

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

Weekend

Bell Buckle • Flat Creek • Normandy • Shelbyville • Unionville • Wartrace

\$1

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2022

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Missing Santa

Life & Leisure/1B



Giving spirit

Local/3A



A look at 2022

Sports/6A

UT-TPA
PRESS AWARD
2022



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BACK IN THE FLOW



T-G Photo by David Melson

Water levels returned to normal by late week at tanks such as this one on Hickory Hill Road and much larger ones at Deason and Chestnut Ridge after very low pressure earlier.

Pressure's off BCUD as water returns to normal after freeze

By DAVID MELSON
dmelson@t-g.com

Issues with low water pressure across portions of Bedford County were mostly back to normal today, the general manager of Bedford County Utility District said.

"We are recovering and on the upswing," BCUD's Randy Head said Wednesday.

BCUD customers across northern Bedford County from the Unionville and Rover areas through Deason, and in the Wartrace-Bell Buckle-Normandy areas, reported very low water pressure Tuesday. Customers in far southern Bedford County were also plagued with water issues.

Particular problem areas were in what Head termed "the furthest extremes" on the edges of BCUD's system.

"We've experienced the worst temperature situation in 25 years," Randy Head said. Temperatures since Dec. 22 dropped from the 50s to zero and are now back into the 60s.

Many customers followed advice to leave water slightly running or dripping to prevent freezes. That resulted in BCUD's storage tanks being depleted.

"The low water pressure is due

to drained tanks," Head said.

Water is safe

All BCUD water is safe to drink.

"Our water is still testing well. There's no need to boil," Head emphasized.

"No boil orders have been issued for Bedford County," Head said, citing Nashville media reports of state boil orders in other areas of Tennessee.

Customers in higher elevations — particularly those served by the BCUD water storage tank on Ransom Hill in Deason, Head said — were especially hard hit.

People living in flat areas west of U.S. 231 North may not think of their areas as "high elevation," but they are compared to locations further west, Head explained.

The Chestnut Ridge area in southern Bedford County had serious pressure problems Tuesday, but conditions began improving during the afternoon, Head said, and returned to normal today.

The utility is temporarily waiving all fees on customer calls concerning water issues.

▶ See **Water**, Page 2A

Inmates, tablets: Perfect pairing or potential problem?

Commission must make decision

By ZOË WATKINS
zwatkins@t-g.com

Before the Bedford County Board of Commissioners votes on whether to allow inmates at the Bedford County Jail to have smart tablets, what are the pros and cons of such a decision?

Lt. Chris Cook is the programs director at the jail and believes providing tablets could go a long way in providing educational opportunities.

He said jail administrators have been thinking about providing tablets for two years now.

If approved, the jail will have a three-year contract with the internal system provider. A common system provider is Securus Technologies.

"There is no cost to the county anywhere," said Cook.

How it works

The system would work exactly like a commissary (a store within a correctional facility) or like the phones or video visits inmates have. According to Cook, the program charges the inmates an amount to offer the service. The county then gets a certain percentage of that money, Cook explained. Inmates are essentially paying for the tablet's service.

States like Connecticut, New York, and New Hampshire began providing tablets to inmates in 2018 and many wardens have said the environment of prison is calmer and less tense, according to Cook. Locally, Warren County and several East Tennessee counties have implemented the tablets program.

On the downside, "People we talked to all say the same thing, the tablets are a headache," said Cook. This is because the smart devices have to be taken up every day and charged and then returned.

Jail administrator Ronald

YES: "It reduces the stress level in the jail. It gives them something to do."

— Sheriff's Office Lt. Chris Cook

NO: "A tablet will allow them to act on those things they think."

—Commissioner Eric Maddox

Prince explained that the tablets would be distributed to inmates at 6 a.m. and then collected at 10 p.m. during headcount to be charged overnight.

"That gives officers time to inspect them and to make sure nobody's breaking them because if they break them, they lose their privilege to the tablet," said Prince. The service company uses their own infrastructure and replaces tablets if damaged.

Cook added, "But everybody told us, it definitely reduces the stress level in the jail. It gives them something to do."

Different view

However, District 1 County Commissioner Eric Maddox believes providing tablets to inmates could reap unintended consequences.

"A tablet will allow them the opportunity to act on those things they think," said Maddox.

He said states like Georgia and

▶ See **Commission**, Page 2A

Preschool worker accused of hitting child with chair

By DAVID MELSON
dmelson@t-g.com

A preschool worker has been charged with aggravated child abuse for allegedly striking a 3-year-old girl in the head with a chair at a day care center, investigators say.

Cameron Hunter, 22, of August Way in Shelbyville was arrested Wednesday by the Bedford County Sheriff's Office.

Hunter allegedly threw a child-sized plastic chair with metal legs at the girl earlier in the day Wednesday at Stay-N-Play Child Care, Wartrace-Bell Buckle Road, Chief Deputy Nikia Elliott said.

Deputies talked to the girl's family later in the day and said swelling and bruising were visible.

"Cameron Hunter was watching

▶ See **Worker**, Page 2A

Head-on crash on Highway 41A North



T-G Photos by David Melson

At least one person was injured early Thursday night in a head-on accident on Highway 41A North in front of the Dollar General Store in El Bethel. A family member said Brian Lee Wade, driver of the car at left, was told he was fortunate to have survived the crash. The Tennessee Highway Patrol had not responded to a request for additional information by press time.

County building gets flooded

Bedford County Business Complex was damaged by flooding over the weekend after a water pipe ruptured in a physician's office located on the second floor.

Several local and state agencies, including the Tennessee Driver's License Center, Tennessee Department of Revenue, and Bedford County Information Technology (IT) Department, sustained water damage during the event.

Some services were down while computer systems were relocated between the time the flood was discovered at 11:30 p.m. Saturday, Christmas Eve, and 6:30 a.m. on Sunday, Christmas day.

While some computer systems in the building were damaged, there was no loss

of data, according to Bedford County IT Director Josh Carney. Carney thanked the IT staffers who worked during the holiday on resolving the issue.

All county government offices were fully functional after the incident. A lone reporting server for the Bedford County Jail was in the process of being repaired at the time of this press release.

A recent press release stated, "The county has a robust and secure IT infrastructure, and the IT department works constantly to maintain and improve it, and to make sure that all county employees are up to date on security threats and operate their systems in a safe and secure manner."

Drug suspect resists arrest

By DAVID MELSON
dmelson@t-g.com

A drug suspect resisted arrest during a traffic stop Tuesday, Shelbyville police said.

Bernie Caldwell allegedly jumped from his vehicle and began yelling at Officer Jonathan Evans during a traffic stop for a malfunctioning light.

Caldwell began trying to "hide items frantically in the vehicle," Evans' report said. A computer check showed Caldwell was driving on a license suspended for failure to pay child support.

Sgt. Chris Vest and Officer Dylan Bliss assisted as Caldwell allegedly tried unsuccessfully to pull away while being arrested.

Officers later found 3.3 grams of crystal methamphetamine in the vehicle's front seat area, Evans said.

Caldwell was charged with resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, possession of a schedule 2 drug, driving on a suspended license and financial responsibility. Bond was set at \$12,500.

•Marijuana was found in a truck after Officer Dylan Farrar detected its odor during a traffic stop Wednesday, his report said.

Jose S. Velazquez was stopped for allegedly driving 43 mph in a 30 mph zone on Madison Street. He was charged with simple possession of a schedule 6 drug and paraphernalia, and with speeding, and issued a summons.

Shoplifting

Two women shoplifted at least nine jackets from Hibbett Sports, North Main Street, Tuesday afternoon, Shelbyville police said.

One of the suspects took four pink North Face jackets and another took five Nike jackets, store personnel said. A third woman was with them but was not carrying anything when all three bolted from the store, video footage confirmed.

They were last seen leaving in a silver Dodge Charger.

Prostitution and pot

An alleged prostitute from Nashville lured to Shelbyville by a police detective brought along marijuana, according to a Shelbyville Police Department report.

Jamiria Heaven Gaines' advertisement on an Internet site was spotted by Det. Nathan Everhart, who negotiated a price of \$300.

Gaines arrived at a Shelbyville motel on the night of Thursday, Dec. 22, where Everhart told her "The money is in the bedroom."

So was special agent Casey Cordova of the 17th Judicial District Drug Task Force, who arrested Gaines without incident.

Officer Jeremiah Guinn found Yesmin Carlmesha Lindsley in a vehicle containing one gram of marijuana outside the room, Lindsley told police she knew nothing about the prostitution and was told only Gaines was coming

to Shelbyville to "pick up money."

Gaines was charged with prostitution and both suspects were charged with possession of a schedule 6 drug.

Thefts

•A wallet was stolen from a shopping cart at Walmart early Wednesday, police said.

•A pistol and a debit card were stolen Friday, Dec. 23, at a home on Amos Smith Road, police were told.

One of the victims named a suspect who regularly spends time at the home. The debit card was missing from a wallet and the pistol, a Ruger LCP .380, from the console of a friend's vehicle.

•A mini-drone valued at \$24 was allegedly taken from the living room of a Sunlite Road apartment around 1 a.m. Christmas morning.

The victim said she and a friend, who she named as a suspect, had been wrapping gifts. The friend denied taking the drone, police said.

Where's the intake?

Jail intake information is unavailable due to massive computer failures caused by water damage from burst pipes this week, the Bedford County Sheriff's Office said.

Jail and sheriff's department personnel said the staffs are themselves unable to access reports or jail listings. Publication will resume when the computer system failure is repaired.

New bills going into effect Jan. 1

A collection of bills sponsored by Tennessee Senate Republicans will become effective on Jan. 1.

This includes legislation that provides tax relief to farmers. The law exempts farmers from sales tax on items and services used for agriculture production, including building materials, repair services, and labor, among other expenses used in agriculture production.

The tax reduction totals \$2.8 million and does not include items such as automobiles, household appliances, or fuel used in vehicles that travel on public highways in the state.

Sen. John Stevens (R-Huntington), who sponsored the legislation said, "By eliminating this sales tax, we can help small family farms stay in the family for generations by lowering costs and making it easier to turn a

profit. I am very pleased to have had the privilege to sponsor the legislation that made this possible."

Another new law aims to support foster youth. The law reimburses eligible relatives of foster youth to support the cost of raising the child. It also expands eligibility to ages 18-21 for foster youth transitioning from state custody to adulthood to access services.

"This legislation will help keep foster kids in families without them coming into state custody and experiencing the trauma that can occur," said Sen. Page Walley (R-Savannah), who co-sponsored the bill. "I believe this legislation is a step in the right direction for our kids, our families and our state."

Two other new laws offer consumer and privacy protections. One of them requires businesses that allow someone to sign up for a service or subscription online to provide a clear way to end or cancel the subscription without any additional steps. If a company violates the act, then the individual who suffered a loss may bring civil action for damages.

The other law strengthens privacy protections for Tennessee homeowners

who may not want their home address easily accessible. The law allows homeowners to file a written request to the property assessor to have their first and last name appear as "unlisted" in the ownership field of online databases.

"There have been instances where law enforcement officers, in particular deputies or police officers have had individuals find out where they live and literally come to their homes," said bill sponsor Richard Briggs (R-Knoxville). "This law would help prevent situations like that from happening."

Another new law mandates annual human trafficking training. The new law requires the Department of Correction, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and the Department of Human Services are directed to work with a nonprofit charitable organization to provide mandatory training to the appropriate personnel on the identification, intervention, prevention and treatment of human trafficking victims.

The 2023 session of the 113th Tennessee General Assembly will convene Jan. 10.

The Issue: jail reform

By ZOË WATKINS
zwatkins@t-g.com

According to the Tennessee Department of Corrections, 94% of incarcerated people in Tennessee will be released in three years.

Lt. Chris Cook, programs director at the Bedford County Jail, asked a valid question, "What kind of person are we releasing back into our community?"

I've been thinking about this topic since the Bedford County Jail implemented the MRT program (the Moral Reconciliation Program) last spring and as they are looking at possibly giving every inmate tablets with the hope of providing educational or other reconnection programs.

Many opponents to this will say, "But they're prisoners, right? They deserve to sit there and think about what they did."

I don't disagree. I do think a society that is indulgent on criminals and lax on rules is one rampant with crime. I believe if you break the law, there will be consequences, and I believe violent criminals need to be kept off our streets.

But I also believe in reform.

What good does it do to have a criminal sit and think about what he or she has done for 23 hours of the day for months or years?

Instead, what if we made prisons places of opportunity — places where people truly can change things around when they get back out because they know how?

I like how Sheriff Austin Swing said it once, "It's

OPINION

our job here to try to get everybody on what we think is the right track to get back into society and become a contributor. That's our hope..."

Providing programs in prisons like MRT or through tablets is — I believe — a start.

Plus, this tablets-for-inmates program won't cost taxpayers money. It's an in-house operation for the jail like the commissary.

To quote the overly quoted Sir Thomas More from his book Utopia, "If you suffer your people to be ill-educated, and their manners to be corrupted from their infancy, and then punish them for those crimes to which their first education disposed them, what else is to be concluded from this, but that you first make thieves and then punish them."

I will not disregard human corruption. Some people are evil to the core and are beyond the efforts of our government's help. At that point, only God can change them.

But some people need a hand to pull them out of addiction and to pull them out of the lifestyles they were born into. Lt. Cook cited that somewhere around 95% of inmates in Tennessee are in prison for drugs and addiction.

I've listened to interviews with prostitutes and drug addicts and the story is always the same: My mother was trying to get high when I was born. She showed me how to do drugs when I was a teen. I was molested by a foster parent or by my mother's boyfriend. I did drugs as an escape, so I failed

school and was eventually arrested. Now I can't get a job....

The story goes on and repeats itself in one person's life and in many.

But what if we started viewing prison not as a place holder but as an opportunity for reform? Essentially, they have the inmate for a certain amount of time, they might as well do something to make his or her stay worthwhile.

Maybe I'm an optimist, but I've seen what a leg up in the world can do for somebody who's willing to take it.

For example, some who have completed the MRT program at the Bedford County Jail were able to get jobs at Tyson while serving out their prison sentences.

Imagine that. Once their sentence ends, they have a stable paycheck and a bit of savings — a step up in the world so they can make their car payment or pay rent so their kids can have a place to come home to after school.

They're not sucking from the government anymore; they're contributors.

And if these new tablets prove to be useful, inmates will have the opportunity to complete their GED or even start vocational training while serving out their time. Imagine that.

Even if only a handful of people take that opportunity, at least there's a handful of people no longer drug addicted and lost. And once they take it, their more stable future then determines the future of their children and their children's children.

Won't that help make this a better Bedford?

The high cost of utilities

T-G STAFF REPORT

The U.S. Utilities Market Size and Household Spending Report for 2022 examines how much Americans spend on utility bills (including electric, gas, water & sewer, and waste & recycling) each month.

The Doxo company report, which looks at utility bills from both a local and national perspective, found that households in Shelbyville spend \$219 per month on utilities. This is compared to Tennessee's average, which is \$269 per month.

In addition to utilities data, the report also has total household spending information for Shelbyville, including the fact that the average Shelbyville household pays around \$1,700 a month for the most common household bills which is 12.3% lower than the national average of \$2,003.

Some of most common household

bills and Shelbyville's average monthly payments:

- Mortgage - \$871 or rent - \$768
- Auto Loans - \$607
- Utilities - \$219
- Health Insurance - \$98
- Auto Insurance - \$178
- Cable & Internet - \$152
- Mobile - \$137
- Alarm & Security - \$90
- Life Insurance - \$24

Looking at Tennessee, the report ranks Shelbyville as #32 for the most expensive city in the state for household expenses.

Utility bills amount to 6% of consumers' income per year, according to the report. Out of the 78% of households that pay utility bills, the national average monthly cost is \$328. Nationwide, the average annual cost per U.S. household is \$3,936 per year.

This makes the total utilities market size \$399 billion spent per year.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

12/20/2022—12/26/2022

Amy Gunn Reyes to Kate Lynn Monahan, Daniel William Monahan—\$225,000, 0 acres, no address

Brock & Scott PLLC, Leslie L. Lucier to Rocket Mortgage LLC—\$117,000, 0.22 acres, Carney St.

