



Merry Christmas
Wishing You the Merriest of Holidays This Year

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

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Thursday, December 21, 2023

www.t-g.com

Ordinance tightens on feathers and tethering

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

Council moved on to approve its latest amended animal/fowl ordinance Thursday, despite the City's own animal control officer speaking publicly against 'no tethering.'

Mariah Teal, Shelbyville Animal

Control officer and another Shelbyville resident, a "Mr. Arnold" [first name unavailable] each commented on the 'no tethering' during Thursday's public hearing portion of the monthly City Council meeting.

Upon returning to regular session, Council approved on second and final reading the ordinance to

amend the City Code of Ordinances, Title 3, Animals and Fowls, Chapters 1,2 and 3.

Councilman Henry Feldhaus did make a motion to amend, that is remove portions of the ordinance which dealt with "a competent person having to stay with a dog," that is, if it is in fact tethered. Councilman Gary Haile seconded.

Council was in agreement, then went on to approve the entire ordinance, with the amendment by Feldhaus.

Councilman William Christie, who represents the 4th Ward, said the reason he leans more toward 'no tethering,' is because of what he has witnessed in his own neighborhood. Christie said he has witnessed a res-

ident keeping a dog chained outside, all year, during inclement weather.

Feldhaus said there are other sections in the ordinance, relating to dogs, which deal with such.

Christie said the point of the ordinance is not to fine those leaving

See FEATHERS, 2A



Submitted Photo

GREAT TOY DRIVE!

Community High School's career & technical student organizations such as T.S.A.-Technology Association, C.J.S.O.-Criminal Justice, FBLA-Business Leaders, & FCCLA-Family & Career teamed up to provide toys for needy children in Bedford County. These student organizations collaborated to provide for a total of 47 families, comprised of over 100 children.

Santa is Making his rounds



Photo by Jenna Henderson Photography

Santa is busy this week reading stories, listening to Christmas wishes and posing for lots and lots of photos with boys and girls. Affectionately nicknamed "Skinny," since childhood, Santa told the T-G he loves his job. And don't forget, he knows who's naughty and nice.

No Lane Closures on Interstates and State Routes

TDOT Halts Highway Construction for the Holiday Travel Period

Road construction won't delay travelers during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) is once again halting all lane closure activity on interstates and state highways in anticipation of higher traffic volumes across the state. No temporary lane closures will be allowed for construction on Tennessee roadways beginning at 6:00 a.m. Friday, December 22, 2023, through 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

AAA expects an estimated 2.7 million Tennesseans to travel between December 23 and January 1 with most of them driving.

"Safety is our top priority and with so many people expected to travel Tennessee roadways during the holidays, we want to keep traffic moving and get everyone to their destinations," said Deputy Governor & TDOT Commissioner Butch Eley.

See NO LANE CLOSURES, 5A

Cooper Christian Academy takes first Christmas break

CCA: Newest, local education 'choice'

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

This article on Cooper Christian Academy, which opened earlier this fall in Shelbyville, is in memory of Pam Cooper, who passed away last week. This is the first of two installments.

Cooper Christian Academy's founders, educators and stakeholders hope they will be breaking ground on a new state-of-the-art facility in 2024. The long-term mission is for students to be studying in new classrooms by fall of 2026. While they're not here to compete with public education, founders of Cooper Christian Academy note they do offer more within the realm of education for Christian parents.

That might mean students hear a Gospel lesson during their school day. Still, while it is a private, Christian facility, CCA remains ecumenical and teachers will not be allowed to share facets of any particular

doctrine.

So, if you're Baptist or Methodist, know that what your church believes within its social principals will not be discussed. But if you want your children to learn about Jesus' compassion, perhaps along with a subject like reading, then it might be time this next year to request an interview.

School principal, Steve Bowers, told the T-G this week that CCA's mission is to add another local, education choice for Bedford County parents.

"We just want to be an option for the people of Bedford County," Bowers said. "If they want Christian education, we would love to be able to provide that for them. So, that's who we've tried to be, as we've come in here."

CCA land, 11 acres to be exact, has been purchased and is located just off Madison Street on Bethany Lane. Until 2026, CCA is renting space with First Christian Church, 309 Madison St.



Steve Bowers, new principal of Cooper Christian Academy in Shelbyville, brings to the table a lot of experience in the private education sector. He notes starting up a new school is not easy, but he's learned ways to save, like purchasing his office decor at Habitat for Humanity.

The academy is currently small in numbers, but Bowers said the maximum classroom size at CCA will always remain at 15 students. This ratio certainly will set the school apart, he said.

Founding board members are Barry Cooper and family, who have given to this community in many other ways from support of pregnancy centers to serving on the local Bedford County Board

of Education.

The family, and the community, has suffered tremendous loss in 2023, with the passing of Barry's Dad, Kenneth, and now Barry's wife, Pam. In addition, Bowers said the board also lost this year Missy Long, who was a tremendous Christian educator.

But the momentum has not slowed at CCA, because that

See CCA, 2A



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Construction underway on new TCAT-Shelbyville

Construction has begun on the new \$45.4 million Bedford County Higher Education Center in Shelbyville, the Tennessee Board of Regents Office of Facilities Development announced today.

With a projected completion by late 2025, the center will be the new main campus of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) Shelbyville. American Constructors Inc. of Brentwood was awarded the construction contract and Bauer Askew Architecture of Nashville is the project's design firm.

The project at 2905 Highway 231 North includes two new state-of-the-art buildings:

A two-story academic building will house general academic classrooms, student services, administrative offices, a student commons and eatery, and a multi-use atrium space on the main floor. The second floor will include more general classrooms, faculty office suites, labs for the college's nursing, computer-aided design (CAD) technology, and office technology programs, and related support spaces.

A one-story industrial workshop building that will include eight classroom and skills labs for the college's automotive technology, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR), industrial electricity, industrial maintenance, machine tool technology, and welding



Architectural renderings of TCAT Shelbyville's new Bedford County Higher Education Center, now under construction. [Courtesy of Bauer Askew Architecture.]

technology programs, and related support spaces.

The buildings will flank a center courtyard with landscaping to create a traditional college campus environment. The project also includes parking and other landscaping.

The design enables future expansion of the two initial structures, plus additional buildings as needed on the 20-acre site, as TCAT Shelbyville expands its program offerings and to accommodate classes and programs offered by partnering colleges and universities.

"TCAT Shelbyville already has an excellent reputation for the quality of our career and technical education programs. Our faculty and staff look forward to the new

state-of-the-art facilities and training equipment that will help our students achieve even greater levels of success," said TCAT Shelbyville President Jimmy L. Wright.

"The partnership between Bedford County and TCAT Shelbyville has always been focused on providing learning and career opportunities for all of the residents, including those served by the college from Franklin, Marshall, Moore and Lincoln counties. Students and adult learners of all ages are not confined to one location and the new Center will only be the next step on their journey to an amazing career. We are excited about the future growth in our region and where the partnership will take us next," Wright said.

Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor Flora W. Tydings said the project is made possible with the support of Gov. Bill Lee and the Tennessee General Assembly, who provided state funding, and the City of Shelbyville and Bedford County, who purchased the land and donated it for the new campus.

"The project will enable TCAT Shelbyville to grow and deliver the career and technical education that the people of Bedford and surrounding counties need to start rewarding careers or advance in their current fields," Tydings said. "We are especially grateful to Rep. Pat Marsh and Sen. Shane Reeves for their strong and consistent support for the project."

FEATHERS

From page 1

their animals tethered for a short time, but is aimed at those neglecting their animals. He said he believes Shelbyville, like a lot of other communities, should "step up" and enforce this ordinance.

"To me, I've watched this for years . . . seen it on a lot of our streets."

Arnold said during the public hearing that he was mainly focused on the dog section of the ordinance, which now says you cannot tether (chain, cable) a dog in the city limits of Shelbyville. He said he's barely seen the ordinance, but Recorder Lisa Smith is in the process of getting him a copy.

"I was told you cannot tether a dog in the City, which I don't think is a great idea."

He said he was told that dogs outside have to be in a 10 by 12-foot fence. "If you do this . . . the smallest fence they can have costs \$700. If you say they must have an underground fence . . . cheapest at Amazon is \$369. The cost of a lead line my dog uses is about \$30."

Arnold told Council that he believed if they pass 'non tethering,' they will be putting a huge burden on the least fortunate in this community—those who use lead lines. He encouraged City Council members to drive around town and see how many are used. "There's a lot of them," Arnold advised.

Council made no remarks. They did advise Arnold that he was over his 3-minute limit.

Teal said to ban tethering would be too draining for local citizens. She also advised that it would be equally as draining on animal control to interrogate citizens over this new ordinance.

She told Council that this proposed 'no chain ordinance' will affect everyone but most directly, the elderly, who rely on the use of a cable to assist them with their pets, so they don't run at large.

Such citizens on fixed incomes, Teal said, certainly cannot afford the expenses associated with fences or outdoor kennels. She said it is a matter of \$5 versus \$500 or plus, which she deemed a big difference.

"It will adversely affect the renters . . . to be allowed to be able to put up a fence."

She said some renters move around a lot or are simply not allowed to have a dog inside. Sometimes surrender of the animal is not possible.

