

# T<sup>SHELBYVILLE</sup>IMES-GAZETTE

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Thursday, December 14, 2023

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## EF3 rocks north Nashville over weekend

### Bedford County unscathed by tornadoes

On Dec. 9, several tornadoes tore through the Tennessee Region leaving behind destruction and communities crumbled by the EF2 and EF3 tornadoes. The American Red Cross volunteers and staff jumped into action to respond. By that night, three Red Cross managed shelters were set up and ready to take in those residents who had suffered great loss from the storm.

"The American Red Cross Tennessee Region is deeply saddened by the loss of life and incredible devastation in Tennessee after the weekend's deadly tornadoes. Our hearts go out to all those affected by this disaster," a spokesperson said over the weekend.

Red Cross disaster workers are on the ground in Tennessee pro-

viding comfort and support to people working closely with our partners and local officials to provide crucial assistance such as shelter, food and relief supplies to those in need.

The Red Cross responded immediately. Trained disaster volunteers opened shelters and are supporting other shelters with community partners. Damage assessment has begun as people begin the long road to recovery.

Those affected can find open shelters on redcross.org, on the free Red Cross Emergency app or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767) and selecting the

See **STORM**, 2A

### HOW TO HELP

#### Area Organizations Mobilize for Tornado Recovery

In response to the devastating tornadoes that struck the region on Dec. 9, 2023, Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee (CFMT) and United Way of Greater Nashville have activated their emergency relief funds.

This partnership is a concerted effort to aid those affected by the disaster.

In collaboration with the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County and its Office of Emergency Management, the United Way and CFMT are jointly supporting Davidson County disaster relief effort through the Nashville Response Fund housed at the United Way. This fund aims to gather vital resources to assist in the immediate and ongoing recovery of survivors in the local community.

"United Way of Greater Nashville is heartbroken for our neighbors who were affected by the tornados that devastated many

See **HELP**, 3A

### Shelbyville had its day in 1830

#### A bit of local 'storm' history

Historical records of Shelbyville note that a tornado on May 31, 1830, killed five Shelbyville people. The town was reportedly "demolished" by this storm, which history notes came like a thief in the night.

Witnesses at the time said businesses and homes were leveled.

Killed in the storm was James Newton, editor of the Western Intelligencer, which at that time was the town's only paper.

Back in 1825, James and Alex-

See **HISTORY**, 3A

## 'TIS THE SEASON

Martha Akers is always doing something to help others. A free Christmas dinner will be served at Emmy's Restaurant from 2 to 5 p.m. Dec. 25 at 764 N. Main St. Dine in or take out by calling 931-488-7840. See Santa pictures inside from last weekend.



Submitted Photo

## Looking for the 'strong middle class'

### State of the County: Part 2

By **DAWN HANKINS**  
dawn@t-g.com

Now in the first year of his second term, Mayor Chad Graham said, "We have the haves and the have nots. My view, and belief all along, is if we bring the strong middle class back to Bedford, then in fact we lift the entire system up."

He added, "We help those that are struggling . . . balance some that have more. And that's how we make Bedford better."

He mentioned newer industry, like Duksan Electera, which is planned to open next year here and estimated to bring in over 100 new jobs.

But Graham advised that new industry, as the core of local employment, is not as strong as it was decades ago.

"The days of industry being the core basis of work in places, like Tennessee, are quickly evaporating," the mayor advised. "People don't want to work those jobs."

He believes hybrid/remote jobs, i.e., people working from home and/or office, is the way of the future.

He feels strongly that good connectivity, like Broadband, is must investment for this area, based on the types of jobs people say they want.

Graham said potential new residents will not invest in a half million-dollar home in a County that still allows students to study from portable buildings. As well as good schools and strong connectivity, the County should also provide good dining choices, according to Graham.

"All roads lead back to the strong

See **MIDDLE CLASS**, 5A

## Freddy Smith to be memorialized in Unionville

### Commissioners approve bridge petition

By **DAWN HANKINS**  
dawn@t-g.com

Those who grew up around Unionville are certain to remember a man by the name of Ronald Frederick Smith, better known to the community simply as "Freddy." Those who perhaps never met him, will likely think of him as a bridge on Unionville-Deason Road is about to permanently have his name on it.

Bedford County Board of Commissioners approved a petition Tuesday to name the bridge in honor of Freddy Smith, who lived his whole life in Bedford County.

According to Bedford County Commissioner Tony Smith, who brought the petition before the board, this man simply known as "Freddy" was the one who salted that specific Unionville bridge during inclement weather.

He's the one, Commissioner Smith said, who helped the elderly in the community. He lived his whole life in the community with Freddy.

He told fellow Commissioners how at 19, Freddy was drafted into the military. He reportedly served his time, spent one year

### Commission has light agenda before Christmas break

Bedford County Board of Commissioners approved Tuesday for Fredia Lusk to continue to serve as chair of Bedford County Opioid Committee.

This committee was mandated as Bedford County has received funds as part of a national settlement. Those funds are restricted in use.

Lusk has served for several years as executive director of the local Community Clinic.

Budget amendment No. 2

Regarding "Budget Amendment No. 2, submitted by Bedford County Board of Education, Commissioner Diane Neeley said she noticed funds were

being moved around in capital outlay.

"If it is permissible, can Robert tell us . . . I noticed \$425,000 being taken from furniture and fixtures, dispersed to land and building construction. I was just curious as to know what that was."

Robert Daniel, who serves as Bedford County finance director, said, "They were moving some money to take an optional property next to Cartwright Elementary. The other part of that is there is a concession stand building at Cascade . . . about to fall

See **AGENDA**, 3A

overseas and held an honorable discharge by age 25.

By profession, Freddy Smith served as rural mail carrier out of Bell Buckle Post Office for 33 years. Commissioner Smith said what he did for others, along his route, was remarkable.

"This individual stopped everyday to check on these individuals. He would go get groceries . . . medicines for these people."

The Commissioner said he remembers him taking a chain saw and cutting wood

for the elderly. When he finished cutting the wood, he would stack it on their porch. "He would not take a penny," Commissioner Smith explained. "It was out of the goodness of his heart."

He told how Freddy Smith kept the whole neighborhood's vehicles and tractors running, because he was also a very gifted mechanic.

With emotion, Commissioner Smith

See **SMITH**, 8A



# RECOVERY IN MOTION

## APCIA Offers Essential Tips for Tornado-Damaged Tennessee

Deadly tornadoes and severe weather left significant destruction in Tennessee over the weekend. As residents begin to focus on the recovery process, the American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA) recommends reaching out to your insurer or agent as soon as you can safely do so to file a claim. Insurers can be reached 24-7 through their toll-free claims number or via text, app, or website.

"The first step to recovery after severe weather damages or destroys your property is to file a claim with your insurer," said Hilary Segura, assistant vice president of state government relations and counsel for APCIA. "Most severe weather events, like tornadoes, are covered under a homeowners,

renters, auto, or commercial insurance policy." APCIA's Tornado Recovery Tips

Secure your property from further damage or theft. Contact your insurance agent or company representative as soon as possible to report damage and get your claim started.

Make an inventory of what was lost or damaged and photograph the damage to provide to your insurance adjuster. Compile receipts, descriptions, and photos of your home's contents.

Be aware of unscrupulous contractors following a natural disaster. Contact your insurer, agent, or local business bureau for references on potential contractors and ask for certificates of liability and workers compensation before signing contracts.

If you are a business owner, keep detailed records of business activity that is negatively affected due to the tornado and keep a list of extra expenses during the interruption. Prepare records to show the income from the business before and after the loss.

Many standard homeowners' and renters' policies provide reimbursement of additional living expenses when the property is determined to be uninhabitable due to a covered loss. The additional living expense provision helps with paying for increases to necessary living expenses such as temporary housing, restaurant meals, overnight parking, and laundry services, but check to see what your policy covers.

Tornado victims should

anticipate a high volume of direct communications from third parties seeking to involve themselves with the insurance claims and damage repair process. It is important to carefully consider any proposals from contractors, public adjusters, and lawyers offering to help with the insurance claim and damage repair process.

"Before signing any contracts, call your insurer first to report the damage and get your claim started. Your insurer and agencies like Better Business Bureaus can help with recommendations on repair companies and contractors," added Segura.

APCIA offers resources with vital information for those impacted by severe weather, as well as preparedness tips for those living in tornado-prone areas.

## TORNADO AFTERMATH

### Rockland Recreation Area Closed

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District announces that the Rockland Recreation Area at Old Hickory Lake is closed until further notice due to damage sustained from the tornado on Saturday night.

Contact the Nashville District Public Affairs office by replying to this email or via the contact information below.

Contact: Bill Peoples - (615) 736-7161 - chief.public-affairs@usace.army.mil

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District 110 9th Ave. South; Nashville, TN 37203 615-736-7161

Website: <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil>  
Facebooks: <http://www.facebook.com/Nashville-Corps>

## Samaritan's Purse Mobilizes Aid for Tornado Victims

On Sunday, Samaritan's Purse deployed disaster response specialists to Tennessee and pre-positioned two Disaster Relief Units—tractor-trailers stocked with tools and equipment—in the wake of deadly tornadoes that struck multiple communities on Saturday.

The catastrophic storms have killed at least six people with search and rescue efforts underway. Many homes have been damaged or destroyed and the extent of the mass destruction is continuing to be assessed by local authorities.