Findley MaHaffey, Jane Jakes, Mike Walker, Alissa Shear, Jennifer Crooks, Geoffrey Crooks, Thaddeus Walker, Lera Walker Williams, Brent Walker, Nelle Williams MaHaffey to Javier Reyes, Amy Gunn Reyes, Chuck Gunn To Javier Reyes, Amy Gunn Reyes, Chuck Gunn—0 money, 0 acres, Deery St.

Stephen Russell to Stephen Russell, Jennifer Russell—0 money, 0 acres, no address

Jerry Eugene Tapp, Michael Vaughn Tapp, Dawn Lynn Tapp Brady, Charles Louis Tapp, Jennifer Ann Tapp Turner, Joshua Wayne Tapp to Michael V. Tapp—0 moeny, 1.4 acres, Chapel Hill Pike

Amanda Rae Burgett to Michael Paul Mitchell, Laura Elizabeth—\$350,000, 0 acres, South Brittain St.

John Clark Bearden, Ruberta Bearden to John Clark Bearden, Vyron Calvin Bearden—0 money 1 1/2 acres, Hwy 130

John Clark Bearden, Vyron Calvin Bearden to John Cannon Bearden—\$58,333.34, 1 1/2 acres, Hwy 130

Michael Kucharski, Sherry Kucharski to Michael Kucharski—0 money, 1.49 acres, Halls Mill Rd.

Stonefield LLC, Scott Norton Young to Scott N. Young Living Trust—0 money, 0 acres, Stonefield Circle

R. Blake Cammack, Melissa S. Cammack to Gaspar Rosa Jose, Rosa Jose Gaspar, Maria Jose Gaspar, Maria Jose Jose—\$329,000, 0 acres, Perfection Dr.

Kimberly S. Berry to Kimberly S. Berry Revocable Trust—0 money, 54.92 acres, State Route 82

Reach more customers through the

TIMES-GAZETTE

- Print Edition
- Online Website
- e-Edition

BUSINESS LICENSES

12/21/2022—12/28/2022

Clark's garage Door Company—839 North Jefferson St., Shelbyville, Samuel Sutton

Farrell Holdings, Inc.—10260 Fisher Ave., Tampa, Fl., Sean Farrell Mom And Manda's—314 Riverbend Country Club Rd., Shelbyville, Amanda Reed

The Hidden Hive, 3300 Hwy 64 E., Shelbyville, Amanda Redd

PUBLIC RECORD

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Juan Diego Espinoza and Dennis Villar

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Contributing to charities

Dear Heloise: There are so many requests for donations lately that you may want to advise your readers to go to Charity Navigator before donating, to check them all out. Since November, we have received over 50 requests in the mail.

Look for the salaries of the charities' CEOs, which, in many cases, is over \$300,000. The CEO's salary is often paid by people whose salaries are only five digits. It appears that some have turned charities into a very lucrative business. There are some that do not provide Charity Navigator with salary information. For these, one should be cautious. Donate, but just be sure the money is going to help those truly in need, not to fatten the pockets of those in charge. -- T. Russo, via email

Hints from Heloise



USEFUL GIFTS

Dear Heloise: A gift that usually is a hit with older people is a large box of mixed paper goods. Toilet paper, paper towels, plastic wrap, baggies, tissues, etc. Before my mom passed away, she always loved this. -- Sherry Haywood, via email

PET PAL

Dear Heloise: Toby passed the AKC Canine Good Citizen test. He is a 3-year-old rescue from Arkansas and loves the snow in New Hampshire, where he now lives. -- Lee Allison, via email

Readers, to see Toby and our other Pet Pals, go to Heloise.com and click on "Pet of the Week."

Do you have a furry friend to share with our readers? Send a photo and a brief description to Heloise@Heloise.com. -- Heloise

HOW TO MAKE SATCHET PACKETS

Dear Heloise: I love it when my closet and drawers smell nice, and I've discovered that several of my friends feel the same way. I make my own sachet packets to use and give away. You don't need a sewing machine; you can sew this by hand. All you need is two 6-by-6-inch squares (or any shape) of a pretty fabric, a needle and thread. Sew the fabric inside out on three of the sides and about halfway across the top. You'll need to leave a small opening at the top to stuff perfumed cotton balls inside. Then close it by hand, or use a sewing machine if you have one. I usually sew lace around the edges or decorate with beads or sequins. This past holiday season, I sold about 62 of these sachets at a crafts fair.

It's a great way to make extra money and a nice little gift for anyone. -- Dorie M., Atlanta

AVOID SKIN SINS

Dear Heloise: So many women make mistakes with their skin because no one tells them about some of the little things they can do to help their skin stay healthy:

- If you're not taking a multi-vitamin, now might be a good time to start. Ask your doctor to recommend a brand they think is best for you.
- After washing off your makeup, apply a moisturizer on your face and neck.

- Don't wear perfume if you know you'll be exposed to the sun for a long period. It can cause spot burning.

- If your makeup is more than a year old, throw it out. Bacteria is growing on all of your skin-care products.

- Use sun block religiously! That includes on your nails.

- Drink lots of fresh, clear water. Tap water is usually just fine. You don't need expensive bottled water.

- Wash your face when you get up in the morning and at night before you go to bed. -- A Reader, via email



CAR CLUB DONATION

Celebration City Region Car Club Inc. of Shelbyville donated to 12 charities in 2022. Among check recipients is the Bedford County Backpack Program. From left are club secretary Phyllis Clanton, Julie Haynes representing the Backpack Program, club board of directors chairman Jerry Clanton and club president Walt Bagar.

T-G Photo by David Melson

Local Imagination Library receives \$5,000

Community Foundation supports literacy

T-G STAFF REPORT

Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, a charitable organization dedicated to enriching the quality of life in the 40 middle Tennessee counties it serves, announces \$2.8 million in grants have been awarded to 432 non profits. Bedford County's Imagination Library is one recipient.

The library will receive \$5,000 to mail free over 2,550 books to children ages birth to 5 in Bedford County. The cost to provide and mail each books to each child is \$2.15.

Bedford County Imagination

Library is a non profit in partnership with the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation and the Dollywood Foundation.

The local Imagination Library Board is comprised of 12 to 15 volunteer business professionals who are charged with raising over \$30,000 each year from corporations, civic organizations and individuals for the program.

"The work of our nonprofit partners has never been more important as we watch needs emerge and evolve in this community," said Ellen Lehman, Community

Foundation of Middle Tennessee president. "The Community Foundation is honored to connect generosity with need through these annual grants and other avenues throughout the year, but we couldn't have an impact without the array of quality nonprofits offering solutions to our communities' needs and vital services to our neighbors."

The Community Foundation awards discretionary grants annually from its unrestricted and field-of-interest funds through an open application process to middle Tennessee nonprofits.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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.

MONDAY

Bag Day

Good Samaritan, 201 E. Highland Ave., will hold a bag day on Monday, Jan. 2 from noon-2 p.m.

VFW meeting

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 5019, and its Auxiliary will hold their monthly meeting next Monday at the VFW Post on East Depot Street. Dinner is at 6 p.m. with a business meeting for members immediately following. For more information, contact Post Commander Mike Ruess, 931-249-1566.

JAN. 8

Laity Club

Bedford County Laity Club will meet at 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8, at Cannon United Methodist Church for a potluck meal.

JAN. 10

County Commission

Bedford County Commission will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10, at Bedford County Courthouse.

JAN. 12

City Council

Shelbyville City Council will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, at Shelbyville Recreation Center.

JAN. 16

MLK luncheon

The annual Martin

Luther King Jr. luncheon is scheduled Monday, Jan. 16, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Fly Arts Center. The Newly-Oldie Wed Game will be featured. Attendees are asked to bring a canned or boxed food item for Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen. Tickets may be purchased by calling 615-594-7663, 931-580-3690, or 931-842-0049. Gilliland Historical Resource Center, Inc., is sponsoring the event.

Republican meeting

The Bedford County Republican Party's Reorganizational Convention will be held Monday, Jan. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at International House of Prayer, 865 Union St. Any candidate seeking to be chair should notify the Contest & Credentials committee by Jan. 9 at bedfordcounty467@gmail.com. All other candidates are nominated from the floor.

JAN. 19

Head Start meeting

South Central Human Resource Agency Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council meeting will meet at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, at the South Central Human Resource Agency Central Office in Fayetteville.

ONGOING

Healthier Me program

UT/TSU Extension is offering a yearlong online program that focuses on developing one healthy habit each month such as eat breakfast, sugar down, move more, etc. You will receive an emailed newsletter each month with a goal and tracking form. There will be drawings for prizes for completing the challenge for the month and reporting as well as optional special activities like cooking classes and more. Go to <https://bedford.tennessee>.

December 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Holidays						
18th - Hanukkah Begins in the evening						
21st - Winter Begins						
25th - Christmas						

edu for more information and to register or call the Extension Office at 931-684-5971 for questions.

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 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at 336 S. Cannon Blvd. (corner of South Cannon Boulevard and Pickle Street). 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.

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MOOSE LODGE DONATIONS



T-G Photo by David Melson

Food and toys for needy families are boxed and ready to go at the Shelbyville Moose Lodge. The club gave food boxes for 50 needy families which included 27 grocery items, bags of oranges and potatoes, a dozen eggs, and a baking hen. Gifts were given to 34 children.



VFW AUXILIARY ASSISTS FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

For the fourth year running, the VFW Auxiliary, because of the support of all the Post 5019 members, shopped for a veteran's family for Christmas. This year, the Auxiliary helped Santa deliver extra gifts of clothing and toys to six children. They were also fortunate to be able to assist a veteran with groceries.

Submitted photos



CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Send church news and events to tgnews@t-g.com.

Baptist

Pastor Tyler Shoemaker's message at **Calvary Baptist Church** will be "Nothing Changes if Nothing Changes" from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. The service will be livestreamed.

"A new Year; Now Is The Time To Become A New You" from Luke 13:6-9 will be Bro. Bobby McGee's message at **Grace Baptist Church**.

Christian (Disciples of Christ)

First Christian Church's sermon by Pastor Dan Asche in the 10 a.m. service will be "How to Stunt Your Spiritual Growth in 2023."

Church of Christ

Fairlane Church of Christ's sermon will be "Checkup" from Corinthians 13:5,6. The service will be livestreamed and broadcast on WLII (98.7 FM/1580 AM/wlijradio.com).

"Treasure in Earthen Vessels" from 2 Corinthians 4:7-10 will be Sunday's message at **Southside Church of Christ**. Prayers for the new year will be offered at 6 p.m. Sunday and Buddy Koonce will lead Wednesday Bible study. Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services are livestreamed at cofcsouthside.com.

"Follow Me" will be the 11 a.m. sermon by Chris Bobo at Wartrace Church of Christ. No assembly will be held Sunday night. Bible study for adults and dinner for teens and children are held at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Methodist

Pastor Abe Zimmerman's sermon at **First United Methodist Church** will be "White As Snow" from Isaiah 1:1,18-20. The 10 a.m. service will be livestreamed on Facebook and broadcast on WLII (98.7 FM/1580 AM/wlijradio.com).

Presbyterian

First Presbyterian Church's service will be at 10 a.m. led by Pastor Jim Moran. A special Epiphany of the Lord Service will be Friday, Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. All services are livestreamed on Facebook.

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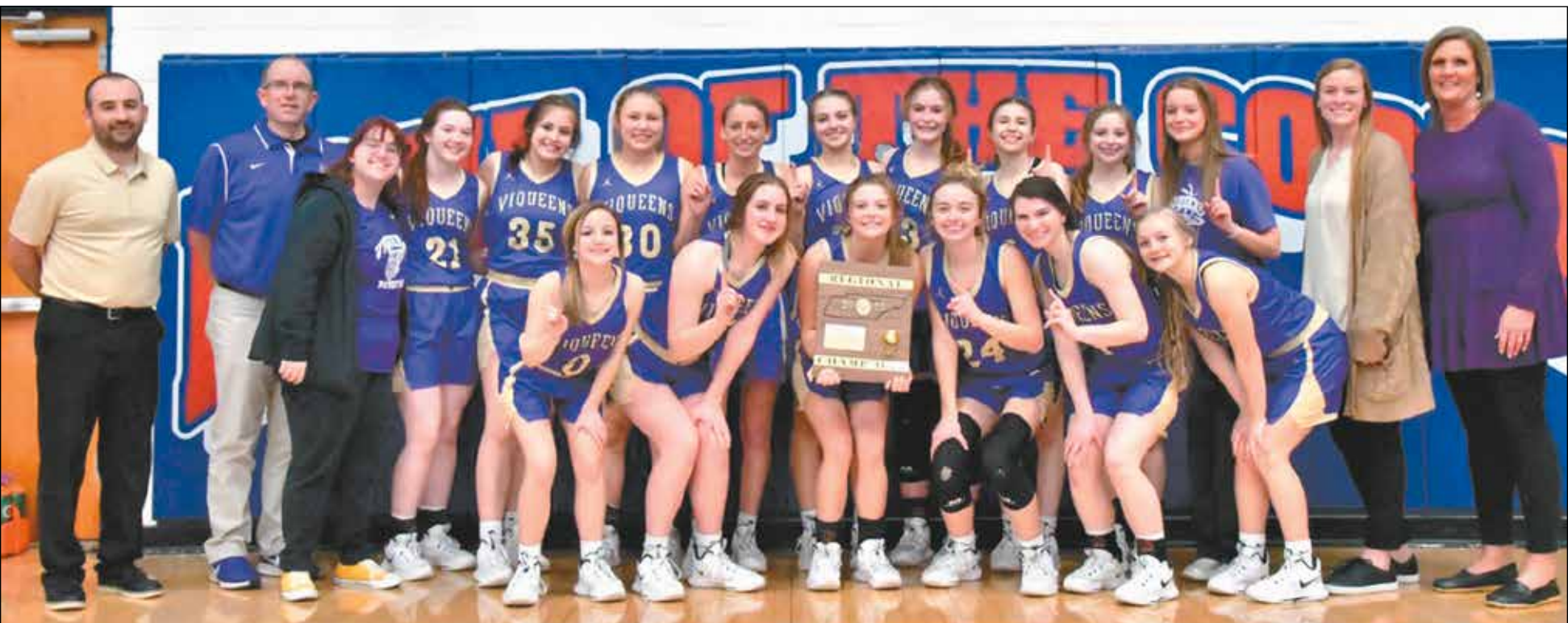
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But those who hope in the Lord
 will renew their strength.
 They will soar on wings like eagles;
 they will run and not grow weary,
 they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31

2022's Bedford County sports highlights



The Community Viqueens pose after winning the Region 4-AA basketball championship.

T-G Photos by Rickey Clardy

By **CHRIS SIERS**
sports@t-g.com

Every year, local athletes and teams create lasting memories from both successes and heartbreaks. Each year, each group of individuals makes their mark on the year's top headlines and 2022 was no different.

Here is the first half of our look back at the top local sports headlines from 2022:

No. 6

Viqueen basketball reaches state sectional

Beginning in mid-January, the Community Viqueens came together in a remarkable fashion and built a 15-game win-streak that included a District 7-AA title, a Region 4-AA title and a trip to the Class 2A state sectional.

All the hard work and perseverance paid off as the Viqueens rode the wave of momentum to a region title clash against East Nashville.

Utilizing an effective scheme that produced several points in the paint, as well as timely shooting from the perimeter, the Viqueens were able to defeat East Nashville in the region title and not only advance to the state sectional, but hosted York Institute with a trip to the 2A state tournament on the line.

In the region title, Community never trailed in the contest, but the game was not without its anxious moments as the Viqueens thwarted every Lady Eagle comeback attempt to take home its first region championship since 2016.

Despite traveling a large distance to play East Nashville in a gym where the Lady Eagles had recently won the District 8-AA championship, the Viqueens came out of the gate hot and were not deterred by the surroundings.

Haley Mitchell connected on two treys to give the Viqueens an early 6-2 first-quarter lead.

M.J. Simmons scored six points from her post position as Community used a 9-0 run to take a 12-2 lead with 2:23 remaining. The Lady Eagles battled back to cut the deficit in the final minutes as the Viqueens took a 16-8 lead to the second quarter.