"These people should not be denied ownership of a companion because of these restrictions . . . further restrictions imposed by the City with a 'no chain' ordinance."

She said lots of residents are going to be facing penalties as a result of the new dog ordinance. Teal said her department has witnessed over the last month at least 17 residents with tethered animals.

"In conclusion, I don't think this is the right way to go," Teal told Council. City recorder Smith re-

minded that the new animal ordinance is effective Dec. end. However, she said per Council decision, there will be a 90-day grace period regarding chickens, with the new ordinance being fully enforced in late March.

City Attorney Ginger Shofner said if a citizens' chickens are running at large today, basically, they have 90 days to come into compliance with the current ordinance.

Shofner added, "This is a lot like other things about your municipal code. You don't have the manpower for people to drive around and look. It's a complaint-based system."

"I believe we started this," said Mayor Randy Carroll, "because of roosters and chickens."

Attorney Shofner added, "There is no way to enforce a municipal code, without help of your citizens, who make the complaints and also are willing to serve as the witnesses to say 'I was there . . . animal was outside for whatever hours.'"

Yes, no?

One suggestion from City administration, which made its way to this month's agenda, was consideration of hiring a public relations intern. However, when the agenda item came up Thursday, it failed by lack of a second motion.

All Council members were present for Thursday's meeting except Stephanie Isaacs.

Good city news

The mayor announced that The City of Shelbyville has been approved for its 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application in the amount of \$550,000. These grant dollars are earmarked to be used to continue to improve City sidewalks, particularly the remaining stretch down Depot and Deery Streets. The City manager said more information will be forthcoming.

In other business, City Council:

*Approved to defer any further discussion on hiring an economic developer until the February study session.

*Approved to send a Letter of Intent to purchase to Lonnie Cobb Ford, Henderson, for six Ford Interceptor vehicles for FY25. This letter is not binding and only to secure the vehicles.

*Approved to let Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Shelbyville Municipal Airport pasture leases.

*Approved to award the Request for Proposal for the downtown informational kiosk to Cornerstone Kiosk, Long Beach, Calif., in an amount not to exceed \$25,115.90.

*Approved to award the RFQ for consultant engineering for Phase 1 – State funded Multi-Model Grant-Madison Street from N. Main to E. Lane-to Griggs and Maloney, Murfreesboro and approve the associated contract.



CCA Photos

CHRISTMAS MUSIC - Carolyn Reed is the new music leader at Cooper Christian Academy. The school has been really busy this month putting on Christmas programs. The school follows the same calendar as the local public school system.

CCA

From page 1

is how those former board members would have wanted it to be—successful. While the area near the principal's office is quiet, turn the corner and a new world of education unfolds.

Students at CCA also get several periods of recess throughout the day. Bowers said it is his belief that this is healthy and good for students during their school day.

The vision

Bowers said Barry Cooper had the vision for CCA. He hired him about 2 years ago to lead the private school. There was just something that clicked between them, he added, during his interview for the job.

"He had probably already been working 2 years before on research. So, we got together; he already had a mission statement and vision statement."

Bowers said Barry and

Pam have provided the CCA seed money, but most importantly, the vision and desire, to get the school, literally, off the ground. The family owns Cooper Steel of Shelbyville, building another local legacy aside the late patriarch, Dad, Kenneth.

Bowers said Barry explained to him why the family wanted to have the "Cooper" name attached to the private school. He wants to leave a legacy but also let people know that the Coopers stand behind the Christian, education facility in every aspect.

"We want to be something in Bedford County that people see as a safe place," said Bowers, noting he believes CCA is a fantastic, academic education.

He said while it might not be popular with some in the public education sector, some local certified educators have been hired by CCA. They made their own

decision, he said, to move out of public education.

"I have rock star teachers," said Bowers. "That's what we wanted as we came in here. We wanted people to know . . . everybody wanted to know who we're going to be. I think that's part of the reason we're so small, our first year."

He said technically, CCA could have held 90 kids the first year within the First Christian facility. He has 15 students enrolled for the 2023-2024 school year.

"Next year, I think we'll probably be closer to 40," said Bowers.

The principal also advised said there is one second grader; he has his own teacher.

Kindergarten classes for next year are already starting to fill up. "We're adding third grade next year," said Bowers. "We've had a request, push, from families

to start a fourth grade next year, as well. For that one, we've shared we need to have at least 10 kids in that class to do that."

Bowers said time will tell if all this takes place next school year. If not, the plan is to add a grade level each year. The principal said Barry and Pam Cooper's vision was for CCA to eventually become a K-8 facility.

The principal said his "hope and prayer" is that once CCA students are ready to move on to high school, that the academy will not have only given them a firm Biblical foundation, but those same students will step right into honors programs.

"We may be borrowing a few kids from public education right now, but we're going to be giving them back in 9th grade," Bowers said. "Hopefully, we are giving back students who are excellent, academically."



City of Shelbyville recognizes employees for years of service

The City of Shelbyville recognized the following employees reaching long-term years of service at our annual employee recognition luncheon held on Monday, December 4, 2023. We applaud these employees' dedicated efforts and commitment to the City of Shelbyville.



5 Years - Front Row: L to R: Stacey Claxton (Administration); Lisa Smith (Administration); Debbie Phillips (Building & Codes); Vivian Huggler (Airport)
 Back Row: L to R: James Shelton (Administration); James Sharp (Police); Samuel Campbell (Police); Joseph Cleek (Police); Dylan Farrar (Police); Chace Warren (Fire); Austin Saddler (Fire)
 Not Pictured: Josh Graves (Police); Clayton Prince (Public Works); Jackson Wilkerson (Fire)



15 YEARS - L-R: Zach Warren (Fire); Caleb Doak (Fire); Arthur Trollinger (Parks & Recreation); Chris Vest (Police)



25 YEARS - Charles Merlo (Police); Matt Doak (Fire); Justin Smith (Police)



30 YEARS - Rob Rhodes (Fire)



20 YEARS - Douglas Yoes (Parks & Recreation)



35 YEARS - Bill Logue (Police)



10 YEARS - L to R: David Crowell (Public Works); Michael Taylor (Police)

Tennessee Higher Education Commission Releases Report on Food Insecurity Among Higher Education Students

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) today released a comprehensive report addressing the critical issue of food insecurity among students at public institutions of higher education. This report sheds light on the challenges faced by students and presents key interventions to address this pressing concern.

The report offers a holistic perspective on food insecurity in higher education, divided into three sections:

Overview of Food Insecurity in Higher Education: The report defines food insecurity and explores its far-reaching implications on students' academic success and overall well-being.

Survey Results on Interventions and Services: A summary of results

from a survey administered by THEC to campus administrators highlighting the current landscape of interventions and services in place to combat food insecurity.

THEC's Recommendations for Policy, Practice, and Research: The report culminates a set of strategic recommendations for policy, practice, and research to address and alleviate food insecurity among higher education students.

Some key recommendations from the THEC report include:

Improving Communication on Existing Resources

Recurring Convenings of Stakeholders: THEC recommends establishing regular

convenings of stakeholders to facilitate the sharing of best practices and resources, fostering a collaborative approach to tackling food insecurity.

Training on Federal and State Resources: Campus personnel should have training opportunities on available federal and state resources to enhance their ability to support students facing food insecurity.

Promoting Interagency Partnerships: THEC emphasizes the importance of building interagency partnerships to create a seamless network of support for students in need.

Dedicating Resources to Support Student Basic Needs Security: Assessing Financial Needs of Interventions: Institutions should

assess the financial needs of current interventions, ensuring that adequate resources are allocated to effectively address food insecurity.

Utilizing Institutional Budgets and State Allocations: THEC recommends determining how current interventions can be funded through existing institutional budgets or state allocations, maximizing the impact of available resources.

Exploring the Adoption of a Tennessee Hunger Free Campus Bill

Identifying Standard Practices: THEC suggests exploring the adoption of a Tennessee Hunger Free Campus bill, which would establish standard practices to promote food security and

awareness on college campuses.

Allocating Financial Support to Institutions: The state could also could contemplate financial support, in the form of grants, to institutions, empowering them to implement innovative and sustainable solutions to combat food insecurity.

Supporting Research and Evaluation

Statewide Survey of Students: THEC advocates for the development of a statewide survey of students on basic needs security to gather comprehensive data for informed decision-making.

Incentivizing Research Participation: Institutions are encouraged to participate in existing re-

search opportunities, and THEC proposes incentives to motivate active involvement.

Competitive Request for Proposals: THEC recommends generating research through a competitive Request for Proposals, fostering innovative approaches to address food insecurity.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission remains committed to advancing policies and practices that promote student success and well-being. This report serves as a crucial step toward creating a more secure and supportive environment for higher education students across the state.

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Gina Chatman

Mrs. Gina Sarah Ann Hampton Chatman, age 82, of Shelbyville, Passed away Saturday, December 16, 2023, after an extended illness.

There will be a graveside service, Thursday, December 21st, at 1 p.m. at Hazel Cemetery in Bell Buckle.

She was born September 3, 1941 in Sumner County, to the late Hogan and Eva Mae Whittle Hampton.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband Tony Chatman; grandson, Nathan West, sister, Irene Tedeski, Margie Gillihan, Connie Nash; brothers, Jasper Hampton, Clyde Hampton, and Troy Hampton.

