

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

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Council defers hiring economic leader

By DAWN HANKINS
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Talks to resume in February

During monthly study session Tuesday, Shelbyville City Council members clammed up once again about making a decision on hiring either an assistant city manager or economic development leader. It took City attorney Ginger Shofner to prompt some conversation.

"I was hoping that you all could,

tonight, come to a conclusion to what you want," said Shofner.

After about 45 minutes, Council finally decided to simply defer any action until February.

City Mayor Randy Carroll suggested during the meeting that Council might hire an outside consultant. He said that way, Council will be assured if there is enough work to even hire a full-time City employee, with benefits. He reminded Council has hired a retail strategies consultant in this manner.

It was pointed out, also, that an outside consultant would be dividing its time between other groups, not just the City.

Bobby Turnbow said Lawrenceburg has hired a 39-year-old, with a multi million dollar company, to lead its economic development. "There's people out there . . . younger people are hungry."

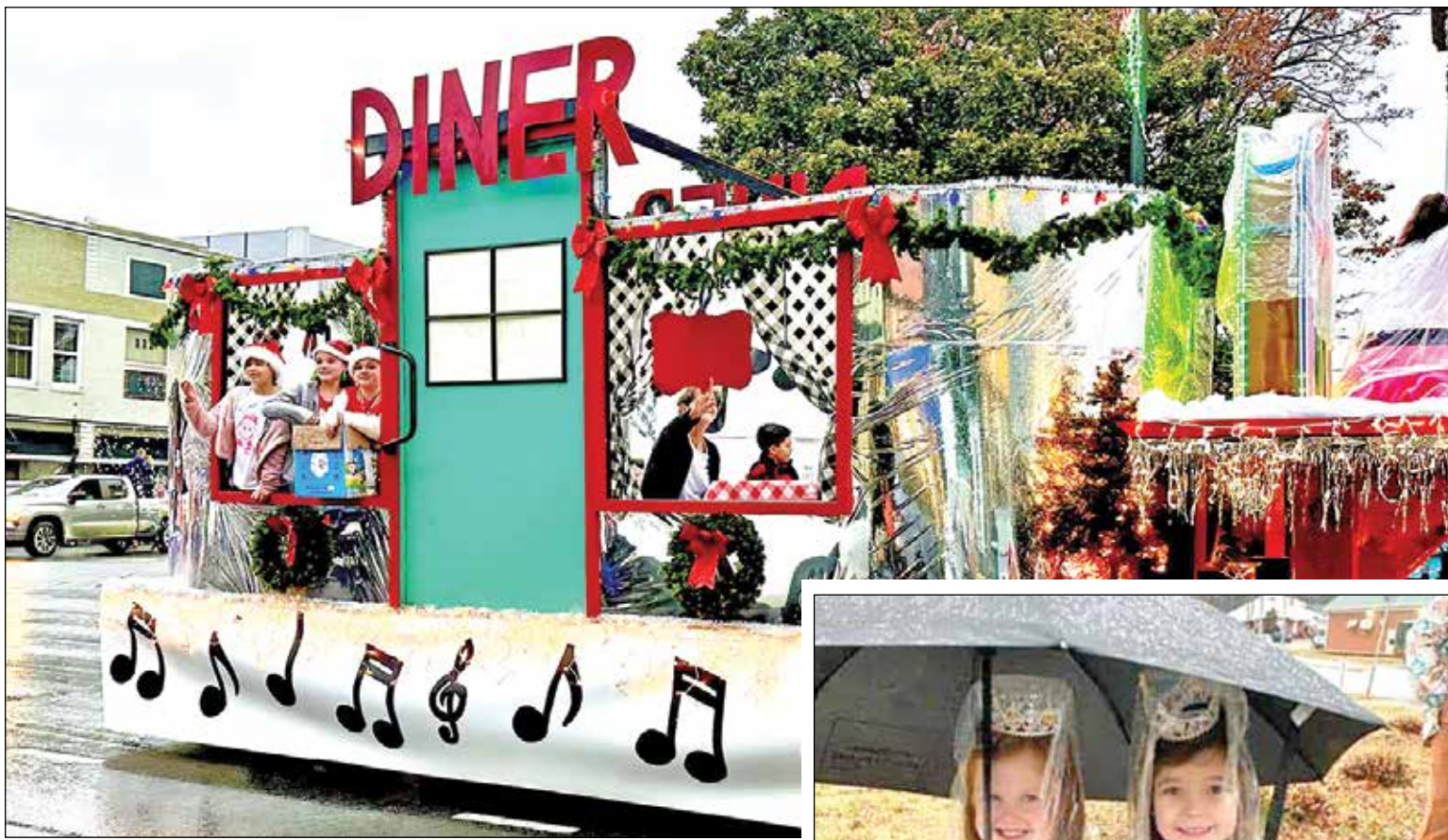
Turnbow praised City Manager Scott Collins for knowing a lot of

See COUNCIL, 2A

UPDATE ON SKELETAL REMAINS FOUND AT SHOMA PARK

Shelbyville Police report that DNA tests are still being done on the skeletal remains found recently in the Shoma Park area. Police did identify the remains as human. Police said it could be a while before any results are released to the public.

ON WITH THE PARADE



Photos by Dianne Ratley

LOST IN THE '50S' - In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Shelbyville Christmas parade, floats carried a nostalgic theme. Winner this year was the team from Mt. Lebanon Methodist Church with their diner float.

GOT THE GEAR - Shelbyville's 50th annual Jaycees Christmas Parade went off without a hitch Saturday evening, despite a drizzle of rain. These two little princesses from Bedford County Fair Pageant had the right idea with their rain gear. From left, Bristol Hill, Fairest of Fair People's Choice, age 0 to 5, and



County Commissioner Linda Yockey and Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham take time out for a photo with the famous penguin at the recent Christmas Tree Lighting on the public square.

Mayor Chad Graham updates County progress

By DAWN HANKINS
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Maddox to Lead T-G Sports Coverage

The Shelbyville Times-Gazette is pleased to announce the appointment of Noah Maddox as its new Sports Editor. A native of Middle Tennessee, Maddox brings a deep connection to the community and a wealth of experience in sports journalism.

"I'm really excited to have Noah on the team," publisher Daniel Richardson said. "The future is looking up for local sports coverage in Bedford County."

Born and raised in Shelbyville, Maddox is a familiar face in the community. He boasts strong local roots, with family ties to the Arnolds, a prominent family in the area. A graduate of Cascade High School, Maddox was an active participant in the school's sports programs, playing varsity basketball and soccer. He was part of the historic team that won Cascade boys basketball's first region title in 2018.

Maddox pursued his higher education at Middle Tennessee State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Media and Journalism. His college years further solidified his passion

for sports, particularly his fervent support for the Tennessee Volunteers.

Maddox acknowledges the high standard set by his predecessors and expresses his excitement to continue the legacy. He brings his own unique flair to the role, being actively involved in radio broadcasts on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400, especially for Cascade athletics. Maddox's involvement in broadcasting provides a fresh perspective to the Times-Gazette's sports coverage.

Maddox assures readers that while his current focus includes comprehensive coverage of Cascade sports, he is committed to delivering high-quality content for Shelbyville Central and Community athletics as well. He emphasizes the importance of community engagement and encourages feedback from readers, inviting them to reach out to him at noah@t-g.com.

As the sports landscape transitions from winter to spring seasons, Maddox is eager to introduce new initiatives, including a weekly column, extensive roundups



Noah Maddox is the new Sports Editor for the Shelbyville Times-Gazette.

and recaps for all six varsity programs in Bedford County, and more in-depth game coverage. His appointment is a promising development for the

Times-Gazette as it continues to build its reputation for exceptional sports journalism under his leadership.



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plumbing and periodic electrical interruptions. "The building is in such poor disrepair and poor quality, at some point you've got to make a decision—are we going to get in, or out, of that business."

He said that's, of course, a Commission decision. The state hasn't yet intervened.

"That was another personal feeling for me, if we could make a commitment for a \$42 million adult criminal facility . . . I had much rather see us invest in kids—those we might could turn around and keep them out of that system."

Graham said he certainly has had mixed feelings about whether Bedford County should continue with juvenile corrections. But he thinks mostly, yes. Mainly, because the county has already invested many years and tax dollars into juvenile detention programs.

But if this were a new program, he might have a different perspective, he said. Still, he said it is currently incumbent on this county to continue the juvenile detention process, for many reasons, but mostly because the County wouldn't want to find itself having to "start over." If it became a necessity to do so, then that could prove much more costly, Graham said.

Graham said a new, separate, juvenile facility is being planned for Bedford County. While it will be near the adult correctional facility off Eady Road, there must be a total disconnection between juveniles and adults.

"I'm not exciting about having to build a new facility. But the truth is, we're over 50,000 people and we're growing 1,000 people

a year." Graham said sadly, national trends are showing that the practice, by some systems, of sending juveniles home, under the direction of their parents, isn't working. Many return to crime.

Helping low-income elderly

Mayor Graham recently discussed how the County is trying to help its low-income elderly.

Graham said the County has, for the first time, matched what the State of Tennessee gives in the way of relief for low-income elderly (discount on property taxes.) This low-income program is administered through Bedford County Trustee Tonya Davis' office.

"We were able to get that into the budget for the first time," the mayor said. "We committed \$100,000 to that program . . . right at a penny, you might say, worth of value."

He said the max the state contributes is currently about \$171 for low-income elderly who qualify, according to state guidelines. "That's a lot of money for the low-income elderly," Graham said. "It's doubling the relief they're getting. Tonya has to do that program for the state anyway, so the County matching was a great plus."

Education as a top priority

Graham, a former Bedford County Board of Education member, said as many people know, he ran for office on an education platform. He believes he's made education a top priority.

"Now in this budget year, we have the expan-



Several members of the community turned out recently for the annual Christmas tree lighting on the courthouse lawn. Santa Claus, of course, was the man of the hour.

sion of Thomas and Liberty Schools."

Graham said the County is on a path of growth with these additional school expansions. And if all goes well, and there's not a tremendous student population increase in the near future, there will soon be no students studying in portable classrooms.

He also mentioned the new Cartwright Elementary School off Fairfield Pike was a big plus in improvements.

Graham said his role is not to run the education system as that is done by

the school board. However, he said it is his job, along with County Commission, to assist with the bricks and mortar aspect of education.

The County is the one that funds the money for buildings and structures, Graham advised. He credits a lot of people, particularly the County Commission, for supporting most recent school expansions.

"We were able to do all these expansions, in the end, without a [property] tax increase. And that is huge, in the big scheme of things."

