from

Diamond Sports Group, the Sinclair Broadcast Group subsidiary operating the networks under the name Bally Sports.

"What we do is largely dependent on how Diamond and the creditors play their cards, what they decide to do," Manfred said. "Our No. 1 goal in terms of preparations is that if for some reason Diamond isn't broadcasting, that we want to be in a position to make sure our fans are going to get their games."

Asked whether \$1 billion or \$2 billion was at stake, Manfred said: "Closer with the first number than the second."

Billy Chambers, who had been Sinclair's chief financial offer, started work this month with MLB in a new position as executive vice president for local media.

Diamond owns rights to local broadcasts for the Arizona Diamondbacks, Atlanta Braves, Cincinnati Reds, Cleveland Guardians,

Detroit Tigers, Kansas City Royals, Los Angeles Angels, Miami Marlins, Milwaukee Brewers, Minnesota Twins, St. Louis Cardinals, San Diego Padres, Tampa Bay Rays and Texas Rangers.

Baseball executives met at The Breakers, a 97-year-old Renaissance Revival style hotel. The lobby was filled with a mix of baseball executives and women in pink floral summer dresses, some in hats, attending the Breast Cancer Research Foundation's Palm Beach Hot Pink Luncheon and Symposium.

Oakland/Las Vegas ballpark

On other major topic, Manfred said he views the Athletics' search for a new ballpark as "Oakland and/or Las Vegas."

"This year they kind of got a deadline," he said. "They need to have an agreement in place by next January — really important from the perspective of the club."

Rays ballpark

Tampa Bay announced plans on Jan. 30 to build a ballpark near Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg. The team has been searching for a new stadium for 15 years, and owner Stu Sternberg says the Rays can't afford to stay in their current ballpark when their lease expires after the 2027 season.

"We did not talk about the Rays situation," Manfred said. "Everything that's happened recently Stu covered in great detail in the last owners meeting. We had a nice layout of what was coming, so there was no real update there."

Starting extra innings with runner on second

The rule was adopted as a pandemic measure for the 2020 season and appears likely to stay.

"The clubs discussed the permanence of that rule. It's got to go back to the on-

field committee," Manfred said. "Clubs have gotten used to the extra-innings rule. I think it's generally well-liked by players. I don't bet on anything, but if you were going to make a bet, it think it's a pretty good bet it's going to continue."

Revenue disparity

A new committee on economic reform met this week.

"Revenue disparity, really important topic in the industry right now. It's not unrelated to the local media issues," Manfred said.

Manfred said MLB had \$10.8 billion in revenue last year. Some teams have become alarmed the New York Mets, entering their third season under owner Steve Cohen, have increased payroll to about \$370 million — well above the record \$291 million of the 2015 Los Angeles Dodgers.

"I think people know what happened in the

winter. I think that they understand that it happened within the confines of the system they negotiated and beating your gums about it doesn't accomplish a lot," Manfred said. "In aggregate, I think that the group has matured into better."

Executive council

San Francisco chairman Greg Johnson replaced Colorado chairman Dick Montfort and Cleveland chairman Paul Dolan replaced Boston principal owner John Henry on the executive council.

The council also includes Los Angeles Dodgers chairman Mark Walter and Detroit Tigers chairman Christopher Ilitch (whose terms expire in 2024); Philadelphia managing partner John Middleton and Kansas City chairman John Sherman (2025) and Arizona managing general partner Ken Kendrick and Seattle chairman John Stanton (2026)



AP Photo by Marcio J. Sanchez

Kansas City Chiefs place kicker Harrison Butker (7) kicks the game-winning field goal.

Mahomes' magic leads Chiefs in Super Bowl

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Patrick Mahomes was magical when the Kansas City Chiefs desperately needed him to pull off another Super Bowl comeback.

Playing on an injured ankle, Mahomes threw two touchdown passes in the fourth quarter and scrambled 26 yards on the go-ahead drive before Harrison Butker kicked a 27-yard field goal with 8 seconds left to give the Chiefs a 38-35 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday night.

The Chiefs won their second NFL title in four years and two-time NFL MVP Mahomes earned his second Super Bowl MVP award.

"I thought guys just embraced the moment," Mahomes said about rallying from a 10-point halftime deficit. "In that first half, we were playing and doing some good stuff, but I felt like the guys were getting consumed by everything around us."

Mahomes and Jalen Hurts excelled in the first Super Bowl matchup featuring two Black starting QBs. But Mahomes turned it up in the second half after reaggravating a sprained right ankle.

