

# SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE *Weekend*

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## The first day of summer

Church/6A



## Collard awarded scholarship

Lifestyles/1B



## Dog of the week

Lifestyles/8B

## Habitat thrift store closing

**By MARK MCGEE**  
mmcgee@t-g.com

Citing a number of factors, Bedford Builds Habitat for Humanity has sold its thrift store location on East Depot Street.

The store would have been at its present location, the old Clifford Furniture Store, for three years this September. Prior to that the thrift store was located on Madison Street.

Pam Birtcil, Habitat executive director for Bedford County, pointed to the failure of both the Shelbyville City Council and the Bedford County Board of Commissioners to approve Habitat's

request for \$10,000 from each, as well as increased insurance costs for the building.

"The first year the insurance company made me insure the building for \$500,000 and we were paying a couple of thousand dollars," Birtcil said. "The next year they went to one million and insurance bills went to \$3,900 a year. This year, in March, they increased my replacement value to \$3.4 million and my bill was \$13,988."

Birtcil pointed out the square is becoming more popular, and she was approached about selling the building.

"At the same time, I was approached about selling, the city and the county turned us down for funding," Birtcil said. "What I had asked from both the city and county was six to seven percent of our budget."

Prices of land and building materials have also increased exponentially. The thrift store produced \$25,000 for the building fund in its second year.

Both Birtcil and Shontelli Allen, who is the first person you see when you visit the thrift



T-G Photo by Mark McGee

► See **Habitat**, Page 2A

## Standing committees meet

**T-G STAFF REPORT**

At Tuesday's Law Enforcement Committee meeting, Deputy Chief Nikia Elliot reported that the jail currently has over 300 inmates, and that number keeps growing.

"We've been busy...It is the summer, too," said Elliot, citing they have also patrolled around 80,000 miles this month, whereas most months they patrol around 40,000.

Elliot also briefly updated the committee on the two drug overdoses that occurred in the jail last month.

"Some warrants have been signed in relation to that. As far as DTF's (Drug Task Force's) report, where they were talking about currently doing some investigations about some overdoses, those two are included in that. It's not finished, but there have been some charges made," said Elliot.

**SRO funds**

The Bedford County Sheriff's Office and the Shelbyville Police Department are now able to supplement their payroll for School Resource Officers with a \$200 million grant approved by Governor Bill Lee.

The grant allows for agencies and schools to apply for two different grants: the Statewide SRO Grant and the Public and Non-Public School Security Grant.

The grants include significant funding to support a full-time, armed school resource officer (SRO) at every public school. It also allows for physical security improvements at public and non-public schools across the state.

Although the grant cannot surpass \$75,000 per school year, per school, local

► See **Committees**, Page 2A

## 2-year-old dies at babysitter's

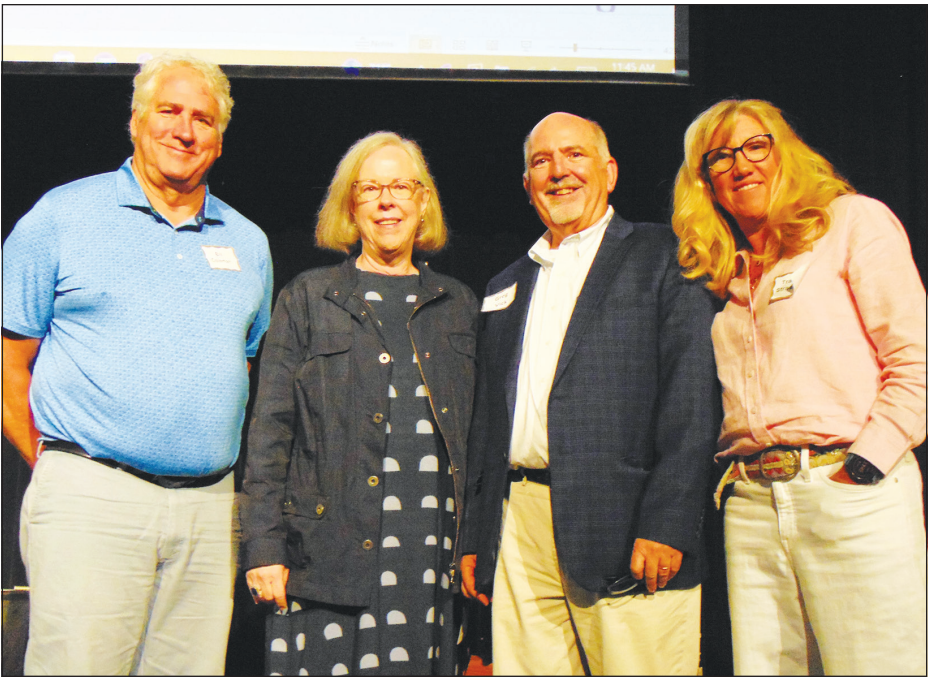
**T-G STAFF REPORT**

The two-year-old daughter of a Shelbyville woman died after being left in the care of a Tullahoma couple.

According to a police report released by the Tullahoma Police Department last Saturday, officers arrested the husband of the child's babysitter, Elic Smith, 21.

Coffee County authorities say Kahlani and her twin brother Kaizen were staying at the Smith residence for months while their mom, Linsdey Terk worked evenings and took online classes during the day. She had dropped the twins off at the babysitter's home in Tullahoma on Friday, June 16, while she went to work. The wife of the suspect had been watching the siblings

► See **Dies**, Page 2A



From left, Bill Coleman, Adrienne Furniss, Commissioner Greg Vick, and Tracey Strassner.

## Broadband summit identifies need

**By ZOË WATKINS**  
zwatkins@t-g.com

"Isolation is a recurring factor in poverty and backwardness around the world, whether that is physical isolation or cultural isolation, for any number of particular reasons." That's a quote by Thomas Sowell from his book "Wealth, Poverty and Politics: An International Perspective."

The Connect Bedford Broadband Summit, which was held Tuesday at Shelbyville Central High School, identified lack of broadband across the county as one of the main factors of modern-day isolation.

Several panels with community leaders and advocates answered questions on the lack, need, and acceleration of broadband relating to agriculture, government, schools, medical needs, and daily life.

The focus group Connect Bedford is hoping to bridge this digital divide and become the first fully connected rural county in Tennessee that supplies broadband to every corner of the county by updating

► See **Summit**, Page 2A

UT-TPA Press Award 2022



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**DEATH NOTICES**

**Martha Jane Shepherd**

June 16, 2023

Mrs. Martha Jane Shepherd, age 97, of Shelbyville, passed away June 16, 2023. Funeral services were held at noon on June 23, 2023, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. Reverend John Thomas served as eulogist, with burial following in Willow Mount Cemetery. The family received visitors from 11 a.m. until service time Friday at the funeral home. Feldhaus Memorial Chapel assisted the family with the arrangements.

**Devonta Renard Johnson**

June 20, 2023

Devonta Renard Johnson, age 40, passed away June 20, 2023. The family will receive visitors 3 - 5 p.m. today, June 24, 2023, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. Following the Gathering, he will be cremated. Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

**OBITUARIES**

**Jeri Sue Arrighi**

June 8, 2023

Jeri Sue Arrighi, 76, passed away in her home in Shelbyville on June 8. She was born in Baskin, Louisiana but was raised in Lake Charles. Jeri Sue obtained degrees in Animal Sciences and Farm Management from McNeese University in Lake Charles. She had a Master's Degree in Veterinarian Physiology from Texas A&M. Her career was in the Oil and Gas Industry out of Houston, Texas. She bought her first Tennessee Walking horse as a teenager. That is the only breed she has owned for close to 60 years. Showing performance horses at the Celebration brought her to Shelbyville. She fell in love with Middle Tennessee and moved there permanently in 2014. She loved researching breeding lines to select stallions to match with the right mares. Her Four Seasons Farm produced some top-shelf show horses including; Doral, My Rock Star, Entitled to a Secret, She's a Secret Lineman, Stronger, Dixie Preacher, Lady Ties the Blues, and others. Her mother was Hellon Brennan, an Army nurse that served in World War II. Four of Jeri Sue's uncles also served in the war.



She is survived by her husband, Kevin, cousins Ed Jenkins and Joy Burns, and a nephew Shelton Burns. She will be greatly missed by her family and by the Tennessee Walking Horse community. A memorial gathering will be held privately. Moore-Cortner Funeral Home 300 1st Ave NW, Winchester, TN 37398, (931)967-2222.

**Cole Chiappari Sims**

June 18, 2023

Cole Chiappari Sims, age 22, of Bell Buckle, passed suddenly from this life June 18, 2023, at Vanderbilt-Bedford Hospital. Born on September 20, 2000, in Shelbyville, Cole was the son of Blake and Beth Chiappari Sims. He was preceded in death by his cousin, Devon Chiappari.



Along with his parents he is survived by: brothers, Raine, Storm Rivers, and Braxton Sims; grandparents, Michael & Sherry Sims and Michael & Kathleen Chiappari; aunts & uncles, Stacey (Jim) Chiappari, Julie (Tom) Holtschult, Katie (Paul) Klee, Amy (Bill) Smith, Meg Chiappari, and Allyson (James) Abbott; cousins, Jessa, Jacqueline, Spencer, Grace, P.J., Michael, Megan, Thomas, Kate and Benjamin. A Celebration of Life service will be held 6 p.m. Monday, June 26, 2023, in the chapel of Doak-Howell Funeral Home with Herbert Derickson and Tim Gray officiating. Visitation with the family will be held Monday, prior to services beginning at 5 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorial donations may be made to Hope Center Ministries @ www.hopcem.com or by mail: 1510 N. Clydeton Rd, Waverly, TN 37185 Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

**Dies**

(Continued from Page 1)

for months along with their own two young children. Later that night, Kahlani suffered blunt force trauma to her head and her brother also suffered undisclosed injuries. First responders administered life-saving measures and transported the child to the hospital for treatment but was later declared deceased, according to the report. Smith is now in the

Coffee County Jail charged with first-degree murder and two counts of aggravated child abuse. If you would like to help the family with funeral expenses, a GoFundMe account has been set up in their name, or you can stop by Penalties Sports Bar and Grill in Shelbyville and make a donation. Kahlani was laid to rest on Friday morning at Doak-Howell Funeral Home in Shelbyville.

**Supreme Court rules against Navajo Nation in Colorado River water rights case**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court ruled against the Navajo Nation on Thursday in a dispute involving water from the drought-stricken Colorado River. States that draw water from the river — Arizona, Nevada and Colorado — and water districts in California that are also involved in the case had urged the court to decide for them, which the justices did in a 5-4 ruling. Colorado had argued that siding with the Navajo Nation would undermine existing agreements and disrupt the management of the river. The Biden administration had said that if the court were to come down in favor of the Navajo Nation, the federal government could face lawsuits from many other tribes. Lawyers for the Navajo Nation had characterized the tribe's request as modest, saying they simply were seeking an assessment of the tribe's water needs and a plan to meet them.

River. Writing for a majority made up of conservative justices, Justice Brett Kavanaugh explained that "the Navajos contend that the treaty requires the United States to take affirmative steps to secure water for the Navajos — for example, by assessing the Tribe's water needs, developing a plan to secure the needed water, and potentially building pipelines, pumps, wells, or other water infrastructure." But, Kavanaugh said, "In light of the treaty's text and history, we conclude that the treaty does not require the United States to take those affirmative steps." Kavanaugh acknowledged that water issues are difficult ones. "Allocating water in the arid regions of the American West is often a zero-sum situation," he wrote. It is important, he said, for courts to leave "to Congress and the President the responsibility to enact appropriations laws and to otherwise update federal law as they see fit in light of the competing contemporary needs for water."

The facts of the case go back to treaties that the tribe and the federal government signed in 1849 and 1868. The second treaty established the reservation as the tribe's "permanent home" — a promise the Navajo Nation says includes a sufficient supply of water. In 2003 the tribe sued the federal government, arguing it had failed to consider or protect the Navajo Nation's water rights to the lower portion of the Colorado

dumpsters." The thrift store has also been a major provider of hours for students in the Tennessee Promise Program as well as for juvenile offenders who need to work hours. "It is going to be a loss for them for sure," Birtcil said. "But I can't take the first \$15,000 I raise and put it into a building for insurance. "It is harder to raise money over the years. Covid almost killed us." Birtcil and Allen will transition to an office setting after the store closes for good later this summer. Birtcil has applied for a grant with Habitat International for funding. "The grant pays for an employee for two years,"

go from here?" he wrote. "To date, their efforts to find out what water rights the United States holds for them have produced an experience familiar to any American who has spent time at the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Navajo have waited patiently for someone, anyone, to help them, only to be told (repeatedly) that they have been standing in the wrong line and must try another." Gorsuch said one "silver lining" of the case may be that his colleagues in the majority recognized that the tribe may still be able to "assert the interests they claim in water rights litigation, including by seeking to intervene in cases that affect their claimed interests." Gorsuch, a conservative and Colorado native who has emerged as a champion of Native rights since joining the court in 2017, was joined by the court's three liberals: Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson. During arguments in the case in March, Justice Samuel Alito pointed out that the Navajo Nation's original reservation was hundreds of miles away from the section of the Colorado River it now seeks water from. Today, the Colorado River flows along what is now the northwestern border of the tribe's reservation, which extends into New Mexico, Utah and Arizona. Two of the river's tributaries, the San

Juan River and the Little Colorado River, also pass alongside and through the reservation. Still, one-third of the some 175,000 people who live on the reservation, the largest in the country, do not have running water in their homes. The government argued that it has helped the tribe secure water from the Colorado River's tributaries and provided money for infrastructure, including pipelines, pumping plants and water treatment facilities. But it said no law or treaty required the government to assess and address the tribe's general water needs. The states involved in the case argued that the Navajo Nation was attempting to make an end run around a Supreme Court decree that divided up water in the Colorado River's Lower Basin. In a statement, Navajo Nation President Bue Nygren called the ruling "disappointing" and said the tribe's lawyers "continue to analyze the opinion and determine what it means for this particular lawsuit." "My job as the President of the Navajo Nation is to represent and protect the Navajo people, our land, and our future," Nygren said. "The only way to do that is with secure, quantified water rights to the Lower Basin of the Colorado River." Rita McGuire, a lawyer who represented states opposing the tribe's claims, said the court "ruled exactly right" and that "we're very pleased."

**Habitat**

(Continued from Page 1)

store, admit a lot of tears have been shed on the old wood floor since making the announcement of the closing. "The store is doing great," Birtcil said. "That is the saddest part. We have stuff at really good prices. The store is just rocking it. "What makes Shontelli and me cry for many nights is the store is more than just raising building funds. It is a ministry. Families needing help in making purchases can find things for sale here cheaply. We also help with recycling. We take in a lot of items that would have gone into

Birtcil said. "It is going to allow me to get back out into the public more for sponsorships. "Houses are costing around \$150,000 to \$160,000," Birtcil said. "We want to try to make everything work, but when we were turned down for local funding, we decided to concentrate on buildings houses. That is our ministry too. We need to be building and making our affiliates stronger. "I took a piece of property that was only producing \$70 to \$80 in property taxes and I put a \$225,000 house on it. As a non-profit, we create property taxpayers." The Gateway Church has a food pantry and also has an area for items

like dishes, comforters and sheets, and household goods. "We are making boxes of dishes and anything we can give to help them," Birtcil said. "We want to sell items, but we want to give to the community as well." Prices have always been affordable, but during this closeout sale, items are available at even cheaper prices. The store is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. "We've got all kinds of stuff in there," Birtcil said. "A lot of people are buying building products. We want to move as much as possible. We are slashing prices."

chairman of the appropriate commission/committee prior to calling the meeting to order. Forms will be available both on the county website as well as available hardcopy at the time of the meeting. Public comment will follow approval of the prior month's commission/committee meeting minutes. Three speakers "in favor or not" of an item on the agenda will be allowed to address the commission/committee for three minutes during the meeting. If there are more than three wishing to speak on either side of the matter, the chairman will draw three names from the list of citizens who requested to speak. Meetings regarding personal or non-action items are not subject to these rules, per Public Chapter 300." This is essentially a draft of the new policy — for example, the 3-3-3 rule is just a suggestion. The commission will vote on this policy next month.

**Committees**

(Continued from Page 1)

agencies are able to apply for the Statewide School Resource Officer Grant, which requires them to provide SRO services. Bedford County is planning to hire 10 SROs, however, Elliot said he does not anticipate filling those roles until the next school year begins as positions need filling across the state. Applications are being accepted and reviewed by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security on a continual basis. Any agency within The Volunteer State can apply by going to https://www.tn.gov/safety/homeland-security/grants/sro.html.

