

# SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

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

75 CENTS

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023

www.t-g.com

## Storming the court



The Community Viqueens run out of the tunnel in the Murphy Center during Friday night's Class 2A state semifinal game against Westview. For more Community state tournament coverage, see page B1.

T-G Photo by Chris Siers

## City tax of \$1.36 gains support

By DAVID MELSON  
dmelson@t-g.com

Shelbyville City Council voted unanimously at Thursday night's March meeting to return the city property tax rate to \$1.36 per \$100 of assessed value.

City Attorney Ginger Shofner reminded the council that the tax rate must be based on next fiscal year's finalized budget to be completed in June. That makes Thursday's vote largely symbolic, since a tax rate for next fiscal year can't be officially reset based on this year's budget.

Council member Henry Feldhaus proposed the \$1.36 rate. He pointed out that in February the newly elected council members supported a \$1.48 rate.

"I believe the voters in November spoke clearly by electing the slate of candidates whose clear campaign message was lower taxes," Feldhaus read from a written statement. "I believe the November voters are expecting the tax rate of \$1.36."

"I will not vote for the \$1.48 rate because I believe we should support the lower rate" which Feldhaus says voters were promised and expected. "We should not allow a 'bait and switch' game of politics to fool the voters."

Feldhaus said the \$1.59 tax rate in place for the past two years "provided the city with revenues to fund the recent 231 Industrial Park announcements with high paying jobs and the largest capital investments in Shelbyville's history. We funded the Duksan announcement, purchased

▶ See Tax, Page 2A

## Workforce initiatives

Local/3A



## Fans cheer Viqueens

Local/8A



## Daffodils blossom in Bell Buckle

T-G STAFF REPORT

Springtime – a time for renewal. A time for new beginnings. A time for nature to shine in all its glory. A time for new leaves and new blossoms.

It's Bell Buckle's time to shine with the town's annual Daffodil Day, along with a Best of The Butts BBQ Cook Off.

Spring is celebrated in Bell Buckle with all the accolades going to the thousands of daffodils planted in and around the town in Tennessee.

to celebrate, Bell Buckle pulls out the welcome mat painted on its downtown Quilt Square with a huge variety of daffodils to choose

from. There's also music on the square and a free tree seedling give away. This year's seedlings are Chinkapin Oak, Dogwood, and Common Persimmon.

Activities include the Bell Buckle Daffodil Flower Show with categories for singles, arrangements, and even a youth category. The show will be held at Bell Buckle Bethany Hall. Go to bellbucklechamber.com for more information on entering including times, rules, and instructions on the different daffodil classes.

Barbecue grill masters will convene at the Bell Buckle Event Lot behind the downtown stores (just follow your nose!) to crank up

those smokers and get those butts in gear to decide who has the best Butt in Bell Buckle. The People's Choice contest gives everyone a chance to sample each entry and vote on your favorite. Cost is \$10. Winners for the Best Butt, Captain Rodney Anything Butt Category, and People's Choice will be announced on the Bell Buckle Event Lot stage at 4pm.

An Arbor Day ceremony will begin downtown at 2 p.m. Bell Buckle will be recognized as a Tree City USA for the 23rd year. The Bell Buckle Citizen of the Year will be announced, as well as the town's Notable Tree.

## New shoes for Southside Elementary

T-G STAFF REPORT

Samaritan's Feet representative Alicia Morrow met with the teachers at Southside Elementary Friday to present the plan to distribute free tennis shoes to all students at the elementary school.

This is part of an initiative by Nashville Market's cityCURRENT and their events manager Eileen Vick. Eileen along with her husband, Greg Vick, are hoping to expand this program to other schools in Bedford.

"We can use this here in Bedford County. I wanted to find a way we can introduce this to our kids because most of this is done in inner city schools. But poverty goes everywhere..." said Greg Vick. The sponsor for the shoes from Samaritan's Feet was given by The Boedecker Foundation after a collaboration was made by Tennessee Downs Auto Club.

A \$10,000 donation was made as a result. That \$10,000 covers the cost of 487 shoes, according to Vick, which fit the population of Southside Elementary. Vick said through this first initiative in Bedford, they hope



T-G Photo by Zoe Watkins

Teachers at Southside, above, pose with representatives from Samaritan's Feet, Tennessee Downs, and cityCURRENT. Students at Southside will get a free pair of unbranded shoes and a pair of new socks.

to garner more sponsors in the upcoming years to provide shoes to all the elementaries.

Volunteers will assist in sorting shoes, socks, sizes and backpacks that will be distributed to all students at Southside Elementary on May 19.

Samaritan's Feet is a humanitarian aid organization that provides shoes to those in need around the world.

Since its founding in 2003, Samaritan's Feet and its partners have served people across 109 countries and 550 U.S. cities. They have distributed 9.3

million shoes around the world and hope to reach 10 million this year.

According to Morrow, some 1.5 billion people around the world are affected by diseases transmitted from the soil to bare feet.

And students who do not have good shoes — ones that are broken or don't fit — tend to isolate themselves, especially when doing physical activities.

The sponsors and collaborators of the event know the meaning of a good pair of shoes.

▶ See Shoes, Page 2A



## Tide is top seed

Sports/3B

A PRIZE WINNING NEWSPAPER

UT-TPA PRESS AWARDS 2022



Vol. 142, No. 21



## DEATH NOTICES

### Lina 'Meg' Hawkins

March 2, 2023

Lina "Meg" Hawkins, age 63, of Nashville, a native of Shelbyville, passed away Thursday, March 2, 2023.

Funeral services were Saturday, March 11, at King Solomon Missionary Church in Nashville. Burial followed in Willow Mount Cemetery in Shelbyville.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel assisted the family with arrangements.

## OBITUARIES

### Corey Kay Curlee Bates

March 10, 2023

Funeral services for Corey Kay Curlee Bates, age 37, of Shelbyville, will be held 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at Fairlane Church of Christ with Jeff Smith officiating.

Entombment will follow at Rosebank Cemetery in Flat Creek. Corey passed from this life Friday, March 10, 2023, at her home under the care of her family and Avenna Hospice.

Corey was born on April 2, 1985 in Shelbyville, to Larry Curlee and the late Betty G. Potts Curlee.

She was a 2003 graduate of Shelbyville Central High School, where she was a four-year starter on the softball team, having accumulated many individual awards, and would be named "Best All Around" by her high school class; an award that she was very proud of. She attended and played softball at Motlow State Community College before gaining a softball scholarship to the University of West Alabama where she received a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She was a softball standout in high school and in college during her playing career, her love for the game and teaching would continue. After college she taught elementary school and coached softball for Sumter Academy in Alabama. Upon returning to Bedford County she taught at Southside Elementary and was an assistant coach with Shelbyville Central High School. Later she would stop coaching to raise her daughter but continued teaching until her health prohibited. During her teaching career she was kind and compassionate often going well out of her way to make sure her school children always had the extra time, love and attention that they needed. She was a faithful member of Southside Church of Christ and always loved attending with her family. She also loved to travel to different destinations, especially to Disney World.

Along with her father survivors include: her loving husband of 10 years, Adam Bates; and daughter, Madelyn Grace "Maddie" Bates. all of Shelbyville.

Memorial donations may be made to Southside Church of Christ by mail: 108 Narrows Rd. Shelbyville, TN 37160. Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family. www.doakhowellfuneralhome.com



### Fannie Lucille Jones

March 13, 2023

Fannie Lucille Jones, age 91, of Shelbyville, passed from this life early Monday, March 13, 2023, at her home surrounded by family after an extended illness.

Fannie was born November 14, 1931, in Lynchburg to the late Obie and Ida Ruth Bledsoe McGee. Along with her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Valter Ray Jones; brother, Louis McGee; sisters, Margaret Nichols and Barbara Hewy; and brothers-in-law, Kenneth Nichols, Rick Woods and George Hewy.

She is survived by: children, Ray (Betty) Demonbreum of Shelbyville, Judy Prosser of Shelbyville, Sheila (Charlie) Collins of Shelbyville, Tim (Cathy) Demonbreum of Unionville, Joyce (Craig) Taylor of Shelbyville; 16 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren with one on the way, 14 great-great-grandchildren with another on the way; sister, Sherly Woods of Crossville; and brothers, Roger McGee and Richard (Nancy) McGee, both of Lynchburg.

Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. Thursday, March 16, 2023 in the chapel of Doak-Howell Funeral Home with Pastor Mike Hannah officiating. Burial will follow at Willow Mt. Cemetery.



## OBITUARIES

Visitation will be held 4 p.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday, March 15, at Doak-Howell Funeral Home.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Red Cross, www.redcross.org, or by mail: PO Box 37839, Boone, IA 50037-0839.

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

### Joanna T. McCullough

March 2, 2023

Joanna T. McCullough, age 89, of Shelbyville, passed from this life early Thursday morning, March 2, 2023, at her daughter's home in Yucca Valley, California, after a brief illness.

Joanna was born on July 7th, 1933, in Shelbyville to the late J.R. (Hop) and Pauline Landers Turner. Along with her parents she was preceded in death by her husband of 66 years, Walter Clarence (Top) McCullough

Joanna was a 1951 graduate of Shelbyville Central High School, and worked at the Shelbyville Times-Gazette and The National Store before becoming a mother and devoted housewife. She was strong in her Christian faith having been a faithful member of Fellowship for Christ Church for over 25 years.

She was a loving and caring friend, mother and grandmother. Mee Maw, as she was affectionally known, lived a full life. She was a committed volunteer for many organizations in Shelbyville including the Shelbyville Recreation Center, Bedford County Nursing home, and her church. She was an avid walker in her younger years. She was known to walk 20+ miles a day with her friends, once walking all the way to Tullahoma.

Survivors include: children, daughter Nena McCullough (Edward Corrick) of Yucca Valley, CA. son John (Lisa) McCullough of Shelbyville; grandchildren, Amanda (Shawn) Cook, Corven Corrick; and one great-grandson, Leon Cook.

Services will be held on Saturday, March 18 at 1 p.m. at Fellowship Christ Church with Pastor Ray Armstrong officiating. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens.

Visitation will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday at the church.

Memorial donations may be made to Fellowship for Christ Church, 142 Richdale Lane. Shelbyville, TN 37160 or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org or by mail: 501 St. Jude Pl, Memphis, TN 38105.

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



### Denise Renee Stevens

March 9, 2023

Denise Renee Stevens, age 66, of Shelbyville passed from this life late Thursday evening, March 9, 2023, at her home with loved ones by her side after an extended illness.

Born December 15, 1956, in Mineral Wells, Texas, Denise was the daughter of the late Joe L. and Patricia Sandy Shrader.

She was a loving and caring wife, mother, grandmother and Christian woman. By trade she was a wonderful homemaker and for seven years she and her daughter owned and operated The White Door boutique in Shelbyville.

She is survived by: loving husband of 40 years, Mark A. Stevens of Shelbyville; children, Ashley (Mike) Wilhoite Parker of Shelbyville and Garrett (Tamara) Wagner of Murfreesboro; grandchildren, Knox, Parker, Emery Catherine and Bryce; and brother, Jeff Shrader of Florida.

Graveside service will be held 12 noon Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at Rosebank Cemetery in Flat Creek with Brother Drew Hayes officiating.

Visitation will be held 5-8 p.m. Tuesday at Doak-Howell Funeral Home.

Memorial donations may be made to First Choice Pregnancy Counseling Center, 1102 Madison St, Shelbyville, TN 37160.

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



## Shoes

(Continued from Page 1)

George B. Boedecker Jr., an entrepreneur and humanitarian who created the foundation in 2009, is the principal founder and

creative force behind Cross, Inc.

Additionally, cityCURENT, a privately funded entity, has worked with several nonprofits and schools in Nashville and surrounding counties to provide shoes to those in need alongside Samaritan's Feet.

## Tax

(Continued from Page 1)

the property for the new TCAT, and bought the property for the new MTSU Aviation college. We were able to pay cash for these economic development initiatives."

The statement touted the potential well-paying jobs to be available for area residents as a result.

"I believe if the City of Shelbyville continues to invest in our economic development team with the already proven results, we will be able to continue to lower the tax rate to my goal of 95 cents," Feldhaus said.

"I want to reduce the growth burden on residential property taxes. I want to see commercial development and higher sales tax collections carry the city's future needs. This can be accomplished by a few smart decisions by this City Council in cooperation with Bedford County government.

Feldhaus also issued a challenge to Shelbyville landlords, who he said raised rents because of the rate increase, to lower them as a result of the decrease.

"I encourage the renters, especially the ones who protested loudly in 2021, to notify this council as their rents are lowered."

"Last month the council members voted on that \$1.48 (tax rate) with caution to make sure that were covering the expenses budgeted for the city for the next year before we went back down to \$1.36," Mayor Randy Carroll said.

Council member Marilyn Ewing asked City Treasurer Kay Parker if a tax rate lower than \$1.48 is feasible. "We have a large fund balance right now," Parker replied. "It depends on where your expenditures are at."

Ewing also noted that renters won't necessarily report rent reductions to the council.

"From the landlords' aspect of it, it was very obvious who led the charge," Feldhaus said, referring to campaign signs and posters paid for by James Farrar, who owns rental properties in Shelbyville. "I talked to him extensively. He was very much in favor of keeping it at \$1.36. His renters that got stirred up came to the public hearings for this saying their rents were going up because we were raising taxes. So, the reverse of that, if we are lowering taxes I would like to see rents go down. I would like to bet some money to that effect that I don't hear from any of those renters."

Feldhaus also said the city has "an ample fund balance that should last us several years" and can easily withstand a tax rate decrease.

In other actions Thursday:

### Tax split

The city is looking toward a new agreement on how it and Bedford County split sales taxes.

Taxes are currently being split through an old agreement from several years ago. City Manager Scott Collins is suggesting Shelbyville officials ask for meetings with Bedford County leaders before taking any further action.

There was no discussion on details of proposed changes in the split.

### Access road payment

A payment of \$290,844.92 to complete

the city's right-of-way acquisition costs for the new access road at 231 North Industrial Park was approved.

The funds will be transferred from the State Road Projects fund and are in addition to the city's initial payment of \$170,500 for a total payment of \$461,344.04.

Shelbyville and the state each shared 50 percent of right of way costs.

The 231 North Oversight Committee approved the expense but recommended costs should be shared. City staff members will negotiate with "all interested parties" for possible reimbursement of some of those costs.

### Donations

Two payments to organizations holding upcoming events were approved. All funds were generated by the hotel/motel tax designated for tourism.

The Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association is being given \$7,500 for two back-to-back events scheduled March 31-April 8 at Cooper Steel Arena. The group is permanently moving its Tennessee events to Shelbyville from Murfreesboro.

Southern Saddlebred Association will receive \$3,500 for its Spring Fling show April 17-22 at Cooper Steel Arena.

