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His efforts to effect social justice for African Americans and people everywhere continue to inspire hope, change and progress in America and around the world. Today we honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for his achievements, his vision and his indelible impact on our nation.

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January 15, 2024

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Thursday, January 11, 2024

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Property assessor give Commission staggering report

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

Bedford County Property Assessor Ronda Clanton informed County Commissioners Tuesday evening about just how much Bedford County loses financially within the process of the state's assessment rules and current ratios.

According to the state comptroller's office the Basic Principle of Appraisal Ratio: Measuring the relationship between Appraised Value and Market Value. On the appraisal date, January 1 of the year of reappraisal, market and

appraised values, should be similar. As time passes between reappraisals, the disparity between these values may increase. This disparity is what creates an appraisal ratio. The appraised value divided by the sale price produces the appraisal ratio.

Clanton said during the monthly meeting that her office is busy, noting schedules are out for personal properties, which is around 2,000 accounts. "Our mapping is overwhelming with all the subdivisions and the splits."

There were several appeals, mostly for commercial properties. She said most have been

withdrawn, to date.

The majority of her report was

'Personal property is a thorn in my side but it is the law. And we administer it in my office and we do it.'

Ronda Clanton, Bedford County property assessor.

about how the County is "very under value" on all homes and parcels. "Our last appraisal was

See **PROPERTY, 2A**



Bedford County Property Assessor Ronda Clanton addresses the Bedford County Commission Tuesday evening.

MEMORIES, OUT OF THE ASHES

Benefit Saturday for Lynch family

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

Bedford County native Stephen Lynch says he recently found something surreal beneath the ashes of his burned home. Within a bunch of wet T-shirts was his 9th grade yearbook from Community High School.

The Lynch home, which is located on Cedar Grove Road near Highway 270, burned on Tuesday, Dec. 12. The incident resulted in a total loss.

The surreal thing, Lynch notes, was that when he opened the charred yearbook, his freshman class picture, headband and all, unfolded in front of him. He says 9th grade was actually his last year of high school.

"It was burnt all way round and when I opened it, that's what pops up," says Lynch. "Everything else in the house is gone . . . yearbook opens up to that page."

Perhaps there's a message from those charred memories, he surmises. Or, perhaps it was a sign for him to be as brave and strong as he was as a local teen?

Perhaps, he says, he's been given a message not to be so hard-headed, as in his youth.

He chuckles at the thought.

With a smile, he adds, "Rise up from the ashes, something better. I'm praying for a miracle."



Stephen Lynch and family lost their Cedar Grove Road home to fire on Dec. 12. It was a total loss for the family.

Neighbors and friends show love

See **BENEFIT, 3A**

District 1 has Duksan questions

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

Bedford County Commissioner Drew Hooper brought to the table during Tuesday's County Commission meeting some concerns his constituents have over the new Duksan Electera battery plant which will be operating soon off Highway 231 North.

Bedford County Economic Development leader Shane Hooper was the one Tuesday night who was presented with the questions arising out of District 1.

"Mr. Hooper, I know a couple of times, over the last year, I've asked you about a TDEC [report] for Duksan, where are we at on the status with that report?" the commissioner asked.



Hooper responded, "So in discussions with TDEC themselves, at the state level, Duksan has met all of the requirements. Those are federal requirements and state requirements."

Hooper said Duksan has a permit on file for air quality and for the grading and water. He said both of those are on

the TDEC website.

Commissioner Hooper asked, "When Duksan was coming around, was your group the primary recruiting group that recruited for Duksan?"

Hooper said when the industrial park was purchased by City and County, there was oversight by the 231 North In-

dustrial Park Board. He said there are two members from the City of Shelbyville and two members from Bedford County Government that serve on that board.

Hooper informed that three constituents have reached out to him about this project—one

See **QUESTIONS, 3A**

FAFSA applications available

Tennessee Promise
FAFSA deadline: May 15

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

January 8, 2024 – The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now available for Tennessee students, including recent changes to make it easier than ever to apply for financial aid to support a college education.

While the FAFSA typically launches in October on StudentAid.gov, this year the launch was delayed by the U.S. Department of Education due to program updates to improve online functionality. The Tennessee Promise FAFSA deadline has officially moved to May 15, 2024 to accommodate the late opening and to allow students extra time to complete the form.

"The FAFSA is now available for all Tennesseans" said James Snider, Director of Tennessee Promise at the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. "Now is the time to finalize your plan to pursue education after high school. We are hopeful that we will continue to lead the nation in our FAFSA Completion efforts."

An average of 350,000 Tennesseans complete the FAFSA each year. This crucial form is used to determine state and federal grants eligibility, as well as a requirement for the Tennessee Promise scholarship.

The revised FAFSA will be shorter for some families, with certain information automatically filled in based on tax returns along with changes in the formulas used for aid calculations. However, the delay in launching the FAFSA means that students can expect to receive their loan and scholarship packages later than usual, reducing the time available for evaluating competing offers before making enrollment decisions.

Here are some key takeaways for Tennessee students:

See **FAFSA, 2A**



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REPORT

2021," Clanton said. "We had a ratio come out last year. It came out at .6556—the lowest I've ever seen in 28 years."

She said there are other counties lower than that. "The ratio comes from what property is selling for and what it is appraised for," Clanton advised. "It is that difference." (Tenn. Code Ann. § 67-5-1606(a).)

The property assessor said her main point for the report was to let the Commission know that Bedford County has picked up \$127 million in construction. She said that may sound like a whole lot, and is, but when you put the assessment to it, and the tax rate, that's \$757,086 in taxes that are off."

She said "real property" is selling and changing hands. But she noted the County also has personal property, and that is property which gets appraised every year-market value property.

"It's the ratio applied to it . . . reduced by what the real property over here is doing, to keep everything fair and equitable," said Clanton.

On the personal property side, though the County gained \$750,000 in taxes, the property assessor's office shows that the County is losing \$763,900 to that ratio. We can't change it. The state comes in and does it."

She said the state will do another reappraisal next year. She said it could be lower, depending on sales.

"Even though we have a lot of new construction, and things going on, it hits our tax roll, but gets taken off too, with the personal property," she told Commissioners.

She said nothing can be done right now, unless reappraisals are done quicker. The County is currently on a 5-year appraisal schedule.

"It takes a lot of manpower to move to a 4 [year], but we don't have it. We would have to hire."

The state, she said, is wanting to go to a 2-year reappraisal which would do away with that annoying ratio. But they are going to have to adjust what we have to look at every year, because small counties cannot look at everything in 2 years."

The property assessor said the County is visually looking at over 6,000 parcels a year. That doesn't count all new construction. Clanton said she was in the field all day Monday, looking at a lot of property.

She said hopefully something can be done through the state legislature. She said the current ratio is "robbing the County." The property assessor said it is obviously concerning but it is part of the process.

Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham reiterated what Clanton was explain-

ing. He noted that with all the new construction that came on the books this year, if a \$400,000 house, under new construction, came on line, the County would only be taxing at \$100,000 of the value in the first place.

He said when a conversion is done on \$127 million, that only generates \$700,000 in new money. He said that's about 7 cents on the tax rate, if the penny is worth \$120,000. But because of the credit side on real property or personal property, the state is giving credit back and there's no real value back to services to schools, etc.

Clanton said she's never had a loss like this. She said every county in Tennessee has seen these kinds of ratios.

She said it is what people are paying. She doesn't see it stopping, maybe slowing down. She doesn't predict values changing, dropping much.

She said there was a listed property she was following priced at over \$1 million. She said it sold for \$999,009. The tax appraisal on that property would be about \$600,000, she said.

"We can't just go in there and change it, because it sold for that," Clanton advised. "That is a no-no. I will get a phone call from the state when I make changes like that."

She said legitimate changes would include a remodel to the house or addition onto the property to cause that change.

The mayor added, "So that individual that paid \$1 million for that house, is only paying property tax on a \$600,000 value? Correct?"

"Yes sir," she answered. The mayor said these are variables that make it difficult for the County to overcome rapid growth. He said other county mayors are concerned too.

"It's a great report . . . disheartening in some ways," said Graham, "especially if a property sold for a million. We ought to be able to at least assess it for what they gave for it. But under the current rate, not til the 5-year cycle, can we make any adjustments. Is that right?"

Clanton agreed. She said changes can be made once the new appraisal comes up, after 5 years, when her office sets new values, based on sales. But she said sometimes that million-dollar house may be \$800,000.