Staff with the international Christian relief organization are currently enroute to determine the areas of greatest need as ongoing reports of the incredible loss of life and property continue to highlight the extent of yesterday's powerful storm. Additionally, two disaster relief units are being mobilized today to respond as quickly as possible if needed.

"Yesterday, communities in Tennessee suffered deadly storms that have caused widespread devastation, and tragically, the loss of at least six people," said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse. "My heart breaks for those who are now walking into this Christmas season without their loved ones and for the families who must now rebuild their lives. I ask that you please join me in praying for them."

In the coming days, Samaritan's Purse will continue assessments and is prepared to establish multiple response locations if needed. At any given time, the organization is equipped and willing to call on an army of volunteers from across the country. These volunteers are able to respond in a moment's notice to serve hurting communities by tarping damaged roofs, clearing debris, and reminding impacted families that God has not forgotten them during tragic times like this. To stay up-to-date on the latest, go to SamaritansPurse.org.

## STORM

From page 1

disaster option. You can also find shelters by following your local county and city officials on social media or by monitoring local news.

You can help people affected by disasters like tornadoes and countless other crises by making a gift to Red Cross Disaster Relief. Financial donations enable the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from disasters big and small. Visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org).

org, call 800-RED-CROSS, or text the word RED-CROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation.

The Red Cross is not accepting donations of food, household items or clothing — as they cannot be distributed by our teams. Right now, financial donations are the quickest and best way to help those who need it most — and give people the flexibility to purchase what they need.

Much of the area around Fort Campbell was affected. We will support service members, veterans and their families with requests for financial assistance through their military aid society or with community support resources by contacting our Hero Care Network online, via our website, the Hero Care App or by calling 1-877-272-7337.

POWER OUTAGE SAFETY

As of press time, there were more than 14,800 Tennesseans still without power. If you have lost power due to the storms, please follow the safety checklist below:

Power Outage Safety Checklist (English, Spanish)

For more information on the tornadoes, go to [redcross.org/Tennessee](http://redcross.org/Tennessee).

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# The Left Is Doubling Down on Its Two Tiers Crusade

Equal justice under the law—which Thomas Jefferson called the “creed of our political faith”—has long been the bedrock of our nation’s safety, prosperity, and freedom.

But today, we have never been at greater risk of losing these blessings as the impartial rule of law is giving way to the Left’s two-tiered system of justice. Its rules are simple: If you break the law as a Democrat, you’re off the hook. If you’re a conservative or dissent from the Left’s radical agenda, the government will target you for your beliefs.

Look no further than how Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee are undermining the Supreme Court. For months, Democrats have smeared Justices Thomas and Alito with debunked allegations of ethics violations. But after reports emerged that Justice Sotomayor used her taxpayer-funded staff to pressure universities to buy her books—which she personally profited from—Democrats ignored the allegations. In fact, last week, they blocked my subpoena for information about Sotomayor’s alleged misconduct.

It would be bad enough if Senate Democrats were the only ones championing the “Two Tiers” crusade. But under President Biden, the agencies most responsible for enforcing the rule of law—the Justice Department and the FBI—are leading the charge to abandon it.

Recently, we’ve heard disturbing allegations that the FBI failed to investigate sex trafficking allegations against Jeffrey Epstein. But after I tried to uncover the FBI-redacted flight logs from the wealthy financier, who donated tens of thousands to Democratic



SEN. BLACKBURN

candidates, Senate Democrats once again stonewalled my subpoena. FBI Director Wray also informed me that he would “get with [his] team and figure out if there’s more information [they] can provide,” but I’m not holding my breath. The American people deserve to know every name on that list, but Democrats are apparently more interested in intimidating conservative Justices than standing up for the survivors of Epstein’s sex trafficking ring.

Evidence also continues to pile up that the President was involved in his son Hunter’s illicit business dealings. According to newly uncovered bank records, Hunter sent monthly payments to his father from the same account that he received payments from Communist China. And new documents disclosed by IRS whistleblowers show that, as Vice President, Biden used alias email accounts to exchange hundreds of emails with Hunter and his business partner.

These reports are deeply troubling. But when Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee grilled Wray over his agency’s failure to uncover the Biden family business, the FBI Director evaded

our questions, claiming that “he can’t discuss an ongoing investigation.”

It seems that if your last name is Biden, the law doesn’t apply to you. But if you happen to be a conservative, the government will stop at nothing to come after you. Biden-appointed Special Counsel Jack Smith is reportedly investigating millions of Americans for simply liking or sharing President Trump’s tweets. And a new report by the House Oversight Committee shows that Biden’s FBI targeted Catholic Americans as “potential domestic terrorists” and developed plans to “infiltrate Catholic churches as a form of threat mitigation.”

Tennesseans know this two-tiered system of justice is wrong, dangerous, and an affront to our fundamental values. That’s why I’m fighting for accountability and pushing the Biden administration to stop ignoring actual threats to our country. Under President Biden, more than 160 suspected terrorists were apprehended at the southern border in fiscal year 2023—a number larger than the last six years combined. Since October, more than 6,000 Chinese nationals, 700 Afghans, and dozens of Iranians have also been encountered at the border. And violent crime continues to rise in cities across the country, including our nation’s capital, where an FBI agent was carjacked last week just steps from the Lincoln Memorial.

We can’t afford to ignore these threats any longer. I will continue to fight to end the Left’s two tiers of justice, restore the rule of law, and put our nation on a better path.

## HISTORY

ander Newton began a newspaper called Shelbyville Repertory. Alexander later went to Mississippi and James became sole proprietor of his Western Intelligencer.

Sadly, James Newton would not live to write what might have been his greatest story about Shelbyville. This same tornado of 1830 demolished the county courthouse

and the newspaper’s equipment. Shelbyville would reportedly be without a newspaper for about 2 years, following this storm. In 1832, H.M. Watterson established the Western Freeman paper.

It is said this tornado of 1830 “cut a swath” across the entire town and was about a quarter of a mile long. Large churches were destroyed,

along with businesses, including a jewelry store.

Records from the county courthouse were said to have been scattered for miles.

Story written and recorded by John Templeton in the Shelbyville Times-Gazette’s Sesqui Centennial edition of 1969.

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## HELP

parts of our community,” said Brian Hassett, chief executive officer and president for United Way. “We want to help support those impacted however we can. We are working closely with our partner agencies to provide updated information through our 211 Helpline.”

The 211 Helpline is a 24/7, 365-day information and referral help line that provides individuals in need with help in times of crisis and beyond.

Simultaneously, the two organizations are directing donations to recovery efforts in Cheatham, Dickson, Montgomery, Robertson, and Sumner counties through the Tennessee Emergency Response Fund housed at CFMT. This fund will direct effective and timely assistance to tornado survivors in surrounding counties impacted by the December 9th storms.

“Each one of these funds is intentionally designed to ensure that assistance will quickly get to those who need it the most,” said Hal Cato, CEO of Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee. “During this holiday season, we will all be working hard to ensure that amidst the wreckage from Saturday night, survivors know there is a community ready to lift them up.”

The funds raised by both organizations will provide critical support to nonprofit and faith-based partners actively working to address survivors’ needs. These organizations are amongst the first line of support for those experiencing loss after a disaster and address urgent needs such as financial assistance, food and nutrition, temporary housing, debris clean-up, and animal sheltering.

Davidson County residents impacted by the severe weather can visit Nashville VOAD’s website at [www.NashvilleResponds.com](http://www.NashvilleResponds.com) or dial 211 to self-report needs.

Information and resources for local residents in Cheatham, Dickson, Montgomery, Robertson, and Sumner counties can be accessed at Tennessee VOAD website <https://www.tnvoad.org> or via Tennessee Emergency Management Agency’s website at <https://www.tn.gov/tema>.

In this time of crisis, every contribution counts. These nonprofits urge individuals, businesses, and organizations to come forward and support these relief efforts. Donations will play a crucial role in helping these Tennessee communities recover and rebuild from this natural disaster.

For more information or to make a donation: Davidson County: <https://pages.donately.com/unitedwaynashville/campaign/tornado-relief-recovery> Outside Davidson County: <https://www.cfmt.org/terf>

Your support can make a difference for those grappling with the aftermath of these devastating tornadoes.

About Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee unites compassionate individuals and worthy causes while aiming to build a more thriving and inclusive community by transforming thoughtful generosity into positive change. Its generous donors span the community and are driven by a shared commitment to addressing diverse

needs. [www.CFMT.org](http://www.CFMT.org)

About United Way of Greater Nashville

At United Way, we unite the community and mobilize resources so that every child, individual and family thrives. Together, we are working to create a community where every child receives a quality education, no one lives in poverty or poor health, and the most basic needs of our families are met.

Serving the community for more than 100 years, United Way of Greater Nashville is also recognized as the founding chapter of the Alexis de Tocqueville Society, a now global giving society that has invested more than \$10 billion in the work of United Ways worldwide

United Way of Greater Nashville is creating lasting change throughout Middle Tennessee. We are uniquely positioned to do this work by bringing individuals, businesses, nonprofits and government to the table to have the tough conversations, mobilize the resources and make the smart investments that will create lasting solutions for our region’s most pressing issues.

Service area includes Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Hickman, Houston, Montgomery, Robertson, Stewart and Williamson counties.

