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UT-TPA PRESS AWARDS 2022



Vol. 141, No. 93

School growth, funding concerns committee

By ZOË WATKINS zwatkins@t-g.com

Tuesday's Financial Committee meeting discussed Bedford County's rising student population and possible solutions for new school funding.

Commissioners Greg Vick and John Boutwell said they have been looking at student capacity under the TASSR (Tennessee Association for Student Success and Retention) formula, TISA [Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement], and overall growth and how this is going to affect the county.

"This is going to get really complicated over the next few months. It's our job to fund the schools, to fund education," said Vick.

Population statistics

Boutwell, who used to sit on the school board, provided a few statistics illustrating the county's growth.

For instance, Bedford County in 1830, which encompassed more territory, had 30,000 people. Through population stagnation and decline, Bedford's population didn't get back to 30,000 until 1990.

"But from 1990 to 2020, we've picked up 20,000 people," Boutwell explained.

Looking at the student population, there were 7,866 students in 2010; today, Bedford has over 9,000 students. Boutwell

said 17.5% of the population are students in the Bedford County School System as of 2010 and 2022.

"The University of Tennessee projects of 2020 to 2030, we're going to pick up roughly about 5,500, maybe 5,800, people. And that's going to result in 997 more students," said Boutwell. In another 10 years, that number will also be over 900 new students.

Therefore, in the next 18 years, there will be 1,900 new students. This is compared to the years between 2010 and 2020 when Bedford picked up some 891 students.

"And yet we still don't have everyone out of portables," said Boutwell. "So, we're not building buildings or classrooms as fast as they're coming."

TISA funding

Since the new TISA funding formula is "student based", Bedford is expected to receive an extra \$11 million a year due to its ratio of English language learners, low-income, and special needs students.

Mayor Chad Graham said, "The formula is talking about per pupil spending. That doesn't have anything to do with spending for bricks-and-mortar... That's a whole other bucket of money."

This is especially concerning as the

See Funding, Page 2A

Parade, church event celebrate Christmas

T-G STAFF REPORT

The 49th annual Shelbyville Christmas Parade begins rolling at 4 p.m. Saturday.

Entrants will follow the usual route - up West Holland Street and around the west, south, and east sides of the Shelbyville square, then north on North Main Street and out Madison Street.

This year's parade theme is "A Storybook Christmas." The Shelbyville Jaycees host the parade each year.

The forecast for parade time is cloudy with a chance of showers and temperatures in the mid-to-upper 50s. Rain date is 2 p.m. Sunday.

'Night in Bethlehem'

"A Night in Bethlehem," being presented Sunday at First Baptist Church of Bell Buckle, 103 Webb Road East, promises everything from a craft fair to music all wrapped in one Christmas event.

Activity begins with "A Christmas Experience-Marketplace" from 4-6 p.m. Families learn what life was like at the time of Jesus' birth by stopping to be counted at the "census table." That's followed by a visit to the "town photographer" for a family portrait, a luxury not available in Biblical days.

The "Bethlehem Marketplace" will include a pottery shed, carpenter booth, town bakery, Hebrew scribes tent and painters' tent.

A Nativity play starts at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary "to hear what happened one special night when Christ was born to Joseph and Mary in a stable," as the church website says.

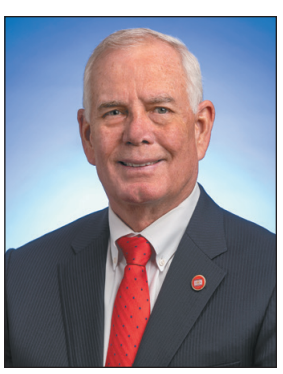
Marsh, Reeves re-elected to leadership roles

T-G STAFF REPORT

State Rep. Pat Marsh (R-Shelbyville) was unanimously elected by his peers to serve as Speaker Pro Tempore for the 113th Tennessee General Assembly.

As Speaker Pro Tempore, Marsh conducts all duties and responsibilities in the absence of Tennessee Speaker of the House Cameron Sexton (R-Crossville).

"I am incredibly humbled and honored to have once again earned the trust of the people here at home as well as my colleagues in the House,"



Rep. Pat Marsh

Marsh said. "Tennessee has become a model for the rest of the nation under Republican leadership for our low taxes, conservative values, and business-friendly



Sen. Shane Reeves

environment. I believe Tennessee's best days are still ahead and I look forward to working with our entire caucus in the coming year."

The 2023 legislative

session marks the small business owner's 14th year in the General Assembly. Additionally, during his tenure, he has chaired several key House committees. House District 62 includes Bedford, Moore and part of Lincoln County.

"Pat Marsh's institutional knowledge, experience, and leadership style as a member of the House Republican leadership team will be incredibly beneficial to all of us," said Sexton.

"I greatly appreciate Pat's willingness to answer the call to continue serving as speaker pro tempore, as well as his dedication and

advocacy on behalf of his community and our great state."

Led by Sexton, Republicans gained two seats in the Tennessee General Assembly during the Nov. 8 election. Republicans hold a 75-24 supermajority in the House of Representatives.

In other Capitol Hill news, State Senator Shane Reeves (R-Murfreesboro) was also unanimously re-elected by his colleagues to the leadership position of Chaplain in the Tennessee Senate Majority Caucus.

See Roles, Page 2A

Nearest Green lights up for Christmas

The Nearest Green Distillery hosted their Winter Wonderland and Christmas Treet Lighting Ceremony Friday evening, which included a VIP Happy Hour at the "world's longest bar," the Humble Baron.

Guests enjoyed live Christmas music and signature cocktails while relaxing at the 525 linear feet of the Humble Baron's bar, located behind the welcome center. Dari Ruff, who is director of operations and general manager of Humble Baron, said even if someone builds a longer bar, there's room to expand.

There is also a performance stage at the back on the venue and outside, where co-founders Fawn and Keith Weaver said they hope to "rival Nashville."

During the Christmas tree lighting ceremony, fifth-generation master blender Victoria Eady Butler, who is the great-great granddaughter of Nathan "Nearest" Green, the inspiration for the Uncle Nearest Whiskey brand, thanked the City of Shelbyville and Bedford County for all their support.

"You have showed up again! We love Bedford County," she said.

County Commissioner Sylvia Pinson, who also serves as a tour guide at the distillery, said all their tours were booked in the week before the event.

The Nearest Green Distillery will also be finishing up their 12 Weeks of Christmas with:

•The release of the inaugural Nearest Green Distillery Ornament will be on Dec. 8

•The release of the Single Barrel Rye will be on Dec. 15

•Legacy Collection Ultimate Gift Pack (including all seven current Uncle Nearest whiskeys) will be given away at NGD on Dec. 22 and running all weekend

•To celebrate New Year's Eve, they will be giving away custom Uncle Nearest rocks glasses starting on Dec. 29

See Lights, Page 2A



T-G Photos by Zoe Watkins

The distillery hosted a tree lighting ceremony to celebrate the Christmas season. Guests were lined up for the evening's events. More photos, Page 8A.

OBITUARIES

William 'Bill' Smotherman

November 25, 2022

Mr. William "Bill" Smotherman, age 58, formerly of the Cedar Grove Community of Bedford County, died Friday, November 25, 2022 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Bill was born in Detroit, Michigan and was a son of the late Marvin William and Shirley Madeline McKay Smotherman. He was a member of Cedar Grove Church and was a former employee of Shoney's, Inc. in Shelbyville and Goodwill Industries in Tullahoma, Tennessee.

Mr. Smotherman is survived by his sisters, Sharon Smotherman, Cedar Grove, and Kendra Smotherman, Townsend, Tennessee; special caregiver, Angelia Blakley, Nashville, TN; several cousins and a very special Church family.

Funeral services were held Sunday, November 27, at Cedar Grove Church with Rev. Danny Freeman officiating. Burial followed in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Cedar Grove Church, c/o Butch Beasley, 140 Virgil Beasley Road, Chapel Hill, TN 37034.

Lawrence Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Chapel Hill, TN, 364-2233, (www.lawrencefuneral.net) in charge of arrangements.

Ora Delores Johnson

November 27, 2022

Ora Delores Johnson, age 83, of Shelbyville, passed away Sunday, November 27, 2022, at her home, under the loving care and comfort of her family and Hospice Compassus.

Funeral services will be 12 noon Friday, December 2, 2022, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. Burial will follow in Cedar Grove Cemetery in Belfast.

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

She was born November 9, 1939, in Bedford County, to the late Willis and Celestine Greer Johnson, Sr. She was retired from Tyson Foods after 27 years of service, and attended the Church of Christ.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Willis Johnson, Jr.

Survivors include a son, Anthony Johnson, and a daughter, Chawn Johnson-Brown, and her husband James; a brother, Glenn Johnson, and his wife Sammie; a sister-in-law, Ida Mae Peacock Johnson, and a niece, Jeneia Crawford, and her husband Alvin; seven grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Lights

(Continued from Page 1)

•And finally, for National Thank Your Customers Week, the distillery will be having a 20% off all retail merchandise (excluding whiskey) beginning January. The Uncle Nearest whiskey blend is believed to be from 1856. Nathan

"Nearest" Green, as an enslaved man, is believed to have perfected what is known as the Lincoln County Process, where whiskey is filtered through sugar maple charcoal.

Today, they are one of the fastest growing brands to go from idea to market and will continue to expand in Shelbyville as well as worldwide, according to Keith Weaver.

Hawaii's Mauna Loa starts to erupt, sending ash nearby

By **CALEB JONES**
Associated Press

HONOLULU — The world's largest active volcano spewed some ash and lava Monday and officials said that Mauna Loa wasn't threatening communities on Hawaii's Big Island but people should be prepared for worse.

The U.S. Geological Survey warned the island's 200,000 residents that an eruption "can be very dynamic, and the location and advance of lava flows can change rapidly."

The eruption began late Sunday night in the volcano on the Big Island following a series of fairly large earthquakes, said Ken Hon, the scientist-in-charge at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.

There's been a surge of development on the Big Island in recent decades — its population has more than doubled to 200,000 from 92,000 in 1980 — and many newer residents weren't around when Mauna Loa last erupted 38 years ago.

Most of the people on the island live in the city of Kailua-Kona to the west of the volcano, which has about 23,000 people, and Hilo to the east, with about 45,000. Officials were most worried about several subdivisions about 30 miles to the south of the volcano, which are home to about 5,000 people.

A time-lapse video of the eruption from overnight showed lava lighting up one area, moving across it like waves on the ocean.

The U.S. Geological Survey said that the eruption had migrated to a rift zone — a place where the mountain rock is cracked and relatively weak — making it easier for magma to emerge.

An eruption from the zone could send lava toward the county seat of Hilo or other towns in East Hawaii but it could take lava weeks or months to reach populated areas.

"We don't want to try and second-guess the volcano," Hon said. "We have to let it actually show us what it's going to do and then we inform people of what is happening ASAP."

Hawaii County Civil Defense announced that it had opened shelters because it had reports of people evacuating from along the coast on their own initiative.

The average Mauna Loa eruption is not typically prolonged, lasting a couple of weeks, Hon said.

"Typically, Mauna Loa eruptions start off with the heaviest volume first," Hon said. "After a few days, it starts to calm down a little bit."

The USGS warned residents at risk from Mauna Loa lava flows to review their eruption preparations. Scientists had been on alert because of a recent spike in earthquakes at the summit of the volcano, which last erupted in 1984.

"At this time, it's not a time to be alarmed," Big Island Mayor Mitch Roth said.

Portions of the Big Island were under an ashfall advisory issued by the National Weather Service in Honolulu, which said up to a quarter-inch (0.6 centimeters) of ash could accumulate in some areas.

Funding

(Continued from Page 1)

cost of materials continues to rise. "You can imagine if we don't get out in front of this...we may not pay it today, but we'll pay four-times as much five years from now," said Graham.

"We just need economic development to help pay for this instead of raising taxes," Boutwell added.

"You can't tax yourself out of this," said Graham.

"All this comes into play about zoning, about the conversation we had about building schools, about education, about housing," said Vick. "The higher-income families require less educational spending for the higher return in investment. Conversely, the lower income require more spending. So, we have got to figure out how we can reach this medium without sliding backwards..."

Graham added, "Part of the reason \$11 million is a number that's looking like it's for Bedford is under this new formula, they're giving you more

money, but they're going to require a resource in that classroom that maybe we've not done."

Vick added there's going to be a lot of money coming to the county when the general session starts meeting but they're going to audit every bit of the funds to make sure the funds are being used appropriately.

For example, a possible concerning scenario could be if two schools had to share a nurse due to staffing issues, they would still be required by the formula to hire a nurse for each school. If not, then the county won't pass their audit.

Additionally, the needs on the staffing side are also unknown.

Boutwell added that 85% of the cost to run schools day-to-day goes to labor. Salary-wise, compared to other counties in the South-Central district, Bedford is paying in the "middle."

Looking at the statistics, Boutwell said, "There's probably about three or four other school districts in the state that have less

staff per student than we do. And there are 142 school districts that are supported by counties."

Change in minimum

Bedford County is in the South-Central district, which includes counties like Murray, Coffee, Hickman, Lewis, Wayne, Perry, Franklin.

Boutwell explained that the State of Tennessee comes up with a minimum percentage of funds for counties to commit to education. "But most counties go way over that number," he said. The state was requiring local governments give 34% to the school system. Now, they're requiring 30%, according to Boutwell.

"If the state hadn't lowered it to 30, we probably would have been right at the minimum," said Boutwell. "And I daresay since we're right at the minimum, we're probably one of the first counties that's going to have to pay up something."

"So, when they did this new funding formula,

it really wasn't going to impact any of the counties as far as having to raise the revenue because they're already giving way over." Other counties in this South Central district were giving about 20% above the minimum.

Vick said, "When we look at this new TISA funding formula, they are looking at the capacity. And there's a formula for how much you commit." He continued, "At some point, they're going to come to us and say we're not putting enough money toward education."

Mayor Graham explained, "We're going to have no choice but to pay under this new model. My understanding is they're going to dictate those minimums and the minimums are going to be a lot more than in the past. We just don't know how much."

Boutwell and Vick said they hope to get representatives from TISA and TASSR in the next couple of weeks to help explain what solutions to take for the path forward.

Roles

(Continued from Page 1)

Senator Reeves was first elected Chaplain in 2018. He succeeded former Senator and now-U.S. Congressman Mark Green.

The Senate Republican Caucus Chaplain looks

after the "spiritual needs" of the caucus and often leads the caucus in prayer prior to meetings, according to a recent press release.

"I am pleased to be re-elected to this role in our Caucus," said Reeves. "It is an honor to serve my fellow colleagues in this capacity."

Lt. Governor Randy

McNally (R-Oak Ridge) added, "Senator Reeves is a model senator and a strong servant leader. He has been an excellent chaplain for our caucus. I appreciate him continuing in this role."

The Senate Republicans hold a 27-6 majority.

The nominee will be

confirmed by a resolution of the full Senate when the General Assembly convenes.

The meeting was held as lawmakers prepare to open the first session of the 113th General Assembly on Tuesday, Jan. 10, beginning at noon.

Gunman pleads guilty in racist supermarket massacre

By **CAROLYN THOMPSON**
Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The white gunman who massacred 10 Black shoppers and workers at a Buffalo supermarket pleaded guilty Monday to murder and hate-motivated terrorism charges, guaranteeing he will spend the rest of his life in prison.

Payton Gendron, 19, entered the plea Monday in a courthouse roughly two miles from the grocery store where he used a semiautomatic rifle and body armor to carry out a racist assault he hoped would help preserve white power in the U.S.

Gendron, who was handcuffed and wore an orange jumpsuit, occasionally licked and clenched his lips as he pleaded guilty to all of the most serious charges in the grand jury indictment, including murder, murder as a hate crime and hate-motivated domestic terrorism, which carries an automatic sentence of life without parole.

He answered "yes" and "guilty" as Judge Susan Eagan referred to each victim by name and asked whether he killed them because of their race. Gendron also pleaded guilty to wounding three people who survived the May attack.

Many of the relatives of those victims sat and watched, some dabbing their eyes and sniffing. Speaking to reporters later, several said the plea left them cold. It didn't address the bigger problem, which they said is racism in America.

"His voice made me feel sick, but it showed me I was right," said Zeneta Everhart, whose 20-year-old son was shot in the neck but survived. "This country has a problem. This country is inherently violent. It is racist. And his voice showed that to me."

After the roughly 45-minute proceeding ended, Gendron's lawyers suggested that he now regrets his crimes, but they didn't elaborate or take

questions. "This critical step represents a condemnation of the racist ideology that fueled his horrific actions on May 14," said Gendron's lawyer, Brian Parker. "It is our hope that a final resolution of the state charges will help in some small way to keep the focus on the needs of the victims and the community."

Gendron has pleaded not guilty to separate federal hate crime charges that could result in a death sentence if he is convicted. The U.S. Justice Department has not said whether it will seek capital punishment. Acknowledgement of guilt and a claim of repentance could potentially help Gendron in a penalty phase of a death penalty trial.

The plea comes at a time when many Americans have become nearly desensitized to mass shootings. In recent weeks, there have been deadly attacks at a Walmart in Virginia, at a gay club in Colorado and at the University of Virginia.

Just days after Gendron's rampage in Buffalo, a gunman killed 19 children and two teachers at a school in Uvalde, Texas.

Gendron wore body armor and used a legally purchased AR-15 style rifle in his attack on the Tops Friendly Market in Buffalo. Those killed ranged in age from 32 to 86 and included an armed security guard died trying to protect customers, a church deacon and the mother of a former Buffalo fire commissioner. Gendron surrendered when police confronted him as he emerged from the store.

Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, who was in the courtroom for Gendron's guilty plea, told reporters afterwards that "It was important to hear why these precious lives were snatched from us for no other reason than the color of their skin."

The mayor, a Democrat, called for a ban on assault weapons, as did Police

Commissioner Joseph Gramaglia. Relatives of the victims reiterated their calls for Congress and the FBI to address white supremacy and gun violence. "We are literally begging for those in power to do something about it," said Garnell Whitfield, whose 86-year-old mother, Ruth Whitfield, was killed."

White supremacy was Gendron's motive. He said in documents posted online just before the attack that he'd picked the store, about a three hour drive from his home in Conklin, New York, because it was in a predominantly Black neighborhood. He said he was motivated by a belief in a massive conspiracy to dilute the power of white people by "replacing" them in the U.S. with people of color.

"Swift justice," is how Erie County District Attorney John Flynn described Monday's result, noting that it's the first time anyone in the state of New York has been convicted of the hate-motivated terrorism charge. His sentencing is scheduled for Feb. 15.

Attorney Benjamin Crump, who represents several of the victims'

families, said they remain baffled that the gunman survived. They want harsh punishment, he said: "We want him to be treated as the heinous, cold blooded vicious murderer that he was for killing all these innocent Black people. It is emotional and we are angry."

Mark Talley, the son of Geraldine Talley, who was killed, called on authorities to incarcerate him in Erie County, in the same community where he caused so much pain, so that he might face the same horror experienced by his victims. "I want that pain to eat at him every second of every day for the rest of his life," Talley said.

Talley and Everhart said they were offended by Gendron's tone and cleaned-up appearance in court. They said a Black defendant would have been treated differently. Gendron is a "thug," they said.