The property assessor invited commissioners to visit her office. She said there are so many rules which her office must follow.

Commissioner Greg Vick asked Clanton about how her office arrives at the formula and how the state directs those conclusions of that ratio. She said because real property here is selling high, personal property has



to be equalized to reflect what the market is doing on the "real side." She said the state applies a ratio of what real property is doing; they take real sales, good buyers and throw out any sales that are tainted and then they set the ratio.

"The personal property gets that ratio, because they're saying that they are at market value every year. I disagree with that because when you put your equipment on that schedule, it is being depreciated each year."

Clanton added, "Personal property is a thorn in my side but it is the law. And we administer it in my office and we do it."

The property assessor said there's probably 5 percent that bring in the biggest portion of the personal property. The rest, she said, are mom and pop shops who are trying to put food on the table and pay their bills.

"They're not Walmart. They're not Tyson. They're just trying to survive and they get hit with these taxes. But when you take this tax away, then we have to look to the property owners to pick this money up."

She said the process will never go away. "We're still back and forth in the legislature with it. The comptroller is aware of everything. He's the one pushing to go to a 2-year. Some counties will not be able to, because of the cost to get that reappraisal done."

Mayor Graham talked about commercial appeals. He explained a housing development that is built by a third party-one that gets federal tax credits to come into Bedford/Tennessee and build- is assessed at \$10 million and has \$4 million worth of tax credits; they don't want to pay tax on \$4 million of that \$10 million value. He said on top of that they've received that tax credit.

"It's mind boggling," said Clanton.

She revealed that she's

From page 1



Community High Criminal Justice-II seniors Paola Rivera Vicente and Ethan J. Larson will complete their FAFSA soon. Ethan plans to attend Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. Paola Rivera-Vicente plans to acquire her college degree from Austin Peay University in Clarksville.

FAFSA

From page 1

What's new this year?

The updated FAFSA is expected to be shorter for some individuals, with the U.S. Department of Education predicting that some may need to answer as few as 18 questions, taking less than 10 minutes.

Changes may require students to report information for spouses or stepparents not considered in previous years.

The elimination of the "sibling discount" in aid calculations may affect some families negatively, but others may see an increase in aid. The U.S. Department of Education estimates that an additional 610,000 students from low-income families nationwide will be eligible for federal Pell Grants.

How can students prepare?

To complete the FAFSA, students and contributors to their family income, including parents and spouses, should create online accounts at StudentAid.gov. Creating these accounts in advance is recommended to save time before completing the FAFSA.

Required information includes names, dates of birth, email addresses, and Social Security numbers for all parties filling out the FAFSA. Tax information should transfer automatically from the IRS with family consent; however, having tax returns, child support records, and current balances for cash, sav-

ings, and checking accounts ready is advisable. Families should also know the net worth of their investments and businesses.

A student starting classes in the fall of 2024 will fill out the 2024-2025 FAFSA form although aid calculations will be based on tax filings from 2022.

Families are cautioned to only submit the FAFSA through the official government website (StudentAid.gov) and never pay to submit the free form.

What aid will you get?

Students can share their information with up to 20 colleges and trade schools, an increase from previous years. Early submission is encouraged, as some schools have priority deadlines for grants and scholarships. The deadline to remain eligible for the Tennessee Promise scholarship is May 15, 2024.

After completing the FAFSA, students should expect communication from the schools they've applied to. However, due to late opening this year, any communications from campuses will be delayed until early February at the earliest. Families are warned against accepting unexpected offers of financial aid, as they could be scams. The U.S. Department of Education advises verifying the legitimacy of offers by checking with the school's financial aid office when in doubt.

Sheriff's Department reports typical holiday month

By DAWN HANKINS
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During December, Bedford County Sheriff's Department served this community with a total of 669 events of various natures. All that seemed to be missing was the partridge in a pear tree during the holiday month.

A list was provided to the County law enforcement committee and commission at its December meeting. The sheriff's department logged in 59,274 miles.

There were 636 warrants served and 202 arrests made.

The department booked 288 jail inmates and processed a total of 365 through corrections.

There were three burglaries; 29 alarms checked; 339 investigations made. There were three stolen vehicles; 68 auto accidents with no injury and 11 with injury; five drunk drivers; and eight prowlers.

Thankfully, there were no child abuse incidents reported for December. There

were 10 assault charges made; 53 motorists assist; five fires; and nine domestic disputes. Any number of domestic disputes can be dangerous for deputies.

Twenty-two people were escorted to some place by deputies and 81 folks were a part of custody transfers. There were 196 traffic stops made.

Communications received 45 (911) calls. There were 81 other incidences during the month handled by the Sheriff's Department.

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OPINION

THE ISSUE

More women join Tennessee abortion lawsuit

Today, four more women came forward to join a lawsuit filed by the Center for Reproductive Rights against the state of Tennessee (Blackmon v. State of Tennessee). The lawsuit, one of four similar cases brought by the Center in cases with total abortion bans, asks the court to clarify the scope of the medical necessity exception to Tennessee's abortion ban.

Recently, the Center asked the court for a temporary injunction, which would immediately block Tennessee's abortion ban as applied to patients with dangerous pregnancy complications while the case proceeds.

This case, Blackmon v. State of Tennessee, was originally filed by the Center for Reproductive Rights in September 2023 on behalf of three patients and two phy-

sicians. Tennessee is one of 14 states with total abortion bans, with only very narrow medical exceptions.

Today's updated filing in Tennessee comes a month after the story of Kate Cox captured national attention—a Texas woman in a similar situation who was denied abortion care in her state.

"I am joining this lawsuit today because Tennessee's abortion ban caused tremendous suffering for me and my family," said Rachel Fulton, a new plaintiff joining the case today. "My grandmother died in childbirth, leaving behind seven children, so when my doctors explained that my fetus wouldn't survive and that my own health was at serious risk, all I could think about was my 3-year-old son who needs his mom to be alive to take care of him. We

had been so excited for baby Titus to join our family, and the twenty-hour round trip journey to have an abortion made a terrible situation even worse. I felt like my life and health had no value. I hope that this lawsuit helps keep other families from being put in the same situation that mine was."

"As long as this abortion ban remains in place, it's not safe to be pregnant in Tennessee," said Monica Kelly, a new plaintiff in the case. "I was inspired to join this lawsuit after hearing other women in the case speak out against the abortion ban that caused my family such grief and trauma. I was forced to flee my home and travel to Florida to receive basic health care that used to be available in my own community. No family should ever be forced to endure the

ordeal that Tennessee's laws forced on mine."

In November 2023, the State of Tennessee filed a motion to dismiss the case by claiming that pregnant people do not deserve the same protection for their lives as non-pregnant people, and went as far as to say that one plaintiff who was sterilized following her harrowing ordeal lacked standing to sue the state since she could not become pregnant again. Similar lawsuits have recently been filed by the Center for Reproductive Rights in Texas, Idaho, and North Dakota. The Center for Reproductive Rights is dedicated to helping all people access abortion in their communities, including people who are denied care while facing pregnancy complications.



A little Bedford County girl from days gone by. She and her cousins, aunts, are said to have played outside for hours in the snow.

PENCIL SHAVINGS I miss the snow!

By **DAWN HANKINS**
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Well, it's the middle of January and still no snow! Well, maybe about 6 seconds in Shelbyville Tuesday night.

Yes, I like snow. I don't like the ice storms but love a nice middle Tennessee snow!

We never have enough snow anymore to even make Snow Cream. My granny always said make it after the second or third snow. That was something about it being dirty air. Boy, what would she think, now?

All we can do these days is buy snow cream. And what's that?

This is a light-hearted column about snow. I won't mess it up with chatter about why the weather patterns have changed since I was a kid growing up here.

Instead, I'd rather reflect on what poet Ogden Nash said, "Winter is the king of snowmen, turning tree stumps into snowmen and houses into birthday cakes."

People grumble. Yes, it can be a pain to drive in it! I am fortunate that I have 'people' who love to drive in snow.

Yes, life is that way. But why not look at the beauty a nice snow brings. Kids love it! So, it has to be fun, right?

No school! Didn't your heart just race before the superintendent made that early morning announcement?

Younger people look at me funny when I tell them how deep the snows use to be in Bedford County. And the snowmen were grand!

My grandchildren and I debated this Christmas

which is the most fun oldies Christmas movies. They picked of course, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" but me, yep, it was "Frosty the Snowman."