Need help? The 211 Helpline is a 24/7, 365-day information and referral help line that provides individuals in need with help in times of crisis and beyond. Dial 211 or visit <https://www.unitedwaygreater-nashville.org/211-helpline/>.

For more information, visit [unitedwaygreater-nashville.org](http://unitedwaygreater-nashville.org) and follow on social media @UWNashville.

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## THE ISSUE

# Talking property taxes with Mayor Chad Graham

By Dawn Hankins

Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham said recently that of course government needs to be responsible in its spending. But he realizes, now that he’s into his second term as mayor, that a community also has to be reasonable in funding County needs, like education.

What those running for public office choose, as their priority, doesn’t make them bad people or wrong, Graham advised. “It just makes a difference politically, where you think the priorities should be.”

The mayor said when he first took office in 2018, the property tax rate here was \$2.56, per \$100 assessed property value. Today, it’s \$2.32.

“So, the tax rate is actually lower,” said Graham. “Our tax rate is fair.” Graham advised, “We didn’t raise their property taxes; their property value went up.”

Graham said homeowners should look at this process, much like their 401(k). You are always better off, if it is going up. The same is true with your property value.

“If your property value was to go down, or stay the same, we won’t be able to operate with the same amount of money next year, that we did this year. We are not immune to inflation.”

Decrease in property value would mean higher local property taxes. “What’s really devastating to a community is if your property value has actually fallen and your property tax rate keeps going up.”

He said Bedford can be proud that hasn’t happened here. And Bedford County currently is still without a wheel tax, unlike other Tennessee counties. Some of those include Rutherford, Hamblen (just voted in August to increase wheel tax by \$27 per vehicle to improve roads,) Montgomery and Shelby counties.

\*How to Calculate Your Tax Bill

Property taxes in Tennessee are calculated utilizing these components:

1. APPRAISED VALUE The appraised value for each taxable property in a county is determined by the county property assessor. Counties determine property taxes in Tennessee. That means your rate may vary depending on where you live. However, the counties charge property taxes based on a percentage of the property’s assessed or appraised value.

County assessors in your respective county will determine the property’s assessed value. Counties reassess property values every 4-6 years. The county assessor performs an appraisal to determine the property’s market value. They then multiply the value by the assessment ratio to determine the assessed value. In the case of residential property, the assessment ratio in Tennessee for residential and farm is 25% of the property’s appraised value. That means if they appraise the residential property at \$200,000, its assessed value, for property tax purposes, would be \$50,000.

2. ASSESSED VALUE The assessed value is calculated by multiplying the appraised value by the assessment ratio.

4. TAX RATE The tax rate for each county is set by the county commission based on the amount of monies budgeted to fund the provided services. These tax rates vary depending on the level of services provided and the total value of the county’s tax base. (TN Comptroller’s Office.)

So, it is easy to see why calculating property tax bills can easily become a complicated process for some homeowners. But over time, homeowners can easier understand more about their tax bills by following the established mathematical steps outlined here by the Tennessee Comptroller’s Office.

Here’s a tax bill example using Bedford County’s property tax rate. A local homeowner with an appraisal value of \$100,000 would be assessed at the state rate of 25 percent or on \$25,000 (per \$100 of assessed value.) So, in the mathematical equation, this homeowner would multiply 250 x the county tax rate of \$2.32. In 2023, this homeowner would have a local property tax bill of \$580.

## AGENDA

From page 1

down. So, they were wanting to replace that . . . money that is coming out of furniture and fixtures. Dr. Garrett told me they would use Esser money to replace that.”

“So that’s Esser funds?” Commissioner Neeley asked. “To make up for the furniture and fixtures,” Daniel explained. “What’s being moved is not Esser funds. It’s out of the general budget.”

Budget Amendment No. 2, as submitted by Bedford County Board of Education, was approved.

Esser funds, which were federal funds distributed as relief to school systems, by respective state education systems, evolved during COVID-19, and generally can only be used for new investments and projects by schools that need to bounce back from the pandemic.

According to the District Management Group, these funds can be used for “virtually any reasonable educational expense.” But there are sometimes restrictions or approvals needed by local education systems and the state.

Announcements

Mayor Chad Graham announced that County offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 22, Monday, Dec. 25 and Tuesday, Dec. 26, for Christmas break.

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## Three suspects arrested in cattle theft

Swift action by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Crime Unit (ACU) resulted in the recovery of stolen cattle worth thousands of dollars. Three suspects, Gary James Hill from Sweetwater, Tenn., and Thomas DeWayne Pressley and Donna Ann Vaughn, both from Athens, Tenn., were taken to the McMinn County jail, each facing felony charges of theft over \$6,000.

The theft occurred in Englewood in McMinn County, Tenn. during the early morning of Dec. 3. Quick investigative work led ACU Special Agent Clint Brookshire 130 miles west to Lincoln Coun-

ty. There he identified five cattle recently purchased by a citizen through a private Craigslist transaction as the stolen property. Pressley and Vaughn were tracked down in Sweetwater on Dec. 6. and arrested, followed by Hill on Dec. 7 who was located in Athens.

The cattle were recovered and returned, and ACU recovered a portion of the money from the fraudulent sale for the buyer. The buyer is not believed to be involved in the theft. The McMinn County Sheriff's Department and Sweetwater and Athens Police Departments partnered with ACU in the investigation.

The Agricultural Crime Unit is a vital component of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's mission to serve, support, and promote agriculture and forestry in the state. ACU law enforcement officers are charged with investigating and enforcing state laws related to the agriculture community. To accomplish this work they collaborate with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

Since July 1, 2023, ACU has investigated 271 cases and offenses statewide.

To contact ACU call 844-AG-CRIME (844-242-7463) or email agriculture.crime@tn.gov.

## 2024 Super Tuesday Ballot Finalized

The presidential field is set in Tennessee for the March 5, 2024, Super Tuesday Presidential Preference Primary and County Primary Election following today's noon withdrawal deadline. On Super Tuesday, 15 other states will join Tennessee in helping decide each party's presidential nominee.

The following candidates will be on Tennessee's March 5, 2024, ballot:

Republican Primary Ballot:

Ryan Binkley  
Chris Christie  
Ron DeSantis

Nikki Haley

Asa Hutchinson  
Vivek Ramaswamy  
David Stuckenberg  
Donald J. Trump  
Democratic Primary Ballot:

Joseph R. Biden  
Republican candidate  
Doug Burgum withdrew from the ballot after suspending his campaign.

Democratic candidate Dean Phillips did not satisfy the requirements to gain ballot access via the petition process.

"We are expecting strong voter turnout for the pres-

idential election cycle next year," said Secretary Hargett. "I encourage all Tennesseans who need to register to vote or update their voter registration address do so now by using our convenient online voter registration system at GoVoteTN.gov."

Early voting for the March 5, 2024, Super Tuesday Presidential Preference Primary and County Primary Election starts Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024, and runs Monday to Saturday until Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024.

## Tennessee Board of Regents approves new policies

The Tennessee Board of Regents approved several new policies and policy revisions and received informational reports on student success initiatives, fundraising and other activities during its quarterly meeting Tuesday.

The board governs Tennessee's public community and technical colleges. The full agenda, executive summary, all board materials and reports, and an archived recording of the meeting are posted on the TBR website at <https://www.tbr.edu/board/december-2023-quarterly-board-meeting>.

President Shanna L. Jackson of Nashville State Community College, President Laura Travis and newly retired President Arrita Summers of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Dickson, and President Nathan Garrett of TCAT Nashville -- along with a student from each of the three institutions -- delivered presentations to board members on activities on their campuses. Each of the three students, all nearing graduation, reported on their personal journeys and experiences and assistance they received in pursuing their education.

Dr. Heidi Leming, TBR vice chancellor for student success, updated the board on several of the system's 13 high impact practices (HIPs) for student success. One of the HIPs is the systemwide study abroad program, and the report included a vid-

eo presentation by students and faculty who participated in a study abroad program this summer in the Alps region of Europe.

The TBR system operates its own study abroad program through the Tennessee Consortium for International Studies, based at Pellissippi State Community College, and students may receive financial assistance to participate in study abroad programs. Tennessee has one of the nation's largest community college study abroad participation rates, and Pellissippi ranks first in the nation among community colleges for its number of students who study abroad.

The Office of Student Success is also scaling up a Comprehensive Learner Record initiative that enables students to list a much broader range of accomplishments than in traditional transcripts of grades and degrees earned, including participation in internships, certificates earned and other activities, for presentation to potential employers.

The Board of Regents also approved new technical program implementations, including a computer information technology program at TCAT Memphis, a pre-practical nursing program for high school dual enrollment students at TCAT Crossville, a millwright skills program at TCAT Chattanooga, and off-road diesel technology and a patient care technology/medical assisting pro-

grams at TCAT Elizabethton.

In other action, the board approved revised institutional budgets, faculty emeritus designations, faculty promotions, and compensation plans at three community colleges.

Board members also approved resolutions honoring recently retired Presidents Laura Monks of TCAT Shelbyville and Arrita Summers of TCAT Dickson, TCAT Chattanooga Vice President James Barrott, TBR Vice Chancellor for Organizational Effectiveness Wendy Thompson, and former Regent Weston Wamp, now mayor of Hamilton County.