"We show them in a way that doesn't make them threatening, and it's disgusting," Everhart said.

"Am I happy he's going to jail for life?" Tally said. "What would make me happy is if America acknowledged its history of racism."

The Issue: Troy Thompson

Commissioner talks rezoning challenges

By **ZOË WATKINS**
zwatkins@t-g.com



Troy Thompson

District 3 commissioner Troy Thompson has been in the Unionville-Rover area for 26 years.

"I like the area because it's kind of in the middle of nowhere but kind of close to everything. It's kind of an odd spot," Thompson said with a laugh.

"But what I really love about Shelbyville and Bedford County is we seem to do more with less," said Thompson. "We're not top of the chain in tax base, or the wheel tax, or sales tax... But I'm pretty confident in all the services we provide. We're really blessed to have what we have."

To say the least, he's familiar with the area.

Thompson grew up in Shelbyville, which he considers "home base." He graduated from Shelbyville Central High School in 1984 and then Middle Tennessee State University, where he majored in business administration and public relations, all while serving as a pitcher for the baseball team.

After graduating, Thompson worked at a human resources firm in Lewisburg before moving on to Franklin. He then worked for Bedford County government in finance under Paul Parker beginning in 1993.

This county government experience in many ways paved the way for Thompson becoming a county commissioner today.

"I felt like I had sat on the bench long enough, and I like to help people...I had watched county government and I know how it works with a bad commissioner or a good commissioner," he said.

But long gone are the days when you could go to any given store or shop and sit with the "old-timers" to find out all the news of the community. Instead, Thompson said he went door-to-door, hearing many residents say they had lost confidence in the government and didn't feel motivated to vote or get involved.

"We've had some issues out in Unionville already and it hasn't died down since the PUD," said Thompson.

Thompson is referring to the proposed rezoning for the planned unit development on Longview Road in Unionville, which was going to bring 109 lots to 117 acres. Many residents fought the rezoning since it first came up last April. The Bedford County Board of Commissioners voted against the rezoning at their November meeting. Now, instead of a PUD, the developers, Landmark Homes of Tennessee, can only create a standard subdivision with 80 houses instead of 109.

"We did the will of the people, but it wasn't as simple as PUD or no PUD," he said. Thompson said he talked to many residents who were "on the other side" and were for the rezoning. He said he could see the benefits of a PUD in that their blueprints are exact—you know exactly what kind of layout the neighborhood is getting.

"There were many truths and nontruths, from both sides, about the PUD. And you just want to work your way through all the dirt and mud just to get to the facts, then make the best decision you can," he said.

Ultimately, it boiled down to "could we envision one being in Longview?" according to Thompson.

"We'll never know what the best choice was until 10,

15 years from now," said Thompson. "It was a tough call, but if they're good with the subdivision, then I feel good about it."

Now there's another zoning issue on 41A for a convenience store. Even though the location has served as other commercial retail businesses—including a farmers' market, a convenience market, and a bar—the lot is no longer considered a grandfathered commercial lot since it hasn't had any like commercial usage in three years.

It's a challenge of being a county commissioner when issues like this arise as you have to be a representative of the people but also adhering to a set of rules.

Thompson is familiar with this as he served on the Beer Board for almost 30 years. "On the beer board, we have a set of guidelines we go by and that's it...and legally, you have to approve the beer license because there's no reason not to." That is, even if the business is seen as "controversial."

"It's difficult when you have to make a decision that's probably not in the best interest of the majority," he said. "That's difficult for me because I want to do the will of the people."

Thompson said sometimes it seems like as a county official zoning is like shooting at a moving target. "What's best for Wartrace, Bell Buckle may not be best for Unionville, Rover, or Halls Mill," he said.

Having refereed in football and umpired in baseball, he understands when people are split on a decision.

"On a field, I try to explain my position, which I try to work my way backwards on refereeing because you've got the choice and you have to say this is why I did it. On something like this, I try to get with the people," he explained. "And that usually works best, when you're honest with the people."

"I know we won't see eye-to-eye on everything. But I'm not going to let any decision I make on the commission affect the friendships I have with my neighbors," he said.

And there will be continued zoning challenges as Bedford County develops and grows. "I think the challenges will include the industrial park we have going on out there on Highway 231. And even competing with Rutherford County in industry," Thompson said.

"I would like to be on the end of choosing rather than being chosen. I would like to say we can do this, this, or this, rather than just this," said Thompson.

Overall, Thompson said he's looking forward to working with the new county commissioner in making these decisions. "I'm really impressed with these new commissioners. I think you're going to get a wide variety of things... That's the way I hoped to be, based on the issue," he said.



HOSTING HOLIDAY MIXER

The Shelbyville-Bedford County Chamber of Commerce Holiday Mixer was held recently at the Blue Ribbon Circle. Hosting, from left, were: Yolanda Flick, Chamber director; Linda Nichols and Whitney Collier.

Chamber Photos



HOLIDAY BUFFET

A colorful and tasty buffet was part of the Chamber's annual holiday mixer last week.

PROS TO KNOW

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Betty Baker
VP Lending
Heritage South Community Credit Union

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Don't let your roller clog with hair

Dear Heloise: I have long hair and have noticed how it has become the current fashion trend, so I thought I'd share this hint. I discovered that having long hair is nearly as bad as having a shaggy long-haired dog in the family! In the past, when I vacuumed the carpets, the roller got filled with innumerable, annoying, tightly wound strands of strong hair that had to be pulled out.

Suddenly, I got an idea. Certainly, I thought the hair is just lying on the surface of the carpet. What if I used a broom or a brush to capture a portion of the hair before I vacuumed? I went to my broom closet and found a scrubbing brush on the end of a broomstick. So, I tried long gentle sweeps of the surface of the carpet, and sure enough, I could pick up quite a bit of hair, saving some of the usual struggle of removing hair from the roller brush. From that day on, that is what I do. -- Priscilla Zanni, Vancouver, Washington

PICTURE STORAGE

Dear Heloise: Many people have pictures of family and places they have been, and most of those pictures are just "pictures in a box." As most people now have computers, they should just scan those pictures, and they can put the "who, what or where" on its file name. Then, they can be stored on the computer or on flash drives, and can be searched for and found very easily. No longer just "pictures in a box" -- and in case of disaster, they can be saved. Plus, hundreds of pictures can be saved in just a little space. I put them in folders, with dates on them so that I could have months and years together. For example: Folder 2001, Mom and Dad, vacation at the beach. Thank you. -- Gene Stephenson, Lesage, West Virginia

REMEMBER YOUR LIST

Dear Heloise: With regard to the lady who tapes her grocery list and coupons to her car steering wheel, I have a far better solution, so as to not forget those things when going shopping. Take a clothespin or a clip and just attach the list to your car keys! If you need to take food somewhere, put the food in the fridge along with the car keys. You can hardly forget your keys when leaving home. -- Victoria, Sidney, Ohio

Hints from Heloise



SAVE ON GIFT WRAPPING

Dear Heloise: One of my family's favorite ways of economizing and reusing resources over the holidays is wrapping gifts with black and white newspaper and tying them with twine or ribbon. This produces a simple, rustic look and cuts down on the storage space necessary for all the usual gift-wrapping bling. -- A Reader, in Virginia

MAN'S WAY OF CLEANING THE SHOWER

Dear Heloise: How do professional maids clean walk-in showers, where the walls and part of the floor cannot be reached from outside the door? I end up taking off my clothes and sloshing around in some chemical cleaners. I fill a large drinking cup with water from the showerhead to rinse the tiles and floor. Surely, professional maids do not clean showers in their client's houses in this manner. -- John, via email

John, here's another solution. This is my Heloise home-style method for cleaning the shower: Use a sponge mop that has been dipped into a bucket containing a mixture of 1/2 cup of vinegar, 1 cup of clear ammonia and 1/4 cup of baking soda in 1 gallon of water. Rub the mop around the surfaces, and then rinse with clear water. (Also, don't try to remove stains on porcelain tiles or fiberglass with abrasive powders or steel-wool pads, because they will scratch.) Happy cleaning!

CHILL PIE-MAKING TOOLS BEFOREHAND

Dear Heloise: Years ago when I'd help my mother make pies, she always told me to take the bowl, the mixing blades to the blender or mixer, spoons and anything else I used to make pies, and place them all in the refrigerator overnight. I also would put the marble slab we used in there as well. When we got ready to bake, everything was chilled, and for reasons I can't explain, the crust was always as light as a feather. My mother said it was because we chilled everything beforehand. -- Shannon M., Orem, Utah
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Send Community Calendar items to tgnews@t-g.com, notify us on Facebook, call 931-684-1200 or stop by our office, 323 E. Depot St.

THURSDAY

SCHRA board

South Central Human Resource Agency's Governing Board will hold its annual meeting at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 1 at Henry Horton State Park, 4209 Nashville Highway, Chapel Hill. Several subcommittees will meet before the main meeting.

FRIDAY

Commodity distribution

Commodities will be distributed by South Central Tennessee Resource Agency from 10 a.m.-noon Friday, Dec. 2, at Bedford County Agriculture Center, 2119 Midland Road.

Wartrace lights

Wartrace's Christmas lighting is set for 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2 on the town square. Included will be a live performance by The Tobins from 6-8 p.m., and a special appearance by Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus.

Holiday Night Market

Holiday Night Market is scheduled from 4-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2 in Bell Buckle's downtown area, including games, music and food.

Quilted Christmas

Bell Buckle is presenting its annual Quilted Christmas on Friday, Dec. 2, and Saturday, Dec. 3, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. The free tour will begin at the Main Street pavilion where maps will be available.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SATURDAY

Christmas Parade

The 49th annual Shelbyville Christmas Parade, hosted by the Shelbyville Jaycees, will be Saturday, Dec. 3 at 4 p.m. following the traditional route around the square to North Main Street and out Madison Street. Rain date will be Sunday, Dec. 4 at 2 p.m. This year's parade theme will be "A Storybook Christmas." Participant applications are available at www.shelbyvilletn.com.

Wine tasting

Shelbyville-Bedford County Humane Association's annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction, to benefit Shelbyville-Bedford County Humane Association's no-kill animal shelter, will be 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, at Riverbend Country Club. A full dinner buffet catered by the country club will be included. Tickets are available at Merle Norman, Heritage Jewelers, Riverbend Country Club, and at the shelter at 911 Madison St. (call the shelter at 931-684-5463 before picking up tickets.)

DEC. 7

Retired Teachers meeting

Bedford County Retired Teachers will meet 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7 at Emmy's Restaurant (Urban Plantation). Community High School Drama Club and instructor Tony Davis will present the program.

DEC. 9

Winter Fest

Thomas Intermediate School is holding Winter Fest on Friday, Dec. 9, beginning at 4 p.m. A chili supper, silent auction and photos with Santa are included. The play "Annie

| November 2022 | | | | | | |
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| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

Kids" will be performed by the TMS Drama Club at 6 p.m.

Wine Walk

The 12th annual Wine Walk will be from 4-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9 on the Shelbyville square.

DEC. 10

Gilliland House

The Gilliland House, 803 Lipscomb St., is having a Christmas holiday event from noon-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10. Cookies and hot chocolate will be served and photos with Santa will be available in the cabin behind the main house.

ONGOING

Meals on Wheels

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

Soup kitchen

Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen serves meals from 4-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at 336 S. Cannon Blvd. (corner of South Cannon and Pickle Street). Doors open at 3:45. Donations may be made to Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen, P.O. Box 2259, Shelbyville, TN 37162, and are tax deductible under its 501c3 non-profit designation. Boxed non-perishables are available. Takeouts are no longer distributed.

Head Start

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

Fire safety protocols to keep in mind when holiday decorating

Decorating the interior and exterior of a home is a beloved holiday season tradition in millions of households. Such decor makes it easy to dive into the festive nature of the season.

Many people could not imagine a holiday season without decorating their homes, and it's vital that celebrants do so safely. Fire safety is especially important during a time of year when string lights and potentially dried out trees feature so prominently. These fire safety tips can ensure this holiday season is safe.

- Buy the safest lights. It might be tempting to buy the most inexpensive lights, especially given all the extra costs already associated with the holiday season. However, safety should be the utmost priority when buying new lights. Testing laboratories such as CSA, Intertek and UL certify products to ensure they're safe for use. Products that aren't certified should be avoided.
- Use lights and cords where they're intended to be used. The packaging on lights will indicate if the product is intended to be used indoors or outdoors. It's vital that individuals decorating their homes with lights pay attention to these labels. Never decorate the exterior of a home with interior lights,



These fire safety tips can ensure this holiday season is safe.

and vice versa. Extension cords made for indoors also should not be used outdoors and vice versa.

- Be especially careful with candles. Candles should only be burned when adults are in the room and should always be extinguished before leaving the room or going to bed. When burning candles, place them on heat-resistant surfaces that are beyond the reach of curious kids and pets. Never place candles within arm's length of Christmas trees or houseplants, including poinsettias.
- Ask an electrician to inspect your exterior outlets and circuits. Ground fault

circuit interruptor (GFCI) outlets are designed to prevent electric shocks and reduce the risk of electrical fires. Most areas now require new homes be built exclusively with GFCIs, which are recognizable because they feature two buttons between the outlets. But older homes may not be equipped with GFCIs, particularly with exterior outlets. GFCI installation is not an especially expensive job, so homeowners should ask an electrician to inspect their interior and exterior outlets and replace non-GFCIs with GFCIs.

- Do not pinch light cords. Stringing lights can be a hassle, but cords should

never be pinched in doors or windows or beneath interior and exterior furniture. Doing so increases the risk of damage to the cord, which in turn increases the likelihood of fire.

- Avoid overloading circuits. Overloaded circuits pose a significant fire hazard. When plugging in lights, choose outlets that aren't already occupied by devices and other electronics. If need be, unplug appliances like televisions and devices while lights are on and plugged in.

When decorating this holiday season, celebrants are urged to do everything they can to reduce the risk of fire in their homes.

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CATTLE COUNTRY



T-G Photos by David Melson

Cattle are a big part of Bedford County's agricultural business, like these seen at farms on Highway 64 West and Frank Martin Road.



Bird flu prompts slaughter of 1.8M chickens in Nebraska

By JOSH FUNK
 AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. — Nebraska agriculture officials say another 1.8 million chickens must be killed after bird flu was found on a farm in the latest sign that the outbreak that has already prompted the slaughter of more than 50 million birds nationwide continues to spread. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture said Saturday that the state's 13th case of bird flu was found on an egg-laying farm in northeast Nebraska's Dixon County, about 120 miles (193 kilometers) north of Omaha, Nebraska.

Just like on other farms where bird flu has been found this year, all the chickens on the Nebraska farm will be killed to limit the spread of the disease. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says more than 52.3 million birds in 46 states — mostly chickens and turkeys on commercial farms — have been slaughtered as part of this year's outbreak. Nebraska is second only to Iowa's 15.5 million birds killed with 6.8 million birds now affected at 13 farms. In most past bird flu outbreaks the virus largely died off during the summer, but this year's version found

a way to linger and started to make a resurgence this fall with more than 6 million birds killed in September. The virus is primarily spread by wild birds as they migrate across the country. Wild birds can often carry the disease without showing symptoms. The virus spreads through droppings or the nasal discharge of an infected bird, which can contaminate dust and soil. Commercial farms have taken a number of steps to prevent the virus from infecting their flocks, including requiring workers to change clothes before entering barns and sanitizing trucks as they enter the

farm, but the disease can be difficult to control. Zoos have also taken precautions and closed some exhibits to protect their birds. Officials say there is little risk to human health from the virus because human cases are extremely rare and the infected birds aren't allowed to enter the nation's food supply. Plus, any viruses will be killed by properly cooking poultry to 165 degrees Fahrenheit. But the bird flu outbreak has contributed to the rising prices of chicken and turkey along with the soaring cost of feed and fuel.

Nutrients after hurricane fuel red tide

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — Scientists are saying a red tide bloom that's lingered along the coast for a few weeks is now being fed by nutrients running off the landscape in the wake of Hurricane Ian. Red tide (*Karenia brevis*) is a naturally occurring organism in the Gulf of Mexico that sometimes blooms to toxic levels. But research shows that nutrients from farm fields, lawns and septic tanks fuel red tide blooms close to shore — making them more frequent, longer-lasting and more intense.

"I don't see any good evidence that hurricanes initiate a red tide, but once you have a red tide started, runoff will make it worse," said Larry Brand, a water quality expert, scientist and professor at the University of Miami. Ian didn't create the conditions for the original bloom; but rain water and storm surge has helped fuel the bloom, which now stretches from the Sarasota area south to Marco Island. Counts of 1 million cells per liter and higher have been reported at multiple locations along the

Southwest Florida coast. Dead fish litter many beaches in the region, and the Florida Department of Health in Collier County issued an exposure advisory Wednesday. DOH agrees with Brand, that nutrients flowing off the landscape contribute to the intensity and duration of the bloom. "Once inshore, these opportunistic organisms can use nearshore nutrient sources to fuel their growth," a Wednesday DOH press release reads. "Blooms typically last into winter or spring, but in some cases,

can endure for more than one year." What should Southwest Florida residents do? DOH says people who live along the coast should even check their air conditioning filters. "Residents living in beach areas are advised to close windows and run the air conditioner, making sure that the A/C filter is maintained according to manufacturer's specifications," DOH says. "If outdoors near an affected location, residents may choose to wear masks, especially if onshore winds are blowing."

AG NOTES

By JOHN TEAGUE
 UT/TSU Extension

INDICATOR PLANTS

I saw this on the Tennessee Cattlemen Association email this week and I want to share this bit of useful information. Greg Brann, Natural Resources Conservation Service Grazing Specialist in Tennessee, recently sent some information out about "indicator plants" along with some tips for how to use that information to improve soil health and pasture quality. It's good information for everyone to consider. Indicator plants are plants that, by their presence or abundance, can help us assess the quality of the site and what's occurring below the surface. This is somewhat an old science, but there is an online site that has compiled this information into a useful format. There are charts and easy reading, and some good photos to help with weed identification. The site is called the On Pasture Library. The link is pretty long, but I'll be glad to share via email. Contact me at the office at 684-5971, or send me an email to jteague1@utk.edu

GARDENING DREAMS

It's about the time for folks to start dreaming about gardens. It's not for the faint of heart, if you will think back to the cold wet spring, then the dry weather and the high temperatures, and the continuing drought for the entire season.

But for those who are resilient, and those who are optimistic, it's time to think about plants for the 2023 season.

I have a list of vegetable garden publications that we have in the UT Extension publications. There are 30-40 of them. I'll be glad to share the link to these publications. Again, contact me and I'll be glad to share.

AND FRUIT

Dr. David Lockwood, our fruit and nut tree specialist for forty-five years, retired this summer, but being the workhorse that he has been for decades, he wrote me a message recommending some fruit tree varieties and some not to use in our landscapes.

I saved the email, and with his permission, I have shared it with folks who want to plant a few trees. I'll be glad to share this as well.

TREES

It's not a bad time to

plant trees in the landscape. This moderate weather with some moisture allows for root development and establishment, instead of the spring plantings that lead to hot and dry conditions after a few weeks.

We have a good group of tree recommendations for landscapes and certain locations. If you are considering planting trees in the landscape, you might want to take a look at these. Again, contact me and I'll be glad to share.