"It took everybody to win the game," Mahomes shouted as red and yellow confetti littered the field.

Coach Andy Reid, who couldn't win the big game in Philadelphia, beat his former team to earn his second ring with Mahomes and the Chiefs.

"We wanted to get this so bad for him," Travis Kelce said. "His legacy in Philly lives on forever. ... There's a lot of pride in knowing that he's had success in two different organizations, but this



was the better one."

With the score tied at 35-35, the Eagles tried to let the Chiefs score a touchdown with under two minutes left so they could get the ball back after a defensive holding call on cornerback James Bradberry on third-and-8 gave Kansas City a first down. But Jerick McKinnon slid at the 2, forcing the Eagles to use their last timeout.

"It was holding. I tugged his jersey. I was hoping they would let it slide," Bradberry said.

After Mahomes took a knee twice, Butker nailed his kick, sending thousands of red-clad Chiefs fans into a frenzy.

"It feels amazing just to see the confetti," said Butker, who missed a 42-yarder in the first quarter. "I just tried to focus on one kick and focusing on the process."

The Chiefs won their second Super Bowl following the 2019 season, 50 years after the first one. Mahomes led them back from a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter against San Francisco in that one. It took just three years to get another Lombardi.

Chiefs fans were outnumbered in the stadium, but did their part to silence the boisterous Philly fans with the tomahawk chop chant.

Down 24-14 with a limping Mahomes, the Chiefs (17-3)

followed up Rihanna's electrifying halftime performance with a sensational offensive outburst.

Mahomes, who suffered a high ankle sprain in the divisional round, hurt it again on a 3-yard scramble late in the second quarter. He limped off the field but showed no ill effects on Kansas City's next possession.

"I knew it was pretty bad when he got up limping but I knew it wasn't gonna be bad enough to where he was gonna pull himself off the field," Chiefs offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy said. "If we would've pulled him off, I would've had to fight him. He would've probably fought me. And so it wasn't worth entertaining."

Mahomes slipped — several players lost their footing on the natural grass surface — in the pocket yet somehow regained his balance and scrambled 14 yards to the Eagles 4, setting up Isiah Pacheco's 1-yard TD run that cut the deficit to 24-21.

Mahomes then tossed a 5-yard TD pass to a wide-open Kadarius Toney to give Kansas City its first lead, 28-27, early in the fourth quarter.

After the Chiefs tightened up their defense, forcing Philly to punt, Toney returned a line-drive kick 65 yards to the Eagles 5 for

the longest punt return in Super Bowl history.

On third down from the 4, Mahomes connected with Skyy Moore to extend their lead to 35-27. Moore also was wide open on the play.

But the Eagles wouldn't go away.

Hurts hit DeVonta Smith for a 45-yard gain to the Chiefs 2 and ran in for his third score of the game. He also ran in for the 2-point conversion to tie it at 35-35 with 5:15 to go.

As "Fly! Eagles! Fly!" reverberated throughout the stadium, Mahomes and the Chiefs went back to work.

The 27-year-old Mahomes became the third player to win his second NFL MVP award before age 28. He also became the youngest QB to start three Super Bowls. Mahomes finally broke the MVP curse, becoming the first player to win the Super Bowl the same season after nine straight players lost.

Just five years after winning the first Super Bowl in franchise history, the Eagles (16-4) came close with a different coach and new quarterback. Nick Sirianni replaced Doug Pederson in 2021 and Hurts took over for Carson Wentz in late 2020.

Hurts set a Super Bowl record with 70 yards rushing and tied a record with three rushing scores. He also threw for 304 yards and one TD.

"We use this pain, we use this failure to motivate us so we can make it a strength," Sirianni said.

Hurts, who missed two games late in the season with a shoulder injury, had TD runs of 1 and 4 yards in the first half along with a 45-yard TD pass to A.J. Brown.

But Hurts also made a rare mistake when he fumbled without

being hit while scrambling away from pressure. Nick Bolton picked it up and raced 36 yards for a score that made it 14-14. Hurts had just eight turnovers this season, six picks and two fumbles.

Mahomes finished 21 of 27 for 182 yards with three TDs and no turnovers. He ran for 44 yards.

Mahomes connected with Kelce on an 18-yard TD pass in the right corner to tie it at 7-7 in the first quarter. The Chiefs' All-Pro tight end and Eagles All-Pro center Jason Kelce became the first set of brothers to play against each other in the Super Bowl.