Yes, I still get a little misty when Frosty melts.

As for winter wonderlands, I'm not even sure people sell sleds around here, anymore? They're probably items that have to be dusted throughout winter, now.

We used them and even made some of our own, much to the disgruntlement of our moms.

Scientists say a combination of humidity, temperature and the behavior of water molecules creates each unique snowflake. Because each falls differently to the ground, and are exposed to variations in temperature, they each become different.

I like to think of snowflakes as God's plan to make a dull time of the year sparkle and glisten. Ever notice how quiet it can be after a big snowfall?

So, if it snows this week (Grinch laugh) share with us your fun pictures.

There's not much more to say, except, "Let it Snow, Let it Snow..."

O.K., I guess I will agree with the late comedian, Betty White, who said, "Snow always inspires such awe in me. Just consider one tiny snowflake alone, so delicate, so fragile. They are so ethereal. And yet, let a billion of them come together through the majestic force of nature and they can screw up a whole city."

Yep. Wish for snow this week!



Fire fighters worked to try to put out the fire, which started in the kitchen of the Lynch home.

BENEFIT

From page 1

One of those "miracles" could likely be the benefit lunch and auction planned for the Lynch family on Saturday, Jan. 13, at Bell Buckle Banquet Hall, 27 Railroad Ave., Bell Buckle. A friend, Julie Beasley, is organizing the event.

Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Adult plates are \$20 and kids, age 10 and under, eat for \$8. The children's menu includes chicken tenders, fries, mac and cheese, drink and dessert. Adult plates will include catfish or pulled pork, sides, drink and dessert.

A silent auction will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A live auction will be from 1 to 4 p.m., or until all donated items are gone. Donations of new and used items will be accepted through Friday, Jan. 12. Text 931-607-3578 for more information.

"I want to thank everybody from the bottom of my heart, for any, and everything, they've done," Lynch recently shared.

The life-long Bedford County resident says the benefit certainly means much, given everything he has worked for over the last 35 years is now gone. Living in his home with him was his life partner, Joann Adams, her son, Steve, and his son, Christian.

"I know a lot of people and a lot of people know me," says Lynch. "I never considered them friends, until this. It has been absolutely phenomenal—the people that have come out of the woodwork. I knew I had a lot of acquaintances but I didn't realize I had that many friends."

A tragic day
As for starting over, the 60-year-old notes that's something he can't yet comprehend. Christmas 2023 is certainly something he will never forget.

The Christmas presents they had purchased—gone. It was determined that a

grease fire apparently started on the stove, he shared. It became too hot for Joann, who was at home, to extinguish. The car keys and her phone were left inside, because the fire was so intense.

Time was not on their side. Lynch advises they live way out in the country, so there are no really close neighbors. Joann had no way to call the fire department.

The 911 call was made by a neighbor who lives on adjacent Pencil Mill Road. Lynch says the neighbor recalled seeing large billows of smoke.

Lynch, who was working a few miles away in a shop, then got a phone call no one ever wants. Joann called to say the house was on fire.

By the time Lynch and the fire department arrived just after 12:00, the house was fully engulfed. It was a new mobile home when purchased and Lynch notes that he had added more square footage in 2005.

The home was insured, he says. But he admits he probably should have included more of his 2005 renovations onto the policy.

"You hope this will never happen to you," Lynch says.

He has received his insurance payment for the house but he's waiting to receive a check for the contents.

As for tragedies, well, Lynch explains this is actually not the first one in his life. Still, this one might have just been more painful to the heart.

Thankful for miracles
Lynch has experienced two physical tragedies in his life. Several years ago, he had an accident which deafened him for nearly a year. The miracle, that time, came as a cochlear implant at Vanderbilt Hospital.

"The other part in my head . . . supposedly hard-wired into what little brain I've got," he says with a laugh.

For a guy who used to



Stephen Lynch grew up in Unionville, has worked in this area, and made his home here all his life. Now, the community is reaching out with a benefit for his family, following a house fire. The event is Saturday, Jan. 13, at Bell Buckle Banquet Hall.

ride spotted saddle horses, farmed and did really hard physical labor, he says life really changed.

"Ninety-nine percent of everybody's voice sounds the same, like Mickey Mouse. It's been 12 years. I've gotten used to it."

Then with a better place with his hearing, he began again. Despite having dropped out of high school, Lynch would later go to trade school and become a licensed electrician. He says he really loved this work.

Sadly, tragedy would strike, yet, again. He had another accident which would this time permanently disable him.

Doctors described his paralysis, which kept him homebound from 2001 to 2004, as a condition similar to that of actor Christopher Reeve. His first and second

cervical vertebrae and his spinal cord were damaged.

"Six doctors told me, 'You're never going to be able to walk again. You'll never be able to use your left side.'"

While he did recover, again, he says he still has no grip in his hand. He says his ability to walk again was something which doctors declared a real miracle.

"Is this God's will?" he asks. "I don't know."

One day at a time
Lynch and his family are currently living with his brother, Buddy. He does plan to rebuild his home.

Despite everything, Lynch says he's thankful that his family survived the fire. Things can be replaced, though difficult to let go.

"I just want Him [God] to give me the strength to carry on," says Lynch.

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LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

Longview Baptist starts 2024 with baptisms

There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him. (1 Peter 3:21-22 KJV.)

What a blessed way for Longview Baptist Church in Unionville to start off the new year with not just one, but two, holy baptisms.

Those receiving baptism recently were Ellie

Jones-Hambrick, a fifth grader at Community Elementary, and Todd Granger.

“Longview celebrates with Ellie and Todd today as they followed in believer’s baptism after accepting Christ as their Lord and Savior,” said pastor Jonathan Osterhaus last weekend.

The Longview community church, according to the pastor, is made up of people from all backgrounds, regardless of their spiritual journey.

“We are a life-giving, multicultural church in ru-

ral Bedford County. We are committed to the person of Jesus Christ and we base all our teachings upon the Bible, God’s Holy and Iner-rant Word.”

He adds, “Together, we’re striving to become the kind of church described in the Bible.”

Go to Longviewbaptist-church.org for information on service times, etc.

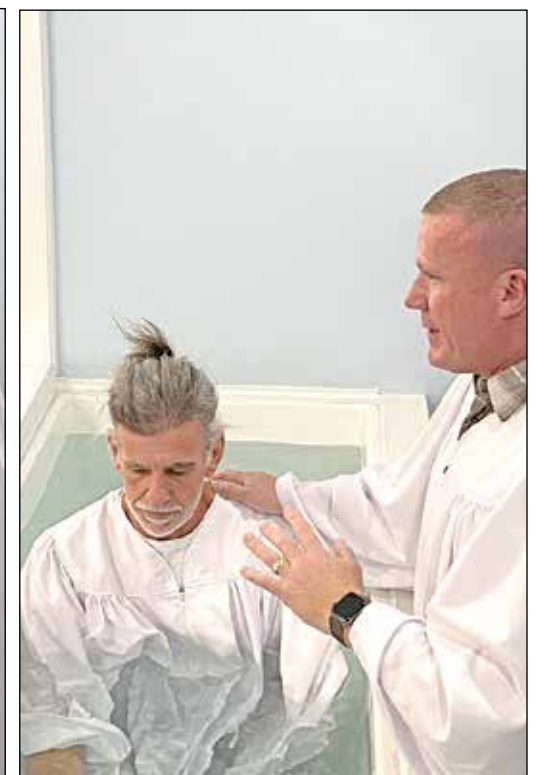
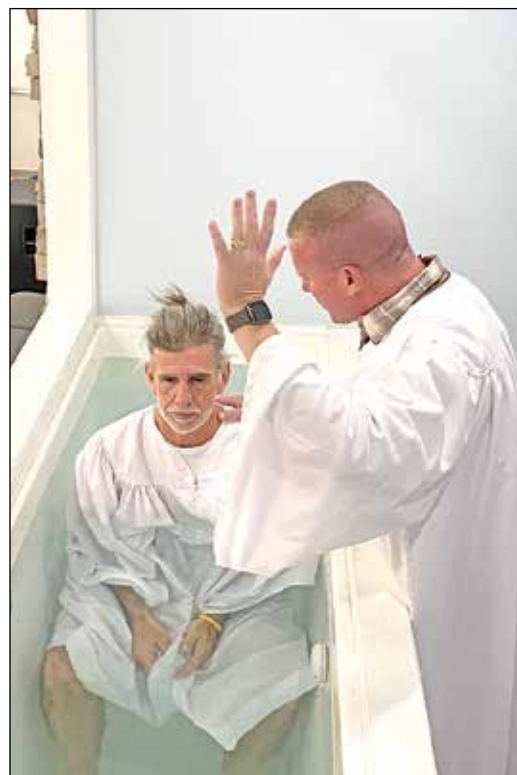
Churches are welcome to submit events to the Times-Gazette. If you have a story about a local church, we’d love to hear from you.