WEED CONTROL

With temperatures in the 60's and moderate weather, this is not a bad time to use chemical weed controls in pastures and barn lots for wild buttercup, thistles, and other weeds. These products of choice are pretty much such 2,4D or Duracor. The target weeds are usually easy to identify and off-target plants such as shrubs, vegetables and the like are relatively safe. But it is important to identify the weeds correctly.

For instance, I checked photos sent to me for ID and chemical recommendations. The difference is that both products were rated for these 3 weeds, but only one of them had a 9 rating on all three weeds. The other product was rated 9's on two weeds, but only a three on the third one. Obviously it makes a difference.

Be sure to read the label. That's the law. And applicators are responsible for any damages, but like I said, off-target plants are not a bad problem now compared to spring and summer. Just be mindful of the conditions as recommended on the label.

THANKSGIVING

Holidays are times for reflecting. I was fortunate to have all of my family together this past week. The young ones are the focus and that's a good thing. As they grow and learn about relationships and family, I'm proud when they realize their relationship to each other and aunts and uncles and cousins.

I try to reflect on family members that are not with us and help the younger ones to realize who they were. The boys remember my parents and others, but it's important that the little one learns who they were and how they relate. We're getting there.

Holidays are important but so are all of the other days. Cherish them all as if every day is a holiday. Focus on family and friends. Think about it.

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Southern Junction opens in Wartrace

Shop offers unique designs

By ZOE WATKINS
 zwatkins@t-g.com

Amie Diprima was a middle school language arts teacher in Rome, Georgia with a side business, Amie J & Co, which she ran online beginning 11 years ago.

It began when she started making gifts as Christmas presents for friends, who quickly encouraged her to make and sell more.

“March of the next year I went ahead and put them on a marketplace listing at 11 o’clock at night. Woke up the next day and I had 17 orders. I thought, this is going to do well,” Diprima recalled.

She sold ornaments and decorative lights before starting print designs. When popularity for the designs grew, she ordered a heat press that night.

That side hustle turned into a blossoming business, which allowed Diprima to leave teaching four years ago to run it full-time.

Today, she and her partner Mike McPherson own Southern Junction, a t-shirt print shop, in Wartrace.

For Diprima and McPherson, they say Wartrace just became like home.

“We’ve just really become involved in the community,” said Diprima. “We want this town to be a destination...We want people to come here and enjoy the town, go home, and come back next weekend.” Both McPherson and Diprima serve as active members of the Wartrace Chamber of Commerce.

And the Town of Wartrace, along with its residents and visitors alike, has certainly proven to be a unique place of inspiration—even down to the name Southern Junction, which comes from the railroad that runs right in front of the store.

“I love being able to tell people, ‘You can only find the design here,’” said Diprima.

“I do all the prints and all the design,” she said. They have two rooms set up in the store, so everything is made in-house. And because they use commercial-grade equipment, their designs don’t fade or wash away easily.

“I’ve always been a creative person...but doing it like this was a little bit of a learning process.”

Diprima designs with sublimation, which is an ink that turns into a gas when heated, thus staining the threads of the cloth. Learning the process didn’t happen overnight. Diprima said she researched the methods for two years before purchasing the equipment.

“It’s all just a constant learning process. It’s about finding new methods, ways, and products,” she said.

Diprima says she keeps up with the latest designs, like leopard print wording. But you have to make sure you have enough of your own design so as not to infringe on anyone else’s design.

“I try to keep a unique edge to it,” she said. That creative edge comes from catering to what her customers want versus what she likes.

And she gets helps from McPherson, who’s had his own unique career path.

Originally from Mt. Juliet, McPherson moved to Wartrace to escape the “big city” atmosphere.

Growing up, McPherson’s dad worked at a funeral home, which led McPherson to go into mortuary science and work at a funeral home beginning at age 19. “I did my senior term paper on caskets. I was just weird, I guess,” McPherson said



Southern Junction is located in Wartrace's downtown.

T-G Photos by Zoe Watkins



At Southern Junction, you'll be able to find unique designs, many of which are Wartrace-themed.



The famous “Wiener Muffin” design.



Mike McPherson and Amie Diprima

with a tinge of that wry humor he’s known for.

He worked in the death industry for almost 20 years in addition to having a crime scene cleanup business. “When I started, I wasn’t quite ready for it. I couldn’t eat lunch; I would tear up during funerals. And then I realized, it’s not for you, it’s for them. You’re supposed to be strong for them,” McPherson said.

But, like Amie, he also had a side hustle—elevator inspector. He recalled back in 2010 how he had an acquaintance who was an elevator and escalator inspector, who got him interested in it. He said he started as a tool carrier before going back to school to become an inspector. Now, he is the State of Tennessee’s Chief Elevator Inspector.

Differing careers aside, Diprima and McPherson work as great creative partners.

“I’m creative, just in a different way,” McPherson said.

“And then I’ll tweak the design,” added Diprima. “We’re able to appreciate each other’s unique attributes we bring here.”

That’s how the “wiener muffin” came to be.

McPherson found a recipe for cornbread muffins with hotdogs in them. They made some and brought extras to their friends over at the Iron Horse pizza parlor in Wartrace. After tweaking the recipe and giving away the muffins to neighbors around town, Diprima said, “It got to the point people would see us out and say ‘Wiener Muffin!’”

So, Diprima and McPherson designed a shirt for the muffins and had “people lined up for it,” Diprima recalled. Now they see their designs for the wiener muffin from Manchester to Gatlinburg.

But that’s just one of their bestsellers. They also do personalization, such as printing a grandmother’s recipe on a kitchen towel or making pillows out of a loved one’s old shirts.

“I’ve always needed a creative outlet,” said Diprima. “I love it when someone comes in with this idea and I can make it for them, and it comes to life.”

Southern Junction is located in downtown Wartrace. For more information, visit their Facebook page, Southern Junction.

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Drugs discovered on man lying in street

By **DAVID MELSON**
dmelson@t-g.com

Substances were found in possession of a man found lying in the street shortly after midnight Sunday on Sun Circle, Shelbyville police said.

Joseph Alec McGovern, 25, of Gant Road was awakened by officers, who said they found marijuana and Xanax in his possession.

McGovern was charged with public intoxication and possession of schedule IV and VI drugs and paraphernalia. Bond was set at \$7,000.

Assault charge

A suspect was charged with aggravated domestic assault on Thanksgiving Day after allegedly attacking a woman at Blue Ribbon Inn, North Main Street.

Adam Lee who police said is homeless, allegedly punched the woman in the face several times, bit her on both arms and attempted to strangle her.

A witness told police she saw the fight in progress over Facebook Live.

Mullins' bond was set at \$7,500.

Patrol car damage

A hanging line from a previous accident tore the spotlight off a Shelbyville Police Department patrol car early Sunday.

Officer Samuel

Campbell said in a report he hit a downed utility line on Fairfield Pike at Chestnut Drive at 2:19 a.m. Sunday.

A wooden utility pole had been struck and broken in two in the earlier accident. The broken pole had been left up until AT&T could switch lines to the new pole.

Shoplifting

A woman was cited for allegedly changing tags on items throughout the Walmart on Wednesday.

Janette Miller, no address available, was given a court summons for shoplifting.

Jail Intake

- Arbando Bacilio Martinez, 19, King Arthur Court; DUI, leaving the scene of an accident, no driver's license/exhibited on demand, violation of drinking age law, violation of implied consent; \$7,000 bond

- Audrey Grace Black, 21, El Bethel Road; light law, no driver's license/exhibited on demand, violation of registration law; no bond

- James Keith Boyce, 47, Lewisburg; no driver's license/exhibited on demand, speeding; no bond

- Kara Gowen, 35, Hillsboro; driving on a revoked license, DUI; \$6,000 bond

POLICE ANNIVERSARIES



Two Shelbyville Police Department officers are celebrating their third anniversaries with the force. Darrian Lanier, left, is assigned to the B-Night shift. Joseph Cleek is assigned to the B-Day shift.

- Christian Allen Lawson, 27, Cedar Circle; driving on a suspended license, DUI, running a red light/stop sign; \$3,500 bond

- Daniel Lopez, 53, Barksdale Lane; driver to exercise due care, DUI, no driver's license/exhibited on demand; \$2,500 bond

- Domingo Lopez-Gomez, 18, Barksdale Lane; no driver's license/exhibited on demand, running a red light/stop sign; no bond

- Tija Marie McDaniel, 34, Hawthorn Hill Road; possession of schedule 2 drug, possession of schedule 4 drug; \$40,000 bond

- Joseph Alec McGovern, 25, Gant Road; possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of schedule 2 drug, possession of schedule 6 drug, public intoxication; \$7,000 bond

- Tyler Ray McGuire, 23, Caffey Lane; domestic assault (simple); \$2,500

- Michael Shane Mullins, 51, homeless; criminal trespassing; \$1,500 bond

- Maria Schultz, 43, Neeley Avenue; light law, no driver's license/exhibited on demand; no bond

- Billie Smith, 66, Union Street; assault; \$10,000 bond

- Zachary Mitchell Taylor, 24, Conquest Court, Unionville; driver to exercise due care, DUI, financial responsibility, open

- container law, reckless/careless driving, seatbelt law; \$2,500 bond

- Donavan Dewayne Waller, 34, Neeley Avenue; driving on a revoked license, DUI, light law, open container law; \$16,500 bond

- Justin Dequan Watkins, 34, Charles Place; violation of probation (two counts); \$5,000 bond

Former educator pleads guilty to helping murderer escape

By **TERENCE CORRIGAN**
Special to the T-G

Tiffany Dawn Taylor, 38, of Lewisburg, pled guilty on Oct. 21, to being an accessory in the Sept. 13, 2021 murder of a 14-year-old boy in Shelbyville.

Taylor is a college graduate. She told Judge Forest A. Durard Jr., at her sentencing hearing, that she was a teacher. She was previously employed as an educational assistant by the Marshall County School System from August 2015 to May 2016.

The victim, 14-year-old Shelbyville Central High School freshman Israel D. Pascual, died from a single gunshot wound to the head. Six shots were fired into the car where the boy sat. Horatio Lewis Rice, 39, (also known as ARSO) pled guilty on April 18 to the murder.

Rice is serving a life sentence (51 years) with no chance for parole, plus 50 years for other charges connected with the crime. He must serve the sentences consecutively (one after the other) which means he will never walk free.

Taylor admitted her involvement in helping Rice to flee from Shelbyville and attempting to evade arrest.

If found guilty at a jury trial, Taylor could have been sentenced to one to six years in prison and a \$3,000 fine. Taylor's conviction in the plea deal resulted in a prison sentence of 18 months. She must serve a minimum of 30 percent (5 1/2 months) before being eligible for early release. When she stood before the judge for sentencing on Oct. 21, she had already served nearly 5 1/2 months of jail time, while awaiting trial, which will be deducted from her sentence

meaning she was eligible for release that day. As of Tuesday, Nov. 8, however, she was still incarcerated in Bedford County Jail.

After her arrest in September 2021, Taylor was released on a \$50,000 bond to await trial. However, seven months after her release on bond she was rearrested for allegedly stealing property valued at over \$2,500 from an antique store in Shelbyville.

Mistaken identity

Police believe that the shooting murder of the Shelbyville boy was a case of mistaken identity.

When interviewed by police, after her arrest, Taylor said that Rice shot at the car the victim was seated in thinking he was shooting at a criminal gang member, Michael Gamble, also known as "Bino." Gamble is reportedly a member of the Vice Lords, a criminal gang that is a major player in drug distribution throughout Tennessee. Gamble had been arrested, five days before the Shelbyville shooting, in Lewisburg on charges of possession of drugs with intent to sell.

The crime

The shooting occurred shortly before 9 p.m. on Sept. 13, 2021. The victim and his older brother had just gotten into the older brother's black 2017 Nissan, Altima after folding their laundry at the Duck River Laundry on North Main Street in Shelbyville. The boys' parents had also been



Tiffany Taylor

at the laundry, doing the family's laundry, but the parents left a few minutes before the shooting. The boys were preparing to leave when the shooting occurred.

Police interviewed several witnesses and persons of interest in their investigation resulting in a convoluted tale.

One witness, an employee of the Huddle House restaurant, told police that he had seen a black male and a white male running through the parking lot of a nearby motel around the time of the shooting.

Another witness said after hearing gunshots he also saw two men, one black and one white, running in the motel parking lot behind the Duck River Laundry.

Two other witnesses told police they saw a black male running away from the scene carrying a handgun. One of those witnesses was standing outside in front of a motel behind the laundry, the other was in a room of the same motel on the third floor.

Police collected video surveillance from the laundry and the Little Caesar's pizza restaurant next door. Both videos showed a black male shooting at the parked vehicle at the laundry and then running from the scene.

Video surveillance, before the shooting, showed a silver 2007 Chrysler, Sebring driven by Tiffany Taylor pull into the parking lot of the pizza restaurant.

Cast of characters

Around the time of the shooting, according to statements of people who were at the scene and admitted to association with the shooter that night, Rice, there

were five other people around the crime scene at the time of the shooting.

Three of those who were associates of Rice and in the immediate vicinity of the shooting have past or recent criminal involvements: William L. Ballinger, 29, (arrested for car theft in Aug, 2022), Michael Anthony Caldwell (named as a person of interest in the murder of the 14-year-old) and Brian Keith Tucker (charged with TennCare fraud in 2014). Other people who were allegedly in the immediate vicinity of the shooting included Stephanie Fox and Ballinger's girlfriend. Rice and Taylor and the others who were in association with Rice on the night of the shooting were all staying at the Shelbyville Inn.

Escape attempt

Shortly after the shooting, Rice and Taylor packed up their belongings and left town in a silver 2007 Chrysler, Sebring (believed to belong to Taylor) that was recorded on surveillance video at the scene of the shooting.

Using cellphone tracking and video surveillance investigators learned that Rice and Taylor were at the Wal-Mart in Dickson buying food two days after the shooting in Shelbyville.

One day later (Sept. 16) the pair was recorded on surveillance video in a Wal-Mart in Oakland where they bought more food and white spray paint which they later used to repaint the silver Chrysler.

On Sept. 17, Taylor's mother contacted police and showed them a text message she received from Taylor. (Taylor had used a new

cellphone to send the text message.) "I love u mom," she wrote (printed here exactly as texted). "Tell the kids I love them. I'll be home soon. We r innocent. Wrong place wrong time. We just wanted food. Please delete this. I'ok. I'm around close. Please tell kids I love them n mommy will be home soon. Plz plz don't tell anyone I txt. We r proving our inno7 before I go home. That guy set us up. I promise you. We were just trying to get jobs and do tight. Please trust me."

Armed with the IP address of Taylor's new cellphone, police were again able to track the pair to America's Best Value Inn in Robinsonville, Mississippi. Officers with a U.S. Marshal Service Task Force found the Chrysler at the motel. As law enforcement officers closed in, Rice attempted, unsuccessfully, to escape, hiding in the boiler room of the hotel.

Investigators learned that Taylor had checked into the hotel using the name Kaitlin Epperson. She had presented a Tennessee identification card in the name of Epperson.

Taylor told police that Rice forced her to flee from Tennessee and held her against her will. She told police she was not involved in the murder of the 14-year-old in Shelbyville.

Rice also agreed to speak with police immediately after he was captured. During his interview, Rice admitted to the shooting, saying it was a case of mistaken identity. He said he thought the car belonged to someone he had "trouble with." Rice did not tell police who he thought was in the car.

BEDFORD COUNTY YESTERYEARS

NOVEMBER 1890

NOTICE - Tonight, when you go home, put up your cows and hogs. Tomorrow they will be taken up by the police if they are found roaming about the streets and will cost you money to get them again.

REAL ESTATE - S. T. Pickle to L. Madison, 42 acres in the 21st District.

HALEY - Mr. John Shoffner, brakeman on the N & C, was at home Friday last.

BUSINESS CHANGE - Messers. Hoskins & Nance have sold their entire stock of furniture to W. G. Rucker, who will remove it

to his present stand on the South Side.

HURRICANE GROVE - W. N. Parsons who is engaged with the Postal Telegraph Cable Company, paid his family a flying visit last week.

CHESTNUT HUNT - Tuesday last, a party from town went chestnut hunting to Elk Ridge. The following young folks made the party: Misses Willie Kate and Sara Fogleman, Fannie Sandusky, Mattie Buchanan, Mary and Carrie Frierson; Messers. Claude Houston, Sam Coble, Burton Frierson and Erwin Frierson.

LOST - A lady's black

cloth jacket, between Mrs. M. V. Arnold's on the Petersburg Pike, and the toll-gate nearest town on Lewisburg Pike. Return to the Gazette Office and will be paid for trouble.

NOVEMBER 1952
SHELBYVILLE - Mr. and Mrs. J. Ivan Potts, Jr. were honored with a surprise housewarming at their home on South Brittain Street, Saturday night. A lobster supper was enjoyed. Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Gentry, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hale, Mr and Mrs. Eddie Watson and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Tilford.

NORMANDY - Mrs. Flaudia Daniel has returned

from a visit with her son, Harold Daniel and family at Arlington, Virginia.

HICKORY HILL - Mr. and Mrs. George Landis have returned to their home from Washington, D.C.

SULPHUR SPRINGS - Miss Lillie Turrentine spent last week with Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Thompson.
NEW HERMAN - Mrs. Horace Stone and son, Jimmy of Shelbyville were dinner guests Sunday by her aunt, Miss Bette Morris, and uncle Bill Morris.

SHELBYVILLE - Fire destroyed the Model Laundry & Dry Cleaners, Depot Street, early

Wednesday.

NOVEMBER 1977
ROVER - Mrs. Addelene Reynolds and sons of McMinnville were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Pugh.

BUTLER'S CREEK - Mr. and Mrs. Van Coggins had Mr. Coggins' brothers and son Ray of North Carolina as guests last week.

REAL ESTATE - Louise Butts to John S. Derryberry.

ROVER / UNIONVILLE - Mrs. Nora Bell Taylor ahs been recent guest of her brother, Sam Blanton, of Nashville.

ROVER - Mrs. Wilma

Melissa Edwards

Historian



Good of Nashville is spending the week with her sister, Mrs. Margaret Newsom.

SHELBYVILLE - Construction is underway for extending South Jefferson Street from East Depot Street directly southwardly to connect with Highway 82 at the intersection of South Brittain, Dunnaway and South Main.



The Humble Baron is the "world's longest bar" at 525 linear feet, in the shape of a horseshoe.

Guests could choose from a variety of whiskeys.



Tommy and Fredia Lusk with Jim Vance.

Nearest Green kicks off Christmas festivities

T-G Photos by Zoe Watkins



City councilman Henry Feldhaus



From left, Tennessee Downs owner Jeremy Carpenter with Markya Carpenter and Valerie and Mike Gillespie, events coordinator for Tennessee Downs.



Guests enjoyed live Christmas music.



County commissioner Greg Vick with his wife Eileen.



The event also served hot chocolate and sandwiches from Barrelhouse BBQ.



Carolers added that extra bit of Christmas celebration to the event.



Marion Denson, Marquita Solomon, and Loretta Freeman helped check guests into the VIP Happy Hour.



Shelbyville-Bedford Partnership CEO Shane Hooper with Dari Ruff, general manager of the Humble Baron.



