

HAPPY NEW YEAR



# SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

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

\$1.00

Thursday, January 4, 2023

www.t-g.com

## State shuts down Viviant Healthcare

*Facility provided years of service*

By DAWN HANKINS  
dawn@t-g.com

Viviant Healthcare on Glen Oaks Road has closed, due to apparent decertification by the state. Workers have been hired to clear out the facility, which is now empty of patients.

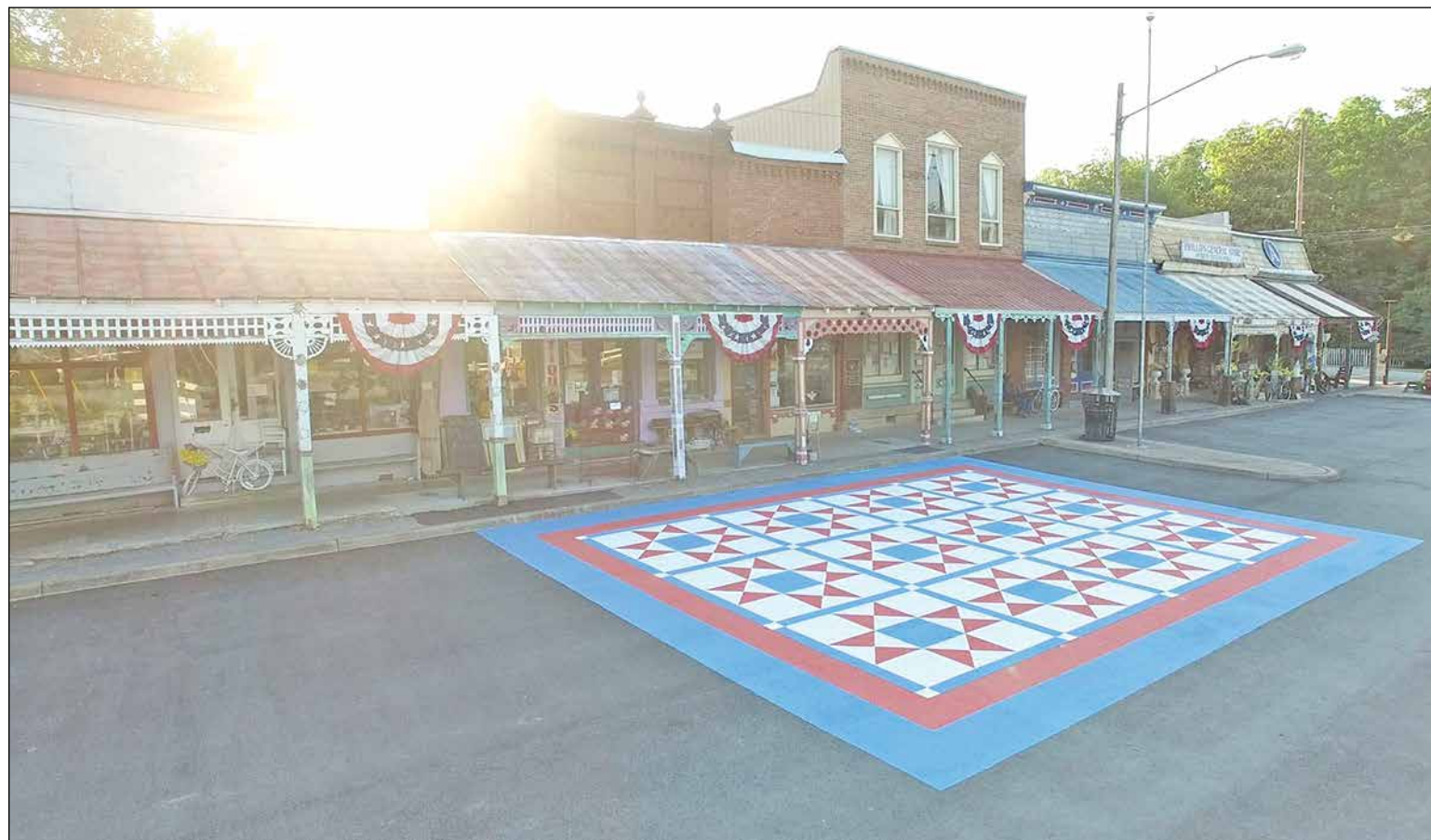
A hired company loaded early Thursday morning some of the last materials from Viviant into moving vans. A few Viviant apartment residents remain.