The board also approved a memorial resolution honoring the late Volunteer State President Dr. Orinthia Montague, who passed away in September. Her husband, Michael McGhee, accepted the resolution and briefly addressed the board.

The board approved several new and revised policy proposals revolving around advertising, branding, marketing and communications, publications, social media, web publishing, mass communications, internal audit, and academic retention and readmission to colleges of applied technology.

*The Tennessee Board of Regents governs The College System of Tennessee -- the state's public community colleges, colleges of applied technology and the online TN eCampus.*



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East Side Elementary School ESL Teacher Katie Cobb (left), Cascade Middle School Sixth Grade Teacher Sheila Phillips (middle) and Cascade High School Teaching as a Profession Teacher Wendy Williams (right) are Bedford County Schools' District Teachers of the Year.

## Bedford County Schools Honor Outstanding Educators

Elementary, middle and high school district teachers of the year recognized

(Shelbyville, TN) On December 1, 2023, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tammy Garrett surprised three teachers with news they are the 2023-24 district teachers of the year at their current schools. Bedford County Schools (BCS) celebrates the remarkable achievements and dedication of these three educators: Katie Cobb, East Side Elementary School; Sheila Phillips, Cascade Middle School; and Wendy Williams, Cascade High School.

This prestigious honor acknowledges educators who have demonstrated commitment and passion in shaping the minds of BCS students. The decisions were made after being chosen for their school's teacher of the year, and they then underwent a formal interview process with a selection committee formed by district leaders.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher Katie Cobb of East Side Elementary School has been named BCS Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Cobb has a bachelor's degree from Trevecca in management and human relations with a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Middle Tennessee State University. She has been teaching ESL at East Side Elementary School for seven years.

"I am of the belief that all students should have the foundational skills to be equipped to have the opportunity to choose their career goals. Providing those foundational educational skills is critical to student success," says Cobb.

The selection committee recognizes her dedication and prioritization for the needs of the children, including her devotion to ensuring that her students' cultural background is at the forefront of learning.

"Mrs. Cobb continually helps students look forward to the future by realizing their own personal possibilities through education,"

says elementary school selection committee member Lee Ann Butts.

Sixth-grade Teacher Sheila Phillips of Cascade Middle School has been named BCS Middle School Teacher of the Year. Phillips has a bachelor's degree in education and a masters in curriculum and instruction, both from Middle Tennessee State University. She is currently in her 25th year of teaching, and the entirety of her career has been with Bedford County Schools.

When asked how she measures success in her classroom, Phillips says, "I measure student success through both formative and summative assessments, and I use these results to drive my instruction. My goals are to recognize and determine students' strengths and areas of improvement while also identifying common misconceptions and gaps. After identifying them, I address those areas again through differentiated instruction, individualized discussions and activities to meet their needs to become successful."

The selection committee honors her outstanding commitment to BCS and her abundance of knowledge in the education system.

"The committee was impressed with Mrs. Phillips' work toward helping students see the possibilities for their futures. She has collaborated with career exploration teachers as well as members of the community to provide opportunities for students to understand how their interests and talents can lead them to successful careers. Her evident passion for education, and overwhelming dedication to the betterment of student lives overall, caused the committee to proudly choose Sheila as Bedford County's Middle School Teacher of the Year," says middle school selection committee member Sandy Powell.

Finally, Teaching as a Profession Teacher Wendy Williams of Cascade High School has been named the

High School Teacher of the Year. Williams has a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Middle Tennessee State University with an endorsement in family and consumer sciences. She also holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Arkansas State University. She has been teaching for 19 years at BCS with her first 12 years teaching in elementary school before moving to high school.

"As a CTE teacher, I firmly believe that all students bring value to the classroom. Each student possesses unique talents, abilities and experiences that contribute to the overall learning environment. My philosophy of teaching begins with fostering a supportive atmosphere where students feel encouraged and guided, while setting the expectation that they will take ownership of their learning... Through project-based assignments, hands-on experiences and real-world applications, I strive to create a learning environment that promotes critical thinking, problem-solving and creativity," says Williams.

The selection committee recognizes her educational experience for her students that transcends the traditional classroom by providing opportunities that highlight the importance of community relationships and giving back.

"Mrs. Williams' students work very closely with the elementary schools in a mentoring capacity, volunteering at the community soup kitchen, food distribution with Second Harvest and raising funds in conjunction with the local rotary club to eradicate Polio, just to name a few," says selection committee member Rebecca Tidwell.

The next step for these educators is the regional level, where the Tennessee Department of Education will recognize and honor outstanding teachers in Tennessee. This process will begin in the new year.

## City Christmas closings

Shelbyville City Hall will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25 and Tuesday Dec. 26, in observance of the Christmas holidays. Public Works will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 21 in observance of Christmas Eve. Thursday's trash will be picked up on Wednesday, Dec. 20, with Wednesday's regular route. Public Works will also be

closed on Monday, Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas Day. Monday's trash will be picked up on Tuesday, Dec. 26, with Tuesday's regular route.

### New Years

City offices, including Public Works, will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's Day. Monday's trash will be

picked up on Tuesday, Jan. 2, with Tuesday's regular route.

Please be advised, per the Residential Solid Waste Rules of the Shelbyville Public Works Department, trash must be curbside no later than 6:00 a.m., on the scheduled day of collection.

## County Highway Dept. Closings

Highway Dept.: December 14th is the last day for them to work and Highway will be back on Jan. 2.

Center Closures: Friday, Dec. 22, Saturday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 25.

The Centers will reopen on Tuesday, Dec. 26, on reg-

ular schedule with Tollgate, El Bethel, and Unionville the only centers open. All other centers will reopen on Wednesday, Dec. 27 on regular schedule.

New Years Holiday Schedule: All Centers will be closed on Saturday,

Dec. 30 and Monday, Jan. 1.

The Centers will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 2, with Tollgate, El Bethel, and Unionville the only centers open. All other centers will be open on Wednesday, Jan. 3, on regular schedule.

## MIDDLE CLASS

From page 1

middle class returning to Bedford," said Graham-a product himself of this County, growing up here in a blue-collar family. "In my opinion, we can't do it with just the poor and the rich."

A necessity: improving education

Graham said he's certainly not for frivolous spending in government but he does believe that education investment can only be good for the future. A former Bedford County School Board member, Graham ran on an education platform.

That hasn't changed for Graham, who raised 2 children within this education system. If anything, he's even more proactive, he said, about trying to improve the local education system.

Adding school resource officers

Graham advised that before the Covington School tragedy in Nashville last March, there were already discussions, here, about making necessary financial commitments for all schools to have school resource officers (SROs.) Several schools have been without on-site law enforcement security.

The mayor said that during budget discussions, some Commissioners went the route of possibly passing a wheel tax to fund the program while some leaned toward a possible increase in local property taxes.

It was no doubt going to cost the County a lot of money to create safe schools. Graham said in fact, that initiative was going to cost the County about \$800,000. Following the Covington event, the state stepped up and made some changes.

Graham said as horrible as the Covington incident was, it did put the state on a

team working with me was committed to investing in this community for the future."

Graham said portable classrooms date the system as 20 years behind. He said it is a fact that Bedford County continues to grow, adding about 1,000 people per year. (Population of 50,000 the last Census.)

"We're not going backward in population; we're going forward," advised the mayor.

He realizes some constituents want a more conservative government, that is, one which spends very little. He said investments, however, must be made toward some of the challenges facing Bedford County.

"I'm not for spending money we don't have, taxing people to death," said Graham, "but we have an obligation to provide a service to a community, if we're going to be a government."

'All roads lead back to the strong middle class returning to Bedford.'

- Chad Graham, Bedford Co. Mayor

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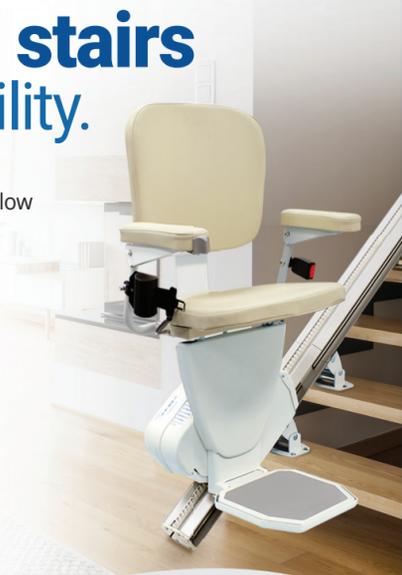
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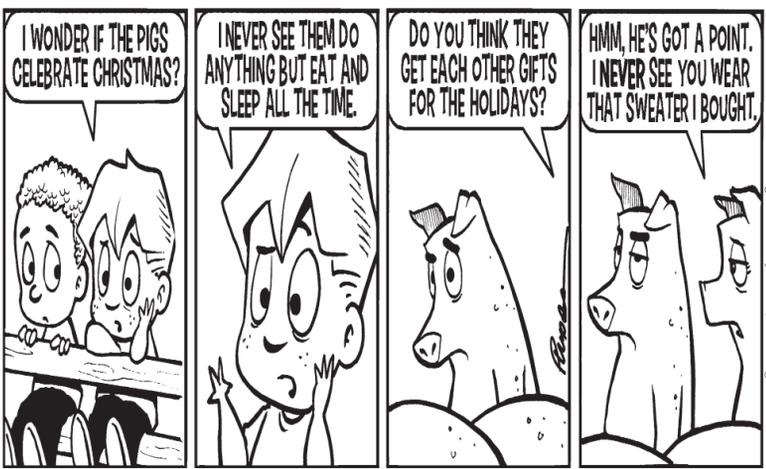
## TIGER