Survivors include a daughter, Julie (Bryan) West; sons, Anthony Chatman and Jerry Free; grandchildren, Hannah West, and Jacob (Allie) West. Sisters, Trudy Parks, Jo Ellen Fox, Nina Moss.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with arrangements.



Adam Leonard Head

Adam Leonard Head, age 49, passed away December 16, 2023.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at a later date.

Adam, affectionately known as "Casper" was born December 30, 1973, in Sarasota, Florida, to Debbie Sanders and George Head. He was a devoted husband, father, son, "Paw Paw" and friend. He enjoyed spending as much time possible riding the trails in his RZR "Half-Pint".

Adam worked 23 years at Protech Industries as a welder, and made friends throughout his years there.

Preceding him in death was a sister, Angela Ward.

Adam is survived by his wife, Callie; three children, Matthew (Montana) Head, Makayla (Seth) Owens, and Madison Head; grandchildren, Mae'Lynn Head, Easton Owens, Xaylee Owens, and Remington Owens; nieces, Elia'Kay and Ora; sisters in law, Heather (Jimmy) Lovvorn and Penny Galindo; mother in law, Diane Barrett.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.



Bonnie Joe Brown

Bonnie Joe Brown, age 37, of Shelbyville, passed from this life December 12, 2023.

Born August 3, 1986, in Murfreesboro, TN. Bonnie was the daughter of Teddy Wendell Brown & Tammy Serene Gammill Gallagher.

She was preceded in death by; grandparents, Bobby Gammill, and Wendell "Buster & Geneva Sudberry Brown.

Along with her parents, Bonnie is survived by: children, Jazmyn John and Jace John; grandmother, Momma C; and father of her children, Danny John.

The family chose cremation and no public services will be held. Bonnie's ashes will be interred at Willow Mount Cemetery.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.



Rachel Lovell Thropp

Mrs. Rachel Lovell Thropp, age 96, of Shelbyville, passed away Friday, December 15, 2023, at her home, under the loving care and comfort of her family and Hospice Compassus. Funeral services were Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. Reverend Larry Sanders officiated, with burial to follow in Hillcrest Memorial Gardens.

She was born July 1, 1927, in Bedford County, to the late Eugenie and Jimmie Chilton Lovell. She was retired from Arnold Engineering Development Center after a career spanning 30 years. She was a faithful member of New Hope Fellowship Church in Murfreesboro.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Gerard John Hayes, in 1988, and a son, Tommy Hayes; brothers and sisters, Birdie Fields, Jack Lovell, Eugenia L. McCullough, Ann L. Wright, Jane Chilton Brothers, and Jerry M. Lovell.

Survivors include a daughter, Janice L. Allen, of Bell Buckle; grandchildren, Robert M. Sanders, and his wife Heidi, and Takesta L. West; six great grandchildren, and five great great grandchildren; brother and sister, Grady L. Lovell, and Maragret L. Brandon.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.



Mary Ruth Warren

Mary Ruth Warren, 94, of Shelbyville, passed from this life on December 16, 2023, at Lynchburg Nursing Center after an extended illness. Funeral Services were held at 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, December 19th, at Hillcrest Funeral Home with Joe Finch and Lee Baucom officiating. Burial followed at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens. Visitation was held on Monday evening from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

She retired from Josten's Inc. after 32 years of service. An avid gardener, she was her happiest when tending to her flowers and working in her yard. She loved all animals and was known to take in a stray or weakened animal, nursing them back to health.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clayton Bush and Pauline Gibson Bush; her brother, Ewin Bush; and sister, Dorothy Fuller.

Mary is survived by her husband of 40 years, Donnie William Warren; sons, William Gerald Crosslin (Joyce), James Mitchell Crosslin (Linda); and daughter, Shannan Neese (Christy); three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Sam Wilhoite

Sam Avery Wilhoite, age 66 of Shelbyville, passed from this life November 25, 2023, in Shelbyville.

Memorial service will be held 6 p.m. Thursday, December 21, 2023, at Doak-Howell Funeral Home with Henry Nichols officiating.

Visitation with the family will be held one hour prior to the service beginning at 5 p.m.

Per the family's request, Mr. Wilhoite's remains were cremated.

Pamela Jane Cooper

Pamela Jane Cooper departed this life and entered her eternal home on Friday, December 15th at Vanderbilt Medical Center after a long illness. Visitation will be at First Baptist Church on Wednesday December 20th at 10:00 am until 1:00 pm followed by the Celebration of her life at the church at 1:00 pm Bro. Jeff Rasnick will officiate. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens.

Pam was born January 25, 1953 in Shelbyville to Finis (Bud) and Martha Jane Renegar. She is a graduate of Central High School and also earned bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education from Middle Tennessee State University. She was an elementary school teacher in the Bedford County School System from 1975-1991.

While in college, Pam was diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver due to autoimmune hepatitis. Despite that chronic illness which was incurable and progressing, she continued to teach and to parent for sixteen years as her health slowly declined. Then, in 1991, her liver failed, and on August 4, 1991, Pam received a donated liver at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center that saved her life. She believed that God had saved her life for some special purpose. That purpose was revealed in the fall of 1997 when she answered an altar call to start a crisis pregnancy center in Shelbyville. On January 11, 1999, First Choice Pregnancy Counseling Center opened its doors for the first time. Under her leadership as the center's executive director, the center grew in its menu of services and built and paid for its ministry facility at 1102 Madison Street. She never enjoyed dealing with the business and top management side of things, so she stepped down from being its manager in 2009. Thereafter, she thoroughly enjoyed working exclusively in the client services arena at the center where she served part-time until October of this year when her final illness occurred. It has been her joy to see the center continue to grow and thrive with an even wider array of services.

In the days of the Covid shutdown after many discussions with Pam, her husband answered a call to start a private Christian Academy. She supported and counseled him and others in that endeavor and was a charter board member of the academy. Her great Godly wisdom and encouragement shone through as the academy was born and welcomed its first

classes of students this past August. Despite a succession of nagging chronic illnesses that sprung from her years of liver disease and remained even after her transplant, she believed she was very blessed by God and made it clear that Jesus was her very best friend and Savior. So, she continued to serve Him faithfully in various ways. She served as first grade Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church for many years until the very week of the stroke that disabled her on October 10th. Pam was kind and caring to everyone she met, but had the toughness, courage, determination, and fierceness about her that served her well as she pushed on to live a productive life despite her health challenges.

She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother who loved taking care of her family. She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Barry Don Cooper of Shelbyville, a son, Terry Don Cooper, of Wartrace, and a daughter Arenda Jane Groves of Madisonville, KY. She has a brother, Michael (Carla) Renegar of Prattville, AL, a sister Jackie Renegar Tune of Brentwood, TN, and a sister Gloria (Keith) Ensey of Christiana, TN. Grandchildren include Alexandra Jane Downey and David Blake Downey of Madisonville, KY, Delaney Ann Cooper of Tullahoma, and Maddox Don Cooper of Wartrace. She also has a brother-in-law Gary (Terri) Cooper of Nashville. She is also blessed with many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In addition to her parents, she is pre-deceased by her grandparents, Milton and Jennie Renegar and Jack and Gladys Snoddy.

In lieu of flowers, Pam would be honored by a memorial contribution to the First Choice Pregnancy Center Unborn Memorial fund at 1102 Madison Street in Shelbyville, or to the Cooper Christian Academy Building Fund at PO Box 6, Shelbyville, TN 37162.

Honorary pallbearers include staff, volunteers, board members, and clients of First Choice Pregnancy Counseling Center.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.



William Clyde Farris

William Clyde "WC" Farris, age 94, of Shelbyville, passed from this life Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at home surrounded by his family.

William was born June 2, 1929, in Winchester to the late Clarence Farris and Annie Mae Clark Farris. Along with his parents he was preceded in death by: 1st wife of 46 years, Patricia Evelyn McDonald Farris; siblings, Imogene Neal, Jack Farris, Helen McCallie, Daniel Farris, John Robert Farris, Carl Farris; daughter-in-law, Patricia Warren Farris.

WC was a graduate of Winchester High School class of 1947 and received an associate degree in agriculture from the University of TN. He served honorably in the U.S. Air Force. He retired from AEDC after 22 years of employment and in his free time he was primarily a farmer; having raised beef cattle and dairy cows, he also owned and operated Farris Volunteer Nursery for 26 years, where he raised trees and shrubs. He was an avid outdoorsman; he enjoyed all types of hunting and fishing. He loved his family and time that he spent with them.

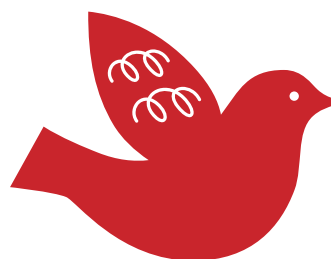
He was a Mason and the oldest living member of the Masonic Lodge 122, grading out as 32nd degree Master. He was also a member of First Baptist Church of Decherd and in his younger years he was a member of the Arnold Air Force Base rifle team.