### Rezoning

Rezoning of 1.10 acres of land on Sevier Street to medium-high density residential, for proposed apartments, and 10.01 acres off Calsonic Way near the new Cartwright Elementary School to light industrial, for an access road, were approved on final reading.

### Other actions

The council approved a resolution designating that approximately \$6.5 million of public safety and public works in the city's budget, which would normally be funded through the city's general operating fund, be funded instead by funds received through the American Rescue Plan. The plan has been used by the federal government to aid cities and counties during the pandemic.

A reapportionment/redistricting plan and map were approved, making minor changes to city voting precincts until the early 2030s.

An updated planning and community development fee schedule was adopted on final reading.

An application for a Tennessee Small Cities Community Development Block Grant for sidewalk replacement and construction on Deery Street was authorized. Some council members were uncertain if Deery Street is a state highway and eligible for state funding. Deery Street is not a state highway at any point, although it does cross Madison Street, a state and federal highway.

The council also approved a grant application to several federal agencies for firefighting equipment.

A new position of City Director of Information Technology was approved, as was advertising for the position.

Carroll's appointment of vice mayor William Christie to a two-year term as the council's representative on the Shelbyville-Bedford Partnership board was ratified by voice vote.

Council member Henry Feldhaus, who Christie replaces, remained silent.

## Agents stop crowd at Texas border crossing

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — A large group of migrants in Mexico who were poised to barge into the U.S. over the weekend were blocked from crossing a bridge leading from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, to El Paso, Texas, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesman said.

The migrants were "posing a potential threat to make a mass entry," and physical barriers were put up to restrict their entry at the Paso Del Norte International Bridge on Sunday afternoon, spokesman Roger Maier said in a statement to The Associated Press on Monday.

Barricades also were used in El Paso for a short time Sunday afternoon at other border crossings including the Bridge of Americas and the Stanton-Lerdo bridge, Maier said.

Video of the scene at the Paso Del Norte bridge on Sunday showed hundreds of migrants brush past Mexican National Guard officers on the Mexican side, some carrying children on their shoulders. Many appeared to be Venezuelan, by their accents.

Shouting "We want to get through!," the migrants ran up to the center line of the bridge, where U.S. authorities had erected concrete and plastic barriers

strung with concertina wire.

The migrants were stopped by the barrier, and remained on the Mexican side, shouting "Open up for us!" to the U.S. officers. After a time, the migrants ran back toward the Mexican side.

Traffic was reopened and flowing in both directions as of Sunday evening, Maier said. It wasn't immediately known what caused the attempted mass crossing. A message seeking comment was left with the mayor's office in El Paso.

The rush across the bridge may have been sparked by false rumors, said Camilo Cruz, who works with the U.N. migration office in Ciudad Juarez.

Cruz said there was "a rumor that they were going to let them cross massively, particularly people who arrived with children."

Cruz said the rumors are a recurrent problem. About a month ago, messages began circulating "that there were going to be buses on the U.S. side to take them to Canada ... and when they arrived, they were told it was a lie."

The worst thing, Cruz said, is that migrants often leave the shelters where they are staying to attend such mass

crossing attempts, only to find the shelters full when they return.

Many of the migrants on Sunday appeared to be asylum seekers. One woman held out what appeared to be an appointment slip at the barricade. Migrants seeking asylum, a legal immigration pathway for people fleeing persecution in their own country, have been frustrated by newly-implemented limits on those showing up at the southwest border, as many Venezuelans do.

There has been frustration with the U.S. government's CBPOne mobile app for making appointments to apply for asylum, which has been overloaded since the Biden administration introduced it Jan. 12. New appointments are available each day at 6 a.m., but migrants find themselves stymied by error messages.

Also causing frustration is a pandemic rule, scheduled to end May 11, that denies migrants a chance to seek asylum on grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19. Under the public health rule, known as Title 42, Mexico recently began taking back Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans who crossed.



# Bridging education and industry

## Local leaders talk workforce

**T-G STAFF REPORT**

Representatives for UT Southern's Rural Leaders program met at the Bedford County Courthouse Friday morning to hear updates on workforce development from Shelbyville Bedford Partnership's Kelly North and Shane Hooper, Shelbyville's Tennessee College of Applied Technology President Laura Monks, and Bedford County School's Assistant Superintendent Tim Harwell.

The group also made a visit to the Nearest Green Distillery where co-founder Keith Weaver gave a presentation on their workforce development.

According to an article from Our Tennessee magazine, the goal of the program is to create "leadership that understands rural communities." The Turner Center for Rural Vitality at UT Southern's Pulaski campus, created this nine-month program that "blends county visits with on-campus learning from leadership experts."

This year's UTSRL roster included County Commissioner Sylvia Pinson and local busi-

ness owner Tracy Strassner. Tonya Woodward, CEO of Hope Hohenwald in Lewis County, and Brad Prickett, from United Communications in Marshall County, were also present at Friday's meeting. Members Brandi Burdette, business developer for the Bank of Frankewing, and Allyson Dickey, executive director of the Perry County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, were unable to attend the event.

Over those nine months, participants will visit the 13 counties in Southern Middle Tennessee. In these meetings, they will examine a particular aspect of rural economic development, like industry, workforce development, social entrepreneurship and cultural assets.

In the theme of workforce development, Director of Existing Business Development Kelly North gave an "Overview of Workforce initiatives and Economic Development" in Bedford.

The big takeaway is that over half of Bedford County School seniors do not pursue a secondary



T-G Photo by Zoe Watkins  
**Shelbyville's Tennessee College of Applied Technology President Laura Monks and Shelbyville Bedford Partnership's Kelly North received flowers for International Women's Day last week.**

education, but rather go straight into the workforce, according to North. Therefore, the goal is to incorporate real workforce skills into the classroom as well as connect existing industry with job-ready students.

The Shelbyville Bedford Partnership has several opportunities where students and teachers can connect with Bedford's industries.

For example, the have the Partners in Education program where local industry partners commit to participating in a variety of activities with the Bedford County School System, such as through classroom speakers, field trips, and job-shadowing.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Exploration Fair brings some 750 students to learn about in-demand job from over 20 local employers.

The Shelbyville-Bedford Job Fair brings high schools seniors to network and interview with employers. North said 25% of the students who attended the last job fair were granted job interviews.

For the teachers, the Partnership puts together a "Teachers on Tour" event where high school teachers tour local  
▶ See **Bridging**, Page 6A

## RAILROAD CONCERNS



Submitted photo  
**Due to the Ohio train derailment, Bell Buckle resident John Anderson said he is helping to form a Bell Buckle town safety committee to update their evacuation plan. This began when he noticed that one of the lines running through Bell Buckle has a crushed concrete tie. He said the spot of concern is about 30 yards to the north of the railroad and highway 82 intersection.**

# New substance-use online resource available

NASHVILLE – A new substance abuse treatment locator website from the Tennessee Department of Health is available today at FindHelpNowTN.org.

This site links individuals directly to care and help if they are struggling with a substance use disorder.

"There is an immediate, critical point, where those struggling with substance abuse and misuse are absolutely ready to receive help," said Tennessee Health Commissioner Ralph Alvarado, MD, FACF.

"Unfortunately, this point is often at the height of crisis. The FindHelpNowTN.org website puts addiction and treatment resources within immediate reach, in real-time, when individuals and families don't know where to turn."

FindHelpNowTN.org guides individuals to location-based openings and services available at substance use treatment facilities.

Site users can search facility listings using up to 60 different features such as the type of treatment needed, insurance programs, payment methods and availability of wrap-around services.

Treatment facilities on FindHelpNowTN.org regularly update their availability of residential, inpatient, and out-patient services.

Since site users also can access a facility's contact information, they can reach out immediately for treatment. Facilities on the site are asked to update the availability of their residential, in-patient, and out-patient services regularly to ensure the most current information is available.

"Individuals and their loved ones facing substance abuse disorder have much to endure in finding a way out of addiction," said Director Amy Murawski of TDH's Overdose Response Coordination Office. "Our hope is for FindHelpNowTN.org to be a source to find relief in an extremely exhausting and immensely stressful situa-

tion."

Currently, 243 Tennessee facilities have listings on FindHelpNowTN.org and TDH is working with community partners, providers, and stakeholders to include more facilities on the site.

The launch of FindHelpNowTN.org is the result of a partnership between TDH, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Tennessee Tech University's iCube program and TAADAS (TN Association of Alcohol, Drug and Other Addiction Services).

FindHelpNowTN.org works in cooperation with TDMHSAS's Tennessee Redline at 1-800-889-9789, a 24/7/365 resource for substance treatment referrals via phone call or text message.

"Tennessee is blessed with a wealth of substance use treatment resources, and we continue to look for ways to expand options for people even if they have little or no means to pay for it," said Linda McCorkle,

TDMHSAS Director of Treatment and Recovery Services.

"We know that treatment works and recovery is real, so we're excited to have another resource in our state to connect people and families with the help they so desperately need."

FindHelpNowTN.org is built upon an online platform based with the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center, a partnership between the KY Department of Health and the University of Kentucky College of Public Health. KIPRC developed the platform in 2018 through a CDC grant to share with states interested in developing locator services for substance abuse treatment.

The mission of the Tennessee Department of Health is to protect, promote and improve the health and prosperity of people in Tennessee. Learn more about TDH services and programs at [www.tn.gov/health](http://www.tn.gov/health).

# Busy times ahead for state House

The Tennessee House of Representatives has 35 regular weekly committee meetings, and they have all been busy hearing bills this week. We have 1,350 bills filed this year and about 500 should be passed out to the Governor for his signature.

House Bill 483 passed this week. This bill protects Tennesseans from any potential government attempt to limit the type of appliances they can use in their home.

The House has a bill that will protect our teachers' First Amendment rights in the classroom by preventing teachers from being forced to refer to students by their preferred pronouns.

I have started to move my bill to make it easier to start Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs) in Tennessee. This bill will offer tax credits to companies that start an ESOP, and allow workers to become owners and share in the company's profits.

I am carrying a bill for the Municipal Electric Power Association that updates the purchasing authority for the managers of the municipal or county electric system. The bill states that they can purchase certain items, without board approval. The bill increases the limit from \$50,000 to \$100,000. The limit was last increased 23 years ago in 1989 from \$25,000 to \$50,000, which is worth \$199,000 when adjusted for inflation according to the Consumer Price Index.

Tennessee's Habitat for Humanity had a reception at the Capitol last week and I got to see local Bedford Build's director Pam Birtcil. I was hon-

**Pat Marsh**

State Rep.  
62nd district



ored to get to speak to the group and tell them about the grant of \$15 million they received from the American Recovery Act.

I had the pleasure of attending the Fabulous 50s show in Fayetteville last week. I was blown away by how good the show was and how much local talent there is in Lincoln County. The show will raise thousands of dollars that will be donated to citizens in need in Lincoln County and the surrounding area.

I had two leadership groups come to Nashville to learn about state government. Leadership Bedford, run by Carol Garrett, came up for a visit on Wednesday. They got to tour the capitol, hold a mock session and got a photo with Governor Lee. On Thursday, Leadership Lincoln, headed by Jim Malone, got to hear from multiple speakers on criminal justice in Tennessee. They heard from Secretary of State, Tre Hargett, and got to tour the capitol. After lunch, they toured the Tennessee State Museum. It was a pleasure to meet all of them this week.

*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. You are also welcome to come up to the Capitol and stop by my office at 610 Cordell Hull building.*

## TN TIMESHARE FOR SALE

Hiawatha Manor West  
Crossville, TN (Close to Lake Tansi)  
Call Linda for more information  
**615-500-5444**



# How to clean up plastic lawn chairs

Dear Heloise: You are going to like this, Heloise! Summer will soon be here, and it will be time to get out our plastic lawn chairs. Like mine, yours may be ugly with dirt and stains. But you don't have to throw them out. You can paint them to look new again!

## Hints from Heloise

Heloise



### JUST NEED THE CREDIT CARD

Dear Heloise: I always had to keep an eye on my purse in the grocery store when I left it in the basket to look for an item. Then, I realized I did not need my purse -- just the credit card I used.

Now, the purse is locked in my car, and my credit card stays in my pocket. It was so freeing for me. -- Sharon Guy, Cleveland, Tennessee

### REPURPOSING SPACE

Dear Heloise: When we downsized into a condo several years ago, I lost the extra bedroom where I used to lay out my sweaters to dry. The new master bathroom had a large jacuzzi tub, which -- as a strictly shower person -- I really didn't need.

So I went to a home improvement store and bought two screen protectors, the kind that you use to keep pets from scratching the screens of screen doors. I lay them flat over the tub and place my sweaters on them to dry. Works like a charm. -- Llew, via email

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

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# Coming soon: Reese's Cups, chocolate bars made from plants

By DEE-ANN DURBIN  
AP Business Writer

Reese's Peanut Butter Cups are getting the vegan treatment.

The Hershey Co. said Tuesday that Reese's Plant Based Peanut Butter Cups, which go on sale this month, will be its first vegan chocolates sold nationally. A second plant-based offering, Hershey's Plant Based Extra Creamy with Almonds and Sea Salt, will follow in April.

The chocolates are made with oats instead of milk, Hershey said.

Hershey has experimented with vegan chocolate before. It sold an oat-based chocolate bar called Oat Made in some test markets starting in 2021. But the new products will be the first sold throughout the U.S. under the "Plant Based" label.

Hershey said consumers want choice and are looking for products they consider healthier or with fewer ingredients, including reduced sugar and plant-based options. Hershey also introduced an organic version of Reese's Cups in February 2021.

One of North America's Premier processors and recyclers of scrap metal is now part of your community.

## FERROUS Processing & Trading Co.

Providing recycling services for our community and promoting a cleaner environment. Earn Extra-Cash We look forward to serving Bedford County and surrounding areas.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

03 2023  
March

FEBRUARY							APRIL						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29							29						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Daylight Saving Begins					St. Patrick's Day	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Spring Begins					
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### TODAY

#### Bell Buckle meeting

Bell Buckle Board of Mayor & Aldermen will meet on Monday, March 20. There will be a Public Hearing at 5:45 p.m. prior to the meeting at 6 p.m. to discuss Ordinance 23-01, Cyber Security Policy

### SATURDAY

#### Gilliland walkthrough

Gilliland Historical Resource Center, 803 Lipscomb St., will be open for a walkthrough only from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, March 18.

#### Daffodil Day

Bell Buckle's annual Daffodil Day is Saturday, March 18 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free tree seedlings will be available, a flower show and the Best of the Butts barbecue cookoff will be held, and the town's Citizen of the Year will be named.

#### VFW Music Night

VFW Post 5019, 1320 E. Depot St., will hold its monthly third-Saturday music night this weekend. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with the event from 6-9:30 p.m. James Smotherman & Friends will be featured but other acoustic musicians and singers are welcome. Admission is \$3, and there will be a potluck meal. No alcohol or outside beverages are permitted. For more information, call 931-607-3149 or 931-684-2523.