The Viqueen prospects looked to take a nosedive early in the quarter as Simmons picked up her fourth foul while the Lady Eagle defense kept the pressure on. An East Nashville three-pointer cut the Viqueen lead to 38-37

with 5:18 remaining.

"Breanna Whitaker and M.J. both had four fouls, but I told them I trust you and you've both got to stay out there," Pierce said.

With an energized Lady Eagle crowd providing plenty of vocal support for its Nashville team, the next four minutes would be key in determining which trophy would be coming back to Unionville.

Whitaker broke the ice with a basket while Simmons scored five consecutive points, including a three-point play that gave the Viqueens a 45-37 lead with 3:46 left. Mitchell canned her fourth trey while Brothers added two foul shots as Community turned a one-point lead into a 50-37 advantage with a 12-0 run and 1:38 left.

The Lady Eagles would not get closer than 10 as the Viqueens took the hard-fought win.

While the region title in hand, Community hosted York Institute in the sectional, but a low-scoring game ended in heartbreak as the Viqueens' remarkable season ended with a 32-31 loss.

The Viqueens battled back from an 8-point halftime deficit to take a fourth-quarter lead, but the York Institute Dragonettes retook the lead and held off the Viqueens down the stretch.

"In the second half we settled in, we didn't let that press get to us and we got back in the game, but we just couldn't ever hit that big shot to get a two or three-point lead," Pierce said.

"We had the looks, we had the stops, we had the steals, the ball just didn't go in," Pierce added.

Community lost just one senior from the sectional squad in Whitaker and returned the bulk of the squad for the 2022-2023 campaign.

Community finished the season as District 7-AA and Region 4-AA champions and a 25-8 overall record.

* Original reporting by Rickey Clardy

No. 5

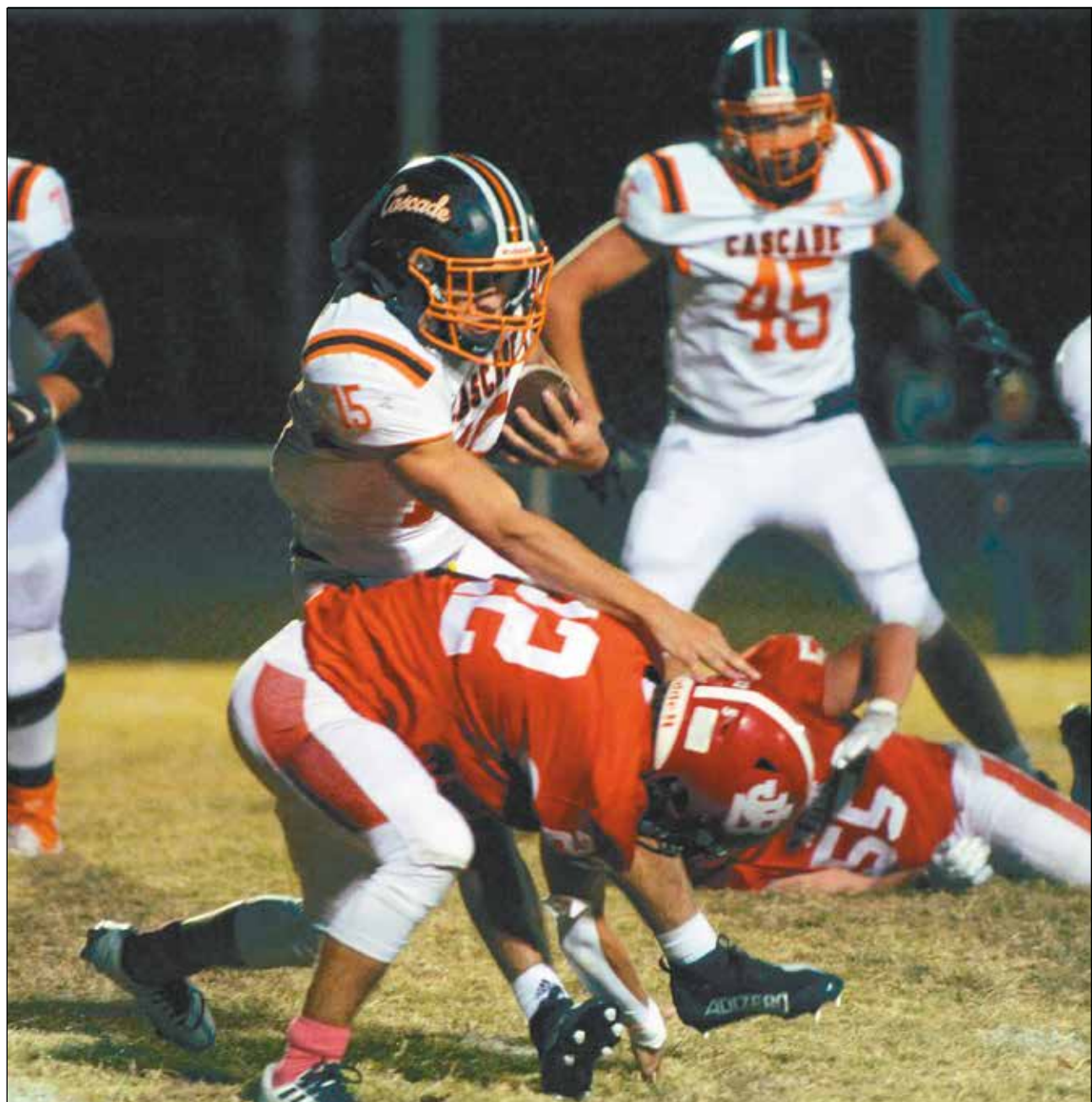
Champ football records three straight shutouts

After posting a 2-3 record through the first half of the 2022 season, things began to click for the Cascade Champions that jumpstarted a remarkable three-game win-streak that included three-straight shutout victories over

▶ See **2022**, Page 7A



M.J. Simmons is fouled while putting up a shot. Simmons had 16 points in the Community over East Nashville and was named the All-Region MVP.



Cascade's Connor Huie was a terror to the Jo Byrns defense, going for 173 yards and three touchdowns in the Champions' blowout win against the Red Devils.

T-G Photos by Chris Siers

2022

(Continued from Page 6A)

Community, Forrest and Jo Byrns.

During the run, Cascade out scored its opponents, 129-0, reaching a near-unheard of mark for the Champion squad.

Even more impressive was in the Champs' previous win against Huntland, Cascade recorded its first shutout of the season.

In a turnover-free Battle of Bedford against arch-rival Community, Cascade coach Jake Tyre saw the potential of his team when the offense protected the ball and the defense was able to execute its game plan to near-perfection.

"It was about as perfect a night as you can get offensively and defensively. The kids get up for this game every year," Tyre said after Cascade's 46-0 win against Community.

Xamarion Dixon and Chance Brown each rushed for two touchdowns and Dixon threw another on a 36-yard pass to Hayden Dowell to highlight the win.

Cascade followed with another blowout against a longtime-rival against Forrest the following week, beating the Rockets 49-0.

Cascade out-gained the Rockets 359 yards to just 85 and once again, the Champion defense showcased just how dominant it could be when everything was falling its way.

"The defense is playing lights out right now," Tyre said. "They're understanding what we're doing, and we're rotating a lot of guys which keeps us fresh throughout the game."

Dixon again highlighted the Cascade offense with three rushing touchdowns, but it was touchdown runs of 65 and 51 yards by Connor Huie that broke the back of any momentum by the Rockets.

As with any team that finds success, the challenge for Tyre and the Champions was to not rest on their laurels and focus on being 1-0 at the end of each week.

For the third-straight week, that's just what Cascade did as the Champs made the long trek to Jo Byrns and shutout the Red Devils in a 29-0 effort.

This time, it was Huie's night to shine as he was an absolute terror for the Jo Byrns defense, rushing for 173 yards on 13 carries and tacking on three more touchdowns.

"He's done it all year. He's been our alpha. He's been the hard-nosed kid on the field every night we've played. He's not going to juke you, he's going to run you over," Tyre said of Huie's efforts on the ground.

On the defensive side, Cascade was able to liberally substitute among the defensive front and keep fresh legs in the game, which eventually wore down the Red Devils.

In total, Cascade piled up 349 offensive yards en route to their third-straight shutout.

"It's fun to watch and it's fun to be part of," Tyre said. Cascade's win-streak helped secure a playoff berth after an up and down first half of the season.

Despite a talented run game and a stingy defense that found its footing in the second half of the season, Cascade's year came to a close in the Class 2A playoff opener at Summertown in a 32-24 loss.

* Original reporting by Will Carter and Chris Siers

No. 4

SCHS soccer makes state tourney for 1st time

The 2022 season for the Shelbyville Central soccer team was nothing short of historic for the program.



Damien Byford (2), Jacob Cagle (3) and Blake Olive (9) combine to make a tackle for the Champs.



The Eagles rush the field after the final whistle blows to celebrate their first-ever trip to the state tournament.

unbeaten district gauntlet, to facing adversity in the in the region title and finding a way to fight to a victory, the 2022 Golden Eagles were a team you couldn't count out until the final buzzer sounded.

In the Class 3A state sectional, Shelbyville saw visiting LaVergne take a first-half lead, then had to weather a near two-hour weather delay, before scoring twice in the final 16 minutes to punch their ticket to the Class 3A state tournament.

"I felt like we were playing scared for the first 64 minutes and I told the boys we don't need to be cautious because we're down a goal. Let's go and get them and press and stop being such good guys. My guys are such good guys off the field and sometimes in soccer you have to play hard and get in scrappy battles for the ball," Shelbyville coach Chris Fritz said.

Shelbyville played a close first half until the Wolverines broke the stalemate with a goal in the 37th minute and held a 1-0 lead through most of the second half.

Keeper Jonathan Rojas made several remarkable saves in goal to help keep Shelbyville within striking distance.

With 16:16 left on the clock, weather moved in and lightning forced a delay that lasted nearly two hours.

"I put all the seniors on the field and I told them you have 16 minutes left on your home field. No matter what, this is it. So go out there and try to win every



Eagle coach Chris Fritz raises his fists in triumph as the Eagles celebrate the state sectional victory over La Vergne.

ball and that's what we did," Fritz said.

After several near scores by the Eagles when play resumed, it was Brian Contreras scoring the equalizer on a header, played off a free kick by Kolby Themm that knotted the match at one apiece.

With a newfound surge in momentum in hand, and

the Eagles back line not giving an inch to LaVergne, Themm took a free kick from near mid-field and lobbed the shot just over the Wolverine keeper's head to punch the Eagles' ticket to the first-ever state tournament.

"It's surreal, but it's not. When you're with our program year-round and

you're with these guys so long, you know their character and what they're capable of. I've been preaching for years that we have the kids that can do that and these kids had the self-belief to do it," Fritz said.

Shelbyville's historic run eventually came to a close with a 4-1 loss to

Brentwood in the opening round of the Class 3A state tournament.

* Original reporting by Chris Siers

Look for the conclusion to the top stories from 2022 in the Tuesday, January 2 edition of the Times-Gazette.

Creek Wood's 3rd quarter too much for Viqueens

T-G STAFF REPORT

GATLINBURG — A strong third quarter by Creek Wood ultimately was more than the Community Viqueens could overcome in the Smoky Mountain Classic on Thursday morning.

The Lady Red Hawks went for 21 points in the third and dealt the Viqueens a 58-46 loss.

Creek Wood put three players in double figures, with Brianna Burgess and Alessia Nesbitt combining for 33 points.

Senior M.J. Simmons struggled to get loose in the first half, but was aided by some perimeter shooting by Haley Mitchell and Addison Brothers, who both knocked down a pair of treys before halftime.

Creek Wood built an 18-10 lead by the end of the first quarter, but saw the Viqueens cut the Creekwood lead to six points by

halftime.

It was Laura Nichols who got loose for Creek Wood in the third, tallying eight points to lead a 21-point effort in the frame.

Mitchell provided the fireworks for the Viqueens, scoring eight of her own, including a pair of three-pointers.

The Viqueens followed with 14 more in the fourth and was a perfect 4-of-4 from the free throw line, but just couldn't get over the hump to make a run at the Creek Wood lead.

Mitchell led all scorers with 18 points, while Simmons added 12.

Community played for third place in the tournament on Friday, however results were unavailable at press time.



Creek Wood: Anna Burgess 17, Alessia Nesbitt 16, Laura Nichols 12, Kendal Bryant 8, Abby Baker 4, Hannah Guthrie.
3-Point goals: Community (6): Mitchell 4, Brothers 2; Creek Wood (3): Burgess 2, Nichols.
Halftime score: Creek Wood 24, Community 18.

Viqueens win 'Classic opener

GATLINBURG — It was by no

means an offensive masterpiece for the Community Viqueens in Wednesday's tournament opener in the Smoky Mountain Classic against Soddy Daisy.

Despite a sluggish first half, it was an 11-2 run in the third period that allowed the Viqueens to rally past the Lady Trojans for the 35-32 win.

Both squads were slow out of the gate, with M.J. Simmons recording four of the Viqueens' first five points in the quarter and despite a slim, 5-4 lead after the first eight minutes, the Lady Trojans rallied for 13 in the second quarter and spread the offense among three players to take a 17-11 lead at the half.

After the intermission, Simmons took control of the game and went for six of her game-high 16 points, including a 2-of-3 free

throw effort in the quarter.

Anna Haskins also connected on a key trey to spring the Purple and Gold back in front, 22-19, by the end of the third.

The two teams played each other evenly in the fourth, with both tacking on 13 points, but in the end, it was balanced scoring by Community that secured the tournament win.

While Simmons was the only player to reach double figures against Soddy Daisy, Haley Mitchell was knocking on the door of double figures and added nine for the winners.

Community	5	6	11	13	—	35						
Soddy Daisy	4	13	2	13	—	32						
Community:	M.J. Simmons	16,	Haley Mitchell	9,	Shelby Cawthon	6,	Anna Haskins	3,	Addison Brothers			
Soddy Daisy:	Alivia Hall	9,	Jada Trimiari	8,	Hannah Patterson	7,	Melody Crawley	3,	Cam Varner	3,	Abby Fairis	2
3-Point goals:	Community (2):	Mitchell,	Haskins;	Soddy Daisy (2):	Hall,	Crawley.						
Halftime score:	Soddy Daisy	17,	Community	11.								

Pelé, Brazil's king of soccer, dies at 82

By **TALES AZZONI** and **MAURICIO SAVARESE**
Associated Press

SAO PAULO — The standard-bearer of "the beautiful game" had undergone treatment for colon cancer since 2021. He had been hospitalized for the last month with multiple ailments.

His agent Joe Fraga confirmed his death.

Widely regarded as one of soccer's greatest players, Pelé spent nearly two decades enchanting fans and dazzling opponents as the game's most prolific scorer with Brazilian club Santos and the Brazil national team.

His grace, athleticism and mesmerizing moves transfixed players and fans. He orchestrated a fast, fluid style that revolutionized the sport — a samba-like flair that personified his country's elegance on the field.

He carried Brazil to soccer's heights and became a global ambassador for his sport in a journey that began on the streets of Sao Paulo state, where he would kick a sock stuffed with newspapers or rags.

In the conversation about soccer's greatest players, only the late Diego Maradona, Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo are mentioned alongside Pelé.

Different sources, counting different sets of games, list Pelé's goal totals anywhere between 650 (league matches) and 1,281 (all senior matches, some against low-level competition.)

The player who would be dubbed "The King" was introduced to the world at 17 at the 1958 World Cup in Sweden, the youngest player ever at the tournament. He was carried off the field on teammates' shoulders after scoring two goals in Brazil's 5-2 victory over the host country in the final.

Injury limited him to just two games when Brazil retained the world title in 1962, but Pelé was the emblem of his country's World Cup triumph of 1970 in Mexico. He scored in the final and set up Carlos Alberto with a nonchalant pass for the last goal in a 4-1 victory over Italy.

The image of Pelé in a bright, yellow Brazil jersey, with the No. 10 stamped on the back, remains alive with soccer fans everywhere. As does his trademark goal celebration -- a leap with a right fist thrust high above his head.

Pelé's fame was such that in 1967 factions of a civil war in Nigeria agreed to a brief cease-fire so he could play an exhibition match in the country. He was knighted by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in 1997. When he visited Washington to help popularize the game in

North America, it was the U.S. president who stuck out his hand first.