**Public comment update**

The Rules and Legislative Committee is updating its public comments policy per new state

guidelines. The new policy will require a public comments section before every public meeting; this is in addition to the already mandated public hearings head ahead of rezonings. A form would also be required to be filled out by the person requesting to speak. That person must also be from or living in Bedford County. Commissioner Bill Anderson expressed he had an issue with citizens needing to fill out a form to speak, saying it was an intimidation. "I hate to have citizens to fill out a form to come to talk to their representatives. There's got to be a better way than that," said Anderson. "I'm just afraid it will intimidate some folk..." Graham countered Anderson's statement by referencing how some activists often come to speak at public hearings. "This is just public comment; it's one-way communication. It's not really a debate with the

body. This is an opportunity for the public to make a statement..." said Graham. The new policy reads: "Pursuant to the State of Tennessee Public Chapters 213 and 300, effective July 1, 2023, a governing body shall, for each public meeting, reserve a period for public comment on matters that are germane to the items on the agenda for the meeting. The local government will make available 'no later than' 48 hours prior to meetings the agenda on the county government website www.bedfordcountyttn.gov as well as publish the agenda in the local newspaper when appropriate. Items not included on the agenda at the time of the meeting will require the commission/committee to suspend the rules to add an item to the agenda per local rules sections Q and R. Citizens of Bedford County wishing to address an item on the agenda will require to fill out a request form and present to the

from all groups and at all levels." To help identify the underserved areas, you can take this quick survey at https://tinyurl.com/m3ukdeet or stop by the Times-Gazette office for a paper version, from now until July 9.

**Summitt**

(Continued from Page 1)

and installing faster broadband throughout the county through multiple grants over the next several years. Adrienne Furniss,

Executive Director at Benton Institute for Broadband and Society, and Bill Coleman, a Minnesota-based broadband development consultant, are serving as advisors to Bedford County during this program.

During the summit, they commented how "Bedford County is way ahead of the curve in having a Broadband Plan that the county can execute on" as well as how the county has "a unified vision and tremendous participation

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# COLDWELL BANKER SOUTHERN REALTY



**514 Belmont Ave  
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This beautiful home in the Historic District of Shelbyville is move-in ready and still has most of the 1920 wood work, three fireplaces, beautiful doors, grand foyer staircase and hardwood floors. There are ornate twin french doors spread out through the home. It was one of the most expensive and desired homes when built. The Belmont Historic District has seen many renovations bringing this area back to a special place to live. A similar home built in 1890 just sold for \$515,000.00. There is not enough space for me to take you through the history of this home but it is super impressive. The home is sound, with foundation, wiring and plumbing has been redone over the recent year. The home has HVAC throughout for living comfort. Walk down-town, to school and much more. 5 beds-3.5 baths.

**Bryan Nerren**

**MLS #: 2516910**



**174 Patriot Cir  
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Unique custom-built home with 2,655 Sq'. Downstairs you have an entry foyer, LR with Fireplace, DR, Primary BR with adjoining bath, Utility room, & 1/2 bath. Upstairs you have 2 BRs, 2 baths, a sitting area, an office, & bonus room that could be used as a BR if needed. Two car garage, covered back deck, 16x20 heated shop building with 220 & 110 service, lawnmower shed, a chicken coop in the woods, playground for the kids, woods & open areas. The Downstairs Central unit was replaced in fall 2022. water heater 2 years old. Tons of details make this one a must-see. The home is zoned for Liberty School. Don't miss out on this fine property. Call today for a private tour.

**Dianne Arnold**

**MLS #: 2527158**



**335 Hilltop Drive Lot 1  
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New Build in Brookhaven Subdivision! No HOA fees! 3 Bedroom 2 Bath Covered back deck with a secluded, quiet view! 2 car garage, Large kitchen pantry with stainless appliances included, even fridge! Open floor concept floor plan! Large walk in closet, in the owners suite!

**Misty Zimmerman**

**MLS #: 2538845**



**2731 Midland Rd  
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Amazing home on 10.01 private acres built in 2004 with 3363 sq. ft of living space! Freshly painted downstairs, updated appliances, tankless gas water heater, gas grill hookup, window film on all windows, hardwood floors in main part of home, covered front and back porches, patio, mature trees, and beautifully maintained. Perfect location, only minutes to Murfreesboro.

**Wayne Neese**

**MLS #: 2530913**

## Meet Bryan Nerren



**931-703-5162**

Bryan has been a Realtor for the past 8 years with Coldwell Banker Shelbyville TN. He was a Realtor in Ohio before moving back to Tennessee in 1998. Bryan loves Real Estate because he loves people and Real Estate is about people looking for and wanting more. Real estate is about people not houses, homes or land.

Bryan was born in Jackson Tennessee 1961 and moved to Savannah Tennessee his senior year of high school. After high school Bryan passed on an Agriculture Education Scholarship to the University of Tennessee Knoxville. Rather going into the manufacturing business of Restaurant Equipment for 8 years and then transferring to the Steel Industry for 8 years. At the end of Bryan's manufacturing time in 1995 he moved into ministry in Elyria Ohio as administrator of a Christian School/Assistant Pastor and Realtor. During the same time of working as a manager in manufacturing and ministry Bryan owned small businesses. Most of the businesses were construction related. Having a General Contractors business in Ohio and Tennessee Bryan build homes and the related service businesses of these industries.

In 1998 Bryan moved the family to Shelbyville, Tennessee to start a career as Pastor of a small church. For the past 25 years the church has grown and moved to a new campus in Shelbyville. Bryan has always been bi-vocational owning small businesses to support ministry projects.

Bryan is a husband of 44 years to Rhonda Nerren. Father to Kevin and Laura, father-in-law to Heather. grandfather to the incredible Grant, Preston and Bennett. Bryan's highest value is living for God and second is family. Bryan has a lifelong history of family values and love for community. People are the most important part of a community and Bryan will be sure all the people are considered before anything else. Bryan has served in many community clubs and projects. Serving on City and County boards as well as Past-Presidents of Untied Way Bedford County, Emergency Food and Shelter (FEMA), Shelbyville Ministerial Association and Shelbyville Rotary Club. Bryan also served on the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Bedford board.

Bryan is a tested leader in business ownership and corporate management. His first qualification is knowing a good idea because he listens to people. Bryan's history is leading people to a better result in the community and building great teams.



**TOURING THE COURTHOUSE**



Submitted photo  
Summer camp students from the State of Tennessee, Division of Rehabilitation Services, made a visit Monday with Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham and toured the Courthouse. This is the third annual visit from students to the county.

**BROADBAND PLANS**



Submitted photo  
Members of the Shelbyville Rotary Club learned about plans to expand broadband in Bedford County from Bedford County commissioner Greg Vick, center. At left is Dawn Hobbs, program facilitator. Darin Hasty, right, is club president.

**ENFINGERS ANNOUNCE DAUGHTER'S BIRTH**

Parents Amanda Pearl (Carpenter) Enfinger and Ryan Keith Enfinger announced the birth of their daughter, McKenzie Grace Enfinger. Weighing 8 lbs. and 12 oz. and 22 inches long, she was born on April 11 at 10:01 p.m. at the Vanderbilt Tullahoma-Harton Hospital.



**MTSU approves 2.98% tuition, fee increase**

MURFREESBORO — The Middle Tennessee State University Board of Trustees voted Tuesday, June 20, to raise tuition and fees by 2.98% for the Fall 2023 semester, the institution's first such increase in two years.

The increase, recommended by the board's Finance and Personnel Committee, was necessary to meet rising utility costs, enhanced scholarship levels and other improvements, including renovations to Murphy Center complex used for athletic, academic and community events.

MTSU's current tuition and fees are the lowest among the state's three largest institutions (UT-Knoxville and Memphis) and seventh lowest among Tennessee's 10 public four-year entities.

MTSU is also the most efficient producer of graduates in the state system, spending the lowest percentage on administrative costs among the 10 public institutions, the lowest operation and maintenance costs (per square foot), and the lowest state cost per graduate.

The increase, within the range recommended by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, equates to an additional \$286 for an in-state undergraduate student taking 15 credit hours per semester. The last such action was in 2021-22, when the board increased tuition and fees by 1.78%.

**In other actions, the Board:**

- Approved 35 faculty candidates recommended for tenure and 67 faculty candidates for promotion.
- Endorsed the creation of a Bachelor of Science degree in Cybersecurity Management. The program

will prepare individuals to assess the security needs of computer and network systems, recommend safeguard solutions, and manage the implementation and maintenance of security devices, systems, and procedures.

- Approved MTSU's 2024-25 capital outlay request, which includes a new academic building project to provide academic classrooms, class labs, faculty and staff offices, and support space for selected College of Liberal Arts departments and the associated Center for Innovation and Leadership, History Museum, and MTSU archives and exhibit spaces.

- Approved MTSU's capital disclosures list, which includes a public-private partnership for new student housing; an addition to the Student-Athlete Enhancement Center; electric vehicle charging stations; a new parking structure, and renovations to the Student Recreation Center.

- Approved the state's funding of a cost-of-living adjustment of 3.2%. Employees earning \$39,062 or less will receive a \$1,250 increase rather than a percentage adjustment.
- Approved the appointment of Faculty Trustee Mary Martin, a professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences. This is her second appointment as faculty trustee, replacing fashion merchandising professor Rick Cottle.

- And approved the appointment of Student Trustee Molly Mihm, who recently completed her undergraduate degree and is pursuing her graduate degree in Public Health. She replaces graduate business student Andrew Carpenter.

**Motlow State recognized for advancing first-generation student outcomes**

LYNCHBURG — Motlow State Community College announces its acceptance to the nationally-recognized First Scholars Network (FSN). Motlow's acceptance into the network reflects the institution's demonstrated commitment to improving the experiences of first-generation college students and working to advance their success. The Center for First-Generation Student Success is a globally recognized partnership initiative led by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) and the Suder Foundation.

Powered by the Center for First-Generation Student Success, the First Scholars Network is a four-phase approach

that allows institutions of higher education across the country to advance student success by establishing communities of practice and gaining deep institutional knowledge of success-fueling resources. According to Dr. Sarah E. Whitley, Vice President of the Center for First-Generation Student Success, "Through the institution's application process, it was evident that Motlow is not only taking steps to better serve first-generation students but is prepared to make a long-term commitment and employ strategies that foster an environment of success for this important population."

Motlow just completed the first phase of the First Scholars Network by

demonstrating program readiness. After successful completion of the Network Member phase, institutions progress to the second phase, First-Gen Forward, after which Motlow will be eligible to become a First Scholars Institution. First Scholars is the third phase of the First Scholars Network and serves as the Center's customized approach to intentional institutional transformation in an effort to advance student outcomes.

As a new Network Member, interested faculty and staff are afforded opportunities to engage with peer institutions also working to create environments that improve the experiences and success of first-generation students, and will now participate

in monthly collaboratives, professional development, goal setting, blog development, annual reporting, and more.

"Being named as a Network Member of the First Scholars Network is an exciting opportunity for Motlow to join a dedicated community of professionals," said Dr. Brelinda Johnson, Executive Vice President for Student Success at Motlow State. "We are excited to be a part of the 2023 cohort of institutions leaning into this national imperative. We are confident that Motlow will be a significant contributor to this initiative that look forward to being a national leader in meeting the unique needs of first-generation students in Middle Tennessee."

*Our Wedding Policy ...*

Pictures and announcements are ran free, must be received 10 days prior to the issue in which you'd like your announcement to appear.

Wedding announcements must be received no later than six weeks after the date of the wedding.

Forms can be picked up at the Times-Gazette office, at 323 E. Depot St. in

Shelbyville.

Wedding and engagement announcements may also be submitted to our office in person, or by e-mailing tgnews@t-g.com.

Forms must be neatly printed or typed, and the spelling of all names should be double checked before submitting them to us. A phone number must be included.



## First Day of Summer



Submitted photos  
Seniors at the Shelbyville/Bedford County Seniors Citizens Center celebrated the first day of summer by having an ice cream social.



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### CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Send church news and events to [tgnews@t-g.com](mailto:tgnews@t-g.com).

#### Baptist

Pastor Jimmy West's message for Sunday morning's service on June 25 at Edgemont Baptist Church will be "The Great Commission" from Matthew 28:16-20. Their Praise Choir will present "Sing America's Song" on July 2 at 10 a.m.

The message for Grace Baptist Church this Sunday will be "One Baptism" from Eph. 4: 4-6 & Mark 1:9-11. Vacation Bible School will be from June 26 - 29 from 5:30 - 8 p.m. Evening meals served nightly.

Bro. Tyler Shoemaker's message for Calvary Baptist Church this Sunday will be "Following Jesus Changes the Game" from Psalm 25:4 - 11.

An Old Fashion Holy Ghost Revival will be held at Unity Baptist Church on E.C. Arnold Lane in Shelbyville this weekend at 7 p.m. Preachers will be Bros. Frelan George, Buck Frazier, Bill Reed, and Lon Latimer. Everyone is welcome.

#### Church of Christ

This upcoming Sunday at Fairlane Church of Christ Minister Lance Bennett will be continuing the series, "Heroes of Faith." The sermon is entitled "Noah," with scripture from Hebrews 11:7. Sunday evening kicks off their VBS, "Twists and Turns" (June 25 - 28) from 5:30 - 8 p.m., with lessons for all ages.

The Southside Church of Christ lesson will be "The Greatest Giver in our Church" from John 3:16 by Tim Gunnells, minister, at 10 a.m. Sunday, the Sunday 6 p.m. service will be "Applying the Sermon." Wednesday will be a Bible Study with Tim at 6:30. Sunday morning is live-streamed at 10 a.m. and Wednesday evening services are live-streamed at 6:30 p.m. at [cofcsouthside.com](http://cofcsouthside.com).

#### First Christian

First Christian invites everyone to worship on Sunday as they kick-off their new sermon series on "Facing Your Giants." This Sunday at 10 a.m., they will begin with the "Giant of Fear." Using Deuteronomy 1, they will see how fear affects us people and prevents us from being whom God intends us to be. Children's graded worship and nursery are also available at 10 a.m.

#### Methodist

Shelbyville First United Methodist Church will gather together for a Hymn Sing. This is when they praise God by singing hymns together. Guests are invited to come and experience the spiritual value and vitality of public worship. Sunday School begins at 9 a.m. Worship service is at 10 a.m. Their service is also livestreamed on Facebook and broadcast on WLJ 98.7 FM and 1580 AM.

#### Presbyterian

First Presbyterian Church's service for this 4th Sunday after Pentecost, will be held Sunday at 10 a.m. led by Pastor Jim Moran. All services are streamed live on Facebook. There is no Sunday School over the summer. They will have a nursery available for the little ones. They would love to see some new faces and hope you can join them on Sunday at 10 a.m. for their worship service.

#### Performance

Eagles Nest Church, 608 Tillman Drive, will be hosting "Just Churchin'" on Saturday, June 24, beginning at 3 p.m. with musical performances by The New Traveling Stars, Serenity of Nashville, and The New Gospel Heavyweight. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$10. Children 5 and under are free. 'x

**Grace Baptist Church VBS**  
1019 Madison St., Shelbyville, TN  
(next door to Casa Mexicana)

**WHO:** Children ages 3 years to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
**WHAT:** Join us for food, music, fun and games  
**WHEN:** Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup> through Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>  
**TIME:** 5:30 to 8:00pm

**Following Jesus Changes Everything**  
Psalms 25:4

**Calvary Baptist Church VBS**

June 26 - June 30  
5:30pm - 8:30pm

Crafts • Singing • Games  
Learning more about missions

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405 Lane Pkwy., Shelbyville

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# Christmas in July Horse Show

June 27th, 28th & 29th • 4:30pm nightly  
Bedford Co. Fairgrounds • Shelbyville, TN

**FREE ADMISSION**  
**★ OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ★**

**ALL proceeds go to Bedford County  
Schools for children at Christmas**

**3 BIG  
Days**



**Everyone  
Welcome**

## Wednesday, June 28th

★ Dr. Brittany Baum & the Mid-State Cloggers will be performing!

## Thursday, June 29th

★ Stick Horse Class for the children starting at 4:30pm!  
All children will get blue ribbons and a gift!

★ Laurie Toone will be performing her American Flag tribute

★ 2022 and 2023 WGC Justified Honors and Bill Callaway will be on expedition

**KIDS COME HAVE SOME FUN...**



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**World Famous Grilled Peaches & Ice Cream  
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**Who Is This?**

Have you ever gotten a phone call and you didn't recognize the voice of the caller? Usually our first words would be, "Who is this?"

Those three words can be spoken or just a thought in our minds, either way we want to know who is talking to us. The answer to that question will let us know if we want to continue the conversation, or not.

Well, two thousand years ago a crowd in Jerusalem saw a man riding into the city on the back of a small donkey. Guess what they said? They asked, "Who is this?"

The Gospel of Matthew says, "And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, 'Who is this?' So the multitudes said, 'This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.'" (Matt. 21:10-11)

If I saw a full gown man riding on the back of a small donkey here on the streets of Shelbyville, Tennessee, it would definitely catch my attention. In fact, I would have a few questions myself, such as "who is this guy" and "what's he up to?" And maybe, "Is there a Donkey Show going on at the Celebration Grounds or something?"