Their mom, Donna Kelce, wore a half-red, half-green jersey with No. 87 on the front for Travis and No. 62 on the back for Jason. She sat in a suite between NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and Damar Hamlin.

Eagles fans turned State Farm Stadium into a sea of green, chanting "E-A-G-L-E-S!" and singing the team's fight song after each score. But they left disappointed.

Reid won more games than any coach in team history during 14 seasons with the Eagles but the one knock against him was that he couldn't win the big one. Reid finally earned his ring in his seventh season with the Chiefs. They went back the next year and lost to Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Reid, who turns 65 next month, ended any speculation about his potential retirement.

"If they'll have me, I'll stick around," he said.

The first Super Bowl involving both No. 1 seeds since the Eagles beat the Patriots 41-33 in February 2018 lived up to its hype. It was the third-highest scoring Super Bowl and the Eagles scored the most points by a losing team.

This year's Super Bowl had feel-good vibes for all

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. — The Super Bowl had something for everyone.

Long before Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs lifted the Vince Lombardi Trophy, the biggest winner of this NFL season walked onto the field. Damar Hamlin came out to a rousing ovation during a pregame ceremony honoring the men and women who saved his life.

Hamlin's third appearance of the week was the best feel-good moment on a day filled with many inspirational themes.

Mahomes and Jalen Hurts put on a historic show

in the first Super Bowl featuring two Black starting quarterbacks. Hurts was spectacular but Mahomes played through an ankle injury and rallied the Chiefs from a 10-point deficit for a 38-35 comeback win over the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday night.

It was yet another lesson on dealing with adversity and rising to the occasion playing out before hundreds of millions of viewers on the sport's biggest stage.

"I appreciate it because of the failures," Mahomes said about winning his second championship in four years. "I mean the failure of losing a Super Bowl and losing the AFC champi-

onship game gives you a greater appreciation to be standing here as a champion."

Brotherhood was on display in the first Super Bowl matchup involving two brothers playing on different teams. Chiefs All-Pro tight end Travis Kelce caught a touchdown pass to help his team topple All-Pro center Jason Kelce and the Eagles. Mama Kelce was everywhere throughout the week and sat between NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and Hamlin in a suite.

"There's nothing I can say to him other than I love him and he played a hell of a year, a hell of a sea-

son," Travis Kelce said. "To see my family be in all its glory and get all its flowers, my mom be the center of attention on the Jumbotron before the game on the biggest stage and being able to get closer with my brother throughout the season and to meet him at the mountain top, it's the best feeling in the world. I don't know how many more I got left, but I'll cherish this one forever."

Donna Kelce was the most popular mother in Arizona until Rihanna showed up for a scintillating halftime show. The superstar singer kicked off and finished her superb performance soaring high above the slippery field sur-

face on a platform that was suspended in the air.

And, she did it while pregnant. Rihanna's representative confirmed afterward that she's pregnant with her second child.

"So iconic for Rihanna to let an American football game happen at her pregnancy reveal/concert," a fan wrote on Twitter.

Even the commercials had a warm, fuzzy vibe. Advertisers used familiar celebrity faces, light humor and plenty of cute dogs in ads that cost as much as \$7 million for 30 seconds.

About the only negative on Super Sunday was a controversial penalty on the final drive of the

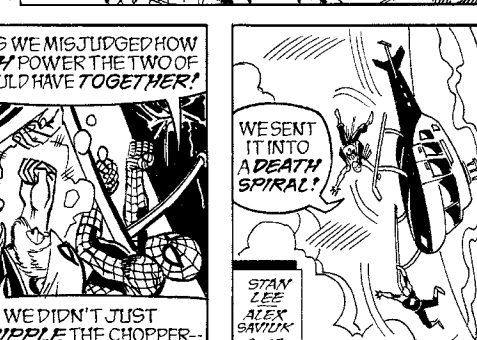
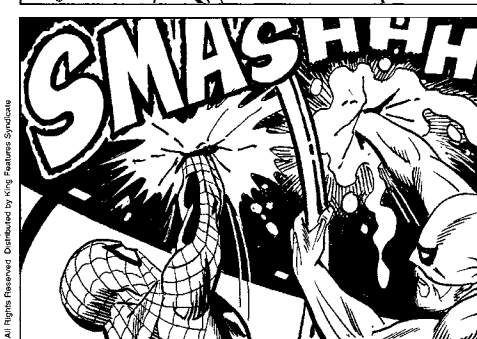
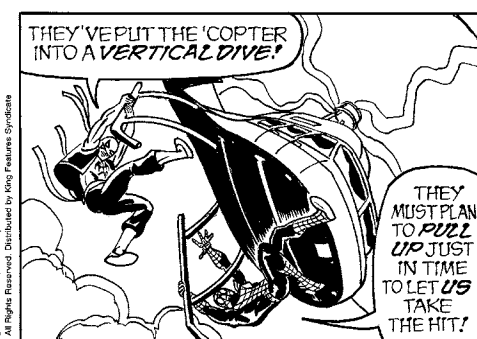
game that left viewers feeling angry that officiating again impacted a playoff game. A defensive holding call on Eagles cornerback James Bradberry allowed Kansas City to keep the ball, run down the clock and Harrison Butker kicked the go-ahead 27-yard field goal with 8 seconds left.