"My name is Ronald Reagan, I'm the president of the United States of America," the host said to his visitor. "But you don't need to introduce yourself because everyone knows who Pelé is."

Pelé was Brazil's first modern Black national hero but rarely spoke about racism in a country where the rich and powerful tend to hail from the white minority.

Opposing fans taunted Pelé with monkey chants at home and all over the world.

"He said that he would never play if he had to stop every time he heard those chants," said Angelica Basthi, one of Pelé's biographers. "He is key for Black people's pride in Brazil, but never wanted to be a flagbearer."

Pelé's life after soccer took many forms. He was a politician -- Brazil's Extraordinary Minister for Sport -- a wealthy businessman, and an ambassador for UNESCO and the United Nations.

He had roles in movies, soap operas and even composed songs and recorded CDs of popular Brazilian music.

As his health deteriorated, his travels and appearances became less frequent. He was often seen in a wheelchair during his final years and did not attend a ceremony to unveil a statue of him representing Brazil's 1970 World Cup team. Pelé spent his 80th birthday isolated with a few family members at a beach home.

Born Edson Arantes do Nascimento, in the small city of Tres Coracoes in the interior of Minas Gerais state on Oct. 23, 1940, Pelé grew up shining shoes to buy his modest soccer gear.

Pelé's talent drew attention when he was 11, and a local professional player brought him to Santos' youth squads. It didn't take long for him to make it to the senior squad.

Despite his youth and 5-foot-8 frame, he scored against grown men with the same ease he displayed against friends back home. He debuted with the Brazilian club at 16 in 1956, and the club quickly gained worldwide recognition.

The name Pelé came from him mispronouncing the name of a player called Bilé.

He went to the 1958 World Cup as a reserve but became a key player for his country's championship team. His first goal, in which he flicked the ball over the head of a defender and raced around him to volley it home, was voted as one of the best in World Cup history.

Georgia's Bennett needs 2 wins for rare back-to-back titles

By **CHARLES ODUM**
AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA — Stetson Bennett wouldn't allow himself to bask so long in the celebration following last season's national championship that it would be more difficult to make a run at a repeat title this year.

Bennett, who began his career at Georgia as a walk-on, has had many critics and coaches — even on his own team — tell him what he can't do. He refused to be distracted by the praise that came with his lead role on the Bulldogs' first national championship since 1980 last season.

Now Bennett has No. 1 Georgia (13-0) one win away from a shot at the school's first back-to-back titles. The Bulldogs will play No. 4 Ohio State (11-1) in the College Football Playoff semifinal in Saturday night's Peach Bowl.

No team has won consecutive championships in the first eight years of the CFP. Alabama quarterback A.J. McCarron won back-to-back BCS national championships in the 2011 and 2012 seasons. Before that, the last quarterback to win two straight titles was Nebraska's Tommie Frazier in 1994-95.

Bennett said he understands why back-to-back titles are so rare.

"Yeah man, these pats on the back feel good, you know?" Bennett said Wednesday. "And then you start to believe what they've told you, and it's never true. Good or bad, it's never true. And then you literally forget how you did it and it's the craziest thing in the world. Because you want to but you took so much time off that you've forgotten how to do the work."

Bennett, all of 5-feet-11 and 190 pounds, knew he couldn't afford to stop working. There are too many four- and five-star quarterbacks waiting for an opportunity — on the



Georgia depth chart or in the transfer portal.

"I was not a big, prized recruit or anything like that and I didn't look like one and there was really no threat of me becoming one, if we're being frank," Bennett said.

Bennett walked on at Georgia in 2017, transferred to Jones College in Ellisville, Mississippi, in 2018 and then returned to Georgia more determined than ever, even if it meant working on the scout team.

He now is 27-3 as a starter and has consistently flourished in Georgia's biggest games, disproving his label as a game manager on a run-first offense.

Bennett threw a combined nine touchdown passes with no interceptions in last season's CFP wins over Michigan and Alabama and in a 50-30 win over LSU in the Southeastern Conference championship game on Dec. 3. He was named offensive MVP in all three games.

Georgia center Sedrick Van Pran says Bennett's success on the game's biggest stages is easy to understand.

"I think it's the same thing that I see every game," Van Pran said. "It's just his preparation. ... He's a guy who just works really hard. I think that may come from him being an underdog and things like that."

Bennett completed 23 of 29 passes for 274 yards and four touchdowns in the win over LSU.

"Obviously he has shown up

big," said Georgia tight end Brock Bowers. "That comes through all the preparation that we do. His personality just shows up in these bigger games and being able to perform on the biggest stages."

Bennett has tied Eric Zeier's school record with 269 completions this season while passing for 3,425 yards and 20 touchdowns. Those numbers and Bennett's big-game success earned him a surprise spot as a Heisman Trophy finalist.

"It's a great honor for his resiliency," said Georgia coach Kirby Smart. "I mean, to be named one of the four finalists, I don't know anybody could have written a script with what he's done in terms of start to finish with trials, tribulations, ups and downs, highs and lows, throughout his career. To have that be near the end of it is pretty special."

Bennett isn't linked with the other Heisman finalists, including Ohio State's C.J. Stroud, on NFL draft projections. Even so, Ohio State coach Ryan Day says Bennett "is the one that gets it all going" for Georgia's offense.

"And certainly they have talent across the board," Day said. "Their offensive line is big, both tight ends are very, very talented, running backs are very good, receivers are very good. But it's the quarterback that makes it all go and he's played unbelievable."

Smart and offensive coordinator Todd Monken are grateful Bennett was determined to play for Georgia.

"All we did was try to bury him for the couple of years he was here, and all he did was continue to fight and compete and (he) had every reason to say, you know what, I'm gone in today's day and age in the portal and guys leaving," Monken said. "He didn't do that. ... He wanted to be the quarterback for the Georgia Bulldogs."

Retiring J.J. Watt grateful for fans, teammates, team staff

By **DAVID BRANDT**
AP Sports Writer

TEMPE, Ariz. — J.J. Watt has always had a love for the common man, even though he looks more like Superman.

So it's fitting that the funniest anecdote from the retirement news conference of one of the best defensive players in NFL history featured a little-known Arizona Cardinals teammate, rookie linebacker Jesse Luketa.

"This is, by far, the best story," Watt said Wednesday.

The three-time AP Defensive Player of the Year posted on social media Tuesday that he intends to retire at the end of this season, which Watt knew would result in a torrent of well-wishes and messages from friends and teammates. So he put his phone down, took his newborn son to the pediatrician for a regular appointment, and returned to check his messages a few hours later.

That's about the time he got a strange video message from a number he didn't recognize. Then he got a voice memo from the same number, with a person slurring his speech and saying things Watt couldn't understand.

"What the hell is this?" Watt thought.

Then a picture popped up. It was Luketa. He had cotton balls stuffed in his mouth and was loopy on anesthesia. Turns out the rookie had gotten his wisdom teeth removed that morning. He got the news that Watt was retiring right after he woke up and wanted to know if the future Hall of Famer would give him a jersey.



"I'm dying laughing," Watt said.

Watt said Luketa later apologized for the message. The five-time All-Pro said no apologies were needed.

"He's getting the jersey," Watt said. "I told him he made my day."

The story was a window into what made the 33-year-old Watt a beloved player and teammate during a decade with the Houston Texans and two more with the Cardinals. Yes, his 111 1/2 career sacks are impressive. So are his 193 tackles for loss. But he'll be remembered just as much for his personality, love for the game and love for people.

Before every home game this season, Watt could be seen playing catch on the sidelines with kids in the stands, looking like he was having as much fun as anyone in the stadium. He was one of Houston's most beloved athletes during his 10 years in Texas and raised more than \$40 million for Hurricane Harvey relief, which earned him the 2017 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award.

Watt said he's tried to never lose sight of the fact that he plays a game

and that a huge support staff makes that happen.

"It's truly the best job in the world," Watt said. "I chase around a little ball, I get to tackle people. It's incredible. People do my laundry, people set up the drills, people take down the drills, people set up the weights for me to lift, people make the food, people clean up the food."

"What more could you want? On top of it, I get paid to do it."

Watt has two games left. Both are on the road, at Atlanta and San Francisco. The 6-foot-5, 288-pounder is still playing great football: He had three sacks against Denver on Dec. 18 and two tackles for a loss against Tampa Bay on Christmas Day. His 9 1/2 sacks this season are his most since 2018.

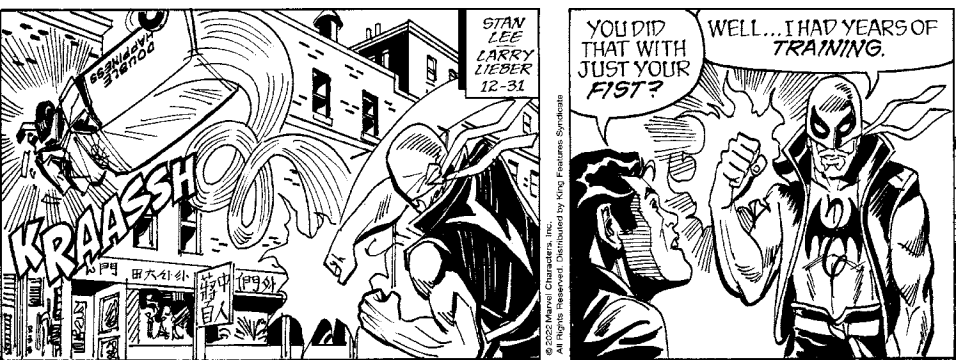
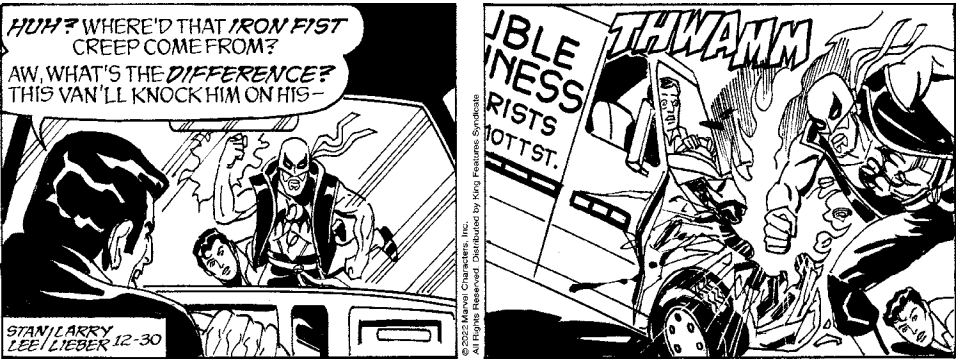
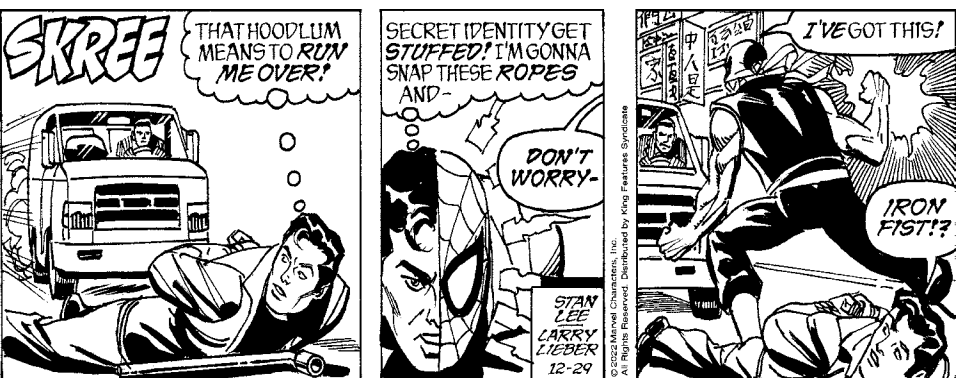
After the game on Christmas, Watt posed for pictures on the field with his family, including his parents, his wife, Kealia, and their newborn son, Koa. Watt said he had been planning on retiring for months, and seeing those pictures cemented his decision.

A health scare earlier this season — he had to have his heart shocked into rhythm after going into atrial fibrillation — also played a role.

"It's the right time," Watt said. "I put so much into the game. The wins, the losses, the mental stress and passion that comes with it. It just weighs on you. It's heavy, it's really heavy. Losses are tough to take. You live with the highs and lows."

As for leaving when he's still playing well? Watt said that's just another blessing.

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN® by Stan Lee-Larry Lieber



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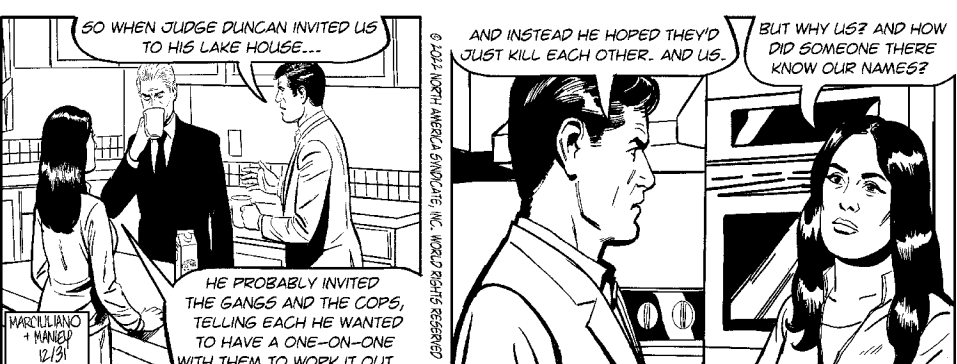
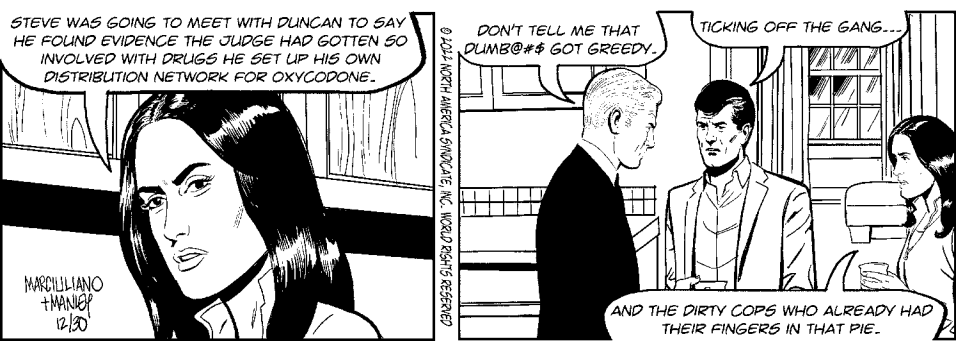
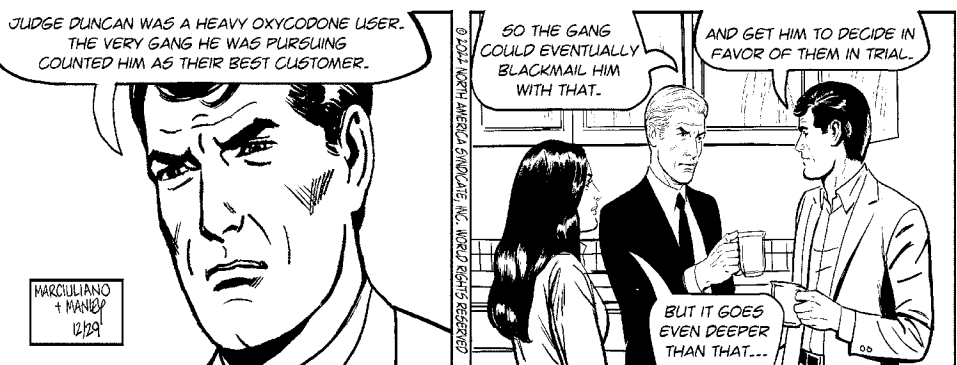
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8		6		1	2	4	7	
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Level: Beginner