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COUNCIL

From page 1

people in Tennessee government. He said he felt he could be good mentor to a City employee working in economic development.

Henry Feldhaus said previous conversations have hinted that hiring a private group could cost a fair amount of money to the City, just in salary, alone. He said the idea of an assistant city manager was suggested based on the idea that a City employee of such might come with a more manageable salary range.

"If we can relieve him [Scott Collins] of all dog calls, chicken calls . . . day to things, then the assistant city manager could handle some of those routine calls and deal with department heads," advised Feldhaus.

Feldhaus told Council that Collins is already certified in economic development. "He knows the City well and could run with that as part of his job description. That would be a whole lot cheaper than trying to go out and hire . . . bring them in at \$187,000. To me, that's a waste of money. He can get the job done for maximum of \$100,000. My position is we don't need an economic director."

Shofner said a majority agreement by Council would place a clear motion on the Dec. 14 regular Council meeting.

Councilperson Marilyn Ewing said it was a waste to pay someone just under \$100,000 to relieve the city manager of dog calls, etc. She also had some issues with small portions continuing to be pulled from the hotel-motel tax fund. (Brings in revenue about \$25,000 a month.)

Retail strategies is already paid out of that fund and Council also discussed Tuesday about hiring an intern for tourism out of motel tax funds. The city manager said even though hotel-motel tax dollars are being earmarked, there is still a healthy fund balance in that revenue line item.

Councilman Gary Haile said he's ready to move along with the majority of Council on this issue. Bobby Turnbow said he will go along with a private consultant but he doesn't think there will be enough work.

The city mayor said that's why he believes that Council should maybe do a short-term contract, to start, with a private consultant. "We can always go back and hire."

Last month, Council discussed hiring an assistant city manager and discussions surrounded current City Manager Scott Collins potentially assuming more economic development duties. The action failed during regular Council meeting, due to lack of a second motion. Two Council members were absent.

"You've voted to hire one, but didn't give enough clear direction," further advised Shofner. She asked if there was a simple job description available.

"If you don't want it to be an employee . . . want someone with contract, our purchasing policy states how we go about that process."

Shofner said Lori Saddler, City purchasing agent, has a process (RFQ, etc.) to follow, before it ever gets to Council for final vote. Shofner said she would also have to do a contract with a non-employee, private entity.

Suggesting Council defer any action until February, Councilman William Christie said, "I had rather not do something than do something wrong."

What Councilman Henry Feldhaus had to contribute was likely the most frank remarks of the evening. He told Council that after months of discussion, he's frankly tired of talking about it.

Feldhaus suggested Council pay the local economic partnership its \$100,000, move on and ride on that group's synergy. "Why we want to reinvent the wheel, I don't know," said Feldhaus.

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Speaker Pro Tem Marsh announces \$20K grant to Gilliland Historical Resource Center

State Rep. Pat Marsh, R-Shelbyville, today announced a \$20,000 grant to the Gilliland Historical Resource Center.

The funds are part of a larger \$5 million appropriation approved by members of the General Assembly for the Tennessee State Museum in the 2023-24 state budget.

"The Gilliland Historical Resource Center does great work," Marsh said. "This investment will help tell the story of James Gilliland and his ex-

cellent craftsmanship. I thank the Tennessee State Museum for their work in granting these funds."

The funds must be used for building and land improvements, including structural changes and renovations.

Out of 170 applications totaling \$12.5 million in requests, 108 museums across 58 counties were granted a total of \$5 million in full or partial awards from the State Museum, according to Ashley Howell, the execu-

utive director of the Tennessee State Museum.

The money was made available to 501(c)(3) nonprofits or museums affiliated with government entities through the Tennessee General Assembly's 2023-24 Appropriations Act. Each request had a minimum of \$5,000 in improvements and a maximum of \$100,000. The projects covered by the grants have a completion deadline of June 30, 2024.

Ascend Federal Credit Union Members Share \$5 Million End-of-Year Payment

Tulahoma-based company remains one of the nation's few credit unions to offer a member return

TULLAHOMA, Tenn., Nov. 30, 2023 – Ascend Federal Credit Union, the largest credit union in Middle Tennessee, announced today that it will return \$5 million to members in the form of bonus dividend payments, loan interest refunds and reward payments for loyal debit card use. With the addition of this year's return, Ascend's volunteer, unpaid board of directors has approved giving a total disbursement of more than \$109 million to the credit union's members since the member return program began in 2005.

"Our member return is another example of the great benefits Ascend provides," said Matt Jernigan, Ascend president and CEO. "Each year, we like to thank our valued members by putting money back into their

pockets during the holiday season. Looking forward, we anticipate another year of continued financial strength and stability in 2024, and we are enthusiastic about what is ahead for our credit union and members."

Jernigan said the member return is never guaranteed, but it is a goal of Ascend's board to distribute it every year. Thanks to growing membership and use of the credit union, as well as prudent management, members have received a return every year for the last 19 years.

The credit union examines its financial performance each year to identify how the return will be calculated and what amount will be given. Generally, the more checking/debit or savings activity someone has with Ascend, the greater their bonus payment, and the more loans they have, the greater their loan interest refund. The 2023 return will appear on

members' December statements.

About Ascend Federal Credit Union

With more than 242,000 members and more than \$4.1 billion in assets, Ascend Federal Credit Union is the largest credit union in Middle Tennessee and one of the largest federally chartered credit unions in the United States. Based in Tullahoma, Tenn., the member-owned financial institution offers banking, loan, retirement and investment services from its 27 branches, more than 55,000 free ATMs worldwide, digital banking portal, and mobile app. The credit union's mission is to serve by offering financial literacy education and giving back to its communities in a variety of ways. Ascend is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration. For more information, visit ascend.org.

Diver Services hosting statewide food drive

Non-Perishable Food Items Are Being Accepted from December 4th to January 31st

The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security's (TDOSHS) Driver Services division is partnering with Donate Life Tennessee, Tennessee Donor Services and Mid-South Transplant Foun-

ation for the Keeping Tummies and Hearts Full of Love Winter Food Drive.

From Monday, Dec. 4 through Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024, Tennesseans can bring non-perishable food items to any Driver Services Center in Tennessee. Food items will be donated to local food banks and organizations to help those in need.

"I encourage Tennesseans to

show their volunteer spirit and support our winter food drive," said TDOSHS Commissioner Jeff Long. "Many of our fellow Tennesseans struggle with food insecurity. This holiday season, we can give the gift of kindness and help feed our neighbors."

To locate the Driver Services Centers across Tennessee, visit <https://www.tn.gov/safety/diver-services/locations.html>.

AAA: TN Gas Prices Rise Two Cents

Tennessee falls to the 10th least expensive market in the nation

Gas prices across Tennessee moved higher over last week, however, pump prices began declining over the weekend, allowing drivers to start the week only two cents more expensive than last week. The Tennessee Gas Price average is now \$2.89 which is 14 cents less expensive than one month ago and 10 cents less than one year ago.

"Last week we saw a slight increase in crude oil pricing, but thankfully oil pricing cooled off by the weekend. We saw a similar trend in our pump prices here in Tennessee - from Monday to Thursday last week the state average jumped five cents to \$2.92, but thankfully prices began dropping over the weekend and fell to \$2.89, only two cents more expensive than last Monday," said Megan Cooper, spokeswoman, AAA - The Auto Club Group. "If the oil market continues to see fluctuation in crude oil pricing there's a possibility that we could also see additional fluctuation in our local pump prices. The good news is that 90% of gas stations in Tennessee have prices

below \$3 per gallon and Tennessee has the 10th least expensive state gas price average in the country."

Quick Facts
90% of Tennessee gas stations have prices below \$3.00

The lowest 10% of pump prices are \$2.62 for regular unleaded

The highest 10% of pump prices are \$3.32 for regular unleaded

Tennessee is the 10th least expensive market in the nation

National Gas Prices

Despite less than stellar domestic demand, the national average for a gallon of gas fell only a penny since last week. The primary culprit is the cost of oil, which is creeping closer to \$80 a barrel. Since oil is the main ingredient in gasoline, higher oil costs tend to put upward pressure on pump prices.

According to new data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), gas demand decreased from 8.48 to 8.21 million b/d last week. Meanwhile, total domestic gasoline stocks increased by 1.8 million bbl to 218.2 million bbl. Lower gas demand has contributed

to limiting pump price increases amid rising oil prices.

Today's national average of \$3.24 is 18 cents less than a month ago and 17 cents less than a year ago.

National Oil Market Dynamics
At the close of Wednesday's formal trading session, WTI increased by \$1.45 to settle at \$77.86. Oil prices increased due to market concerns that OPEC+ will maintain its production reduction agreement through 2024. A tight oil supply could elevate prices if demand moves higher than expected. Additionally, the EIA reported that total domestic commercial crude inventories increased by 1.6 million bbl to 449.7 million bbl last week.

Drivers can find current gas prices along their route using the AAA TripTik Travel planner.

Tennessee Regional Prices
Most expensive metro markets - Nashville (\$2.96), Jackson (\$2.94), Memphis (\$2.92)

Least expensive metro markets - Chattanooga (\$2.76), Clarksville (\$2.82), Kingsport (\$2.83)

SCORE 2024 EDUCATION PRIORITIES

Priorities reflect expanded vision for student success from kindergarten to workforce

In 2024, Tennessee should focus on strengthening foundational policies, building effective pathways between education and careers, and ensuring K-12 supports meet student needs, according to a report released today by the State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE).

SCORE's 14th annual report, Building A Brighter Future: 2024 State Of Education In Tennessee, highlights successes and opportunities in K-12 and postsecondary education in the past year and identifies research-informed priorities to support Tennessee students.

During the report release today, David Mansouri, president and CEO of SCORE, said with SCORE approaching 15 years since its founding, this year's priorities look to the next frontier for transforming education in Tennessee.

"We have to recognize the ways in which the education and work landscapes are evolving. And must make sure our priorities and recommendations evolve at the same pace," Mansouri said. "Looking to the future, Tennessee must expand its vision for education so that each student has the opportunity to succeed in school and be prepared for a career that enables economic independence."

The 2024 State Of Education In Tennessee report outlines three priority areas for the year ahead:

- Expand student opportunity by strengthening foundational policies. To expand student opportunity, the report recommends strengthening some of Tennessee's long-standing foundational policies. Three areas that deserve particular attention are longitudinal data, Tennessee Promise, and postsecondary outcomes-based funding. These policies are nationally recognized and have contributed to Tennessee's growth in the past decade. As a state committed to continuous student-centered improvement, Tennessee must evaluate where these efforts are not meeting their full potential and make necessary adjustments.