by **BUD BLAKE**



## Amber Waves

by **Dave T. Phipps**



## Even Exchange

by **Donna Pettman**

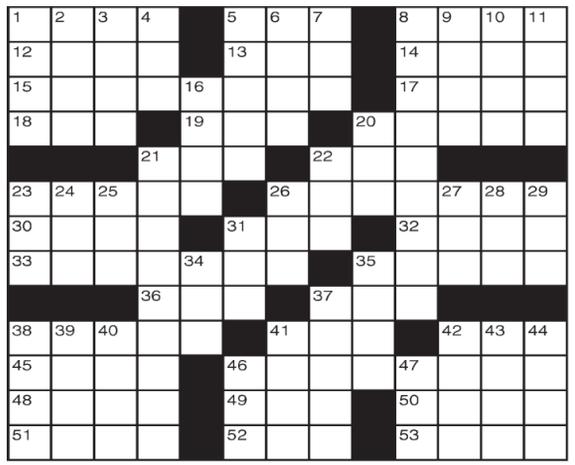
Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- |                        |           |                  |           |
|------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| 1. News source         | ___ P ___ | More ashen       | ___ L ___ |
| 2. Photo pendant       | ___ T     | Gym closet       | ___ R     |
| 3. Hazel or Wendy      | ___ I ___ | Timepiece        | ___ A ___ |
| 4. Park warden         | ___ A ___ | Horseshoe score  | ___ I ___ |
| 5. Author Cather       | ___ L ___ | Pebbles' mom     | ___ M ___ |
| 6. Group of geese      | ___ A ___ | Chuckle          | ___ I ___ |
| 7. Little one          | ___ D     | Cool off         | ___ L     |
| 8. Child caregiver     | ___ N     | Teen detective   | ___ C     |
| 9. Hemingway's fish    | ___ A ___ | Arthurian wizard | ___ E ___ |
| 10. Acorn or butternut | ___ A     | Crush            | ___ I     |

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## ACROSS

- 1 North —
- 5 Green prefix
- 8 Oodles
- 12 Writer Kingsley
- 13 As well
- 14 Capri, e.g.
- 15 Souvenir seller
- 17 Move like a butterfly
- 18 Tours season
- 19 Snaky fish
- 20 Ceases
- 21 Solidify
- 22 Twitch
- 23 Shroud city
- 26 He can hold his head high
- 30 "Dream on!"
- 31 Zero-star review
- 32 Santa's runway
- 33 Old English Sheepdog feature
- 35 Skilled
- 36 Tramac contents
- 37 "— the season ..."
- 38 Poker play
- 41 Fish propeller
- 42 Spa sounds
- 45 Protracted
- 46 Decorative paper
- 48 "There!"
- 49 Santa's help-



- |                       |                             |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| er                    | 9 Capital on a fjord        | 34 Canine cry         |
| 50 Penne —            | 10 Radar image              | 35 " —                |
| Vodka                 | 11 Collections              | Misbehavin' "         |
| 51 Uppity one         | 16 Beheld                   | 37 Squabbles          |
| 52 Ambulance initials | 20 — Lancelot               | 38 Diner orders       |
| 53 Lunch hour         | 21 Eloquent person's talent | 39 Cash advance       |
| <b>DOWN</b>           | 22 Can metal                | 40 Loosen             |
| 1 Leaf                | 23 Indent key               | 41 Motion picture     |
| 2 Skip                | 24 GI entertainers          | 42 Folksinger Guthrie |
| 3 Biography           | 25 Tease                    | 43 Saintry ring       |
| 4 Ballpark fig.       | 26 Cowboy's sweetie         | 44 Bridge             |
| 5 Lucy's pal          | 27 Nemesis                  | 46 "My word!"         |
| 6 "Neato!"            | 28 Dandy guy                | 47 Pallid             |
| 7 "Alley —"           | 29 Newt                     |                       |
| 8 Prepaid stocking    | 31 Bakery pur-              |                       |
| stuffers              |                             |                       |

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## STICKELERS

by **Terry Stickels**

1. One country's flag is two triangular pennants, one on the top of the other. It is:
  - a) Belize
  - b) Lichtenstein
  - c) Nepal
  - d) Yemen
2. The depth of a golf-course hole is:
  - a) 3.5 inches
  - b) 4.0 inches
  - c) 5.0 inches
  - d) 9 centimeters
3. A pullicologist is an expert on:
  - a) minerals
  - b) fleas
  - c) onions
  - d) walruses

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## SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

- Restrain
- DREAMN**
- Expect
- DINNET**
- Imbed
- GOLDE**
- Certify
- TASTET**



"What floor is the \_\_\_\_\_ on?"  
And don't go away ...!

**TODAY'S WORD**

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by **Dave T. Phipps**



## GRIN THE BEAR IT



"Deck the halls with more cameras."

Why do the inhabitants of a certain Southeast Asian island always seem so fearful? Because they're Timorous.

**CryptoQuip**  
answer  
The inhabitants of a certain Southeast Asian island always seem so fearful? Because they're Timorous.

**Sticklers Answer**  
others. All of the other words are misspelled.  
1) SPACCHETTI does not belong with the others.  
**TITLE**  
Today's Word  
3. Raise; 4. Great  
1. Least 2. Escort  
solution  
**SCRAMBLERS**



Breakfast with Santa was held last weekend at Emmy's Restaurant. Old St. Nick was there to greet the kids and have some pancakes too.



### LOWERY JEWELERS OPEN HOUSE

Lowery Jewelers, 768 North Main St., recently held its annual Christmas Open House. Making their Christmas wish lists were, from left, Linda Gilmore, Liz Deason and Mary Grace Phillips.



## SMITH

From page 1

added, "If there was ever a road in Bedford County that needed to be named for an individual, it's the one on Unionville-Deason Road, at the end of his driveway, where he lived for about 50 years."

Freddy Smith passed at the age of 74 on August 2, 2021, at Maury County Regional Hospital after an extended illness.

A native of Bell Buckle, Freddy was born on Jan 28,

1947, to the late Walter Lee and Nora Kathleen Jones Smith and was preceded in death by: brother, Kenneth Smith; and sister, Kathy Collins.

He was a graduate of Community High School class of 1965. In addition to working at the Post Office, he also drove transport for Nissan part-time.

He was a faithful member of Hickory Hill United Methodist Church, and

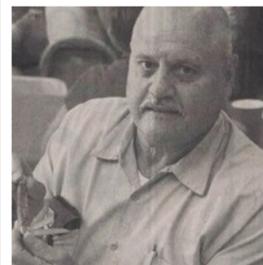
was a lifelong coon hunter, participating in many PKC events.

He is survived by: loving wife of 31 years, Peggy Marie Tucker Smith; children, Emily (Eric) Anderton, Ron F. Smith, both of Bell Buckle, Tim (Stephanie) Beddingfield of Lynchburg, Michael Beddingfield of Shelbyville, and John Beddingfield of Lawrenceburg; honorary daughter, Kirstie Adams of Chapel Hill; grandchild-

ren, Robin Gordon, Brett Bell, Denton Bell, Madisyn Smith, Issac, Brady, Zoe, and Susannah Beddingfield; great grandchildren, Xaylie & Lizzie Gordon, Zoey & Lowry Bell; brothers, Wendell (Betty) Smith, Sr., Walter Lee (Pam) Smith, Jr., and Gerald (Debra) Smith all of Bell Buckle; along with many nieces and nephews.

Freddy was buried at Jones-Haynes Cemetery in Bedford County.

## OBITUARIES



### Joe T. Reed Jr.

Joe T. Reed Jr., age 82, of Shelbyville, died December 7, 2023 at Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital. Funeral Services were held 2:00 P.M. Sunday, December 10, at Hillcrest Funeral Home with the Rev. Bobby McGee officiating.

Burial followed at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens.

He was a native of Bedford County; a retired pressman for the Shelbyville Times-Gazette after 52 years; a member of Shelbyville Mills Baptist Church; a Mason, Scottish Rites and Shriner.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Joe T. Reed Sr. and Mary Frances Hunter Reed and a brother, Roger Reed.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Donna Fay Pylant Reed.

### Amanda (Mandy) Blain Jean

Amanda, (Mandy) Blain Jean, age 30, died peacefully at her home after a brief illness.

Mandy was the daughter of Carol Blain Jean of Shelbyville and Randall Jean (Twila Williams) of Lewisburg.

Mandy was preceded in death by her grandparents, the Rev. Frank and Lola Blain, Wayne and Vivian Jean.

She is survived by her brother, Daniel (Rachel) Jean of Lewisburg and sister, Laura Lynn Jean of Nashville, niece Abby Jean, aunts, uncles, cousins, and special friend Josh Clanton.

Mandy was a member of the most loving and giving church, Shelbyville First United Methodist Church.

Funeral services will be held 1:00 p.m. Thursday, December 14, 2023 at First United Methodist Church with Brother Jimmy West and Pastor Abe Zimmerman officiating. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens.