#### Biloxi Blues

Neil Simon's "Biloxi Blues" will be presented at The Fly Arts Center March 18, 24 and 25 at 7 p.m. and March 19 and 26 at 2 p.m. Tickets are available online at <https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/tix/5464>

### MONDAY

#### Democratic Party Meeting

Bedford County Democratic Party will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, March 20 at El Mexico, 724 N. Main St.

#### Historical Society

The Bedford County Historical Society will resume its customary meeting schedule with its spring quarter meeting on Monday, March 20, in the Fellowship Hall of First United Methodist Church. A potluck supper will kick off the meeting at 6:30 p.m. followed by a short business meeting. Society member and Bedford County Archives Director Carol Roberts will provide the program featuring "Distilleries of Bedford County In the Pre-prohibition Era." Hosts are Tom and Rhonda Styer, Scott and Trish Hubbard, Sandra Smith, and Sarah Hill. The public is invited to bring a dish and enjoy the meal and program. Call Society President Al Simmons, 680-6313, with questions.

#### Diabetes program

Take Charge of Your Diabetes, a six-week program, helps people with diabetes learn to manage their disease and improve their health. Some of the topics covered include nutrition, controlling blood sugar, exercise, stress management, foot care, etc. The program is offered free of charge and will be taught by UT/TSU Extension and the Health Department on Mondays at 10 a.m. from March 20 through April 24 at the Extension office, 2105 Midland Road. You must pre-register by calling 931-684-5971.

### THURSDAY

#### SCHRA meetings

South Central Human Resource Agency's governing board will meet at

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11 a.m. Thursday, March 23 at their office, 1437 Winchester Highway in Fayetteville. Subcommittees will meet at 10 a.m.

#### SCV meeting

Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Cheatham Camp 72, Sons of Confederate Veterans, will have their regular dinner meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 23, at the Oak Restaurant in Manchester. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. Del Thomasson will discuss his book about finials, toppers and ferrules used during the War Between the States.

### MARCH 25

#### Democratic convention

Bedford County Democratic Party will hold a reorganization convention to elect new leaders Saturday, March 25 at Shelbyville Recreation Center. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the convention at 10. All registered Democrats are invited.

### APRIL 1

#### Underwater Egg Hunt

Shelbyville Parks & Recreation's Underwater Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 1 at Shelbyville Recreation Center for ages 3-13. Starting time vary by age from 9-10:30 a.m. A mandatory \$4 preregistration fee includes free all-day swimming. Register at the Rec Center or its website.

#### Book signing

Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library will host an author presentation and book signing with Dr. Lona Bailey of Manchester at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 1, in the Community Room. Bailey's newest book, "The Voice of Villainy," covers the life and work of actress Betty Lou Gerson from Chattanooga, the voice behind the original Cruella de Vil from Disney's One Hundred and One Dalmatians. The event is free to attend for all ages. For more information call 931-684-7323.

#### SCHS '57 reunion

Shelbyville Central High School's Class of 1957 will meet at the back parking lot of King's Museum (the old SCHS) on Saturday, April 1, at 9:30 a.m. They will tour the museum and then meet at Legends, 1609 N. Main St., at 11:30 a.m. for their reunion. Guests are welcome.

#### Easter egg hunt

First Community Bank will host a free Easter egg hunt at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 1 at its main office, 207 Elm St.

### APRIL 2

#### Soup Kitchen fundraiser

The Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen will be hosting a fundraiser on Sunday, April 2, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 336 S. Cannon Blvd. A portion of the proceeds will be shared with Gateway Church, who provides them storage space, facilitates clothing, and distributes additional food. To-go orders available. Reservations are appreciated but not required.

### APRIL 8

#### Paper-postcard show

The 19th Shelbyville Regional

Postcard & Paper Memorabilia Show will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Fly Arts Center. A dinner, speakers and a silent and live auction are scheduled.

### APRIL 15

#### Benefit for Hope

The Youth Leadership Bedford Class of 2022-23 will host Benefit for Hope, to help minimize the stigma surrounding mental health, from 4:30-8 p.m. Saturday, April 15 at Shelbyville Central High School. Tickets are \$20 and include dinner, speakers and a silent and live auction. Tickets are available at the Shelbyville-Bedford County Chamber of Commerce website. For more information email [ylb.benefitforhope@gmail.com](mailto:ylb.benefitforhope@gmail.com).

### APRIL 22

#### Barbecue cookoff

Shelbyville Moose Lodge #2197 will hold its 14th annual barbecue cookoff Saturday, April 22. For more information call the lodge, 931-684-9137.

#### Glow in the Park 5K

The eighth annual Glow in the Park 5K will be Saturday, April 22 at 8 p.m. at H.V. Griffin Park. Fee is \$25 in advance, \$30 day of race. Register before April 1 at Shelbyville Recreation Center or its website to be guaranteed a free t-shirt.

### ONGOING

#### Meals on Wheels

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

#### Soup kitchen

Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen serves meals from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at 336 S. Cannon Blvd. (corner of South Cannon Boulevard and Pickle Street). Donations may be made to Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen, P.O. Box 2259, Shelbyville, TN 37162, and are tax deductible under its 501c3 non-profit designation.

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

#### Head Start

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

#### Celebrate Recovery

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

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## AG NOTES

By JOHN TEAGUE  
UT/TSU Extension

### WHAT'S THE MARKET?

This is an important topic to both farmers and consumers. With drought issues across the country, cattle numbers are down and we're seeing price increases in cattle due to shorter numbers. Obviously, this will mean a price increase in the meat coolers eventually. And with water shortages in some of the vegetable producing areas that depend on irrigation, there might be some struggles with supply in some of the crops.

Dr. Andrew Griffith and Aaron Smith, UT livestock and crop economists, have shared these comments on livestock and crops. (I may have comments along the way.)

At this moment in time, there are plenty of cattle available as cattle on feed numbers remain strong. However, cattle feeders and packers are not focusing on near term cattle on feed but rather placements moving forward. With certainty, placements will slow moving forward as the calf crop will be smaller and heifer retention will begin at some point. However, packers are forced to compete for cattle now, because they know the quantity of available cattle will tighten in coming months. Cattle feeders and packers alike have obligations to meet.

Based on Tennessee weekly auction price averages, steer prices were \$5 to \$9 higher this week compared to last week while heifer prices were \$6 to \$11 higher compared to the previous week. Harvest cow prices were steady to \$2 higher than last week while harvest bull prices were steady to \$3 higher compared to a week ago. The calf and feeder cattle markets continue to soar to higher heights.

Corn, cotton, soybeans, and wheat were down for the week. The week, ending March 10, was not a good week for corn, soybean, cotton, and wheat prices. All prices finished down and the week closed out with news of the collapse of the 16th largest bank in the U.S., Silicon Valley Bank. Uncertainty in financial institutions and the banking system only adds to concerns with the general economy, considering the numerous other challenges - inflation, government spending, high interest rates etc.

Increased concerns with financial markets and the general economy have the potential for numerous impacts on agricultural markets. Two short term concerns are the increased likelihood of short-term price declines and increased volatility.

In Tennessee corn basis will continue to remain strong, due to strong terminal markets and a smaller 2022 crop due to the June-July drought. For those producers with unpriced crop in storage setting the futures or establishing a price floor and letting basis do the work is a strategy worth considering. For new crop, there is still plenty of time to establish price but we have likely seen the high in markets until a weather concern occurs.

Soybean prices are likely to soften due to Brazil's crop hitting global markets. Interest in U.S. soybeans, from global importers is likely to wain substantially. Domestic soybean markets should remain strong due to short supplies and strong crush demand.

May 2023 corn futures closed at \$6.17, down 22 cents since last Friday. For the week, May 2023 corn futures traded between \$6.06 and \$6.40. July 2023 corn futures closed at \$6.06, down 22 cents since last Friday. New crop cash prices ranged from \$4.73 to \$5.68 at elevators and barge points. December 2023 corn futures closed at \$5.57, down 14 cents since last Friday.

May 2023 soybean futures closed at \$15.07, down 11 cents since last Friday. For the week, May 2023 soybean futures traded between \$14.98 and \$15.38. July 2023 soybean futures closed at \$14.94, down 12 cents since last Friday. November 2023 soybean futures closed at \$13.57, down 16 cents since last Friday. New crop cash soybean prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$13.25 to \$14.00.

Wheat cash prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$6.37 to \$6.96. May 2023 wheat futures closed at \$6.79, down 29 cents since last Friday. May 2023 wheat futures traded between \$6.61 and \$7.11 this week. New crop wheat cash prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$6.37 to \$7.02. July 2023 wheat futures closed at \$6.90, down 26 cents since last Friday. September 2023 wheat futures closed at \$7.01, down 26 cents since last Friday.

### HUMOR

Several years ago, I started a file of statements and stories that were humorous country wit. I ran across them last week and I thought I'd share some of it. With the general trend in the news not so happy most of the time, it might make someone smile, so here are some of my favorites. Many have a farm connection, and most have a message of wisdom in them as well. I'm not sure, but I think many of them came from Will Rogers.

"Life is simpler when you plow around the stump." And I understand this one. "A bumble bee is considerably faster than a tractor." I actually left out the brand name of the tractor because it really doesn't matter to the bumble bee!

"Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads." And "Meanness don't jest happen overnight." To go along with these thoughts, "Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer." And "The best sermons are lived, not preached."

Here's some country advice. "Always drink upstream from the herd." "Good judgement comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgement." "Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in." And, "If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around."

This one is something to think about. "The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with watches you from the mirror every morning."

There's more, but for another day.

# State restricts access to Franklin State Forest

Visitors to Franklin State Forest in Franklin and Marion Counties will only be allowed to enjoy the forest on foot as of March 11.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry (TDF) is instituting temporary restrictions for 120 days to assess the damage caused by off-road vehicles driven in restricted areas. This practice has jeopardized the protection of the forest and the safety and welfare of visitors. Once the assessment is complete, TDF will determine a course of action to protect the integrity of the forest and its natural resources.

"This is not a decision we came to easily or take lightly," State Forester David Arnold said. "The Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry is committed to the proper and responsible management of the state's land and forest resources. Our agency has carefully protected, conserved, and enhanced state forests for decades to provide an abundant supply of high-quality timber, demonstrate sustainable forestry practices, and allow for multiple uses, including recreation. The damage witnessed at Franklin State Forest from off-road vehicle use in non-designated areas is setting us back, and we intend to correct that."

Off-road vehicle use has increased significantly on state forests in recent years. Per state regulation, the use of motorcycles, trail bikes, all-terrain vehicles, bicycles and other off-road vehicles in any area of a state forest is strictly prohibited, except on designated roads



Tennessee Department of Agriculture photo

State agriculture officials say this damage at Franklin State Forest was caused by off-road vehicles. Access to the park has been temporarily restricted.

or trails maintained by TDF. The department's Agricultural Crime Unit patrolled Franklin State Forest every weekend in February to educate visitors about appropriate areas to ride. Unfortunately, violations continue.

Under these temporary restrictions, recreation at Franklin State Forest will be limited to people on foot and only within the visiting hours of 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset. Motorized vehicles must be parked in designated parking areas and exit the forest once visiting hours end. Hunting will be allowed on foot and in accordance with existing Tennessee Department of Agriculture and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency rules. No off-road vehicle driving, biking, horseback riding, or camping will be allowed

during this assessment period.

Failure to comply with this use restriction is a violation of state law and may result in civil penalties and/or criminal charges. This order expires on July 8 unless extended or otherwise rescinded by the State Forester.

"We don't want to penalize everyone based on the actions of a few," Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, D.V.M. said. "However, this situation has become critical. In addition to the temporary restrictions to assess Franklin State Forest, we are monitoring use and damage at other state forests and will take further action if necessary."

Updates regarding closure status, assessment plans, and the mitigation response for Franklin State Forest can be found online

at [www.tn.gov/agriculture/forests/state-forests/franklin.html](http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/forests/state-forests/franklin.html) and on the department's Facebook page.

The Division of Forestry protects Tennessee's forests by fighting wildfires, coordinating hazard emergency response, providing prescribed fire guidance and contract services, as well as wildland fire training. Additionally, the Division promotes the responsible use of forest resources by assisting landowners, providing quality seedlings, monitoring insects and diseases, improving urban forests, managing state forests, protecting water quality, and collecting forest inventory data. The Division also works to promote primary and secondary forest industries to stimulate the state's economy. Visit [www.tn.gov/agriculture/forests](http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/forests) for more information.

# Made in the USA? Proposed rule clarifies grocery meat labels

By JONEL ALECCIA  
AP Health Writer

Shoppers could soon find it easier to tell if those grocery store steaks or pork chops were really "Made in the USA."

Federal agriculture officials on Monday released new requirements that would allow labels on meat, poultry or eggs to use that phrase -- or "Product of USA" -- only if they come from animals "born, raised, slaughtered and processed in the United States." That's a sharp change from current policy, which allows voluntary use of such labels on products from animals that have been imported from a foreign country and slaughtered in the U.S., but also on meat that's been imported and repackaged or further processed.

Imports of beef from countries including Australia, Canada and Brazil, for instance, account for about 12% of the total consumed in the U.S. Overall, imports of red meat and poultry account for less than 6%, while imports of eggs account for less than half of 1%.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said the proposed rule would better align the labels with consumers' views. A survey commissioned by the USDA found that nearly two-thirds of shoppers believed that

a "Product of USA" label meant that most or all meat production steps occurred in the U.S.

"There's obviously a disconnect between what the consumers' understandings and expectations are and what the label currently is," Vilsack said in an interview.

About 12% of all meat, poultry and egg products sold in the country carry the U.S.-origin labels, USDA officials said.

The label change was first proposed by President Joe Biden in 2021 and was included last year in a series of steps to bolster the U.S. meat and poultry supply chain.

The USDA survey, conducted last summer, included a nationally representative sample of more than 4,800 American adults who do the grocery shopping for their families and who bought beef or pork in the previous six months. More than 40% of the shoppers said they look for the USA label when buying meat.

The rule was praised by consumer advocates and representatives for U.S. ranchers and farmers, including the U.S. Cattlemen's Association, which petitioned the USDA for the label change in 2019.

"The proposed rule finally closes this loophole by accurately defining what these voluntary

origin claims mean," said Justin Tupper, the group's president. "If it says 'Made in the USA,' then it should be from cattle that have only known USA soil. Consumers have the right to know where their food comes from, full stop."

Thomas Gremillion, director of food policy for the Consumer Federation of America, said the change is a "small but important step" that should have been made long ago.

Under the current rule, Gremillion noted, a cow can be raised in Mexico under that country's regulations for feed and medications, then shipped across the border and slaughtered that same day to make ground beef and steaks that qualify as "Product of USA."

Carrie Balkcom, execu-

tive director of the trade group American Grassfed Association, said the existing rule also penalizes small domestic producers.

"It's expensive to raise grass-raised animals from scratch," Balkcom said. "And these large producers were importing these animals raised elsewhere and just repackaging them and then kind of coasting on the 'Made in the USA' label."