- Build effective pathways between education and careers. In today's education landscape, students have a menu of over 1 million unique degree and credential opportunities, but not all of those opportunities have the same return on investment. It is critical for students to have a complete picture of the earning potential of degrees and credentials. With an understanding of what skills are most valued by employers, the state can help drive data-driven partnerships between education and industry. Early postsecondary and career experiences are another valuable tool for preparing students for success in life. Tennessee has long prioritized experiences like dual enrollment, career-technical education and work-based learning. In 2024, it's important that we establish mechanisms to evaluate the quality of these opportunities. The report highlights the need for data access so that we can monitor how students are moving through the education pipeline and incentivize opportunities that result in improved student outcomes.

- Ensure K-12 supports meet student needs. K-12 schools and districts have experienced several major policy and practice changes in the last three years. These changes include the adoption of a new and nationally recognized K-12 student-based funding formula, the introduction of several strategies to bolster the teacher pipeline, and the launch of important high-dosage tutoring and summer programs to support student learning. In the coming year, we need to identify ways to meet student needs in the context of these many recent and important changes. The report urges support for prospective, new and veteran educators at each stage of their careers, along with evaluating and building on initiatives such as Grow Your Own. Additionally, the state should adopt a plan for instructional coherence to maximize learning for the state's lowest-performing students, and it should ensure facilities funding for public charter schools, which primarily serve students of color and economically disadvantaged students.

Senator Bill Frist, M.D., founder and chairman of SCORE, says meeting the goals outlined in the report will require a new strategic alignment, as well as a commitment from all Tennesseans.

"The work to build a brighter future for Tennessee students will take all of us, and it will be a continuous journey," Frist said. "We have no doubt that with our shared advocacy and clear focus, Tennessee will shape an education system that is aligned to the new realities of our state's labor market and, most importantly, gives students the opportunities they need and deserve."

SCORE presented the report findings during an event at the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville that included a panel discussion of 2024 education priorities. Speakers included: the Honorable Alberto Gonzales, Dean and Doyle Rogers Professor of Law, Belmont University; Charlie Friedman, founder and executive director, Nashville Classical Charter School; Dr. Jean Luna-Vedder, director of schools, Clarksville-Montgomery County School System; Deniece Thomas, commissioner, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development; and Dr. Michael Torrence, president, Motlow State Community College.

Today's event is one of three discussions SCORE is hosting with leaders statewide to generate dialogue around Tennessee's education priorities for the upcoming year. SCORE will host West Tennessee leaders in Memphis on December 12 at the National Civil Rights Museum and East Tennessee leaders in Chattanooga on December 14 at the Construction Career Center.

The State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE) believes all Tennessee students deserve success. SCORE supports a unified and coordinated approach to education — from kindergarten through postsecondary — focused on helping all students complete high school and postsecondary education, earning the diplomas and credentials needed for a rewarding career. An independent, nonprofit and nonpartisan advocacy and research institution, SCORE was founded in 2009 by Senator Bill Frist, M.D., former U.S. Senate Majority Leader. SCORE measures success by the academic growth and achievement of Tennessee's students. Learn more at tnscore.org.

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Richard Dale Brown

Richard Dale Brown 74 of Shelbyville died December 4, 2023. Per his request he will be cremated. No services are scheduled.

He was born November 21, 1949, in Shelbyville; retired employee of Eaton Corporation after 30 years and a member of Edgemont Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lonnie Lee Brown and Laura Emmaline Roe Brown and a brother, Kenneth Lee Brown. He is survived by his friend and caregiver, Lisa Marie Crim, of Tullahoma.



Billye Gwyn Baarda

Billye Gwyn Baarda, 78, of Shelbyville died December 2, 2023.

A Memorial Service will be held 2:00 P.M. Saturday, January 13th at Miracle Tabernacle Church Rev. Joshua Moore officiating.

Per her request she will be cremated.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Billy Carrol Riner and Irma Gwyn Birch Riner and her husband, Isaac Francis Baarda.

She is survived by her son, Shayne R. Baarda; a step-daughter, Maelene Ford, and two step grandchildren.



Rebecca Ann Redd

Rebecca Ann Redd, 80, of Winchester, died November 30, 2023. Funeral services were held 2:00 p.m. Sunday, December 3rd, at Hillcrest Funeral Home. Burial followed at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens.

She was a longtime resident of Bedford County and a member of the Methodist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, Clyde Avery Redd and Eva Odleen Overcast Redd.

Rebecca is survived by her children, Leilah Renee (David G.) Armstrong of Bell Buckle, Tim Fox of Petersburg; a sister, Sherry Odleen (Tony) Campain of Lady Lake, Fla.; grandchildren, Kristan Armstrong (John Falkum), Nathan Armstrong, Savannah (Christopher) Campbell, Mark Fox, Luke Fox; great grandchildren, Carolina Campbell, Teagan Campbell, Caden Campbell and Holden Falkum.



Dean Thomas

Dean Thomas, age 59, of Wartrace, passed away Sunday, December 3, 2023, at his home, under the loving care and comfort of his family and Hospice Compassus. A Celebration of Life Service will be 3 PM Thursday, December 7, 2023, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. Dr. Dee Cantrell and Herbert Derickson will officiate. The family will receive visitors 4-8 PM Wednesday, and again one hour prior to service Thursday, at the funeral home. He was born March 5, 1964, in Fayetteville, to the late Horace Claude and Sara Ann Jean Thomas. A graduate of Cascade High School, he was a farmer and industry employee. He was founding member of Cascade Junior Pro Football League, and he enjoyed fishing and spending time with his children and grandchildren. He loved watching football, his carport visits with family and friends, and visiting the Great Smokey Mountains. Most of all, he enjoyed coaching and watching Drew and Jake play football, and Sarah Beth play softball and show horses. Dean held membership at First United Methodist Church.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, John Darron Thomas. Survivors include his wife of 38 years, Beth Edwards Thomas; children, Andrew "Drew" (Ashley) William Thomas, Jacob "Jake" (Amber) Dean Thomas, and Sarah Elizabeth "Sarah Beth" Thomas; grandchildren, Kennedy, Payton, Jackson, and Reed Thomas; brother in law, Bill Edwards; nephews, Chuck Edwards, Joey (Brooke) Edwards, and Caden Thomas; a niece, Chloe Thomas. Dean would be honored with memorials to: Cascade High School Football Touchdown Club Attn: Jake Tyre, 3035 Fairfield Pike, Bell Buckle, TN 37020, or Bedford County Animal Control, or Compassionate Canine Care Sanctuary, Attn: Kelly Skelton-Weise, 565 Potts Road, Wartrace, TN 37183. The family would like to thank, Conan Carter, N.P., the doctors and nurses from Vanderbilt Harton Medical Center, and the nurses from Hospice Compassus Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.



Wilburn Pugh

Wilburn Dean Pugh, age 83, of Shelbyville, passed from this life Monday, December 4, 2023, at home surrounded by his loved ones.

A native of Chapel Hill, Dean was born January 1, 1940, to the late Andra Cleveland Pugh and Flora Mae Batten Pugh. Along with his parents he was preceded in death by: son, James David Pugh; grandson, Jordan Drake Caldwell; brother, Sam Pugh; sisters, Dorothy White, Bonnie Blackwell and Ruby Hartrick; and sisters-in-law, Annett VanDerVoort Pugh, and Sandra Haislip Pugh.

Dean worked with Eaton Corporation as a machinist and retired after 35 years of employment. While he was at Eaton, Dean received his auctioneer and realtor license and began a second career in real estate. He worked with Loyd Payne Realty, Vance Clay and 46 years with Craig & Wheeler Realty. He also worked at any capacity with Duck River Speedway, Thunder Hill and Winchester Raceway, anything from working on the racetrack to waving flags, he enjoyed being involved in dirt track racing.

He was an active member of Victory Baptist Church and was always willing to help anyone in the community and he never met a stranger. In his free time, he enjoyed; mowing and gardening.

Survivors include: loving wife of 60 years, Connie Joan Adcock Pugh of Shelbyville; son, Randy Pugh; daughter Tasha Pugh Caldwell both of Shelbyville; grandson, Vincent Caldwell; brothers, Joe Pugh and wife Joyce of the Wheel Community, and Robert Pugh of Cornersville; and bonus family, Jessica Phillips and her children, Emiree, Lakelyn, Braxson, Dallas and Phoenix.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. Friday, December 8, 2023, at Victory Baptist Church with Pastor Loyd Warren and Randy Crosslin officiating. Burial will follow at Hopper Cemetery.

Visitation will be held 4-7p.m. Thursday evening, December 7th at Doak-Howell Funeral Home and again on Friday, prior to funeral service beginning at 12 p.m. noon, at Victory Baptist Church.

Memorial donations may be made to Bible and Literature Missionary Foundation by mail: 2101 US-231 Shelbyville, TN 37160 or to Victory Baptist Church by mail: P.O. Box 1030 Shelbyville, TN 37162.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.



Nancy Carson

Nancy Leona Smith Carson, age 88, of Shelbyville, passed from this life Friday, December 1, 2023, at The Heart Remembers with loved ones at her side after an extended illness.

Nancy was a native of Bedford County, born on January 7, 1935, to the late William B. Smith and Carrie Sons Smith and; along with her parents she was preceded in death by: beloved husband, Coach Bryan Edwards Carson; grandson, David Garner Pitner; and brother, William Gene Smith.

She was a graduate of Shelbyville Central High School class of 1953, as queen and valedictorian of the class along with being a band majorette. She started her career in the banking industry shortly after high school and retired after many years, finishing with Dominion Corporation.

She was a charter member and lifelong member of Faith Baptist Church. She was a kind, gentle, and loving soul that was strong and steadfast in her faith. She was also a volunteer Pink Lady that brought her much joy as she served others. Her strong desire to help others was even seen late in life as she tried to assist many of the residents she lived among at The Heart Remembers. She always sought to find the good in others.

She had an infectious smile and quick wit. She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother with family being the most important thing to her. She had an outgoing spirit and enjoyed people, but equally enjoyed quiet time at home.

She is survived by: daughters, Lynn Carson Clanton and Korley Cannon and husband Blake; grandson, Carson Clanton and wife Charley; sisters, Peggy Joann Smith, and Barbara Lois Coop and husband Ronnie; sister-in-law, Sandra Smith; nieces, Carrie Crocker and husband Jamie, Peggy Biagini and husband Jim, Mary Lollis and husband Bart, Susan Howell and husband Mark, and Karen Hadley and husband Don; along with a host of great nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held 1:00 p.m. Thursday, December 7, 2023, in the chapel of Doak-Howell Funeral Home with Pastor Don Hadley officiating. Burial will follow at Roberts Cemetery.