In 1917, I was riding in a taxi in the bumper-to-bumper traffic on the narrow streets of an historic neighborhood in Jerusalem, Israel. All of a sudden I see a man swiftly riding past us on the back of a donkey. He passed by all the cars ahead of us and soon was out of sight.

That definitely caught me by surprise, and I thought, "Who is this?" I asked the taxi driver if that was a common sight there in Jerusalem, and he simply said, "It is Not Un-common."

Back in the early 70's, I worked at a Christian summer camp called Green Oaks Ranch, north of San Diego, California. The Ranch was owned and operated by the inner-city Union Rescue Mission of Los Angeles, and most of our campers were elementary school and middle school children from the inner-city.

The Ranch was built to look like an Old West Town, and each of the staff went by Western-type names. We dressed in 'cowboy attire' all week long. My name was Dakota.

The staff member in charge of all the horses on the Ranch was a guy named Rowdy. Every Monday Rowdy would give all the new campers a

▶ See **Doug**, Page 3B



**Spring 2023 Deans' Lists, awards announced**

**MTSU student awarded Paul W. Martin Sr. Scholarship**

Connor Prim, of Bell Buckle, is a Buchanan Fellow studying music education and performance. He has already completed a thesis project on Gustav Mahler's Fifth Symphony. Upon completion of his degree, he plans on becoming a band director or pursuing a master's degree in instrumental conducting.

**Local students among spring 2023 Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society initiates at MTSU**

Connor Prim of Bell Buckle, Tennessee, majoring in Music; and, Chris Parker of Bell Buckle, Tennessee, majoring in History.

**Clovia Burleyson of Shelbyville was recognized on Georgia Southern University's Spring 2023 Dean's List.**

**Local Students Achieve Austin Peay State University Dean's List Spring 2023 Honors**

Zoe Huffman of Shelbyville, Thomas Simmons of Bell Buckle, Peyton Simpson of Shelbyville

**Spring 2023 Graduates Announced at The University of Alabama**

Kelly Kingree of Shelbyville received a Master of Arts.

**MTSU announces Spring 2023 Dean's List**

More than 5,430-plus students made the spring 2023 dean's list at Middle Tennessee State University. To qualify for this distinction, an undergraduate student must maintain a current semester grade-point average of 3.5 or above and earn at least 12 semester hours.

Local students who made the list include:

Cheyenne Crosby of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Elementary

Education

Kyler Parker of Normandy, who is majoring in Journalism

Shelbie Williams of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Elementary Education

Hannah Campbell of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Accounting

Leah Noel of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Leisure and Sport Management

Elijah Arnold of Wartrace, who is majoring in Concrete Industry Management

Emma Bentley of Shelbyville, who is majoring in English

Cierra Bryant of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Animation

Kylie Calvert of Wartrace, who is majoring in Family & Consumer Studies

Sarah Cunningham of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Business Administration

Ethan Estes of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in History

Olivia Finchum of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Nutrition & Food Science

Madison Housch of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Science

Jana Ledbetter of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Agribusiness

Ezekiel Lopez of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Aerospace

Abrianna Lyons of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Elementary Education

Cole McBee of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Exercise Science

Taylor McCormick of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Nursing

Cason Neill of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Philosophy

Lida Phengmany of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Marketing

Keiluhn Pulis of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Biology

Lydia Rowland of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Science

Katelyn Wilder of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Elementary Education

Brianna Anderson of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Art

Austin Ball of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Media & Entertainment

Anabel Baty of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Journalism

Zoie Bondurant of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Physical Education

John Bramlett of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Aeronautical Science

Nicholas Bridges of Unionville, who is majoring in Computer Science

Daniel Broadway of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Professional Studies

Benjamin Brooks of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Engineering Technology

Carmen Calvert of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Elementary Education

Ethan Calvert of Wartrace, who is majoring in History

Wendy Campos Castro of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Recording Industry

Mackenzie Canon of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Exercise Science

Brittani Cawthorn of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Aerospace

Steven Chavez Garcia of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Aerospace

Shang Chen of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Computer Science

Isabella Cobb of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Marketing

Madalyn Crosslin of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Tourism & Hospitality Mgmt

Keylee Crutcher of Unionville, who is majoring in Nursing

Lucas Davidson of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Commerce

Peyton Davis of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Philosophy

Estevan Delgadillo of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Information Systems

Bradley Dunn of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Integrated Studies

Luke Elrod of Unionville, who is majoring in Agribusiness

▶ See **List**, Page 3B

**Cascade grad selected for UT's Haslam Leadership Scholars**



Emily "Emma" Collard

This fall, 15 students from across the state will bring their talents to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, as the newest class of Haslam Leadership Scholars. With passions for business, engineering, health care, journalism, and politics among other fields, they hope to use their studies to serve communities in Tennessee and around the

world.

The Haslam Leadership Scholars program was established in 2008 with a generous gift from Jimmy and Dee Haslam and Jim and Natalie Haslam.

"In University Honors, we provide experiential learning experiences that help each Haslam Leadership Scholar

▶ See **Grad**, Page 3B

**THEC announced increase in college-going rate**

NASHVILLE – The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) is thrilled to announce the release of the college-going rate for the Class of 2022. The data for the Class of 2022 showcases a one-and-a-half percentage point increase over the Class of 2021, for a statewide college-going rate of 54.3%. This represents the largest statewide increase since the implementation of Tennessee Promise in 2015.

▶ See **Rate**, Page 3B



**Depression**

"Doom, despair and agony on me. Deep dark depression excessive misery."

This song was used to introduce a segment of the old "Hee Haw" television show which highlighted jokes about people having problems with their lives.

It was funny then. Or at least as funny as "Hee Haw" could be.

But it isn't funny anymore. Stress is a natural part of life. We all experience it at one time or another. Increases in feelings of depression have been part of the aftershock of the COVID pandemic where we were told to shut down, stay inside and isolate ourselves.

But based on studies the biggest culprit may be social media. One study, discussed on the "verywellmind" website has proven that those who spend less time on social media are less likely to have symptoms of depression or loneliness.

According to a recent Pew Research Center study, 69 percent of adults and 81 percent of teenagers use social media. I would say the number of teens, and even younger children, using social media might be closer to 100 percent.

I have a Facebook account. Actually, for some unknown reason, I have two. I look at my Facebook pages maybe three or four times a year. If you are trying to send me a message that is not the way to do it.

I don't have personal accounts with Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat or any one of a myriad of social media outlets.

It has been stated in a study that people are drawn to social media in an attempt for acceptance. They post photos or accomplishments and count the "likes". But then they worry why they didn't get more "likes".

As I have written before, social media has become the Christmas letter that never ends. The trend for those letters has lessened through the years. I always wanted to read one that said, "We didn't have a wonderful year. We couldn't afford a vacation. We're thinking about putting one of the children in rehab. I hope we can avoid bankruptcy."

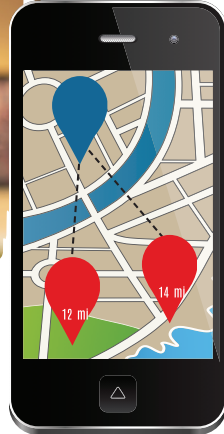
Get my point. Like those Christmas letters social media offers users the opportunities to gloat over how great their vacation was or how they got a new promotion, etc.

Someone's life seems better than yours and that is where anxiety and depression rear their ugly heads.

You post a photo of your weight loss. Haters respond you have lost too much weight. Maybe you have gained a pound or two that is visible in a photo. Again, the haters attack.

Those are just two examples. The bottom line is why do you care what they think and why do you care so much about what other people are doing?

Cut off social media and get busy living your own life to the fullest. I bet you will feel better.



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# MTSU alums reflect on how Bonnaroo experiences propelled their careers

**MANCHESTER** — As the 2023 Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival finished up Sunday, several Middle Tennessee State University graduates, following the work by this year's student live production crew on social media, shared how their experiences at The Farm helped them get set in their careers.

They offered up recollections in e-mails with Bob Gordon, an associate professor of media arts in the College of Media and Entertainment. As coordinator of the Live Production degree program, he oversees "The Truck," the almost \$2 million Mobile Production Lab from which students will have produced 31 live Bonnaroo concerts this year for the Hulu streaming service.

Gordon, along with audio engineering professor Michael Fleming, teaches graduate and undergraduate college courses over the summer based on the work at Bonnaroo. That makes MTSU the only university offering real-world experience and college credit at The Farm.

"What students learn in the live production major in general, and in the Bonnaroo class in particular, catapult them into the professional world upon graduation and sometimes before," said Gordon, a 46-year veteran of the live television industry.

**Zac Leonard (Class of 2018)**

Leonard has video directed and engineered tours for Imagine Dragons, Tyler the Creator, Dan and Shay, and Post Malone. He now works for PRG Nashville.

**"The Bonnaroo experience, with the truck, is the time that I really solidified what I wanted my career to be. We were able to shoot back-to-back artists of all different genres. It's a dream come true."**

"Now when I show up for a festival to work for an artist, I hope I get the equipment and a truck as nice as the MTSU truck at Bonnaroo."

**Jo Litzenberger (Class of 2020)**

After graduating, Litzenberger went on the K-Pop groups GOT7's "Keep Spinning" Tour and TWICE's "LIGHTS" tour, then joined Justin Bieber's "Justice" World Tour (Video Utility / Cam Op / Engineer). He then joined Carrie Underwood's "Denim & Rhinestones" Tour (Engineer) and is now with Beyonce's "RENAISSANCE" World Tour.

"Bonnaroo set me on my path. It was there that I realized that video for live music is what I wanted to pursue as a career. I fell in love with working in this environment, and also was able to experience what it takes to work an event like this... and I can honestly say that it's what propelled me to get to where I find myself today!"

**Erin Moore (Class of 2018)**

Moore worked on tours for Fall Out Boy, Luke Bryan, Dustin Lynch, and John Pardi. As production coordinator for High End TV, she now does video work for clients such as Amazon, Google, Disney+,



**Brea Robbins**

and Netflix.

"Working on the truck at Bonnaroo gave me hands-on experience in event production especially since I was in a production assistant role. I learned how to work under pressure in a fast-paced environment, coordinate crew, how to collaborate with industry professionals and it taught me the importance of effective communication when it comes to problem-solving.

"Having real hands-on experience absolutely helped me after graduation as I transferred into a freelance career touring as a camera operator and LED technician. Today, as a production coordinator/crew for High End TV, I still get to work with some of the same crew from Bonnaroo: Minh Phan, Jessica Rigsby, and Robert Bagwell to name a few.

"I often draw upon the lessons learned and the connections made during my time at Bonnaroo, leveraging them to ensure the seamless execution of video projects and to deliver exceptional results for our clients."

**Nate Parris (Class of 2021)**

Parris, a freelance LED service and video engineer, is on tour with Luke Combs for his U.S. and Canada run of the Luke Combs World Tour as an LED technician and camera/robo operator.

"Having the opportunity to attend Bonnaroo in 2019 with MTSU as a student was the beginning to where I am at now. Before attending the festival, I didn't know exactly where I wanted to end up in the field I was studying.

"However, by being on The Farm, and getting to direct and run camera for live music performances for the first time, I quickly found out that my love of live music, and the degree I was perusing, could be achieved by working in the live entertainment industry.

"Since graduating from MTSU in the Spring of 2021, I have worked for MooTV, and have continued to work and grow in the field I love. Getting to work both locally and out on the road, I have been on the crew for the Music City Grand Prix as well as providing LED services for the Nashville Predators to use

for their media day shoot. Along with that, I have had the pleasure of working for artists such as Toby Keith, Chris Stapleton, Garth Brooks and CAAMP.

"The experiences I had at MTSU and Bonnaroo have allowed me to succeed on the road and allowed me to feel prepared as I go to work each day."

**Brea Robbins (Class of 2021)**

Robbins is a freelance tour video director and engineer. She has engineered for Motley Crue, Def Leppard, Poison, Post Malone, NCT Dream and Zach Bryan and directed for Joan Jett and The Judds.

"Bonnaroo was a decision-maker for me. It was there that I got to direct live music for the first time and also where I fell in love with it. I knew from that point forward that live music was the path I wanted to pursue for the rest of my time at MTSU and beyond.

"I am now a touring director and video engineer. I absolutely love what I do, and I wouldn't be here without the hands-on experience and knowledge I got from my time at MTSU."

**Ryan Tyler (Class of 2021)**

Tyler is a production associate for the Trinity Broadcasting Network.

"Bonnaroo was such an amazing experience as an MTSU student. The ability to get real-world experience with live bands really prepared me to flourish in the live television world. In the weeks leading up to Bonnaroo, I spent countless hours listening to the artist and bands I was directing the performances of.

"Some of their performances were exactly as their album, others were nowhere close. That is the beauty of live production. Prepare for a million scenarios, and execute one of them!"

"This prepared me for my current job at Trinity Broadcasting Network. I have had the ability at TBN to direct several live musical performances of award-winning artists and bands and direct variety and talk shows. I am in charge of all live graphics integrations for show-building the Xpression package and coordinating operators.

"My biggest project yet is



**Erin Moore**



**Ryan Tyler**

what I am currently working on. We at TBN are opening a new state-of-the-art production facility in Dallas, Texas — a 250,000-square-foot facility started from complete scratch. I have been put in charge of all the LED for the project as well as content for all those LED walls. Along with this, I have been put in charge of the systems integration for the LED part of the project. Coming up with the equipment and execution for all live graphics integration in the whole facility."

Gordon said he keeps in touch with many of his former students — and repeatedly tells his current students that they demonstrate the potential of MTSU's live production graduates.

"I am immensely proud of these alumni," Gordon said. "I am grateful to have had them as students. Each of them was impressive and great — even before they graduated."

MTSU has partnered



**Brea Robbins**

with Bonnaroo since 2014 to provide real-world experience for students in all areas of the Media and Recording Industry.



**Jo Litzenberger**



**Professor Bob Gordon with students at Bonnaroo**

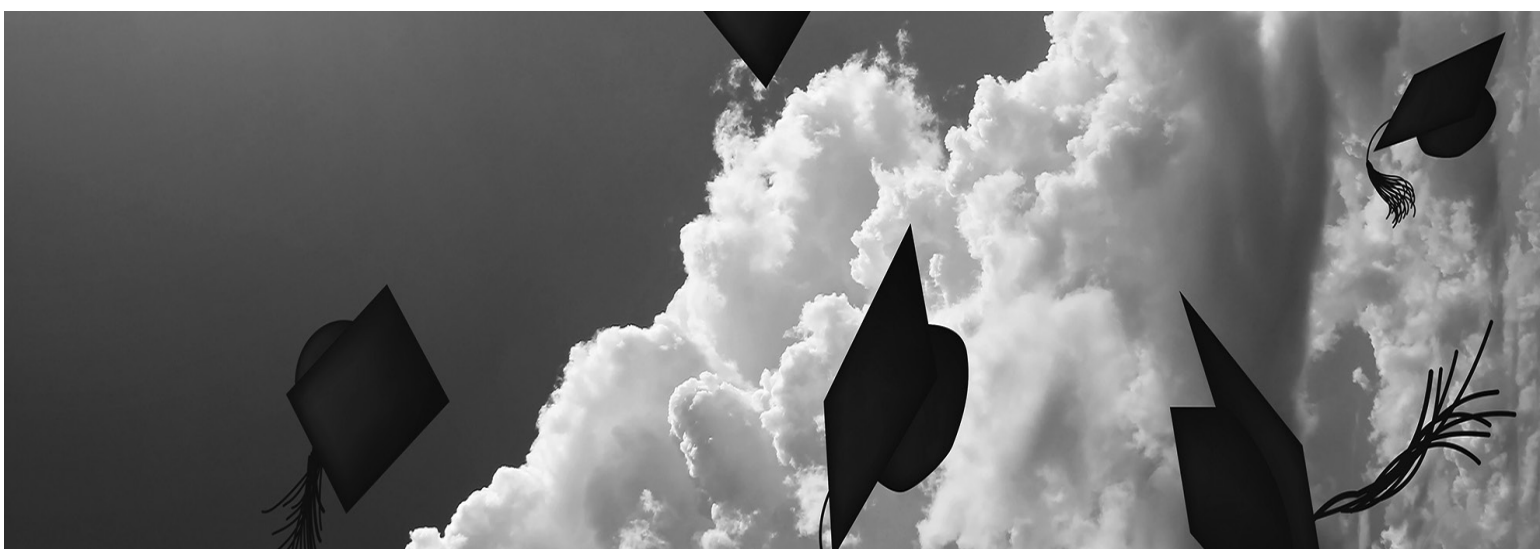


**Nate Parris**

# List

(Continued from Page 1)