ELLIE JONES-HAMBRICK

Ellie Jones-Hambrick, a 5th grader at Community Elementary, is baptized at Longview Baptist Church.

Photos by Emily Osterhaus



TODD GRANGER

Todd Granger is immersed by Longview Baptist Church pastor, Jonathan Osterhaus, during holy baptism. Water is the primary symbol of holy baptism.

Winter tips from the American Red Cross

Winter storms can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, sleet, heavy snowfall, ice, and high winds. These storms can cause transportation, heat, power, and communication disruptions. They also can close schools, stores, and workplaces.

We can take action to prepare. Prepare now to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your home.

Take immediate precautions if you hear these words on the news:

Winter Storm WARNING: Life-threatening, severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours.

Winter storm words to listen for:

Wind chill temperature: How cold people and animals feel when outside. As wind increases, heat is carried away from your body at a faster rate, driving down your body temperature and making you feel much colder. The wind chill temperature is not the actual temperature but rather how wind and cold feel on exposed skin.

Winter Storm OUTLOOK: Winter storm conditions possible in the next two to five days. Stay tuned

to local media for updates.

Winter Storm WATCH: Winter storm conditions possible within the next 36 to 48 hours. Review your winter storm plans and stay informed about weather conditions.

Winter Weather ADVISORY: Winter weather conditions expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous but not life-threatening if you are cautious.

Gather Emergency Supplies

Gather food, water, and medicine before a winter storm. Stores might be closed, and it may be unsafe to travel.

Organize supplies into a Go-Kit and a Stay-at-Home Kit.

Go-Kit: at least three days of supplies you can carry with you if you need to go somewhere else to stay warm. Include critical backup batteries and chargers for your devices (cell phone, CPAP, wheelchair, etc.)

Stay-at-Home Kit: at least two weeks of supplies.

Ensure you have enough warm clothing, such as hats, mittens, and blankets, for everyone in your household.

You may lose access to

drinking water. Set aside at least one gallon of drinking water per person per day.

Consider having emergency supplies in your vehicle, such as a blanket, warm clothing, a first aid kit, and boots.

Have a 1-month supply of needed medications and medical supplies. Consider keeping a list of your medications and dosages on a small card to carry with you.

Keep personal, financial, and medical records safe and easy to access (hard copies or securely backed up).

Have a snow shovel and ice-melting products to keep your walkways safe.

Learn Emergency Skills

Learn first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Emergency services may be delayed.

Learn how to spot and treat frostbite and hypothermia.

Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery back-ups.

Be ready to live without power, gas, and water.

Learn how to keep pipes from freezing.

What Should You

Do During a Winter Storm?

Use care with space heaters and fireplaces to prevent fires. Keep anything that could catch fire at least 3 feet (1 meter) from the heat!

Avoid using candles because of the fire risk. Use battery-powered lights and flashlights instead.

Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide poisoning is common during power outages when people use other means to heat and cook. You can prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

Only use generators, grills, and camp stoves outdoors and away from windows.

Carbon monoxide kills. If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak, get to fresh air right away – do not delay.

To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning and home fires, never heat your home with a cooking oven or stove.

How Can You Stay Safe While Driving?

Driving in Winter Conditions

Check your vehicle emergency supplies kit and replenish it if necessary.

Bring enough of the following for each person:

Blankets or sleeping bag
Rain gear, extra sets of dry clothing, mittens, socks, and wool hats

Newspapers for insulation

Plastic bags for sanitation
Canned fruit, nuts, and high energy snacks

Warm broth in a thermos and several bottles of water
Bring your cell phone and make sure the battery is charged.

Plan to travel during daylight and, if possible, take another person with you.

Let someone know your destination, your route, and when you expect to arrive.

Before leaving, check the weather reports for all areas you will be passing through.

Watch out for sleet, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and dense fog.

If You Are Stranded

Stay in the vehicle and wait for help. Do not leave the vehicle to search for assistance unless help is visible within 100 yards (91 meters).

Display a trouble sign to indicate you need help. Hang a brightly colored cloth (preferably red) on the radio antenna and raise the hood after snow stops falling.

Turn on the engine for about 10 minutes each

hour. Use the heater while the engine is running. Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow, and slightly open a downwind window for ventilation.

Leave the overhead light on when the engine is running so that you can be seen.

Do light exercises to keep up circulation. Clap your hands and move your arms and legs occasionally.

If more than one person is in the vehicle, take turns sleeping.

Huddle together for warmth. Wrap yourself in newspapers, maps, and even the removable floor mats to help trap more body heat.

Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.

Drink fluids to avoid dehydration, which can make you more susceptible to the ill effects of cold and to heart attacks.

Avoid overexertion. Shoveling snow or pushing a vehicle can bring on a heart attack or make other medical conditions worse.

Protect pets during a storm.



LET IT SNOW, HERE!

Nope, this isn't a Shelbyville back porch, covered in snow, though it does belong to a Shelbyville native. This is from a home in Marion County, Iowa, which saw 12 inches of snow this week.

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GENERAC



NEW FRIENDS IN BELL BUCKLE - No doubt TV actress and singer, Chrissy Metz, made some new friends recently when she visited Bell Buckle Coffee Shop and Book Swap. From left, Rachel McBride, Tina Johns, Lisa Scimeca, shop owner, and Metz.

Actress Metz shops Bell Buckle

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

Lisa Scimeca, owner of Bell Buckle Coffee Shop and Book Swap, said she was in awe recently when TV actress and singer, Chrissy Metz, visited her store.

Scimeca says she was "super sweet" and was visiting for the first time. She

recalls on that Saturday that they had a MoonPie and chatted about the RC MoonPie festival.

Metz played Kate Pearson in the television series, "This Is Us," from 2016 to 2022, which earned her nominations for a prime-time Emmy and Golden Globe. She has also appeared in the film "Sierra Burgess Is a Loser."

The singer was part of a Christmas special at the Opry last month. She is no stranger to the Opry as well.

No doubt, Metz was offered by the hometown crew to take a break from shopping in the town's antique and gift shops and sample the menu of hot or cold beverages, homemade treats and sandwiches.

The Bell Buckle Coffee Shop & Book Swap is conveniently located in historic Bell Buckle on Railroad Square. Shop hours are Monday-through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The store is closed on Sundays.

QUESTIONS

From page 1

known in the outset only as Project Cardinal. When agreements were met with local officials, the project was revealed to the public as Duksan Electera.

The commissioner said he's looked at the TDEC reports on file. "There were several mentions of what is called volatile organic compounds that this Duksan facility will be releasing into the ground. Or, just through the manufacturing of the particular chemicals that they have."

He said constituents living in the vicinity of the plant have concerns and as well, with other plants in that area that deal with volatile chemicals. He mentioned one of those is the Walmart Distribution Center.

Hooker said in addition to residents, there is to be taken into consideration the hospital, a proposed new juvenile detention center, jail and airport-all which are in close proximity to Duksan.

Hooker asked the economic director, "As you went through the process of recruiting this particular venture, did you go through

that process to see what volatile organic compounds would be released in the ground as well as potential concerns for public safety and public health?"

Hooper told the commissioner that the appropriate place for vetting those concerns would be with the U.S. Department of Environmental Quality as well as the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC.)

"We have to rely on our state and federal officials, in the bureaucracy that is there, to answer those types of questions," Hooper said, before thanking the commissioners.

After thanking Hooper, the commissioner stated, "I just want to make sure this is on the record that these are concerns for our constituents in our community who live in close proximity of that. As we move forward with community development and recruitment of business that we put that in

concern, because these residents, prior to this being announced, had no clue or no ability to fight that particular company coming in and now they're going to be dealing with any repercussions of potential chemical issues down the road. I just wanted to make sure that was on the record and I appreciate your time being here."

Officials announced in July 2022 that Duksan Electera America, Inc. would invest \$95 million to locate its first North American manufacturing facility to the industrial park of Shelbyville. A branch of South Korean-based Duksan Group, Duksan Electera promises to create 101 new jobs in Bedford County over the next five years as the company constructs a new facility at 210 Frank Martin Road.