But Bradberry quickly squashed the outrage, saying he held the receiver.

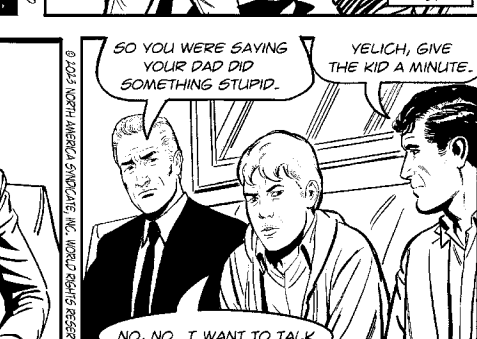
"It was a holding. I tugged his jersey. I was hoping they would let it slide," Bradberry said.

On a day filled with unifying events, Bradberry's acknowledgement was a prime example of losing with dignity.

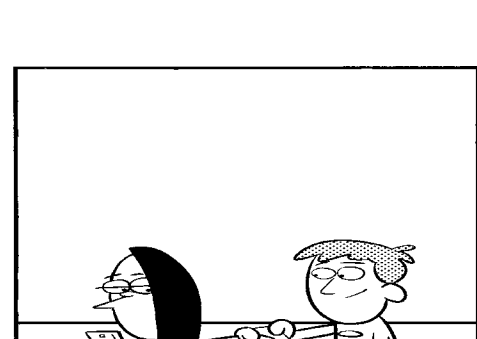
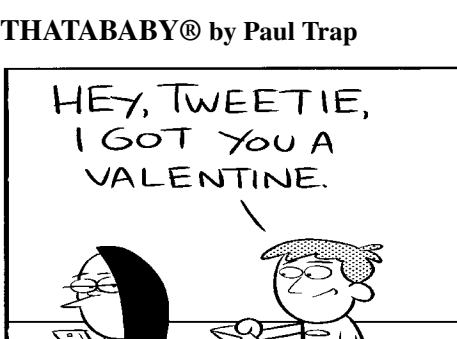
THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN® by Stan Lee-Larry Lieber



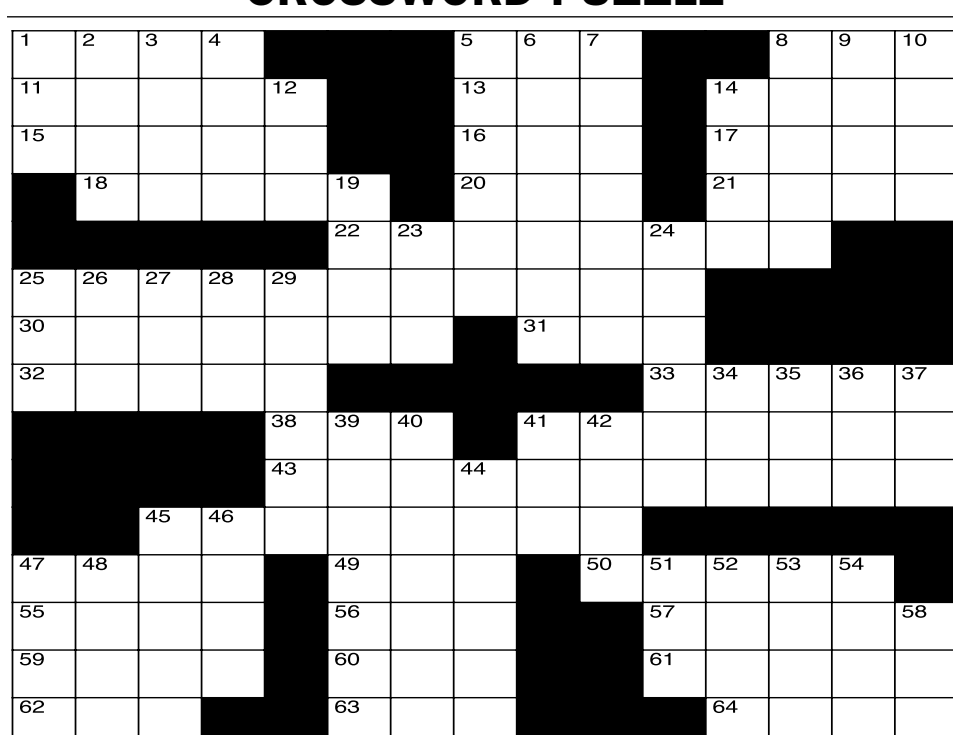
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