Eli Feck of Wartrace, who is majoring in Political Science  
Jonathan Fernandez Cabrera of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Aerospace  
Samantha Fox of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Management  
James Gilmore of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Video & Film Production  
Hannah Gipson of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Speech/Language Path & Audio  
Carli Guess of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Community & Public Health  
Ellaleigh Hall of Wartrace, who is majoring in Academic Focus  
Jackson Harris of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Concrete Industry Management  
Madelyn Harris of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Nursing  
Renee Harward of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Foreign Languages\*  
Hunter Haurez of Lewisburg, who is majoring in History  
Jewel Hewitt of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Foreign Languages\*  
Isabella Insell of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Marketing  
Jayden Jackson of Wartrace, who is majoring in Integrated Studies  
Molly Jensen of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Business Administration  
Danielle Kiekhaefer of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Psychology  
Emme Kikuchi of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Global Studies & Human Geog  
Jordan Latham of Wartrace, who is majoring in Animal Science  
Madison Layne of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Accounting  
Zachary Lohn of Unionville, who is majoring in Journalism  
Sanders Lovvorn of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Physical Education  
Kaitlyn Madeo of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Finance  
Joshua McAllister of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Criminal Justice Admin  
Siaani McClean of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Video & Film Production



Octavio Mejia Gallegos of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Professional Studies  
Houston Messick of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Professional Science  
Jason Mettert of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Global Studies & Human Geog  
Bryan Mitchell of Unionville, who is majoring in Leisure and Sport Management  
Bart Morton of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Exercise Science  
Kritzia Munoz of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Psychology  
Jonathan Nam of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Aerospace  
Steven Nickerson of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Aerospace  
Jonathan Padilla of Unionville, who is majoring in Computer Science  
Itza Palmeros Zuniga of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Supply Chain Management  
Boni Patel of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Marketing  
Manav Patel of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Business Innovation & Entr  
Parth Patel of Wartrace, who is majoring in Professional Science  
Connor Prim of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Music  
Joshua Rains of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Foreign Languages\*  
Gage Ralston of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Biology  
Leonardo Ramirez of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Accounting  
Gustavo Ramirez-Oliva of Shelbyville, who is majoring

in Environmental Science  
Jeremy Reed of Unionville, who is majoring in Political Science  
Kera Reynolds of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in English  
Reanna Richards of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Elementary Education  
Larisa Rincon Molina of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Video & Film Production  
Isaac Rippy of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Biology  
Anna Robison of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Psychology  
PeJa Rowe of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Exercise Science  
Kaylee Ruth of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Biology  
Agapy Salah of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Psychology  
Katelyn Sanders of Unionville, who is majoring in Business Administration  
Desiree Scott of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Art  
Deep Shah of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Computer Science  
Ellen Simmons of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Horse Science  
Elijah Smith of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Concrete Industry Management  
Halli Smith of Unionville, who is majoring in Marketing  
Javan Smith of Unionville, who is majoring in Liberal Arts  
Cole Smotherman of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Anthropology  
Aaram Soto of Wartrace, who is majoring in Concrete Industry Management

Summer Stepp of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Art Education  
Jacqueline Stevens of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Integrated Studies  
Macy Tramel of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Textiles Merchandising Design  
Kylie Tran of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Professional Studies  
Elizabeth Tucker of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Elementary Education  
William Vaughn of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Business Innovation & Entr  
Lilliana Velazquez Guzman of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Science  
Hayden Walker of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Engineering Technology  
Whitney Ward of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Criminal Justice Admin  
Riley - Grace Weaver of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Athletic Training  
Morgan Williams of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Mathematics  
Tonyara Wilson of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in Art  
Dylan Wooten of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Criminal Justice Admin  
Lauren Wooten of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Marketing  
Emily Yates of Bell Buckle, who is majoring in English  
Andrea McCullough of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Management and Leadership  
Jessica Rhodes of Shelbyville, who

is majoring in Elementary Education  
Brent Showalter of Shelbyville, who is majoring in Political Science  
Keely Yeager of Unionville, who is majoring in Biochemistry  
**UT-Knoxville announces Dean's List for Spring 2023**  
Skylar R. Cadenhead, Unionville, Summa Cum Laude  
David C. Caldwell, Shelbyville, Magna Cum Laude  
Collin P. Cates, Shelbyville, Summa Cum Laude  
Emily A. Crabtree, Shelbyville, Summa Cum Laude  
Lilly N. Dye, Unionville, Magna Cum Laude  
Mallorie J. Gardner, Bell Buckle, Summa Cum Laude  
Wen Chao M. Guo, Shelbyville, Cum Laude  
Althea G. Lloyd, Bell Buckle, Summa Cum Laude  
Lucas C. Mcee, Shelbyville, Magna Cum Laude  
Leela G. McDonald, Wartrace, Cum Laude  
Rachel K. Phillips, Wartrace, Magna Cum Laude  
Kathryn L. Pitts, Shelbyville, Summa Cum Laude  
Sophia L. Reed, Shelbyville, Summa Cum Laude  
Emma G. Rose, Shelbyville, Summa Cum Laude  
Caroline R. Whitaker, Shelbyville, Magna Cum Laude

# Rate

(Continued from Page 1)

The College Going and the Class of 2022: Continuing Momentum report, developed by THEC, provides valuable insights into the trends and progress of college enrollment among high school graduates in Tennessee. The college-going rate indicates the portion of public high school graduates who seamlessly enroll (i.e., immediately after high

school) in postsecondary education. Key highlights from the Class of 2022 college-going rate report include: 1. Overall College-Going Rate: The college-going rate for the Class of 2022 is 54.3%, representing a one-and-a-half percentage point increase compared to the previous year. 2. Equity and Access: College going for the class of 2022 is up across all race and gender pairs. Black or African American students of both genders, Hispanic/Latino

females, and White males saw growth in college-going rates above the statewide growth of one and a half percentage points. 3. Dual Enrollment Impact: Dual enrollment programs play a crucial role in fostering college readiness among Tennessee's high school students. Students who were found to have participated in the Dual Enrollment Grant at any point in their high school career were found to have consistently higher college-going rates than their full high

school graduating cohort. 4. Postsecondary Institution Enrollment: The report examines the distribution of college enrollment across Tennessee's postsecondary institutions. The proportion of the class of 2022 enrolling at Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs) and at the Locally Governed Institutions (LGIs) increased compared to the previous class. Regarding the new report, Dr. Robert M. Smith, Interim Executive Director of THEC, stated,

"We are thrilled to report an increase in the college-going rate for the Class of 2022. This achievement reflects the collective efforts of our state's students, families, educators, and policymakers. By fostering a college-going culture and ensuring equitable access to higher education, we are empowering Tennessee's future workforce and strengthening our communities." The release of the college-going rate report reaffirms THEC's commitment

to advancing educational attainment in Tennessee. The data not only highlights the progress made but also serves as a valuable tool for policymakers and educational institutions to identify areas for further improvement and enhance strategic planning. For more information on THEC and to access the full Class of 2022 college-going rate report, please visit [www.tn.gov/thec/research/college-going-reports](http://www.tn.gov/thec/research/college-going-reports).

# Grad

(Continued from Page 1)

understand and build their academic and leadership potential—to attract, cultivate and retain future leaders of Tennessee," said Pat Akos, associate vice provost of student success and executive director of the University Honors programs. "The generosity of

the Haslam family, our talented faculty and staff, and the unbounded potential of these students are extraordinary. This latest cohort epitomizes the program's mission, and I eagerly anticipate witnessing their transformative leadership unfold at UT." Scholars receive an endowed scholarship that covers tuition, fees, and housing. They participate in an exclusive leadership-

focused curriculum and a fully funded collaborative study abroad program and are guaranteed a paid internship at a leading Tennessee company or organization. Program participants have received national recognition including Rhodes, Fulbright, Goldwater, Truman, Udall, and Gates Cambridge scholarships. Graduates have gone on to attend top graduate schools

and hold high-profile positions in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Among the 15 is Emily "Emma" Collard of Bell Buckle. At Cascade High, Collard served as president of both the Student Council and the National Honor Society chapter. She was a member of the Bedford County Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, Leadership Bedford, and

the Tennessee Department of Education's Student Engagement Council. She strengthened her leadership abilities as a Girls State delegate and ambassador to the Hugh O'Brian World Leadership Congress. She was also a key leader in helping to organize Youth Leadership Bedford's Benefit for Hope last April, which helped raise funds to provide resources for student men-

tal health. Collard intends to major in geographic information science and minor in meteorology. Passionate about weather from the age of seven, she hopes to pursue a fulfilling career as an aviation meteorologist. In her free time, she loves volunteering at food drives, recording new episodes for her weather podcast, practicing for swim meets, and playing piano.

# Doug

(Continued from Page 1)

tutorial on horseback riding. He started out his tutorial by riding out of the stable on the back of a little Shetland pony that would try to buck him off. I can still see, 6'4" Rowdy, lanky as a string bean, sitting on the back of that little pony; Rowdy's knees bent and his feet dragging on the ground. When I think of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey's foal, I see him looking like Rowdy on that Shetland pony. And of course the people in Jerusalem would undoubtedly ask, "Who is this?" Even though it was common in Jesus' day for people to ride into town on donkeys, there was something uncommon about this Man. People along His route were shouting and waving palm branches and tossing

them down on the road in front of Him. Some people seemed to know who He was, but then, many others were asking, "Who is this guy?" On one of Jesus' ministry trips, He was talking with His disciples and asked them, "Who do people say that I am." Now, let me ask you... Who do you say that He is? Who is Jesus to you? Just a historical figure? Just a prophet? Just a teacher? Just a good, loving man? Maybe just a Jewish Folk Hero? Is He someone you only hear about when you go to church? Or is He someone you only think about when you are in trouble? Or is He a Name you only use as a cussword? Or maybe He is just your good luck charm. Ed Rush and George Cromarty wrote a folk song back in 1957 entitled, "Plastic Jesus." Paul Newman sang that song in the 1967 movie, "Cool Hand Luke." Some of the lyrics go:

"Well, I don't care if it rains or freezes, Long as I have my plastic Jesus, Riding on the dashboard of my car. Through all trials and tribulations, We will travel every nation, With my plastic Jesus I'll go far." Who is Jesus to you? Is He just a piece of jewelry that's hanging on the cross around your neck? Or is He just a wall ornament hanging on your wall, or a statue sitting on a shelf in your home? The Gospel of Mark, 8:27-30, is where we read about Jesus asking His disciples the question: "Who do men say that I am?" Matthew 16:13-20 also records this discussion. They answered Him, "Some say John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others say, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." But then Jesus asked them That All-Important Question: "But Who Do You Say That I Am?" Simon-Peter, answering for the group, said, "You

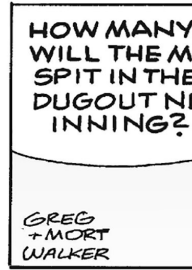
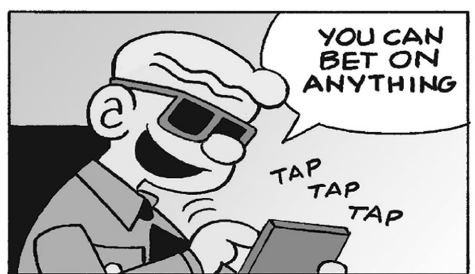
are the Christ," Or, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God." And then according to Matthew's account, Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by My Father in Heaven." Who do you say He is? Who is that Donkey-Rider that came into the City of David? Well, I'll tell you who I say He is... Who I KNOW He Is... I know He is Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, the Almighty God, the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. I know He is The Word! The Word who was in the Beginning with God, and is God... And ALL things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. I know that The Word became flesh and dwelt among men, and those men and women

beheld His Glory, the Glory as of The Only Begotten of the Father, full of Grace and Truth. I know He is The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. I know Him as our Advocate with the Father, and as the Author and Perfecter of our Faith, and as the Beloved Son of God. He is the Good Shepherd, the Great High Priest, the Head of the Church. And I know Him as Emmanuel... He is God with Me! God with Us! And He is our Hope... Our Peace. He is the Prince of Peace! I know Him as my Savior, my Redeemer, my Healer, and my Deliverer. He is the Sacrifice for all my sins. He has set me free, and I am free indeed. I know He is the Risen Lord, and He is the Resurrection and the Life. I know He is the Way, and He is the Truth, and He is the Life. And no one comes to the Father but by Him.

I know that He is Seated at the Right Hand of the Father in Heaven. And I know that He is the Soon-Coming-King! And at that time, when Jesus returns... "At the Name of Jesus every knee will bow down in worship, in Heaven and on the Earth, and even under the earth. And all the people of every nation, in every language or tongue, will admit or acknowledge and proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2) I know that Jesus Christ is ALL THIS...and so much more. Who do you say that He is? Doug Dezotell is the Pastor of Cannon United Methodist Church, and he is a columnist for the Times-Gazette. He can be contacted at [doug-mdezotell@gmail.com](mailto:doug-mdezotell@gmail.com) or at 931-607-5191. You can find him on Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. in the pulpit of Cannon UMC, 1001 S. Cannon Blvd. in Shelbyville.

# SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

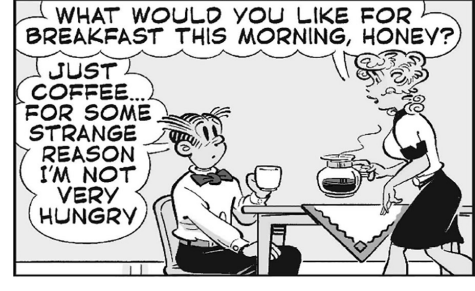
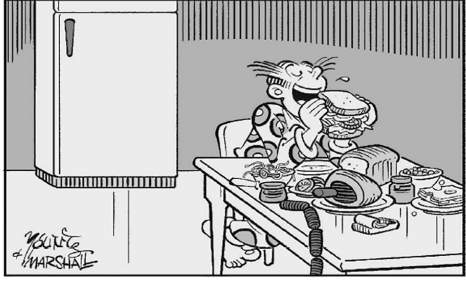
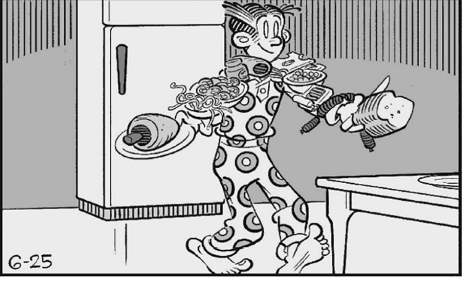
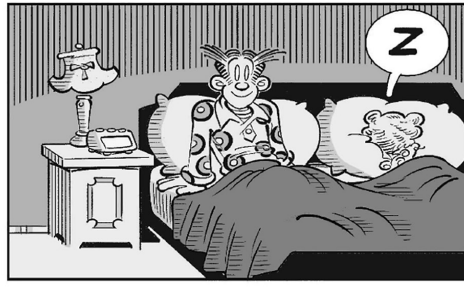
## Mort Walker's beetle bailey



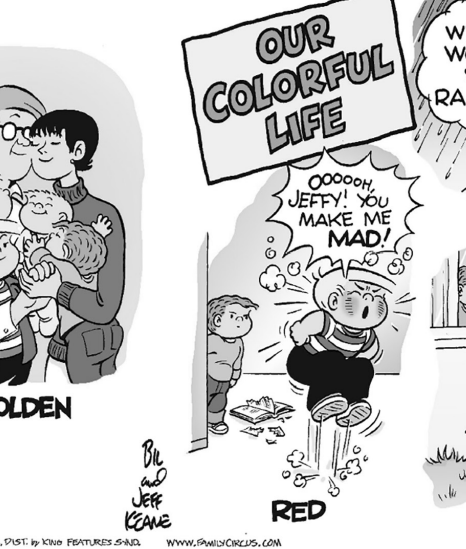
## Hank Ketchum's Dennis the Menace STORIED PAST



## BLONDIE BY DEAN YEUNGS & JOHN MARSHALL



## The FAMILY CIRCUS BY BILL KEANE



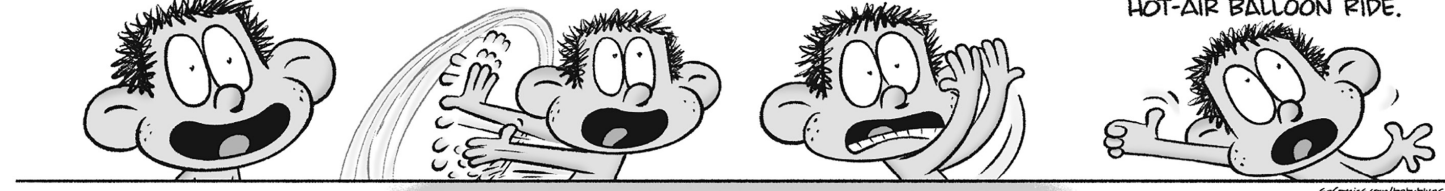
### Baby Blues

JASPER'S FAMILY WENT TO AUSTRALIA AND SAW CROCODILES FROM AN AIRBOAT!