The plant is expected to open later this year.

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Open Position: Office Manager
Job Description:
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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:

- 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:
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Shelbyville
TIMES-GAZETTE

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.

Key Responsibilities:

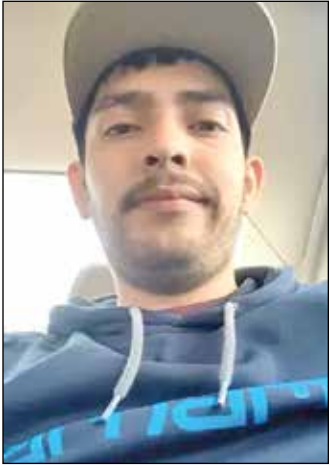
- Prospect and acquire new advertising clients through cold calling and networking.
- Maintain and grow relationships with existing clients.
- Understand clients' advertising needs and develop customized advertising solutions.
- Prepare and present advertising proposals and contracts.
- Collaborate with 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:

- Proven sales experience, preferably in advertising or media sales.
- Strong communication and negotiation skills.
- Goal-oriented and self-motivated with a passion for sales.
- Knowledge of the local business community in Shelbyville, TN.
- Proficiency in digital advertising and marketing concepts.
- Valid driver's license and access to a reliable vehicle.

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

Shelbyville
TIMES-GAZETTE



Francisco Zambrano Baez

Francisco Daniel Zambrano Baez, age 28, of Shelbyville, passed from this life January 1, 2024.

Born September 20, 1995, in Mexico, Daniel was the son of Maria Baez and Daniel Zambrano. Along with his parents he is survived by: sons, Jacob Daniel and Elijah Ivan Zambrano; sister, Diana Zambrano Baez and husband Corey Miller; brothers, Michael and Albiry Zambrano Baez; and grandfather, Eduardo Baez Vargas.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Francisco Zambrano & Maria Teresa Freyreira, and Maria Elvia Huante.

Funeral services were held 1 p.m. Friday, January 5, 2024, at St. Williams Montevergine Catholic Church with Father Edwain Cardona officiating. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens.

Visitation with the family was held prior to funeral service from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at Doak-Howell Funeral home, which is serving the family.

Francisco Daniel Zambrano Báez, de 28 años, de Shelbyville, falleció el 1 de enero de 2024.

Nacido el 20 de septiembre de 1995 en México, Daniel era hijo de María Báez y Daniel Zambrano. Junto a sus padres le sobrevivieron: sus hijos, Jacob Daniel y Elías Iván Zambrano; su hermana, Diana Zambrano Báez y su esposo Corey Miller; los hermanos Michael y Albiry Zambrano Báez; y el abuelo, Eduardo Báez Vargas.

Le precedieron en la muerte sus abuelos, Francisco Zambrano y María Teresa Freyre y María Elvia Huante.

Los servicios funerarios se llevarán a cabo a la 1:00 p.m. del viernes 5 de enero de 2024 en la iglesia católica St. Williams Montevergine con el padre Edwain Cardona oficiando. El entierro se llevará a cabo en Hillcrest Memorial Gardens.

El velorio con la familia se llevará a cabo el viernes antes del servicio funerario de 11:30 a.m. a 12:30 p.m. en la funeraria Doak-Howell.

La funeraria Doak-Howell está sirviendo a la familia.



Clifton Gene Jorgenson

Mr. Clifton Gene Jorgenson, Jr., age 65, of Shelbyville, passed way January 7, 2024.

A Celebration of Life Service was held 5 p.m. Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at First Christian Church. Brother Collin Jorgenson and Pastor Dan Ashe will officiate.

The family received visitors from 3 p.m. until service time Tuesday at the church.

He was born July 30, 1958, in Morocco. He worked in real estate for over 30 years and was the owner of Gene Jorgenson Realty in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Gene loved to tend to his garden and work in his yard. He was loved by his family and many friends.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Janie Louise Fisher Smithson and Albert Lee Smithson; brothers, Timothy Lee Jorgenson, David Michael Jorgenson, and James Robert Jorgenson; a niece, Belinda Michele Jorgenson.

Survivors include a daughter, Rachel Rose Livesay, and her husband Josh; grandchildren, Cash, Case, and Lorelei Livesay; a sister, Kathy Reed, and her husband Johnny; nephews, Collin Jorgenson, and his wife, Lisa, Steven Jorgenson and his wife Yolanda; nieces, Rebecca Jorgenson, Ashley Reed, and Tripp Reed, and his wife Victoria.

Gene would be honored with memorials to First Christian Church or Bethany Hills Church Camp, 1080 Bethany Hills Road, Kingston springs 37082. Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.



Jeffrey Lee Allen

Jeffrey Lee Allen, age 58, of Toccoa, passed from this life on January 6, 2024 surrounded by his loved ones. Jeffrey was a native of Bedford County and worked as a master plumber for 40 years. Most will remember his laugh and being the life of the party. He was of the Baptist Faith. Jeff was preceded in death by his parents, Eastil Lee and Sheila Elaine Sanders Allen and his sister, Penny Mashe.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Misty McAvoy Allen of Toccoa; children, Kayla and Robert Howard, Kimberly and John Hand, Devin Allen, and Zoi Sandoval-Allen; brother, Mark Allen; numerous grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Jeff's wishes were to be cremated. The family will have a service to celebrate Jeff's life in Shelbyville at a later date. Whitlock Mortuary, Funerals and Cremations is serving the family.

Lori Jane Jordan

Lori Jane Jordan, age 55, of Fosterville, passed away January 7, 2024.

Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Friday, January 12, 2024, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. Brother Jimmy Gray will officiate, with burial to follow in Foster-ville Cemetery.

The family will receive visitors 11 a.m. until service time Friday at the funeral home.

She was born May 28, 1968, in Harvey, Illinois, to the late Lester Earl and Brenda Joan Borne Riddle. She was a homemaker.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Lee "Junebug" Jordan, Jr. and a sister, Leslie Dawn Riddle.

Survivors include her children, Ryan Guptill, Justin (Holly) Stafford, and Erin Prince (Jeffrey Leverette); step daughter, LaRissa (Russell) Stem; a sister, Lisa Ann Posey; grandchildren, Rylan Matthew Guptill, Braxton Matthew Guptill, Makaylie Ann Marie Guptill, Jacob Leverette, Hannah Leverette, Levi Leverette, Emalieg Stafford, Jackson Stafford, Christopher Stafford, Peyton Stafford, and Hannah Kirk; step grandchildren, Haleigh Jordan, and Amber Stem; one step great grandchild.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.



Gladys Noblitt Jones

Gladys Noblitt Jones, age 75, of Bell Buckle passed from this life Saturday, January 6, 2023, at her home surrounded by loved-ones after an extended illness.

Mrs. Gladys was a native of Bedford County, born on April 1, 1948 to the late Albert Doyle Noblitt and Blanche Dee Woodson Noblitt. Along with her parents she was preceded in death by: sister, Geraldine Boyce; and stepson, Mark Jones.

She was a graduate of Community High School class of 1966. She worked with Longview Gas from 1989 until 1998 before becoming the owner and operator of Longview Silks. For 22 years, Mrs. Gladys served families of Bedford County. She provided beautiful flower arrangements for all occasions. At Longview Silks she just didn't make flowers arrangements, she used her shop as a place to help, serve and minister to people. She was always willing to go the extra mile for anyone she served and gave many of flower arrangements away for free to anyone in need.

She is survived by: loving husband of 25 years, James Darris "Chicken" Jones of Bell Buckle; children, Emily (Eric) Anderton and Ron F. Smith; step-children, Terry (Charlotte) Jones; grandchildren, Robin Gordon, Brett (Jessie) Bell, Denton (Sarah) Bell, Madisyn Smith, Brandy (Chris) Blackwell, Ashley Jones, Jonathan (Melissa) Jones, and Kayla (Ryan) Dye; great grandchildren, Xaylie & Lizzie Gordon, Zoey & Lowry Bell, Wyatt Jones, Morgan Jones, Alyssa Stephens, Maysee Leach and Brayden Blackwell; sisters, Marie (Jerry) Smith, Susie Boyce and Patsy (David) Trott; along with many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held 1:00 p.m. Thursday, January 11, 2024 in the chapel of Doak-Howell Funeral Home with Pastor Mike Hannah officiating. Burial will follow at Parsons Cemetery.