CURTIS® by Billingsley



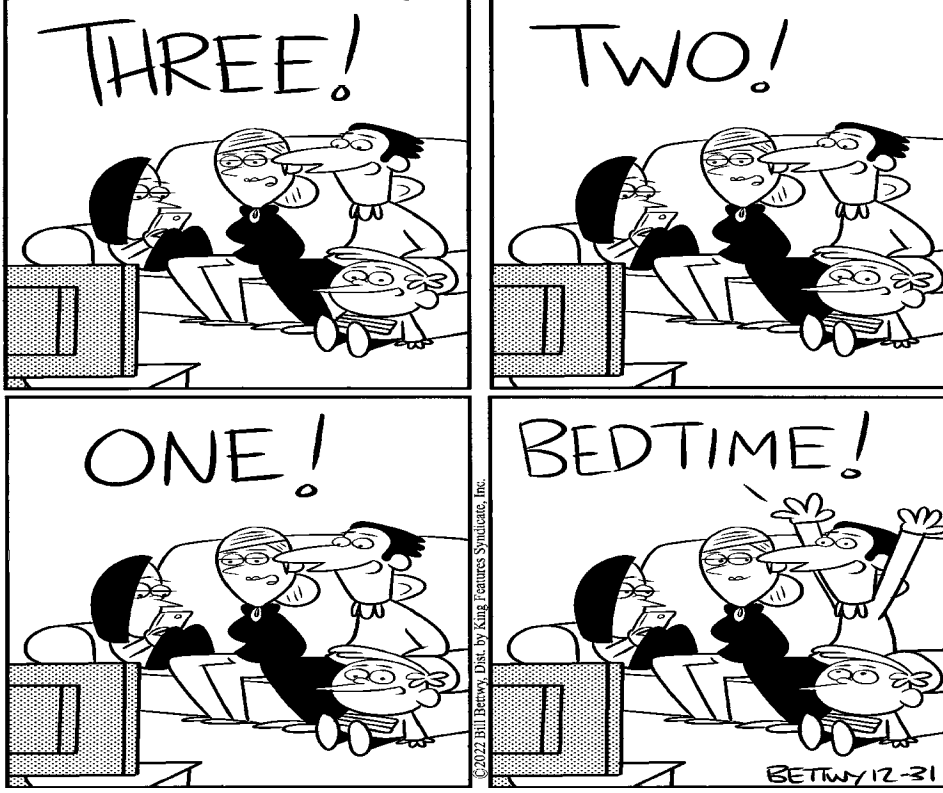
JUDGE PARKER® by Marciuliano-Manley



POPEYE® by Bud Sagendorf



THATABABY® by Paul Trap



CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to Christmas. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 17 = A)

- A. 26 13 18 5 1 17 23**
Clue: Special day
- B. 19 17 22 25 17**
Clue: Bearded gift-giver
- C. 15 8 18 8 3 7 17 25 8**
Clue: Engage in fanfare
- D. 21 13 18 18 23**
Clue: Happy and cheerful

Answers: A. holiday B. Santa C. celebrate D. jolly

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

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

ANSWER:

Year of the Slap: Pop culture moments in 2022

By **JOCELYN NOVECK**
AP National Writer

Taylor Swift was up. Elon Musk was in, out, in and maybe out again. Tom Cruise was back. BTS stepped aside, and so did Serena Williams, and Tom Brady too — oops, scratch that.

But the slap? The slap was everywhere.

Ok, so maybe it wasn't on the level of a moon landing, or selection of a pope. But henceforth all you need say is "the slap" and people will know what you mean — that moment Will Smith smacked Chris Rock at the Oscars and a global audience said, "Wait, did that happen?" Even in the room itself — maybe especially in the room itself — there was a sense everyone had imagined it, which helps explain why things went on as normal, for a bit.

The pandemic was over, phew! Well, of course it wasn't. But live entertainment pushed forward in 2022, with mask mandates dropping and people rushing to buy things like, oh, Taylor Swift tickets!

We'll take any segue to mention Swift, who already had a big year in 2021, but just got bigger — heck, she broke Billboard records and then she broke Ticketmaster. (No word if she got her scarf back).

It was a year of celebrity #MeToo cases like Harvey Weinstein (again), R. Kelly (again), Kevin Spacey, Paul Haggis, Danny Masterson. And the Johnny Depp-Amber Heard defamation trial, its very excruciating turn captured on TV.

On the big screen, there were big comebacks. Mourning its dearly missed star, Chadwick Boseman, "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" was a box office triumph. James Cameron's "Avatar" made a splashy December return.

Then there was Cruise, turning 60 in '22 just like the Rolling Stones, swooping into Cannes with his most successful movie and showing, like those still-touring rockers, that when they tell you "The end is inevitable," as they do in "Top Gun: Maverick," you can always reply: "Maybe so, sir, but not today."

Will audiences one day find Cruise — or the Stones, for that matter — too wrinkled and past the sell-by date? Maybe so, but not this year.

Our annual, totally selective journey through a year in pop culture:

JANUARY

It's GOLDEN GLOBES time. But is a Globes with no telecast, boozy celebs or

red carpet a Globes at all? The embattled Hollywood Foreign Press Association, reeling from stunning failures over diversity, holds a private event and plans a comeback next year. Hey, remember the original wardrobe malfunction? Well, JANET JACKSON says she and JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE have moved on, and so should we. The New York Times buys Wordle, and we're all thinking in five-letter words (though W-O-R-D-L-E is six, just saying.) Meanwhile, it's a month of loss, heading off a year of loss: pioneering Black actor, director and activist SIDNEY POITIER dies at 94.

FEBRUARY

What would a year in pop culture be without BRITNEY? Just months after her liberation from her restrictive conservatorship, Spears is reported to have signed a mammoth book deal, but at year's end we're still waiting for news. RIHANNA is pregnant! TOM BRADY retires! (Stay tuned, on that one.) TAYLOR watch: JAKE GYLLENHAAL speaks out, saying he really has nothing to do with that song.

MARCH

Quick, who wins Oscars this month? Well, "CODA" does, a feel-good drama with a largely deaf cast, and TROY KOTSUR becomes the first deaf actor to win an acting Oscar. Alas, all anyone can talk about is — you know. SMITH, who wins the best actor award not long after slapping Rock over a joke about his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, won't truly address the issue until the end of the year, so keep reading. KARDASHIAN watch: Kim K is declared legally single again in her ongoing divorce with YE, the rapper formerly known as KANYE WEST. And BRADY, retired for 40 days, says, "Never mind!"

APRIL

It's GRAMMY time, and JON BATISTE wins big, taking five statuettes. The musician's huge year will later include performing at the first state dinner of the Biden administration, for French President Emmanuel Macron. The next day Macron will meet with MUSK (thanks for the segue, Monsieur le President) who begins his acquisition of TWITTER this month, leading to untold — and still unfolding — changes at the social media giant.

MAY

So imagine you're



Will Smith, right, hits presenter Chris Rock on stage while presenting the award for best documentary feature at the Oscars on Sunday, March 27, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

sipping cocktails at the MET GALA and a musician comes sauntering through, playing the melodica — of course it's BATISTE, because the Met Gala's that kind of crazy party. The biggest splash of the night, though, is KARDASHIAN, on the arm of boyfriend PETE DAVIDSON, wearing the same sequined, skin tight gown MARILYN MONROE wore to sing "Happy Birthday" to JFK in 1962. In movies, "Top Gun: Maverick" opens, the highest-grossing domestic debut in CRUISE'S career, and his first to surpass \$100 million on opening weekend. HARRY STYLES fans rejoice! His album, "Harry's House," is here.

JUNE

Stunning news for the global fanbase of BTS as the K-pop supergroup announces it's taking a break to focus on members' solo projects. On the legal front, a Virginia jury hands DEPP a victory in his very messy libel case over allegations of domestic abuse, finding that former wife HEARD defamed him in a 2018 op-ed. On a happier note, Britney gets married....

JULY

Only one wedding, Britney? BENNIFER has two! Maybe what happens in Vegas usually stays in Vegas, but not when you have 227 million followers on Instagram. With a winking reference to being a "Sadie" (married lady) JENNIFER LOPEZ directs

fans to her newsletter where she shares pics of her quickie wedding to BEN AFFLECK. "Love is beautiful," she writes. "And it turns out love is patient." Speaking of patience, fans of BEYONCÉ are rewarded for theirs with the release of her long-awaited "Renaissance," her first solo album in six years.

AUGUST

So, we were saying ... Bennifer's second wedding, on Affleck's compound in Georgia, is bigger and fancier. One wedding, one split: KARDASHIAN and DAVIDSON are no longer. In other summer news, the world remembers PRINCESS DIANA, whose shocking death happened 25 years ago, and whose life is being rehashed for a new generation in the current season of "The Crown." Only days after the anniversary, that same Netflix series will pause production as a mark of respect for QUEEN ELIZABETH II as Britain — and the world — mourn the beloved monarch, who dies at age 96 after more than 70 years on the throne.

SEPTEMBER

Mounting political intrigue in Europe, and by that we mean, did spit fly at the Venice premiere of "Don't Worry Darling"? Either way the movie, directed by OLIVIA WILDE and starring her boyfriend (alleged spitter STYLES), is saddled — or blessed? — with more than its share of extracurricular drama. At the EMMYS,

behold SHERYL LEE RALPH, who wins for "Abbott Elementary" and schools the crowd on the power of dreams and self-belief. "This is what believing looks like," she says. You know what else believing looks like? Rachel Berry from "Glee" — aka LEA MICHELE — at last getting to play Fanny Brice in "Funny Girl" on Broadway. In sports, with four rueful words that resonate with working moms everywhere, SERENA WILLIAMS says she's stepping aside from tennis, because "something's got to give."

OCTOBER

The second HARVEY WEINSTEIN trial opens in Los Angeles. ADIDAS drops YE, part of a cascade of companies that will sever ties with the rapper over his antisemitic and other troubling comments. The MUSK era begins at TWITTER as the world's richest man carries a sink into the office, to "let that sink in." HEIDI KLUM's Halloween costume is a slimy, glistening rain worm. But before the month worms away from us, let's cede it to SWIFT for dropping her new album, "Midnights" (Spotify's most-streamed album in a single day), then adding seven bonus tracks, then becoming the first artist to occupy all top 10 slots on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. Let THAT sink in! P.S. Celebrity divorce watch: BRADY and)GISELE BUNDCHEN split.

NOVEMBER

Did we say LAST month was Taylor Swift month? Well now, millions of eager fans crowd a presale for her much-awaited Eras Tour, resulting in crashes and endless waits. Ticketmaster cancels the general sale, citing insufficient stock. Multiple state attorneys general announce investigations. Takeaway: People want Taylor Swift tickets. At the multiplex, they also want their Wakanda. "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" meets the double challenge of following up one of the biggest blockbusters in history and losing its biggest star.

DECEMBER

Love 'em or hate 'em, here come HARRY and MEGHAN again, with a Netflix documentary watched very closely by royalty across the pond. Over at Twitter, MUSK says he'll step down as CEO — after polling users — once he finds someone "foolish" enough to replace him. Cameron's "AVATAR" sequel finally appears, 13 years after the original broke records, and yes, moviegoers flock to Pandora once again. And bringing the year full circle, SMITH emerges to promote his new film, "EMANCIPATION," hoping people will forget about ... what was it? ... at least enough to check out the movie.

In this year of comebacks, will Smith's be the biggest?

Kansas' Democratic governor imposes TikTok ban

By **JOHN HANNA**
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA, Kan. — Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly banned the use of TikTok on the state-issued devices of government workers under her control on Wednesday, becoming one of the first Democratic governors to restrict the popular social media app.

Kelly's action came five days after Congress approved the \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill that banned TikTok from most U.S. government-issued devices for employees. Republican governors in at least 15 states have already imposed such restrictions.

In Louisiana on Monday, the state's commissioner of administration — a Republican appointed by Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards — banned the use of TikTok on state networks under Edwards' control, with his approval. Also, Indiana's GOP attorney general has sued TikTok's owner. U.S. armed forces have already prohibited the

app on military devices.

TikTok has become the world's second most-popular domain and is consumed by two-thirds of American teenagers, some of whom use it to fill gaps in their school lessons. The provision in the congressional spending bill reflected bipartisan concerns about security and the spread of misinformation because of the app's Chinese ownership.

Here's a look at Kelly's action and the broader debate over TikTok:

What are the concerns about Tiktok?

Like Republican governors who imposed similar bans, Kelly cited concerns about security and the privacy of users' data.

Both the FBI and the Federal Communications Commission have warned that TikTok user data could be shared by owner ByteDance Ltd. with

China's authoritarian government. U.S. officials also worry that the Chinese government might use TikTok to push pro-China narratives or misinformation.

There's also been concern about TikTok's content and whether it harms teenagers' mental health.

Kelly said in a statement: "TikTok mines users' data and potentially makes it available to the Chinese Communist Party." Lawmakers have said this includes browsing history and location.

TikTok spokesperson Jamal Brown said the company is working with the U.S. government to address the concerns that have been raised.

"We're disappointed that so many states are jumping on the political bandwagon to enact policies that will do nothing to advance cybersecurity in their states and are based on unfounded falsehoods about TikTok," he said in an emailed

statement.

Who has pushed for restrictions?

In 2020, then-President Donald Trump and his administration sought to ban dealings with TikTok's owner, force it to sell off its U.S. assets and remove it from app stores. Courts blocked Trump's efforts to ban TikTok, and President Joe Biden rescinded Trump's orders after taking office but ordered an in-depth study of the issue. A planned sale of TikTok's U.S. assets was shelved.

Earlier this month in Louisiana, the Republican secretary of state imposed a TikTok ban for his department — before the commissioner of administration acted this week.

"The governor didn't say, 'I direct you to do this.' But when we brought it to him, he gave his input and then his approval," Jacques Berry, the commissioner's spokesperson, said

Wednesday.

In Congress, concern about the app has been bipartisan.

The Senate earlier this month approved a version of the TikTok ban authored by conservative Republican Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri, a vocal critic of big tech companies.

But Democratic U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, of Illinois has co-sponsored legislation to prohibit TikTok from operating in the U.S. altogether, and the measure approved by Congress had the support of Democratic U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

What about Kelly's move?

Both Kelly and Edwards operate in a different political context than many other Democratic governors. Both are in Republican-leaning states that have conservative, GOP-led Legislatures. Trump also carried each state handsily twice. Kelly

narrowly won reelection in November by pitching herself to moderate GOP and independent voters as a middle-of-the-road problem solver

Kelly's order applies to state executive branch agencies, boards and commissions, but not to state universities, which are overseen by the Kansas Board of Regents. It also doesn't apply to the Legislature or employees of other statewide elected official, such as the attorney general or secretary of state. Kelly urged all of them to impose restrictions.

Kelly is directing state employees to remove the TikTok app from their government-issued devices. She has directed the state's information technology office to limit employees' ability to access TikTok's website on state devices.

•Associated Press writer Sara Cline contributed from Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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- employing 370 of our neighbors, paying a total of \$13.6 million in salary and \$3.7 million in benefits.
- giving back to the community through \$23.1 million in uncompensated care.*
- investing \$8 million in capital expenditures.

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*Figures based on fiscal year 2022 (July 2021 to June 2022).

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Happy New Year!

Well, here it is! The last Saturday of 2022. And it's my last Musings and Memories column of the year. Hopefully, I will have a brand new column for the first Saturday of 2023.

Oh, well... Happy New Year! May 2023 be the Best Year Ever!

Now for my musings.....

There's an old "Peanuts" comic strip where Lucy is walking along the road with Charlie Brown.

Charlie Brown asks her: "Lucy, are you going to make any New Year's resolutions?"

Lucy hollers back at him, knocking him off his feet: "What? What for? What's wrong with me now? I like myself the way I am! Why should I change? What in the world is the matter with you, Charlie Brown? I'm all right the way I am! I don't have to improve. How could I improve? How, I ask you? How?"

I've known a few Lucys in my time, but most of us are aware that we need to make some improvements in our lives.

Pastor Calvin Miller tells a story about when he was just a 20 year-old pastor, just starting out. He was about visiting with an old parishioner named Ralph. The man was near death.

Walking into his room, Miller asked this sick old patriarch, rather bluntly. "Do you think you will die, Ralph?"

Looking a bit surprised at the question, with no 'hello' or 'how are you; Ralph replied, "Yes but more important than that, I think you'll die too."

This remark stunned Miller, after all he was just 20 years old, and the old man was 78.