Visitation with the family will be held prior to funeral service beginning 11 a.m. Thursday, at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to Faith Baptist Church, Normandy United Methodist Church, or Shelbyville First United Methodist Church.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.



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BUSINESS

SHELBYVILLE HISTORY: THE HOOVERS

Former local business leaders

Obituary for Joseph Frederick Hoover

Joseph (Joe) Frederick Hoover, a talented lifelong artist, United States Army Veteran, Eagle Scout, Scout Leader, and beloved family man went to be with his Lord on June 28, 2023. He was born January 14, 1930 in Shelbyville, Tennessee, the son of Oscar Terry and Jo Frances (Harpole) Hoover.

His father was an undertaker in the 1930s and they lived in the funeral home. After World War II broke out, because his father was also a certified machinist, the family moved to multiple places, including Oak Ridge, Tennessee. It was there, at Oak Ridge High School, Joe received his first formal Art education and discovered his passion. After the war ended, they moved back to Shelbyville where he graduated from Central High School in 1949. Joe first attended Auburn University where he was a member of the Civil Air Patrol and Naval ROTC. He transferred to Wayne (State) University in Detroit, where he received his Bachelors and Masters of Fine Arts degrees. In the early 1950s, Joe met the love of his life, Alma Davis, at the "Madison Heights" Methodist Church. He was drafted into the United States Army. They were married on January 29, 1954. While Joe was stationed in Periguez, France, Alma joined him, where their first son Dan was born. They returned to Michigan for where God later blessed them with two more children, Linda and David, and ultimately, one very wonderful loving grandson Ben. Joe was employed by General Motors "Design Staff" at the Warren Tech Center for 31 years as an Automobile Sculptor. After he retired, he continued to be active in many artistic and community endeavors. Among these are establishing a Boy Scout Museum, WWII history exhibits in Washington and Shelbyville, creating several works of art for Madison Heights Methodist Church, designing Peach Festival Floats for Muir Funeral Home.

Joe was a devoted member of the Washington Baptist Church. He enjoyed time with his family and will be missed by many. He is survived by his son David of Rochester, grandson Ben (Rebecca) Hoover of Whitehall, great grandchildren Mayleen, Bryce, and Teli. He is also survived by his brother O. Lytle Hoover of Cherry Hill, NJ and many nieces and nephews. Joe was preceded in death by his children, Dan and Linda and his beloved wife, Alma.

A memorial visitation was held on July 14, 2023. Following the service, the United States Army honor guard played Taps and presented the flag to the family. All the arrangements were held at White Chapel Cemetery (621 West Long Lake Road, Troy, MI 48098.) All arrangements are entrusted to the Muir Funeral Home & Celebration of Life Center.

Sometimes when we receive obituaries, we learn a lot about Shelbyville and Bedford County history. This week, was one of those weeks, when we received the obituary for Joseph (Joe) Frederick Hoover.

A lot of things have changed since the Hoover family had businesses here decades ago. Thankfully, there are still members of the family, like Lytle Hoover, who're able to share much about the town's history around the time of World War II.

According to Lytle, who now lives in New Jersey, their father was an undertaker here in the 1930s, so they lived in the funeral home. Lytle recalls of their childhood here, "No one would come to have dinner with us, except the little boy next door. named Bobby Hancock. He constantly asked my mother if he could come. We finally invited him. My father was a real jokester."

So much so, he remembers that "little Bobby" was so scared once by one of his father's jokes that he once ran clean home—without his favorite blackberry pie.

All kidding aside, the Hoover family played a significant role as Shelbyville business leaders in its early development in the 1930s and 40s. It was tough times, but he recalls, some of the best of times.

His grandfather owned a furniture store on the south side of the town square. He started a funeral home upstairs, in the store. Later, the funeral home was at 411 Atkinson St, next to the Gunter building (building.)

Another memory of Lytle's is war-related. The 91-year-old first pauses to wipe his eyes.

"We had a very large porch that had a swing and two gliders," he recalls. "... 16 miles away was paratrooper training grounds. Each Sunday morning, we found 10-15 soldiers laying on the porch or on couches inside sleeping on them. Mom made breakfast for them with eggs, bacon, toast and pancakes. I remember how Mom said it was the least we could do, since some would not come back. As a kid, I thought she meant they would come back next week."

He also has fond memories of his veteran brother Joseph who passed away last summer. (See adjacent obit.) Joseph "Freddy," is referred to as having been a talented, life-long artist, U.S. Army Veteran, Eagle Scout, scout leader, and beloved family man. Joseph passed away on June 28, 2023, so Lytle wanted to share locally his obit.

Born Jan. 14, 1930, in Shelbyville, he was the son of Oscar Terry and Jo Frances (Harpole) Hoover. O. Terry and Jo Frances and their children reportedly had quite a life here.

After World War II broke out, because their father was also a certified machinist, the family moved to multiple plac-



THE HOOVER STORE

es, including Oak Ridge.

"It was there, at Oak Ridge High School, where Joe received his first formal art education . . . discovered his passion for art," says Lytle.

Lytle points out specifically the painting his brother did of the Duck River Dam and also of the Hoover Funeral Home. They do not have photos of the funeral home, so this is why Freddy painted it—from memory, he says.

After the war ended, the Hoovers moved back to Shelbyville in the 1940s. Lytle notes that their grandfather's store, Hoover's Market, was then located on the south side of the town square.

Hoover Funeral Home, where the family lived, was at 411 Atkinson Street (no longer.) "Grandfather . . . started the funeral home upstairs at the store."

"My grandfather lived at 710 N. Main St., which is now where Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) is located," shares Lytle. "By the way, our phone number was 98J. 'J' meant it was a party line. if there was an emergency and somebody was on [the line] you simply picked up the phone and asked for people to hang up. People would . . . generally you heard them pick up after a minute."

Though he lives several miles away from Shelbyville now, Lytle notes that this town—a place where his family played, made a living during hard times and shared with others—will always have a special place in his heart.



JOSEPH "FREDDY" HOOVER



JOSEPH DURING MILITARY DAYS



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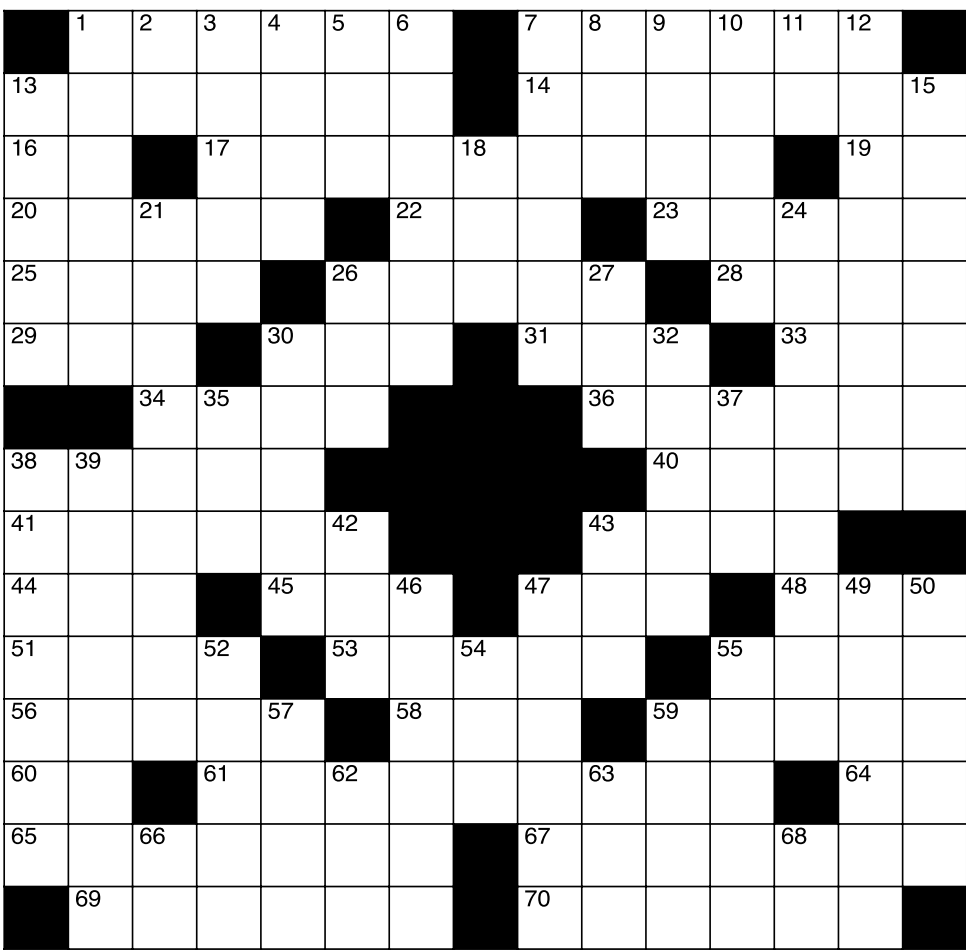
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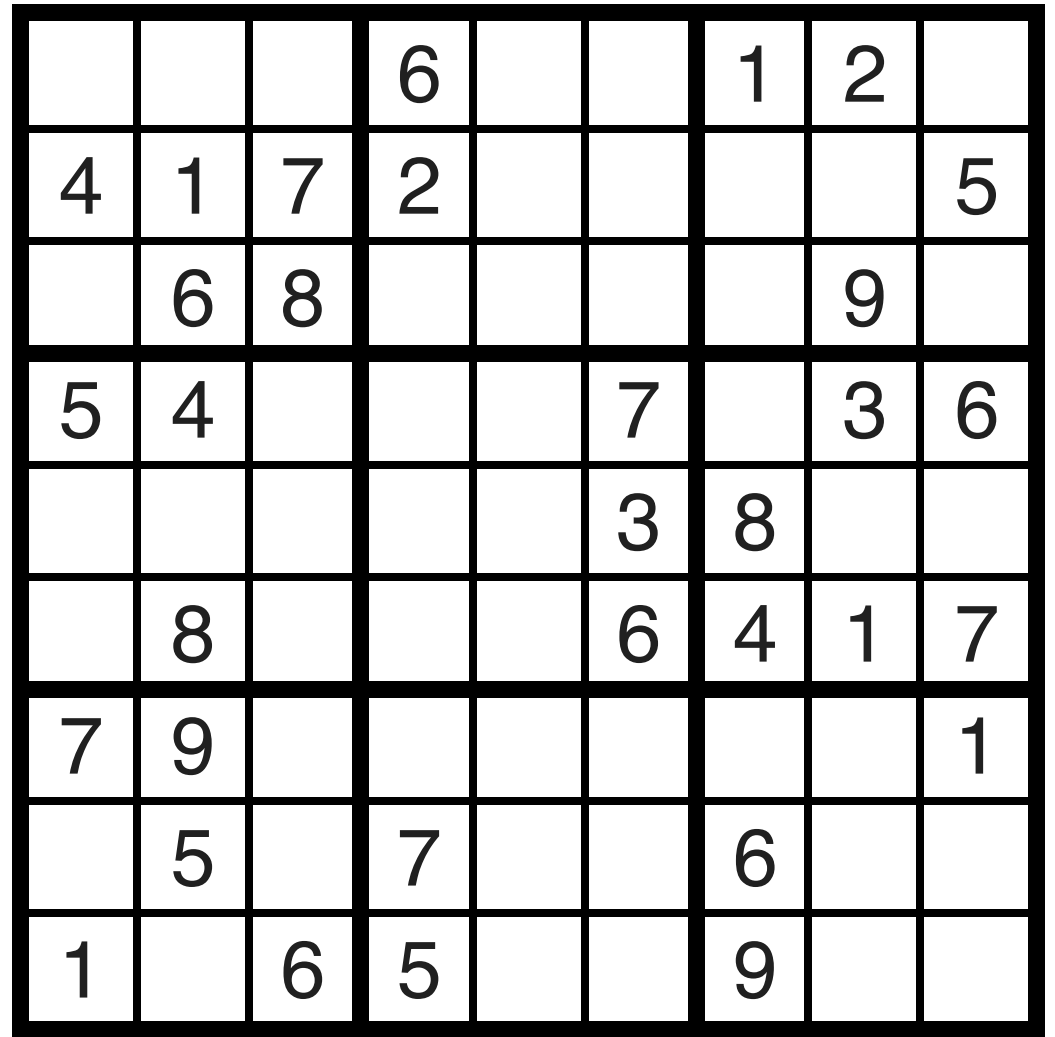