Survivors include: 2nd wife, Patricia Jane Farris, children, William C. (Shirley) Farris of Decatur, AL, Sandy (Leon) Davis, Randy Farris, Leisa Farris, David Lee Farris, Cecelia (Steven) Flippo, and Brian (Julie) Farris all of Shelbyville; 16 grandchildren, 30 great grandchildren with one on the way, and 12 great great grandchildren; and siblings, Stella Farris Riben of Estill Springs, and David C. (Kelsey) Farris of Belvidere; along with a host of nephews and nieces.

Per WC's request, a private graveside service will be held Friday, December 15, 2023, at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital @ www.stjude.org or by mail, 501 St. Jude PL Memphis, TN 38105-9959.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.



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ACCESSIBILITY SOLUTIONS

Urban-Community forestry grants available

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry is providing funding through the Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grant Program to promote the creation, enhancement, and protection of urban and community forest ecosystems in disadvantaged communities.

"This grant program provides funding to invest in our state's urban and community forests, in disadvantaged communities with low tree canopy," State Forester David Arnold said. "Trees, forests, and green spaces provide a multitude of health, economic, and environmental benefits such as protecting our creeks and streams, providing wildlife habitat, removing pollution from air, providing buffers from sound and wind, improving mental and physical health, and increasing property values."

Local governments, non-profits, and public higher educational institutions are eligible for program funding. Awards range from \$10,000 to \$225,000 for approved projects.

Projects must focus exclusively on disadvantaged communities identified by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool.

Funding may be used to support new initiatives, programs, projects, staff positions, or activities focused on urban and community forestry management, tree planting, program development or capacity building, urban and community wood utilization, and/or workforce development.

Project proposals must be submitted through the grant portal by 5 p.m. CT on Feb. 2, 2024 at tinforesstry.submittable.com/submit.

To receive assistance during proposal development, email Urban and Community Forestry Program Coordinator Ashley Kite-Rowland at ashley.kite-rowland@tn.gov.

For more information on this grant opportunity, visit: www.tn.gov/agriculture/forests/urban/funding.html.

The Division of Forestry protects and promotes the responsible use of forest resources in Tennessee. Focus areas include assisting landowners with a variety of services, providing quality tree seedlings, supporting forest health programs, collecting forest inventory data, assisting forest industries, and fighting wildland fires. Visit www.tn.gov/agriculture/forests for more information.



COURTHOUSE VISIT - To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, members of the Shelby Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution National Headquarters held a tea in the State Room of the historic Bedford County Courthouse, and were treated to a courthouse tour by county archivist Carol Roberts. Betty Brown is regent of the local chapter. Roberts conducts frequent tours of the courthouse; for more information, contact the archives at 931-735-6916 or archives@bedfordcountytg.gov



NO LANE CLOSURES

"As always, please wear your seatbelt, reduce your speed, avoid distractions, and move over for emergency vehicles."

Except for a few long-term closures that must remain for safety, all construction-related closures will be suspended during the holiday period. Workers

may still be on-site in some construction zones. Drivers should obey all posted speed limits, particularly in construction areas. Slower speeds are necessary in work zones due to the temporary layout of the roadway and will be enforced. Drivers convicted of speeding through work zones where workers are

present face a fine of \$250 to \$500, plus court fees and possibly increased insurance premiums.

Get the latest construction activity and live streaming SmartWay traffic cameras from your desktop or mobile device at www.TNSmartWay.com/Traffic. Travelers can also dial 511 for statewide travel information.

As always, drivers are reminded to use all motorist information tools wisely and Know Before You Go! by checking travel conditions before leaving for their destination. Drivers should never tweet, text, or talk on a cell phone while behind the wheel.

From page 1



POWER UP FROM ANYWHERE

DURACELL® M150 Portable Power Station

From Duracell, the #1 trusted battery brand, the M150 Portable Power Station enables you to work and have fun from anywhere – the kitchen table, the couch, the porch, airplanes, tailgates, coffee shops or wherever else you'd like.



ONLY \$199

Give the gift of portable power to friends and family this holiday season!*



portablepower.info/offer163

When fully charged, the M150 provides:

Laptop	Phone	Tablet
1 Charge	6 Charges	3 Charges
Earbuds	Smartwatch	Drone
50 Charges	50 Charges	4 Charges

Attractive and clutter-free, the M150 Portable Power Station features a tiltable device holder with integrated storage compartment, dimmable ring light, sleek charging dock, and 150 watts of portable power for phones, laptops, tablets and many other electronic devices to offer the flexibility and portability needed wherever life takes you!



*Order by December 15th for Christmas delivery. Battery purchase does not include phone.

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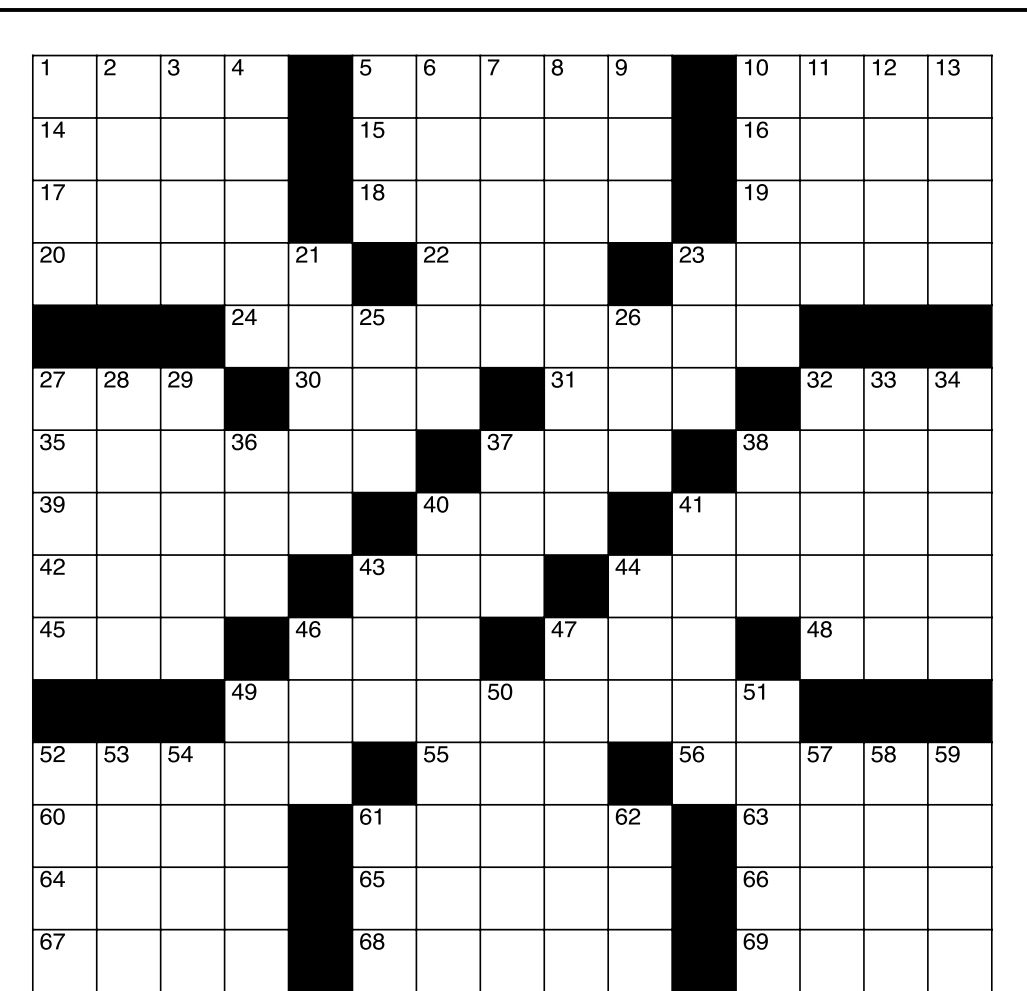
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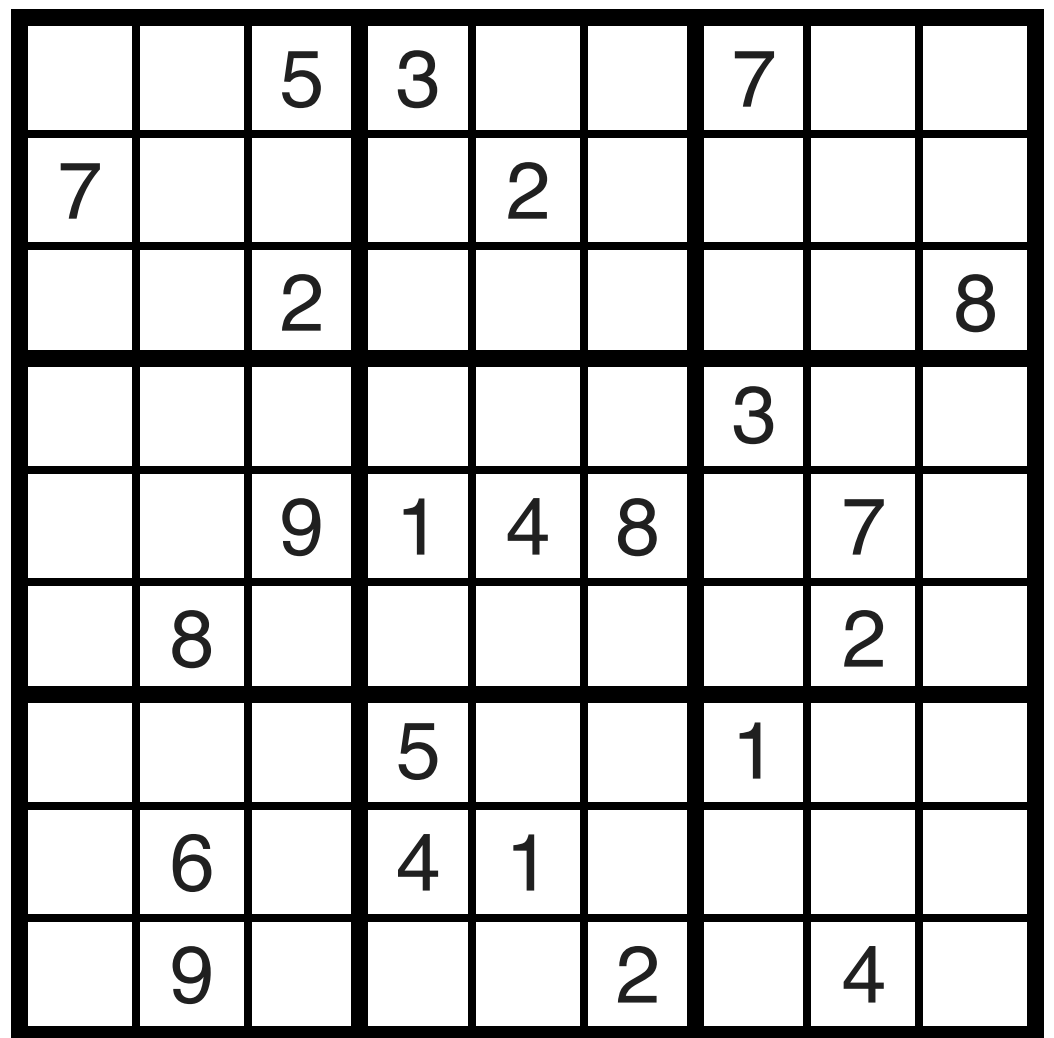