For National Thank Your Customers Week, the distillery will be having a 20% off all retail merchandise (excluding whiskey), beginning the first full week of January.



Shelbyville native Brett Bone sang Christmas tunes with a country twist.



Guests enjoyed some of the distillery's signature cocktails.



Mary Grace Phillips and Shelbyville Chief of Police Jan Phillips.



From left, co-founders Fawn and Keith Weaver with master blender Victoria Eady Butler.

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www.t-g.com/sports
Tuesday, November 29, 2022



T-G Photo by Chris Siers

Sports editor Chris Siers is pictured with his six-point (far right), his dad with his 10-point, uncle Gary with his eight-point and his grandpa's (not pictured) eight-point after a week of hunting in West Virginia last week.

Hunting trip leaves lifetime memories

In the world of sports, occasionally you see one of those rare performances that just create legendary stories.

Wilt Chamberlain scoring 100 points against the New York Knicks in 1962, Vince Young's performance in the 2006 Rose Bowl, Randy Moss catching three passes for 163 yards and three touchdowns—performances that stand the test of time.

Every year, Thanksgiving means family gatherings, turkey dinners and football all day long on Turkey Day.

For my family, it means trekking to West Virginia and putting in another week of deer hunting, hoping to pull the big one off the hill and fill the freezer full of venison.

The area we hunt is an old coal strip that's not been in service for several years.

Going back over the last decade, the hunting has been certainly up and down.

From Hurricane Sandy devastating the deer herd in the state in 2012, to hemorrhagic fever, among

other things, it's been a mixed bag of hunting for us.

If we're lucky, one of the group, consisting of myself, my dad, my uncles and grandpa, might be lucky enough to get a moderate sized six or an eight point.

But one thing we've noticed in the past several years is we're seeing more and more deer—and not just more deer in general, but more deer with big racks.

This year alone, we counted upwards of 10 BIG deer.

The hill has been good to me for the past several years. In 2015, I ended a long week (and a five-year drought) with a nice 10-point buck on my last day.

I followed up with a five-point, albeit smaller, in 2019.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I chose not to travel in 2020, but last year, I bagged a beautiful eight-point.

So entering this year, there certainly wasn't pressure on me to take a smaller buck by any stretch, allowing me to be

Chris Siers

The Extra Point



much more selective than in years' past.

Last Monday morning, I got to my stand, weathering a brutal 18 degree morning and settled in for the week's hunt.

Monday wasn't as eventful for me, but around 11 a.m., I heard a shot ring out from near where my Uncle Gary had his stand set up and I turned on the radio and heard he knocked down a monster eight-point. A few hours later, I heard another shot ring out coming from near where Grandpa was set up and sure enough, he shot a dandy of an eight-point.

Now the pressure was on me and my dad to get ours. The thing about hunting, you've got to be patient and willing to just become one with nature

and allow the deer to come to you.

All day Monday, I saw three does and a spike—certainly nothing I was interested in taking on opening day.

Later in the afternoon, a third shot rang out from our hill and sure enough, Dad shot a heck of a 10 point.

With the first day's light fading fast over the rolling West Virginia mountains, I knew I would have to remain patient in order to get mine this year.

Tuesday came and went without much excitement at all. The only deer I saw all day came around 2:30 in the afternoon—two spikes, which again I wasn't going to harvest knowing the number of big bucks still roaming the ridge.

I can't really explain it but Wednesday morning I just had a gut feeling something was going to happen, so I got to my stand around 6:30 a.m.

settled into my stand and had not had my gear situated and been settled for more than 10 minutes when a doe came trotting around my stand and wasn't 10 yard from the steps leading up to my

platform. So I settled in and watched her and coming from behind me, I heard another deer rustling through the reeds.

Thinking this was the same pair of does I saw two days prior, I sat my rifle against my window and just happened to glance out and saw a monster rack trudging its way through the weeds down in front of me, following the doe.

Having just enough daylight on the ridge, I quickly gathered my rifle, pulled up and fired a shot.

Immediately, Dad and my uncle came over to help me track him, as the deer took off and bolted over the hill down into the ravine.

As more and more daylight began to fill my general area, my heart began to sink as there was no sign I actually hit the deer—no blood, no fur, nothing.

Once we found his trail, we were able to follow his path over the hillside and not 20 yards down the hill, my monster six point laid on his side.

Any time the bulk of us can bring a deer off the hill, it's a great season.

But for us to pull four

BIG deer in the manner we did, it really made for the best hunting season we've ever had.

We definitely got our fill of venison to fill the freezer, and several new wall ornaments to hang.

Everyone has their own list of things to be thankful for and in a week of reflection of giving thanks for everything in your life, I can truly say I'm blessed to have etched another chapter in our book of stories together.

One of Grandpa's favorite things is camaraderie with friends and family, swapping stories of yesteryear and reminiscing on trips of the past.

Growing up, I would always listen to great hunts or fishing trips Dad, Grandpa and family and friends participated.

After the week we had last week, it's safe to say our 2022 hunting trip is right among the very best of the stories we've been part of.

• Chris Siers is sports editor of the Times-Gazette. Email him at sports@t-g.com.

Tennessee offense leads nation in yards, scoring

By ERIC OLSON

AP College Football Writer

Tennessee finished the regular season as the Football Bowl Subdivision leader in total offense and scoring while Washington and Air Force were first in the other major offensive categories.

The Volunteers' 56-0 victory over Vanderbilt on Saturday left them with season averages of 538.1 yards and 47.3 points per game.

Washington has thrown for 376.7 yards per game and Air Force has rushed for 330.9 yards per game.

Team defensive leaders are Georgia in scoring (11.3 points per game) and

rushing (79.4 yards per game), Air Force in total yards (256.4 per game) and Texas A&M in passing (156.2 ypg).

DeWayne McBride, who set the UAB single-game rushing record with 272 yards against Louisiana Tech, leads the nation in total rushing yards (1,713) and average (155.7 per game).

Washington's Michael Penix Jr. is first in passing yards (4,354) and average (362.8 per game).

SMU's Rashee Rice (112.9 per game) holds a narrow edge over Houston's Nathaniel Dell (112.8) in receiving yards per game.

Leg up

Western Michigan's Nick Mihalic set the school record for punts with 14 against Toledo, the most in an FBS game since Central Michigan's Jack Sheldon punted 15 times against the Rockets in 2018.

Mihalic also set the WMU career record with 242 punts, and his 71 for the season are the ninth-most in the FBS.

Strong armed

Temple's E.J. Warner set the national season high for pass completions when he connected on a school-record 45 of 63 attempts

in a loss to East Carolina. Warner's 527 passing yards made him the first Temple quarterback to throw for more than 500 yards.

The 200 club

UAB's McBride had the nation's top rushing performance with his 272 yards against Louisiana Tech. Six other players had 200 yard games.

East Carolina's Keaton Mitchell carried 27 times for 222 yards against Temple; Texas State's Lincoln Pare ran 28 times for 221 against Louisiana; Michigan's Donovan Edwards carried 22 times and had 206 of his 216 yards against Ohio

State in the second half; Arizona's Michael Wiley had 12 carries for 214 yards against Arizona State; and Troy's Kimani Vidal ran 19 times for 208 yards against Arkansas State.

Utah onslaught

Utah turned in one of its most dominant road performances in a 63-21 win at Colorado.

The 63 points tied for the Utes' most in a road conference game since at least 2000. They had 63 at San Diego State in 2008 when they were in the Mountain West.

Utah's 662 total yards against the Buffaloes were

its most in any game since 2004 and third all-time, and its 9.9 yards per play were its most against an FBS opponent since at least 2000, according to Sportradar.

Clemson collapse

It was a rare collapse for Clemson in its game against rival South Carolina. The Tigers went into the game 126-2 when leading by 14 points or more at any point in a game under 15th-year coach Dabo Swinney, according to ESPN Stats & Info. The Tigers led 14-0 in the first quarter and lost 31-30.

Inflation or not, price of pro sports teams keeps rising

By **JIMMY GOLEN**
AP Sports Writer

Inflation isn't going to hurt the bankrolls of sports team owners. In fact, it may help.

While the uber-rich will have to pay a little more for their eggs at the grocery store — just like everyone else — inflation isn't likely to affect the bottom lines at their sports properties.

"I'm resting pretty easy if I'm an owner," said Tim Clarke, a senior analyst at PitchBook, which researches private financial markets. "That's how people are viewing assets of the professional sports industry. They're just not going down."

Inflation surged this year to levels unseen for four decades, slowing the economy and raising prices for consumers from the checkout line to the gas pump. For the most part, sports are no exception: Rising costs are making it more expensive for fans to go to games, for families who

participate in youth sports and for college athletic departments trying to stay on budget.

But the millionaires and billionaires who own sports team won't be feeling the pinch, whether it's the day-to-day cost of running the business or the sale price when they decide to move on. On the contrary: A franchise can be a safe place to park money and ride out a bear market.

"I do think there is somewhat of a hedge," said Inner Circle Sports CEO Rob Tillis, who has worked on the sale of dozens of teams in all four major U.S. pro sports and the top international leagues. "I have been doing this for 30 years. We've been through lots of business cycles and valuations have been strong. I don't see that as any different now."

Most sports owners are also well-capitalized enough to keep their team budgets separate from their outside business and other sources of wealth. So even

though rising interest rates have cooled the housing market, that's unlikely to affect Cleveland Cavaliers and Rocket Mortgage owner Dan Gilbert, who with an estimated net worth of almost \$52 billion is the 23rd-richest man in the world, according to Forbes magazine.

(One exception: Losses in the Bernard Madoff Ponzi scheme squeezed the Mets payroll and forced owner Fred Wilpon to sell off first part, then the rest of the team.)

"These guys, they have so much money that I think if they start to get pinched elsewhere, it's more or less a rounding error for their clubs," said Tom Pitts, the European head of LionRock Capital, a private equity firm that has a one-third interest in the Inter Milan soccer team. "Most of these guys haven't stretched to buy the club. It's an expensive hobby."

Rising interest rates could make it more expensive for

would-be owners to buy into the club if they have to borrow money to pay for their new prize. "It just costs a lot more money in absolute dollars to service the debt," Pitts said.

A handful of high-profile teams are currently on the market.

Washington Commanders owner Dan Snyder, who is under pressure to sell his team after an investigation revealed a toxic corporate culture, says he would consider unloading all or part of the once-proud NFL franchise. It is expected to fetch even more than the \$4.65 billion paid for the Denver Broncos this summer by Walmart heir Rob Walton, who with an estimated net worth of \$61 billion is the 16th-richest person in the world.

Robert Sarver has put his teams, the NBA's Phoenix Suns and the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury, on the market after an investigation found evidence of a racially and sexually insensitive workplace.

Baseball's Washington Nationals are for sale and the family that owns the Baltimore Orioles has made noise about selling, as well. The NHL's Ottawa Senators can also be had for the right price.

Two of English soccer's biggest names, Manchester United and Liverpool, are also on the market. Man U. was valued by Forbes in September at \$4.6 billion — just a bit higher than Liverpool; both are expected to eclipse the \$3.2 billion price paid for Chelsea this spring that was briefly the highest ever for a sports team.

That record was less than two weeks old when the Broncos deal was announced.

"You've got the likes of the Waltons, and it's a drop in the bucket," Clarke said. "It's a club. It's like, 'When is the next Picasso up for sale?' ... The value sector has nothing to do with the economy. There's always demand and there's always scarce supply."

Titans settle for too many field goals in loss

By **TERESA M. WALKER**
AP Pro Football Writer

NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Titans are not among the NFL's highest-scoring teams.

Thanks to two-time NFL rushing leader Derrick Henry, they have been one of the league's best scoring touchdowns inside the red zone.

Until Sunday.

The Titans snapped a two-game winning streak with a 20-16 loss to the defending AFC champion Bengals because they settled for too many field-goal attempts and couldn't score even a single touchdown inside the Cincinnati 20.

"Definitely it was frustrating," said Henry, who came in not only

leading the league with 1,010 yards rushing but third with 10 rushing touchdowns. "Whenever you get down there you want to get points, and we just strung some plays together to get down there, just couldn't get in the end zone."

The Titans (7-4) had been coming off their best offensive performance this season, scoring a season-high 27 points in winning at Green Bay on Nov. 17. Then hours after that win, offensive coordinator Todd Downing was arrested for speeding and driving under the influence.

Downing called this game as the Titans wait to hear more from the NFL or the legal process.

Tennessee came in second

in the NFL in scoring TDs on 74.07% of red zone opportunities, trailing only the Bengals (7-4).

The Titans went 0 of 3 against Cincinnati, a defense tied for 15th inside the red zone. Bengals coach Zac Taylor said their defense was "excellent" in holding the Titans to field goals.

"They had a new kicker in there, so you want to make it hard on him, put the pressure on him," Taylor said.

That would be undrafted rookie kicker Caleb Shudak in his NFL debut with veteran Randy Bullock missing a second straight game with an injured right calf. Shudak made field goals of 33, 24 and 38 yards, but he missed a 35-yarder wide right at the end of the first

half.

In a showdown against Joe Burrow and one of the NFL's highest-scoring offenses, the Titans held the Bengals to their fewest points in a win this season.

The Titans' lone TD came with a bit of luck.

Ryan Tannehill threw for 291 yards and was sacked only once. Tannehill would've had a TD pass if not for Cam Taylor-Britt poking the ball away from Henry 6 yards from the end zone after a 69-yard catch-and-run. Luckily for the Titans, rookie Treyton Brooks recovered the ball for his first NFL touchdown.

"Just got to be cleaner in the red zone," Tannehill said. "That's something we pride ourselves

on and put a lot of focus and importance on throughout the season. And today we didn't execute well enough."

Titans coach Mike Vrabel spread the blame around beyond just the red zone woes and said the numbers back up the argument they lost the physical battle in this game.

"The way we rushed the ball. The way that we stopped the run. I do not think that we tackled well. We weren't able to get in any rhythm in the running game," Vrabel said. "I felt like there were times where things were working and clicking and then we weren't able to continue to sustain that."

Vols' response to NCAA: Pruitt, staff 'deceived' monitors

By **TERESA M. WALKER**
AP Sports Writer

Tennessee is defending itself against the NCAA's Level I charge of failing to monitor the football program, saying former coach Jeremy Pruitt and nine others fired "repeatedly deceived" administrators and compliance staff overseeing the program.

"The University respectfully submits that it is unrealistic to expect an institution to prevent, or immediately detect, the intentional and concealed misconduct that occurred in this case," Tennessee wrote in the 108-page response dated Monday and obtained first by Knoxville News on Thursday.

Tennessee started an internal investigation following a tip on Nov. 13, 2020, and found what the university chancellor called "serious violations of NCAA rules." Pruitt and nine others were fired for cause in January 2021, negating Pruitt's \$12.6 million buyout after he went 16-19 in three seasons.

NCAA investigators opened a case in December 2020 and became more involved within the two weeks before Pruitt was fired.

The NCAA notified Tennessee in July of the most-serious Level 1 violations for allegations of providing impermissible cash, gifts and benefits worth about \$60,000 to football recruits and their families under Pruitt. The notice of allegations said at least a dozen members of Pruitt's staff were involved in more than 200 individual violations over a two-year period.

The university argued in its response that it "demonstrated its unparalleled commitment to integrity" led by Chancellor Donde Plowman in investigating and holding everyone accountable while protecting athletes from suffering the consequences.

The university mirror-imaged football staffers' cellphones, leading to information the NCAA noted in July that helped substantiate the alleged violations. Security footage from a Knoxville hotel also was included.

In addition to Pruitt, Tennessee fired two assistants and seven members of the recruiting and support staff. Pruitt, three of his assistants and three other staffers could face show-cause penalties making it difficult for them to get another college job after a hearing is held with the NCAA's Division I Committee on Infractions.

"The factual information in this case demonstrates that experienced football coaches and non-coaching staff members knowingly violated longstanding and universally understood NCAA rules and went to considerable lengths to conceal their misconduct," Tennessee wrote in its response.

The university noted recruiting visits were monitored using industry standards, including "embedding an experienced compliance staff member in the program."

Tennessee's response also cited eight specific cases for precedent where universities either self-imposed penalties or had aggravating circumstances, as well as NCAA notes from meetings in April and May on transforming its own rules for name, image and likeness and the transfer portal.

The university argued that Tennessee's infractions case will go before the Division I Committee on Infractions at a time of significant transformation in how college athletics and infractions are handled.

"Intercollegiate athletics looks dramatically different today than when the University commenced this investigation more than two years ago," Tennessee's response said.

Tennessee wrapped up its investigation last November and announced then it wouldn't self-impose a bowl ban to avoid penalizing current players and coaches.

New athletic director Danny White, who replaced Phillip Fulmer, hired Josh Heupel in late January 2021.

The Volunteers (9-2, 5-2 Southeastern Conference) currently are ranked ninth and can clinch their first 10-win record in the regular season since 2001 with a win Saturday night at Vanderbilt.

Michigan up to No. 2 behind top-ranked Georgia

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**
AP College Football Writer

Michigan moved up to No. 2 in The Associated Press college football poll Sunday, with TCU at No. 3 and Southern California at No. 4 behind top-ranked Georgia after four top-10 teams lost on the final day of regular-season games.

The Bulldogs (12-0) are No. 1 for the eighth straight week and 11th time this season in the AP Top 25 presented by Regions Bank. Georgia received 58 first-place votes and Michigan received the other five.

The Wolverines (12-0) reached a season-high No. 2 after beating Ohio State, which dropped the Buckeyes three spots to No. 5.

TCU (12-0) has its highest ranking since reaching No. 2 in the 2015 season, and USC (11-1) has its best ranking since finishing the 2016 season at No. 3.

Other top-10 teams to fall were LSU, Clemson and Oregon. LSU's loss to Texas A&M dropped those Tigers five spots to No. 11. Clemson's loss to South Carolina sent it falling three spots to No. 10. The Ducks' fourth-quarter collapse against Oregon State cost Oregon a spot in the Pac-12 title game and five spots in the poll, where it fell to No. 15.

Alabama was No. 6, just ahead of Tennessee, which beat the Crimson Tide on a last-second field goal at home earlier this season.

No. 8 Penn State and No. 9 Washington both have their best rankings of the season. The Huskies haven't been in the top 10 since the 2018 season, when they peaked at No. 6.

Poll points

This was the eighth regular-season week since 2017 where four top-10 teams lost, including the second this season. Three of those weeks occurred in 2017.

The last time five or more top-10 teams lost in the same regular-season week was 2016. The week of Nov. 12, 2016, five top-10 teams lost, all to unranked opponents.

The results: Iowa 14, No. 2 Michigan 13; Pittsburgh 43, No. 3 Clemson 42; USC 26, No. 4 Washington 13; Georgia 13, No. 8 Auburn 7; and Mississippi 29, No. 10 Texas A&M 28.

In

— No. 23 UTSA (10-2) made its season debut in the AP Top 25. The Roadrunners reached the rankings last year for the first time in the short history of the program.

Texas-San Antonio became an FBS school in 2012. The defending Conference USA champions peaked at No. 15 last season and will head into a second straight C-USA title game ranked.

— No. 20 South Carolina (8-4) is back in the rankings after its second straight upset of a top-10 team. The Gamecocks beat Clemson on Saturday after taking down Tennessee last week. South Carolina was ranked for one week in October, but then immediately lost to Missouri.