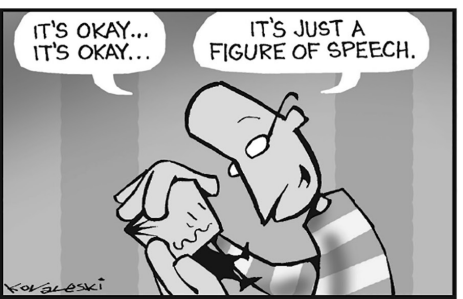
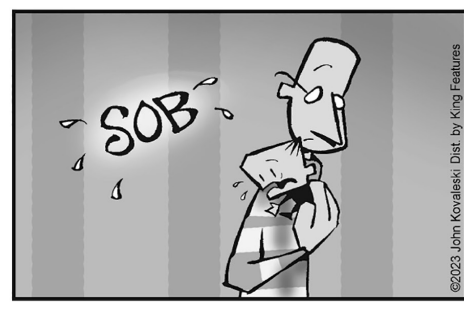
THE BOAT HAD A BIG AIRPLANE PROPELLER ON THE BACK, AND IT WENT, LIKE, A MILLION MILES AN HOUR!

IT GOT SO WINDY THAT HIS MOM'S BIKINI TOP BLEW OFF, AND HIS DAD HAD TO DIVE INTO THE RIVER TO GET IT!

WHEN HE FOUND IT, A FRIENDLY DOLPHIN TOWED HIM BACK TO THE BOAT SO THEY WOULDN'T BE LATE FOR THEIR HOT-AIR BALLOON RIDE.



### DADDY DAZE



# SALLY FORTH

by Francesco Marciuliano

GRILLING CALMS ME. YOU'VE SAID THAT SEVERAL TIMES TODAY. EVERYTHING OKAY, TED?

UM, OKAY.

OR HAVING A LOT OF PEOPLE OVER BECAUSE THEIR METH LAB IS BOOMING AND THEY NEED A SATELLITE OFFICE.

UM, OKAY.

OR HAVING A LOT OF PEOPLE OVER TO SET OUR HOME ABLAZE IN A FIERY OFFERING TO THEIR CACODEMON AS THEY CHANT "ALL FOR YOU! ALL FOR YOU!" UNTIL THE GROUND BURSTS ASUNDER, RUPTURING A SEWER PIPE.

TED...

6-25

WHILE WE'RE ON VACATION WE'RE HAVING SOME PEOPLE RENT OUR HOUSE...

ALAN, WOULD YOU MIND LOOKING IN ON OUR PLACE OCCASIONALLY TO SEE IF EVERYTHING'S OKAY?

SURE!

YOU KNOW, SEE IF THEY'RE HAVING A LOT OF PEOPLE OVER FOR PARTIES.

NO PROB.

I JUST WORRY.

I GET YOU, TED. I MEAN, NOT REALLY. I DON'T KNOW IF ANYONE COULD. BUT I'LL LOOK AFTER YOUR PLACE FOR YOU.

ON THE TESTIMONY OF THE HUNTRESS, TEYDRA OF THE ALMOST HUMANS, BE IT RESOLVED...!

THE ONE CALLED WALKER, PHANTOM, GHOST WHO WALKS... SHALL BE FOREVER WELCOME AT THE GATES OF THE DOMAIN.

ALL EFFORTS SHALL BE MADE TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER HE IS, INDEED, IN FLESH AND BLOOD, THE LIVING CHAMPION OF OLD!

BAM!

HOW HUMILIATING TO HIRE MYSELF OUT AS THE PROFESSOR'S ASSISTANT HIS PROTEGE!

HE WAS A MINOR TALENT SKILLED AT SELF-PROMOTION, HEADLINES, TALK SHOWS, FUND-RAISING...

TYPICAL! RIGHT?

WE AGREED TO CALL IT HIS. HE HAD A TITLE, PRESTIGE, PROFESSIONAL RESPECT...

THE ENTRANCE TO THE CHAMBER AT THE STONE LIONS-- THAT WAS YOUR DISCOVERY!

I WAS NOTHING-- A MADWOMAN!

WITH NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE, I SET OUT TO LEARN THE TRUTH OF MY DREAMS-- IF ONLY FOR MYSELF!

TO PROVE I REALLY HAD BEEN TO THOSE PLACES I KEPT SEEING IN MY MIND'S EYE.

FRIENDS, PLEASE DON'T FORGET THAT I'M HERE.

I'M HERE IN THE DOMAIN OF THE ALMOST HUMANS!

AT MY WORK AGAIN!-- A SCIENTIST! LEARNING MARVELOUS THINGS!

Tony DePaul & Jeff Weigel 6-25-23

THE PHANTOM

by Lee Falk

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Tony DePaul & Jeff Weigel 6-25-23

# Hi and Lois

by Brian and Greg Walker

HE WAS SAFE.

ARE YOU QUESTIONING MY CALL?

IT WAS WRONG.

PROVE IT.

LET'S LOOK AT THE REPLAY.

MY "ASSISTANT" RECORDED IT ON HER CELLPHONE.

SOCK!

YOU'RE OUT!

HE WAS SAFE.

ARE YOU QUESTIONING MY CALL?

IT WAS WRONG.

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# ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

IT'S A HAMBURGER, JEREMY, NOT THE HUNDRED-METER DASH.

YOU'VE SEEN ME EAT BEFORE, RIGHT?

BURGER GALAXY

IT'S A HAMBURGER, JEREMY, NOT THE HUNDRED-METER DASH.

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YOU'VE SEEN ME EAT BEFORE, RIGHT?

BURGER GALAXY

# CANDORVILLE

BY DARRIN BELL

IT APPEARS YOU'VE GOT A BEAUTIFUL BABY INFLUENCER FILMING GESTATION TIPS.

IT APPEARS YOU'VE GOT A BEAUTIFUL BABY INFLUENCER FILMING GESTATION TIPS.

IT APPEARS YOU'VE GOT A BEAUTIFUL BABY INFLUENCER FILMING GESTATION TIPS.

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# SLYLOCK FOX

BY BOB WEBER JR.

A sand sculpture competition was sabotaged early this morning. A witness says she saw Shady Shrew inside the cordoned-off area just as the sun was rising. Shady insists he was fast asleep on the beach at that time. What evidence did Slylock find that suggests Shady's presence at the scene of the crime?

I USED THAT LOG AS A PILLOW.

...MY SCULPTURE!!

HOW TO DRAW a goofy dinosaur

YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Mackenzie, age 9

Submit your drawing to www.slylockfox.com

During which month is the Earth closest to the sun?

a) January  
b) May  
c) July  
d) September  
e) August  
f) March

Answer -- Crab, pig's tail, feather, eyes, water drop and gill.

Have fun solving a new comic puzzle every day at www.slylockfox.com

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# THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER

"I CAN USUALLY GET LEROY BY JUST BRINGING UP HIS FAVORITE SPORTS TEAMS."

"ALL 754 OF YOUR MENTIONS ARE FOR YOU TO STOP TWEETING."

"I SHOULD CHANGE OUR DOORMAT TO 'CARDBOARD WELCOME.'"

"WHY ARE WE WATCHING THE DELETED SCENES WHEN WE HATED THE MOVIE?"

"THAT'S FROM LEROY'S 'SURELY YOU'RE NOT WEARING THAT COLLECTION"

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# More snapshots from the MoonPie Festival

T-G Photos by Mark McGee



FCE CLUBS MEET

Butler's Creek FCE

Butler's Creek FCE Club met at the Extension office at 5 p.m. after the County-wide FCE meeting which started at 4 on April 4, 2023. President Vicky Faulkner opened the meeting with a poem entitled "One Hundred Percent." Fourteen members answered the roll call by telling if they like their brownies with or without nuts. The devotional presented was entitled "Grateful Generosity." March minutes were read and approved. The treasury and Sunshine reports were given.

Jeni Feldhaus presented a program during the County-wide meeting about how to minimize the impact of inflation on one's budget. She spoke about investments and answered financial questions from the floor. She made recommended building an emergency fund of savings equal to at least 6 months of your living expenses.

Donations towards the Food Awareness Week Food Drive were collected to be weighed and dispersed to Good Samaritan as our April community service project.

New business

Vicky Faulkner gave a report from the County Council meeting held on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Her report included mention of two FCE family homes that were destroyed by a tornado in the past few weeks, as well as one couple who lost their lives. Butler's Creek voted to send donations to each of



Butler's Creek FCE club

the two displaced families, and a donation to the McNairy County 4-H camp as a memorial to the family members who died.

Vicky Faulkner explained Certified Volunteer Unit hours (CVU hours) and passed out worksheets with forms that could be filled out and turned in. The volunteer activity hours are defined as any type of hourly volunteer work not directly FCE related, not done for family members, and are not hours that were

paid for doing. CVU hours are due to Charlene Judd by May 12.

Leadership Retreat (camp) will be held at UT Southern in Pulaski from May 23-25. Butler's Creek has five members signed up to attend.

Our next work day was scheduled for April 25 to be held at the Extension Office from 2-4 p.m. Several project opportunities will be offered as well as help with crochet or knitting problems.

The Farm Bureau dinner menu was planned and will be served on May 1 at the Farm Bureau office.

The County Fair dates are July 17-22. Entry items will need to be brought in on Sunday, July 16.

Demonstrations

Barbara Troxler demonstrated three large embroidered Easter egg decorations she had made. The embroidery covered the front of a Styrofoam egg-

shaped form and was finished with multi-folded satin fabric and ribbons. Cindi Lindsey demonstrated a baby blanket she was crocheting for the police department and explained the unusual technique which created the diagonal, woven basket pattern.

Vicky Faulkner adjourned the meeting with a quote from William Shakespeare, "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."

Wheel Fce Report

Wheel FCE met on June 8. This month is National Dairy Month and also Father's Day Month. Father's Day was established in June 1910. The group also discussed chemotherapy and cancer, flower arranging, and tying bows. Whitney Danhof from the extension office presented demonstrations on bow tying and flower arranging. The next meeting will be on July 13 at the Hall's Mill Market.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: JUNE 20

Editor:

We appreciated Mark McGee's thoughtful column on Tennessee Walking Horses and horses used for racing. The carnage occurring now in Thoroughbred racing warrants immediate action.

Although horseracing can

never be entirely safe, simple changes could make a world of difference. Most importantly, all medications, including anti-inflammatories, painkillers, sedatives, and muscle relaxants, should be banned two weeks before a race. If horses need pharmaceuticals, they shouldn't

be racing.

Standing, low-radiations CT equipment can quickly provide three-dimensional scans of a horse's legs to detect injuries. Studies show that most Thoroughbreds who break bones on tracks had pre-existing injuries at the site of the break.

Replacing dirt tracks with high-quality synthetic will result in fewer horses suffering catastrophic injuries, according to the racing industry's own research.

Anyone who genuinely cares about the welfare of horses should be pushing the racing

industry for these basic, yet life-saving reforms.

Yours truly,

Kathy Guillermo, Senior Vice President

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
501 Front St.  
Norfolk, VA

Did someone say "cataracts"?



Danny Tyree

Tyrades

"Because I could not stop for cataracts, they kindly stopped for me."

Someday I hope to find time to luxuriate in the collected works of poets such as Emily Dickinson – on paper, not as an audiobook -- so my ears perked up when my recent eye exam revealed the early stages of cataracts in both eyes.

(There's a tiny hemorrhage in each of my peepers as well, but cataracts have center stage for this week's column.)

Don't worry. The optometrist estimated I have five to 10 years until the cataracts will require surgery. Hmmm. That will be about the same time I am due for my next colonoscopy. Throw in hypothetical grandchildren enamored with a purple dinosaur and you have "perfect storm" out the ying-yang.

Having long ago gotten over feeling 10 feet tall and bulletproof ("Hey, you guys can't give me a wedgie; I'm 10 feet tall and bulletproof!"), I was more melancholy than shocked. Still, it seems like only five minutes between being warned that you'll put your eye out with a Red Ryder BB rifle and being warned that you'll put your eyes out with birthday candles.

To add insult to injury, I never even found time to enjoy a mid-life crisis a

few years back. If I attempt to play catch-up now, I would be forced to buy a sports car that is driven only at early-bird supper time on a non-rainy day.

I have stacks of books I crave to read, a library of classic TV shows to experience and wonders of nature to observe ("There's such a lot of world to see," as Mr. Henry Mancini wrote), so I am resolved to be vigilant about my eye health.

My mother has served as a cautionary tale with my health decisions. Mom drove a pickup truck until she was 90, but when she was in her mid-80s, my wife took her for an eye exam. The optometrist point-blank warned her that she was rapidly developing cataracts. Mom thanked him and went on with her life, not darkening the door of an eye doctor for at least five years.

Mom made excuses for her impaired vision. Newspapers, magazines and phonebooks were suddenly using disappearing ink. Every business in town colluded to use 20-watt bulbs.

Things came to a turning point one Sunday when the preacher announced that he didn't see any visitors in the audience. After services, Mom squinted across the auditorium and asked my son Gideon, "Didn't he claim there weren't any visitors today?"

Who's that stranger over there?"

Without missing a beat, Gideon answered, "That's your son!"

By this time, Mom's cataracts could probably have served as cloaking devices for the starship Enterprise, but Dr. Jordan was somehow able to remove them and give her excellent vision.

I'm glad she was able to dodge a bullet ("They're not making bullets like they did in the good old days – I think they're using sawdust and library paste") and I hope all of you will join me in scheduling regular eyecare visits.

Please don't resign yourself to the words of those folk-rock poets Simon and Garfunkel: "Hello, darkness, my old friend."

Speaking of poetry, here's an update of an old favorite from Robert Frost.

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one that led to a clinic that still accepted my vision insurance."

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

Local ARRL Field Day June 24 – 25

BCARS (Bedford County), SMRC (Short Mountain), and MCARS (Marshall County) clubs are hosting their annual ARRL Field Day event on Saturday, June 24, starting at 1 p.m. and ending on Sunday, June 25, at 1 p.m.

The Field Day event will be located at the Disabled American Veterans, Post 23 Building, 1355 Hwy. 130 East (Old Tullahoma Highway) in Shelbyville.

Field Day events are contests, emergency training, and fun for amateur radio operators (Hams), would-be Hams, and new Hams.

For more information, call or text 931-224-0425.

What is ARRL Field Day?

Field Day is a radio communications event that brings together amateur radio operators (also called "hams") within your community. The event is part picnic, campout, practice for emergencies, informal contest, and most of all, fun! ARRL Field Day is the most popular ham radio activity held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend in June each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs get together with their clubs, groups, or friends to operate from remote locations.

It is a time when many aspects of amateur radio come together to highlight its many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the

opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate radio communications to the general public and organizations that amateur radio might serve in an emergency. For many radio clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights on their annual calendar.

The contest part involves contacting as many other stations as possible while learning to operate radio gear in abnormal situations and less-than-optimal conditions.

These same skills are utilized to help with large, unplanned, non-emergency events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fundraisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades, and exhibits at fairs, malls, and museums.

Despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they are so complex — ham radio has been called into action, again and again, to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Hams are well-known for their communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

What is the ARRL?

With more than 150,000 members, ARRL is The National Association for Amateur Radio in the

US. ARRL is the primary source of information and support for radio amateurs.

ARRL provides books, news, information for individuals and clubs, special events, continuing education classes, and other benefits to its members.

What is Amateur Radio?

Often called "ham radio," the Amateur Radio Service is a worldwide community of licensed operators using the airwaves with every conceivable means of communications technology. It is made up of people who enjoy learning and being able to transmit voice, data, and pictures through the airwaves to places near and far without depending on commercial systems. The amateur radio frequencies are the last remaining place in the usable radio spectrum where an individual can develop and experiment with wireless communications. Not only can hams build and modify their equipment, but they can also create new ways to communicate via the airwaves — and do it as a globally connected community. Many people in the hobby form lifelong friendships with people they wouldn't have otherwise met. Many rock stars, Hollywood actors, and heads of state (and even your neighbor down the street) are ham radio operators.

## DOG OF THE WEEK: SERENITY



This is Serenity. She is aged at 2 years old, and a cattle dog mix, weighing in at 49 pounds. She has been with Bedford County Animal Control for 60 days. She walks great in her lead and enjoys going for walks. She loves playing fetch and spending time in the warm sunshine. She would make a wonderful riding partner. She will also smile for you! She has the Elvis lip down perfectly! She is also spayed, micro-chipped, and fully vaccinated. And because she is also sponsored, her adoption fee is paid.

Submitted photos



Serenity



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Youth Meeting - Wednesday at 6:30 pm

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Saturday/Sabado 5:45pm-6:45pm  
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2117 Fairfield Pike, Shelbyville  
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Dallas Grooms signs his letter of intent to continue his football career at Sewanee.