"As a matter of fact," the old man said, "I'm pretty convinced that everybody who is living is going to die—some sooner, some later. And the only people who will really matter who will really be done with, are those who were good stewards of the time they have lived."

Then Ralph asked the young pastor, "Do you know what Psalm 90:12 says?"

Miller shook his head and answered, "No, I'm sorry, but I don't."

At this, the old man recited Psalm 90:12, "Lord," he said, "teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom."

Then the old man added, "There's not a New Year's Day that goes by that I don't quote that to myself."

"Teach us to number our days . . ."

Time is passing for all of us. For some of us, it seems to be moving more quickly than for others.

What are we doing with the time we have?

John the Apostle writes in 1 John 3:2: "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

The Apostle also wrote these words at the close

▶ See **Doug**, Page 3B

I Miss You, Santa

By **Emma Keene**
Special to the T-G

Emma Keene is 10 years old. A home school student and member of Southside Baptist Church in Shelbyville, she enjoys writing all kinds of stories in her spare time. Here's one last Christmas story before ringing in the New Year.

Lily was a little girl. She was 6-years-old. She had beautiful red hair and a great purple dress.

Lily loved all the holidays but there was no holiday more special to her than Christmas. The only thing she wanted for Christmas was a Goldilocks book. Lily was very impatient, but finally it was Christmas morning.

Lily jumped out of her bed and ran downstairs.

"He ate the cookies and drank the milk," screamed Lily.

She jumped and hollered and quickly opened her gifts. Lily liked all of her new toys, but one she loved! It was a little girl doll with red hair and a purple dress.

"She looks just like me," screamed Lily. But she didn't see the Goldilocks book she wanted.

Lily played and played with her new toys but soon she was bored.

"These toys are getting boring. I want new ones," said Lily very disappointed. "Sigh... I miss you, Santa."

That night, Lily decided to write Santa a letter.

"Dear Santa, Please come back.

I miss you. I miss the warm, fuzzy feeling of watching the snow fall. I miss the big Christmas tree being up. But what I miss most of all is you and the sound of the bells on your sleigh outside of my window. So, if you could please come back just for one night so I can feel joy again that would great."

Lily wrapped the letter and wrote on it "The North Pole" and put her letter in the mailbox. Once Lily got inside her dad immediately said, "Go brush your teeth put on your pajamas. It's almost time for bed."

Lily was sad because knew in her heart that she couldn't bring Christmas back, but she still had a little hope that Santa might come back. That night, Lily was bored in her bed. She tossed and



EMMA KEENE



turned and had nothing to do. Suddenly, Lily felt joy and this fuzzy feeling go through her body, as if she just had just eaten a bag of candy. Then she heard sleigh bells outside her window. She looked out her window and saw Santa!

"Oh, my gosh! Santa, you're here!" said Lily.

"Shhhhhh" whispered Santa.

Santa chuckled and said, "You have to be quiet or people will hear you and all the other kids will be jealous. I can't have a bad reputation - I'm Santa Clause. All the parents will board up their doors and block

their chimneys, and I'll be out of a job

"But you could just crawl through the window," said Lily.

"Maybe, but windows are probably locked. Plus, I couldn't fit through them. Besides," said Santa, patting his belly,

"I have kind of a weight problem. All those cookies do a number on me, you know? I didn't just come here to say hi. I came here to take you on a journey with me. But you must come quickly if you want make it home before you parents realize you're gone."

Lily sat on her bed without expression.

"Well, are you coming or not?" asked Santa.

Lily continued to sit, thinking of Santa's offer.

Finally, Lily said, "Yes!"

"Let's go, then. Ho, ho, ho! Not a moment to lose," said a happy Santa.

"But Santa, where are we going?" Lily asked.

"To the North Pole, of course, so you can meet my elves, see my factory and see the process of making toys for all my children around the world," said Santa.

"Yes, yes, of course!" Screamed Lily.

Lily put on warm clothes, told her doll that

▶ See **Santa**, Page 3B



New Year's: So what

The other day a well-meaning person asked me if I was looking forward to the end of 2022.

Two deaths, one my father and the other my girlfriend of 25 years. Three surgeries of my own, including a cancer diagnosis that thankfully was removed.

I had a year filled with great plans and most of them fell by the wayside. So yeah, I can't wait for this year to end.

The other part of the question from that well-meaning person was whether or not I was looking forward to 2023.

No, as much as I want 2022 to end, I am not anxious for 2023.

In truth, I had expected 2022 to be a good year after 2021 was somewhat disappointing for me personally. As the old saying goes "you don't always get what you wish for."

New Year's Eve, or "Amateur Night," as I like to refer to it, has always been a mystery to me in terms of why we celebrate it with so much enthusiasm. We are happily saying goodbye to one more year of our lives and looking ahead with hopefulness for better days to come. I see neither as a cause for celebration.

I have spent New Year's Eve in New Orleans, Louisiana, Disney World in Orlando, Florida, in Dallas, Texas and at various concerts in Nashville, Tennessee. I guess I am not a party animal because all of the hoopla is lost on me.

I have never embraced it, but there is a deeper reason n for my failure to be giddy on the final day of the year.

I loved my girlfriend. We wouldn't have stayed together for so long if there wasn't a strong connection between us.

But for reasons I thought were valid at the time I said good-bye to the one true love of my life on a New Year's Eve. It is a decision I am reminded of each December 31st and one that I regret every day of my life. Talk about a damper on New Year's Eve festivities.

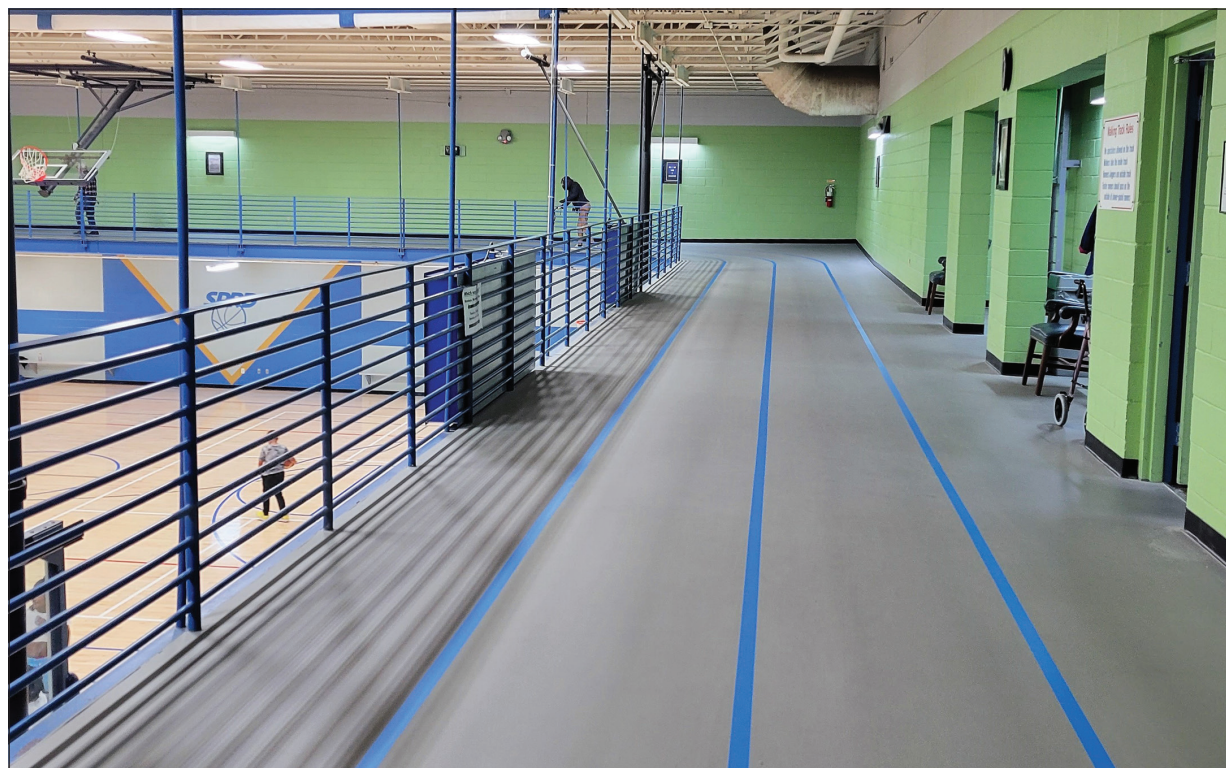
We sing "Auld Lang Syne" without giving much thought to what the words mean. It is a Scottish poem that was set to music. The literal translation of "Auld Lang Syne" is "old long since". That has been modified to mean "days gone by", "old times" or "for the sake of old times".

We all like to remember the good times in our lives so I guess "Auld Lang Syne" gives us that opportunity.

For even in the worst years there are good times to remember.

To answer that well-meaning person let me say Father Time can't usher 2022 out fast enough. But forgive me if I greet 2023 with caution. I want to get to know it better before I will fully embrace it.

Get fit without getting cold
Rec Center offers indoor classes



The indoor track on the second floor offers a safe—and warm—space to get your walk or jog in. See story on page 3B.



Danny Tyree
Tyrades

Cold enough for you?

I won't hazard a guess as to whether it achieves immortality like "grassy knoll" or "hanging chads," but surely the phrase "bomb cyclone storm" will remain in the public consciousness of those who endured its cruelties.

We'll laugh about this someday, but right now an awful lot of Americans have a "single digit" they'd like to give right back to Mother Nature.

And we're not exactly chummy with 2022, which on its way out is taunting us with, "Bet now you wish you had bought the extended warranty!"

Yes, I mourn for those who lost their lives due to the recent winter weather event (event as in "One... might... only! Well, two nights only! Would you believe three or four nights only? Tell a buddy, bring a flame thrower!"), but those of us who survived will be talking about dead automobile batteries, industrial-strength windshield deicer, "rolling blackouts" and other inconveniences for a long time.

Assuming our tongues aren't still stuck to a lamppost in the summer of 2027.

I'm still waiting for the other snow-covered shoe to drop, but so far there has mercifully been only muted politicization of the blizzard (vis-a-vis climate change debates). Okay, I did overhear one social justice warrior protesting the term "once-in-a-generation phenomenon" because (duh) it's offensive to mayflies.

I know meteorologists gave the citizenry several days' notice of the potential hazards, but folks really should have been paying closer attention earlier in the year. For instance, when woolly worm caterpillars replaced their familiar dark bands with patterns of Four Horsemen. (Nice job of burying the lede, almanac editors!)

Catastrophes like this bring out our resourcefulness and teamwork, but they are also a grim reminder of human frailty and mortality. Granted, wearing layer upon layer upon layer of clothing makes us let our guard down concerning firearms-related mortality in particular. ("Is that all you got, punk? You sure that's not an assault peashooter?")

Canceled flights, curtailed bus routes and treacherous backroads caused many families to cancel, reschedule or scale back their celebrations. The weather conditions forced travelers to progress rather quickly from Plan B to Plan C. ("I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams - assuming I get any sleep with all the &^%\$# snoring at the terminal!")

Alas, even some of the intrepid souls who made it through the snow and slush to celebrate the holidays with their loved ones became disoriented upon arrival because of the absence of familiar landmarks. (Statistics are still being compiled on how many lawn gnomes declared, "Forget this! I'm MOVING to Nome!")

Other frostbitten travelers got turned away at the front door, because they were mistaken for Blue Man Group. ("Now, if Cirque du Soleil had come knocking on the door, we'd have fetched them some eggnog, right, Ma?")

Some families redoubled their efforts to spread joy and goodwill despite the blizzard, but others made a calculated decision to tick off their neighbors. ("Did you see the price of propane, honey? We need all the free flaming sacks of dog poop we can get!")

I'm grateful that residents of the handful of states that escaped the direct impact of the winter storm have sent thoughts, prayers and good vibes our way.

They empathize because, while they dodged a bullet this time, they realize their time will come for wildfires, earthquakes, floods or ... a hundred-year infestation of smart-aleck columnists!

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

Severe weather cancels blood drives

The winter storm season has commenced with a fury—slamming large portions of the country with heavy snow, ice and coastal flooding. This "once-in-a-generation storm" presented dangerous weather conditions for millions of people. Digging out of severe winter weather can take days and prevents those impacted from making lifesaving blood donations.

Since the start of the storm, the Red Cross has seen hundreds of blood drives canceled across the country, causing more than 6,500 blood and platelet donations to go uncollected.

In the Tennessee Region, blood donations have dropped more than 300 units due to drive cancellations since Thursday. Unfortunately, this severe winter weather is coming at an already challenging time of year to collect blood as many of our blood donors are away celebrating the end of year holidays.



To help ensure patients continue to have access to lifesaving blood products, the Red Cross urges individuals in unaffected areas to pitch in and schedule an appointment to give blood to help meet all patient needs across the country. Visit RedCrossBlood.org, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or call 1-800-Red Cross.

Every day the Red Cross must col-

lect approximately 12,500 blood and nearly 3,000 platelet donations for patients, who are currently undergoing medical procedures and treatments, who are alone without the bedside support of loved ones, at about 2,500 hospitals and transfusion centers nationwide.



T-G Photo by Zoe Watkins

The Fred Russell Gym was recently renovated and reopened to the public in October.

Wartrace Gym fundraiser

Did you ever play basketball inside Wartrace Gymnasium or want to support the gym today? The Wartrace Parks and Recreation Committee is holding a fundraiser on February 25. All proceeds from the fundraiser will go into helping

maintain the "new" Fred Russell gym, as well as to purchase any necessary items for the gym's use. The gym was recently renovated and reopened to the public in October. Anyone interested in helping organize, playing on a team, working

concessions, selling tickets, or being a referee, should email wartraceparksandrec@gmail.com by January 14. You may also contact Town Hall directly and they will share your information with the committee chairman.



6 tips to avoid holiday halitosis and ensure a healthy smile all year

(BPT) - Good breath is important around the holidays, but good oral hygiene is important year-round. According to studies by the Oral Health Foundation, bad breath is often linked to foods high in sugar and acid - ingredients common in holiday favorite recipes!

"Knowing you have fresh breath and a dazzling smile can boost confidence to be ready for the upcoming party season or any social situation," said Dr. Jefferson Santos, a restorative dentist at Eco-Friendly Dentistry.

Dr. Santos understands that sometimes it's hard to say no to

all the appetizing treats on the buffet table or at the bar, but moderation is key. Here are his six tips to improve your breath and smile, so you're not left solo under the mistletoe and stay kissable all year long.

Dr. Santos recommends these easy-to-follow tips for great oral health:

1. Brush three times a day: Most people are great about brushing in the morning and before bed but skip out on the afternoon session. Consider packing a travel toothbrush and TheraBreath toothpaste for that after-lunchtime trip to the rest-

room.

2. Drink plenty of water: Good old-fashioned H2O does wonders for the body, including the mouth! Staying hydrated helps to reduce bacteria that cause tooth decay and bad breath.

3. Eat fruit: Consider adding oranges, melons, or berries to your diet. They are high in vitamins such as A, B, C, and E which help to prevent gingivitis and gum disease.

4. Cut alcohol consumption: Alcohol increases dry mouth resulting in more cavity-causing bacteria. Cut back on the strong drinks and try a no-alcohol

mouth rinse like TheraBreath's Invigorating Icy Mint, which uses the power of oxygen to target and eliminate bad breath-causing bacteria.

5. Avoid e-cigarettes and smoking: Nicotine is responsible for a number of oral health issues, including bad breath, tooth decay, and gum disease, and significantly heightens the risk of periodontal disease by increasing the pocket depth of the gums.

Don't pack your good oral hygiene habits away with the tinsel. Remember, Valentine's Day is less than two months away!