— No. 25 Mississippi State (8-4) returned to the rankings for the second time this season.

Out

— Mississippi (8-4) fell out of the rankings for the first time this season. The Rebels reached No. 7 after starting 7-0 but finished the season losing four of five.

— Cincinnati (9-3) is out again. The Bearcats have bounced in and out for most of the season. Losing to Tulane on Friday dropped them out again.

— Coastal Carolina (9-2) dropped out after being routed by James Madison but still has a spot in the Sun Belt championship game next week.

Conference call

Pac-12 — 6 (Nos. 4, 9, 12, 15, 16, 17).

SEC — 6 (Nos. 1, 6, 7, 11, 20, 25).

ACC — 3 (Nos. 10, 14, 24).

Big Ten — 3 (Nos. 2, 5, 8).

Big 12 — 3 (Nos. 3, 13, 21).

American — 2 (Nos. 18, 22).

Conference USA — 1 (No. 23).

Independent — 1 (No. 19).

Ranked vs. ranked

Championship week features matchup of ranked teams in five conferences:

— No. 11 LSU vs. No. 1 Georgia, Southeastern Conference championship.

— No. 3 TCU vs. No. 13 Kansas State, Big 12 championship.

— No. 4 USC vs. No. 12 Utah, Pac-12 championship.

— No. 10 Clemson vs. No. 24 North Carolina, Atlantic Coast Conference championship.

— No. 18 Tulane vs. No. 22 UCF, American Athletic Conference championship.

OBJ kicked off plane after Miami incident

MIAMI (AP)—NFL free agent Odell Beckham Jr. was removed by police from an aircraft before takeoff at Miami International Airport after officials said he failed to respond to requests to buckle his seatbelt and appeared to be unconscious, police and airline officials said Sunday.

“Fearing that Mr. Beckham was seriously ill, and that his condition would worsen through the expected 5 hour flight, (flight crew members) called for police and fire rescue,” Miami Dade Police Officer Luis Sierra said in a statement following the 9:30 a.m. Sunday incident.

“As they tried to wake (Beckham) to fasten his seat

belt, he appeared to be coming in and out of consciousness,” the statement said.

American Airlines representative Alfredo Garduno confirmed that flight 1228 to Los Angeles returned to the gate before takeoff “due to a customer failing to follow crew members’ instructions and refusing to fasten their seat belt.”

Carlos Gauna, a passenger in business class, said he recognized Beckham before boarding the flight and later used his cellphone camera to record him walking through the airport terminal with police. He said Beckham had been seated in first class.

“He just walked quietly. Police

escorted him out,” Gauna said, adding that the flight was full and he heard “grumbings” among other passengers.

Gauna, a filmmaker, was returning home to Camarillo, California, near Los Angeles, after more than two weeks documenting sharks in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Brazil.

He said the aircraft was taxiing toward takeoff when the captain announced “a situation with a passenger” required a return to the terminal. Gauna said an ambulance arrived and paramedics boarded the aircraft and spoke with Beckham before police removed him.

The other passengers re-

boarded and the flight departed later for Los Angeles, where Gauna spoke with The Associated Press.

A Twitter post attributed to Beckham appeared to refer to the incident, saying, “Never in my life have I experienced what just happened to me,” and adding with a misspelling that he had “seen it all.”

Police said Beckham “was escorted to the non-secure area of the terminal by the officers where he made other arrangements.”

Sierra did not immediately respond to questions about whether Beckham had been arrested or was cited for a criminal offense.

Beckham, 30, is a three-time Pro Bowl wide receiver who has been a free agent since helping the Los Angeles Rams win the Super Bowl last February. He caught a touchdown pass before tearing a knee ligament in that 23-20 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals.

Beckham has been reported to be near a return to the league and the Dallas Cowboys have said they want to sign him.

Several other teams are expected to pursue Beckham, who had been at the center of controversy in previous stops with the New York Giants and Cleveland Browns.

Rainbow struggle playing out on sidelines of World Cup

By MARIAM FAM
Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar — Aside from the competition for the World Cup title, one of the most hotly contested issues in the tournament in Qatar is over rainbow colors.

In the first week of the tournament, seven European teams lost the battle to wear multi-colored “One Love” armbands during World Cup matches and some fans complained they weren’t allowed to bring items with rainbow colors, a symbol of LGBTQ rights, into the stadiums of the conservative Islamic emirate.

Qatar, where gay sex is illegal, faced intense international scrutiny and criticism in the run-up to the tournament over rights issues, including questions on whether LGBTQ visitors would feel safe and welcome. The Gulf nation has said all are welcome, including LGBTQ fans, and that it would ensure safety for everyone, regardless of background, but that visitors should respect the nation’s culture.

Piara Powar, executive director of Fare, the anti-discrimination group that is reporting incidents in and around stadiums to world soccer body FIFA, said he believes the Qatari hosts felt that the debate about LGBTQ rights has been given too much space and that they need to clamp down internally.

“We have talked to them about rainbow flags and the symbolism that it has across the world, not just in western Europe. There are Latin Americans who recognize that, there are Asians who recognize the Pride flag,” Powar said.

Just before the tournament started, FIFA stopped plans by seven European teams including England and Germany to have their captains play with “One Love” anti-discrimination armbands, saying they would receive yellow cards if they did. The decision sparked outrage by

some in the countries involved.

One of the teams, Belgium, tweeted a team photo Friday showing captain Eden Hazard wearing the “One Love” armband. The country’s foreign minister, Hadja Lahbib, wore it as she watched Belgium’s World Cup opener against Canada on Wednesday.

Former Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt turned up at Denmark’s match against Tunisia wearing an outfit with rainbow-colored sleeves. In an Instagram post a day later, she appeared conflicted about the choice of clothing.

“I’ve been reflecting on whether showing up in rainbow colors is actually helping gay and queer folks in Qatar,” Thorning-Schmidt wrote in the post. She wondered whether it could “make things worse by hardening the Qatar government against them? I don’t know the answer but doesn’t it show us that nothing is binary, only good or only bad?”

Some fans have said that they were asked to remove and discard their rainbow hats at a World Cup stadium earlier this week despite assurances by FIFA before the tournament that such items would be allowed in stadiums.

Justin Martin, a U.S. citizen living in Qatar, said he was holding a small rainbow flag on the metro on his way to the U.S. opener against Wales when two people wearing shirts that identified them as volunteers asked him to put the flag away. He didn’t want to.

“One of them became agitated and ... referred to me as ‘disgusting,’” said Martin, an associate professor of journalism at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies.

At the stadium, however, a woman in Qatari police uniform who was searching his bag found the rainbow flag, looked at it and put it back, he said. “I actually wasn’t prohibited from bringing that into the stadium.”

Martin said he had previously worn a pride T-shirt in Qatar to the grocery store or to exercise without any issues.

Some Wales fans said they were prevented from taking rainbow bucket hats to the game against the U.S., prompting the Wales soccer federation to raise the issue with FIFA, which assured them that rainbow symbols would be allowed for Friday’s game against Iran.

Laura McAllister, a former Wales captain who acts as ambassador to the World Cup, said she and other fans wore rainbow hats to Friday’s game without problems. She said she was among those asked to remove their hats before the earlier game with the U.S.

The Qatari World Cup organizing committee did not provide answers to questions by The Associated Press on the instructions to stadium security and volunteers about rainbow symbols.

In April, a Qatari official suggested that fans carrying rainbow flags could have them removed to protect them from possible attacks.

The issue has been debated frequently in Qatar and the wider Middle East, where many believe it’s only fair for visitors to respect the country’s laws, customs and religious beliefs, just like people from the region are expected to honor other nations’ rules when they travel. Others counter that rights’ issues are universal and that sports must be inclusive.

Ahead of the tournament, some LGBTQ rights activists sought to raise concerns about how LGBTQ people in Qatar may be treated after the World Cup ends. Some of them have also argued that international attention was disproportionately focused on the visitors and not enough on LGBTQ people in the country.

Rodgers piles on more injuries as Packers fall

By DAN GELSTON
AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Aaron Rodgers kept bending, wincing, the Green Bay star and reigning NFL MVP openly in pain.

Rodgers was forced out by injuries in a loss to the Eagles.

He’s not ready to wave the white flag on the season.

“As long as we are mathematically alive, I’d like to be out there,” Rodgers said.

Rodgers sustained rib injuries late in the third quarter to go with a broken right thumb suffered weeks ago. He was forced to leave early in another Packers’ loss that all but eliminated them from playoff contention.

Rodgers was 11-of-16 passing for 140 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions in a 40-33 loss at Philadelphia on Sunday night.

Now, the question is will Rodgers miss much — if any — time?

Green Bay coach Matt LaFleur said it was too early to determine if Rodgers will be healthy enough to play Sunday against Chicago.

“We’ve got to have more conversation before we ever get into that,” LaFleur said. “As long as he’s able to go, I expect him to be out there.”

Rodgers, who turns 39 this week, said he was worried about a punctured lung as well. That scare turned out fine but Rodgers said he’ll need more tests on Monday to find out the severity of the rib injuries.

“The pain was tough,” he said. “I couldn’t really breathe or rotate my upper body.”

But he expected to play. The Packers (4-8) have little to play for and could shut down Rodgers to take a closer look at backup Jordan Love, their 2020 first-round pick.

Love connected with Christian Watson on a 63-yard, catch-and-run touchdown that cut Philly’s lead to 37-30 in the fourth. He was 6-of-9 passing for 113 yards.

“I’m not shocked to be honest with you that he went out there and played well and showed great poise,” LaFleur said. “We see it on a daily basis in practice. People might not necessarily agree with that but I see it every day.”

The 2020 first-round pick from Utah State, Love has drawn much scrutiny ever since the Packers drafted him. He was only

6 of 9 for 73 yards and no touchdowns or interceptions in limited time this season.

Love made his first career start at Kansas City last year after Rodgers’ positive COVID-19 test and went 19 of 34 for 190 yards with a touchdown and an interception as the Packers lost 13-7.

“In my mind, it is just go and make the most of it,” Love said. “Opportunities do not come around too often. You have to go make the most of it.”

Rodgers already played the last several weeks with a broken right thumb and appeared in pain during a drive in the third that led to a Packers field goal. Rodgers attempted only a few short throws and grimaced after he released the ball.

LaFleur said he was about to call a pass play in the third when it became obvious Rodgers could not really throw.

“So we kept going run after run after run,” he said.

Rodgers hurt his thumb Oct. 9 during a foiled Hail Mary attempt on the final play of the Packers’ 27-22 loss to the New York Giants in London. Although the Packers have listed Rodgers with a thumb injury ever since, the four-time MVP hadn’t said publicly until this week that it was broken.

Rodgers said his thumb “felt pretty good this week” and he has not yet discussed potential surgery.

The Packers were 4-6 in 2016 when Rodgers predicted the team would “run the table.” Sure enough, a victory at Philadelphia started an eight-game winning streak that sent the Packers to the NFC championship game, where they lost to Atlanta.

Not this week in Philly, not against Jalen Hurts and his 157 yards rushing — an Eagles record for a quarterback.

Rodgers said he’s still waiting until the offseason to make a decision on his future.

Rodgers hasn’t missed any games, but the injury has limited his practice time and he hasn’t approached the level he reached while earning MVP honors each of the last two seasons. That loss to the Giants started a 1-7 tailspin that has put the three-time defending NFC North champions’ playoff hopes in jeopardy.

“We have a five-game stretch, we need to win all five,” Rodgers said. “And we probably need some help.”

Aggressive NFL coaching pays off in Sunday wins

By ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer

With the ball in Tom Brady’s hands, Todd Bowles played it safe and lost. Doug Pederson and Brandon Staley went for broke and celebrated wins.

Aggressive coaching paid off Sunday.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers lost 23-17 at Cleveland in overtime in a game that Brady had a chance to win in regulation with another one of his vintage drives in the final minute. His coach didn’t trust the GOAT to make it happen.

Bowles didn’t call a timeout and chose to play for overtime. It backfired.

Pederson and Staley avoided OT and went for 2-point conversions. It worked.

The Jacksonville Jaguars upset Baltimore when Pederson decided to go for a 2-pointer after Trevor Lawrence tossed a 10-yard touchdown pass to Marvin Jones with 14 seconds left to pull within a point. Lawrence connected with Zay Jones

on the conversion and the Jaguars beat the Ravens 28-27.

The same scenario unfolded later in Arizona when Justin Herbert threw a 1-yard TD pass to Austin Ekeler with 15 seconds remaining to get the Chargers within a point. Herbert then hit Gerald Everett for the 2-pointer to give Los Angeles a 25-24 victory over the Cardinals.

Pederson and Staley are known for making bold decisions. In Jacksonville’s case, Pederson had nothing to lose because the Jaguars (4-7) are headed nowhere. The Chargers (6-5) are in the playoff chase so Staley’s call was more risky.

Bowles didn’t even try. Calling a timeout with Brady on the field isn’t considered a gamble. It’s standard procedure when the seven-time Super Bowl champion is under center.

The Buccaneers had three timeouts and the ball at their 25 with 32 seconds to go in the fourth quarter after the Browns tied the game at 17-17.

needed just 35 seconds with all of his time-outs to drive the Buccaneers 60 yards for a comeback win against the Rams. He’s led a winning drive in fourth quarter/overtime an NFL-record 55 times in the regular season and 14 more in the playoffs.

This time, the Bucs needed 43 yards to give Ryan Succop an attempt at a 50-yard field goal to win.

Brady tossed a 1-yard pass to Rachaad White on first down and the Bucs could’ve stopped the clock with about 26 seconds to go.

Instead, Bowles let it tick, tick, tick.

After Brady fired a 26-yard completion to Julio Jones on the next play to reach Cleveland’s 48, only 8 seconds remained when the Bucs finally used their first timeout. Following an incomplete pass, Brady could only try a Hail Mary on the final play before OT.

Fox analyst Jonathan Vilma called Bowles’ decision to not use a timeout after the first play of the series “inexplicable.” Bowles wasn’t asked

about it after the game. He was questioned about not stopping the clock when the Browns were driving for the tying TD.

“No. That clock was going to run down. We didn’t have enough to stop it right there,” he said. “There was overtime right there, right off the top. Once we couldn’t get there, it was going to overtime.”

Bowles coached scared to lose. The Buccaneers are fortunate they’re in the weak NFC South where 5-6 is still good enough for first place.

When Pederson was asked about going for the win, he said: “We’ve got to think players, not plays, and trust our guys.”

Staley also trusted his team.

“I really believe in our offensive football team,” Staley said. “I believe in our quarterback. I believed in the play call. We executed it well all week. We wanted to finish the game on our terms.”

Brady wasn’t even given the best chance to win by his coach.



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US has clear World Cup task against Iran

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Sports Writer

DOHA, Qatar — The task is clear for the United States: beat Iran in a politically charged World Cup match or go home.

U.S. players have been praised as the best generation of American soccer. But they finished third behind Canada and Mexico in World Cup qualifying and now face a must-win final group-stage match.

“The most important thing is that we control the outcome of our journey in this tournament with the last game against Iran,” midfielder Weston McKennie

said. “So the next thing is just to go out and get three points against Iran.”

A draw or a loss would eliminate the Americans, who tied Wales 1-1 and England 0-0. England leads the group with four points, followed by Iran with three, the U.S. with two and Wales with one.

“We got to win the game,” midfielder Gio Reyna said. “We’re not really thinking about anything else, just three points and then we’re through.”

Iran famously beat the U.S. 2-1 in a 1998 World Cup match in France that eliminated

the Americans and caused thousands of flag-waving fans to greet the Iranians when they returned home. In the leadup to the rematch Tuesday, the U.S. Soccer Federation angered Iran’s government by briefly displaying Iran’s flag on social media without the emblem of the Islamic Republic.

For the U.S., this year’s situation is similar to 2010, when the Americans were on the verge of elimination in the last round of group play before Landon Donovan’s stoppage-time goal beat Algeria 1-0.

“I just hope we don’t leave it

to the 90th-whatever minute,” said Stu Holden, a midfielder on the bench that night and now a Fox commentator. “It would be pretty cool to call a last-second U.S. winner, but selfishly I’m quite OK with us just getting that done early and moving on to the round of 16 because that that would be a lot better for my blood pressure.”

Iran is coached by Carlos Queiroz, who as a U.S. Soccer Federation adviser in 1998 wrote a player development blueprint aimed at winning a World Cup by 2010. Iran’s attack is led by Porto’s Mehdi Taremi, who has five Champions League goals this

season.

Iran rebounded from a 6-2 opening match loss to England with a 2-0 upset of Wales, putting the team in position to advance for the first time in six World Cups. Midfielder Alireza Jahanbakhsh of Feyenoord is suspended after picking up a yellow card in both his first matches in Qatar.

Goals have been a struggle for a U.S. team, which got just three from forwards in 14 World Cup qualifiers.

U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter knows that has to change.

“You got to score,” he said.

Kiffin staying at Ole Miss; Auburn eye Freeze

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**
AP College Football Writer

Mississippi coach Lane Kiffin says he has informed school officials he will be staying at Ole Miss, putting an end to speculation that he was the leading candidate to fill the head coaching vacancy at Auburn.

“Same as I said last week: I’m staying here and we have a lot of work left to do,” Kiffin told The Associated Press on Saturday in a voice

message.

Kiffin added he has not signed a contract extension with the school.

With Kiffin off the market, Auburn is now eyeing a former Mississippi coach: Liberty’s Hugh Freeze.

The 47-year-old Kiffin is 23-12 in three seasons as Rebels coach. No. 20 Mississippi finished its regular season 8-4, losing four of its last five, including Thursday’s 24-22 loss to Mississippi State.

Auburn was playing Saturday at No. 8 Alabama in the Iron Bowl, and its coaching search figured to heat up soon after its season concluded.

Auburn fired coach Bryan Harsin earlier this month and has gone 2-1 since under interim coach Carnell Williams, the former star running back for the Tigers.

A person familiar with the search told the AP that Freeze is a candidate at Auburn. The person spoke

to the AP on condition of anonymity Saturday because Auburn was not making details of its search public.

After Liberty lost 49-14 at home to New Mexico State on Saturday, Freeze did not hide his interest in a possible return to the Southeastern Conference.

“I’ve communicated with (Liberty athletic director) Ian (McCaw) that if someone ever wanted to talk to us that interests us, I would always tell him.

Is the job that everyone’s talking about one that I would have an interest in of talking with? Sure,” Freeze told reporters after the game. “That doesn’t mean they have offered me a job. Who knows where that’s headed.”

Freeze coached at Ole Miss for five seasons before leaving in disgrace in 2017 after the school discovered he used a university cellphone to call an escort service.

He has gone 34-14

in four seasons with the Flames.

“I’ve always said I love being here on the Mountain, I’m happy here, but I’m not going to sit and say to our kids or somebody that’s just absolutely false, there’s no interest in it,” Freeze said. “The part that’s false is there’s been no offer made to me, nor have I accepted anything. I think that’s what our kids came in the locker room kind of feeling.”

Fickell heads back to Big Ten, will be next Wisconsin coach

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**
AP College Football Writer

Wisconsin is bringing Cincinnati’s Luke Fickell back to the Big Ten.