CLUES ACROSS

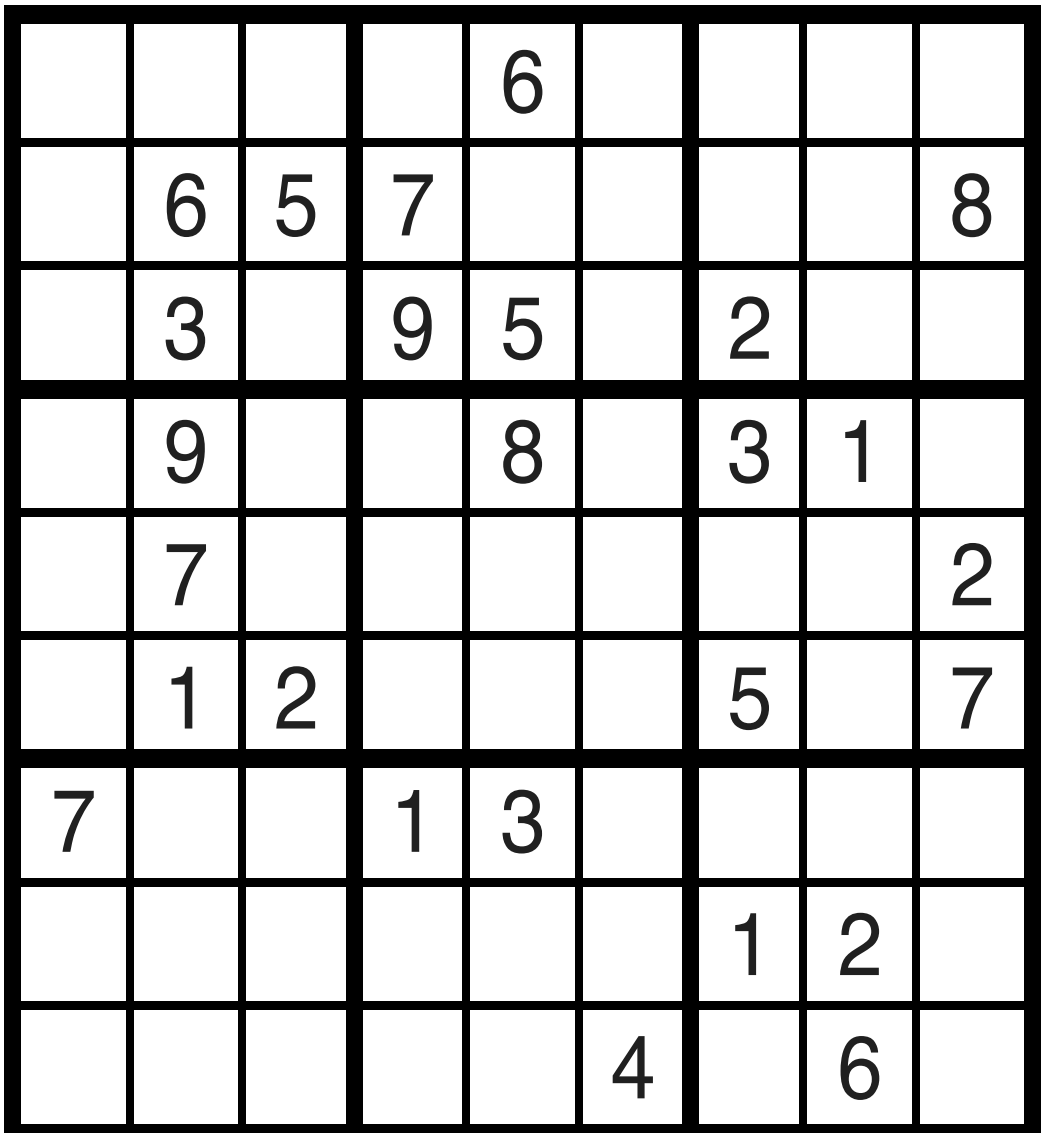
- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Droops | 40. Partner to cheese |
| 5. Subatomic particle | 41. Type of sword |
| 10. Not in danger | 42. Enough (archaic) |
| 14. Nursemaid | 43. Surface layer of ground |
| 15. Black band worn in mourning | 44. Cotton fabric woven like satin |
| 16. Long song in opera | 45. Choose for a post |
| 17. Edible seed of a Philippine tree | 46. Father |
| 18. Chicago political family | 47. Tell on |
| 19. Pursues pleasure from one place to another | 48. Indian title of respect |
| 20. Appetizer | 49. Fonts |
| 22. Hill (Celtic) | 52. Fencing sword |
| 23. Simple shoe | 55. Mock |
| 24. Songs to one you love | 56. Vaccine developer |
| 27. Secret activities | 60. Atmosphere surrounding a person or place |
| 30. Upset | 61. Marten with a short tail |
| 31. Popular hot drink | 63. Chinese temple |
| 32. Body art (slang) | 64. Invests in little enterprises |
| 35. Fired | 65. Popular cut of meat |
| 37. Blood relation | 66. Charity |
| 38. Identical | 67. Iron-containing compound |
| 39. Porticos | 68. River in Northern Europe |
| | 69. One point east of southeast |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Exhausts | 33. Escort aircraft carrier |
| 2. Genus of fish related to gars | 34. Italian city |
| 3. Impudent behavior | 36. Mythical settler of Kansas |
| 4. Adherents to Islam | 37. Unhappy |
| 5. They come after A | 38. High schoolers' test |
| 6. Spoke | 40. Measured in pace |
| 7. Room to receive guests | 41. Satisfies |
| 8. About opera | 43. Gullible person |
| 9. End-blown flute | 44. Enclosed space |
| 10. Heroic tales | 46. Substance used to color something |
| 11. Member of a Semitic people | 47. Shirt type |
| 12. Dog's name | 49. Discover by investigation |
| 13. Opposite of west | 50. ___-Castell, makers of pens |
| 21. Political divisions in ancient Greece | 51. Semitic Sun god |
| 23. Ocean | 52. Grads wear one |
| 25. Cool! | 53. French river |
| 26. Young woman about to enter society | 54. Part of a cap |
| 27. One from central Caucasus | 57. Digestive fluid |
| 28. Indian city | 58. Metrical foot |
| 29. A way to serve ice cream | 59. Body part |
| 32. Emaciation | 61. Very fast airplane |
| | 62. Supplement with difficulty |



Level: Advanced



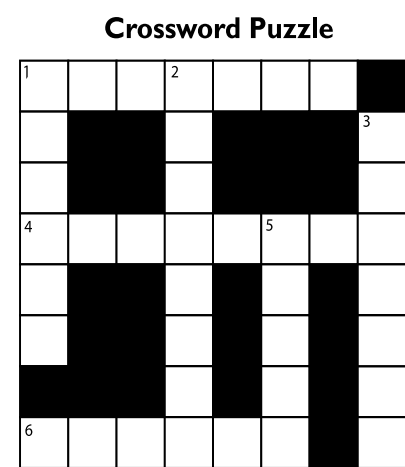
Level: Intermediate



Solve the code to discover words related to entertaining. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 21 = S)