Visitation will be held prior to funeral service beginning at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, at First United Methodist Church.

Donations can be made to Shelbyville First United Methodist Church or Family Support Program through the Child Development Center.

## Consumer Price Index in South Region: November 2023 Update

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the South region witnessed a decline of 0.2 percent in November 2023, primarily driven by a decrease in the gasoline index. This data, reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, is not seasonally adjusted and reflects seasonal influences.

### Yearly Overview:

The CPI-U in the South region increased by 3.4 percent over the 12 months ending in November, slightly down from the 3.7 percent increase in the 12-month period ending in October.

The index for all items, excluding food and energy, rose by 4.4 percent over the past year.

The food index went up by 3.2 percent, while the energy index dropped by 5.6 percent over the last 12 months.

### Food and Energy Highlights:

In November, the food index remained unchanged, with the food away from home index increasing by 0.6 percent and the food at home index declining by 0.3 percent.

Notably, the energy index fell by 3.9 percent, led by a 7.3-percent decrease in the gasoline index. Electricity declined by 1.0 percent, but natural gas rose by 2.1 percent.

### Other Key Sectors:

The index for all items less food and energy increased by 0.2 percent in November, with shelter costs rising notably (owners' equivalent rent by 0.4 percent and rent of primary residence by 0.5 percent).

Used cars and trucks, and medical care indexes also saw increases.

However, there were declines in apparel, household furnishings, operations, and new vehicles.

### Geographic Division Trends:

In November, the all-items index fell in the East South Central division by 0.3 percent and by 0.1 percent in both the South Atlantic and West South Central divisions.

Over the year, the all-items index increased by 4.0 percent in the East South Central division, 3.4 percent in the South Atlantic division, and 3.2 percent in the West South Central division.

### Looking Forward:

The next Consumer Price Index report for December 2023 is scheduled for release on January 11, 2024. These CPI figures are critical for understanding regional economic trends, affecting both consumer spending and policy-making decisions. As the South region copes with changing economic conditions, these indices provide valuable insights into the fluctuating cost of living and consumption patterns.

# COMMUNITY

## Bedford County Historical Society Celebrates Winter Meeting with Swing Music and New Officers

The Bedford County Historical Society held its winter quarter meeting on December 4, 2023, in the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church on the Square in Shelbyville with approximately 75 guests and members attending. Guests included Kathy Mayes, Barbara Pate, Vivian Haggard, Melca Riddle, Brenda Wright, Linda McGrew, David Thibideaux, Kathy Smotherman, Shane Baker, and Becky Baker.

A potluck supper started the evening's festivities at 6:30 p.m., hosted by David and Betty Sanders, Gene Williams, Don & Patsy Porter, Ardis Rittenberry-Caffey, Anne Spencer, Mark Majors, John & Carol Jones, and Mary Ruth Simmons.

The Fellowship Hall was decorated with Christmas-themed table settings featuring poinsettia centerpieces and floral wreaths.

Following the meal, the Society held a business meeting. Recording Secretary Faye Fuller gave the secretarial report, followed by Treasurer Hazel Foster's financial report and Carolyn Smotherman's membership status. President Al Simmons urged members to renew promptly and to recruit friends and family as new members during the upcoming membership renewal period which began in December.

Simmons thanked Roy Turrentine, Mary Price, Carolyn Smotherman, Clayton Rees, Gene Williams, and Carol Roberts for their contribution of materials for articles in the Winter issue of the Quarterly. He noted that the Society dedicated a historical marker for the old Shelbyville Central High School on September 30 with the sponsoring SCHS Class of 1962 as part of their 60th reunion celebration. This marker was the Society's ninth site-recognition marker.

In other business, Simmons announced the next meeting of the Society Board of Directors will be on January 10, 2024, at the Public Library at 2:00pm. He also noted that the Society will observe its golden anniversary next year, and several celebratory activities are being planned. Highlights



(Winter Quarter Meeting Hosts and Hostesses) – From left - John & Carol Jones, Don & Patsy Porter, David & Betty Sanders, Anne Spencer, Ardis Rittenberry-Caffey and Gene Williams pause for a moment before serving up the Historical Society's potluck supper at the Society's December



Historical Society Treasurer Hazel Foster(right) accepts Jane Cortner's membership renewal dues to the Historical Society at its Winter Quarter meeting.



The Downtown Swing Band presented the program for the Historical Society's Winter Quarter meeting. Members of the band are, from left: Ned Coleman on organ and trumpet; Roger Wood on drums; Society member Rhonda Styer on keyboard and vocalist; Bill Copeland on string bass; and David Thibideaux on guitar and trombone.



Incoming Historical Society officers for 2024-25 are, from left: John Jones – Vice President, Hazel Foster, Treasurer; Carolyn Smotherman, Corresponding Secretary; Freda, Recording Secretary; and Al Simmons, President.



Incoming Historical Society Board members for 2024-25 are, from left with incoming president Al Simmons: David Sherrill, Carole Roberts, and Don Gallagher



Historical Society member Randy Crowell shows Society President Al Simmons a relic baseball signed by members of his local team for which he pitched in the 1940s. Marie Parsons, wife of the late teammate Newt Parsons, presented him the souvenir at the December Society meeting. The ball, no doubt, will be featured in the Society's next "Show & Tell" meeting in 2024.

from the Society's past will be featured in its Quarterlies and meeting programs. The official celebration will kick off at the March 18, 2024, Society meeting.

The Society then elected new officers for the next terms of office. Simmons thanked the existing officers and Board members who extended

their terms for over 2 years during the cancellation of meetings due to Covid. Special appreciation was expressed to Pat Hastings, Della Nelson, and Larry

Baucom who served multiple terms as Board members; also, to Faye Fuller who serves as recording secretary. The Society's nominating

committee presented its recommended slate of officers and Board members. Carol Roberts, Don Gallagher, and David Sherrill were elected to serve three-year terms on the Society Board with existing members Vavial Jamison, Johnny Cortner, Burt English, Carolyn Smotherman, Gene Williams, and Al Simmons. Incoming Society officers serving the next two years are Vice President John Jones, Recording Secretary Freda Head, Treasurer Hazel Foster,

Corresponding Secretary Carolyn Smotherman, and President Al Simmons.

After the business meeting, Simmons introduced the evening's program which was presented by the Downtown Sound Swing Band. Their musical program featured music from the 1930s swing era along with some New Orle-

ans jazz, the blues, and Christmas favorites.

Simmons concluded the meeting, reminding members that the next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2024, at the same place and time with Roy & Melissa Turrentine, John Cortner, Gary Crockett, Alene Hall, and Vavial Jamison hosting.



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## OFFICE MANAGER

**Open Position: Office Manager**

**Job Description:**  
The Shelbyville Times-Gazette is seeking an organized and detail-oriented Office Manager to oversee daily administrative operations. As the Office Manager, you will play a critical role in maintaining office efficiency, managing office supplies, and providing support to staff members.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Manage office logistics, including mail, phone calls, and office supplies.
- Handle scheduling, appointments, and meetings for the editorial and sales teams.
- Assist in budget management and financial recordkeeping.
- Coordinate with vendors and service providers.
- Help with human resources tasks such as onboarding and payroll.
- Maintain a clean and organized office environment.

**Qualifications:**

- Support the publisher and editor with administrative tasks as needed.
- High school diploma or equivalent; associate or bachelor's degree is a plus.
- Previous office management or administrative experience preferred.
- Strong organizational and multi-tasking skills.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office and basic computer skills.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.

**To apply:**  
Email your resume and cover letter to daniel@t-g.com

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## ADVERTISING SALES

**Position: Advertising Sales Representative**

**Job Description:**  
The Shelbyville Times-Gazette is looking for a motivated and results-driven Advertising Sales Representative to join our team. As an Advertising Sales Representative, you will be responsible for generating advertising revenue by selling print and digital advertising solutions to local businesses.

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- Prepare and present advertising proposals and contracts.
- Collaborate with the creative team to create effective ad campaigns.
- Meet or exceed monthly and quarterly sales targets.
- Keep up-to-date with industry trends and competitive offerings.

**Qualifications:**

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## SPORTS

# Abby Faith Cheeseman Finishes 13th at San Diego Foot Locker Nationals

Webb School cross-country star Abby Faith Cheeseman racked up a second consecutive Top-15 finish at the 44th annual Foot Locker Cross Country Championships National Finals in San Diego, California, on Saturday.

Hailed as one of the favorites coming in, in part due to her fourth place finish a year ago, Cheeseman qualified by finishing in the top ten in the South region on December 2nd. She came into Nationals with a plan of attack and started off the 5k race well.

"I think I put myself in a pretty good position to meet those [higher expectations for herself] and just wasn't able to close very hard," Cheeseman said. "The course out there is always tough...but I still tried to use the terrain to my advantage, especially by powering up the hills."

She also expressed a little remorse over how she finished the race but was proud of her performance overall.

"I am really proud of my effort even though it wasn't exactly the result I was hoping for," she continued. "I am so grateful that I was able to finish as well as I did with a pretty slow last 1,000 meters."

"If I had to change anything, I may have moved up a little more before 1.5 miles, but I really feel like I executed the race about as well as I could have."

Cheeseman also expressed extreme gratitude and humbleness as she recognized how big of a deal it is to race for her local com-

munity back home in Tennessee.