Athletic director Chris McIntosh announced Sunday that the Badgers had hired Fickell to take over their football program after his successful run with the Bearcats.

Fickell posted a 57-18 record in six seasons at Cincy and helped the Bearcats earn a College Football Playoff berth last year. The former Ohio State defensive lineman and longtime assistant went 6-7 as the Buckeyes’ interim coach in 2011 after Jim Tressell’s resignation.

“This is a destination job at a program that I have admired from afar for years,” Fickell said in a statement released by the university. “I am in total alignment with Chris McIntosh’s vision for this program. There is a tremendous foundation here that I can’t wait to build upon.”

Fickell informed the Bearcats players earlier Sunday that he was leaving the school. Cincinnati named veteran assistant Kerry Coombs interim coach.

Fickell, 49, takes over for interim coach and former Badgers defensive back Jim Leonhard, who replaced Paul Chryst on Oct. 2.

Chryst went 67-26 in 7 1/2 seasons. He was fired one day after the Badgers lost 34-10 at home to an Illinois team led by former Badgers coach Bret Bielema.

“Luke is one of the top football coaches in the country. He is a proven winner, recruiter and developer of players,” McIntosh said in a statement. “Equally as important, he shares our values. Coach Fickell is focused on giving our student-athletes the best opportunities possible and is attuned

to the changing landscape of college athletics.

“I have every confidence that he will respect and honor the foundation that has been set for our football program over the years while embracing the exciting opportunities ahead.”

Wisconsin (6-6, 4-5 Big Ten) is awaiting its bowl assignment. A loss in the bowl game would cause the Badgers to finish below .500 for the first time since 2001.

Leonhard was promoted from defensive coordinator after Chryst’s firing and led Wisconsin to a 4-3 record over the final seven games of the regular season. Leonhard said Saturday after the Badgers’ 23-16 home loss to Minnesota that he had interviewed with McIntosh.

“We were able to sit down earlier this week and had a great conversation,” Leonhard said. “I think that’s between us, what was said, but hopefully there’s decisions that are made soon in the best interests of this university.”

Many Wisconsin players publicly called for Leonhard to get the job.

“I think whoever hires coaches is going to be an idiot if they don’t hire coach Leonhard,” safety John Torchio said after the Minnesota game. “I don’t know if I should say that, but I’ll say it.”

The Badgers instead opted for Fickell, who led Cincinnati to the first CFP berth for any Group of Five school. Fickell won several national coach of the year awards last season for helping Cincinnati go 13-0 before losing to Alabama in a Cotton Bowl semifinal.

That 2021 Cincinnati team produced nine draft picks for the third-highest total of any school, behind only Georgia’s 15 and LSU’s 10.

Five Cincinnati players were selected among the top 100 overall picks.

After replacing all that NFL talent, Cincinnati has gone 9-3 this season. The Bearcats didn’t qualify for the American Athletic Conference championship game that takes place Saturday.

Fickell has been sought after for the last few years, most notably an offer from Michigan State after the 2019 season. But the Ohio native has been picky, knowing he had a good thing at Cincinnati.

“This was always going to be a family decision and he felt this was the right time for this decision to be made,” Cincinnati athletic director John Cunningham said.

Cunningham said he will move quickly to replace Fickell, considering both external and internal candidates.

Internally, offensive coordinator Gino Guidugli, a former Bearcats quarterback, would seem to be the most likely candidate.

The job is becoming even more appealing as Fickell leaves it. The Bearcats are switching conferences next year, moving up to the Big 12. The move will bring more revenue into the program, but also tougher competition.

“This is not a stepping-stone job,” Cunningham said. “We can do everything we want to do at the University of Cincinnati.”

Cincinnati went 4-8 in Fickell’s debut season of 2017 but has gone 53-10 since.

Fickell’s Cincinnati players also succeeded in the classroom. Heading into this season, Cincinnati had a 100% graduation rate among players who had stayed in the program for four years under Fickell.

TCU has definite CFP route after rout of ISU in 12th game

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
AP Sports Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Third-ranked TCU has a definite route to the playoff after another regular season-ending rout of Iowa State. That is much different from 2014, when the Horned Frogs got left out.

“I know the history with TCU and Iowa State, and big victories, and it didn’t work out particularly well in 2014,” first-year Frogs coach Sonny Dykes after their 62-14 win over Iowa State on Saturday.

A day after a 55-3 win over the Cyclones eight years ago, TCU was left out of the inaugural four-team College Football Playoff even after going into that game ranked in the top four.

TCU (12-0, 9-0 Big 12, No. 4 CFP), which moved up a spot from fourth in the new AP Top 25 released Sunday and likely will do the same Tuesday night in the next CFP rankings, is in a much better situation this time.

The Frogs are one of only three remaining undefeated teams, with No. 1 Georgia and No. 2 Michigan, after being the first Big 12 team since Texas in 2009 to finish the regular season without a loss. And they still have the Big 12 championship game next Saturday against No. 13 Kansas State (9-3, 7-2, No. 12 CFP).

Dykes believes so much is different since 2014 in college football, the CFP selection committee and how people view the Big 12.

“It’s a gauntlet. I think people that know, really study the game, know how good the league is,” Dykes said. “So to be able to go through this thing undefeated, to be able to win the road games that we did, to grind through some of the tough ones we had to grind through, I think shows that we have a good football team.”

Before the lopsided finish, none of TCU’s previous seven wins had been by more than 10 points. The Frogs had to overcome double-digit deficits after halftime in back-to-back games in October, including a 38-28 win over Kansas State after being down 28-10 in the second quarter.

Another win over K-State next Saturday will leave no questions about TCU becoming the first Big 12 team other than Oklahoma to make the four-team playoff.

But the Frogs might not even have to win that rematch to get into one of the national semifinal games after everything else that happened on the final day of this regular season. Previously undefeated Ohio State (No. 2 CFP) lost 45-23 at home to Michigan, and Clemson (No. 8) also lost before TCU had even kicked off Saturday. LSU, fifth in the CFP rankings even with two losses already, lost again Saturday night, as did Oregon (No. 9).

There was no Big 12 championship game in 2014, when TCU was third in the CFP rankings going into what was the final weekend of its conference’s regular season while other leagues played title games.

So a day after overwhelming Iowa State at home, the Frogs dropped to sixth in the final CFP rankings, a spot behind one-loss Baylor, the only team to beat them that season in a 61-58 thriller. Ohio State, after a 59-0 win in the Big Ten championship game, moved up to fourth and went on to win the national title — a final game played at AT&T Stadium, only about 20 miles from the TCU campus.

The Cyclones were a two-win team that season, with that finale being their fifth loss by at least 20 points.

Iowa State (4-8, 1-8) entered Saturday’s game with the Big 12’s best defense, allowing 16.5 points a game. Only two opponents had scored more than 24 points, the most being 31, and its seven losses had been by a combined 38 points — or less than 5 1/2 points per game.

TCU had 17 points on its first three drives and led 24-0 at the end of the first quarter after the first of two interception returns for touchdowns. Max Duggan threw TDs to three different receivers and Kendre Miller ran for two scores, his 13th consecutive game with a rushing touchdown.

QB led Purdue to win after brother’s death

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP) — Purdue quarterback Aidan O’Connell led the Boilermakers to a victory Saturday over rival Indiana just days after his oldest brother, Sean, died.

The school tweeted a statement from O’Connell on Sunday that announced his brother’s death but did not detail the cause.

O’Connell, a sixth-year senior, was 18 of 29 and threw for 290 yards and two touchdowns, leading the Boilermakers to a 30-16 victory that gave them the Big Ten West Division title. Purdue will face No.

2 Michigan in the Big Ten title game next weekend in Indianapolis.

O’Connell did not speak with reporters following the game.

“My family and I would like to express our gratitude for the love and support we have received over the past few days,” O’Connell said in the statement. “We are deeply saddened to share of the passing of my oldest brother, Sean. Sean was not only one of Purdue football’s biggest fans, but he was a better son, brother and friend. He lit up any room he walked in and all that knew him testify to his

contagious joy.”

O’Connell was crying into a towel near the end of the game and did not attend the postgame news conference. Coach Jeff Brohm became emotional when questioned about O’Connell.

“Aidan, he’s got a lot going on right now. I’m not going to say anything,” Brohm said. “So he’s emotional for a lot of reasons. But he played really hard. He stepped up to the plate when his teammates needed him. He gave us great effort all year long. It doesn’t matter what’s going on, he gives us

great effort and I just think it’s another great story.”

O’Connell began at Purdue as a walk-on and gradually moved his way up the depth chart, repeatedly outplaying higher-rated recruits to become the starter at a school dubbed the “Cradle of Quarterbacks.” He ranks fourth in school history with 65 TD passes after breaking a tie with Kyle Orton (63) on Saturday.

And now he has a chance to give the Boilermakers (8-4, 6-3 Big Ten) their first conference title since 2000, when Drew Brees led Purdue to the Rose Bowl.

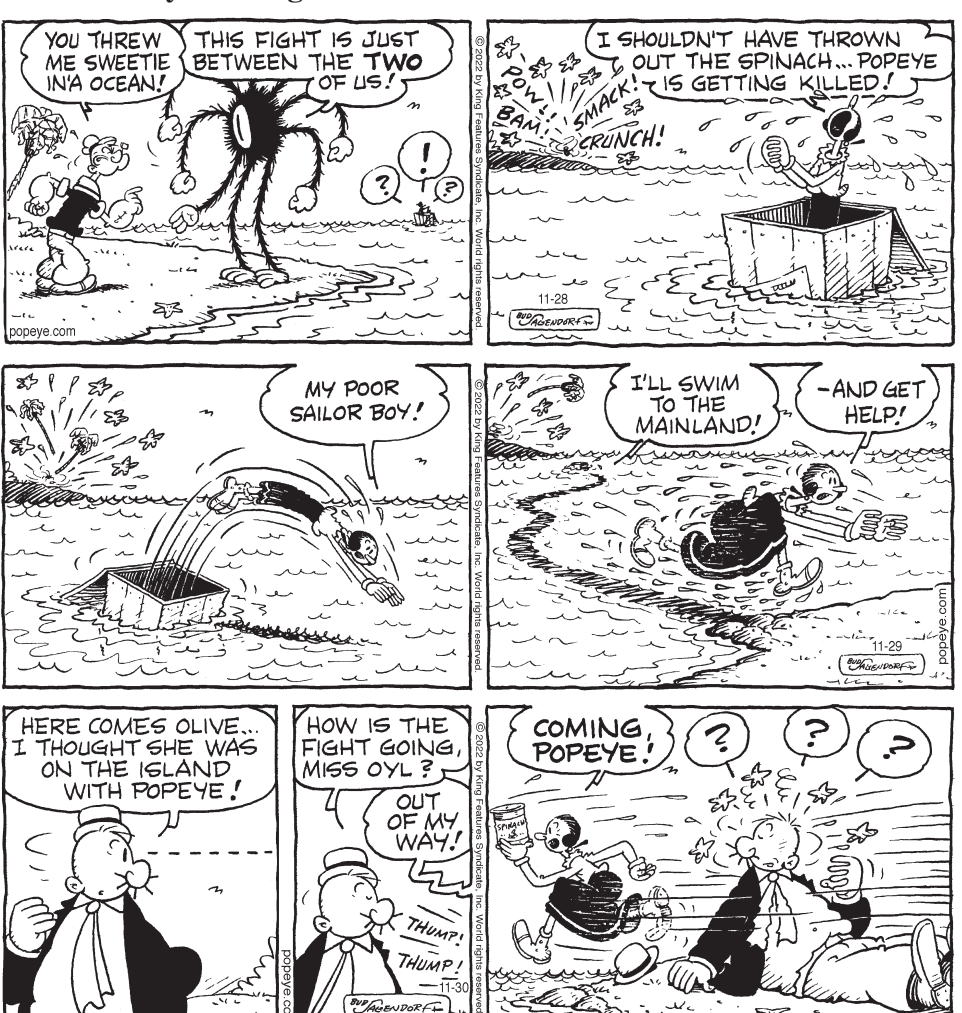
THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN® by Stan Lee-Larry Lieber



JUDGE PARKER® by Marcuiliano-Manley



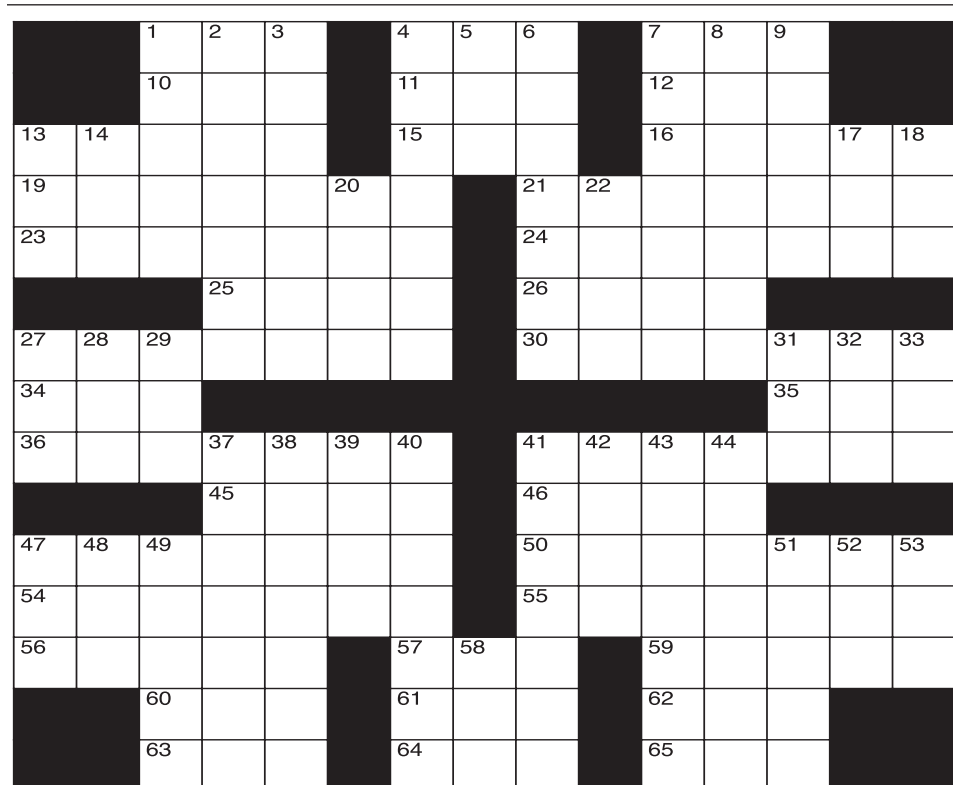
POPEYE® by Bud Sagendorf



THATABABY® by Paul Trap



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



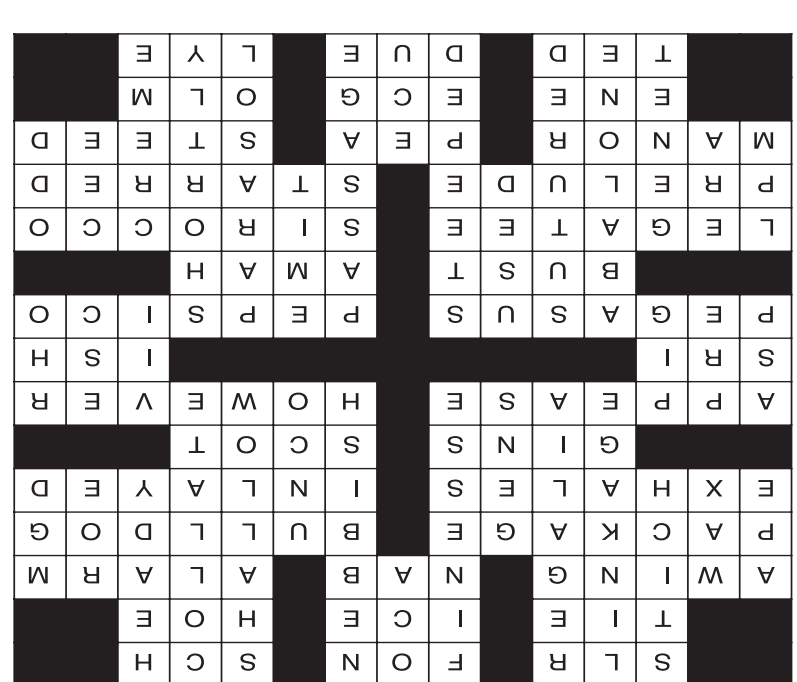
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Single Lens Reflex
- 4. People of southern Benin
- 7. One who is learned (abbr.)
- 10. Neckwear
- 11. Solid water
- 12. A way to work the soil
- 13. Inspiring
- 15. Pick up
- 16. It takes you up
- 19. Parcel
- 21. Popular dog breed
- 23. Lets out a sigh
- 24. Embedded into the surface
- 25. Hard liquors
- 26. One from Scotland
- 27. Satisfy
- 30. Used to introduce a contrasting statement
- 34. Antidepressant drug type (abbr.)
- 35. Similar
- 36. Winged horse
- 41. Soft drink maker
- 45. One who doesn't live up to expectations
- 46. Nursemaid
- 47. Inheritor
- 50. Hot, often dusty wind
- 54. Serves as an introduction
- 55. Earned top billing
- 56. Mansion
- 57. A partner to a carrot
- 59. War-horse
- 60. Midway between northeast and east
- 61. It checks the heartbeat
- 62. Aquatic salamander
- 63. CNN's founder

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Pinochle trick
- 2. A system of connections
- 3. Emblems of royalty
- 4. Work with a soft hand
- 5. Plant cultivated in Peru
- 6. A timid man
- 7. Lacking intellectual depth
- 8. A way to order
- 9. Intoxicating
- 13. Mimic
- 14. Surfers use it
- 17. Small Eurasian deer
- 18. Popular Miller beer
- 20. Finds out about
- 22. Unusual
- 27. Small European viper
- 28. Indicates before
- 29. Birth swine
- 31. 7
- 32. Useful keyboard key
- 33. Letter of the Greek alphabet
- 37. Edible mollusk
- 38. Stitched up
- 39. Utilized
- 40. ___ in tradition
- 41. A way to get through
- 42. Let off
- 43. Fashionable source of shade
- 44. In due time
- 47. Printing speed
- 48. A major division of geological time
- 49. Nocturnal, cat-like mammal
- 51. ___ de la ___
- 52. After B
- 53. Unusual
- 58. Former money of the EU

PUZZLE SOLUTION



ASTROGRAPH

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
This week no one can help you but yourself, Aries. You have to figure out a way to get to the bottom of a problem on your own. But then the reward will be twice as sweet.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
There are a few obstacles in your path this week, Taurus. But nothing you can't get around. If you have a few people help you out, your work will be even easier to manage.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21
Gemini, when a current plan of attack isn't working out quite right, you may have to approach it from a different direction. A new angle can bring with it a new perspective.