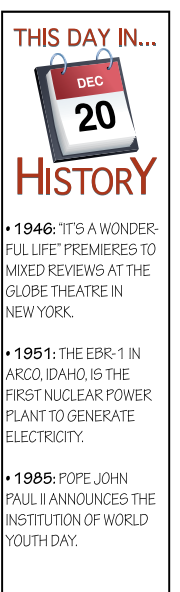
- A. 3 10 21 26 6 21 21**
Clue: One who entertains
- B. 6 12 26 6 9 26 16 17 12**
Clue: Have people over
- C. 15 11 6 21 26 21**
Clue: Company
- D. 25 6 12 11**
Clue: Planned foods

Answers: A. hostess B. entertain C. guests D. menu



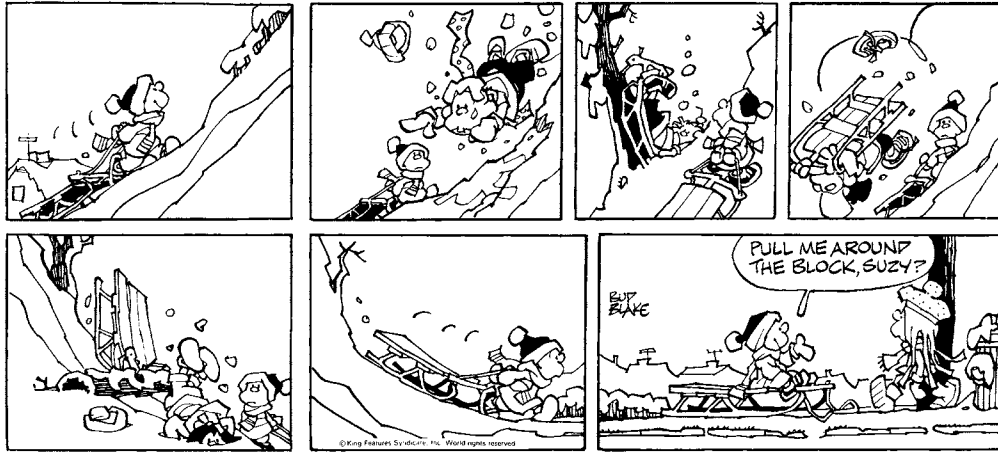
- ACROSS**
1. Afraid
4. One who mimics
6. Jump on
- DOWN**
1. Cat
2. Hold back
3. Vibrating sound
5. Test flavor

- Answers:**
Across: 1. Fearful 4. Imitator 6. Pounce
Down: 1. Feline 2. Restrain 3. Purring 5. Taste



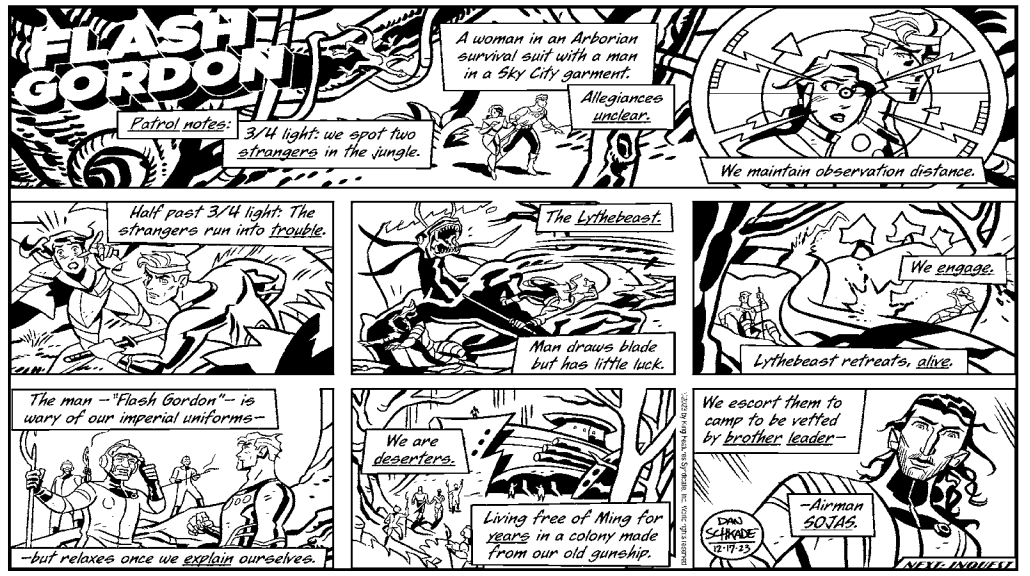
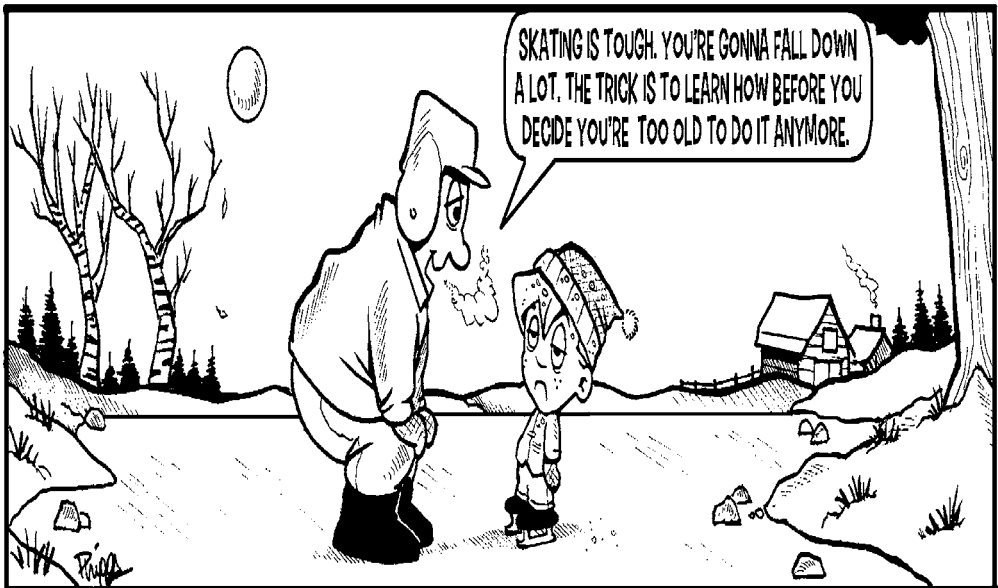
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



King Crossword

ACROSS

- Tivo precursor
- Wide
- America's uncle
- Consume
- Heart line
- La-la lead-in
- Gym machine
- And so on (Abbr.)
- Nabokov novel
- Bowling lanes
- Packs tightly
- Go yachting
- Yale grad
- Author Umberto
- Aegean island
- Building wings
- Farm female
- Steakhouse order
- Rice recipe
- PC key
- Chaney of horror films
- First lady of scat
- Bistro furniture
- Telepathic
- Sushi choice
- Hostel
- Heavy burden
- Memo letters
- Deadly virus
- Schlep
- Air safety org.
- Philly hoopster
- Director Lee
- Animal doc
- Train unit
- Hwy.
- Villain
- Woo
- "... - quit!"
- World record?
- Texas city
- Sheet metal producer
- Bohemian
- Apple computers
- Small batteries
- Tale teller
- Army transport
- "That's - need to know"
- 1,000-year spans
- Have debts
- Bassoon's kin
- Taxpayer IDs
- Pretzel topper
- Getty of "The Golden Girls"
- Fireplace flickerers
- Salad type
- Suspect's excuse
- Crunchy sandwich
- Peeve
- "May It Be" singer
- Banger topper
- Slangy suffix
- Sister
- Silly Putty container

DOWN

- Animal doc
- Train unit
- Hwy.
- Villain
- Woo
- "... - quit!"
- World record?
- Texas city
- Sheet metal producer
- Bohemian
- Apple computers
- Small batteries
- Tale teller
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- "May It Be" singer
- Banger topper
- Slangy suffix
- Sister
- Silly Putty container

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. Canoe oar	A	Small pool of water	U
2. Runner's pathway	K	Vanish without a	E
3. Judge's workplace	R	Dracula's title	N
4. L.A. ballplayer	D	Hotel guest	L
5. Make amends	T	By oneself	L
6. On the ___ hand	H	Playful mammal	T
7. Fast trot	P	4 quarts	N
8. Burst of light	H	Small canteen	K
9. Fry lightly	T	Gravy	C
10. Reykjavik's country	C	Land of shamrocks	R

Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

See This Week's Answers In Next Week's Edition

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

N	O	N	O	S	E	M	S	B	O	N	S
V	A	L	L	A	V	V	V	L	V	V	L
P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A
H	S	H	S	H	S	H	S	H	S	H	S
T	I	S	O	R	E	T	I	S	O	R	E
B	O	B	A	I	L	L	A	V	V	L	V
A	S	A	F	I	P	A	N	R	O	O	F
T	U	R	N	P	A	N	R	O	O	F	T
G	E	L	L	O	G	E	L	L	O	G	E
E	T	E	H	E	L	L	O	G	E	L	L
G	I	F	T	S	O	P	O	P	O	P	O
A	M	I	S	T	O	O	L	S	L	E	
P	O	L	E	C	O	G	O	B	A	S	

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Even Exchange

1. Paper, Paper	6. Goggle, Goggle
2. Locker, Locker	7. Child, Child
3. Watch, Watch	8. Nancy, Nancy
4. Ranger, Ranger	9. Martin, Martin
5. Wild, Wild	10. Squash, Squash

STICKELLERS by Terry Stickels

Below are three views of the same cube.