"It is an amazing honor to represent my community and Webb at a national level!" she exclaimed. "Even though I am racing for a different team [the South region], it is my friends, especially on my Webb team, the faculty, and most of my family that have gotten me to this point and watched, helped, and led me through it all."

In the end, she finished with a very impressive time of 17:56.3, good enough for 13th place out of the 40-person field. Cheeseman, who goes by Abby Faith, has qualified for the Foot Locker National Finals every year of her high school career. As a freshman in 2021, she finished 31st, and of course had that fourth-place finish in her sophomore season last year, both of which she was able to draw on to help her with her junior year race.

"I really enjoyed the experience last year, but this year was even sweeter because I have deeper connections with many of the girls and could really appreciate the team aspect and race with and for the South team even more," she said. "I am not sure why I lost my legs like I did at the end, but this race has even led me closer to Christ and reminded me that He has a plan outside my control."

Cheeseman continued to express her thankfulness to her savior, and she looks to continue her success into her senior year in 2024.

"I think the previous two years here have taught me



to be confident in myself and to continue to trust in Christ and propelled me to spiritual maturity that allows me to be at peace with my race," she reflected. "Also, I have learned a balance of appreciating and not underestimating the level of competition while also remembering that I don't have to change the way I race or who I am to run well at a higher level."

"My previous experiences have allowed me to take even more out of today; I want to keep investigating

and analyzing to see what I can improve upon and what I did well both during and after the race," she concluded.

Cheeseman looks forward to an exciting senior campaign where she can utilize everything that she has learned in her first three appearances at Nationals. She begins her quest to return to San Diego in the fall of 2024.

# Why This Tennessee Team Can (And Will) Break Through to Make a Final Four

Noah Maddox  
Sports Editor

The Tennessee Volunteers Men's Basketball team has never made the Final Four of the NCAA Tournament. I know, I know, it hurts to read. Trust me, it hurt even more to type it out.

In contrast, the Lady Vols program has the second-most Final Four appearances with 18, winning eight national titles in the process under legendary head coach Pat Summitt.

Thus, such a definitive statement about one of the most snake-bitten programs in all of college basketball would seem a bit bold, and frankly, I agree. Despite a storied history of their own, the men's basketball program not only has never made the Final Four, but they have also only made one Elite Eight appearance. That came in 2010 under now Auburn head coach Bruce Pearl.

Currently, Rick Barnes is in his eighth year at the helm of the Vols. One of the best coaches in college basketball, he has led Tennessee to two Sweet 16 appearances, including five consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances. This year, he has a team that was picked in the preseason to win the SEC that is arguably even better than last year's bunch, led by superstar Dalton Knecht.

Knecht, a transfer from Northern Colorado, is a very lanky forward, listed at 6'6, who adds an elite three-level scoring punch to a team that had one of the best defenses in the country a season ago. He averaged 20.2 points per game last season while shooting 48% from the field and 38% from behind the three-point line. The only other time Barnes has had an offensive player like Knecht is when he had Kevin Durant at Texas in 2006/07. Yes, he is really that good. The best news of all is that the elite defense that Tennessee is known for under Barnes is still there this year. At the time of this print, the Vols have the fourth best defense in the entire country out of 362 teams according to KenPom.

Tennessee has also played one of the toughest out-of-conference schedules in the entire country which sets them up very well for SEC play and beyond. This team is still working through some early-season injuries, so as Zakai Zeigler continues

to grow more comfortable on that surgically repaired ACL and the team figures out the nuances of everyone's role, the group will only continue to get even better.

The biggest advantage that the Volunteers enjoy is their age. The teams that tend to do the best in March Madness are almost always on the older side, and this Tennessee team has plenty of experience to go around. Seniors Santiago Vescovi (12.5 PPG in 2022/23), Josiah Jordan-James (11.4 PPG), and Dalton Knecht (19.2 PPG) are in the starting lineup alongside juniors Zakai Zeigler (10.7 PPG, 5.8 APG in 2022/23) and Jonas Aidoo (10.2 PPG, 7.1 RPG, and 1.8 BPG). When Barnes goes to his bench, there is hardly a drop off. Junior guard Jahmai Mashack (5.3 PPG) is competing with Zeigler for the honor of the best perimeter defender in college basketball, transfer guard Jordan Gainey (10.5 PPG) provides a much-needed scoring punch off the bench, and the lone underclassman in the main eight-man rotation is a strong tenacious rebounder in sophomore forward Tobe Awaka. Forwards J.P. Estrella, Cade Phillips, and guard Freddie Dilione V have all provided solid minutes off the bench this season so far as well.

Sure, it is only mid-December. Sure, it seems like a bad idea to predict a program to do something that has never been done before, but where's the fun in predicting the likely thing to happen? The law of averages would imply that sooner or later, a team this successful will at least luck their way into the sport's biggest destination like FAU last year or Loyola-Chicago in 2018. Plenty of underdogs that weren't supposed to make it that far have done it, why can't a team that has every single ingredient needed for success do it as well?

The ingredients for Rick Barnes and Tennessee to win four straight games in late March are all there, it will just come down to injury luck and the ability to make open shots as it always seems to do. But, with the addition of Dalton Knecht, it seems like this year is the best chance Barnes will have to not only get the Vols to their first ever Final Four, but his first ever national championship as a head coach.

# Bedford County Basketball Weekly Roundup

## \*\*Correction\*\*

Thanks to feedback from loyal readers and subscribers, it has been brought to our attention that officially speaking, in the eyes of TS-SAA, Hall of Fame games do actually count towards the overall season records. We did not count them in last week's records because of previous feedback from coaches suggesting otherwise, and we apologize for any confusion and frustration this may have caused. This week's records now include the HOF results.

Cascade Girls Match Last Season's Win Total Friday, Surpass it on Tuesday

Second-year head coach Janie Demonbreun is off to a fast start at Cascade. With their close win over Fayetteville on Friday night, the Lady Champions matched their 2022/23 full season win total, getting their

third win on the season. After beating Huntland Tuesday in a 50-47 come-from-behind thriller on the road to sweep the season series, Demonbreun has already surpassed last season's win total before the midway point of December. This just shows the tremendous growth that her girls have had in the short time she has had them, but she and her team have bigger goals. The dynamic duo of junior Sophie Ray and sophomore Kaegan Young have contributed to this great start for Cascade, and they only look to continue their fine form through Christmas Break and into district play.

## Shelbyville Central Girls: 6-2 (0-0)

Upcoming Game(s): 12/15 vs Centennial and 12/18 @ Siegel, LIVE on WLIJ 98.7. Past week result(s): 41-18

W vs Riverdale.

## Shelbyville Central Boys: 3-5 (0-0)

Upcoming Game(s): 12/15 vs Centennial and 12/18 @ Siegel, LIVE on WLIJ 98.7. Past week result(s): 68-55 W vs Riverdale

## Cascade Girls: 4-5 (0-0)

Upcoming Game(s): 12/15 vs Moore County and 12/19 @ Jefferson County, LIVE on The Zinger 100.9. Past week result(s): 50-47 W @ Huntland on 12/12 and 57-52 W vs Fayetteville on 12/8.

## Cascade Boys: 3-6 (0-0)

Upcoming Game(s): 12/15 vs Moore County and 12/19 @ Jefferson County, LIVE on The Zinger 100.9. Past week result(s): 61-44 W @ Huntland on 12/12 and 68-34 W vs Fayetteville on 12/8 (Isaac McElroy had

30 points on 11/13 shooting).

## Community Girls: 3-7 (0-0)

Upcoming Game(s): 12/14 @ Murfreesboro Central Magnet., 12/15 vs Macon County, and 12/19 vs Eagleville. Past week result(s): 40-26 L @ Richland on 12/12 and 35-31 L @ Macon County on 12/8.

## Community Boys: 3-7 (0-0)

Upcoming Game(s): 12/14 @ Murfreesboro Central Magnet., 12/15 vs Macon County, 12/18 vs East Hickman, and 12/19 vs Eagleville. Past week result(s): 46-24 L @ Richland on 12/12 and 49-39 W @ Macon County on 12/8

# MTSU Alumni Playing Key Roles in Construction of New Titans Stadium

In a monumental collaboration, two Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) School of Concrete and Construction Management alumni, Reggie Polk and Paul Lawson, are spearheading the construction of the Tennessee Titans' new \$2.1 billion Nissan Stadium.

Reggie Polk, CEO of Polk & Associates Construction Inc., and Paul Lawson, Vice President of Turner Construction, find themselves at the forefront of this colossal undertaking, bringing decades of combined experience to the Tennessee Builders Alliance team.

The Titans' ambitious project has received the green light from the Metropolitan Sports Authority, with a groundbreaking ceremony slated for early-to-mid 2024 and an anticipated opening in 2027.

The 1.7 million-square-foot stadium, set to accommodate 60,000 spectators, will grace Nashville's East Bank.

Joining forces with local firms ICF Builders and AECOM Hunt, the four-company team boasts an impressive 55-plus years of NFL stadium construction experience. Reggie Polk emphasized the necessity of unity in executing the project efficiently and within budget.

"We're going to divide and conquer on the project," said Polk. "We have to get this thing built on time and within budget, so there's a lot of manpower that's going to be needed to do that."