CANCER – June 22/July 22
You may need to push yourself a little further this week to make up for lost time, Cancer. Hunker down and get things done. There's rest to have on the other side of the effort.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23
Turning a blind eye to a certain situation will not make it go away, Leo. It will only postpone the inevitable, which is getting it handled. Don't procrastinate any longer.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Others may not want to hear the truth, but you're still going to offer it up, Virgo. Forge ahead even if you may lose some friends in the process.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Think twice before you act this week, Libra. It's easy to take the path ahead right now, but there may be some other way to go that could prove more rewarding in the long run.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you are looking for a change but you don't know what that should be just yet. You may have to try on a few different shoes before you find the right fit.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius birthday season is in full swing right now, so you are in a festive mood. That will continue right into the holidays, when you may be the life of the party.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you can change if you want to. It just requires a little effort right now to figure out the path you want to take. Brainstorm a few ideas and you can find a goal.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Keeping secrets will only work for so long. Aquarius. Sooner or later the truth will be revealed and you will need to come clean. Take the high road from the start.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
After a few bumps, you find your groove, Pisces. Supervisors will recognize your efforts and perhaps give you the notice you deserve.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
NOVEMBER 27
Bill Nye, Scientist (67)
NOVEMBER 28
Karen Gillan, Actress (35)
NOVEMBER 29
Russell Wilson, Athlete (34)
NOVEMBER 30
Ben Stiller, Actor (57)
DECEMBER 1
Robert Irwin, Reality Star (19)
DECEMBER 2
Britney Spears, Singer (41)
DECEMBER 3
Ozzy Osbourne, Singer (74)

TUESDAY EVENING NOVEMBER 29, 2022

| | 7:00 | 7:30 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 | |
|------------------|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-------|
| BROADCAST | ABC Love Actually (N) | 7:00 | 7:30 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CABLE | A&E Neighbor | Neighbor | Neighbor | Neighbor | Customer | Customer | Neighbor | Neighbor | Neighbor | Neighbor | |
| AMC | Uncle Buck (89, PG) ★★★ | John Candy | (15) The Great Outdoors (86, PG) Dan Aykroyd | (15) Spaceballs (87) | | | | | | | |
| ANIMAL | River Monsters (TVPG) | River Monsters (TVPG) | River Monsters (TVPG) | River Monsters (TVPG) | Celebrity Family Feud | Celebrity Family Feud | Celebrity Family Feud | Celebrity Family Feud | Celebrity Family Feud | Celebrity Family Feud | |
| BET | BET Star Cinema | Tyler Perry's The Oval | Celebrity Family Feud | Celebrity Family Feud | Watch What Happened | Watch What Happened | Watch What Happened | Watch What Happened | Watch What Happened | Watch What Happened | |
| BRAVO | Below Deck Adventure | Below Deck Adventure | Below Deck Adventure | Below Deck Adventure | Below Deck Adventure | Below Deck Adventure | Below Deck Adventure | Below Deck Adventure | Below Deck Adventure | Below Deck Adventure | |
| CARTOON | Reg. Show | Titans | Burgers | Burgers | Dad | Dad | Dad | Rick Morty | Tyson | Aqua Teen | |
| CMT | Mom | Mom | Mom | Mom | Mom | Mom | Mom | Mom | Mom | Mom | |
| CNN | Anderson Cooper 360° | Anderson Cooper 360° | CNN Tonight (N) | CNN Tonight (N) | CNN Tonight (N) | CNN Tonight (N) | CNN Tonight (N) | CNN Tonight (N) | CNN Tonight (N) | CNN Tonight (N) | |
| COMEDY | The Office (TV14) | The Office | The Office | The Office | The Office | The Office | Daily (N) | Stephen C. | Seinfeld | Seinfeld | |
| DISCOVERY | Bering Sea Gold: "The Chain" | (TV14) | Bering Sea Gold: "Dredge of Insanity" | (TV14) | Bering Sea Gold: "Dredge of Insanity" | (TV14) | Bering Sea Gold: "Dredge of Insanity" | (TV14) | Bering Sea Gold: "Dredge of Insanity" | (TV14) | |
| DISNEY | Big City | Big City | Villains | Villains | Mysterious | Big City | Miraculous | Miraculous | Jessie | Jessie | |
| E! | (5:45) Movie | Celebrity Game Face | Celebrity Game Face | Celebrity Game Face | Celebrity Game Face | Celebrity Game Face | Celebrity Game Face | Celebrity Game Face | Celebrity Game Face | Celebrity Game Face | |
| ESPN | (6:30) College Basketball (Live) | College Basketball: Virginia vs Michigan (Live) | College Basketball: Virginia vs Michigan (Live) | College Basketball: Virginia vs Michigan (Live) | College Basketball: Virginia vs Michigan (Live) | College Basketball: Virginia vs Michigan (Live) | College Basketball: Virginia vs Michigan (Live) | College Basketball: Virginia vs Michigan (Live) | College Basketball: Virginia vs Michigan (Live) | College Basketball: Virginia vs Michigan (Live) | |
| ESPN2 | (6:00) College Bball | College Basketball | College Basketball | College Basketball | College Basketball | College Basketball | College Basketball | College Basketball | College Basketball | College Basketball | |
| FOOD | Chopped (TV G) | Beat Bobby Flay | Beat Bobby Flay | Beat Bobby Flay | Beat Bobby Flay | Beat Bobby Flay | Beat Bobby Flay | Beat Bobby Flay | Beat Bobby Flay | Beat Bobby Flay | |
| FREEFORM | Zootopia | Ratatouille (07, G) ★★★½ Patton Oswalt, Ian Holm | Thor (11, PG-13) ★★★ Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman | Thor (11, PG-13) ★★★ Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman | Thor (11, PG-13) ★★★ Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman | Thor (11, PG-13) ★★★ Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman | Thor (11, PG-13) ★★★ Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman | Thor (11, PG-13) ★★★ Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman | Thor (11, PG-13) ★★★ Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman | Thor (11, PG-13) ★★★ Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman | |
| FX | Thor (11, PG-13) ★★★ | Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman | Thor (11, PG-13) ★★★ | Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman | Thor (11, PG-13) ★★★ | Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman | Thor (11, PG-13) ★★★ | Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman | Thor (11, PG-13) ★★★ | Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman | |
| HGTV | Unsellable Houses | Fixer to Fabulous (N) | Hunters | Hunters | Hunters | Hunters | Hunters | Hunters | Hunters | Hunters | |
| HISTORY | Skinwalker (TVPG) | The Secret (TVPG) | Proof: Skinwalker (TVPG) | The Secret (TVPG) | Proof: Skinwalker (TVPG) | The Secret (TVPG) | Proof: Skinwalker (TVPG) | The Secret (TVPG) | Proof: Skinwalker (TVPG) | The Secret (TVPG) | |
| LIFETIME | Christmas On Mistletoe Lake (22, NR) | (03) Tying with the Holidays (21, NR) | (03) Tying with the Holidays (21, NR) | (03) Tying with the Holidays (21, NR) | (03) Tying with the Holidays (21, NR) | (03) Tying with the Holidays (21, NR) | (03) Tying with the Holidays (21, NR) | (03) Tying with the Holidays (21, NR) | (03) Tying with the Holidays (21, NR) | (03) Tying with the Holidays (21, NR) | |
| MTV | Teen Mom: Next (N) | Love at First Lie (N) | (03) Ridiculous | (03) Ridiculous | (03) Ridiculous | (03) Ridiculous | (03) Ridiculous | (03) Ridiculous | (03) Ridiculous | (03) Ridiculous | |
| NEWSNAT | Cuomo | Dan Abrams Live | Barfield | Barfield | Barfield | Barfield | Barfield | Barfield | Barfield | Barfield | |
| NICK | The Secret Life of Pets (16, PG) ★★★ Louis G.K. | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | |
| PARMT | John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum (19, R) ★★★½ Keanu Reeves | John Wick: Chapter 2 (17, R) Keanu Reeves | John Wick: Chapter 2 (17, R) Keanu Reeves | John Wick: Chapter 2 (17, R) Keanu Reeves | John Wick: Chapter 2 (17, R) Keanu Reeves | John Wick: Chapter 2 (17, R) Keanu Reeves | John Wick: Chapter 2 (17, R) Keanu Reeves | John Wick: Chapter 2 (17, R) Keanu Reeves | John Wick: Chapter 2 (17, R) Keanu Reeves | John Wick: Chapter 2 (17, R) Keanu Reeves | |
| SYFY | Half-Blood Prince | Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (10, PG-13) ★★★½ | (35) Fantastic Four (15, PG-13) ½ | (35) Fantastic Four (15, PG-13) ½ | (35) Fantastic Four (15, PG-13) ½ | (35) Fantastic Four (15, PG-13) ½ | (35) Fantastic Four (15, PG-13) ½ | (35) Fantastic Four (15, PG-13) ½ | (35) Fantastic Four (15, PG-13) ½ | (35) Fantastic Four (15, PG-13) ½ | |
| TBS | Bang | Bang | Bang | Bang | Bang | Bang | Bang | Bang | Bang | Bang | |
| TCM | Monsieur Verdoux (47, NR) ★★★ Charlie Chaplin | (15) The General (27, NR) ★★★½ | (45) 2001: A Space Odyssey (68) | (45) 2001: A Space Odyssey (68) | (45) 2001: A Space Odyssey (68) | (45) 2001: A Space Odyssey (68) | (45) 2001: A Space Odyssey (68) | (45) 2001: A Space Odyssey (68) | (45) 2001: A Space Odyssey (68) | (45) 2001: A Space Odyssey (68) | |
| TLC | Little People (TVPG) (N) | Little People (TVPG) (N) | I Am Shauna Rae (N) | (02) The Culp Sisters | Little People (TVPG) (N) | Little People (TVPG) (N) | Little People (TVPG) (N) | Little People (TVPG) (N) | Little People (TVPG) (N) | Little People (TVPG) (N) | |
| TNT | (6:30) NBA Basketball: Golden State vs Dallas | NBA Basketball: Los Angeles vs Portland (Live) | Inside NBA | Inside NBA | Inside NBA | Inside NBA | Inside NBA | Inside NBA | Inside NBA | Inside NBA | |
| TRAVEL | Expedition Unknown | Expedition Unknown | Expedition Unknown | Expedition Unknown | Expedition Unknown | Expedition Unknown | Expedition Unknown | Expedition Unknown | Expedition Unknown | Expedition Unknown | |
| TV LAND | Loves Ray. | Loves Ray. | Loves Ray. | Loves Ray. | Loves Ray. | Loves Ray. | Loves Ray. | Loves Ray. | Loves Ray. | Loves Ray. | |
| USA | WWE NXT (Live) | Black Ink Crew (N) | Infamy: When | Infamy: When | Black Ink Crew (N) | Black Ink Crew (N) | Black Ink Crew (N) | Black Ink Crew (N) | Black Ink Crew (N) | Black Ink Crew (N) | |
| VH1 | Black Ink Crew (N) | Infamy: When | Black Ink Crew (N) | Black Ink Crew (N) | Black Ink Crew (N) | Black Ink Crew (N) | Black Ink Crew (N) | Black Ink Crew (N) | Black Ink Crew (N) | Black Ink Crew (N) | |
| HBO | (6:20) Neighbors (14) | My So-Called High School Rank | (45) 2022 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductions (TV14) | (45) 2022 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductions (TV14) | (45) 2022 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductions (TV14) | (45) 2022 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductions (TV14) | (45) 2022 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductions (TV14) | (45) 2022 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductions (TV14) | (45) 2022 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductions (TV14) | (45) 2022 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductions (TV14) | |
| MAX | Ouja (14, PG-13) ★★ Olivia Cooke | The Unborn (09, PG-13) ★★ | The Day the Earth Stood Still (08) | The Day the Earth Stood Still (08) | The Day the Earth Stood Still (08) | The Day the Earth Stood Still (08) | The Day the Earth Stood Still (08) | The Day the Earth Stood Still (08) | The Day the Earth Stood Still (08) | The Day the Earth Stood Still (08) | |
| SHOW | (6:30) Everything Everywhere All at Once (22, R) | Meet Me in the Bathroom (22, NR) | Generation Q (TVMA) | Generation Q (TVMA) | Generation Q (TVMA) | Generation Q (TVMA) | Generation Q (TVMA) | Generation Q (TVMA) | Generation Q (TVMA) | Generation Q (TVMA) | |

THURSDAY EVENING DECEMBER 1, 2022

| | 7:00 | 7:30 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 | |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| BROADCAST | ABC Frozen 2 (19, PG)kina Menzel, Kristin Bell | 7:00 | 7:30 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CABLE | A&E The First 48 (TV14) | The First 48 (TV14) (N) | Interrogation Law (N) | The First 48 (TV14) | The First 48 (TV14) | The First 48 (TV14) | The First 48 (TV14) | The First 48 (TV14) | The First 48 (TV14) | The First 48 (TV14) | |
| AMC | National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (89) | (15) National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (89, PG-13) | Homestead Rescue | Homestead Rescue | Homestead Rescue | Homestead Rescue | Homestead Rescue | Homestead Rescue | Homestead Rescue | Homestead Rescue | |
| ANIMAL | Homestead Rescue | Homestead Rescue | Homestead Rescue | Homestead Rescue | Homestead Rescue | Homestead Rescue | Homestead Rescue | Homestead Rescue | Homestead Rescue | Homestead Rescue | |
| BET | BET Star Cinema | BET Star Cinema | Tyler Perry's The Oval | Tyler Perry's The Oval | Tyler Perry's The Oval | Tyler Perry's The Oval | Tyler Perry's The Oval | Tyler Perry's The Oval | Tyler Perry's The Oval | Tyler Perry's The Oval | |
| BRAVO | Winter House (N) | Southern Charm (N) | Watch What Happened | Watch What Happened | Watch What Happened | Watch What Happened | Watch What Happened | Watch What Happened | Watch What Happened | Watch What Happened | |
| CARTOON | Reg. Show | Titans | Burgers | Burgers | Dad | Dad | Dad | Rick Morty | Tyson | (45) ATHF | |
| CMT | Mom | Mom | Mom | Mom | Mom | Mom | Mom | Mom | Mom | Mom | |
| CNN | Anderson Cooper 360° | Anderson Cooper 360° | CNN Tonight (N) | CNN Tonight (N) | CNN Tonight (N) | CNN Tonight (N) | CNN Tonight (N) | CNN Tonight (N) | CNN Tonight (N) | CNN Tonight (N) | |
| COMEDY | The Office (TV14) | The Office | The Office | The Office | The Office | The Office | Daily (N) | Hell of A | S. Park | (S. Park) | |
| DISCOVERY | Mysteries of the (N) | (02) Mysteries (TVPG) | (02) Mysteries (TVPG) | (02) Mysteries (TVPG) | (02) Mysteries (TVPG) | (02) Mysteries (TVPG) | (02) Mysteries (TVPG) | (02) Mysteries (TVPG) | (02) Mysteries (TVPG) | (02) Mysteries (TVPG) | |
| DISNEY | Big City | Big City | Big City | Big City | Big City | Big City | Big City | Big City | Big City | Big City | |
| E! | Family | Family | Family | Family | Family | Family | Family | Family | Family | Family | |
| ESPN | (6:00) College Bball | College Basketball: Seton Hall vs Kansas (Live) | SportsCenter (Live) | SportsCenter (Live) | SportsCenter (Live) | SportsCenter (Live) | SportsCenter (Live) | SportsCenter (Live) | SportsCenter (Live) | SportsCenter (Live) | |
| ESPN2 | Wom Bball | Women's College Basketball (Live) | Women's College Basketball: UCLA vs Stanford | Women's College Basketball: UCLA vs Stanford | Women's College Basketball: UCLA vs Stanford | Women's College Basketball: UCLA vs Stanford | Women's College Basketball: UCLA vs Stanford | Women's College Basketball: UCLA vs Stanford | Women's College Basketball: UCLA vs Stanford | Women's College Basketball: UCLA vs Stanford | |
| FOOD | Holiday Baking Championship: "Getting Ready" | Holiday Baking (TV G) | Holiday Baking (TV G) | Holiday Baking (TV G) | Holiday Baking (TV G) | Holiday Baking (TV G) | Holiday Baking (TV G) | Holiday Baking (TV G) | Holiday Baking (TV G) | Holiday Baking (TV G) | |
| FREEFORM | Home (30) | Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (92, PG) Macaulay Culkin | The 700 Club (TV G) | Simpsons | Simpsons | Simpsons | Simpsons | Simpsons | Simpsons | Simpsons | |
| FX | Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (18) Chris Pratt | Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (18, PG-13) ★★★ Chris Pratt | Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (18, PG-13) ★★★ Chris Pratt | Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (18, PG-13) ★★★ Chris Pratt | Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (18, PG-13) ★★★ Chris Pratt | Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (18, PG-13) ★★★ Chris Pratt | Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (18, PG-13) ★★★ Chris Pratt | Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (18, PG-13) ★★★ Chris Pratt | Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (18, PG-13) ★★★ Chris Pratt | Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (18, PG-13) ★★★ Chris Pratt | |
| HGTV | Flip or Flop (TV G) (N) | (01) Luxe for Less (N) | Hunters | Hunters | Hunters | Hunters | Hunters | Hunters | Hunters | Hunters | |
| HISTORY | Mountain Men: "Turning Tides" | (35) Mountain Men (N) | (35) Mountain Men (N) | (35) Mountain Men (N) | (35) Mountain Men (N) | (35) Mountain Men (N) | (35) Mountain Men (N) | (35) Mountain Men (N) | (35) Mountain Men (N) | (35) Mountain Men (N) | |
| LIFETIME | Serving Up the Holidays (22, NR) | A Show-Stopping Christmas (21) Jamie Perez | Serving Up the (22) | Serving Up the (22) | Serving Up the (22) | Serving Up the (22) | Serving Up the (22) | Serving Up the (22) | Serving Up the (22) | Serving Up the (22) | |
| MTV | Siesta Key (TVPG) (N) | MTV Cribs | MTV Cribs | MTV Cribs | Ridiculous | Ridiculous | Ridiculous | Ridiculous | Ridiculous | Ridiculous | |
| NEWSNAT | Cuomo | Dan Abrams Live | Barfield | Barfield | Barfield | Barfield | Barfield | Barfield | Barfield | Barfield | |
| NICK | Slimetime | SpongeBob | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | |
| PARMT | The Shawshank Redemption (94, R) ★★★½ Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman | The Shawshank Redemption (94, R) ★★★½ Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman | The Shawshank Redemption (94, R) ★★★½ Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman | The Shawshank Redemption (94, R) ★★★½ Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman | The Shawshank Redemption (94, R) ★★★½ Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman | The Shawshank Redemption (94, R) ★★★½ Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman | The Shawshank Redemption (94, R) ★★★½ Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman | The Shawshank Redemption (94, R) ★★★½ Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman | The Shawshank Redemption (94, R) ★★★½ Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman | The Shawshank Redemption (94, R) ★★★½ Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman | |
| SYFY | (10) Everest (15, PG-13) ★★★½ Jason Clarke, Josh Brabin | (57) The Fast and the Furious (01, PG-13) ★★★ | (57) The Fast and the Furious (01, PG-13) ★★★ | (57) The Fast and the Furious (01, PG-13) ★★★ | (57) The Fast and the Furious (01, PG-13) ★★★ | (57) The Fast and the Furious (01, PG-13) ★★★ | (57) The Fast and the Furious (01, PG-13) ★★★ | (57) The Fast and the Furious (01, PG-13) ★★★ | (57) The Fast and the Furious (01, PG-13) ★★★ | (57) The Fast and the Furious (01, PG-13) ★★★ | |
| TBS | Bang | Bang | Bang | Bang | Bang | Bang | Bang | Bang | Bang | Bang | |
| TCM | The Killers (46, NR) ★★★½ Burt Lancaster | The Hustlers (47, NR) ★★½ Clark Gable | (15) The Bride (49) | (15) The Bride (49) | (15) The Bride (49) | (15) The Bride (49) | (15) The Bride (49) | (15) The Bride (49) | (15) The Bride (49) | (15) The Bride (49) | |
| TLC | 1000-lb Sisters (TV14) | 1000-lb Sisters (TV14) | 1000-lb Sisters (TV14) | 1000-lb Sisters (TV14) | 1000-lb Sisters (TV14) | 1000-lb Sisters (TV14) | 1000-lb Sisters (TV14) | 1000-lb Sisters (TV14) | 1000-lb Sisters (TV14) | 1000-lb Sisters (TV14) | |
| TNT | Jurassic World (15, PG-13) ★★ Chris Pratt | Jurassic World (15, PG-13) ★★ Chris Pratt | Jurassic World (15, PG-13) ★★ Chris Pratt | Jurassic World (15, PG-13) ★★ Chris Pratt | Jurassic World (15, PG-13) ★★ Chris Pratt | Jurassic World (15, PG-13) ★★ Chris Pratt | Jurassic World (15, PG-13) ★★ Chris Pratt | Jurassic World (15, PG-13) ★★ Chris Pratt | Jurassic World (15, PG-13) ★★ Chris Pratt | Jurassic World (15, PG-13) ★★ Chris Pratt | |
| TRAVEL | Ghost Adventures | Ghost Adventures (N) | The Haunted Museum | Ghost Adventures | Ghost Adventures | Ghost Adventures | Ghost Adventures | Ghost Adventures | Ghost Adventures | Ghost Adventures | |
| TV LAND | Loves Ray. | Loves Ray. | Loves Ray. | Loves Ray. | Loves Ray. | Loves Ray. | Loves Ray. | Loves Ray. | Loves Ray. | Loves Ray. | |
| USA | Pitch Perfect 2 (15, PG-13) ★★ Anna Kendrick | Pitch Perfect (12, PG-13) ★★ Anna Kendrick, Skylar Astin | Pitch 2 | Pitch 2 | Pitch 2 | Pitch 2 | Pitch 2 | Pitch 2 | Pitch 2 | Pitch 2 | |
| VH1 | Maeda ½ | Tyler Perry's Maeda's Witness Protection | (12, PG-13) ★★ | Tyler Perry's Maeda's Big Happy Family (11) ½ | Tyler Perry's Maeda's Big Happy Family (11) ½ | Tyler Perry's Maeda's Big Happy Family (11) ½ | Tyler Perry's Maeda's Big Happy Family (11) ½ | Tyler Perry's Maeda's Big Happy Family (11) ½ | Tyler Perry's Maeda's Big Happy Family (11) ½ | Tyler Perry's Maeda's Big Happy Family (11) ½ | |
| HBO | See How They Run (22, PG-13) Adrian Brody | Branson (TV14) (N) | The White Lotus | (05) Branson (TV14) | (05) Branson (TV14) | (05) Branson (TV14) | (05) Branson (TV14) | (05) Branson (TV14) | (05) Branson (TV14) | (05) Branson (TV14) | |
| MAX | Hunter Killer (18, R) ★★★ Gerard Butler | (02) Smokin' Aces (07, R) ★★★ Ben Affleck | (05) Ben Affleck | (05) Ben Affleck | (05) Ben Affleck | (05) Ben Affleck | (05) Ben Affleck | (05) Ben Affleck | (05) Ben Affleck | (05) Ben Affleck | |
| SHOW | Dix: Dreamers Never Die (22, NR) | Let the Right One In | The Best of All (TVMA) | Wrong Turn (21, R) ★★★ | Wrong Turn (21, R) ★★★ | Wrong Turn (21, R) ★★★ | Wrong Turn (21, R) ★★★ | Wrong Turn (21, R) ★★★ | Wrong Turn (21, R) ★★★ | Wrong Turn (21, R) ★★★ | |