Visitation was 5-8 p.m. Wednesday evening, January 10, 2024, at the funeral home. Memorial donations may be made to the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt @ www.childrenshospitalvanderbilt.org or by mail: 3322 West End Avenue, Suite 900 Nashville, TN 37203.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.



Frances Hayes

On January 4, 2024, Frances Hayes, my loving chosen sister, left her body and entered heaven's gate, at the age of 80. Frances was born June 16, 1943, in Marshall County, Tennessee, to the late Joe V. and Mary Jane McCool Hayes.

She graduated from Forrest High School in Chapel Hill, Tennessee, in 1961. She was employed at several cheese stores in Lewisburg, and Bedford and Rutherford County, as a store manager and bookkeeper. She was also bookkeeper for Can-Do National Tape Company in Nashville, Tennessee, for sixteen years. She worked also with Canter Oil Company in Bedford County before retiring in 2006. She later was employed with part time as an assistant on Bedford County Special Education school bus. She loved working with the special needs children.

Frances had an unwavering faith. She loved the Lord with all her heart. Her life was a living example of one of her favorite Bible verses, Ephesians 4:32, "And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ".

She loved going to church and especially singing in the choir. She was a member of Clay Hill United Methodist Church and held several positions including church secretary and treasurer. Some of Frances' favorite things to do were mowing her yard, planting flowers, playing Rook with her dear friends, reading, being on the beach, watching television, and watching her favorite Green Bay Packers. Besides her chosen sisters, Laura York and Joan Docekal, she leaves behind her cherished friends, and her siblings, Brenda Baxter and Doug Hayes; nieces Sabrina Thomas and Darlene Ring; nephew, Joseph Baxter; great nieces, great nephews, and a great-great nephew.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.



Helen Rita Shofner

Helen Rita Shofner, of Shelbyville, Tennessee, passed away on January 4th, 2024, after an extended illness.

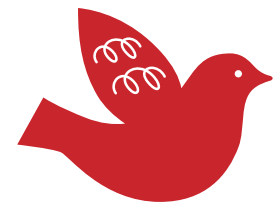
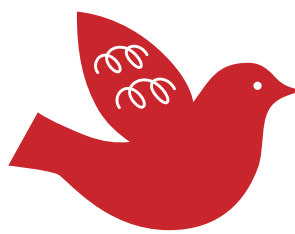
Born on November 29, 1921, in Newport, Rhode Island, Helen was the daughter of the late Fredrick and Margaret (Sullivan) Goffe of Newport Rhode Island. She was one of identical twins born to Fredrick and Margaret at that time, the other being Marion, or "Mim." Helen was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Howard B. (Buddy) Shofner, Jr., her eldest daughter, Maureen Shofner Minch of Nashville, a niece Caroline Bidlack, a nephew Jared

McGowan, another nephew John Christopher Shofner, both of Shelbyville and her twin sister

Marion (Mim) Goffe Bidlack of Newport, Rhode Island. Survivors include daughter Barbara Shofner Swain, son Howard Bentley Shofner, III (Debbie), nephews Donald and Kenneth Bidlack of Newport, RI, grandchildren Jena, Zach, and Kyle Swain of Shelbyville, and Allison Minch Singleton (Matthew) and Justin Minch of Nashville, along with numerous great-grandchildren, grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

A graveside service will be held at Shofner Chapel and Cemetery on the New Tullahoma Highway on January 21st at 2:00 p.m. A light reception will follow in the Chapel. The family of Helen Shofner would like to thank the staff and administrators of Hickory Gardens Assisted Living of Madison for their care and support of Helen and the family.

Your kindness cannot be measured. A special thanks goes out to Jenn Harvey, the resident nurse at Hickory Gardens, for her kindness and compassion. Lastly, our thanks go out to Adoration Hospice, especially Chaplain Eddie, Nurses Laura and Cassie, and all others who contributed to Helen's support in her transition.



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SPORTS



Paige Blackburn (11) probes the Tullahoma perimeter defense. She had 15 points for the Eaglettes on Thursday

Eaglettes Suffer First Home Loss of the Season Against Tullahoma

A late rally ultimately fell short for the Shelbyville Central Golden Eaglettes as they lost 47-38 to the Tullahoma Wildcats at home on Thursday night in the "The Battle of Highway 41-A."

Only four Eaglettes found the scoresheet as Shelbyville Central struggled offensively from the jump, scoring only five points as a team in the first quarter.

Tullahoma came out of the gates super aggressively, intent on doubling star guard Paige Blackburn every time she touched the ball, and it worked. Tullahoma ended the first quarter up 12-5 and kept up their tenacious attack in the second quarter as well.

After Blackburn picked up her second personal foul with 4:43 left in the first half and her team trailing 15-6, the two sides slowly started to trade baskets. Then, with the first half clock quickly winding down, Tullahoma's Lily Melton hit a deep three at the buzzer to give the Wildcats a 26-13 halftime lead.

The Eaglettes started to find their offensive groove a little more in the second half, but Tullahoma did just enough to leave Shelbyville with their second win in two tries over their fierce rival.

Neither team started the third quarter that well offensively with each side scoring only four points through the first six minutes of the second half. However, Blackburn showed some signs of life as the quarter came to an end, scoring seven points in the final four minutes to close the lead to 35-23 going into the fourth quarter.

Unfortunately for the Eaglettes, they would be unable to get it to single digits until there was less than 90 seconds to go. Shelbyville Central falls to 10-4 on the season overall.

Blackburn finished with 15 points, and backcourt mate Lanaya Young had numerous strong drives to the basket in a team-high 17-point outing. Despite these efforts, their teammates only had six points combined for the entire night. It was a better overall effort than Shelbyville's 41-25 loss in the first game between these two programs, but in the end the lack of scoring outside of Young and Blackburn doomed the Eaglettes.

Tullahoma had only two players in double figures, led by McLayne Bobo's 17 points and Aubrey North's 11, but the Wildcats got just enough contributions from the rest of their team to secure the season sweep.

Shelbyville Central has a quick turnaround as they travel to Riverdale on Friday for the second night of a rare back-to-back. That game will be broadcast live on WLJ 98.7 and AM 1580 starting at 5:45 p.m.

Tullahoma, now 5-7 on the season, will host a pesky Moore County team on Saturday night.

Golden Eaglettes fall to Lady Raiders

The Shelbyville Central Golden Eaglettes opened District 9-AAAA play on the road Tuesday night at Coffee County, falling 73-61 to a high-powered Lady Raiders squad.

Coffee County came into the game with a 16-3 record, but the Eaglettes showed up ready for the home team's high powered offensive attack, ending the first quarter only down 12-10.

Both team's offenses started to heat up in the second quarter, and the halftime score was 34-28 in favor of Coffee County. Shelbyville's superstar Paige Blackburn erupted in the second period, scoring 11 of her 24 points to close the first half.

As the game moved into the second half, the Lady Raiders' Natalie Burns was the catalyst as Coffee County slowly extended their lead to 56-46 at the end of the third quarter. She went a perfect 4/4 from the field and had nine points, and as the final frame began, the Eaglettes just couldn't

muster up enough stops to mount any sort of comeback.

Shelbyville Central was led by a game-high 24 points from Paige Blackburn, but only two other teammates reached double figures. Lily Brown chipped in with 15 points and Sammie Brown had 11 points, but it was not enough to match the offensive production from the home side.

Coffee County only had two players get to double digits, but they were a pair of 20-point scorers. Olivia Vinson scored 22 points, and the aforementioned Barnes scored 21 of her own, including 14 in the second half.

The Eaglettes fall to 11-5 (0-1) and return home to play Warren County on Friday night as district play continues live on WLJ 98.7 and AM 1580 starting at 5:45 p.m.

Coffee County improves to 17-3 (1-0) and travels to Columbia on Friday.

Golden Eagles Struggle Early, Fall to Tullahoma

Golden Eagles Struggle Early, Lose Big to Tullahoma

The Shelbyville Central Golden Eagles fell 78-39 to rival Tullahoma in "The Battle of Highway 41-A."

The Wildcats jumped on Shelbyville early with a tenacious full court press, never letting the home side get comfortable in what turned into a wire-to-wire win.

Tullahoma set the tone early, leading 10-2 after the first three minutes before an early Eagles timeout.