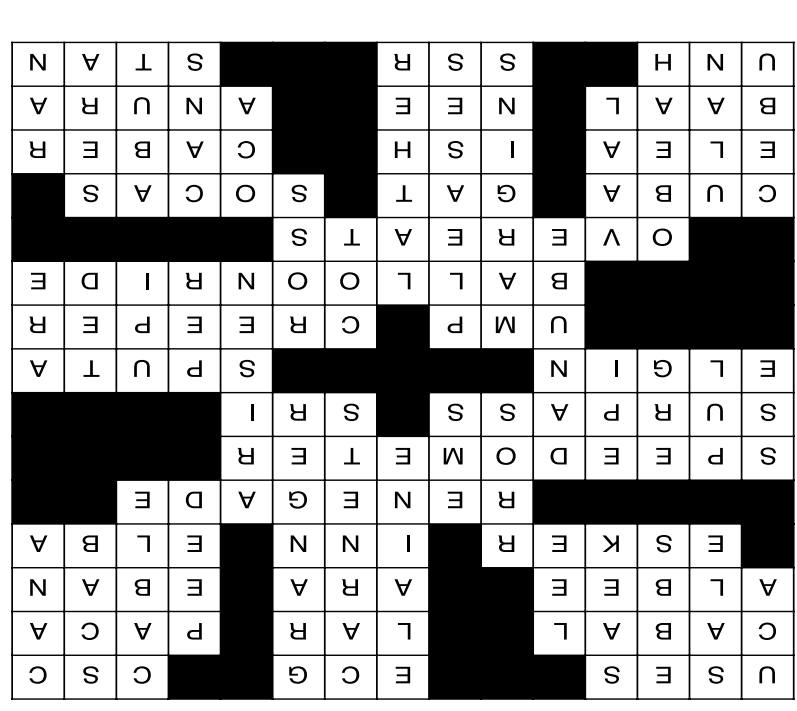
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Functions
- 5. Records electric currents associated with contractions of the heart
- 8. Trigonometric function (abbr.)
- 11. Secret political clique
- 13. Type of gibbon
- 14. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 15. Famed American playwright
- 16. Mesopotamian goddess
- 17. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 18. Long ridge of gravel and sediment
- 20. A place to stay
- 21. Actor Idris
- 22. One who behaves in a rebellious way
- 25. A way to measure movement
- 30. Distinguish oneself
- 31. Type of drug (abbr.)
- 32. Basketball great Baylor
- 33. Masses of salivary matter
- 38. Calls balls and strikes
- 41. Plant that grows along the ground
- 43. A recreational activity in the air
- 45. Consumes too much
- 47. Island nation
- 49. Pistol
- 50. Mixtures of soul and calypso
- 55. Ancient Greek City
- 56. Similar
- 57. Roughly trimmed tree trunk used in a Scottish game
- 59. Semitic fertility god
- 60. Born of
- 61. Frogs, toads, tree toads
- 62. School in the northeast (abbr.)
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. " __ the Man" Musical, baseball player

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Fiddler crabs
- 2. Discount
- 3. Partner to "flows"
- 4. Ethnic group of Laos
- 5. Beloved "Seinfeld" character
- 6. Book of tickets
- 7. The last name of "Hermione"
- 8. Type of TV package
- 9. Helps to heal a cut
- 10. Town in Galilee
- 12. Actor Polecus
- 14. "Hocus Pocus 2" actor Ed
- 19. Bird-loving group (abbr.)
- 23. They respond when someone is sick
- 24. Emerged
- 25. Midway between south and southeast
- 26. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
- 27. Unit of work or energy
- 28. Indicates near
- 29. Famed river
- 34. For each
- 35. News organization
- 36. CNN's founder
- 37. They __
- 39. Areas off to the side
- 40. Satisfies
- 41. A spare bed
- 42. Legendary singer Diana
- 44. Frothy mass of bubbles
- 45. A kind of sorcery
- 46. River in South Africa
- 47. Philippine Island
- 48. County in China
- 51. S. American plant
- 52. Beverage containers
- 53. Edge
- 54. Protein-rich liquids
- 58. Moved quickly on foot