SATURDAY EVENING DECEMBER 3, 2022

| | 7:00 | 7:30 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 | |
|------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| BROADCAST | ABC (07) College Football: "Teams TBA" (Live) | 7:00 | 7:30 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CABLE | A&E The First 48 (TV14) | The First 48 (TV14) (N) | Killer Cases (TV14) (N) | The First 48 (TV14) | The First 48 (TV14) | The First 48 (TV14) | The First 48 (TV14) | The First 48 (TV14) | The First 48 (TV14) | The First 48 (TV14) | |
| AMC | Elf (03, PG) Will Ferrell | Elf (03, PG) Will Ferrell | James Caan | Four Christmas (08, PG-13) Vince Vaughn | Four Christmas (08, PG-13) Vince Vaughn | Four Christmas (08, PG-13) Vince Vaughn | Four Christmas (08, PG-13) Vince Vaughn | Four Christmas (08, PG-13) Vince Vaughn | Four Christmas (08, PG-13) Vince Vaughn | Four Christmas (08, PG-13) Vince Vaughn | |
| ANIMAL | Alaskan Bush People | Alaskan Bush People | Alaskan Bush People | Alaskan Bush People | Alaskan Bush People | Alaskan Bush People | Alaskan Bush People | Alaskan Bush People | Alaskan Bush People | Alaskan Bush People | |
| BET | BET Star Cinema | BET Star Cinema | Tyler Perry's The Oval | Tyler Perry's The Oval | Tyler Perry's The Oval | Tyler Perry's The Oval | Tyler Perry's The Oval | Tyler Perry's The Oval | Tyler Perry's The Oval | Tyler Perry's The Oval | |
| BRAVO | (00) Couples Retreat (09, PG-13) | Couples Retreat (09, PG-13) ★★ Vince Vaughn | Just Friends (05) ★★½ | Just Friends (05) ★★½ | Just Friends (05) ★★½ | Just Friends (05) ★★½ | Just Friends (05) ★★½ | Just Friends (05) ★★½ | Just Friends (05) ★★½ | Just Friends (05) ★★½ | |
| CARTOON | Reg. Show | Titans | Futurama | Futurama | Dad | Dad | Dad | Rick Morty | Tyson | JBA | |
| CMT | (6:30) Uncle Buck (89) | Beverly Hills Cop (84, R) ★★ Eddie Murphy, Judge Reinhold | Beverly Hills Cop II (87, R) ★★½ | Beverly Hills Cop II (| | | | | | | |

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, by Deed of Trust (the "Deed of Trust") dated March 2, 2016, of record at Trust Deed Book 851, page 866, Register's Office for Bedford County, Tennessee, JASON USELTON, did convey unto MARVIN McBEE, as Trustee, a certain tract of real estate hereinafter described, to secure a certain indebtedness set out in said Deed of Trust; and WHEREAS, HERITAGE SOUTH COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION is the owner and holder of the note secured by said Deed of Trust hereinabove referred to; and WHEREAS, the said Marvin McBee, Trustee, is unable to act as Trustee under the Deed of Trust and I have been appointed Substitute Trustee by the owner and holder of the note secured by said Deed of Trust described in said Deed of Trust is as follows:

Lying and being in the Fourth (4th) Civil District of Bedford County, Tennessee, and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at an iron pin on the west margin of the Fosterville-Bell Buckle Road, said iron pin being in the center of a joint driveway between the mobile home of Rebecca Marie H. Ensey and the property being conveyed herein, and said metal pin being the northeast corner of the property herein conveyed; thence in a westerly direction perpendicular to said road 220 feet to a metal pin; thence in a southerly direction parallel with said road 220 feet to a metal pin; thence in an easterly direction 220 feet perpendicular with said road to a metal pin in the western margin of said road; thence in a northerly direction along the margin of said road 220 feet to the point of beginning containing approximately 1 acre, upon which is situated a mobile home occupied by Calvin Henry Hatchett, together with a small residential dwelling on the back side of this tract.

THERE IS ALSO HEREBY CONVEYED A 1984 Salem 14x80 mobile home, Serial Number ALWH2617805. Being the same property conveyed to Jason Uselton, unmarried, by Warranty Deed from Keith A. Reynolds and wife, Kellye L. Gilbert a/k/a Kellye L. Reynolds, dated March 2, 2016, of record at Deed Book 330, page 414, Register's Office of Bedford County, Tennessee.

This conveyance is subject to any and all existing easements and restrictions of record. WHEREAS, said Deed of Trust was made to secure the payment of a note therein set out and contained the power to sell in the case of default in the payment of said note and interest at maturity; and WHEREAS, the maker of said note has defaulted in the payment thereof, and the owner and holder of said note has declared the entire amount due and payable and has requested the undersigned to foreclose said Deed of Trust according to its terms in order to collect

said note. NOW, THEREFORE, I, the undersigned JOE M. LAMBERT, JR., Substitute Trustee, will, in accordance with the terms set out in the Deed of Trust above referred to, on **Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 10:00 A.M. CST**, at the south door of the Bedford County Courthouse in Shelbyville, Tennessee, offer for sale and sell the above-described real estate at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash in bar of equity of redemption and free from homestead and dower, all in accordance with the provisions of said Deed of Trust and the laws of Tennessee controlling such sales, subject, however, to all outstanding real estate taxes.

The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day and time certain without further publication and in accordance with law upon announcement of said adjournment on the day and time and place of sale set forth above. The failure of any high bidder to pay the purchase price and close the sale shall, at the option of the Substitute Trustee, be cause for rejection of the bid, and if the bid is rejected, the Substitute Trustee shall have the option of making the sale to the next highest bidder who is ready, willing, and able to comply with the terms thereof. The proceeds derived from the sale of the property will be applied as provided for in said Deed of Trust. Said Deed of Trust is made a part hereof as if copied verbatim herein.

This sale of the Property shall be subject to any and all unpaid taxes, assessments, rights-of-way, easements, protective covenants or restrictions, liens, and other superior matters of record which may affect said property; as well as any prior liens or encumbrances as well as priority created by a fixture filing; and/or any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. If the U. S. Department of Treasury/IRS, the State of Tennessee Department of Revenue, or the State of Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development are listed as interested parties in the advertisement, then the Notice of this foreclosure is being given to them and the sale will be subject to the applicable governmental entities' right to redeem the property, as required by 26 U. S. C. § 7425 and T. C. A. § 67-1-1433. The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U. S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Deed of Trust.

The address of the above-described property is believed to be 307 Fosterville Rd., Bell Buckle, TN 37020, but such address is not part of the legal description of the property sold herein, and in the event of any discrepancy, the legal description herein shall control. This property is further identified as being Map 033, Parcel 009.02, on the records of the Tax Assessor of Bedford County, Tennessee. THIS LAW FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES: N/A This 7th day of November, 2022. Joe M. Lambert, Jr., Substitute Trustee

Law Office of Joe M. Lambert, Jr. 100 Public Square North, Suite 3 Shelbyville, TN 37160 (931) 684-9600 (Nov. 15, 22, & 29, 2022)

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE

WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms and conditions of a Deed of Trust dated May 5, 2021, executed by JOSHUA E STEWART conveying certain real property therein described to MEGAN K. TROTT, as Trustee, as same appears of record in the Register's Office of Bedford County, Tennessee recorded May 5, 2021, in Deed Book TD1005, Page 783; and WHEREAS, the beneficial interest of said Deed of Trust was last transferred and assigned to Penny-Mac Loan Services, LLC who is now the owner of said debt; and WHEREAS, the undersigned, Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, having been appointed as Substitute Trustee by instrument to be filed for record in the Register's Office of Bedford County, Tennessee.

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable, and that the undersigned, Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, as Substitute Trustee or his duly appointed agent, by virtue of the power, duty and authority vested and imposed upon said Substitute Trustee will, on December 13, 2022 at 11:00 AM at the main entrance to the Bedford County Courthouse, 1 Public Square, Shelbyville, TN 37160, proceed to sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash or certified funds ONLY, the following described property situated in Bedford County, Tennessee, to-wit: BEING ALL OF LOT NO. 2 OF FLOYDS SUNSET BOULEVARD SUBDIVISION NO. 1, AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF RECORD IN PLAT CABINET D, ENVELOPE 78, REGISTER'S OFFICE OF BEDFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE, TO WHICH PLAT REFERENCE IS HEREBY MADE FOR A MORE COMPLETE AND ACCURATE DESCRIPTION. Parcel ID: 071E-B-013.00 PROPERTY ADDRESS: The street address of the property is believed to be 200 SUNSET BLVD, WARTRACE, TN 37183. In the event of any discrepancy between this street address and the legal description of the property, the legal description shall control. CURRENT OWNER(S): JOSHUA E STEWART OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES: CROWN ASSET MANAGEMENT LLC

The sale of the above-described property shall be subject to all matters shown on any recorded plat; any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements or set-back lines that may be applicable; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; and to any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. This property is being sold with the express reservation that it is subject to confirmation by the lender or Substitute Trustee. This sale may be rescinded at any time. The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day, time, and place certain without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place for the sale set forth above. All right and equity of redemption, statutory or otherwise, homestead,

and dower are expressly waived in said Deed of Trust, and the title is believed to be good, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Substitute Trustee. The Property is sold as is, where is, without representations or warranties of any kind, including fitness for a particular use or purpose. THIS LAW FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, Substitute Trustee 119 S. Main Street, Suite 500 Memphis, TN 38103 riselaw.com/property-listing Tel: (877) 813-0992 Fax: (470) 508-9401

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Estate Brand Washer & Dryer Matching Set Work Well \$250 for Both or \$150 Each 931-212-9679

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 931-409-1808

Mieah Turner mtuner@messer.com. Schedule (Tentative) 12-19-22 Documents Issued for bid 01-18-23 Bids Due These dates will be confirmed as final construction documents are developed. (Nov. 26 & 29, 2022)

DRIVE-BY SHOOTING INJURES 2 AT NASHVILLE CHURCH

By JONATHAN MATTISE Associated Press

NASHVILLE — A drive-by shooting in Nashville on Saturday injured two people as they and others were walking out of church from the funeral of a woman who was fatally shot earlier this month, according to police. Metro Nashville Police Department spokesperson Don Aaron said the afternoon shooting occurred outside New Season Church, where a funeral service had just ended for 19-year-old Terriana Johnson. The hearse was parked out front with the rear door open and people were filing out of church as the shots began, Aaron said.

Police say they are on the lookout for a black late-model Honda Civic with a temporary tag, from which one shooter or more fired as the car passed by, hitting an 18-year-old woman in the leg and a 25-year-old man in the pelvis. Neither were considered life-threatening injuries, Aaron said.

Some attendees of the funeral services for Johnson — who was not a member of the church that was hosting — were armed and fired back at the car, Aaron said.

The shooting occurred before Johnson's body was brought out of the church, according to police, and her burial took place later in the afternoon.

Authorities remain on the lookout for a 17-year-old charged with criminal homicide in Johnson's fatal shooting on Nov. 14 at Watkins Park. Police allege that the teen opened fire on a car in which Johnson was riding after Johnson and the suspect's sister were involved in a fight moments earlier.

Aaron said the shooting "appears to be some type of beef between two groups of people," but not necessarily between members of the two families.

"This was just a brazen shooting," Aaron told reporters. "These persons have no regard for human life at all."

'We the People' is White House's theme for holidays

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Drawing decorating inspiration from America's founding documents, Jill Biden chose a "We the People" theme to deck the White House halls and to remind Americans of what unites them throughout the year, especially during the holidays. Journalists were given a sneak peek early Monday before the first lady was to unveil the transformational work of a small army of volunteer decorators during an event later in the day.

As part of Joining Forces, her White House initiative to support military families, Biden will be joined by National Guard leaders from across the country, as well as National Guard families. Her late son, Beau Biden, was a major in the Delaware Army National Guard.

"The soul of our nation is, and always has been, 'We the People,'" she says in prepared remarks released by the White House. "And that is what inspired this year's White House holiday decoration.

The decorations include more than 83,000 twinkling lights on trees, garlands, wreaths and other displays, 77 Christmas trees and 25 wreaths on the exterior of the executive mansion.

Check out the Times-Gazette classifieds!

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SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY



Tanya Coffey was among merchants serving Shelbyville shoppers on Small Business Saturday. Her dog, Gracie, often joins her.



Traci Perryman was among Christmas shoppers taking advantage of Small Business Saturday to both score bargains and support Shelbyville merchants.

T-G Photos by David Melson

SHOPPING AND A MOVIE



The Capri Theatre sponsored a free movie night this past weekend for Small Business Saturday. They showed the Christmas classic The Polar Express with popcorn and a drink.

Submitted photo

Business groups urge Congress to block potential rail strike

By JOSH FUNK
AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. — Business groups are increasing the pressure on lawmakers to intervene and block a railroad strike before next month's deadline in the stalled contract talks.

A coalition of more than 400 business groups sent a letter to Congressional leaders Monday urging them to step into the stalled talks because of fears about the devastating potential impact of a strike that could force many businesses to shut down if they can't get the rail deliveries they need. Commuter railroads and Amtrak would also be affected in a strike because many of them use tracks owned by the freight railroads.

The business groups led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Manufacturers and National Retail Federation said even a short-term strike would have a tremendous impact and the economic pain would start to be felt even before the Dec. 9 strike deadline because the railroads would stop hauling hazardous chemicals, fertilizers and perishable goods up to a week beforehand to keep those products from being stranded somewhere along the tracks.

"A potential rail strike only adds to the headwinds facing the U.S. economy," the businesses wrote. "A rail stoppage would immediately lead to supply shortages and higher prices. The cessation of Amtrak and commuter rail services would disrupt up to 7 million travelers a day. Many businesses would see their sales disrupted right in the middle of the critical holiday shopping season."

A similar group of businesses sent another letter to President Joe Biden last month urging him to play a more active role in resolving the contract dispute.

Congressional leaders and the White House have said they are monitoring the contract talks closely but haven't indicated when they might act or what they will do. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said leaders are aware of the situation with the rail negotiations and will monitor the talks in the coming days.

Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, R-Pa., said on Fox News Sunday that Congressional intervention is a last resort, but lawmakers will have to be ready to act.

"Congress will not let this strike happen. That's for sure," said Fitzpatrick who helped lead a bipartisan group of 58 lawmakers. "It would be devastating to our economy. So, we'll get to a resolution one way or another."

A White House spokeswoman has said that a rail strike would be "unacceptable."

Congress has the power to impose contract terms on the workers, but it's not clear what they might include if they do that. They could also force the negotiations to continue into the new year.

Both the unions and railroads have been lobbying Congress while contract talks continue. Four rail unions that represent more than half of the 115,000 workers in the industry have rejected the deals that President Joe Biden helped broker before the original strike deadline in September and are back at the table trying to work out new agreements. Eight other unions have approved their five-year deals with the railroads and are in the process of getting back pay for their workers for the 24% raises that are retroactive to 2020.

"It certainly could end up in Congress' lap, which is why we are headed to D.C. this week to meet with lawmakers on The Hill from both parties," said Clark Ballew, a spokesman for the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division union that represents track maintenance workers. "We have instructed our members to contact their federal lawmakers in the House and Senate for several weeks now."

The unions have asked the railroads to consider adding paid sick time to what they already offered to address some of workers' quality of life concerns. But so far, the railroads, which include Union Pacific, BNSF, Norfolk Southern, CSX and Kansas City Southern, have refused to consider that.

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