CLUES ACROSS

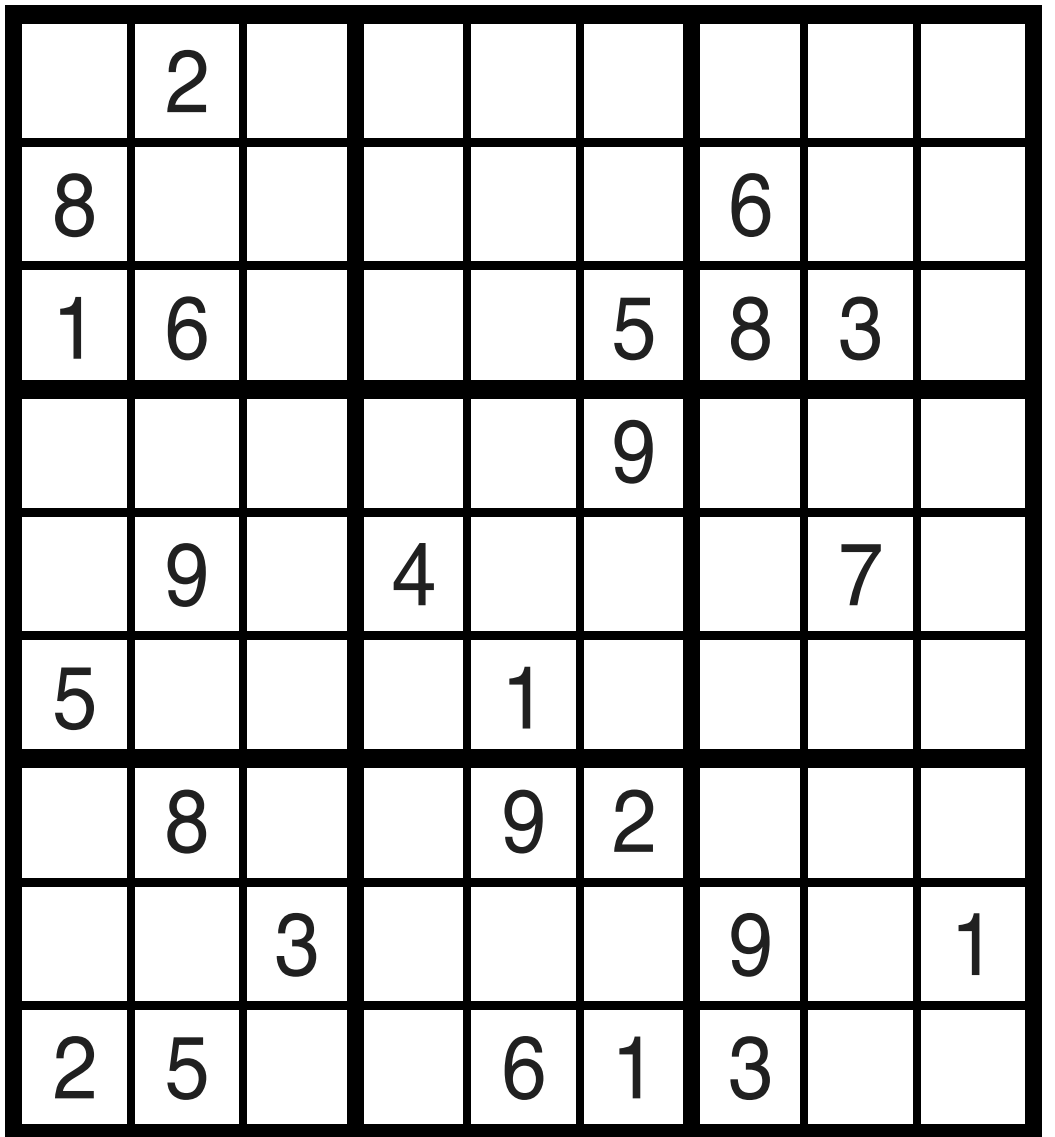
- 1. Spiritual leaders
- 7. Salt
- 13. Fortified wine
- 14. Edible mollusk
- 16. It begins with them
- 17. A way to compare
- 19. Government lawyer
- 20. Back parts
- 22. 8th month (abbr.)
- 23. Very willing
- 25. ___ ex machina
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. Quebec river
- 29. A doctrine
- 30. Popular pickup truck
- 31. Dekagram
- 33. Naturally occurring solid material
- 34. Company officer
- 36. Villains
- 38. Cricket frogs
- 40. German founder of psychology
- 41. Endured
- 43. A female domestic
- 44. A "place" to avoid
- 45. Cigarette (slang)
- 47. Canadian politician Josephine
- 48. French ballet/acting dynasty
- 51. Employee stock ownership plan
- 53. Belonging to the bottom
- 55. Sound
- 56. Yankees' slugger Judge
- 58. Dickens character
- 59. More wise
- 60. Flash memory card
- 61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- 64. Atomic #79
- 65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
- 67. Humor
- 69. Shawl
- 70. Preliminary assessment of patients

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal disease
- 2. Commercial
- 3. Craft supply
- 4. Storage units
- 5. Investment vehicle
- 6. Colorado Heisman winner
- 7. In a way, sank
- 8. Post-birth brain damage (abbr.)
- 9. Lay about
- 10. Intestinal
- 11. The opposite of yes
- 12. Caused to be loved
- 13. Messianic in Islamic eschatology
- 15. Showing since conviction
- 18. Not safe
- 21. The number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Yard invader
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Swedish krona
- 32. While white or yellow flower
- 35. Fourteen
- 37. Graphical user interface
- 38. Up-to-date on the news
- 39. Campaigns
- 42. Touch softly
- 43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 46. Violent seizure of property
- 47. One who supports the Pope
- 49. Anxiety
- 50. Body fluid
- 52. Phony person
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. Chilean city
- 57. City in central Japan
- 59. Silk garment
- 62. Draw from
- 63. Automobile
- 66. Man
- 68. Legal bigwig (abbr.)



Level: Beginner



Level: Advanced

⊙ * ☐ ☉ ☼ ☽ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♂ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to holiday baking. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 11 = R)

A. 25 15 18 8 11

Clue: Ground baking grain

B. 5 3 22 19 11

Clue: Blends things together

C. 11 18 15 15 19 23

Clue: Flattened and smoothed out

D. 16 8 13 26 11

Clue: Sweetener

Answers: A. flour B. mixer C. rolled D. sugar



Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-10. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	1		13
	0	2	9
5	5		18
15	6	19	

8	5	5
2	0	7
8	1	6

Solution

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

REPA RTTA

Answer: Pear tart

THERE ARE MORE THAN 3,000 VARIETIES OF THIS FRUIT WORLDWIDE.

ANSWER: PEAR

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Sweet
SPANISH: Dulce
ITALIAN: Dolce
FRENCH: Sucré
GERMAN: Süß

Did You Know?

PEARS ARE ONE OF THE FEW FRUITS THAT HAVE AN EXTENSIVE HISTORY, DATING BACK TO AROUND 1,000 B.C.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: PEARS

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

DEC 8

- 1962: WORKERS AT FOUR NYC NEWSPAPERS BEGIN A STRIKE THAT ULTIMATELY LASTS FOR 114 DAYS.
- 1990: THE GALILEO SPACECRAFT FLIES PAST EARTH FOR THE FIRST TIME.
- 2013: METALLICA PERFORMS A SHOW IN ANTARCTICA, MAKING THEM THE FIRST BAND TO PERFORM ON ALL SEVEN CONTINENTS.