An official with the North American Meat Institute, which represents large firms that process most of the meat and poultry products sold in the U.S., said she hadn't seen details of the new rule. But Sarah Little added, the group "opposes overly prescriptive labeling requirements that will raise prices for consumers."

## ONLINE ESTATE AUCTION

The Polly Frazier Estate  
1425 Hwy 64 West, Shelbyville

Cherry Lillian Russell bedroom Suit, Chippendale Dining table, 10 Chippendale dining chairs, Cherry Hutch, primitive tables, Eastlake parlor set, Victorian Bed, Rockers, IH Pedal tractor, metal Tonka & other tovs, several hand painted plates, Aluminum boat motor & trailer, IH "Spirit of 76" lawnmower, Aladdin Vertique, & several other lamps, Marble top table, large antique chopping block, metal mesh yard furniture, Vintage quilts, Cast iron & primitives, Slat back chairs, & much more!

This is an **ONLINE ONLY** auction. Bidding is open now and will end on Friday, March 17th at 5pm. To view the catalog and begin bidding, check [www.garyauction.com](http://www.garyauction.com)

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The Tennessee Department of Transportation is about to make final settlement with the contractor for construction of the above numbered project. All persons wishing to file claims pursuant to Section 54-5-122, T.C.A. must file same with the Director of Construction, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Suite 700 James K. Polk Bldg., Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0326, on or before 4/21/2023.





T-G Photos by Zoe Watkins

Back row, Tracy Strassner, Commissioner Greg Vick, and Turner Center program officer Rebecka Cronin. Front row, County Mayor Chad Graham, United Communications' Brad Prickett, Kelly North, Hope Hohenwald CEO Tonya Woodward, Commissioner Sylvia Pinson, and Shelbyville Mayor Randy Carroll.

## Bridging

(Continued from Page 3A)

businesses and industries as part of their summer staff development. In the same vein, Higher Ed Industry Tours offer Motlow and TCAT Shelbyville staff to take an "inside look" at local training needs.

They also host an industry "roundtable" to address challenges faced by specific industry sectors and a collaboration to alleviate these challenges.

According to North, 25- to 65-year-olds are in 83% of the workforce. So, programs like the above help to tap into underserved communities, such as emerging young professionals (ages 18 to 24).

They also help to connect people to higher-

paying jobs. North said Bedford County's average wage is \$42,000. This is compared to the Southeast, which has a wage average of \$56,000. And though unemployment in Bedford is around 3%, job layoffs during the pandemic displayed workers or, hopefully, encouraged them to find a better job.

Those speaking at the UTSRL event Friday said they hope more people take advantage of Shelbyville's new TCAT facility, which is planning to open in the late fall of 2024 or in the early winter of 2025, according to President Laura Monks.

Through programs like the Tennessee Promise, students are granted two free years of either a community college, like Motlow State, or at a

TCAT,

Assistant superintendent Tim Harwell, said, "I can honestly say, particularly in the last two years in this role as assistant superintendent, I've never seen as much progress as we're making as far as getting the message out there about important education is...and being able to partner. It gives us hope."

To learn more about UT Southern's Turner Center for Rural Vitality or to apply for the next UT Southern Regional Leadership cohort, visit [utsouthern.edu/4424-2/](https://utsouthern.edu/4424-2/).

**Director of Existing Business Development Kelly North gave an "Overview of Workforce initiatives and Economic Development."**



Sunchaser Market owner Tracy Strassner provided breakfast for the event.



From left, BCS Assistant Superintendent Tim Harwell, SBP CEO Shane Hooper, and TCAT-S President Laura Monks.

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# Marijuana, fake bills confiscated from suspect

By DAVID MELSON  
dmelson@t-g.com

A bag of marijuana and fake \$20 bills totaling \$1,800 were found in a vehicle Saturday during a traffic stop on North Main Street.

Darach Dwayne Henry, 19, of Huntsville, Alabama was initially stopped by Officer Steven Dalton of the Shelbyville Police Department for driving 50 mph in a 30 mph zone on North Main Street.

Dalton said he smelled marijuana and searched Henry's vehicle. Henry told Dalton he had a gun in the center console; it was confiscated along with drug paraphernalia allegedly found in the vehicle.

Henry was charged with simple possession, possession of drug paraphernalia, unlawful possession of a weapon, speeding and a registration violation, and held on \$12,500 bond.

Two others were arrested during the past few days on unrelated drug charges.

•Approximately 3 grams of marijuana were found in a vehicle and 7 more grams stuffed in the driver's clothing during a traffic stop Thursday on Horse Mountain Road, police said.

Gregory R. Stewart was initially stopped for a window tint violation by Officer Ramon Castillo. A search was conducted after Castillo said he smelled marijuana.

Stewart was charged with driving on a revoked license, simple possession of a schedule 6 drug and a window tint violation. Bond was set at \$4,000.

•A small bag of powdered cocaine was found on a man after he drove into a ditch outside Beech Grove Market, Highway 64 East, on Thursday morning, a Bedford County Sheriff's Office report said.

Ronald Wayne Jernigan, 32, of Woodbury was charged with simple possession of a schedule 2 drug, public intoxication and driving on a revoked license. The cocaine was found by Det. Sgt. Chris Brown in the seat of Jernigan's vehicle.

Jernigan was held on \$7,000 bond.

## Theft

•A compact disc player was stolen from a vehicle at a Peacock Lane Sunday. The owner told a deputy he normally keeps the doors locked but they were unlocked Sunday.

No signs of forced entry were found.

## Fast pursuit

A 16-year-old boy who

told police he was "tired" and wanted to get home allegedly tried to outrun a Shelbyville police officer at high speed late Sunday night.

The boy was clocked at 76 mph in a 50 mph zone on North Main Street by Officer Jonathan Evans.

The youth responded to Evans' blue lights by turning off his lights, forcing several vehicles off the roadway, and increasing his speed to 115 mph.

Eventually the boy pulled into a convenience store parking lot and surrendered.

Juvenile petitions for evading arrest by motor vehicle, reckless driving, speeding, possession of tobacco by a minor and violation of curfew were filed.

## Jail intake

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

•Dustin W. Arnold, 27, Davis Street; harassment; released on recognizance

•Ashley Nicole Campbell-Primm, 37, Murfreesboro; violation of probation, other unspecified charge; released on recognizance

•Issac N. Collins, 35, Estill Springs; driver to exercise due care, DUI, seat belt law; released on recognizance

•Robert Lee Conner, 30, Highway 41A North; violation of sex offender registry (three counts); held, \$15,000 bond

•Gaspar Diego, 25, Rolling Road; light law, no driver's license/exhibited on demand; released, \$500 bond

•Andrew Michael Gambill, 22, Murfreesboro; possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession (two counts), speeding; released on recognizance

•Carlito Godinez Perez, 22, Dunnaway Street; driving on suspended license, financial responsibility, running stop sign; released, no bond

•Missy Rochelle Hammond, 50, Lewisburg; violation of probation; released on recognizance

•Brandon Scott Hood, 37, Hohenwald; driving on suspended license, speeding; released on recognizance

•Ronald Wayne Jernigan, 32, Woodbury; driving on revoked license, possession of schedule 2 drug, public intoxication; held, \$7,000 bond

## POLICE PROMOTION



Detective Cody Swift, center, has been promoted to Sergeant by the Shelbyville Police Department. Congratulating him are, from left, Maj. Pat Mathis, Chief Jan Phillips, Detective Lt. Charles Merlo and Deputy Chief Brian Crews.

•Dashar Rena Johnson, 29, South Fair Oak Street; possession of schedule 6 drug, window tinting; released on recognizance

•James Adam Lasswell, 31, Winchester; DUI; held, \$2,000 bond

•Richard Cornell Overton, 23, Tullahoma; driving on suspended license, registration law; released on recognizance

•Gregory Ricardo Stewart, 23, Stonefield Circle; driving on revoked license, possession of schedule 6 drug, window tinting; released, \$4,000 bond

•Colby Lee Allen, 18, Murfreesboro; violation of probation; released, \$1,500 bond

•Fernando Suarez Arriago, 34, Oak Dale Street; no driver's license/exhibited on demand, speeding; released, \$500 bond

•Palsy A. Baxter, 77, Rey Moore Road; move over law; released on recognizance

•Bonnie Lynn Bowling, 42, Sherwood Drive; failure to appear; no bond

•Samuel Barrett Carlton, 34, Murfreesboro; speeding; released on recognizance

•Kristen Leighann Casteel, 29, Lewisburg; six counts of possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, manufacture, or deliver, violation of probation; released, \$22,500 bond

•Luis Francisco Martin, 21, Garden Drive; no driver's license/exhibited on demand, violation of registration law; released, \$1,000 bond

•Juan Pablo Gomez-

Garcia, 35, Sun Circle; no driver's license/exhibited on demand, running a red light/stop sign; released on recognizance

•Stephanie Ann Griggs, 33, Virgil Crowell Road; attachment; released, \$500 bond

•Jorge Luis Guerrero Leos, 28, White Street; driving on a suspended license, DUI, speeding; \$6,000 bond

•Adie Anayeli Guzman, 35, Fairlane Drive; simple domestic assault; \$2,500 bond

•Darach Dwayne Henry, 19, Alabama; improper display of registration, possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession, speeding, unlawful possession of a weapon; \$12,500 bond

•Valerie Veaneal Holt, 60, Annas Way; vandalism; released, \$1,500 bond

•Jacob Morris Hubert, 25, Andrew Drive, Wartrace; driving on a revoked license; released on recognizance

•Steven Eric Mangrum, 38, Simms Road; assault, aggravated domestic assault, resisting arrest by officer; \$10,000 bond

•Ashleigh Lagunes Mercado, 25, Key Street; DUI, failure to maintain lane of traffic; released, \$3,000 bond

Danielle Willow Rayne Odom, 36, White Street; filing false report; released, \$2,000 bond

•Jorge Reyes Avila, 21, Warner Bridge Road; no driver's license/exhibited on demand, speeding; released on recognizance

•Jaden Moses Russell, 22, Landers Street; driving on a suspended license, seatbelt law; released on

## POLICE ANNIVERSARY



Lt. Cody King is celebrating 24 years of service with the Shelbyville Police Department. Lieutenant King is assigned to the A-night shift patrol division.

recognizance

•Wayne (NMN) Shelton Jr., 42, Ray Street; attachment, evading arrest, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of schedule 6 drug; \$35,000 bond

•Angela Michelle Stathers, 40, Alabama; capias, failure to appear; no bond

Zachary David Strickland, 36, Tullahoma; aggravated assault, public intoxication, vandalism;

\$12,000 bond

•William Liniel Thompson III, 40, Warner Bridge Road; reckless endangerment; \$2,500 bond

•Alexis Marie West, 23, Barksdale Lane; vandalism; released, \$3,000 bond

•Wesley Martin Worthington, 27, homeles; evading arrest, resisting arrest by officer; \$10,000 bond

# Americans' fun road trip to Mexico became days of horror

By JULIE WATSON,  
JAMES POLLARD  
and ALFREDO PEÑA

Associated Press/Report for America

LAKE CITY, S.C. (AP) — It was supposed to be a fun road trip to Mexico, a post-pandemic adventure for a group of childhood friends.

One was treating herself to cosmetic surgery after having six children. It was a 34th birthday celebration for another.

They rented a white van in South Carolina and set out on the nearly 22-hour trip, shooting silly videos and driving straight through to Brownsville, on the tip of Texas.

"Good morning, America!" Eric Williams said into the camera in the early morning hours after the all-night drive. "Mexico, here we come."

But once they got to Mexico, the trip took a terrible turn. Two members of the group would never make it home, victims of the ruthless Gulf cartels, a drug gang tied to brutal killings and kidnappings in the violent border city of Matamoros, a

city of a half-million people that has long been a stronghold of the powerful cartel.

There could hardly be a worse border town to pick for a fun adventure.

It all started when Latavia McGee booked the cosmetic surgery with a doctor she'd been to before, in 2021. Dr. Roberto Chavez Medina's advertisements on Facebook and TikTok have a strong following among American women.

It's a common story — people often leave the U.S. for all sorts of medical treatment; costs in Mexico can be less than half what someone would pay in the United States.

McGee's appointment was within days of her cousin in Shaheed Woodard's 34th birthday. Friends Zindell Brown and Cheryl Orange rounded out the group of five, most of whom had grown up together in Lake City, South Carolina, a town of fewer than 6,000 people.

Once they got to the border, they rented rooms at a Motel 6 off the highway in Brownsville, a lush town with a high poverty rate on the Rio Grande where

parrots squawk from palm trees.

The friends set out early Friday to cross an international bridge that spans the two countries, thinking they were headed to see the doctor right on the other side. Orange stayed at the motel in Brownsville because she forgot to bring her ID to cross the border.

"They went to drop her off and was supposed to be back within 15 minutes," Orange said.

But the clinic had moved to a new location several blocks away.

It's not clear what happened next: perhaps the group got lost. The Mexican state of Tamaulipas is the subject of a U.S. State Department warning to avoid travel because of violent crime and kidnappings, but the friends may not have known — Williams' mother said she didn't think her son had ever been out of the U.S.

Hours passed, and on the U.S. side of the border, Orange contacted the Brownsville police, concerned something bad had happened.

Her worst fears would come to pass.

Just a few miles across the border, around midday, a vehicle crashed into the group's van. Several men with tactical vests and assault rifles arrived in another vehicle and surrounded them, according to Mexican police reports. Shots rang out.

Brown and Woodard were hit by bullets and appeared to have died immediately. Williams was shot in the leg.

Video on social media showed men forcing McGee into the bed of a pickup truck, then going back to drag a wounded Williams and the bodies of their two friends across the road and into the truck as onlookers in traffic sat in their cars eerily silent. One witness said no one wanted to draw the gunmen's attention.

The truck barreled off. A Mexican woman who had been hit by a stray bullet, 33-year-old Areli Pablo Servando, was left to die on the street.

When Mexican authorities arrived on the scene, they found Social Security

cards and credit cards belonging to the group of friends inside the van, marked by a bullet hole in the driver's side window. The U.S. consulate, only blocks away, issued an alert, warning its employees to avoid the area until further notice because of a deadly shooting downtown.

The doctor at the clinic later told investigators he thought it was strange his patient hadn't shown up for the procedure, which can run up to \$3,000, but his office had only communicated with her electronically. The clinic was about a four-minute drive from where their van had crashed.

The crash would be the most terrifying days of the surviving friends' lives.

The cartel members drove them from place to place around the city in a harrowing ride, stopping shortly after the shooting at a medical clinic.

A doctor told investigators that two men with assault rifles burst in through a back door and threatened to kill staff if

they didn't treat a wounded person with them. The gunmen and their hostages stayed three hours at the clinic and then left, according to Mexican investigative documents viewed by The Associated Press.