T-G Photo by Rickey Clardy

# Grooms signs with Sewanee College

By **RICKEY CLARDY**  
Sports Writer

For the past four years, Dallas Grooms has played a big role for the Community Viking football squad on both offense and defense as a quarterback and corner. After graduating this past season, Grooms will be continuing his football career with the University of the South Sewanee College Tigers.

Location and playing under first-year coach Andy McCollum, who was a former Middle Tennessee State head coach and Georgia Tech defensive coach, were big factors when Grooms was asked about his choice of Sewanee.

"Just being close to home and it's a good fit with brand new head coach Andy McCollum," Grooms said. "He's turning things around."

"I just love everything going on down there," Grooms added.

Grooms, after being selected as a 2022 first team Region 4-3A athlete, which means he was versatile and could play several positions, is ready to fit in wherever needed.

"I'll start off at quarterback, but if he needs me somewhere else, I'm ready to change," Grooms said.

Another person with a vested interest in Dallas' choice of Sewanee was Viking head coach and father of Dallas, Chris Grooms.

"He's been a tremendous asset as far as his character and being a leader on and off the field," Coach Grooms said.

"It's going to be hard to replace him."

"He's been quarterbacking for four years so the whole offense ran through him," Coach Grooms added.

Coach Grooms helped Dallas consider the options with the selection process.

"I was definitely proud of him going through this and trying to pick the school that he wanted," Coach Grooms said. "We looked at the pros and cons of all of them."

"Kind of glad he stayed in Tennessee," Coach Grooms added.

Dallas has fond memories of the people he came in contact with at Community.

"All the people here were great," Dallas said.

"No matter what the score was, there were no other people I'd choose to be around."

Sewanee College, located in Sewanee, Tennessee is a mem-



T-G File Photo by Chris Siers

While at Community, Grooms was the field general under center for the past several seasons and hopes to continue playing quarterback at the college level.

ber of the Southern Athletic Association and competes in NCAA Division III football.

The conference fields teams from Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia.

Dallas plans to major in finance at Sewanee.

# Former Eagle slugger has strong junior campaign at Belmont

## Landers turns in best season yet with Bruins

By **WILL CARTER**  
Sports Writer

Former Shelbyville Central baseball standout Mason Landers, recently finished up his junior season on the collegiate diamond with the Belmont Bruins, and it was his best statistical season since arriving in Nashville in 2021.

Landers has steadily improved in most hitting categories since his freshman campaign for Belmont with the most notable being in batting average and RBIs as he posted a .347 average with 30 RBIs this past season.

He also posted career-highs in home runs with 12, hits with 41, a slugging percentage of .720, and an on-base percentage of .414, but he gave all the credit to his coaches and teammates.

"My success this season would not have happened without my coaches and teammates putting myself in those situations to perform," Landers said.

"Having some really good hitters in front of me and behind me in the lineup really opened myself up, and allowed me to not

stress about at-bats. That gave me comfortability at the plate knowing I had some dudes in our lineup."

Of his successes this past season, Landers had some big games at the plate as he posted a three home-run day back in February in their season-opening series against UT Martin with a three-run bomb in the first game of the Sunday doubleheader, and followed it up with a solo and two-run shot in the second game.

Later in the season, Landers matched his season high of two home runs in a single game with a pair of solo shots against Murray State in April.

"Coaches really get us ready throughout the fall and early spring by doing lots of inter-squads and machine work daily, and that allows for us to feel as if we are in mid-season form from game one," Landers said.

"The feeling of hitting those three home-runs against an in-state team that was in our conference last year was a great feeling knowing I was helping my team."

Outside of baseball,



Photo Courtesy of Belmont University Athletics

Former Shelbyville Central Golden Eagle standout Mason Landers turned in his best statistical season yet with Belmont during his junior season.

Landers is grateful for the opportunities Belmont has provided and continues to provide him for his future after college.

One of those opportunities is an NIL (Name, Image, and Likeness) deal with PRIME, which is a hydration and energy drink company.

"Outside of baseball, college is something that I can only say thank you to

in the future. I have met some of my best friends, and made some of my best memories in these three years in Nashville," Landers said.

"I was fortunate enough to sign a NIL deal with PRIME which allows me to be a sponsored athlete with them. Belmont University has given me opportunities to become successful after baseball is over, and that's

one of the main reasons I chose this school."

Landers is wasting no time looking ahead to his senior season with the Bruins as he has set some team-oriented goals that include winning the Missouri Valley Conference championship.

"Some goals I have for next year are to lead our team to Omaha and win our conference championship,"

Landers said.

"Our team is a team full of work horses so we give it 100% everyday on and off the field. We use the motivation and mindset that our coaches give us everyday to strive to be the best versions of ourselves. I'll leave you with a quote that our coaches use quite frequently, 'You can't train in the zoo and expect to compete in the jungle.'"



# MLB sued by 17 former scouts, citing discrimination

DENVER (AP) — Seventeen former Major League Baseball scouts who say they were discriminated against because of their age sued the league, its teams and Commissioner Rob Manfred on Wednesday.

The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in Denver. The former scouts allege violations of the federal Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967

along with laws in 11 states and New York City.

The scouts, ranging from 55 to 71, allege they were discriminated against from 2020-22. They say MLB and the teams “have acted to prevent the reemployment of older scouts or refused the reemployment of older scouts.”

They also say an MLB provision that offsets scouts’ sala-

ries when they sign with a new team — but are still being paid by a previous team from which they’ve been fired — is discriminatory.

MLB said in a statement it looks “forward to refuting these claims in court,” but it does not comment on pending litigation.

The ex-scouts also allege MLB in 2015 ended a listing of scouts eligible for employment,

the decision to end the MLB Scouting Bureau in 2018 was discriminatory and MLB used analytics and the coronavirus pandemic as pretexts to eliminate older scouts.

“This lawsuit is about age discrimination within a sport that supposedly values history, tradition and putting the best possible product on the field,” lawyer Mitchell C. Abeita of Kilgore &

Kilgore said in a statement.

The plaintiffs are headed by former Chicago Cubs scout James S. Benedict, who was terminated in 2020. They seek class-action certification.

The former scouts allege violations of laws in Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas and Utah.

## Free-agent tight end awaits call for a record-setting 18th NFL season

By **MARK LONG AP**  
Pro Football Writer

Well before sunrise at a posh rental home in Mexico, Mercedes Lewis is working out. He’s running sprints, lifting weights, jumping boxes, hitting heavy bags. It’s how he starts his days, even on vacation.

It’s also how the now-39-year-old Lewis stays ready for a phone call he believes is coming, one that will get him back in the NFL for what would be a record-setting 18th season.

The free-agent tight end, a guy nicknamed “Big Dog” because of his 6-foot-6, 270-pound frame and his adept leadership, anxiously awaits a chance to join a new team. He hopes it happens before training camps open next month but also understands it could take an unforeseen injury somewhere for him to strike a deal.

“I get the business side of it,” Lewis told The Associated Press this week. “My agent is in talks with a handful of teams, but it’s just small talk. I guess teams are trying to figure out their rosters and what they need.”

“But if you just look at my film from the last three years, there’s no decline in what I’m able to do. I’m the best blocking tight end out there.”

Last year, Lewis tied Dallas’ Jason Witten and Kansas City’s Tony Gonzalez for the most seasons by a tight end in NFL history. One more would leave him alone atop the list.

A first-round draft pick by Jacksonville in 2006, Lewis has played in 251 games and logged roughly 10,000 snaps over 17 NFL seasons. He totaled 375 catches for 4,502 yards and 33 scores in 12 years with the Jaguars — all franchise records for a tight end — and made his lone Pro Bowl in 2010.

Jacksonville unceremoniously dumped Lewis in 2018. He quickly landed in Green Bay, where he spent the past five years and became close friends with quarterback Aaron Rodgers, receiver Davante Adams and others. He was used primarily as a blocker with the Packers, finishing with 57 receptions for 582 yards and six TDs.

His chances of returning to Green Bay shrunk considerably when Rodgers was traded to the New York Jets and then the Pack added two tight ends in April’s NFL draft: Oregon State’s Luke Musgrave in the second round and South Dakota State’s Tucker Kraft in the third.

Following Rodgers and his former offensive coordinator (Nathaniel Hackett) in Jacksonville and Green Bay to New York still could happen, but the Jets currently have six tight ends on their roster.

“It is very common for new faces to want old faces to be able to come in and help accelerate the installation of an entire program,” Jets coach Robert Saleh said last month, adding “you never know” when asked specifically about the possibility of signing Lewis.

Lewis figured reuniting with Adams in Las Vegas — a short flight from his daughter and home in Los Angeles — might be an option, especially after the Raiders traded Darren Waller, but then they moved up to take Notre Dame standout Michael Mayer in the second round.

Sixteen tight ends were drafted in all, including an NFL-record nine in the first three rounds. That leaves fewer spots for backups across the league, but Lewis considers himself an ideal role model for any rookie.

After all, he’s never been suspended, has missed just one game in the past six seasons and has a sterling reputation as a teammate.

“For older players, there’s two things where they could potentially not get picked up,” Lewis said. “One is that their play is declining for their role. The second thing is they’re asking for too much money. I’m neither of those. I just want to compete.”

Lewis missed offseason team activities for the first time since he was awaiting a new contract in 2011; watching from afar this time around felt “weird and awkward.” He focused on staying in shape, which has come easy for him throughout his career. He even has a minority ownership stake in a health and wellness social club.

Even though he made nearly \$4 million last season and has more than \$60 million in career earnings, wanting at least one more accrued season has nothing to do with money. Being the only tight end in NFL history to play 18 seasons would be a testament to his ability and his durability.

“When I was playing Pop Warner at 7 or 8 years old, the only thing I could think about was just trying to be the best in my hood,” he said. “I did that, learned how to compete in high school and did really well in college — getting inducted into the UCLA Hall of Fame last year was big for me — but now to be potentially going into my 18th year, it means a lot.”

“It just shows that hard work does pay off. I’m excited for it. I’m antsy. I want to hurry up and figure out where I’m going to be. But it’s definitely an honor to still be able to do it.”

## Olympic leader criticizes Ukraine for blocking athletes from some qualifiers

By **GRAHAM DUNBAR**  
AP Sports Writer

GENEVA — IOC president Thomas Bach criticized the Ukrainian government on Thursday for blocking some athletes from qualifying events for the 2024 Paris Olympics that also included Russians and Belarusians.

Ukrainian athletes have in recent weeks missed world or European championship events in judo, fencing and taekwondo where Russians and Belarusians could compete after being approved as neutrals.

The IOC and Bach in March shaped the definition of neutrality — not publicly supporting the war, nor being contracted to the military since February last year, competing without flag, anthem or national colors — that sports governing bodies must decide how or if to apply.

“It is hard to understand why the Ukrainian government is depriving their own athletes from their chance to qualify” for Paris, Bach said in a keynote speech to an International Olympic Committee online meeting.

Ukrainian athletes were “being sanctioned by their own government,” Bach said, adding the IOC and Olympic sports bodies wanted to support them preparing for “any competition that they want to take part in.”

He did not specify if that could mean financial support for athletes in what appeared to suggest defying Ukrainian government and sports

officials.

The IOC did not immediately respond to a request for more details.

Bach opened a 25-minute speech to IOC members insisting “our outrage of this brutal war, our compassion with the human suffering and our solidarity with the Ukrainian Olympic community remain as strong as ever.”

He criticized Russia once for “shamelessly” holding talks about creating “fully politicized sport competitions” as a potential rival to Olympic-approved events.

Those talks included China, which Bach has tried to keep as a close ally before and since the 2022 Beijing Winter Games, which closed four days before Russia invaded Ukraine.

Otherwise, Bach tried to position the IOC in the middle ground between both sides of the war, unhappy at its position ahead of the Paris Olympics.

“The Russian side wants us to ignore the war,” he said. “The Ukrainian side wants us to totally isolate anyone with a Russian and Belarusian passport.”

“We have the Russian side that considers the strict conditions (of neutral athlete vetting) to be unacceptable, humiliating and discriminatory. We have the Ukrainian side that denounces us for siding with Russia.”

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said any neutral flag is stained with blood and invited Bach

in January to join him visiting the wrecked city of Bakhmut.

The IOC took a tough position on Russia within days of the war starting, urging sports bodies to exclude athletes and officials from international events and strip the country of hosting rights.

However, as the Paris Olympics approached, the IOC moved toward letting some Russians back into sport and Bach suggested excluding athletes based just on their passport would be discrimination and a breach of their human rights.

World Athletics has continued to exclude all Russians while soccer bodies FIFA and UEFA have not let Russian teams play in international competitions.

Bach suggested on Thursday the IOC’s mission must be to “support the athletes of the entire world to make their Olympic dream come true.”

He evoked an image of the “rapacious welcome” Ukrainian athletes would get from hundreds of thousands of people lining the Seine river during the Paris Olympics opening ceremony in 13 months, then the “wave of enthusiasm” cheering them in their competitions.

“What a powerful demonstration of resilience, and of determination,” Bach said, “what a moment of pride, joy and hope for all Ukrainian people.”

## IOC warns Afghanistan about Paris Olympics status over denying sports to women and girls

By **GRAHAM DUNBAR**  
AP Sports Writer

GENEVA — The Afghanistan team’s status for the 2024 Paris Olympics was put in question Wednesday by the IOC over growing frustration with the Taliban blocking access to sport for women and girls.

The International Olympic Committee said it “continues to be extremely concerned” about the sports situation in Afghanistan despite its repeated calls for action.

Noting its “right to take any further measures,” the IOC cautioned that “specific details for the participation of the Afghan (national Olympic committee) delegation and team” for the Paris Games have not yet been decided.

The IOC could suspend Afghanistan’s Olympic body for government interference in the independent management of sport, while supporting the country’s athletes to compete in Paris as an independent team under the Olympic flag and anthem. That was how Kuwaitis competed at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

The issue was discussed Wednesday at an IOC executive board meeting which also took updates on problems with Olympic officials in India, Indonesia, Iran and Guatemala.

A call between Olympic officials and Afghanistan’s recently appointed director of physical education and sports had led to some written guarantees, IOC director for NOC relations James McLeod said in an

online briefing.

Still, the IOC said allowing some access to sports for girls at primary schools was “a first step but reiterated that this remains insufficient.”

A number of women and girls who once played a variety of sports told The Associated Press in January they had been intimidated by the Taliban with visits and phone calls warning them not to engage in their sports.

The Afghanistan issue is next scheduled to be discussed in October at an IOC board meeting held in Mumbai, India, soon after the Asian Games.

Afghanistan sent five athletes, including one woman, to the Tokyo Olympics, which ended in August 2021 one week before the Taliban retook control of the country.

### Indonesia

The IOC has cautioned Olympic sports bodies about letting Indonesia host their events, McLeod confirmed.

Indonesia was stripped by FIFA in March of hosting the men’s soccer Under-20 World Cup just seven weeks before it started because the country did not want Israel to play.

Israel had qualified for the tournament nine months earlier but does not have formal diplomatic relations with Indonesia, which is the world’s most populous Muslim-majority nation.

McLeod said the IOC advised sports bodies “to be very careful in their allocation of events” to nations

which restricted access to athletes.

Indonesia is due to host the World Beach Games in Bali in August for the global umbrella group of national Olympic bodies, known as ANOC. McLeod said the IOC told ANOC to “look at this situation very closely.”

### Isinbayeva

Since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine started 16 months ago, the IOC has faced questions about letting Russian members take part in Olympic business.

Yelena Isinbayeva, the two-time Olympic pole vault champion and long-time Russian army officer, has now been cleared by the IOC ethics commission to continue using the IOC membership she has had since 2016.

The IOC had said in March her membership status was to be evaluated after Olympic sports bodies were advised that athletes who supported the war in Ukraine or were contracted to the military should not get neutral status to compete internationally.

Without saying Isinbayeva’s name on Wednesday, IOC spokesman Mark Adams said the “past contractual situation” of Russians prior to the war starting on Feb. 24 last year should not be taken into consideration.

“All the necessary work has been carried out to the satisfaction of the ethics commission,” Adams said, without clarifying if Isinbayeva has renounced her army rank.

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# Josh Berry to replace Kevin Harvick in Cup Series after '23 season

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. —

Josh Berry will take the final step in his long journey to the top of racing with Stewart-Haas Racing next season as the replacement for future NASCAR Hall of Famer Kevin Harvick.

Harvick is retiring at the end of this season and Berry on Wednesday was named next year's driver in the No. 4 Ford Mustang for SHR. Berry, a journeyman who earlier this year signed with Harvick's agency as the first management team he's had in his career, will be 33 when he begins his first full season at the elite Cup level.

His route from Hendersonville, Tennessee, to one of the most prominent seats in the sport was pushed along by Dale Earnhardt Jr., who discovered Berry at least a dozen years ago in the online racing community. Earnhardt has taken Berry as far as possible, which this year has included eight Cup races with Hendrick Motorsports as the injury replacement for both Chase Elliott and Alex Bowman.