Paul Lawson, a proud alumnus, expressed his excitement about the Titans'

commitment to involving local and diverse minority businesses.

It's something they implemented, and I'm excited about that," Lawson said.

The MTSU School of Concrete and Construction Management, known for producing industry leaders, has played a pivotal role in shaping these alumni's careers. Both Polk and Lawson, on a recent visit to the school, praised the faculty and leadership for their guidance.

Tom Nicholas, the director of the School of Concrete and Construction Management, spoke highly of the alumni duo, stating, "Paul and Reggie are leading the construction field and leading the construction industry. I can't tell you how proud we are of them to call them alumni

of MTSU and the School of Concrete and Construction Management."

The upcoming stadium, featuring a nonretractable roof, community events space, exterior terraces, and panoramic views of the city, is poised to be a premier venue for various events, entertainment, and civic activities.

As groundbreaking approaches, the MTSU alumni's leadership underscores the university's commitment to preparing students for executive positions in the construction industry. Their journey from MTSU to helming a project of this magnitude serves as an inspirational example for aspiring construction professionals.

# Former Titans All-Pro TE Frank Wycheck dies at 52

The football world is in mourning following the tragic passing of former NFL player Frank John Wycheck on Saturday, December 9, 2023.

Wycheck, 52, spent 11 seasons in the NFL, leaving an indelible mark, especially during his tenure with the Tennessee Titans, and is probably most well-known for his involvement in the 2000 'Music City Miracle' vs the Buffalo Bills on the way to a Super Bowl appearance.

The circumstances surrounding Wycheck's death are heart-wrenching. It appears he fell in his Chattanooga home on Saturday morning, striking his head. He was found unresponsive later that afternoon. The Middle Tennessee community and fans alike are grappling with the loss of a beloved athlete.

A versatile player, Wycheck contributed significantly to the Titans from 1993 to 2003. Known for his athleticism and dedication, he became a fan favorite and a respected figure within the league. Wycheck had 505 receptions

for 5,126 yards and 28 touchdowns over his stellar 11-year NFL career and is enshrined in the Titans' Ring of Honor.

This past summer, Wycheck moved to Chattanooga to be closer to his family. He is survived by two adult daughters, Deanna and Madison, both married, and three grandchildren — Leo, Stevie, and August. In accordance with Wycheck's wishes, the family plans to collaborate with experts for ongoing research on Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE). Funeral arrangements are yet to be finalized. The Wycheck family expressed appreciation for the support received during this difficult time but has requested privacy as they navigate through their grief.

The passing of Frank Wycheck is not only a loss for his family, but also a poignant moment for the NFL community which remembers him not just as a talented player but as a dedicated family man.

# SIP, LAUGH, AND DINE 'Savannah Sipping Society' Lights Up Fly Arts Center

A dinner show opened last weekend at Fly Arts Center, 204 South Main St. The featured show, "Savannah Sipping Society," stars April Glosson, Andrea Nix, Jody Barnes Turner, Jennifer Smith and LeAnn Wenzel.

The Fly Arts community theatre production runs through Saturday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. Dinner is served at 6 p.m. There is a matinee on Sunday, Dec. 17, but no meal will be served.

With its heart-warming undertones and comedic moments, "Savannah Sipping Society" is fun entertainment for the holiday season. Tickets are available at [flyartscenter.com](http://flyartscenter.com).

Four southern women, all needing to escape the sameness of their day-to-day routines, are drawn together by fate—and an impromptu happy hour—and decide it's high time to reclaim the enthusiasm for life they've lost through the years.



**CAST**

Randa.....April Glosson  
Dot.....Andrea Nix  
Marla Faye.....Jody Barnes Turner  
Jinx.....Jennifer Smith  
Grandmother.....LeAnn Wenzel

**CREW**

Stage Manager.....LeAnn Wenzel  
Stagehand.....Jessica Friedmann  
Lighting.....Mary Margaret Edwards  
Sound and Media.....Jennifer Meloy  
Set Design.....Cast and Crew Collaboration



## CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS

Billy and Sharon Lowery of Shelbyville hosted a Christmas party for their Sunday School class at Fairhaven Baptist over the weekend. Sam Jack Brantley is the group's discussion leader.

Christmas is about celebrations. The Lowery home, warm and full of Christmas cheer, was open to close friends over the weekend.

Southern homes are decorated with rich, traditional colors. There's always a tree and of course, nativity scenes and Santa.

## Unspeakable Joy

How we explain Advent to our children and grandchildren can make all the difference in their spiritual lives.

As a child, I grew up in the United Methodist Church. I loved to watch the grownups light the purple and pink candles for the weeks of Advent. And then the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve/Day.

Even when I worked in ministry, there was a reverence, for me, purchasing the new Advent candles each year.

I guess I will always have had the utmost respect for the Advent readings and ceremonies. Every church celebrates Advent in a different way.

Teach your children and grandchildren more than just the aesthetics of Christmas. Advent: lighting the way for the Savior of the World—Christ Jesus. He's The One who came to save us from our sins.

When explaining Advent for your kids, use these descriptions to help your kids understand the Advent

wreath.

The first purple candle symbolizes expectation and hope. Purple is a royal color and signifies anticipation of the King's birth. Light this candle each week of Advent.

The second purple candle symbolizes preparation. The Jewish people prepared their hearts for the Savior, and we prepare our hearts for His second coming. Then, light this one during the second, third and fourth weeks.

The third purple candle symbolizes love and peace. God showed His love by sending His Son. Jesus' birth, death and resurrection bring us peace. Next, light this candle during the fourth week.

The rose candle symbolizes joy. We rejoice in the Messiah and joyfully anticipate Jesus' second coming. Light this candle during the third and fourth weeks.

The white candle in the center is celebratory. Light this candle on Christmas Day. Jesus is central to the season. We celebrate His birth.

The evergreen branches symbolize God's faithfulness. They remain green all year.

The wreath circle symbolizes God's unending love.

—Sheila Seifert for Focus on the Family

This third week of Advent, make time to pray for peace.

What do I remember about what Santa left me under the Christmas tree. A little. But I remember more about those Sundays in Advent at church. Thanks Daddy and Mama.

A great scripture for this week:

"When they saw the Star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped Him. Then, they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold, Frankincense and myrrh. (NIV, Matthew 2:10-11.)

## Christmas is . . . about friends and family

Mid December truly is *Holiday recipes to share*

the "most wonderful time of the year." Christmas is a time to cherish with family and friends, so we're providing some tried and true recipes we think will make your Christmas events memorable.

Start off with Spiced Christmas Tea—one sure to warm guests upon their arrival. Please note that this recipe serves 4, so you'll have to do some math for larger crowds.

To accompany Christmas traditions, we've also included a recipe for Golden Almond Bars.

And what's a Sunday School party without a Christmas salad. Try the Pink Salad recipe, which is a local favorite.

Needing something a little savory? Try this recipe for an old southern party mainstay, Southern Sesame Sticks. This recipe serves 12.

It's all party fare is sure to please everyone and this year, likely easier on the pocketbook. So, let's get started in the kitchen, making these tasty treats for friends and family.

### Spiced Christmas Tea

2 C. water 3 tea bags (plain black tea)  
4 star anise  
1 (3-inch) cinnamon stick  
1 cup passion fruit nectar  
3 Tbsp. honey 2 Tbsp. lemon juice

In medium saucepan, bring water to a boil. Add the tea bags, anise and cinnamon. Reduce heat. Simmer, uncovered, for 3 to 5 minutes. Discard tea bags and cinnamon stick. Stir in nectar, honey and lemon juice. Heat through. Pour into 4 Christmas cups. Decorate with a star floating on top.

### Southern Sesame Sticks

1 egg 1 Tbsp. water  
1 tsp. Dijon mustard

3 oz. (3/4 C.) grated Asiago Cheese

4.5 tsp. Sesame seeds 1/2 tsp. garlic powder  
1 can of refrigerated bread sticks (or homemade)  
Cooking spray

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray cookie sheet with cooking spray. Beat egg in small bowl. Stir in water and mustard. In a shallow dish, stir together cheese, sesame seeds and garlic powder.

Prepare 12 breadsticks. Dip in egg mixture. Coat with the cheese. Twist breadsticks. Place an inch apart. Bake about 18 minutes or until brown. Serve warm.

Suggestion, provide guests with small ramekins

of a good honey or mustard for dipping.

### Pink Christmas Salad

1 can cherry pie filling  
1 can crushed pineapple, drained  
1 can sweetened condensed milk  
1 container whipped topping

Mix all and place in refrigerator overnight to set.  
Golden Almond Bars  
1 pkg. yellow cake mix  
1/3 C. butter or margarine, softened

1 C. ground or finely chopped almonds 1/2 C. chopped almonds  
1 tsp. almond extract  
1 C. powdered sugar  
4 egg whites  
Preheat oven to 350 and

grease a 13x9-inch pan. In a large bowl, combine cake mix and butter at low speed until crumbly. Reserve 1/2 cup crumbs for topping. Press remaining prepared crumbs in the bottom of the prepared pan. In same large bowl, beat ground almonds, powdered sugar, almond extract and egg whites on highest speed for 4 minutes. Pour evenly over crumbs. Combine 1/2 cup reserved crumbs and chopped almonds. Sprinkle over egg white mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes until light and golden brown. Cool completely. Cut into bars. Makes 36.