Orange was worried, stuck on the other side of the border at the Motel 6 with no clue what had happened. On Saturday morning, she spoke to a Brownsville officer at the motel. Within an hour, a detective was assigned to the case and shortly after that Brownsville police handed it off to the FBI.

On Sunday, the FBI reported their disappearances and offered a \$50,000 reward for their return and the arrest of the kidnapers, and U.S. Ambassador Ken Salazar said U.S. officials contacted President Andrés Manuel López Obrador directly to ask for help in locating the missing Americans.

Back home, their family and friends in the United States watched the video of their capture in horror and prayed. The wait, the silence, became unbearable.



SUPPORTING THE VIQUEENS



Submitted photos

Fans packed the Murphy Center to support the Community Viqueens during their run in the Class 2A state tournament over the weekend on the campus of MTSU.



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SPORTS EDITOR:

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# Times-Gazette SPORTS

**B**

www.t-g.com/sports  
Tuesday, March 14, 2023



T-G Photos by Chris Siers

The Community Viqueens huddle up with coach Cody Pierce during the second half of Friday night's Class 2A state semifinal matchup with Westview.

## Viqueens fall in state semifinals

By **RICKEY CLARDY**  
Sports Writer

MURFREESBORO —

The successful season of the Community Viqueens that saw the Viqueens reach the final four in Class AA came to a close Friday night as the defending champion Westview Lady Chargers used an airtight defense and timely three-point shooting to defeat Community 43-27 in a TSSAA state semifinal matchup.

While the Viqueens were able to keep Lady Charger Miss Basketball finalist Jada Harrison at bay for the middle two quarters, the hot three-point shooting of Jillian Brigance helped to expand the Westview lead and created a margin Community could not recover from.

Both teams utilized effective 2-3 zones which made points hard to come by.

With both teams struggling to score in the first two minutes, Haley Mitchell drew first blood with a trey at the 5:22 mark to give Community (27-7) a 3-0 lead.

A trey by Anna Haskins and a field goal by M.J. Simmons gave the Viqueens their final lead at 8-6 before the Lady Chargers went on a 5-0 run to take an 11-8 advantage after one quarter.

Simmons scored four points to lead the Viqueens in the second quarter as Community could only manage seven points.

But the Viqueen defense was up to the challenge and held the Lady Chargers to nine points as Westview (32-1) used five points from Brigance to take a 20-15 lead into the intermission.

"That zone is tough. That's how they play, kind of slow," Coach Cody Pierce of the Viqueens said. "We just kind of went with it."

"We knew it would keep us in the game if we could make shots, just like they did," Pierce added. "And we did for awhile."

The Viqueens held Harrison scoreless in the third quarter, but Brigance scored eight points as the Lady Chargers outscored the Viqueens 9-6. Simmons netted all six points to keep Community close, but a Brigance trey at the buzzer gave Westview a 29-21 lead heading to the fourth quarter.

McCall Sims scored eight points and Harrison added six as the Lady



Senior Haley Mitchell pulls up for a jumper against the Lady Chargers in the first half.



M.J. Simmons overpowers the Westview defense and scores for the Viqueens. She led all scorers with 18 points in her final game with Community



The Viqueens are all smiles before taking the floor in the state semifinals on Friday night.



Zoey Dixon surveys the floor and organizes the Viqueen offense on Friday night.



# Viqueens pull out last-minute opening win

By **RICKEY CLARDY**  
Sports Writer

**MURFREESBORO** — Just win and survive.

That was the motto of the Community Viqueens Thursday afternoon in their quarterfinal game of the TSSAA Class 2A state tournament against the Scotts Hill Lady Lions.

After being down by six points with four minutes to play, the Viqueens created turnovers with their defense and used two free throws by M.J. Simmons with three seconds left and survived some last-second drama to defeat the Lady Lions 53-52 and advance to the Class 2A state semifinals.

“This group has always had a lot of fight going back to their freshman, sophomore, and junior years,” Coach Cody Pierce of the Viqueens said.

“Our goal starting last year was to get to the state tournament and we came up short,” Pierce added. “We wanted another shot at some of the best teams in the state.”

With both teams going into the game with identical 26-6 records, the free throw prowess of the Viqueens was the difference in the end as the lead changed hands 10 times in the first half and the teams stayed within six points of each other the entire contest.

Community (27-6) opened up hot with three treys in the opening quarter.

Zoey Dixon, Addison Brothers, and Haley Mitchell each connected on three-pointers as the Viqueens used a 5-0 run to take their biggest lead at 11-6 with 3:28 left.

The Viqueens ended the quarter with a 13-11 advantage.

Simmons led the Viqueens with four points as the teams traded baskets for a big part of the second quarter before a Jaden Scates trey with one second left gave the Lady Lions a 25-24 lead heading into the intermission.

The patience of the Lady Lion offense produced several high-percentage shots in the third quarter as Scotts Hill upped its lead.

Despite eight points from Simmons, the Lady Lions took their biggest lead at 32-26 with 5:40 remaining.

Scotts Hill hit only 1-of-6 shots from the charity stripe but still ended the quarter with a 41-37 advantage.

There were several plot twists as the Viqueens looked to regain their form in the fourth quarter.

An Anna Haskins three-pointer at the 7:14 mark put Community within one at 41-40, but the Lady Lions rebounded with five consecutive points to take a 46-40 lead with 6:05 left.

With the Viqueens still down by six with 4:03 left, the Community defense went into another gear and forced turnovers on three straight Scotts Hill possessions.

The Viqueens converted three points from the turnovers and trailed 46-43 with 3:21 left.

Following a Lady Lion miss, Dixon, who had just returned to the game after suffering a cut to her forehead, put up a three-point attempt that bounced around the rim and went in to tie the game at 46-46 with 2:25 left.

A Heather Bartholomew layup put the Lady Lions ahead 48-46 before Haskins hit her second trey of the quarter with 1:06 left to put Community up 49-48 and give the Viqueens their first lead of the second half.

After Dixon committed her fifth foul, the Lady Lions could not connect on the front end of a 1-and-1 with 50 seconds left as the Viqueens clung to their one-point lead.

On the ensuing Community possession, Brothers was fouled with

▶ See **Quarterfinals**, Page 3B



The Viqueen bench erupts after the final buzzer sounded that sent the Viqueens to the Class 2A state semifinals.

T-G Photos by Chris Siers



Addison Brothers, M.J. Simmons and Zoey Dixon are mobbed after Thursday's state quarterfinal matchup against Scotts Hill.



M.J. Simmons settles in and drills two free throws to put the Viqueens ahead by two points with three seconds left.



Addison Brothers settles at the top of the key and surveys the floor in the first half.



Zoey Dixon brings the ball across half-court and scores for the Viqueens after suffering a head injury.



Anna Haskins drills a three-pointer to put Community ahead in the fourth quarter.



# Semis

(Continued from Page 1B)

Chargers pulled away in the quarter. Simmons, who scored all 12 Viqueen points in the second half, scored six in the fourth but it wasn't enough as Westview reached the championship game.

Brigance led the Lady Chargers with 16 points while Harrison added 14.

Simmons led Community with 18 points as three Viqueens scored in the contest.

The Lady Chargers were 8-of-10 at the free throw line while the Viqueens were a perfect 4-of-4, but Westview had an advantage from outside the arc with a 9-of-25 performance from 3-point land while Community was 3-of-18.

The contest marked the final game in a Viqueen uniform for Simmons, Mitchell, Zoey Dixon, Addison Brothers, Shelby Cawthon, and Jacey Collier.

Pierce, Simmons, and Mitchell talked about the legacy the Viqueens have created.

"All these seniors have

a lot of fight," Pierce said. "They've been that way since they've walked in the door."

"I'm so grateful," Simmons said. "We've been playing since kindergarten."

"It's been amazing for 13 years," Simmons added. "We've worked hard for this and I've loved every second of it."

"It's been great playing basketball with my best friends," Mitchell said. "There's no better place to end it than here."

"They make a lot of sacrifices to put this jersey on," Pierce said. "It means a lot to be a Viqueen."

Mitchell felt the success of the Viqueens and the work of the seniors would be a springboard for future Community teams.

"Those girls in the locker room know how hard we worked," Mitchell said.

"They know they have to put in the work to get where we are."

Westview 11 9 9 14—43  
Community 8 7 6 6—27  
Westview: Jillian Brigance 16, Jada Harrison 14, McCall Simms 8, Kylee Alexander 3, Mary Anna Chester 2, Tinsley Parkins, Halle Trevanthan.  
Community: M. J. Simmons 18, Haley Mitchell 6, Addison Brothers, Zoey Dixon, Shelby Cawthon, Anna Haskins 3.  
3-Point goals: Westview (9): Brigance 4, Harrison 2, Simms 2, Alexander, Community (3): Mitchell 2, Haskins.  
Halftime score: Westview 20, Community 15.

# 2,000 POINT CLUB



Submitted photo

Only two players in Community Viqueen history have reached the 2,000-point barrier. M.J. Simmons (left) finished her career with 2,067 career points for Community, while Sarah Pierce holds the points record for the Viqueens with 2,080 points.

# Quarterfinals

(Continued from Page 1B)

33 seconds left.

The senior connected on both ends of the 1-and-1 to put the Viqueens up 51-48 before Scates drilled a trey with 28 seconds left to tie the game at 51-51.

The Viqueens could not connect on a trey to take the lead, but Shelby Cawthon came up big by forcing a jump ball on the rebound.

Community kept possession on the alternative possession and called timeout with 14 seconds left to set up a last shot.

The Viqueens got the ball to Simmons, who drove to the goal and was tripped with 3.4 seconds left.

Simmons connected on both ends of the 1-and-1 to give Community a 53-51 lead and an apparent win.

After inbounding the ball, the Lady Lions put up a desperation heave from the back court and were the beneficiaries of a Viqueen foul, giving Scotts Hill new life and three free throws with 0.5 seconds left.

As the Viqueen faithful held on with bated breath, the Lady Lions missed the first two foul shots before connecting on the third as the Community lead was cut to 53-52.

The Viqueens threw the ball in as time expired and escaped with the state tournament win.

"We did not play like we normally do," Pierce said. "We had some nerves."

"At the end of the day, the last two games all we've done is survive," Pierce added. "That's all you've got to do."

Simmons scored 19 points and Brothers added 11 to lead the Viqueens.

Bartholomew led the Lady Lions with 17 points.

The most glaring statistic was from the free throw line as Community connected on 14-of-17 tries while the Lady Lions were just 4-of-13.

"We just don't give up," Simmons said.

"We've been working hard for this for four years and then most of us have been playing together since kindergarten."

Dixon talked about returning to the game after drawing blood on her forehead from her hard hit on the floor.

"I didn't have a headache and I wasn't dizzy, so I said fix me up and let's go," Dixon said.

Pierce commented on the large contingent of fans that came from Unionville for the game.

"They showed up. There were a lot of people here," Pierce said.

"It would be a good time to rob a bank in Unionville if we had one."

Scotts Hill 11 14 16 11—52  
Community 13 11 13 16—53  
Scotts Hill: Heather Bartholomew 47, Julie Hampton 9, Jaden Scates 9, Lacie Duxavant 6, Kaylin Wade 5, Mallory Puckett 6, Deanna Pusser.  
Community: M. J. Simmons 19, Addison Brothers 11, Zoey Dixon 8, Haley Mitchell 7, Shelby Cawthon 1, Anna Haskins 7, Jacey Collier.  
3-Point goals: Scotts Hill (6): Bartholomew 2, Scates 2, Hampton, Wade; Community (7): Brothers 2, Dixon 2, Haskins 2, Mitchell.  
Halftime score: Scotts Hill 25, Community 24.

# Alabama headlines South Region bracket

By AARON BEARD  
AP Basketball Writer

Alabama made a leap into the NCAA Tournament's top seeds two years ago only to fall short of the Final Four.

This time, the Crimson Tide has risen to the top of the field of 68 with a team that coach Nate Oats believes is better equipped to meet those expectations.

Alabama (29-5) gets to stay home as the No. 1 overall seed in the NCAA Tournament and the headliner of the South Region bracket after landing the program's first-ever top seed when Sunday's field of 68 teams was revealed. That came hours after the Tide closed out a second Southeastern Conference Tournament title in three seasons.

Alabama opens play in Birmingham on Thursday, facing the First Four winner between Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and Southeast Missouri State.

The Crimson Tide owned a 2-seed in the 2021 tournament taking place in the Indianapolis bubble due to the pandemic, but fell in the Sweet 16 to Final Four-bound UCLA. Oats figures this year's team has more offensive punch, versatility,

depth and rim protection.

"We've tried to build a team that can still win when we don't shoot it well," Oats said after the SEC title win in Nashville, Tennessee. "Can we be great on defense, rebound the ball well, take care of the ball? If we do that, even if we shoot poorly, I think we can generate enough free throws, rim shots to win."

Alabama is one of four teams to rank in the top 20 of KenPom's efficiency metrics for offense and defense, joining fellow No. 1 seed Houston, Texas (a 2-seed) and Connecticut (a 4-seed). It's also one of the nation's most prolific 3-point shooting teams, ranking fourth nationally in attempts per game (29.8) and 11th in makes (10.1).

Yet the success has come with the program dealing with the fallout of being tied to a murder case. Former Tide player Darius Miles and another man have been indicted on capital murder charges for the January shooting death of 23-year-old Jamea Harris.

The case also involves star freshman Brandon Miller, with a police investigator testifying last month that Miles texted

Miller to bring him his gun that night. Neither Miller nor current player Jaden Bradley, who police said was also at the scene, have been charged and both have continued to play.

The program has compounded the scrutiny with public missteps, including Oats having to apologize for a set of comments and later for Miller's pat-down routine during pregame introductions before a win against Arkansas.

"Obviously we never lose sight of the tragedy that's kind of marked our season," Oats said after the SEC Tournament. "It's always there."

## Top challengers

Arizona is the No. 2 seed in the South after the Wildcats (28-6) won the Pac-12 Tournament for the second time in as many seasons under Tommy Lloyd. They have KenPom's No. 4-ranked offense by averaging 120 points per 100 possessions.

Baylor is the No. 3 seed, with Scott Drew's Bears (22-10) ranking as one of six teams to tally at least 10 wins against quadrant 1 teams to top a postseason resume.

# South Carolina women chase 3rd title

ASSOCIATED PRESS

March Madness is here! Here is what to know about the women's NCAA Tournament, including the favorites and underdogs as well as key games and how to watch:

## Top seeds

The top four seeds in the tournament are South Carolina, Indiana, Virginia Tech and Stanford. Each is in a region, some tougher than others (on paper). We break them down for you:

South Carolina (32-0): The defending national champions are the No. 1 overall seed and the Greenville I Region breaks down favorably. It includes two teams in No. 2 seed Maryland (25-6) and No. 4 seed UCLA (23-9) who the Gamecocks beat earlier this season. South Carolina is loaded, with two-time Southeastern Conference player of the year Aliyah Boston and leading scorer Zia Cooke.