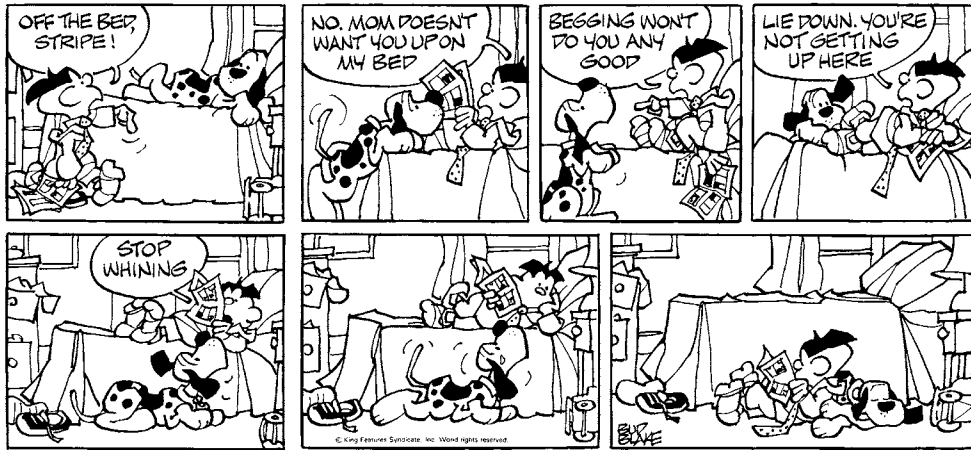
New Word

MATURE

fully developed

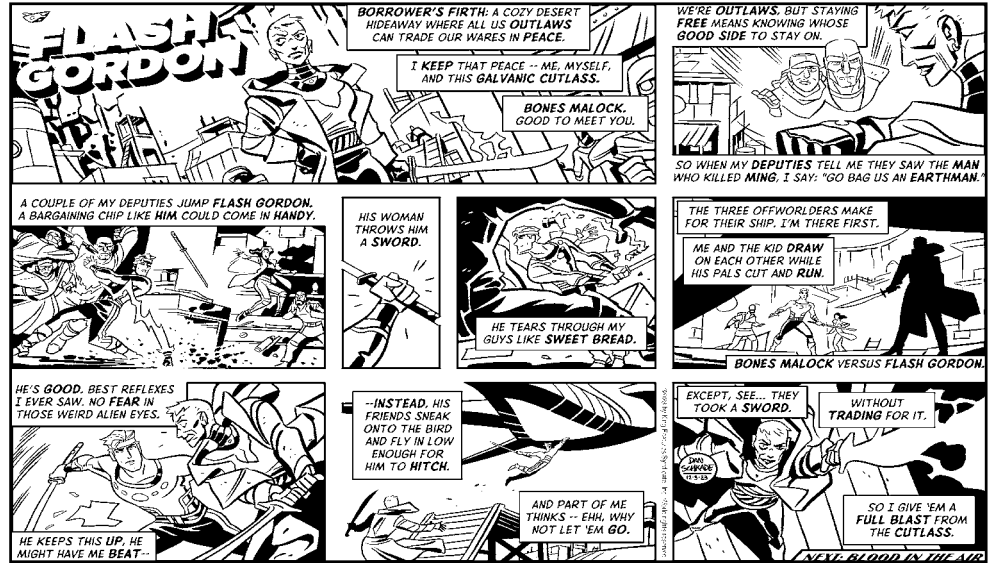
TIGER

by **BUD BLAKE**



Amber Waves

by **Dave T. Phipps**



Even Exchange by **Donna Pettman**

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

1. Uncover	___ V ___	Revoke	___ P ___
2. Georgia fruit	___ E ___	Steam cook an egg	___ O ___
3. Join together	___ ___ N	More rapidly	___ ___ R
4. Dedicate	___ V ___	Designate	___ N ___
5. Really speedy	___ C ___	Idiosyncrasy	___ R ___
6. Correct	R ___	No longer dark	L ___
7. Twisted cord	___ N ___	More than once	___ C ___
8. Fissure	___ C ___	Gulp of air	___ T ___
9. Calvary sword	___ A ___	Clear-headed	___ O ___
10. Energetic and perky	___ I ___	Beautiful	___ O ___

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- "Kapow!"
- British ref. work
- Holler
- Director Spike
- Chemical suffix
- Fall sign
- Nest egg acronym
- Large, luxurious car
- Brooch
- Range
- Collections
- tear (ragging)
- First lady of scat
- Earth Day mo.
- Transparent
- Dolphins' home
- Traces of smoke
- Agile
- Obtained
- Bygone Peruvian
- Flamenco cheer
- Vacillate
- Quick trip
- Shoe width
- Pungent cheese
- Aachen article
- Sports figures?
- Zsa Zsa's sister
- Speck
- Dunkable treat
- River blocker
- Actor Brynner
- Pivot
- That guy's
- Kimono sash
- Samovar
- kwon do
- Ellipse
- Ballroom dance
- Radiates
- Vinyl records
- Back talk
- Billboards
- High nest
- Picnic dessert
- Jima
- Roman 1051
- "There's no — team!"
- "Better Call Saul" network
- Bellow
- Swiss metropolis
- Sledded in the Winter Olympics
- Like a neglected garden
- Vowel group
- Streisand title role
- Equitable
- Streetcar
- Leary's drug
- Jurist Lance
- Fortify
- A/C meas.

DOWN

- Radar dots
- Signified
- Fixes a squeak
- Newspaper chief
- Fiend

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Weekly SUDOKU

by **Linda Thistle**

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

STICKELERS [10]

by **Terry Stickels**

Which of the words below does not belong with the others?

- SPAGHETTI
- PASTTIME
- DUMBELL
- COMMITTED
- HARRANGUE

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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: Z equals H

I Z C R N Q Z T E Y Z D A E Q D Y Q F N L D
G T K Q D E Y F N W Q Z T D F Q D F E D Y
E F M D Y R D M I D C F F T T S F N
L T D K L W M ? A T G D W F T Q Z T C ' K T
Q E S N K - N W F .

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King Crossword

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

Even Exchange

- Orange, Grange
- Month, Mouth
- Bottle, Bette
- Elms, Elms
- Slower, Flower
- Allow, Allow
- Flash, Flush
- Change, Chance
- Jolly, Polly
- Beet, Beest

SCRAMBLERS

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

Fewest: **STEAL**

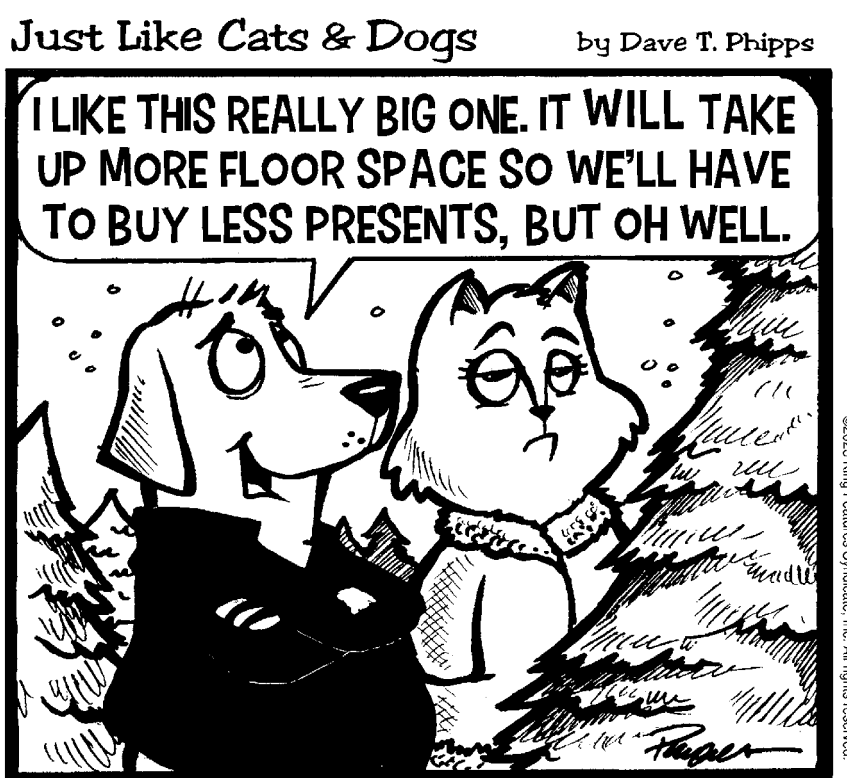
Companion: **SECTOR**

Lift: **ARISE**

Vast: **GATER**

TODAY'S WORD

When I said give him everything you've got — I didn't mean your _____!



GRIN THE BEAR IT Wagner

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SCRAMBLERS

Today's Word

1. Horde 2. Trace; solution

3. Antic; 4. Image

CHAIR

Sticklers Answer

- praised — depart, diapers, aspired
- garden — gender, ranged, danger
- pores — prose, poser, ropes, spore
- arrest — raters, raster, rames, stater

CryptoQuip

I couldn't think of the name of a familiar basic chemical substance. I had an elemental block.

Shelbyville's Chick-fil-A opens!

Comes with about 120 jobs

Shelbyville residents have been waiting a long time for the opening of a local, Chick-fil-A. Well, the wait is over.

A new Chick-fil-A® restaurant began serving the Shelbyville community on Thursday. Katelyn Womack is local owner-operator.

Located at 756 North Main St., Chick-fil-A Shelbyville will be open for dine-in and carry-out from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and drive-thru from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The store is closed on Sundays.

Guests of Chick-fil-A Shelbyville can place an order for pickup, dine-in or delivery on the Chick-fil-A® App or online. When joining the Chick-fil-A One® tiered membership program, Chick-fil-A One members receive points on every qualifying purchase, which can be used to redeem available rewards. Visit chick-fil-a.com/delivery to view delivery options in your area.

Locally owned and operated

As full-time, hands-on leaders in their restaurants and communities, Chick-fil-A local owner-operators reside in the communities in which they serve. In

Shelbyville, Womack will be responsible for all day-to-day activities of the business, including employing approximately 120 full- and part-time team members, serving guests and cultivating relationships with local organizations and businesses.

Opening her own Chick-fil-A restaurant is a dream come true, Womack says. Growing up in Memphis, Womack has fond childhood memories of eating Chick-fil-A® Nuggets, playing on the playground and celebrating birthday parties at the nearby Chick-fil-A Olive Branch. However, it was the tradition of Friday breakfasts with friends during high school that sparked her lasting love for Chick-fil-A, she shares.

Womack served as a team member in college, and says her passion for Chick-fil-A's culture drove her to study business with the goal of one day becoming a local owner-operator.

In 2015, Womack assumed the role of director of operations at the same Chick-fil-A where the Friday morning tradition was established. Womack's dedication to service did not go unnoticed; when the Operator of Chick-fil-A Olive Branch opened a second



restaurant in 2019, Womack took on the role of operating partner, overseeing both restaurants.

Womack is embarking on this new journey with her high school sweetheart and now husband, Zach, and their daughter. With a "heart for service," Womack is eager to engage with the Shelbyville community.

"As an operator, my vision for the restaurant is to make a positive impact on our team members, guests and the Shelbyville community through pursuing excellence in all that we do,"

says Womack. "My hope is for Chick-fil-A Shelbyville to be a place where people make memories, just like my local Chick-fil-A growing up."