If you were to unfold the cube and lay it flat on a table, how would the remaining faces appear on the layout below?

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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!

Clutch
SCALP

Loose
LACKS

Burden
INSTAR

Urge
CLOMPE

TODAY'S WORD

"I bought it as a conversation piece, my husband hasn't _____ with me since!"

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: I equals S

VLJ DYM WNIG UNOTI VLN
DPPNGDGM ANNTI HPIHFPHUHSDPG?
AMSDBIM GLMHY VNYT HI BIBDOOJ
WDYFHPDO.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

THIS IS FOR YOU. MY WIFE PICKED IT OUT FOR YOU GUYS. NO IDEA WHAT IT IS, BUT MERRY CHRISTMAS AND DON'T BLAME ME.

GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner

"I'll introduce you after the bowl games."

Sticklers Answer

1. (c) Nepal
2. (b) 4.0 inches
3. (b) fleas

SCRAMBLERS

MISLETOE

Today's Word
1. Remand 2. Intend;
3. Lodge; 4. Attest

CryptoQuip

When you always get the uncontrollable urge to climb mountains, I'd say you're drawn to scale.

MISC.

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YOUR LOW COST ADVERTISING SOLUTION! One call & your 25 word ad will appear in 99 Tennessee newspapers for \$275/wk or 27 West TN newspapers for \$100/wk. Call this newspaper's classified advertising dept. or go to www.tnpress.com/newspaper-networks (TnScan)

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DURACELL. THE #1 TRUSTED BATTERY brand now offering the M150 Portable Power Station. When fully charged the M150 provides enough power to charge all your devices laptops, phones, tablets, earbuds and more for work and fun. Give the gift of portable power this holiday season. Only \$199. Go to portablepower.info/138 (TnScan)

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ANTENNAS. SAVE BIG! FREE LOCAL channels on antennas or a 3 year price guarantee on pay tv. Call or come by Beasley Antenna & Satellite, 3000 E. Wood St., Paris, 731-642-4077.

AUCTIONS

GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT your next auction! Save Time & \$\$\$\$. One Call for All. Your ad can appear in this newspaper + 98 other TN newspapers. For more info, contact this newspaper's classified dept. or call Becky Moats 931-624-8916. (TnScan)

Puzzle Solutions

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

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

S	A	G	S		B	O	S	O	N		S	A	F	E
A	M	A	H		C	R	A	P	E		A	R	I	A
P	I	L	I		D	A	L	E	Y		G	A	D	S
S	A	L	A	D		T	O	R		S	A	B	O	T
			S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	S			
O	P	S		M	A	D		T	E	A		T	A	T
S	A	C	K	E	D		S	I	B		S	A	M	E
S	T	O	A	S		M	A	C		S	A	B	E	R
E	N	O	W		S	O	D		S	A	T	E	E	N
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			T	Y	P	E	F	A	C	E	S			
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A	U	R	A		S	A	B	L	E		M	I	A	O
S	B	I	C		S	T	E	A	K		A	L	M	S
H	E	M	E		T	O	R	N	E		S	E	B	E



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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:

- 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

Shelbyville
TIMES-GAZETTE

ADVERTISING SALES

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Job Description:
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Shelbyville
TIMES-GAZETTE

SPORTS

The Grizzlies Just Got Ja Morant Back... What Now?

By NOAH MADDOX
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Ja Morant returned from a 25-game league-sanctioned suspension on Tuesday night on the road against the New Orleans Pelicans in a 115-113 comeback win where he led the team with 34 points.

Morant made his season debut for the Grizzlies, but his presence was greatly missed as they opened the year at 6-19 in his absence after Memphis finished with the second-best record in the NBA's Western Conference last season.

The bad record is despite Desmond Bane and Jaren Jackson Jr. both taking yet another offensive leap forward to start the year. Jackson Jr. has especially been on fire recently, averaging 27.6 points per game with two blocks through the first seven games of December, including back-to-back 40-plus point games, while Desmond Bane is basically averaging 25.5-5 on pretty good shooting splits (47% FG, 38% 3PT). The Grizzlies' problems this year are not with two-thirds of their Big Three. It is partially due to Morant missing that many games, sure, but the biggest reason is Memphis' roster construction around the top three guys.

Injuries to key pieces have played a huge part in this slow start, but some of the roster problems are also self-inflicted. Steven Adams underwent season-ending knee surgery before the first regular season game was even played, an injury he had been dealing with ever since he was

See MORANT, 10A



Shelbyville Central Football Honored at BCS Board Meeting

Shelbyville Central Football was recognized for an incredible 2023 campaign both on and off the field last Thursday night.

The Golden Eagles won 10 games for the first time since 2019, won the Class 5A Region 5 title, and made it to the second round of the playoffs where unfortunately their season was cut short in a 20-14 home against Centennial.

Shelbyville Central principal Charlie Pope, head coach Jud Dryden, and senior leader Ean Matussek were on hand at the Bedford County Schools board meeting to make the presentation.

"When we hired Dryden [in 2022] we were looking for a high character guy," Pope said, "Wins and losses ebb and flow."

Dryden has certainly been the type of high character hire that Central was looking for. After coming on staff before the 2020 season as a defensive coordinator, Dryden was promoted to head coach in June of 2022. In their final year of 6A ball, the team went 1-10, but both



Dryden and Pope stayed the course, knowing that the next round of school reclassifications were coming.

The Golden Eagles did a complete 180 for 2023, and after losing their season opener to 6A Siegel in a shootout, they went on a

10-game winning streak, finishing the regular season at 9-1 (6-0), capturing the Region 5-AAAAA title.

However, as Pope made clear in his remarks, off the field success was just as important.

"These guys have put in well over 1,200 community service hours as a team this year," Coach Dryden said, "It goes back to the heart of who we want to be as a group."

The service hours include hours through Cooper Steel, helping park cars, working with SACP, and much more.

Senior Ean Matussek, in his second year on the football program's leadership council, was on hand to show off the gold region champs plaque and to present a game ball to a special member of the school board.

"One day I'm going out to the field to start cleaning up to get ready for the upcoming Friday night," Dryden said, "and when I got there, someone was driving around picking up trash all by themselves."

That "someone" was Barton Williams, the voice of the Golden Eagles on Shelbyville's station, WLJ 98.7, and a member of the school board for District 7. After Dryden thanked Williams, Matussek walked over to hand him what looked like a used football.

"This game ball is the one used to score the final touchdown vs Hillsboro [in first round of the playoffs], and it's signed by every member of the graduating senior class," Dryden said, unable to hold back a massive smile.

Shelbyville Central beat Hillsboro 41-7 in that first round matchup, and Williams was noticeably moved by the benevolent gesture.

"This is something you put up in your office," Williams said as he professed his gratefulness to Matussek, Dryden, and Pope, thanking them profusely.

It was a touching moment to close the presentation, and some fellow board members even chimed in to thank Dryden for the great work he has done as he prepares to enter his third season at the helm of the Shelbyville Central football program.

Bedford County Basketball Weekly Roundup

The Cascade Champions and Lady Champions are both playing four games in four days this week. We will have the three midweek tournament results from Gatlinburg in next week's edition for each program, but we are able to print the first game (at 4A Jefferson County) in this weeks edition.

Shelbyville Central Girls: 8-2 (0-0)

Upcoming Game(s): OFF WEEK.

Past week result(s): 12/18 43-36 W @ Siegel and 12/15 48-27 W vs Centennial.

Shelbyville Central Boys: 3-6 (0-0)

Upcoming Game(s): 12/22 vs Blackman at 11 a.m. live on WLJ 98.7.

Past week result(s): 12/18 68-40 L @ Siegel and 12/15 73-47 L vs Centennial.

Cascade Girls: 4-7 (0-0)

Upcoming Game(s): Smoky Mountain Christmas Classic 12/20 through 12/22.

Past week result(s): 12/19 73-46 L @ Jefferson County and 12/15 56-18 L v in s Moore County.

Cascade Boys: 4-7 (0-0)

Upcoming Game(s): Smoky Mountain Christmas Classic 12/20 through 12/22.

Past week result(s): 12/19 44-41 L @ Jefferson County and 12/15 69-41 W vs Moore County.

Community Girls: 3-10 (0-0)

Upcoming Game(s): 12/21 vs Huntland.

Past week result(s): 12/19 49-39 L vs Eagleville, 12/15 51-38 L vs Macon County, and 12/14 45-32 L @ Murfreesboro Central Magnet.

Community Boys: 5-9 (0-0)

Upcoming Game(s): 12/21 vs Huntland.

Past week result(s): 12/19 77-46 L vs Eagleville, 12/18 65-57 W vs East Hickman, 12/15 51-49 W vs Macon County, and 12/14 60-54 L @ Murfreesboro Central

Nashville Predators and Compassion International Unite to Tackle Childhood Hunger

In a remarkable collaboration, the Nashville Predators Foundation, in part fueled by SmileDirectClub, has partnered with Compassion International to launch the "Fill the Arena" campaign. This ambitious initiative seeks to provide meals for 17,159 children, reflecting the number of seats in Bridgestone Arena.