Indiana (27-3) After a loss to Ohio State in the Big Ten Tournament

semis, some wondered if the Hoosiers might miss out on a top seed. They landed it in the Greenville II Region and start against either Tennessee Tech or Monmouth. Mackenzie Holmes leads Indiana with 22.3 points and 7.3 rebounds per game. Top challengers include No. 2 seed Utah, No. 3 seed LSU and No. 4 seed Villanova, which is led by scoring sensation Maddy Siegrist.

Virginia Tech (27-5) The Hokies won their first ACC Tournament championship and will lead the Seattle 3 Region. Elizabeth Kitley has stepped things up down the stretch as Virginia Tech won its final eight games. Virginia Tech could have to navigate No. 4 seed Tennessee in the Sweet 16 and No. 2 seed UConn or No. 3 seed Ohio State after that.

Stanford (28-5) The committee looked to Stanford's steadiness for much of the season in giving it the top seed in the Seattle 4 Region. The Cardinal are led by Cameron Brink

and Haley Jones, who have combined to score more than 28 points per game this season. Look for a potential high-wattage battle for the Final Four against No. 2 seed Iowa, led by national player of the year candidate Caitlin Clark.

## Games to watch

No. 3 seed Notre Dame (25-5) vs. No. 14 seed Southern Utah (23-6), Friday. The Fighting Irish's chances for a deep run will certainly be affected by how seriously do-everything leader Olivia Miles is hurt. She left the ACC Tournament quarterfinals two weeks ago with a knee injury.

Monmouth (18-13) vs. Tennessee Tech (22-9), Thursday, ESPNU. Monmouth, surprise winners of the Colonial Athletic Association Tournament, have not played in the NCAA tourney since 1983 and get the chance to extend its stay in a First Four contest Wednesday. Either the Hawks or the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament

## Virginia's adjustment

Virginia is the 4-seed after sharing the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title and before losing to Duke in the ACC Tournament final. But the Cavaliers lost starting forward Ben Vander Plas on the eve of the ACC Tournament to a season-ending injury, which has forced coach Tony Bennett to make a late-season rotation pivot that could be a factor in March.

That has meant more minutes for 6-foot-11 red-shirt junior Kadin Shedrick, who went from not playing at all for the last two regular-season games to playing at least 17 minutes in three ACC tourney games.

## Hello again

There are some teams enjoying returns after lengthy absences, starting with Southern Conference champion Furman.

The 13th-seeded Paladins (27-7) will face the Cavaliers for their first tournament game since 1980 — three years before current coach Bob Richey was born. Their previous five NCAA bids all came between 1971 and 1978.

champions in Tennessee Tech, both 16 seeds, will have to take on top-seed Indiana on Friday.

No. 5 seed Louisville (23-11) vs. No. 12 seed Drake (22-9), Saturday. The Cardinals were a Final Four team a season ago and start their journey back as a No. 5 seed. They'll open things against Drake (22-9), which was seeded fourth in the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament yet defeated Belmont to take the league's automatic bid. Louisville is led by Hailey Van Lith, who's averaged 19.2 points a game this season.

No. 4 seed Villanova (28-6) vs. No. 13 seed Cleveland State (30-4), Saturday. Villanova features one of the country's best players in Maddy Siegrist, a two-time Big East player of year. The Wildcats are in a stacked region with top seed Indiana, No. 2 seed Utah and No. 3 seed LSU in front of them. Cleveland State won the Horizon League and made the NCAAs for the first time since 2010.

# NCAA success depends on strong guards

By STEVE MEGARGEE  
AP Sports Writer

Anyone trying to fill out their NCAA Tournament brackets ought to start by figuring out which teams have the best backcourts.

This has been a guard's event for years.

When Kansas' Ochai Agbaji helped the Jayhawks win the national title last season, he became the ninth straight guard to be selected as a Final Four's most outstanding player. The list started with Duke's Tyus Jones in 2015 and continued with Villanova's Ryan Arcidiacono, North Carolina's Joel Berry II, Villanova's Donte DiVincenzo, Virginia's Kyle Guy and Baylor's Jared Butler.

Occasionally a big man can dominate the college basketball landscape the way Anthony Davis did while leading Kentucky to the 2012 title, but they're the exceptions. The NCAA Tournament generally is all about guard play.

Here's a look at six backcourts that merit watching. **BAYLOR:** L.J. Cryer, Adam Flagler and Keyonte George.

Baylor won the NCAA Tournament two years

ago behind its outstanding backcourt and will try to do it again with a different set of guards. All three of them score at least 14.5 points per game. Flagler was one of five finalists for the Jerry West Award given to the nation's top shooting guard. He also earned AP first-team all-Big 12 honors. George, the best prospect in the trio, was a second-team all-Big 12 pick. Baylor ranks second in Division I in adjusted offensive efficiency, a metric measured by college basketball stats guru Ken Pomeroy that essentially translates to points scored per 100 possessions when adjusted for the level of competition.

**HOUSTON:** Marcus Sasser and Jamal Shead.

Sasser is one of 10 semifinalists for the Naismith Award given to the national player of the year He's eager for this NCAA Tournament showcase after a foot injury ended his 2021-22 season after just 12 games. He injured his groin in the American Athletic Association Tournament and didn't play in Sunday's championship game, so it remains to be seen how close he is to full strength.

Sasser has scored over 17 points per game each of the last two seasons. Shead has nearly three times as many assists as turnovers.

**KANSAS:** Gradey Dick, Dajuan Harris and Kevin McCullar Jr.

The defending national champions had to replace virtually their entire nucleus from last year but still put together an outstanding backcourt to complement forward Jalen Wilson, the AP Big 12 player of the year. Dick, a freshman, is a Jerry West Award finalist, scoring nearly 15 points per game; he arguably is more a small forward at 6-foot-8, but Kansas lists him as a guard. Dick and McCullar both were AP second-team all-Big 12 selections. McCullar, a Texas Tech transfer, has scored in double figures three straight seasons and is pulling down over 7 rebounds per game. Harris is dishing out over 6 assists per game and ranks third among all Division I players in assist-turnover ratio.

**MARQUETTE:** Kam Jones, Tyler Kolek and Stevie Mitchell.

Kolek, a Naismith Award semifinalist and the Big East player of the year,

has 7.7 assists per game and has well over three times as many assists as turnovers. He was named the Big East Tournament MVP. Jones, a second-team AP all-Big East selection, leads Marquette in scoring and makes nearly three 3-pointers per game. Mitchell has over 7 points per game but is best known for his defense. This group helped Marquette win its first Big East outright regular-season title and first Big East Tournament championship.

**MIAMI:** Jordan Miller, Nijel Pack and Isaiah Wong.

This trio helped Miami win a share of the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title and earn the No. 1 seed in the ACC Tournament for the first time since 2013. Wong is a Jerry West Award finalist and AP first-team all-ACC pick. He was named ACC player of the year by a 75-member panel including coaches and media representatives. Wong, Miller and Pack are each scoring over 13 points per game.

**XAVIER:** Souley Boum, Colby Jones and Adam Kunkel.



# Purdue, Marquette top 2 seeds in NCAA East with bluebloods

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**  
AP Sports Writer

Purdue and Marquette were far from the favorites in their own conferences going into the season. They are now the top two seeds in the East Region of the NCAA Tournament.

Big Ten regular-season and tournament champion Purdue (29-5) is a No. 1 seed for the first time since 1996, and fourth time overall.

Led by big man Zach Edey, the Boilermakers are going to the NCAA Tournament for the eighth time in a row, and 34th overall. They play Friday in Columbus, Ohio, against the winner of First Four matchup between Texas Southern and Fairleigh Dickinson.

Marquette (28-6) is in the tournament for the second year in a row for Shaka Smart, the coach who took VCU to the Final Four in 2011. The Golden Eagles, in consecutive tournaments for the first time since eight in a row from 2006-13, will play 15th-seeded Vermont (23-10).

If the Big East champion Golden Eagles win their opener, they would then play either No. 7 seed Michigan State (19-12) or No. 10 seed Southern California (22-10). Coach Tom Izzo and the Spartans are in their record 25th consecutive tournament.

## Duke rookies

Duke, with some standout freshmen and 35-year-old rookie head coach Jon Scheyer, takes a nine-game winning streak into the tourney after beating Virginia in the ACC Tournament title game.

The fifth-seeded Blue Devils (26-8) haven't lost since falling in overtime on the road against Virginia on Feb. 11. They play scoring ace Max Abmas and 12th-seeded Oral Roberts (30-4).

After spending last year as the coach-in-waiting for Mike Krzyzewski's last Final Four run, Scheyer assembled the nation's top-

ranked recruiting class that's already got its first tournament trophy.

That first-round game Thursday in Orlando, Florida, is on the same side of the bracket as fourth-seeded Tennessee (23-10) and Louisiana-Lafayette (26-7) in its first NCAA tourney since 2014.

## Wildcats recovery

Considering Kentucky (21-11) was teetering on the tournament bubble in January amid speculation of Hall of Fame coach John Calipari leaving for Texas, the Wildcats weren't going to complain about its No. 6 seeding in the East.

The task now for big man Oscar Tshiebwe and the Wildcats is winning Kentucky's first NCAA Tournament game since 2019, a drought highlighted by last year's epic first-round upset loss to No. 15 seed Saint Peter's. They play No. 11 Providence (21-11) on Friday in Greensboro, North Carolina.

"What happened last year, the first time in my career. And you know what, hurt like hell," Calipari said. "But, you move on and you move to the next. For me, this has got to be a ball because they're going to feed off of me. They've got to see me (and) saying, 'he is loose and ready to go' because they're going to feed off of me. And I'm excited about it."

## Wildcats from Kansas

First-year coach Jerome Tang has Kansas State as the No. 3 seed in its first NCAA Tournament since 2019.

After leaving Scott Drew's side at Baylor, where he had been an assistant coach for 19 years and part of the Bears' only national championship two years ago, Tang won 15 of his first 16 games and led the Wildcats to a 23-9 overall record while playing in the brutal Big 12.

Their first-round game Friday in Columbus is against Montana State

(25-9), the Big Sky champion in consecutive NCAA tourneys for the first time.

## Penny and the Tigers

Penny Hardaway played in the 1992 and 1993 NCAA tournaments in his only two seasons as a player for the school then known as Memphis State. He now has the Tigers in their second consecutive tourney as a coach.

The Tigers (26-8) won the American Athletic Conference Tournament with a 75-65 over No. 1 Houston on Sunday, and didn't even cut down the nets in Fort Worth until after watching the selection show. The Cougars are still a No. 1 seed, in the Midwest Region.

Memphis is the eighth seed, with a difficult matchup against Conference USA champion Florida Atlantic (31-3) on Friday.

## Road to Houston

It will be a lot harder to overlook Purdue and Marquette in March, than it was before the season began. The Boilermakers have steadied things since losing four of six games in February, and take a five-game winning streak into the NCAA Tournament.

"I think people just kind of freaked out. We were having a great season. We had the same guys the entire year," Edey said. "Just the shots weren't falling. None of us in our program freaked out. It was kind of just the media. We knew what we had and knew we had everything we need."

While Smart never made it out of the first round of the NCAA in his three appearances over six seasons with Texas, Marquette could mimic his old VCU team and make a deep NCAA run on the 20th anniversary of the last of Marquette's three Final Four appearances.

# Bears deal top pick to Panthers

By **STEVE REED**  
AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Carolina Panthers are on the clock.

The Panthers have traded up to acquire the No. 1 overall pick in the draft from the Chicago Bears in exchange for Carolina's No. 9 and No. 61 overall picks in 2023, a first-round pick in 2024, a second-round pick in 2025 and star wide receiver D.J. Moore, two people familiar with the deal said Friday.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the trade had not been announced. The deal is expected to be announced on Wednesday, when the NFL's free agency signing period begins.

The move allows the Panthers to acquire a potential franchise quarterback — the sort of player the team has coveted for years — although it remains unclear which QB Carolina prefers. The Bears are committed to Justin Fields at quarterback and that gave them leverage to trade down.

Carolina has its choice of Alabama's Bryce Young, Ohio State's CJ Stroud, Kentucky's Will Levis or Florida's Anthony Richardson. The Panthers are considering up to three quarterbacks, one of the people familiar with the deal said.

The Panthers may not have gotten the QB they wanted if they had stayed at No. 9.

"You go get the guy that you want, you know," Panthers general manager Scott Fitterer said last week at the scouting combine about potentially trading up for a quarterback. "If you have a conviction on a guy, you go get him. It's pretty simple that way. If you don't know and you're going to give all these resources to go up and get it, you're hurting your team in the long run. You better be right. You better have conviction if you do move up. When you do that, you're all in."

The Panthers have been seeking stability at quarterback since David Tepper bought the team in 2018.

They have tried several starters — including Baker Mayfield, Sam Darnold, Teddy Bridgewater and even bringing back Cam Newton for a second stint. But none of those options has worked out and Carolina hasn't been to the playoffs since 2017.

This is the first time the Panthers have had the No. 1 pick since 2011, when they drafted Newton. He was MVP of the league in 2015, when he led Carolina to its second Super Bowl appearance.

The Panthers decided against making an offer to free agent Derek Carr with an eye toward selecting a quarterback in the draft. Carr got a four-year, \$150 million deal from the division rival New Orleans Saints. The Panthers didn't want to invest that much in a veteran.

Fitterer has repeatedly said in the past that he likes the idea of drafting a QB because it allows for more salary cap flexibility.

The only quarterbacks currently on the Panthers' roster are last year's third-round draft pick Matt Corral and Jacob Eason, who saw action in one game as an emergency backup. Darnold and P.J. Walker, who both started at QB last year, are set to become free agents.

New Panthers coach Frank Reich told The Associated Press in February that finding stability at quarterback was "a big deal."

"It's a question of getting together with Scott and Mr. Tepper and really having a plan, which we will. We've already started talking about that," Reich said. "But then it is about executing the plan. So I'm looking forward to the process."

Moore gives the Bears a solid receiver to pair with Fields, who lacked reliable downfield options but leaned on his legs and play-making ability during an electrifying second season. Fields ran for 1,143 yards and the Bears led the league in rushing, but finished at the bottom in passing.

Moore was considered a must-have by the Bears, one of the people familiar with the deal said. Without him, the deal would not have been completed, the person said.

Moore has been Carolina's top receiver since the Panthers drafted him in the first round in 2018. He has caught 364 passes for 5,201 yards with 21 touchdowns in five seasons.

The Panthers wanted to get the deal done before free agency because they wanted to know how much salary cap space they would have to work with. By trading Moore, the Panthers will free up \$10 million under the cap.

# March Madness: Not just about brackets

By **MARK ANDERSON**  
AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS — March Madness isn't just about filling out — and later trashing — brackets. There are more ways to bet the field in the NCAA Tournament, an event that will consume basketball fans over the next three weeks. Here's a look at the favorites, underdogs and longshots.