See VIVIAN, 2A



T-G Photo by Dawn Hankins

A company was hired to remove equipment etc., from Viviant Healthcare last week. The healthcare facility, located on Glen Oaks Road, across from Eakin Primary, is permanently closed.



## New year, new grant for Bell Buckle

By DAWN HANKINS  
dawn@t-g.com

Bell Buckle is off to a good start in 2024, with the state officially announcing last week the town is set to receive \$630,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to address infiltration and inflow in the sewer system.

"We are very pleased to receive this grant," Bell Buckle Mayor Ronnie Lokey said Monday.

State Rep. Pat Marsh's office announced last week a total of \$1,830,000 in CDBG funds for community development projects in Bedford and Moore counties from Tennessee Economic and Community Development (TNECD). The Town of Wartrace and the City of Shelbyville will also receive a CDBG.

Lokey credits Bell Buckle's grant to Sarah Elizabeth of the South Central Tennessee Development District (SCTDD). He said she worked on Bell Buckle's project the last 3 years.

"Her hard work and persistence came to fruition," Lokey said.

He also thanked Rep. Marsh and State Sen. Shane Reeves for their help in obtaining this for Bell Buckle. "These funds, along with ARP funds, will go a long way in helping us to rehabilitate our aging infrastructure."

Regarding ARP funds, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) announced in April a total of 102 grants totaling \$232,709,981 from the state's American Rescue Plan (ARP) fund, part of which TDEC is administering in the form of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure grants.

Bell Buckle received a non-collaborative grant for \$587,437. The state noted that the Town of Bell Buckle will leverage ARP, EPA, and capital funds to address critical wastewater needs, capacity, and significant non-compliance. Bell Buckle's wastewater project will utilize data from a comprehensive flow monitoring system to identify areas of excessive inflow and infiltration. The reduction of excessive inflow and infiltration will significantly reduce overflows and restore capacity at the Bell Buckle Wastewater Treatment

Plant and provide additional capacity within the collection system.

### Wartrace awarded

Right down the road, Wartrace is in line for a \$450,000 CDBG to use for much-needed sewer system improvements. Wartrace Mayor Brian Ross said Tuesday, "We are extremely grateful to have been awarded this year's CDBG. Improving our water and sewer since I have taken office has been one of my many priorities for the Town. And for us to receive this award is encouraging and a blessing to be able to utilize this award towards our Town. We'd like to thank Pat Marsh and the State for their help and support with this year's CDBG award."

The state reports that the Wartrace grant will go toward addressing the high volume of infiltration and inflow.

"This is a significant investment into our community," Marsh said. "These projects are going to have a major impact on the reliability and longevity of the local sewer systems in addition to the quality of our streets. As people continue to move to Tennessee for our conserva-

tive values, it's imperative we continue to take care of and improve our infrastructure."

It was announced during the December City Council meeting that sidewalks at Depot and Derry Streets are in line for future improvements, due to Shelbyville receiving a \$550,000 CDBG.

Neighboring Moore County will receive a \$200,000 CDBG for a street improvement project in the downtown area.

Gov. Bill Lee is traditionally allowed roughly \$1 million in discretionary choices during the CDBG selection process. TNECD approved \$36.6 million in grants to 78 communities across the state for projects in categories including public health and safety, community infrastructure, community revitalization, water system improvements, and sewer system improvements.

The allocation of CDBG funds is based on priorities set through the public meeting process at the local community level. The CDBG program is funded through HUD and administered in Tennessee by the Department of Economic and Community Development.

## City Council to consider annexation, rezoning proposals

By DAWN HANKINS  
dawn@t-g.com

When Shelbyville City Council meets in regular session 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, members will have a plate full of annexations and rezonings to consider—some favorable, some potentially unfavorable.

The annexations on second and final readings are in the Jennings Lane area off Union Street and at this point, are likely to be approved.

During Tuesday's study session, Council read through several resolutions, which are also expected to be approved on second/final reading/public hearing next week.

There are four resolutions on the agenda which have received favorable recommendations by Shelbyville Planning Commission. These have been passed on to Council for final approval.