Some believed those races driving Hendrick equipment were a tryout for Berry, but SHR already was pursuing him. The 47-year-old Harvick is the core of the four-car team but is stepping down at the end of his 23rd Cup season.

Aric Almirola, who is 39, has not said if he's postponing his 2022 retirement announcement a second year. Ryan Preece, like Berry will be 33 next season, but his fifth full season of Cup will only be his second with SHR.

That leaves Chase Briscoe, who drives co-owner Tony Stewart's pres-



Photo by James Gilbert/Getty Images

Josh Berry has finally hit it big after being named Kevin Harvick's replacement after this year. Harvick is due to retire at the end of the 2023 season.

sure-packed No. 14, and although Briscoe has shown promise, once Harvick goes, SHR loses its superstar, annual championship contender and heartbeat of the team.

In comes Berry, who may be light on NASCAR national-level racing experience, but he's a veteran who has clawed his way into Harvick's seat and may wind up filling a massive void at SHR.

"What a team will get when they sign Josh Berry to a Cup deal is a driver with great race craft and a turn-key winner," said Earnhardt, who developed Berry and last year got him into a full-time Xfinity

Series ride.

"Whereas it's incredible and a great opportunity to sign a young driver that will develop into a champion, I believe you get to skip those years of development with a guy like Josh, and you get right into working on the championship part and winning races because he's there mentally, professionally and in talent."

Berry takes over as driver for a Rodney Childers-led group that won 37 races with Harvick including the 2014 Cup title. Berry has one full season of Xfinity Series racing, but he's parlayed an initial partial season with JR Motorsports into a full-time job with

five victories in 76 career starts.

In his Cup Series starts as a substitute with Hendrick, Berry impressed the Hendrick group even before his second-place finish at Richmond as Elliott's early season fill-in.

"Kevin Harvick has obviously set a very high bar, but Josh brings maturity, experience and, above all, a winning record to Stewart-Haas Racing," said Stewart, who co-owns SHR with Gene Haas. "He is the right driver, at the right time, for the No. 4 team and our organization."

Berry was unsure the right time would ever happen for him, especially as

a 19-year-old discovered by Earnhardt Jr., who offered Berry a late model test and persuaded him to move to North Carolina. Earnhardt gave Berry a job in the parts department at JR Motorsports and a chance to prove himself on the short track scene.

Earnhardt noted that Berry driving for his Late Model program won "over a hundred feature races and multiple track championships and the national title." Earnhardt found a way to get Berry some Xfinity Series starts "that was basically like, 'Hey, here's like a very meager chance to show what you can do. Go out there and you have to

make it happen," and Berry won at Martinsville in his 13th career start.

"I cried like if he was my brother. It's hard to describe the emotion, but it was incredible," Earnhardt said of the moment that finally put Berry on the national radar.

His worth has skyrocketed and Berry becomes a big addition to Ford, who lures a wanted commodity out of the Chevrolet camp. Berry is content with how long the path has taken him, even though he'll most certainly be the oldest candidate in next year's Cup rookie class. Cup seats these days go to very young drivers, and the rookie candidates typically are in their early 20s.

"I'm really proud of how I've gotten to this point and earned this opportunity," Berry said. "I don't like to use the word luck. It's also been about preparation meeting opportunity. I wouldn't change anything about how I got here. It made me who I am. Throughout my teenage years, it was a fight just to keep racing, to get to the next race."

"The timing of Dale and I getting together, that was crucial. If that doesn't happen, I don't know that I would've ever raced a stock car, or how much more I would've raced at all, just because racing overextended us financially," Berry continued. "Those years of racing and winning, and the people I was around and worked with, prepared me for the opportunities that I've gotten, and they've prepared me to capitalize on this opportunity with Stewart-Haas Racing. Even without knowing where it would ultimately take me, I'd do it all over again."

# Chastain chasing Trackhouse's 1st win at the home track in Nashville

By TERESA M. WALKER

AP Sports Writer

NASHVILLE — Ty Norris has heard NASCAR fans both cheer and boo Ross Chastain, who seems to make more enemies by the race.

The president of Trackhouse Racing doesn't mind: Norris thinks NASCAR should have 40 other drivers just like his "Melon Man."

"Ross is a driver that has become comfortable in making other drivers uncomfortable," Norris said. "He doesn't mind going three-wide. He doesn't mind going up against the wall. He doesn't mind poking his nose in there when he wants the space."

That aggression has crossed a line at times for some. Chastain punched Noah Gragson after the race at Kansas earlier this year. Chastain also spun Chase Elliott, NASCAR's most popular driver the past five years, early in the final stage of last year's finale — costing Elliott a chance at a second title.

His on-track encounters are plentiful and that kind of driving and emotion from Chastain helps make NASCAR more interesting — even if others get ticked off. Norris made clear Chastain isn't out there simply to stir the pot; he's trying to win and compete for the Cup Series championship.

That competitive drive shows up every time Chastain gets behind the wheel.



Photo by Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images

Ross Chastain hopes to land Trackhouse's first win of the season at the team's home track in Nashville this weekend.

"It shows up in, I think, in a very positive way," Norris said.

Trackhouse Racing needs Chastain to start by winning his first race this season, which would lock him into the playoffs for a second straight year. He goes into Sunday's race at Nashville Superspeedway fourth in the Cup standings as the series resumes after the lone week off in the 38-race season. Only 32 points separate the top seven drivers.

Racing well at Nashville also means a bit more with Music City officially Trackhouse Racing's home

base. Trackhouse will even have Taylor Lee, who competed on "The Voice," performing an acoustic set before the race at the team's haulers.

Chastain, who ran tire tests at Bristol Motor Speedway on Tuesday and Wednesday, doesn't see any added pressure competing at Nashville, where he finished fifth last year in a weather-delayed race. Winning is what matters most.

"It's about the end for us," Chastain said.

Trackhouse owner Justin Marks lives outside of Nashville and had

set this year for his team to be operating in Music City. The shop remains in Charlotte, North Carolina, but the team's headquarters will move from a Nashville suburb to the middle of the downtown entertainment district at the end of this season.

The racing team also has continued a local tie-in to famed honkytonk Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, which will be all over Daniel Suarez's car again for Sunday night's race.

Only the fifth Cup Series winner born outside the United States, the Mexican driver also has

yet to win this season and is three points out of the final playoff position with 10 races remaining as he tries to make the postseason for a second straight year. Suarez finished seventh at the 1.33-mile track in Lebanon, Tennessee, in 2021 when it hosted the first Cup Series race in 37 years.

Norris said Trackhouse employees understand Nashville means a bit more than just the start of the push to the playoffs.

"I feel as if they put in just a few extra hours, a little bit extra care to make sure that everything that

they can do positively to affect the outcome of this race," Norris said.

NBC takes over coverage down the stretch of the NASCAR season, and Hall of Famer Dale Earnhardt Jr. said it's been a great season with lots of storylines. A year ago, it was the Next Gen car debut creating challenges and problems for teams.

This year, the drama comes from drivers disagreeing on the track.

"It's been a fascinating year," Earnhardt said. "I'm sure that that is going to, as it does every year, kind of crescendo and build as we get closer to the playoffs. The pressure will mount. The risk taking will increase. The excitement that that creates for us will be plentiful."

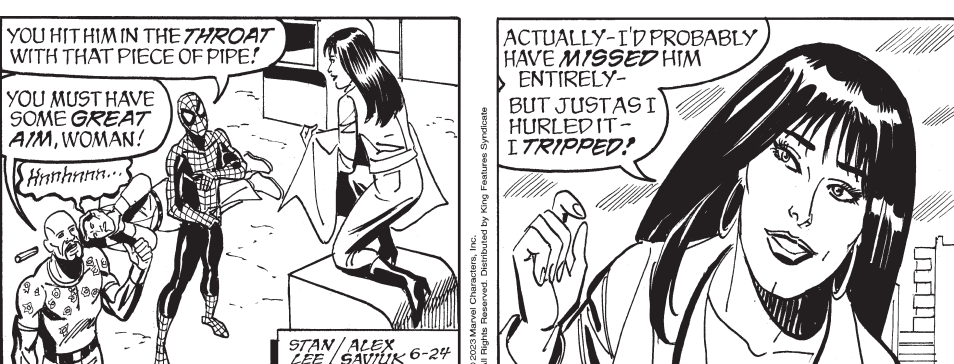
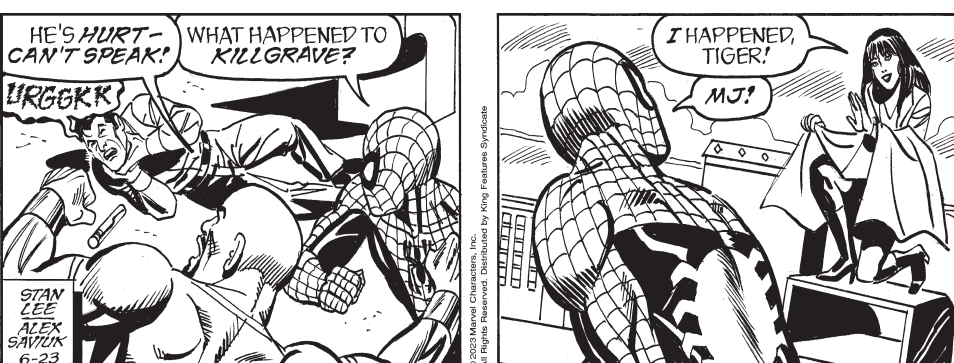
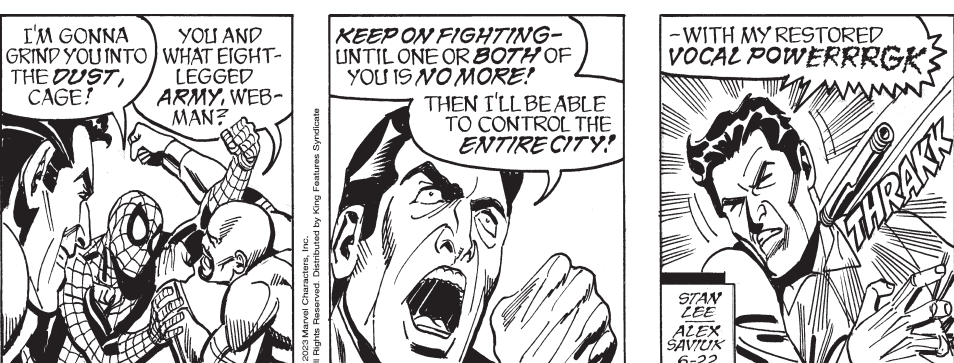
Norris worked for Dale Earnhardt Inc. and recalled an event with the late Dale Earnhardt noting fans split 50-50 between cheers and boos. Norris isn't comparing the "Melon Man" to "The Intimidator," but he noted his former boss told him that even the fans who hated him still loved him as a driver.

Chastain's challenge is winning more races and an elusive Cup title. So far, his best Cup Series season finish came last year when he finished second to Joey Logano.

Until then, Chastain certainly isn't boring.

"What I will say is Ross is probably the closest to old school racing that we've seen come along," Norris said.

THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN ® by Stan Lee-Larry Lieber

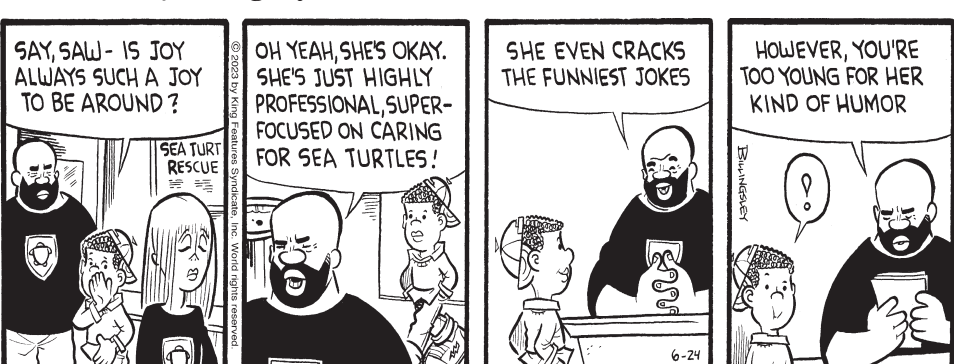


# SUDOKU

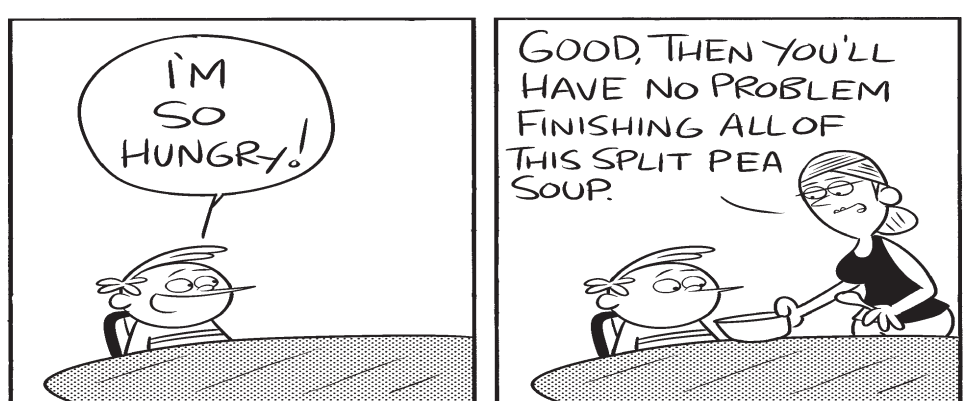
2			6					4
						5		3
6								5
	7			3				2
	9				7			5
					1			4
1		9						8
						8		3
	4	5					1	

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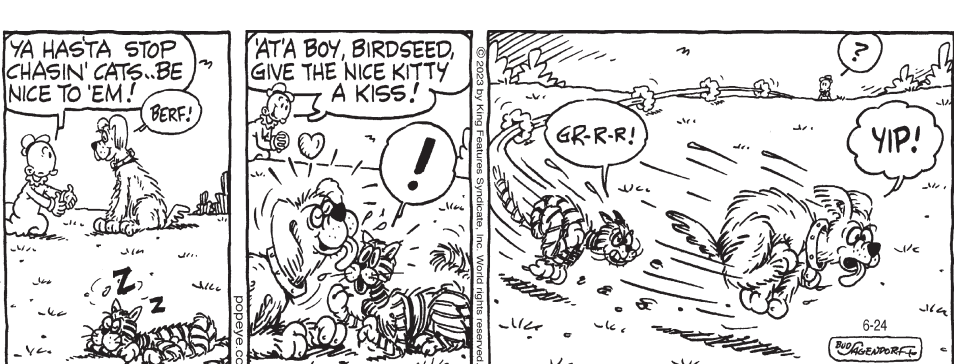
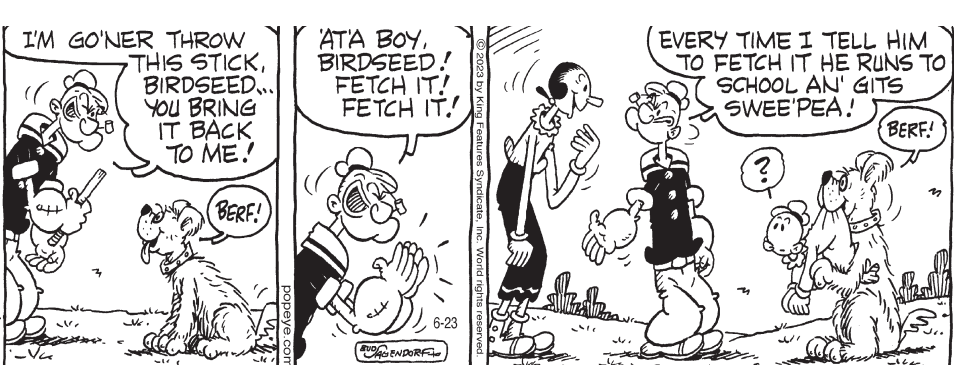
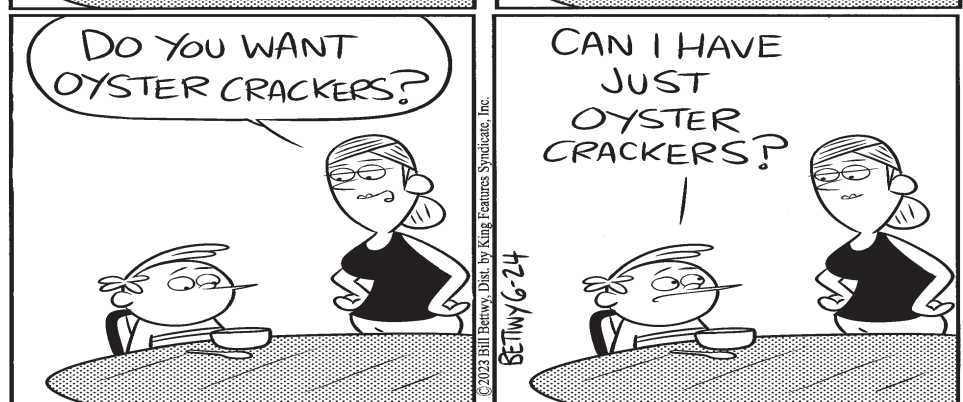
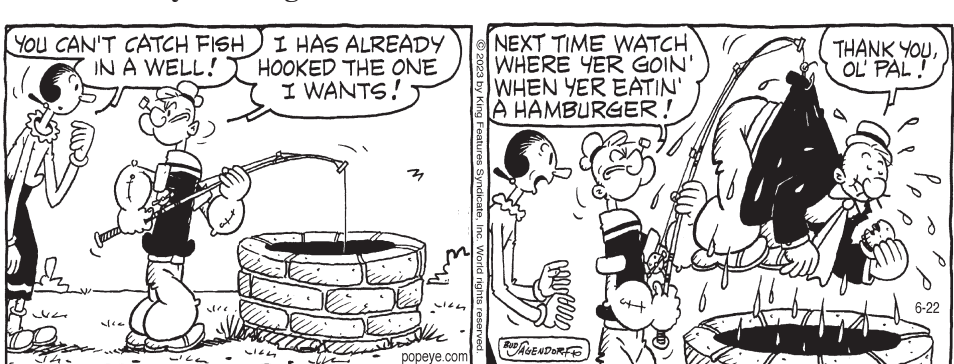
CURTIS ® by Billingsley