Shelbyville Central would go on to miss six free throws in the first quarter as they trailed 20-7 going into the second frame, and unfortunately for the Eagles, the quarter change did not affect the Wildcats' play. Tullahoma, who improves

to 7-5 on the season, led 41-17 at halftime and 63-30 after the third quarter en route to the blowout win that wrapped up the season sweep over Shelbyville Central. The Wildcats were led by Khani Johnson and Malik Grizzard who had 16 and 14 points respectively.

The Eagles ended with only one player scoring in double figures, and it was Tae' Shawn Shelton with 12 points. Tyler Trice and Shamarion Draper each finished with seven points.

Shelbyville Central, who falls to 3-12, play at Riverdale on Friday. That broadcast will go live on WLJ 98.7 and AM 1580 starting at 5:45 p.m.

Tullahoma will play host to Moore County on Saturday night.



Tae' Shawn Shelton (3) throws down a thunderous dunk against Tullahoma. He led the Eagles with 12 points on Thursday.

Cascade Completes Comeback Against Eagleville in Overtime

When Meah Thompson stepped to the free throw line with just over five seconds to go in the fourth quarter, Eagleville seemed to have the game in hand. Up by two points and Cascade out of timeouts, all Thompson had to do was make both free throws to send the Lady Eagles back home with a hard-fought non-district road win over the Lady Champions.

Despite stepping up to the charity stripe having already made both of her previous attempts less than 40 seconds ago, Thompson missed the pair, and Sophie Ray corralled the rebound with no timeouts.

Ray took off down the left sideline, knowing she was in a race against time. It was a race that Ray would ultimately win, getting off a left-handed layup that improbably, impossibly even, went through the net as the buzzer sounded.

"Sophie didn't even know it went in at first," second-year head coach Janie Demonbreum said with a chuckle.

As exhilarating as that shot was to the entire gymnasium, she had only tied the game at 48. There was still another four minutes to play, and Eagleville still had Isabella Sawyer. She scored 18 points on Tuesday, ending the night tied for the game-high with Cascade star Kaegan Young.

"We talk about closing out games all the time," Coach Demonbreum said with a massive smile forming across her face.

"We managed to put in that complete game tonight, and it really shows these girls their potential. Our grit won us this ball game."

Cascade indeed won "this ball game," outscoring the Lady Eagles 10-4 in overtime to take a split in the season series, 58-52.

The Lady Champs had three players score in dou-

ble figures with Kaegan Young leading the way with 18 points, six assists, five rebounds, and two steals. "Super" Sophie Ray added 15 points and two steals, and Kaydence Miller scored 14 points, including three huge triples. Suzanna Crews scored nine points and had six rebounds as well as hitting three clutch free throws after Eagleville was assessed two technical fouls late in a frenetic fourth quarter.

Eagleville also had three players eclipse the ten-point mark, led by the aforementioned Isabella Sawyer with 18 points. Brinli Bain scored 14 points, and Shelby Mooneyham chipped in with 12 points in the losing effort.

"When push comes to shove, we really buckled down, and we found out who the Lady Champions really are," Coach Demonbreum said.

Cascade, who had a double-digit loss in Eagleville all the way back in November, started the game out well, taking a 14-12 lead after the first frame. In the second quarter, the scoring struggles started to show up for the Lady Champs again as they got outscored 15-8 to go into halftime down 29-26.

Coming out of the locker room, the Lady Champs clamped up defensively, holding the Lady Eagles to five points in a very sluggish third period to tie the game at 34 going into the fourth quarter. Brinli Bain struggled significantly despite scoring 14 points as she went 1/10 from downtown, keeping Cascade within striking distance for much of the second half.

As the fourth quarter wound down, the Lady Eagles held a three point lead with under a minute to go. Cascade was unable to score, and Eliza McClaren came away with the rebound and was fouled.



Super Sophie Ray (5, with the ball) puts up a buzzer-beating left-handed floater to send the game into overtime. She was second on the team with 15 points in the win over Eagleville

Almost immediately, however, she was assessed a technical foul for allegedly swinging her elbows which incited long-time head coach Chris Lynch. He was understandably upset, but he seemingly crossed the line because he was also slapped with a technical foul.

To compound the problem, McClaren's technical counted as a personal foul. She already was skating on thin ice with four fouls, so the T gave her a fifth, meaning she was unable to take the free throws. Coach Lynch subbed in Thompson who calmly sank both free throws to extend the lead to five.

Suzanna Crews then stepped up to take the first of what would be four technical free throws for Cascade, calmly sinking three of them to make it a one possession game again with 46.1 seconds left.

"We sent Suzanna to shoot the free throws because she hit her first two earlier in the game," Coach Demonbreum said, "but I

told her, if you don't make both I'm switching you out. That is a lot of pressure, but she made them anyways."

Crews split the second pair, but the damage was done, and Cascade was back within striking distance. The Lady Champs got a great look on the ensuing possession from downtown, but it didn't go down. Eagleville secured the rebound, got fouled, and made both free throws to push the lead back up to four. Sophie Ray would drive and finish a left-handed layup with 7.1 seconds left to cut it back to two, and after Cascade took their final timeout, the rest was history.

The Lady Champions improve to 6-12 (0-2) and will head to Grundy County on Friday night as they resume district play live on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1480 at 5:45 p.m.

The Lady Eagles fall to 11-7 (0-1) and resume district play against Huntland at home on Friday night.

Cascade boys fall to Eagleville

The Eagleville Eagles came into Bell Buckle on Tuesday night and handily completed the season sweep of a struggling Cascade Champions squad, 67-44.

Eagleville's sophomore star Camden Cole led the way with 29 points as Cascade had no answer for him on the defensive end.

Cascade actually started the game pretty well, trading baskets with the Eagles, and specifically Cole. He would end the first quar-

ter with 13 of Eagleville's points as they led 19-15 going into the second frame.

Cascade's offense would falter under the visitor's pressure defense as the second quarter began, scoring only eight points in the period as they went into the halftime locker room down 40-23.

It was more of the same in the second half despite Cascade coming out of the break with a quick five points. After an immediate timeout by Eagleville's

head coach Davy McClaren, the Eagles would outscore the Champions 11-7 in the remainder of the third quarter, going into the final frame with a healthy 51-35 lead.

The visitors won every quarter in Tuesday's 67-44 win over Cascade, outscoring the Champions 16-9 in the fourth as Cascade simply could not find any rhythm offensively for 32 minutes.

Eagleville was led by Cole's 29 points, but they

also got 15 points from senior C.J. Goers.

Cascade was led by Isaac McElroy's 12 points, Henry Stone's 10 points, and Saebyn Burris' nine points.

This result doesn't bode well for Cascade moving forward as they travel to Grundy County on Friday, resuming district play live on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400.

Eagleville will host Huntland on Friday night as they also resume district play.

LOCAL MISSION WORK



LOCAL MISSION WORK - Last Tuesday's meal at Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen was prepared by members of Believers Faith Fellowship and Bellview Baptist Church. The volunteer servers were from Believers Faith and Woodfork AME Church. SCSK is located at 336 South Cannon Blvd.



FIT FOR A KING

Tuesday's menu at Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen featured chicken and rice, green beans, apples, mac and cheese, rolls and an assortment of desserts. The soup kitchen is open for lunch on Mondays from 11 a.m. to noon and serves Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 4 p.m.

Community Starts Fast, Finishes Stronger in Dominant Win Over Cascade

The Community Vikings opened District 9-AA play in style with a 72-52 home blowout win over cross-county rival Cascade in the newest edition of the "Battle of Bedford" on Friday night.

Coming into the contest, Community and head coach Robbie Davis were in the middle of a five-game losing streak to the three-time defending district champions in Cascade and head coach Chris Lawson.

Led by junior forward Landon Lovvorn's 21 points, senior guard Maki Fleming's 19 points, and junior forward Austin Stickler's 15 points, the Vikings never trailed. The home side led by double digits for the entire night after the first quarter as they continuously outworked a veteran-laden Cascade side.

Only senior forward Zach Crosslin reached double figures for the Champions. He had another near double-double with 12 points and eight rebounds while being one of the only bright spots for Cascade.

Even in that first quar-

ter, Community came out like gangbusters, beating Cascade down the floor on nearly every possession as they burst out to a 16-3 lead before the visitors even knew what had happened.

This all happened despite Chris Lawson tinkering with the starting lineup, moving the team's leading scorer in senior Isaac McElroy to the bench and starting sophomore Tyler Rodgers following the 23-point home loss to Cannon County in search of some extra energy.