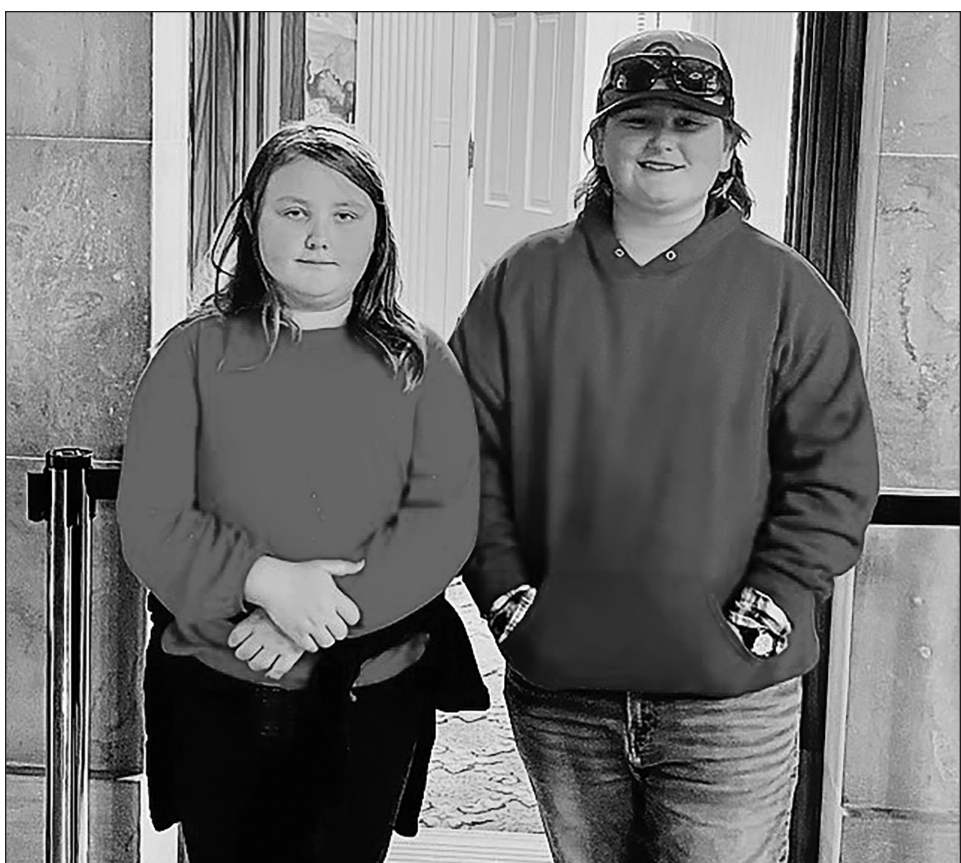
Santa

(Continued from Page 1)

she would be right back and quietly snuck down the stairs and unlocked the door. In a burst of joy, Lily ran outside and closed the door behind her. Santa lifted Lily into his sleigh. "Ok, my child, buckle up. This will be a fun ride and a night to remember," said Santa. Lily buckled her seat belt in Santa's sleigh. "Can I pet Rudolph?" asked Lily. "Of course, my dear - as soon we arrive at the North Pole!" said Santa chuckling. "On Dasher and Dancer, On Prancer and Vixen, On Comet and Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen and Rudolph. Boys, are you ready?!" yelled Santa. The reindeer responded with eager nods almost as if they were human. "Then boys, let's GO!" Lily was thrown back against the back of Santa's sleigh. It was faster than anything she'd ever experienced in her life. She felt joy. She felt happy. She felt too many feelings to explain. In less than a minute (or at least what felt like a minute), Lily arrived at the North Pole. Looking below the sleigh as they flew above the North Pole, Lily noticed lights, trees, and two gigantic candy canes in front of Santa's mansion. Lily, Santa and his sleigh swished down on the front lawn of the mansion. "Santa, that was awesome and so fast! How do you do this every day?" Asked Lily.

"Well," Santa replied, "after a while you get used to it." "Oh, that makes sense," said Lily. "Now you can pet Rudolph," said Santa. Lily jumped off the sleigh and ran to Rudolph. It was her biggest dream to pet the most famous Reindeer of all. "But wait! You can't touch his nose because if you do, he will lose all his power," said Santa. After a while, Lily and Santa went inside the mansion. She walked in and saw Mrs. Clause knitting a beautiful sweater that said, "I will remember you." Mrs. Clause spotted Lily. "Hello dear child. Come here. I'm knitting you a sweater," said Mrs. Clause. "Uh, that's for me?" asked Lily happily. "No. It's for Santa... Of course it's for you," said Mrs. Clause. "Come here let me put it on you," said Mrs. Clause with a happy expression on her face. Lily ran to the Queen of Christmas herself and hugged her tight. "Oh, did I hug you too tight? If so, I'm sorry," said Lily knowing that Mr. and Mrs. Clause aren't the youngest people. "Oh, no honey. This place is magical. It keeps us from feeling too much pain. Oh well, looks like I'm getting tired," Mrs. Clause said in a calm voice. "Fred, can you please bring me my nightly tea please, dear?" In a blink of an eye, a little elf pranced in from the red and green lit hallway into the room with a tea cup in his hands and gave it to Mrs. Clause.

"Do you need anything else?" said the elf. "We're good, Fred. Now hurry. Those toys aren't going to make themselves. You know how much Lucy wants her teddy," said Santa jokingly. "Yes sir, Mr. Clause! I'm on my way." The elf said as he ran out of the room. Mrs. Clause leaned over to her right to a cup table and picked up a jar and put what looked like glitter into her tea. "What is that?" said Lily. "It's just, how do you say it, seasoning for tea. It makes it more sweet." Lily looks at Santa and said "Whew, it's cold here. Do you have a blanket that I can use?" "You know what warms me up? Touching Rudolph's nose," said Mrs. Clause. "But Santa, you said touching Rudolph's nose would hurt his power," said Lily. "Not if you use special mittens," said Mrs. Clause. "Here, I'll go get them." Mrs. Clause slowly got out of her chair and went inside the Christmasy decorated kitchen. She reached into a drawer and pulled out two kitchen mittens. Mrs. Clause gave them to Lily, who ran outside in a burst of joy. "HOLD ON! If you run too fast you'll scare him away. That's why I come when you're asleep," said Santa looking concerned. Lily nodded slowly and walked to Rudolph and gently wrapped her hands around his big, red nose that looked like a red glass ball filled with a little lit



Emma and her brother Elijah

candle. Before she could count to three, her body filled with warmth as if there was a camp fire in her chest. Lily had never felt better. Santa looked at Lily and said, "I think it's time you go home." "What?! Why? I just got here. Do you know how long I've been waiting to come here?" said Lily loudly and sadly. "I know, I know. But you can't stay here. The elves and I have work. It doesn't just take us a couple of days to make billions of toys for every single kid in the world you know" said Santa. "You're right, I can't stay. I can't be the reason some boy or girl doesn't get their gift," said Lily with a slight tear falling down her cheek.

"Don't be sad, Lily. I'll be back next year. Remember what Mrs. Clause knitted on your sweater? I will remember you and we will," said Santa. "Ok. Take me home," said Lily. Santa and Lily hoped into the sleigh and started flying home. While the heavy wind was blowing in Lily's hair, she quietly said to herself, "This will never get old." When they arrived home, Lily got out of the sleigh sadly and walked to her front door. "Wait. Come here," said Santa. "I can't, Santa. I have to be in my room before my Mom and Dad see that I'm gone," said Lily with a sad look on her face. "Ohh, Ho, ho, ho! No

child. Time works differently in the North Pole. A minute hasn't past here. But you still need to go inside. But before you do, I have a gift for you," said Santa. Santa pulled a little glittery red box out of his pocket and he gave it to Lily. She opened the box and inside was a little elf. Santa told Lily to keep him on her shelf and to name it. Every night the elf will go to the North Pole and tell him where she's been and he'll be back before she wakes up. "I'll take care of him. I promise," said Lily. Santa nodded happily and flew away. Lily walked quietly inside and went to her room. She put her new elf on her shelf and fell asleep. **THE END.**

Doug

(Continued from Page 1)

of the Book of Revelation.... "He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I Am Coming Quickly.' Amen. Even So, Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. The New Year, 2023, could very well be the year in which Christ returns on the Clouds, accompanied by a Trumpet Blowing Angel, and an innumerable host of Angels and Saints. We are standing at 'the Gate of a New Year.' In 1908, Minnie Louise Haskins published a poem that she wrote called "God Knows." In 1939, then Princess Elizabeth, gave her father, King George VI, a copy of this poem, and he liked it so much that he read it to the people of Great Britain in his Christmas Day Radio Broadcast. Great Britain was engaged in the early days of World War II, and King George knew his people needed to be offered some Hope. The preamble to the poem goes like this: *And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East. I love this poem, especially the words: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."* As we go forward into the New Year, a year of the unknown, we need to make sure that we are going forward being led by God. Walking with our hand

in God's hand. Minnie Haskins wrote: *"And I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year..."* Minnie Haskins was a Christian woman. In fact she served as a missionary at a Methodist Mission in India. And she knew that the Man who stood at "the Gate of the Year" was a Messenger of God. The Psalmist King, David, wrote the following in Psalm 118:19-20... *Open to me the Gates of Righteousness; I will go through them, And I will Praise the Lord. This is the Gate of the Lord, Through which the Righteous shall enter.* In Isaiah 26:1-4, the Prophet and Priest Isaiah wrote: *"We have a strong city; God will appoint salvation for walls and bulwarks. Open the gates, That the righteous nation which keeps the truth may enter in. You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, For in YAHWEH, the Lord, is everlasting strength."* As all of us enter the Gates of a New Year, I challenge you to do these 4 things: 1) Put your hand in the Hand of God; 2) Commit yourself to a deeper study of God's Word; 3) Commit yourself to a deeper life of prayer; and 4) Commit yourself to a greater life of service. Now: May the Lord bless you and keep you; May the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace. Happy New Year! *Doug Dezotell is the pastor of Cannon UMC. He is a columnist for the Times-Gazette; and he is a husband, a father, a grandfather, and your friend. He can be contacted at 931-607-5191 or at dougdezotell@gmail.com.*



T-G Photos by Zoe Watkins

Basketball courts and balls are available by court. See additional photo on page 6B.

Get fit without getting cold

Rec Center offers indoor classes

STAFF REPORT

Looking to get fit this New Year but don't want to fight the cold? The Shelbyville Recreation Center offers tons of great indoor options to get fit and meet your New Year's Resolutions. According to their website, SAIL (or Stay Active & Independent for Life) is a strength and balance fitness class that includes moderate aerobic exercise, strength exercises with wrist and ankle weights, a scripted balance component, and stretching exercises. Each exercise can be done seated or standing. The program features objective fitness testing for participants and resources that include several self-risk assessments and information to reduce their chance of falling. The class is on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9:15 a.m. The cost is \$1 for seniors and \$2 for adults (free for full members). Hydrocize provides a mild cardio workout and hits all the major muscle groups during strength training. This class allows you to exercise at your own pace, so you decide how vigorous of a workout you want. If you need to take breaks or slow down your pace, that is perfectly fine. Or if you want to push yourself to your max, that is great also. Assistance getting in or out of the pool is available. The Arthritis Foundation

Aquatics Class is a warm water exercise program that works out those "squeaks and creaks." You will perform gentle exercises without straining joints and muscles. Diabetic participants are strongly encouraged to wear aquatic footwear. The program takes place in shallow water and has little to no impact. Classes are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8 a.m. Cost is \$1 per class for all ages. SilverSneakers® Classic is a muscular strength and range of movement class. It includes a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement, and daily activity skills. Hand-held weights, elastic tubing with handles, and a ball are alternated with non-impact aerobics. A chair is offered for support, stretching, and relaxation. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:15 a.m. Cost is free for everyone. Morning Shaves offers LOTS of fun shallow water moves to improve coordination, balance, and cardiovascular endurance. Water weights and beach balls are used to develop strength, balance, and coordination. The good news? No swimming ability is required. Diabetic participants are strongly encouraged to wear aquatic footwear. The class is Tuesday and Thursday at 8 a.m. Cost is \$1 per class all ages and free for full members. N 2 the Deep is a very

mild cardio class that focuses primarily on your core strength. It is also a very relaxing class. The class is held in the 5 ft-12 ft end of the pool. Provided by the Rec Center are buoys and belts for this class, but they are not required. For more details on time, here's a look at what's coming up this week: **Monday** Arthritis Foundation Aquatics Class from 8 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. at the Indoor Pool Hydrocize from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Indoor Pool SAIL (Staying Active and Independent for Life) from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the Aerobics Room Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. in the Aerobics Room Taekwondo from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Meeting Room #1 **Thursday** Morning Waves from 8 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. in the Indoor Pool N 2 the Deep from 9 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. in the Indoor Pool SilverSneakers Classic from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the Aerobics Room **Friday** Arthritis Foundation Aquatics Class from 8 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. at the Indoor Pool Hydrocize from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Indoor Pool SAIL from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the Aerobics Room Stay Golden - Birthday & Bingo from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Meeting Room #1 Taekwondo 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Meeting Room #1

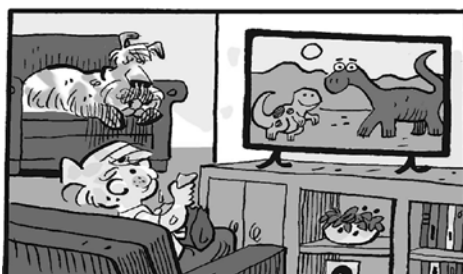
Hydrocize from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Indoor Pool SAIL from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the Aerobics Room Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. in the Aerobics Room Taekwondo from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Meeting Room #1 **Thursday** Morning Waves from 8 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. in the Indoor Pool N 2 the Deep from 9 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. in the Indoor Pool SilverSneakers Classic from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the Aerobics Room **Friday** Arthritis Foundation Aquatics Class from 8 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. at the Indoor Pool Hydrocize from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Indoor Pool SAIL from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the Aerobics Room Stay Golden - Birthday & Bingo from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Meeting Room #1 Taekwondo 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Meeting Room #1 For more information, check out the Shelbyville Rec Center's website: <https://shelbyvilleinparcs.org/>.

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

Mort Walker's beetle bailey



Hank Ketchum's Dennis the Menace PARTY OF ONE



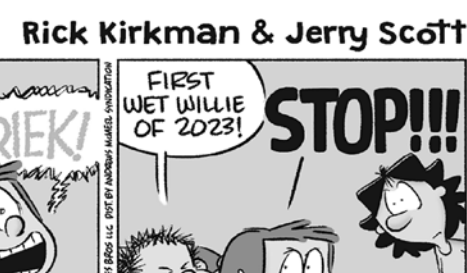
BLONDIE BY SEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL



The FAMILY CIRCUS BY PIL KEANE



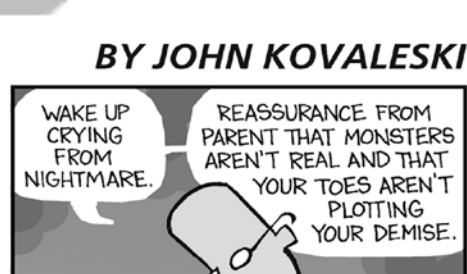
Baby Blues



PICKLES BY BRIAN CRANE



DADDY DAZE BY JOHN KOVALESKI



SALLY FORTH

by Francesco Marciuliano

MAYBE TODAY HE'LL FINALLY SAY "THANK YOU."

MORE ASTRO-WAFFLES, SPACE CAPTAIN TED FORTH?

YES! BECAUSE THE YEAR 2023 IS AWESOME!

WARNING! INTRUDERS HAVE BREACHED YOUR SPACE CONDO, SPACE CAPTAIN TED FORTH!

NO! FOR I MUST NOW PATROL THE PLANET PRECINCT WITH THE GALACTIC SPACE NEBULA UNIVERSE RANGERS, FIGHTING COSMIC CRIMINALS!

HAHA! WE BREACHED NOTHING! YOUR SPACE DOOR WAS WIDE OPEN! AND WE HAVE CARPET SAMPLES!

AUGH! SALES-ARACHNIDS! TO THE ESCAPE VOLVO!

WARNING! YOU FORGOT TO PLUG ME IN LAST NIGHT SO MY BATTERY IS DYING...

ALAS, I HAVE USED UP MY CREDITS TO SPACE-BUY THIS MOST WONDROUS DEVICE—THE ANDROMEDA ALLEN WRENCH!

NOT THE ANDROMEDA ALLEN WRENCH?!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S STRANGER ABOUT THIS STORY YOU WROTE AS A KID—YOUR OUTRIGHT FEAR OF SALESPEOPLE, YOUR OUT-OF-NOWHERE PRODUCT PLACEMENT, OR THE FACT YOU CHOSE TO SET IT IN SUCH A VERY PARTICULAR YEAR.