## Who's favored to reach the Final Four?

Top-ranked Houston is the plus-120 favorite to emerge as the Midwest Region representative and play in Houston, according to FanDuel Sportsbook. That means a \$100 bet pays \$120. The next top team in the region is Texas at plus-450.

No. 4 Alabama, which is the No. 1 overall seed, is plus-190 to come out of the South. Next is No. 8 Arizona at plus-440.

The most competitive

region appears to be the West. No. 3 Kansas is a slight favorite at plus-320, just ahead of No. 2 UCLA at plus-350. No. 9 Gonzaga isn't far behind at plus-400. No. 5 Purdue is at plus-300 to come out of the East, with No. 6 Marquette next at plus-420.

## Who's favored to win the title?

Odds makers agree with the NCAA selection committee that the No. 1 seeds are the favorites — Houston at plus-500, Alabama at plus-800, Kansas at plus-1,000 and Purdue at plus-1,200.

After that, odds makers favor UCLA at plus-1,400, Gonzaga at plus 1,500, Arizona at plus-1,600, No. 7 Texas at plus-1,900, and No. 10 Baylor and Marquette each at plus-2,100.

## Who is the biggest underdog?

If you're looking for

the next Saint Peter's or Loyola-Chicago, check out these options.

Sixteen teams are listed at plus-50,000: Colgate, Furman, Grand Canyon, Howard, Kennesaw State, Kent State, Louisiana, Montana State, Nevada, Northern Kentucky, Southeast Missouri State, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Texas Southern, UC Santa Barbara, UNC Asheville and Vermont.

## What's the biggest spread difference?

Kansas is a 21 1/2-point favorite over Howard in their first-round matchup. Beyond that, Houston is favored by 19 1/2 points over Northern Kentucky, UCLA by 17 1/2 over UNC Asheville and Gonzaga by 15 1/2 over Grand Canyon.

## What's the biggest over/under?

The old saying is that life is too short to bet the under, but it's often the wise

play. Some of these totals may give bettors second thoughts before taking the over, but that doesn't mean it's the wrong move. The highest totals are Gonzaga-Grand Canyon at 156 1/2, Missouri-Utah State at 154 1/2, Texas A&M Corpus Christi-Southeast Missouri State at 153 1/2, Auburn-Iowa and Xavier-Kennesaw State each at 151 1/2 and Florida Atlantic-Memphis at 150 1/2.

## Not real underdogs

Just because the committee seeds one team over another doesn't necessarily mean it's the better team in the minds of the oddsmakers. Here are the games where the lower seed is the favorite on the early line: Tenth-seeded Utah State by 2 1/2 points over seventh-seeded Missouri, 10th-seeded Boise State a half-point over seventh-seeded Northwestern and ninth-seeded West Virginia by 2 1/2 over eighth-seeded Maryland.

# Byron beats Larson for 2nd straight Cup win

By **DAVID BRANDT**  
AP Sports Writer

AVONDALE, Ariz. — William Byron took advantage of a late restart to earn a Cup Series victory, just like last weekend.

Kyle Larson was the victim of Byron's late restart prowess, just like last weekend.

It was a strange bit of déjà vu at Phoenix Raceway, as Byron won his second straight Cup race by beating out his Hendrick Motorsports teammate in overtime on Sunday.

"I don't love winning races that way, it's very stressful," Byron said, grinning. "A lot of tactics going on with the restarts."

Late restarts may add to Byron's stress, but they're also adding to his win total.

His No. 24 Chevrolet got a great start in overtime with two laps left, and just like he did a week earlier at Las Vegas, he overtook Larson for the win. He also had to hold off Ryan Blaney, who finished second in his Penske Ford, while Tyler Reddick was third in the No. 45 Toyota for 23XI Racing.

Byron's victory also denied Kevin Harvick his 10th win at Phoenix. Harvick's Stewart-Haas No. 4 Ford passed Larson for the lead with 44 laps remaining, taking advantage of the long run under green-flag conditions that favored his car all afternoon.

But a yellow flag with 10 laps remaining dashed Harvick's hopes.

Several drivers changed just two tires on the ensuing pit stop, but Harvick took four, falling back to seventh place for the restart with three laps left. He finished fifth.

Another caution immediately after the restart sent the race to overtime.

Larson — whose No. 5 Chevrolet was the fastest during Friday's practice and also during Saturday's qualifying — was fading after Harvick's pass, but the late yellow flags gave him a chance until Byron snatched away the victory.

Larson finished fourth, capping a frustrating finish.

"Restarts are just tough," Larson said. "I felt like I ran William up pretty high and was expecting him to lose some grip. But he did a really good job of holding and cleared me down the backstretch."

All four Hendrick cars were inside the top 10. Alex Bowman was ninth while Josh Berry — filling in for the injured Chase Elliott — was 10th.

Harvick was attempting to become the sixth driver in Cup history to win 10 times at one track, an exclusive club that includes Richard Petty, Darrell Waltrip, Jimmie Johnson, Dale Earnhardt and David Pearson. The 47-year-old has said this will be his final season.

Byron and Larson had the fastest cars for most of the race. It continued a dominant stretch by the two Hendrick drivers, who were 1-2 for much of the Las Vegas

race.

Byron won the first stage, leading 59 of the first 60 laps. Larson won the second stage.

## Harvick's consistency

Harvick's attempt at a 10th win at Phoenix understandably attracted the most attention, but the race was also his 20th straight top-10 finish at the track. That streak dates back to 2013 and is the most top 10s in a row at one track in Cup history.

Not all roses

Hendrick Motorsports is on a roll, but the team's week in Phoenix wasn't totally filled with good news.

NASCAR officials took the hood louvers from the four Hendrick cars Friday and will bring them to the NASCAR Research & Development Center in North Carolina for inspection. Any potential penalties would be announced next week.

If that caused any distractions, it certainly didn't show on Sunday.

"It's a test of mental strength," Byron's crew chief Rudy Fugle said. "That's what it takes to win in this series."

## Heat check

It was one of the hottest days of the year so far in Phoenix, with the temperature climbing around 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

That made for some uncertainty about how the cars would handle, particularly

since the weather was much cooler for Friday's practice and Saturday's qualifying.

NASCAR was also debuting a new rules package for short tracks and road courses, limiting the downforce that helps gives the cars traction. Byron said he wasn't sure the changes led to better racing.

"I thought it was really difficult to drive," Byron said. "From an objective standpoint — I know we were competitive — but I didn't think we could pass any better. So there's still some work to do there."

## Odds and ends

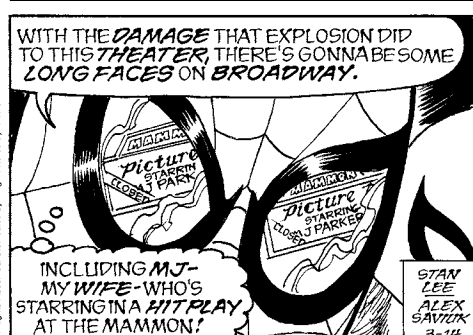
Green-flag pit stops around the 120-lap mark led to pit road speeding penalties for multiple drivers, including Kyle Busch, Michael McDowell, Erik Jones and Austin Cindric. Busch was also penalized on the same stop for an uncontrolled tire on pit road. He recovered to finish eighth. ... Elliott is expected to be out at least another month because of a broken leg suffered while snowboarding. Berry's 10th place finish came in his second Cup start. ... Phoenix Raceway is the once again the site of the Cup championship in November.

## Up next

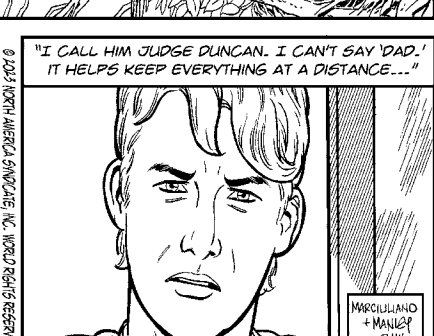
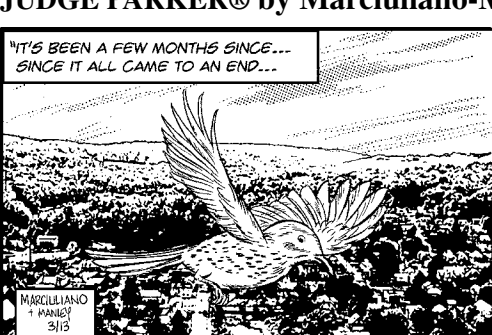
The three-race West Coast swing is over. NASCAR moves to Atlanta Motor Speedway next weekend.



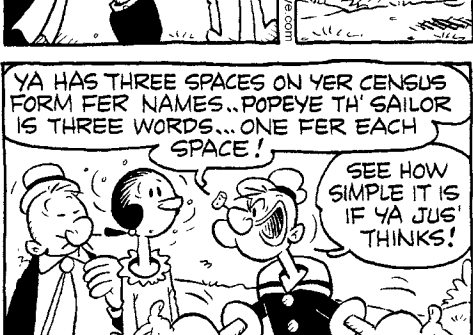
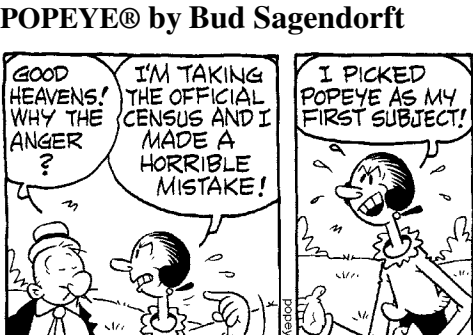
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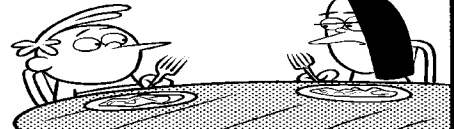
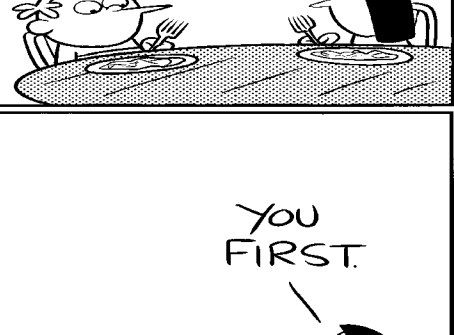
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-59.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Half-conscious states
8. Unnatural
13. Deep regret
14. Rogue
15. Taken without permission
19. An alternative
20. After B
21. Partner to flowed
22. Weekday
23. Body part
24. World's longest river
25. One of the Greats
26. Make clean
30. C. Canada indigenous peoples
31. Japanese seaport
32. Most unclothed
33. Small grouper fish
34. Soluble ribonucleic acid
35. Distinguishing sound
38. French realist painter
39. Popular beer brand
40. Views
44. God depicted as a bull
45. Relieve
46. Residue after burning
47. Habitation
48. Poe's middle name
49. Japanese title
50. TV series installation (abbr.)
51. Beloved country singer
55. Single unit
57. Genuine
58. Develop
59. Traveled through the snow

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Clues
2. Do again
3. Current unit
4. Neither
5. Corporate exec (abbr.)
6. Second sight
7. The absence of mental stress
8. Supplemented with difficulty
9. Stop for good
10. College dorm worker
11. Bones
12. Most supernatural
16. Spanish island
17. Unlimited
18. Where golfers begin
22. No charge
25. Print errors
27. Professional drivers
28. Kiss box set
29. Short, fine fibers
30. Administers punishment
32. Czech city
34. Normal or sound powers of mind
35. The academic world
36. Crustacean
37. Currency
38. Pastoral people of Tanzania or Kenya
40. Cloth spread over a coffin
41. Grouped together
42. On land
43. Glistened
45. A type of extension
48. One who assists
51. College sports conference
52. Zero
53. Midway between northeast and east
54. Type of screen
56. The 13th letter of the Greek alphabet

PUZZLE SOLUTION

Grid for puzzle solution with letters.

ASTROGRAPH

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
A development may have you feeling a bit down, Aries. That is only temporary, though, as your mood and circumstances will rebound in no time at all.
TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, people you encounter this week may be exceptionally stubborn, so you may need to avoid confrontations. Keep your emotions in check as best as you can.
GEMINI - May 22/June 21
Gemini, the weather may not be suitable for getting much done outdoors, but you can certainly stay busy inside the house with any projects you have been putting off.
CANCER - June 22/July 22
This is a great opportunity for getting rid of any clutter that has been holding you back, Cancer. Start sorting through the garage or cleaning out a desk at work.
LEO - July 23/Aug 23
Leo, do not worry about the small stuff that you feel could be holding you back. If you step away from the situation, you may find that everything is working out.
VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, there are plenty of opportunities open to you, but you may not realize they are so close by. A friend may need to guide your way on this for the time being.
LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
You may be feeling bad about something you did in the past, Libra, and now you want to make amends. It's the little changes you implement that will make a difference.
SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you may be ready to give your life an overhaul. That may amount to you changing careers in the weeks to come. Do your research before you put in notice.
SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, stay focused and disciplined this week, especially as it pertains to a diet. You can maintain your commitment, especially with others cheering you on.
CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, rewards will not come without hard work and dedication. Now is the time to stick with the plan and keep moving forward. Save days off for later.
AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Do not go up against managers or superiors this week, Aquarius. Doing so likely won't go in your favor. Just keep out of the spotlight for a little while longer.
PISCES - Feb 19/March 20
You may be building the blocks of a major life project, Pisces. Use all of the resources at your disposal in the days to come.
FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
MARCH 5
Madison Beer, Singer (24)
MARCH 6
Shaquille O'Neal, NBA Player (51)
MARCH 7
Bryan Cranston, Actor (67)
MARCH 8
Freddie Prinze, Jr., Actor (47)
MARCH 9
Oscar Isaac, Actor (44)
MARCH 10
Carrie Underwood, Singer (40)
MARCH 11
Thora Birch, Actress (41)



TUESDAY EVENING MARCH 14, 2023

Table with columns for Broadcast, Cable, and Premium channels, and rows for time slots from 7:00 to 11:30. Includes programs like 'The Bachelor', 'Survivor', 'Chicago Med', and 'The Masked Singer'.

WEDNESDAY EVENING MARCH 15, 2023

Table with columns for Broadcast, Cable, and Premium channels, and rows for time slots from 7:00 to 11:30. Includes programs like 'Conners', 'Survivor', 'Chicago Med', and 'The Masked Singer'.

THURSDAY EVENING MARCH 16, 2023

Table with columns for Broadcast, Cable, and Premium channels, and rows for time slots from 7:00 to 11:30. Includes programs like 'Station 19', 'SVU', 'Chicago P.D.', and 'The Bachelor'.

FRIDAY EVENING MARCH 17, 2023

Table with columns for Broadcast, Cable, and Premium channels, and rows for time slots from 7:00 to 11:30. Includes programs like 'Shark Tank', '2023 NCAA Basketball Tournament', 'Lopez vs. Grand Crew', and 'Hawaii Five-0'.