PUZZLE SOLUTION



ASTROGRAPH

- ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20**
You might feel caught up in a daze this week, Aries. Your mind continues to wander, but your thoughts will settle down soon enough.
- TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21**
Make an effort to bring more people onto your side, Taurus. You can't possibly win everyone over, but others might be receptive to your ideas with the right approach.
- GEMINI - May 22/June 21**
A sit down with a higher-up could be in order soon, Gemini. Explain your attributes and what you have been doing for the company and make an effort to compromise, if necessary.
- CANCER - June 22/July 22**
Cancer, you are still following through with resolutions to be more organized. Start slowly and build up to bigger projects when you gain confidence in your abilities.
- LEO - July 23/Aug 23**
Celestial energy has you temporarily doubting your abilities, Leo. Normally you are quite confident in your creativity. Give things a little time to settle down.
- VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22**
Virgo, excitement could be on the horizon. Caution is needed, but don't hesitate to embrace the renewed vigor this development inspires.
- LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23**
Libra, this week you may start micromanaging other people without even realizing it. You certainly want things to be in order, but sometimes you have to let others be.
- SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22**
Retail therapy has its allure this week, Scorpio. If you must buy, direct your purchasing dollars toward a sweetheart for Valentine's Day or another special occasion.
- SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21**
Sagittarius, ground yourself with the small luxuries in your life that bring you joy. This could be the company of friends or cherished mementos.
- CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20**
Misinformation seems to circulate with ease, but don't believe everything you hear this week, Capricorn. You may need to do some fact-checking of your own.
- AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18**
Aquarius, you could be tempted to indulge in a little gossip as the rumors start flying this week. Take the high road and resist the urge to join in.
- PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20**
Pisces, if you feel a little off your game this week, find a friend who can offer you a pep talk. That's all you need to bounce back.

- FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**
- FEBRUARY 12**
Judy Blume, Author (85)
- FEBRUARY 13**
Robbie Williams, Singer (49)
- FEBRUARY 14**
Freddie Highmore, Actor (31)
- FEBRUARY 15**
Megan Thee Stallion, Rapper (28)
- FEBRUARY 16**
The Weeknd, Singer (33)
- FEBRUARY 17**
Chord Overstreet, Actor (34)
- FEBRUARY 18**
Dr. Dre, Rapper (58)

TUESDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 14, 2023

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, etc.) listing program titles and descriptions.

WEDNESDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 15, 2023

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, etc.) listing program titles and descriptions.

THURSDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 16, 2023

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, etc.) listing program titles and descriptions.

FRIDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 17, 2023

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, etc.) listing program titles and descriptions.

SATURDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 18, 2023

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, etc.) listing program titles and descriptions.

SUNDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 19, 2023

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, etc.) listing program titles and descriptions.

MONDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 20, 2023

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, etc.) listing program titles and descriptions.

TUESDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 21, 2023

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, etc.) listing program titles and descriptions.



Tri-Lakes Honor Band



This year marked the 48th occurrence of the Tri-Lakes Honor Band Clinic, which featured the top performing instrumental students from 25 different schools within the Tri-Lakes region (Normandy Lake, Tims Ford Lake, & Woods Reservoir). The Bedford County schools that were represented include Community Middle, Harris Middle, Liberty School, Community High School, & Shelbyville Central High School -- 63 BCS students in all. During this two-day event students auditioned for chair placement, formed two new ensembles (one junior high and one senior high), rehearsed new music, and performed two concerts (with only eight hours of rehearsal time). The clinic was hosted at Harris Middle School.

Submitted photos



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Roses

*Just another bouquet of roses
What shall I do with them
On this day of love
Then this marvelous idea pops into my mind
A grin so bright, others crave the light
One by one
The roses given left and right
A few shared hugs and smiles
One cannot help but feel the warmth
"Happy Valentine's Day" said so sweetly
One more remains
A task so rewarding
As I extend my hand out
Cupid raises his brow
"This one is for you"
-S. Mae*