THATABABY ® by Paul Trap



POPEYE ® by Bud Sagendorf



## CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to headaches. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 6 = A)

A. 25 6 3 18  
Clue: Uncomfortable feeling

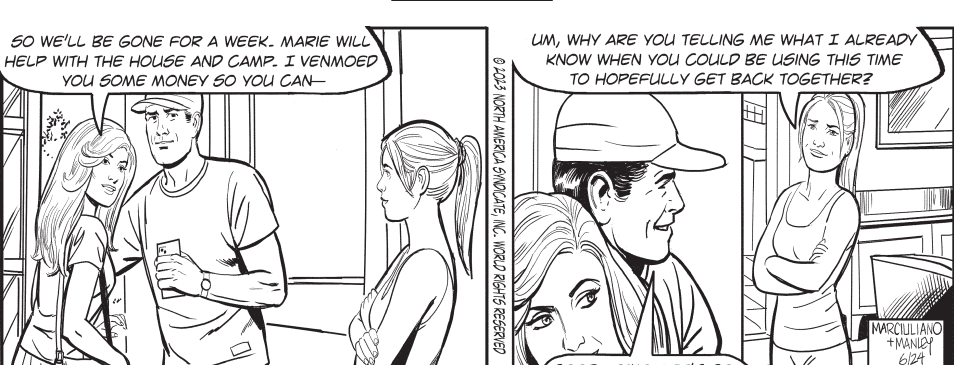
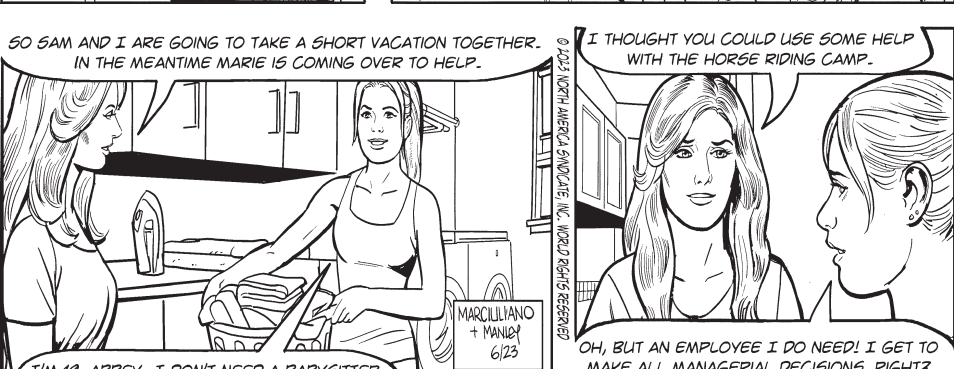
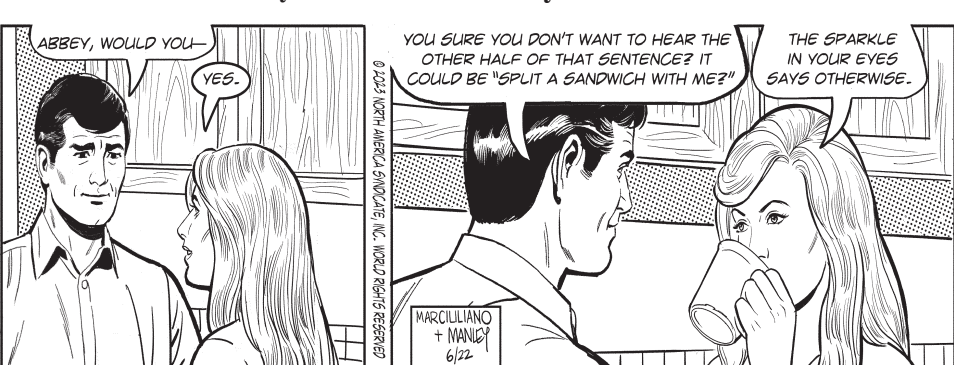
B. 10 15 6 20  
Clue: Top of body

C. 6 26 23 6  
Clue: Sensory stimulus

D. 23 15 14 3 15 4  
Clue: Freed from symptoms

Answers: A. pain B. head C. aura D. relief

JUDGE PARKER ® by Marciuliano-Manley



Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:



# Shelbyville police arrest driver who hit Murfreesboro officer

**T-G STAFF REPORT**

A Murfreesboro Police Officer is recovering at home after being struck by a vehicle Tuesday evening. MPD tells the Times-Gazette that the officer was assisting a fellow officer and a recruit on a traffic stop at Old Fort Parkway and Chaffin Place around 8:30 p.m. That is when the 1997 Honda Civic sped away, striking the officer who was standing on the passenger side of the vehicle.

The officer was taken to a local hospital where he was alert and talking to



Carrie Champion



William Kress

doctors and nurses. He has since been released.

The suspects have been identified and a female passenger in the vehicle was arrested after she returned to the area of the Walmart at Joe B. Jackson Parkway, driving the vehicle.

According to a police report released on the MPD Facebook page, William Kress, 22, was taken into custody by Shelbyville Police on Wednesday. Murfreesboro police investigators charged Kress with aggravated assault on a first responder, felony evading with substantial risk of injury or death, identity theft, resisting stop, halt, frisk, and driving on a sus-

pended license.

The report also stated that police determined that Carrie Champion, 22, gave information to deceive police. Champion was arrested and charged with filing a false report.

Kress is being held in the Rutherford County Adult Detention Center on a \$37,500 bond.

Champion was released on a \$3,500 bond.

Both are scheduled to appear in Rutherford County General Sessions Court on August 21.

# Pop star Kesha and producer Dr. Luke settle longstanding legal battle over rape, defamation claims

NEW YORK (AP) — Pop star Kesha and producer Dr. Luke have settled nearly a decade of suits and countersuits over her accusation that he drugged and raped her and his claim that she made it up and defamed him, they announced Thursday, with the singer saying that “only God knows what happened that night.”

Dr. Luke, meanwhile, said he was “absolutely certain that nothing happened. I never drugged or assaulted her.”

Terms of the deal were not immediately disclosed, as both she and he revealed on Instagram that they had agreed to “a resolution” of the case and to a statement from each of them. Messages seeking comment were sent to their attorneys.

“I cannot recount everything that happened,” Kesha wrote, adding that she wishes “nothing but peace to all parties involved.”

Dr. Luke, in turn, said he wished her well and wanted “to put this difficult matter behind me” after years of fighting to clear his name.

The deal averts a trial that had been scheduled for this summer over allegations that became a #MeToo cause for Kesha’s supporters and came to involve a lineup of music industry luminaries. Lady Gaga, Kelly Clarkson, Katy Perry, Pink, Avril Lavigne, Adam Levine and Taio Cruz are among those who gave testimony or sworn statements related to the case.

At the same time, the case raised important legal questions about fame and defamation. The stakes were seen as high enough that media outlets weighed in about pretrial rulings that they worried could help powerful people suppress unflattering reporting.

The court clash between the multiplatinum-selling singer and the Grammy-nominated producer



Songwriter Lukas “Dr. Luke” Gottwalk, left, poses with singer Kesha after receiving his award at the 28th Annual ASCAP Pop Music Awards in Los Angeles, April 27, 2011. Pop star Kesha and producer Dr. Luke have settled nearly a decade of suits and countersuits over her accusation that he drugged and raped her and his claim that she made it up and defamed him. Both announced it on Instagram on Thursday, June 22, 2023, and issued statements. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello, File)

has been playing out since 2014 and looming over both of their careers.

The Associated Press does not generally name people who report being sexually assaulted unless they come forward publicly, as Kesha has done.

The singer made her name — originally styled Ke\$ha — with a series of swaggering, just-try-to-stop-me party anthems, beginning with 2009’s “TiK ToK.” Those early hits were produced by Dr. Luke, who founded the record label that signed a Nashville unknown named Kesha Rose Sebert at age 18.

Born Lukasz Gottwald, he has produced chart-toppers for Perry, Lavigne, Flo Rida and more. Besides notching multiple Grammy nominations, Dr. Luke

has repeatedly won pop songwriter of the year awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

Kesha sued him in 2014, alleging he drugged and raped her nine years earlier and psychologically tormented her throughout their working relationship. She said he harangued her about her weight, denigrated her voice and lorded his power over her career.

“The abuse I suffered from Luke was a decade long, every day, every moment of every day,” she said during sworn questioning in 2017. According to Kesha, the ordeal sparked a flare-up of an eating disorder that led to her spending two months in a rehabilitation clinic in 2014.

Dr. Luke, who has not been charged with any crimes,

responded by suing Kesha. He has asserted that she made “completely untrue and deeply hurtful” claims to tarnish him and get out of her record contract.

“Any reasonable person will not believe her,” he said when questioned under oath in 2017.

His attorneys have noted that Kesha herself said he “never made sexual advances at me” during sworn questioning in a separate lawsuit in 2011. She has since said she was “not entirely transparent” in those 2011 statements because she was terrified of Dr. Luke and felt compelled to protect him.

Kesha went five years without releasing an album during the standoff, saying she could not work with a “monster” but couldn’t get away from him because she was under contract

with his label. His lawyers and the label’s attorneys maintained that she did not have to work with him personally.

She eventually returned with 2017’s “Rainbow” and two subsequent albums, all with other producers. Her most recent album, “Gag Order,” came out in May.

Dr. Luke’s career also took a hit after she went public with her allegations. He has said various artists, particularly female ones, eschewed “working with someone who’s called a rapist.”

But under the name Tyson Trax, he made it back to the top of the charts in 2020 with Doja Cat’s “Say So,” garnering his first Grammy nomination since 2014. By this year, he was ASCAP’s pop songwriter of the year once again.

Along the way, Kesha’s sexual abuse-related claims were dismissed because of time limits and other legal issues, without any findings about the merits of the allegations themselves. But she countersued Dr. Luke under a New York law against bringing frivolous suits to try to intimidate critics into silence; New York’s highest court recently ruled that she could pursue those claims.

The top court, which New York calls the Court of Appeals, also declared that Dr. Luke is a “public figure” in the eyes of the law. That’s significant because the legal requirements for proving defamation are tougher for public figures than for everyday people.

Lower courts had said the producer wasn’t a public figure. Over a dozen media outlets and organizations got involved in the case to argue that those earlier rulings could end up helping famous people squash free speech and reporting on sexual abuse allegations.

Earlier in the case, Kesha was ordered to pay Dr. Luke more than \$373,000 in interest on royalties she paid him years late.

# Microsoft, regulators tangle in court over fate of \$69 billion deal that could reshape video gaming

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Federal regulators on Thursday launched a legal attack on Microsoft’s proposed \$69 billion takeover of video game maker Activision Blizzard by depicting it as an anticompetitive weapon while Microsoft hailed the deal as a way to make popular games such as Call of Duty more widely available at cheaper prices.

Those were the dramatically contrasting pictures drawn by lawyers arguing before U.S. District Judge Jacqueline Scott Corley on the first of five days of scheduled hearings in San Francisco that are likely to make or break what would be the most expensive acquisition in technology history.

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission is trying to persuade Corley to issue an order that would prevent the takeover from being consummated before a more extensive administrative trial begins August 2 in Washington. Meanwhile Microsoft is fighting to close the deal ahead of a July 18 deadline that would require paying a \$3 billion breakup fee to Activision.

Microsoft struck the deal 17 months ago in hopes of expanding its video game imprint beyond its Xbox console, which has about half the market share of the long-time industry leader Sony and its PlayStation device.

But the FTC has been fighting hard to block a deal that it fears will enable Microsoft to make popular franchises such as Call of Duty and World of Warcraft exclusive to the Xbox and online subscription services that are becoming an increasingly bigger part of the \$210 billion worldwide

video game market — larger than the movie and music industries combined.

FTC lawyer James Weingarten told Corley the agency will show evidence that Microsoft will have a “myriad of strategies” to withhold popular games from PlayStation and rival subscription prices, degrade the quality of games on competing platforms and raise prices on games that have developed fiercely loyal audiences.

“Activision makes the games that gamers want to play,” Weingarten asserted. “Having differentiated content is critical to selling more consoles and getting more subscribers.”

Microsoft lawyer Beth Wilkinson belittled the FTC’s argument as a “very naive” thesis that ignores the pressure the company’s gaming division will be under to deliver profit margins to justify the huge price being paid for Activision and the fierce backlash likely to happen among highly opinionated video game fans if a popular franchise such as Call of Duty was withheld from other platforms.

“They couldn’t face the wrath from the gamers,” Wilkinson argued. She also pointed to lengthy commitment that Microsoft has already made to make Call of Duty available on Nintendo’s Switch console and a Nvidia gaming subscription service as evidence that the Activision deal would be “good news for consumers.”

Microsoft also tried to present evidence that Sony is trying to blow up the deal to preserve its giant lead in the console market. As part of that effort, Wilkinson



The logo for Microsoft, and a scene from Activision “Call of Duty - Modern Warfare,” are shown in this photo, in New York, Wednesday, June 21, 2023. Microsoft on Thursday will try to gain clearance to complete a \$69 billion takeover of video game maker Activision Blizzard in a legal showdown with U.S. regulators that will reshape a pastime that’s bigger than the movie and music industries combined. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

displayed an email from Sony executive Jim Ryan shortly after the Activision deal was announced that indicated his confidence that Call of Duty would remain available to PlayStation for many years to come. Ryan, the CEO of Sony Interactive Entertainment, wrote that even though he wished the deal hadn’t happened, he believed that Sony would be okay.

Several months after Ryan issued that reassuring email, Wilkinson said Sony emerged as the FTC’s “complainer in chief” about the Activision deal and so far hasn’t rebuffed Microsoft’s offer to make an ironclad com-

mitment to keep Call of Duty on the PlayStation console. When Wilkinson tried to display some information about Microsoft’s offer, a Sony lawyer interrupted the proceedings to assert the document was confidential and it was taken off the screen.

A videotaped deposition of Ryan is expected to be played in court at some point in the proceedings. Both Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and Activision Blizzard CEO Bobby Kotick are expected to testify in person before the proceedings are scheduled to conclude June 29.

Corley isn’t expected to rule until after the Independence Day

holiday.

The hearings represent a major test of the FTC’s amped-up oversight of Big Tech under Chairperson Lina Khan, who has been outspoken about her belief that U.S. regulators were too lenient in past deals that helped increase the power of companies such as Amazon, Google and Facebook. The courtroom tussle with Microsoft comes six months after the FTC took Facebook owner Meta Platforms to court in Silicon Valley to try to stop a takeover of a virtual reality fitness company only to be rebuffed by the judge in that case.

## VANDERBILT BEDFORD HOSPITAL WELCOMES



### Sheela Parrish, MD

*Board-certified in Family Medicine*

We welcome Dr. Sheela Parrish to the Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital team of primary care providers. Dr. Parrish is a boardcertified family physician who diagnoses and treats a wide range of chronic and acute conditions in adults 18 and older, and offers preventive services such as routine physicals and immunizations.

Dr. Parrish earned her medical degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and completed her residency in family medicine at UAB's Huntsville campus. Her extensive professional background includes providing care in both private and hospital settings, serving for more than a decade at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and working as a DOT-Certified Medical Examiner. She is accepting new patients at Vanderbilt Integrated Primary Care Shelbyville. To schedule an appointment, please call 931-685-2022 or visit [VanderbiltBedfordHospital.com](http://VanderbiltBedfordHospital.com).

### Vanderbilt Integrated Primary Care Shelbyville

1612 North Main Street, Suite B • Shelbyville, TN 37160

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