McElroy was quickly sent to the scorer's table to try and counter the Vikings aggressive perimeter defense, but he promptly missed his first two shot attempts. Community ended a dominant opening frame up 21-8, but Cascade felt lucky to be down only 13.

As the first half continued, Community continued to get any look they wanted to on offense as Lovvorn and Fleming finished the first half with 14 and 12 points, respectively. Cascade actually outscored the Vikings 19-16 in the second quarter thanks to the ac-

tivity of Zach Crosslin and senior reserve guard Logan Pulley, going into the locker room only down by ten points, 37-27.

As the second half began, Community quickly built their lead back up to 17 before Chris Lawson countered with yet another lineup change and brought in a freshman big man, Brady Lewis, to try and find some sort of spark down low.

Lewis, despite not playing in the first half, finished second on the team in scoring with nine points, but more importantly helped defensively to limit the Vikings to one shot per possession.

Despite a mini surge from Cascade, including cutting the lead to as close as 11 at one point, the Vikings closed the third period strong, taking a 51-39 lead over the visitors into the final frame.

The Champion faithful attempted to will some fight into their side as the fourth quarter began, but the younger lineup that was in for the majority of the third quarter started to run out of gas as Community's

Stickler took full advantage. He scored 13 of his 15 points in the second half with most of them coming in the final eight minutes.

Community's lead ballooned back up to 17 as the quarter went on, and eventually ended with a 72-52 final score.

The Vikings improve to 7-9 (1-0) on the season and will travel to Mt. Pleasant on Tuesday night to take on the Tigers in what could be a potential regional tournament matchup later on down the line.

Cascade falls to 5-12 (0-2) on the season. With eight seniors on the roster, the Champions have some soul-searching to do before district play resumes if they want to win a fourth consecutive district title in the Chris Lawson era.

However, before they get the chance to turn their district record around, they host the Eagleville Eagles in a non-district matchup on Tuesday. That matchup will air live on WZNG radio, The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400, beginning at 5:45 p.m.

Youthful Viqueens Use Strong Second Half to Pull Away from Cascade

The Community Viqueens opened district play with a 51-40 win over cross-town rival Cascade in the "Battle of Bedford" in Unionville on Friday night.

Sophomore guard Anna Haskins finished with 19 points, freshman center Alyssa White added 13, and Community handed the Lady Champs their second district loss in as many contests.

Cascade was led by junior guard Kaydence Miller, who hit four threes and finished with 12 points. Star sophomore guard Kaegan Young and junior forward Sophie Ray were held to just eight points apiece in an unusually rough shooting night, combining to go 7/24 from the field with Young making only one three.

The Lady Champs opened the contest with a strong first four minutes or so, jumping out to an early lead as they looked to rebound

after the closely contested loss to Cannon County in their district opener.

Ray opened the game hitting her first four shots from the field as she scored all eight of her points in the first quarter. However, the Viqueens settled down on their home court, coming back to tie the game at 13 to end the opening frame.

The second period was closely contested as well with each team taking their time to find a good shot offensively each time down the floor. At one point, it felt like Cascade was going to start to pull away, but the Viqueens hung tough and managed to stick around once Cascade's sophomore forward Suzanna Crews went to the bench with two fouls.

Community promptly started going inside to the freshman White where she began to assert herself. Despite this, the Lady Champs went into the locker room

with a slim 25-24 lead in a very entertaining first half.

To start the second half, Community, who came into Friday's contest on a nine-game losing streak and a 3-12 record overall, tightened the screws defensively. Cascade was held scoreless for nearly six minutes to start the third quarter as Kaegan Young and Sophie Ray struggled to find good looks against the Viqueens' zone defense.

Empowered by their defense, Community took the first double-digit lead of the game before Kaydence Miller and Young responded with a couple of triples, cutting the home team's lead to 37-31 entering the final frame.

Cascade carried some of their momentum into the fourth quarter, opening with a quick 5-2 spurt to make it a 39-36 game with six minutes to play. Unfortunately for them, they would only score four

points in those final six minutes as Community came out of the timeout and simply had more gas left in the tank than the visiting Lady Champs.

Ray and Young ended up playing all 32 minutes for Cascade, and the Viqueens used their depth off the bench to slowly wear them down in time for the fourth quarter in the 51-40 win.

Community improves to 4-12 and 1-0 in District 9-AA play. The Viqueens travel to Mt. Pleasant on Tuesday to take on the 4-12 Lady Tigers, who are a potential future regional tournament opponent, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Cascade falls to 5-12 on the year, including 0-2 in District 9-AA play. The Lady Champs will host Eagleville on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. It will air on WZNG radio, The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400, beginning at 5:45 p.m.



LITTLE BIT OF SNOW

Snow was the talk of the town in the City last night but for only a little while. No accumulation to speak of here. This is what Barton Williams gathered at his Shelbyville home Tuesday night. It was cool, while it lasted.

FINANCIAL FOCUS

"Setting SMART Financial Goals for the New Year"

As we usher in the New Year, we often find ourselves brimming with aspirations and intentions to improve various aspects of our lives. Financial health should be a priority on this list, and setting SMART financial goals is a powerful way to ensure success in the coming year.

SMART "Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound" is an acronym used to guide goal-setting for optimal outcomes. By applying this framework to your financial ambitions, you can enhance clarity, focus, and motivation as you work towards your targets.

First, setting specific goals means defining what you want to accomplish with as much precision as possible. For example, rather than saying, "I want to save money," you might say, "I want to save \$5,000 for a down payment on a new car."

Next, to ensure your goal is Measurable, establish concrete criteria for tracking progress. Sticking with the saving example, determine how much money you need to save each month to reach your goal by the desired date.

Achievability is crucial for maintaining morale and commitment. Consider your current financial situation and ask whether the goal is realistic. If saving \$5,000 in a year seems overwhelming, you might aim to save \$2,500 and explore additional financing options for your car.

A Relevant financial goal is one that aligns with your broader life ambitions. If upgrading your vehicle is a step towards securing better job opportunities or enhancing your family's quality of life, it becomes even more pressing and worthwhile.

Lastly, every goal should be Time-bound, having a deadline that creates a sense of urgency and can prevent procrastination. Specify

when you aim to accomplish each step of the process. For the down payment savings plan, decide by what date you will have the full amount.

Bear in mind that while setting SMART financial goals is essential, being flexible and adaptable is also important. Life is full of surprises, and your goals may need to shift in response to unexpected events. Regularly reviewing and adjusting your goals ensures they continue to serve you well.

Furthermore, setting small, incremental milestones along the way can provide ongoing motivation. Celebrating these victories can encourage you to keep pushing forward despite challenges that may arise.

As with any New Year's resolutions, consistency is vital. Keep your goals at the forefront of your mind. Visual reminders, such as a chart on your refrigerator or a savings tracker app, can help keep you focused and on track.

Lastly, don't underestimate the importance of accountability. Share your financial goals with a trusted friend or family member, or consider partnering with a financial advisor who can provide guidance and encouragement.

Thank you for joining us in this week's Financial Focus. Our aim is to equip you with valuable insights and practical advice to strengthen your financial well-being. Whether you've been following our series from the beginning or are just joining us, remember that each article is a building block in your journey towards financial empowerment. We encourage you to explore previous columns and stay tuned for more expert guidance in the weeks ahead. Your financial future is within your reach, and we're here to help you every step of the way.

Golden eagles begin district play with tight loss

The Shelbyville Central Golden Eagles opened District 9-AAAA play in Coffee County on Tuesday night, falling to the Red Raiders in a low scoring affair, 38-33.

The Golden Eagles had golden opportunities to steal this one, but they just could not make free throws.

They ended the night 4/13 from the line compared to Coffee County's 13/20 from the charity stripe, and those misses came back to haunt Shelbyville in the five-point loss.

The Red Raiders' Jackson Shemwell went 9/11 from the free throw line, and he closed out the Golden Eagles

with his 13 points on Tuesday night. He was the only one to reach double figures for the hosts.

Shelbyville Central's Shamaron Draper was the only Golden Eagle to reach double figures, as he matched Shemwell's 13 points with 13 of his own.

Shelbyville falls to 4-13 (0-1) and returns home on Friday night as they continue district play against Warren County live on WLJ 98.7 and AM 1580 at 5:45 p.m.

Coffee County improves 6-9 (1-0) and travels to Columbia on Friday for their second district contest.