SATURDAY EVENING MARCH 18, 2023

Table with columns for Broadcast, Cable, and Premium channels, and rows for time slots from 7:00 to 11:30. Includes programs like 'NHL Hockey', '2023 NCAA Basketball Tournament', 'Despicable Me 3', and 'The Bachelor'.

SUNDAY EVENING MARCH 19, 2023

Table with columns for Broadcast, Cable, and Premium channels, and rows for time slots from 7:00 to 11:30. Includes programs like 'American Idol', 'The Equalizer', 'The Bachelor', and 'The Masked Singer'.

MONDAY EVENING MARCH 20, 2023

Table with columns for Broadcast, Cable, and Premium channels, and rows for time slots from 7:00 to 11:30. Includes programs like 'The Bachelor', 'The Good Doctor', 'NCIS: Hawaii', and 'The Bachelor'.

TUESDAY EVENING MARCH 21, 2023

Table with columns for Broadcast, Cable, and Premium channels, and rows for time slots from 7:00 to 11:30. Includes programs like 'The Bachelor', 'The Bachelor', 'The Bachelor', and 'The Bachelor'.



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Silk Tree, In Box Planter  
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Like New, \$2 Each  
Ivory Baker's Rack  
With Removable Cutting  
Board, Best Offer  
2 Nebulizers  
1 Used, 1 Only Been Used  
Twice, Make Offer  
3 Ultrasonic Aroma  
Humidifiers  
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### PUBLIC NOTICE

**TO: SHARON IRENE RUSSELL**  
**MARK ANDREW RUSSELL,**  
**Plaintiff**  
**vs.**  
**SHARON IRENE RUSSELL,**  
**Defendant**

Case No: 34,316 In the Chancery Court of Bedford County at Shelbyville

In this cause, it appearing from the complaint which is sworn to that the current residence of SHARON IRENE RUSSELL, is unknown and cannot be ascertained despite diligent inquiry. She is hereby required to appear before the undersigned Clerk and Master and make defense to the complaint and serve a copy of her answer on plaintiff's solicitor, Brenda S. Bramlett, 885 Union Street, Suite B, P.O. Box 967, Shelbyville, TN 37162, or otherwise judgement by default will be taken against her for the relief demanded in the complaint. It is further ordered that this notice be published for four consecutive weeks in the Shelbyville Times Gazette.

This the 21st day of February, 2023,  
CURT M. COBB,  
Clerk and Master  
Attorney for Plaintiff:  
Brenda S. Bramlett  
P.O. Box 967  
Shelbyville, TN 37162  
(Feb. 21 & 28, Mar. 7 & 14, 2023)

### SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE

**OF REAL ESTATE AND AFFIXED MANUFACTURED HOME**  
ANTHONY R. STEELE is the Successor Trustee of a Deed of Trust executed on June 30, 2004, by OTTO E. BACH and LORETTA A. BACH. The Deed of Trust appears of record in the Register's Office of Bedford County, Tennessee, at **Book TD555, Page 297** ("Deed of Trust"). The Trustee will sell the property described in the Deed of Trust at a foreclosure sale requested by the current holder of the Deed of Trust and underlying indebtedness, **Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc.** Pursuant to T.C.A. §47-9-604 this sale shall also include the affixed manufactured home described as one (1) 2005 Southern Manufactured Home bearing Serial Number DSDAL42115AB. The terms of sale shall be payment by cashier's check or certified funds immediately upon conclusion of the sale.

**Sale Date and Location:** March 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the front door of the Courthouse in Shelbyville, Bedford County, Tennessee.

**Property Description:** Abbreviated description per TCA 35-5-104(a)(2) is the property referenced in the Deed of Trust and otherwise described fully at Deed Book 205, Page 724, and commonly known as 1035 Wheel Road, Shelbyville, TN 37160  
**Property Address:** 1035 Wheel Road, Shelbyville, Bedford County, Tennessee 37160.  
**Tax Map Identification No.:** 065-038.05 (However, the property description shall control in the event of any incon-

### PUBLIC NOTICE

sistencies between the description and address or tax identification number). Parties Interested: Duck River EMC (Book TD854, Page 135); Republic Finance (Book L21, Page 786); Duck River Electric Management Corp. (Book L22, Page 185); Velocity Investments, LLC (Book L26, Page 712).

All sales of Property, both real and personal, are "AS IS" and "WHERE IS" without representation or warranty as to merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose or of any kind, except as to title and authority to convey. The sale of the described property is subject to all matters shown on any recorded plan; any unpaid taxes, any restrictive covenants, easements, set-back lines, prior liens, encumbrances, if any, and any other priority as may appear in the public records. Title to the manufactured home may be transferred by Bill of Sale or Certificate of Title, as the case may require. The right is preserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day, time and place certain without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place for the sale set forth above.

**THE PURPOSE OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS TO COLLECT THE DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED AS A RESULT WILL BE USED FOR THAT EXPRESS PURPOSE ONLY. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.**

This the 24th day of February, 2023,  
Anthony R. Steele,  
Successor Trustee  
Winchester, Sellers,  
Foster & Steele, P.C.  
P. O. Box 2428  
Knoxville, TN 37901  
(865) 637-1980  
(Feb. 28, Mar. 7 & 14, 2023)

### Request for Proposals Canopy for Bedford County Health Department

**Bid No. 23-27**  
Bid packages are available on the Bedford County website, [bedfordcountyttn.gov](http://bedfordcountyttn.gov), or at the Bedford County Department of Finance, 200 Dover Street, Suite 102. **Sealed bids will be received until 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 29, 2023.**  
(Mar. 11 & 14, 2023)

### Request for Proposals Metal Fascia Painting at Liberty and Cascade Middle Schools

**Bid No. 23-28**  
Bid packages are avail-

### PUBLIC NOTICE

able on the Bedford County website, [bedfordcountyttn.gov](http://bedfordcountyttn.gov), or at the Bedford County Department of Finance, 200 Dover Street, Suite 102. **Sealed bids will be received until 2:00 p.m., Friday, March 31, 2023.**  
(Mar. 14 & 18, 2023)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Shelbyville is accepting applications for the full-time position of Information Technology Director. This is currently a stand-alone position which provides end-user desktop/workstation support for all PC hardware, software, phone, cell phones, peripherals, printing and network issues. Travel to individual City department locations will be part of the responsibility of assisting those branches with their IT needs. This position is under the direction of the City Manager and will provide short-term and long-term operational planning for the city-wide information management needs.

The ideal candidate will have a minimum of two (2) years of experience performing networking and/or client/server work for a medium to large scale computer system under advanced operation systems. Please see job description for a complete list of requirements. This is a full-time salaried exempt position with a starting salary between \$61,405.00 - \$89,770.00, depending on experience and qualifications. Applications and a copy of the complete job description may be picked up at City Hall during normal business hours or download from the City website: [www.shelbyvilletn.org](http://www.shelbyvilletn.org). Application/job description must be returned to City Hall Administration Office, 201 N. Spring Street, or emailed to [stacey.claxton@shelbyvilletn.org](mailto:stacey.claxton@shelbyvilletn.org) and will be accepted until position if filled.

The City of Shelbyville is an equal opportunity employer and a drug free workplace. Successful Applicants required to pass background check, physical and drug screen. Stacey Claxton, Human Resources Generalist (Mar. 14, 18, 21 & 25, 2023)

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## Biden urges confidence in banks after 2 collapse

NEW YORK (AP) — President Joe Biden insisted Monday that the nation's banking system was safe, seeking to project calm after the collapse of two banks stirred fears of a broader upheaval and prompted regulators to offer emergency loans to banks to stave off additional failures.

"Your deposits will be there when you need them," Biden said.

Despite the message from the White House, investors continued to dump shares in bank stocks. Shares of First Republic Bank plunged more than 70% even after the bank said it was accessing emergency funding from the Federal Reserve as well as additional funds from JPMorgan Chase.

U.S. regulators closed the Silicon Valley Bank on Friday after depositors rushed to withdraw their funds all at once. It was the second largest bank failure in U.S. history, behind only the 2008 failure of Washington Mutual. New York-based Signature Bank also failed.

Speaking from the White House shortly before a trip to the West Coast, the president said he would seek to hold those responsible accountable, and he pressed for better oversight and regulation of larger banks. He promised that no losses would be borne by taxpayers.

"We must get the full accounting of what happened," he said. "Americans can have confidence that the banking system is safe."

Biden also said the managers of the banks should be fired.

"If the bank is taken over by the FDIC, the people running the bank should not work there anymore," he said, referring to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., the agency responsible for ensuring the stability of the banking system.

International regulators also had to step in to ease investor fears. The Bank of England and U.K. Treasury said they had facilitated the sale of a Silicon Valley Bank subsidiary in London to HSBC, Europe's biggest bank. The deal protected 6.7 billion pounds (\$8.1 billion) of deposits.

Under the plan announced by U.S. regulators, depositors at Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank, including those whose holdings exceed the \$250,000 insurance limit, will be able to access their money on Monday. Under a new Fed program, banks can post those securities as collateral and borrow from the emergency facility.

The Treasury has set aside \$25 billion to offset any losses incurred. Fed officials said, however, that they do not expect to have to use any of that money, given that the securities posted as collateral have a very low risk of default.

Though Sunday's steps marked the most extensive government intervention in the banking system since the 2008 financial crisis, the actions were relatively limited compared with 15 years ago.

The two failed banks themselves have not been rescued, and taxpayer money has not been provided to them.

Some prominent Silicon Valley executives feared that if Washington did not rescue their failed bank, customers would make runs on other financial institutions in the coming days. Stock prices plunged over the last few days at other banks that cater to technology companies, such as First Republic and PacWest Bank.

Among the bank's customers are a range of companies, including many California wineries that rely on Silicon Valley Bank for loans, and technology startups devoted to combating climate change.

Tiffany Dufu, founder and CEO of The Cru, a New York-based career coaching platform and community for women, posted a video Sunday on LinkedIn from an airport bathroom, saying the bank crisis was testing her resiliency.

Given that her money was tied up at Silicon Valley Bank, she had to pay her employees out of her personal bank account. With two teenagers to support who will be heading to college, she said she was relieved to hear that the government's intent is to make depositors whole.

"Small businesses and early stage startups don't have a lot of access to leverage in a situation like this, and we're often in a very vulnerable position, particularly when we have to fight so hard to get the wires into your bank account to begin with, particularly for me, as a Black female founder," Dufu said.

## Biden OKs major Willow oil drilling in Alaska over protests

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration said Monday it is approving the huge Willow oil-drilling project on Alaska's petroleum-rich North Slope, a major climate move by President Joe Biden that drew quick condemnation from environmentalists who said it flies in the face of the Democratic president's pledges.

The announcement came a day after the administration, in a move in the other direction toward conservation, said it would bar or limit drilling in some other areas of Alaska and the Arctic Ocean.

The Willow approval by the Bureau of Land Management would allow three drill sites, which would include up to 199 total wells. Two other drill sites proposed for the project would be denied. Project developer ConocoPhillips has said it considers the three-site option workable, "the right decision for Alaska and our nation" in the words of company chairman and CEO Ryan Lance.

Houston-based ConocoPhillips will relinquish rights to about 68,000 acres of existing leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

The order, one of the most significant of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland's tenure, was not signed by her but rather by her deputy, Tommy Beaudreau, who

grew up in Alaska and has a close relationship with state lawmakers. She was notably silent on the project, which she had opposed as a New Mexico congresswoman before becoming Interior secretary two years ago.

Climate activists were outraged that Biden greenlighted the project, which they say put his climate legacy at risk. Allowing the drilling plan to go forward also would break Biden's campaign promise to stop new oil drilling on public lands, they say.

However, administration officials were concerned that ConocoPhillips' decades-old leases limited the government's legal ability to block the project and that courts might have ruled in the company's favor.

Monday's announcement is not likely to be the last word, with litigation expected from environmental groups.

The Willow project could produce up to 180,000 barrels of oil a day, create up to 2,500 jobs during construction and 300 long-term jobs, and generate billions of dollars in royalties and tax revenues for the federal, state and local governments, the company said.

The project, located in the federally designated National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, enjoys widespread political support in the state. Alaska Native state lawmakers recently met with Interior

Secretary Deb Haaland to urge support for Willow.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, said Monday the decision was "very good news for the country."

"Not only will this mean jobs and revenue for Alaska, it will be resources that are needed for the country and for our friends and allies," Murkowski said. "The administration listened to Alaska voices. They listed to the delegation as we pressed the case for energy security and national security."

Fellow Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan said conditions attached to the project should not reduce Willow's ability to produce up to 180,000 barrels of crude a day. But he said it was "infuriating" that Biden also moved to prevent or limit oil drilling elsewhere in Alaska.

Environmental activists who have promoted a #StopWillow campaign on social media were fuming at the approval, which they called a betrayal.

"We are too late in the climate crisis to approve massive oil and gas projects that directly undermine the new clean economy that the Biden administration committed to advancing," said Earthjustice President Abigail Dillen. "We know President Biden understands the existential threat of climate, but he is approving a project that derails his own climate goals."



# The Wizard returns to the Community stage

*The Wizard of Oz: The Musical* will be performed at the Community High Auditorium on March 17 and 18 beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets will be \$5 at the door.

Community High's Smokestack Theatre Group opened its new auditorium with a production of Frank L. Baum's classic about the land of Oz.

Soon, the group will present a revival of the show to end their 29<sup>th</sup> season as a theatre.

The story, of course, is the same as the classic Judy Garland film: young Dorothy Gale wishes for greener pastures, and, thanks to a timely tornado, winds up in a land of Munchkins and flying Monkeys. Eventually, she learns the lesson that "There's no place like home".

The cast includes Emma Grace Trigurous as "Dorothy", Ryan Waterson as the "Tin Man", newcomer Caleb Dalton as the "Cowardly Lion", and Sarah Baumbarger as "The

Scarecrow".

Rounding out the cast are Lauren Bobo as "Glinda," "Kenadie Behrns as "The Wicked Witch", and Nick Pando as "Oz" himself. Other cast members include Jayse Monroe, Jennifer Vanderkin, Samantha Brooks and Abby Brooks.

A cast of more than 30 elementary students will be on hand to portray the diminutive Munchkins.



Submitted photos  
Emma Grace Trigurous as "Dorothy Gale", a young girl who finds herself in a magical, dream-like world.



Kenadie Behrns portrays to characters: "Miss Gultch", a curmudgeonly widow and "The Wicked Witch of the West", a character revived decades later for the Broadway smash "Wicked."



Nick Pando is "The Great and Powerful Oz", a man who will be proven as much a fake as his alter ego in the story, "Professor Marvel."



Sarah Baumbarger is "The Scarecrow", the first of several strange characters that Dorothy Gale meets when she crashes lands in Oz.