Council will vote on whether to adopt a plan of services for an area proposed for annexation—48.73 acres located on the north side of Union Street, west of Jennings Lane. This property is being considered for annexation by owner consent. Those owners being James Baum and Elisabeth Gallun.

This same property would be considered for annexation into the City of Shelbyville.

Baum and Gallun are also owners within a resolution for annexation—18.19 acres—located west of Jennings Lane. This said property, under this resolution, would also be annexed by owner consent into the City of Shelbyville.

The Baum and Gallun properties were also listed on the study session agenda under ordinances on first reading for rezoning.

The property, under this ordinance,

See CITY COUNCIL, 2A



# Airport Authority considers control tower

By DAWN HANKINS  
dawn@t-g.com

Shelbyville Municipal Airport off Highway 231 North is growing by leaps and bounds. So, it is no surprise that the time has come to study a possible air traffic control tower.

Airport director Paul Perry told Shelbyville City Council members Tuesday during monthly study session that the Airport Authority would like to send a letter of interest to FAA.

"What you have now, is this particular request from the Airport authority . . . letter of interest that would go to FAA," said Perry. "The reason why this has come about is from multiple discussions from FFA, the State of Tennessee."

Perry said previous discussions with Middle Tennessee State University, which will be soon locating its aviation program near the airport, have also hinted at a potential tower.



The director, who has over 30 years aviation experience, advised Council that a control tower can also help some ground situations, particularly if the airport gets really busy.

Perry said the letter to FAA would not commit the City to anything financial. "It does put us in line. Anything, when working with

the FAA, does take 3 to 5 years."

Mayor Randy Carroll reminded about previous discussions of potentially working with Tennessee National Guard, other members of the military or even MTSU.

Perry said the airport could potentially be a permanent home or training

site for the 107th whose main job is airfield functions. If the airport qualifies for the program, the manpower would be federally funded. MTSU would need sources for funding, according to Perry.

"We're not reinventing the wheel," Perry advised. "It's been done in other airports."



Viviant Healthcare in Shelbyville has reportedly been decertified by the state and permanently closed. All residents have moved.

## VIVIAN

From page 1

Shelbyville Police said Wednesday night that officers are making wellness checks, several times each shift. Family has been notified.

The Murfreesboro facility is also facing similar issues with state as well as Bristol, area news reports indicate.

In Tennessee, nursing homes can be decertified for various reasons-even for lack of appropriate staff.

Tennessee Health Facilities Commission's Board for Licensing Health Care Facilities provides licensure oversight of healthcare facilities in Tennessee, and therefore would be the decertifying agency.

Investigative reports show that over several years' time, Viviant of Shelbyville has had several complaints registered and also has been reported to have had infections listed on reports.

If a nursing home fails to meet such state requirements, it can face decertification. Some other reasons for being decertified include failure to comply with state and federal regulations and poor quality of care.

More information should be available to the public soon in state inspection reports.

## CITY COUNCIL

From page 1

would be rezoned from residential 1 to residential 2 district. The aforementioned 18.19 acres west of Jennings Lane will also be considered for rezoning from R-1 to R-2.

Last week, however, Shelbyville Planning Commission sent to Council an unfavorable recommendation on the rezoning of the 48.73 acres and the 18.19 acres.

Within a 6:3 vote, the planning commission advised Council that R-1, low density residential district, was in better line with current housing in the area, rather than R-2.

Within ordinances on

second and final reading/public hearing, Council also discussed the potential rezoning of a portion of 53 acres owned by Black Diamond Construction. The property is located west of Green Lane and near Northside Park Drive and would be rezoned from residential-4 (R-4), which is high density residential to Residential-3 (R-3) which is medium density residential.

This property has the potential of 160 lots, discussions Tuesday night indicated.

No public comments were requested during the study

session.

City Manager Report City Manager Scott Collins said he may bring before Council next month a proposal that City cemetery becomes a standalone department.

Collins said there continues to be a problem with the City's fire pit. Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) will no longer allow brush with greenery to be burned at the pit. Collins said this is a tough situation, given that 98 percent of most of City brush picked up contains greenery.