"No child, no matter where they live, should have to face hunger and malnutrition," says Santiago "Jimmy" Mellado, CEO and President of Compassion International. "Every seat in the Bridgestone Arena represents a child in need, and every meal provided will give children a real chance to thrive."

The alarming reality is that, over the past two years, food insecurity has doubled, affecting 276 million people globally. Shockingly, 22% of children under five experienced stunted development from malnutrition in 2021, with 50 million people worldwide on the brink of starvation.

The Fill the Arena initiative serves as a rallying cry for the Nashville community and beyond to address the needs of these children — a symbol of hope amid a growing crisis. The involvement of sports icons, including past and present Predators players like Mike Fisher, Ryan Johansen, and Roman Josi, as well as country music star Chase Rice and others, adds a powerful touch to the campaign.

"Big changes often start with small things that move one person into action," notes Mellado. "Every athlete and artist partnering with Fill the Arena is committed to answering the call to help vulnerable children around the world."

Mike Fisher, a driving force behind the initiative, emphasizes the global scope of the hunger crisis. "We are facing a global hunger crisis. Fill the Arena is Nashville's answer to the global food crisis, both across the globe and here in our own backyard. We are extremely passionate about filling every seat in this arena and are confident that people will step up and help us Fill the Arena!"

To engage the community and raise awareness, Bridgestone Arena hosted a Fill the Arena activation

night on Saturday, December 16. Fans had the opportunity to learn more about the initiative and contribute to the cause during the game. The initiative's website, "Fill the Arena," serves as a hub for information on this crucial effort and provides a platform for individuals to join the triumphant team effort.

"This is not just a sports initiative; it's a movement," says Ryan Johansen, Predators center. "Our goal is to make a meaningful impact, not only in our community but globally. Every filled seat in the arena represents a child's future that can be transformed through a simple act of compassion and generosity."

The collaboration between the Nashville Predators Foundation and Compassion International extends beyond Fill the Arena. Compassion International previously partnered with professional athletes in the Fill the Stadium campaign, responding to the food shortages caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The campaign raised over \$36 million, providing life-saving food and support to 76,473 children globally.

Founded in 1952, Compassion International is a Christian child development organization committed to releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name. Working exclusively with the Church, Compassion addresses spiritual, economic, social, and physical poverty. With partnerships in 25 countries and collaboration with over 8,000 churches, Compassion's holistic child development program reaches over 2 million babies, children, and young adults. Independent, empirical research validates the effectiveness of its child sponsorship program.

In a world where unity and compassion are needed more than ever, the Fill the Arena initiative stands as a testament to the power of collective action. The Nashville Predators Foundation, Compassion International, and a team of dedicated athletes and artists invite the community to be a part of this meaningful endeavor — where every filled seat represents a child's hope for a better, nourished future.

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Self-less Affection

Among several things in society that “get on my last nerve,” it is probably the self-indulgent “selfies” spread all over Facebook, daily. It worries me that so much of our self-esteem rests on the opinion of social media.

I’m not talking about pictures of our families and events. I love those.

I’m talking about how people use filters and tons of makeup and editing tricks to express themselves as acceptable to society. Sadly, many of our teens have picked up on this act of expression. For some, it goes very deep within their souls.

Some teens, having felt rejected as a result, often commit suicide. It is a serious thing, here.

A contemporary Christian artist’s video was recently aimed at deflating the need for young people to be so narcissistic. Call it what you want. Good for them.

Here’s the thing; you don’t need such affirmation from society that you look good. God knows your heart. If

you love Him, give your life to Him, he is there for you, forever.

That statement truly is not just a cliché. Godly love really is all that matters while we walk on this earth.

On the 4th Sunday of Advent, we express our LOVE for the greatest One of All-Jesus Christ.

For those dealing with issues of low self-esteem and low self-worth, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and its worship readings and music, can truly show you life in a new light.

Most churches light a white candle-The Christ Candle. Some families will light candles at home to explain Advent to their children.

As I’ve said before, lighting of the Christ Candle is likely my favorite part of Christmas worship traditions. Knowing Christ is the Light of the World is truly life-changing.

More than just wax and decoration, this last week of Advent demonstrates how Jesus is our true example of



JOY-FUL SCENES - Gregory Mill Road residents are getting into the spirit of the holiday season with home Christmas decor.

love. He accepts us just as we are, sin and all.

Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary to teach us to love God and others. The Messiah’s ministry was fairly simple but contained, in just a few short years, everything which is meaningful to us

in life.

Isaiah 43:4 speaks to God’s love for humanity and how He values each and every one of us.

Isn’t that a wonderful feeling, right here, at Christmas time-to know you’ll always be loved by The Father.

This verse in Isaiah speaks to the eternal nature of God’s love for us. It is more permanent than the mountains and the hills, the Lord says.

Isaiah 54:10 (NIV) “For the mountains may depart and the hills be re-

moved, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

Shelbyville native, artisan, hosts Christmas event

Showcases handmade Christmas trees

Shelbyville native and artisan, Venita McGee, recently displayed her handmade, vintage-inspired, tabletop Christmas trees at a special “Friends & Family” event in Lynchburg, where she makes her home.

Everyone was invited to stop, shop and visit from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday at the Moore County Building at 241 Main St. #201, just off the historic Lynchburg square.

Free refreshments were served. Also, event attendees were invited to bring ribbon for holiday decorating. Free bow-making was offered for attendees.

For more than 10 years, McGee has made the intricate trees in her home on her farm in Bedford and Moore Counties. The treasures have been shipped across the country and sold at various craft shows and exhibits

in the area.

McGee, age 82, is a 1959 graduate of Shelbyville Central High School. She retired in 2003 after a 41-year career in administration at Empire Pencil Company (now Sanford.) Farming and staying in touch with her friends occupy most of her time, but, as the holidays approach, she can be found in her home workshop, making these one-of-a-kind trees.

The trees include a variety of vintage, contemporary and vintage-inspired ornaments along with a selection of vintage and antique jewelry, in addition to her signature timepiece. She carefully weaves a vintage watch among the ornaments, emphasizing the timeless nature of each piece.

“Each tree is different, and every tree is a labor of love,” McGee said. “Whether it’s a custom order or a theme I



Photos courtesy of Venita McGee

For more than 10 years, Venita McGee has made the intricate trees in her home on her farm in Bedford and Moore Counties.

developed on my own, I put a lot of hours into making them special with hopes that they’ll find a special place in the homes and hearts of others.”

McGee’s trees, both electric and battery-powered, range in height from 12 to

22 inches. Saturday’s event featured 25 of her trees. She also showcased several of her custom wreaths which are 12 to 24 inches in diameter.

“Cold weather prevented me from participating in the only Lynchburg show I had

this year, and I was so looking forward to seeing everyone who planned to attend,” McGee said. “We decided to host a Friends and Family event in Lynchburg, and offer everyone a very special, one-time-only, price.”



MORANT

From page 9

sidelined in early February after diving for a loose ball. Brandon Clarke also tore his Achilles tendon in February, leaving a massive hole in the Grizzlies front court that directly led to their downfall in the playoffs. The problem many Grizz fans have is not with the injuries, however, but with the front office’s lack of initiative to address the issue knowing that both guys were highly unlikely to play any minutes this season. Instead, the problem was never addressed, and it shined a bright spotlight on the other deficiencies the team has.

The Memphis Grizzlies are 30th in the NBA in scoring as a team with 106.6 points per game. In the NBA there are only 30 teams, not 32 like the NFL, so in case it hasn’t already been made clear, Memphis has the worst offense in the entire league without Ja Morant. Bringing back a borderline Top-10 player in the league is sure to help that number go up, but it doesn’t address the desperate need for a couple (at least one) 3-and-D wings that can actually make

three. Memphis is shooting a staggering 33.2% from downtown so far this season, and it is not hard to see why once you start watching them. Weird rotations, injuries, offensive playstyle, and downright lack of offensive talent from many of the role players, most of whom are either in their second or third year, all have played a part in the Grizz being almost ten games out of a play-in game spot.

So...what now? Where does Memphis go from here? First off, I think that they will let the next couple months play out before the trade deadline. Getting your superstar back in the fold and playing with your other two emerging stars while searching the trade market to add some wing and/or big help seems like a logical first step. Addressing the coaching staff, despite most Grizzlies fans wanting head coach Taylor Jenkins fired, most likely won’t happen this season unless the current on-court trajectory is maintained with Morant returning.

Memphis, despite all the personnel problems, has

maintained a Top-10 defense in the NBA, thanks in large part to both the play of reigning Defensive Player of the Year Jaren Jackson Jr., and a gem of a find in the 2022 NBA Draft in 64 wing defender Vince Williams Jr. Vince has been a rare godsend, filling in very nicely for Dillon Brooks defensively since he started seeing action after the first couple weeks. Once Ja and the team figure out how everyone’s role adjusts with him coming back and players like Marcus Smart and Luke Kennard finally return from injury, this Grizzlies team should be a lot better. More importantly, they should be a lot more fun and exciting to watch as the three main stars continue to grow together all while maintaining an extremely bright future for years to come. Memphis has dug themselves into a pretty deep hole, which is only compounded by the seemingly endless injuries, but if any team can go on a run to get back into the playoff hunt, this team, health permitting of course, can do it.

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