I FIGURED EVERY WRITER WOULD USE 2000 OR 2020, SO I WANTED 2023 TO BE MY YEAR.

The PHANTOM

by LEE FALK

WE KNOW THE PROFESSOR'S ASSISTANT WAS A WOMAN.

WHO COULD EVER FORGET THAT VOICE?

THE HORRIFIED WARNING SHE SHOUTED AS THE BEAST EMERGED FROM THE CAVERN.

EXACTLY...

SO WHY ARE HER BONES NOT SCATTERED HERE AMONG HIS?

DEVIL HAS OUR LIONESS FRIEND UNDER GUARD.

LET'S SPREAD OUT A BIT, HAVE A LOOK AROUND.

CALL OUT IF YOU SEE ANYTHING, I'LL COME RUNNING!

KIT!!

T-THIS IS ME CALLING OUT!

I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT CREATURE SLAUGHTERING ONE HUMAN INTRUDER IN THIS SECRET PLACE AND SPARING ANOTHER.

I CAN'T, EITHER.

THE WOMAN?

NOT EXACTLY!

UNLESS, OF COURSE, THE PROFESSOR'S ASSISTANT WAS THE FAY WRAY TYPE.

!!—DARLING, YOU'VE DONE IT! THE SAVAGE BEAST INSTANTLY MESMERIZED BY FEMINE BEAUTY! OUR WORK HERE IS FINISHED..

Tony DePaul & Jeff Weigel 1-1-23

Hi and Lois

by BRIAN and GREG WALKER

MMM... CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE.

TELL THE KIDS TO WASH UP, IT'S ALMOST TIME!

CHIP IS GOING TO HELP WITH THE DISHES...

AND YOUR FATHER AND I ARE GOING ON A DIET.

IT'S NEW YEAR'S DAY. TIME FOR A FRESH START.

I WANT YOU TWO TO BE NICE TO EACH OTHER...

DO WE HAVE TO DO THIS ALL YEAR?

I GET TO KEEP DOING WHAT I'M DOING.

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

GULP!

SLURP!

CHOMP!

GORGE!

JEREMY, CAN YOU PLEASE PLEASE CHEW YOUR FOOD?

YEAH, BUT IT SLOWS ME DOWN.

THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER

HAPPY NEW YEAR

"WELL... IT'S 12:15 AND YOU'VE ALREADY BROKEN THREE RESOLUTIONS."

"IN THE SONG, THEY WERE YELLOW RIBBONS."

"WHY ISN'T OUR GROSS INCOME GROSS?"

CANDORVILLE

BY DARRIN BELL

Dear Ms. Garcia, Thank you for the job interview today. I've decided to accept the position.

I've taken the initiative to come up with a dozen or so changes we can make to increase operational efficiency by 28.9%.

Phase One: DOUBLE the parking spaces by painting lines down the middle of each space.

Phase Two: Reduce wasteful watercooler chitchat by putting watercooler next to filthy urinal.

Phase Three: Streamline workplace conversations by allowing speaking but prohibiting the superfluous "listening" part.

Wait... Are you that guy from the elevator? I told you we weren't hiring.

Phase Five: Skip every fourth phase.

Phase Six...

Phase Six...

Phase Six...

SLYLOCK FOX

BY BOB WEBER JR.

Slylock Fox invented an ingenious photo-matter-duplicator device. When he pointed the device at himself in a mirror, it created enhanced full-body animated replicas from the reflection. Slylock knows which one is the real Count Weirdly. Do you?

HOW TO DRAW Purple Pete

YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Sadie, age 10

Submit your drawing to www.slylockfox.com

Emperor penguins can stay underwater for up to ...

- 4 minutes
- 9 minutes
- 18 minutes
- 27 minutes
- 43 minutes

Answer -- (d)

Spot six differences between these panels.

Answer -- Tree stump, mouse is teeth, gill, fin, boat and whiskers.

"THE BRIDGE IS ALWAYS OUT WHEN LORETTA GETS TO THE CHORUS."

"DOES YOUR HAIRLINE HAVE AN EMERGENCY BRAKE?"



Goodwill year-end donation rush

Surge in donations starts Dec. 26

As Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee year-end surge in donations of clothing and other home goods, the local nonprofit has some advice for area residents: donate now and avoid the rush.

From Dec. 26-31, the number of donations at Goodwill Donation Express Centers across middle and west Tennessee rises by up to 40 percent compared to other days of the year. The annual surge is prompted by people cleaning out their closets, attics and garages to make room for holiday gifts.

To accommodate the rush, Goodwill shifts staff to its busiest locations, but donors may still encounter lines at peak hours.

“Of course, we welcome donations at any time of year. We are so thankful for the many generous donors who support our mission of changing lives through education, training and employment,” said Goodwill’s Vice President of Donated Goods Leisa Wamsley.

Wamsley added that Goodwill relies on the holiday increase in donations to keep its stores and Outlets well-stocked with quality merchandise for shoppers throughout the year.

How to donate

Goodwill offers a contact-free donation process. Donors arriving at Goodwill’s Donation Express Centers are asked to place bags and boxes of donations into waiting rolling bins. Attendants are on hand to assist with furniture or other heavy or bulky items.

- Tips for donating include:

- When decluttering your home, consider the One-Year Rule: If you haven’t worn it, used it or played it in one year, it is probably time to donate it.

- Please remove hangers from clothing. Goodwill is not able to accept hangers as donations.

- Goodwill cannot accept some items, such as household chemicals and older, tube-style televisions. A list of some other items that can and cannot be accepted are on Goodwill’s website.

Donation attendants can provide a receipt for taxes or other purposes.

There are more than 45 Donation Express Centers located throughout middle and west Tennessee, and most are open seven days a week. Hours vary by location. Please only leave donations when an attendant is on duty. Locations, hours and much more information can be found



online at www.giveit2goodwill.org.

Why donate

Each year, thousands of people in communities across Middle and West Tennessee benefit from Goodwill’s free nonprofit mission services, ranging from job fairs at Career

Solutions Centers to training in IT, construction, call center and forklift operation.

Donating to Goodwill also helps the environment. In 2021, Goodwill diverted more than 25 million pounds of useful materials from landfills through its recycling efforts.

About Goodwill

Industries of Middle Tennessee, Inc.

For more than 60 years, Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee has provided job training and job placement free of charge to people with disabilities or other barriers to employment through the sale of donated items. Goodwill’s vision is that all people will

have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential through the power of work.

More information about Goodwill’s Career Solutions, retail stores and donation centers can be found online at www.giveit2goodwill.org or by calling 1-800-545-9231.



The cardio room on the second floor offers a variety of treadmills and bikes for that burst of cardio. See story on page 3B.

GET FIT

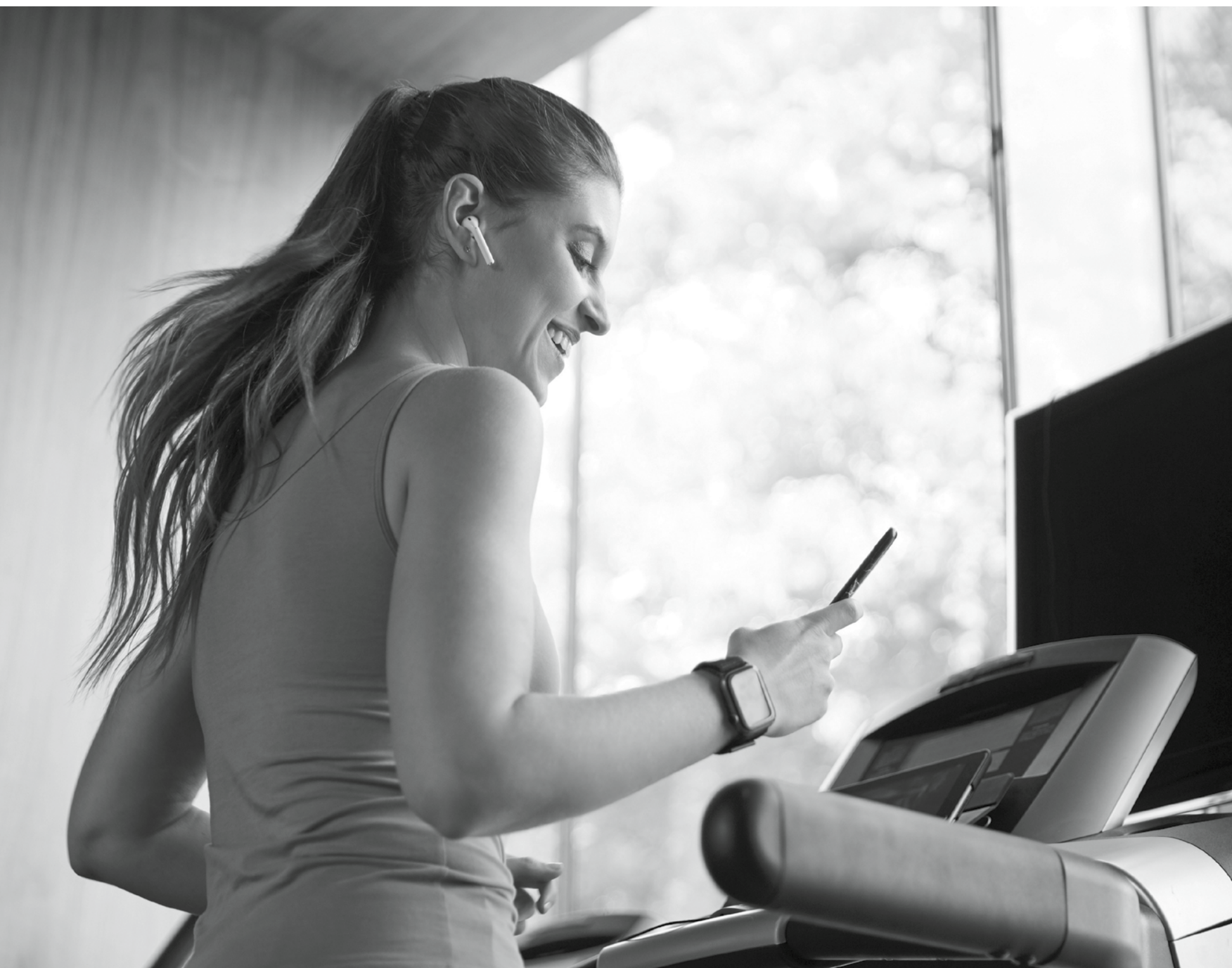


Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Family Features

Committing to getting fit and actually doing it aren't always one and the same but relying on tech devices can be an effective way to tackle your fitness goals.

From watches and phones to earbuds and virtual reality headsets, technology can make it easier to track your progress and create a more enjoyable workout experience. See how some of the latest technology is fueling new devices ideal for amping up your workouts this winter with these trendy ideas.

Find more inspiration to energize your fitness regimen at Qualcomm.com.

Tackle goals with fitness-friendly tech gadgets



Wellness You Can Watch

Powered by the Snapdragon 4100+ Wear Platform, the Fossil 6 Wellness Edition watch provides the speed, power and performance you need to efficiently track your health, all with extended battery life, Bluetooth 5.0 LE connectivity, rapid charging and more features to elevate your experience. The watch detects movement and starts a workout for you. In addition, not only does it allow you to monitor how hard your heart is working and provide estimated blood oxygen measurements so you can see how well your body is circulating oxygen, but it also measures your cardiorespiratory fitness, allowing you to track the amount of oxygen your body utilizes during exercise. In addition to keeping tabs on your active hours, the watch also helps you understand more about your sleep habits, including sleep quality and history, restfulness and progress against sleep goals.



A Smart Workout Buddy

If you're always on the go, a powerful smartphone is a smart way to get in a streamlined workout. An option like the OnePlus 10T 5G delivers on multiple levels. Driven by the powerful Snapdragon 8+ Gen 1 mobile platform, this is a phone built to evolve beyond speed. It has Qualcomm FastConnect 6900 for premium Wi-Fi connectivity and a Kryo CPU for unbeatable performance, ideal for multitaskers and power users. The charging system delivers a day's power in 10 minutes. What's more, the antenna system, featuring a total of 15 antennas, provides

a 360-degree closed-loop system to avoid blind signal angles, while simple and textured visuals help you focus and move seamlessly between work, rest and play.



Sound to Motivate More Movement

An energizing workout requires a soundtrack to get you pumped up and moving. Enhance your listening experience with LG Tone Free T90 wireless earbuds, which feature Dolby Head Tracking and Snapdragon Sound. These earbuds identify the location of sound as you turn your head, recalibrating to enable a more natural sound experience so you're always in the center of the scene. The speaker driver is made of a strong, lightweight material that delivers better overall audio clarity and reduced vibration so you can hear every sound come alive. Exceptional audio combines with superior connectivity for music, movies, crystal-clear voice calls, gaming and a low latency fit for aptX Adaptive compatible devices.



Play Your Way to Fitness

If your workout regimen needs an infusion of playful fun, the Meta Quest 2 virtual reality headset may be just the ticket. This VR headset is your ticket to the metaverse (and so much more), whether you're working out, gaming, meeting up with friends or going on a virtual field trip. Industry-leading graphics and immersive audio put you in the middle of the action. The portable device is ideal for workouts on the go, and you'll find a wide range of apps that let you work out amid stunning scenery, compete

against friends and participate in challenges. The immersive experiences break up the monotony of a boring, basic workout, making exercise fun and playful.



Music to Power Your Workout

Enjoy stereo-quality sound wherever your workout takes you with a state-of-the-art smartphone like the Motorola Edge+ Gen 2, powered by the Snapdragon 8 Gen 1 Mobile Platform. Giving you up to two full days of power, lightning-fast speeds and pro-quality features for doing more of what you love, this smartphone can provide music that motivates you regardless of your exercise style. When it's time to rest and recover, you can enjoy days of entertainment on a beautiful display that wraps around the edges.

Track Your Progress

Setting fitness goals starts with a plan and achieving them requires strong work ethic and, just as importantly, the ability to track progress so you can enjoy the success. The ultimate expression of ultra-portability and versatility, the Lenovo IdeaPad Duet 5 Chromebook is powered by the Snapdragon 7c Gen 2 Compute Platform. Slim and sleek, this 2-in-1 features a detachable keyboard to transform from a tablet to a laptop so you can keep an eye on your fitness goals whether you're working out at home or on the go, and 15 hours of battery life means you can enjoy usage from day to night.



THE GIVING MONTH



T-G Photo by Zoe Watkins

December continues to be the most popular gifting month of all. The month tends to be when churches receive the most gifts and donations, while around 30% of all U.S. annual donations roll in throughout the month of December. Nearly 10% of recorded donations occur during the very last three days of the year.



**This Devotional And Directory Is Made Possible
By These Businesses Who Encourage All Of Us
To Listen Or Attend Weekly Services**

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"Family Serving Families"

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www.doakhowellfuneralhome.com

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904 Madison St., Shelbyville

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clantonpipeandsupply.com

Templeton & Associates Insurance
108 East Depot Street • 931-684-4380 fax: 931-684-9937

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• HOME • LIFE • BONDS
jtempleton@templetonins.com

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and
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834 Union St., Shelbyville • 931-684-3664
Rev. Andrew Lee Keffer • shelbyvillefirstnaz.com
Sunday School - 9:00 am • Morning Service - 10:00 am
Prayer Meeting - Wednesday at 6:30 pm
Youth Meeting - Wednesday at 6:30 pm

Grace Baptist Church
1019 Madison St., Shelbyville • 931-684-1087
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Sunday School - 9:00 am • Sunday Worship - 10:00 am
Wednesday night 6:00 pm

Longview Baptist
101 Cooper Rd., Unionville • 931-294-2281
Rev. Jonathan Osterhaus
longviewbaptistchurch.org • servingoursavior@yahoo.com
Sunday School - 9:30 am • Worship - 10:30 am & 6:00 pm
Life Points (age 3 - youth) - 5:45 pm • Wednesday Worship - 6:00 pm

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EC Arnold Lane, Shelbyville
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Daily Masses:
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Confessions: Thursday/Jueves 5:45pm-6:45pm
Saturday/Sabado 5:45pm-6:45pm
Sunday/Domingo 10:15am-11:15am

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