Caring for the Shelbyville community

In celebration of the opening, Chick-fil-A, Inc. has donated \$25,000 to Feeding America to support local hunger relief efforts of Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee, a Feeding America partner food bank, in honor of the new restaurant.

In addition, Chick-fil-A Shelbyville is recognizing 100 local heroes making an impact in the Shelbyville area by providing them with free Chick-fil-A entrees for a year.

Team member investment

Chick-fil-A operators are committed to hiring, developing and retaining top talent and providing a positive work environment for people of all ages and backgrounds. Team members have opportunities for flexible work hours and lead-

ership growth, competitive pay and benefits, hands-on training and mentoring and the chance to apply for scholarships to support their continuing education.

For the latest news and updates on Chick-fil-A Shelbyville, visit the local restaurant's Facebook page and follow along on Instagram. For more information about Chick-fil-A and stories about the brand's food, people and customers across the country, visit chick-fil-a.com.

Week 2: Advent

DAWN HANKINS

I was at a local, holiday event recently. When Santa stepped onto the scene, someone said, "Now, that's the Reason for the Season."

I guess it is all in your personal perspective. For me, as a Christian, Jesus is the "Reason for the Season." He's actually the Bread of Life.

One of the most beautiful aspects of the Christmas Season, to me, is Holy

Communion. The elements, body (bread) and blood (wine or juice), are a symbolization for how Christ came to die on the cross for our sins.

It's by His grace, we celebrate the second week of Advent.

By this time in the Advent Season, we are generally in full preparation for Christ's birth. The second candle is usually lit and we talk about the Baby Jesus

with great anticipation.

Let's go a step further and carry that great anticipation into the coming week, sharing the Good News with our neighbors. But also with people we don't know. We tend to think, sometimes, that everyone knows about the Baby Jesus' birth. Do they?

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NEWS

On Senate Floor, Hagerty and Kaine Implore Mexican President López Obrador to Reverse Harmful Actions Violating USMCA

United States Senators Bill Hagerty (R-TN) and Tim Kaine (D-VA), members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, today spoke on the Senate floor imploring Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador to halt harmful actions against American companies' lawfully owned assets in Mexico, which violate agreements made between the two countries under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and jeopardize a key U.S. trade relationship. Specifically, President López Obrador has harassed, interfered with, and

obstructed the lawful operations in Mexico of Vulcan Materials Company—a U.S.-based construction-aggregates company with a strong presence in both Tennessee and Virginia—which undermines U.S.-Mexico relations and undermines American companies' trust regarding investment in Mexico.

"Through increasingly arbitrary and aggressive moves against companies based here in the United States and their lawfully owned assets in Mexico, the Mexican government has abused its permitting and regulatory powers in

ways that violate the letter and the spirit of our trade agreements, not to mention the special relationship historically enjoyed between our two countries...For almost two years now, President López Obrador has personally harassed, interfered with, and obstructed Vulcan's lawful operations in Mexico. Vulcan is a U.S.-based construction-aggregates company, with a strong Tennessee (and Virginia) presence...I've been a strong advocate for re-shoring integrated supply chains from Communist China to North America...[and] I again urge

President López Obrador to reverse course before more damage is done," Hagerty said.

"I support the State Department's efforts to assist and advocate for U.S. businesses in Mexico, including making clear to the Mexican government that their treatment of Vulcan and other companies will undermine U.S. and international confidence in that country. I urge the Mexican government to refrain from moving in this counterproductive direction," Kaine said.

TN among top 10 in Christmas conceptions

PER CAPITA CHRISTMAS CONCEPTIONS

State	Xmas Births	Pop.	Births/M
Utah	4042	3,339,113	1.210
South Dakota	1028	896,164	1.147
Texas	33894	29,558,864	1.146
Alaska	837	734,182	1.140
North Dakota	874	777,934	1.123
Louisiana	5114	4,627,098	1.105
Arkansas	3300	3,028,122	1.089
Mississippi	3165	2,949,586	1.073
Nebraska	2105	1,963,554	1.072
Tennessee	7427	6,968,351	1.065

The Vols may have ended the football season ranked 25th, but the rest of us have been hard at work making sure we're in the top 10 in one important category. As the weather get's a little cooler, we get a little closer. 'Tis the season to be merry, and whether married or not, our Christmas cheer results in Tennessee being in the top 10 nationwide in Christmas conceptions.

Of course, this is measured by actual births nine months after Christmas, so while there may be other states with more per capita Christmas conceptions, the conservative values in Tennessee help result in more of those babies reaching full-term.

Beyond the twinkling lights and joyous celebrations of Christmas, US couples seem to be inspired to create their own gifts during the most magical time of the year.

Betway decided to analyze the year-round birth rates of every state in the US in order to reveal which states notice the biggest Baby Boom in September - 9 months after Christmas.

The research showed that Utah has the highest birth rate in September with 1.210 births per thousand in comparison to the population.

South Dakota ranked second for Holiday baby booms with both Texas and Alaska taking third and fourth respectively.

Texas had the highest amount of births 9 months after Christmas, however in relation to the states population it only ranked fourth on the list.

The states with the busiest Christmas lovers are as follows:

To find out more about other notable events that might create an increase in birth rates in certain states please visit: <https://usblog.betway.com/nfl/super-bowl/the-super-bowl-baby-boom-states-nfl/>

Sources:
State population 2021, 2022: https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-state-total.html#par_textimage_1574439295

Number of births per state: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/provisional-tables.htm>

Methodology
This campaign looked at the monthly birth rates for each state to reveal which notable events have spiked conception rates the most.

To reveal the number of births per thousand people per state we sourced official available data for January 2021 until October 2022 and calculated the total number of births. From there, we divided the monthly figures by the total population of each state and multiplied it by 1,000.

Data is correct as of June 2023.



Submitted Photo

French trivia contest winner

Shelbyville Central High freshman Chandler Cates represented Bedford County well and defeated contenders from all 50 states in a recent National French Trivia contest.

Secretary of State Tre Hargett Certifies Presidential Candidates for 2024 Super Tuesday Ballot

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Today, Secretary of State Tre Hargett certified the names of nine Republicans and one Democratic presidential candidate for the March 5, 2024, Super Tuesday Presidential Preference Primary and County Primary Election. On Super Tuesday, 15 other states will join Tennessee in helping decide each party's presidential nominee.

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

- Republican Primary Ballot:
 - Ryan Binkley
 - Doug Burgum
 - Chris Christie
 - Ron DeSantis

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

Joseph R. Biden
"I encourage these candidates to visit Tennessee and hear the thoughts and concerns of Tennessee voters, said Secretary Hargett. "I believe if these candidates will follow Tennessee's lead our nation will be stronger for future generations."

Today at noon was also the deadline for candidates to seek ballot access by filing a nominating petition signed by two thousand five hundred (2,500) registered vot-

ers. One petition was filed by Democratic candidate Dean Phillips. County election commissions will review the signatures to determine if he has met the threshold to be added to the March 5, 2024 ballot.

Presidential Primary candidates have until Tuesday, Dec. 12 at noon to withdraw their name from the March 5, 2024, ballot.

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

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

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OFFICE MANAGER

Open Position: Office Manager

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

Key Responsibilities:

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

office environment.

- Support the publisher and editor with administrative tasks as needed.

Qualifications:

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

To apply:

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

Shelbyville
TIMES-GAZETTE

ADVERTISING SALES

Position: Advertising Sales Representative

Job Description:

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

Key Responsibilities:

- Prospect and acquire new advertising clients through cold calling and networking.
- Maintain and grow relationships with existing clients.
- Understand clients' advertising needs and develop customized advertising solutions.
- Prepare and present advertising proposals and contracts.
- Collaborate with the creative team to create effective ad campaigns.
- Meet or exceed monthly and quarterly sales targets.
- Keep up-to-date with industry trends and competitive offerings.

Qualifications:

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

To apply:

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

Shelbyville
TIMES-GAZETTE

CLASSIFIEDS



Maddox excited to join T-G news team

First off, if you are reading this in print, I just want to thank you for taking time out of your day to spend it with us at the Times-Gazette. I want to express a similar sentiment to those of you who are reading this issue online as well. Every single one of you enable us here at the Shelbyville Times-Gazette to continue to survive and thrive in this wonderful community.

In the roughly two to three months since the Bedford County Post took over and ransacked the longest standing newspaper outlet in this prestigious and rapidly growing Middle Tennessee town, there have been wholesale staff and personnel changes here at the Times-Gazette. For now, I want to introduce you to the new sports editor (myself), Noah Maddox.

Some quick notes about myself: I am from here, born and raised in Middle Tennessee, and lived in Shelbyville for my entire young adult life. I have family ties to the Arnolds (my mother) that go way back, so it's safe to say I am one of the most, and pardon me as I make up a word here, Shelbyvillian Shelbyvillians you can meet in this town. I went to Cascade for 12 of the 13 years it took to graduate from there, and I played varsity basketball and soccer all through high school under Coach Mike Edmondson and Coach Zack Spears, respectively. I was even part of the team that brought Cascade boys basketball the program's first region title in school history in 2018.

After graduating from Cascade in 2019, I enrolled about 45 minutes north up Highway 231 at Middle Tennessee State University in August of 2019 where I graduated in four years with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Media and Journalism this past May. Despite my alumni status, I am a Tennessee Volunteer fan through and through, have been ever since I can remember watching college sports, even holding my own season ticket in Neyland Stadium. Anyone that knows me well would say that I am probably the biggest UT fan that they know, and they wouldn't be surprised if I bled orange. I know a lot of you are also UT fans, so don't be surprised if every now and then we have some Vols content show up on these pages in the future.

I have tons of experience covering athletics in this area, but most importantly I have the upmost respect for the man I am replacing, Chris Siers. Siers was and continues to be the lead example on how to cover sports in this town and county, and I am very excited to be taking the reigns from him here at the Times-Gazette as he embarks on new endeav-

ors at the Bedford County Post. He is still very much involved in the community at the Post. He continues to provide excellent coverage of the local athletic events going on, especially when it comes to Cascade Basketball. I am humbled to be stepping into his vacant shoes, and I will strive to live up to, and hopefully exceed, the high standards that he set and left for this position.

Unlike Siers, however, I am involved in radio broadcasts on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400 with Cascade athletics, specifically football and especially basketball right now. I am humbled and grateful to be calling Cascade basketball live on the air (as well as hosting the Cascade Coaches Show on Monday evenings at 5 P.M. on the same station), so while this means you will receive excellent coverage of the Champions both on and off the airwaves, coverage of Shelbyville Central and Community athletics may start out a smidge behind. Don't worry, we will not neglect either of those schools, not by a long shot.

Despite that small hantup, we are committed to bringing you the best sports coverage for Cascade, Community, and Shelbyville Central, so moving forward we will be spending a lot of quality time together. You can also expect a weekly column, right here every Wednesday, about various sport topics written by none other than yours truly, so stay tuned for that as well.

We look forward to getting to know you, the reader, through all of this as well, and I am going to include my email address here: noah@t-g.com. If you ever have a question, a complaint, or pointers and suggestions for something we did or do while covering your school, please do not hesitate to reach out and let us know. We would love your feedback because it shows us that our readers care about what we write about and cover, and it sincerely means a lot to all of us. Also stay tuned for a potential mailbag type of piece coming soon.

I am thoroughly excited about the upcoming months as winter sports eventually move into the spring season, and we have a lot planned to move forward. In the meantime, the plan is for a weekly column, a weekly basketball roundup/recap for all six varsity programs in Bedford County along with some game recaps sprinkled in there, and much more. We hope that you will stick with us as we continue to build back up the Shelbyville Times-Gazette, and I cannot wait to see where this takes us!



Submitted Photo

Community Jr. High Homecoming Court

From left, Zaiden Crick, Ella Underwood, Adrien Rodriguez, Taylor Harris, Maddox Thompson, Angeli Izaguirre, 2023 King Andrew Tocchio, 2023 Queen Hadley Martin, 2022 Queen Bailey Messick, Levi Clanton, Emiree Clark, Greyson Helton, Gemma Gambill, Miles Ashwander and Lily Isley

Blackburn Hits Milestone in Bedford Basketball Blitz: Weekly High School Roundup

As we dive headfirst into the 2023/24 high school basketball regular season, there are high hopes and expectations for all six programs at the three schools in Bedford County. This season, we will have a weekly roundup to get everyone up to speed on how all six programs performed over the previous week.

Shelbyville's Newest 1,000 Point Scorer

Shelbyville Central's Paige Blackburn eclipsed the 1,000-point mark for her career in a 47-46 win over Siegel on Friday night. She led all scorers with 25 points, and her Golden Eaglettes needed every single one of them to come away with a win and to make the special night that much sweeter. She has been a consistent scoring option for Shelbyville Central since her freshman year, and she starts this season by joining a very prestigious club at Shelbyville Central all while leading the Eaglettes to a four-game winning streak. She followed up her historic performance by scoring 16 points to lead all scorers in a 52-27 Shelbyville Central route of Centennial on Monday.

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

Upcoming Games: 12/8 vs Riverdale and 12/15 vs Centennial LIVE on WLIJ 98.7.

Past week results: 52-27 W @ Centennial on 12/4, 47-46 W vs Siegel on 12/1, 65-41 W vs Giles County on 11/30, 41-25 L @ Tullahoma



Eaglettes official twitter account

1,000 POINTS - Shelbyville Central's Paige Blackburn eclipsed the 1,000-point mark for her career in a 47-46 win over Siegel on Friday night. She led all scorers with 25 points, and her Golden Eaglettes needed every single one of them to come away with a win and to make the special night that much sweeter.

on 11/28.

Shelbyville Central Boys: 1-3 (0-0)

Upcoming Games: 12/8 vs Riverdale and 12/15 vs Centennial LIVE on WLIJ 98.7.

Past week results: 77-67 L @ Centennial on 12/4 (Tyler Trice and Taeshawn Shelton tied for a team-high 16 points), 71-43 L vs Siegel on 12/1, 71-47 L vs Giles County on 11/30, 60-30 L @ Tullahoma on 11/28.

Cascade Girls: 1-3 (0-0)

Upcoming Games: 12/8 vs Fayetteville, 12/12 @ Huntland, and 12/15 vs Moore County, LIVE on The Zinger 100.9.

Past week results: 79-58 L vs Brentwood on 12/5,

43-33 L @ Moore County on 12/1, 52-26 W vs Santa Fe on 11/27.

Cascade Boys: 1-3 (0-0)

Upcoming Games: 12/8 vs Fayetteville, 12/12 @ Huntland, and 12/15 vs Moore County, LIVE on The Zinger 100.9.

Past week results: 68-39 L vs Brentwood on 12/5, 53-44 W @ Moore County on 12/1 (Head Coach Chris Lawson moved to 3-0 in his tenure at Moore County), 67-48 L vs Santa Fe on 11/27.

Community Girls: 3-3 (0-0)

Upcoming Games: 12/8 @ Macon County, 12/12 @ Richland, and 12/14 @ Murfreesboro Central Magnet.

Past week results: 49-38 L @ Cornersville on 12/5, 66-30 L @ Eagleville on 12/1, 50-47 W vs Huntland on 11/28, 59-52 L vs Murfreesboro Central Magnet on 11/27.

Community Boys: 2-4 (0-0)

Upcoming Games: 12/8 @ Macon County, 12/12 @ Richland, and 12/14 @ Murfreesboro Central Magnet.

Past week results: 65-31 W @ Cornersville on 12/5, 53-42 L @ Eagleville 12/1, 74-48 W vs Huntland, 11/28, 68-60 L vs Murfreesboro Central Magnet 11/27.

FOOTBALL RECAP

Shelbyville Central, Cascade, and Community

Shelbyville Central went 10-2 (6-0), after losing their opening game of the season in August to 6A Siegel, but ten straight games to come into the Class 5A playoffs as the top seed in their bracket in their return to Shelbyville's Station airwaves on WLIJ 98.7 and AM 1580.

After beating Hillsboro 41-7 at home in the first round of the playoffs, Central fell 20-14 to Centennial (10-3, 4-1), who lost 14-7 to state runners-up Page (13-2, 5-0) in the quarterfinals.

The Eagles went 1-10 just one season ago in 6A, so the turnaround for that entire football program in one season definitely caught the attention of the entire town. Even though it was partially due to the reclassification, nobody in Shelbyville cares how it happened.

Most of the fan base would say that the team and program is finally back where they belong, and it is hard to argue against that. It was Shelbyville Central's first 10-win season since



2019 when the Eagles went 11-2 but lost in the Class 5A State Quarterfinals, and there is a lot of excitement already building for 2024.

Cascade went 5-6 (2-2) and lost at East Robertson 42-0 in the first round of the playoffs. East Robertson (13-2, 4-1) would go on to the 2A state championship game where they would lose 13-7 to Decatur County Riverside.

Cascade started the year off strong at 4-2, but then dropped four of the final five games to finish sub-.500 for the first time since the COVID season in 2020.



Injuries and limitations on offense were the Champs' downfall in the end as they just couldn't sustain enough drives to play complimentary football with their defense.

Despite losing quite a few seniors, including workhorse running back Sawyer Lovvorn, the starting quarterback, and their top-2 receivers, there is a lot of young talent returning. Brady Lewis will look to get the bulk of the quarterback reps for his sophomore campaign after some promising flashes in spot duty this season. You will be able to listen to what should be a much more dynamic Champions offensive



COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

attack live and on-demand both on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400 and the radio app for the third season in a row in 2024.

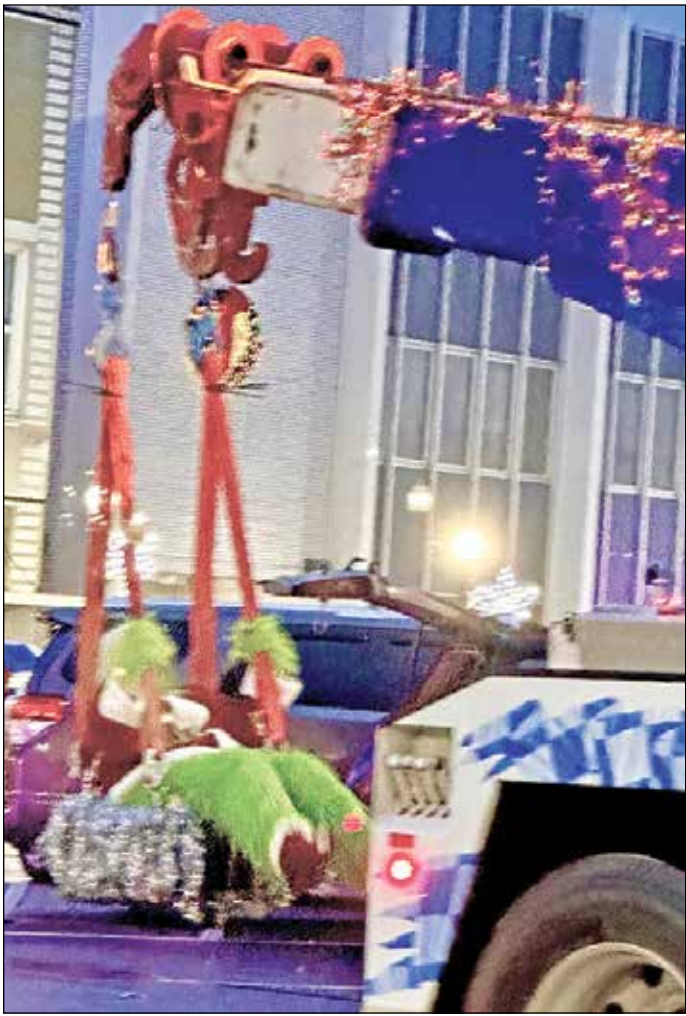
Community went 1-9 (0-4) with their one win coming vs Red Boling Springs 46-44 in the second to last game of the season. Lost to Watertown (4-7, 2-2) 63-0 in a regional game in their last game of the season and missed the playoffs.

A disappointing season overall that included a 68-0 drubbing in the Battle of Bedford at the hands of Cascade, but the team was super young, super thin, and currently in the middle of a long rebuild in Class 1A.



Photos by Dianne Ratley

CROWD FAVORITE - This balloon-designed float was certainly the crowd favorite at Saturday's Christmas parade.



THE, THE, GRINCH! - The Grinch had a little fun on this Christmas parade entry last weekend.



LOST IN THE 50S - This antique car seen in the Shelbyville Christmas parade was in the nostalgic theme.



Photos by Linda Yockey and Dawn Hankins

Historic Shofner Chapel hosts Lessons and Carols

The historic Shofner Chapel off Thompson's Creek just outside Shelbyville off Highway 41A South, was the setting Sunday afternoon for a special Lessons and Carols program. For the first time, a crafts bazaar was conducted prior to the worship service. Billy Crow-

ell was organist and several with family ties to the historic church served as readers. While regular services are no longer held at Shofner, members of the community still have special events there.