## Local residents on dean's list

Young Harris College in Georgia has announced that the following Bedford County students were named to the College's Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester: Katherine Gallagher of Normandy and Jennifer Linton of the Rockvale community. Students must achieve a 3.5 grade point average or better. Young Harris College is a private baccalaureate and master's degree-granting institution located in the mountains of North Georgia.

### Bethany Marie Bull is Lee University graduate

Bethany Marie Bull of Shelbyville graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of arts in psychology from Lee University during the 189th commencement exercises on Dec. 9. She

was among 200 students who received undergraduate and graduate diplomas at Lee, which is a private, Christian university in Cleveland.

### Bedford Countians on Lee dean's list

Lee University's fall dean's list from Bedford County included: Autumn Swanson of Wartrace; Benjamin Reeves of Bell Buckle; Caroline Stone and Seth Countess, both of Shelbyville. Lee University is a private, Christ-centered university located in Cleveland in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Recognition is earned by full-time students with a semester grade point average between 3.7 and 4.00.

### Belmont University dean's list

The following students achieved the dean's list at Belmont University for fall 2023. Eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours (exclusive of audit and pass/fail courses this semester) and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C (inclusive of audit, pass/fail courses and zero-credit courses). Students from Bedford County included: Mollie Creech and Diane Olvera of Bell Buckle

Conner Brown, Carolina Garcia Francisco, Mason Landers, Elle Thompson, Yaquelin Villanueva, all of Shelbyville. Students from the Rockvale community include: Katherine Center and Eva Graham



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# OPINION

## EMBRACING THE POSSIBILITIES OF 2024

# A Bright Future Ahead for the Shelbyville Times-Gazette

As we turn the page to 2024, we reflect on the year gone by and looking forward with optimism to the future.

The year 2023 was indeed a year of challenges and transitions for the Times-Gazette. Like many local newspapers navigating the rapidly changing landscape of media, we faced our share of hurdles.

The temporary closure of our publication was a difficult chapter, not just for our team but for the community that has grown around our newspaper over the years. The search for a new office, which continues into the new year, symbolizes our ongoing journey towards growth and adaptation. The changes in our staff were not just transitions in personnel but were steps in our evolution, bringing fresh perspectives and new energy to our be-

loved newspaper.

However, with every challenge came an opportunity to learn, to adapt, and to grow stronger. And grow stronger we did, thanks to the unwavering support of you, our readers, and the Shelbyville community. Your encouragement and loyalty have been the bedrock of our resilience. It is this community spirit that has carried us through the tough times and will continue to be our guiding force as we venture into 2024.

As we look to the future, we are filled with excitement about the possibilities that 2024 holds for the Shelbyville Times-Gazette. This year, we are committed to coming back stronger than ever. We are exploring innovative ways to bring you the news that matters most to our community. Our focus will remain on

delivering high-quality journalism, telling the stories that need to be told, and being the voice of our community.

We are also excited about embracing new technologies and platforms to enhance our reach and engagement with our readers. As we adapt to the digital era, we are exploring various ways to bring our newspaper to you, whether it's through print, online, or emerging media platforms. Our goal is to be where you are, providing you with news and information that is accessible, relevant, and engaging.

In addition, we are looking forward to strengthening our connections with local businesses, organizations, and individuals. We believe that a strong community newspaper not only reports on the community but also supports and grows

with it. We are committed to being a partner in the development of Shelbyville, highlighting local stories of success, innovation, and community spirit.

As we embark on this new year, we invite you to join us on this exciting journey. Your feedback, ideas, and stories are what make the Shelbyville Times-Gazette not just a newspaper, but a community asset. We are here to listen, to engage, and to grow together.

In closing, we extend our deepest gratitude for your continued support. It is your belief in the value of local journalism that fuels our passion and dedication. Together, let's make 2024 a year of renewal, growth, and community. Here's to a bright future for the Shelbyville Times-Gazette and the wonderful community it serves.

## PENCIL SHAVINGS

# Longing for a much simpler life, again

By **HANKINS**

**DAWN**

When you work full time, as we do, carving out those precious moments can be tough.

I'm not much of one to make New Year's resolutions. But most every year, I have a bucket list of a few things I'd like to accomplish.

In 2024, I'm praying to read my Bible even more. You know, make time, when you don't think you have the time.

Another bucket list note came about after a discussion with my daughter last weekend. We had a delightful time with the 3 littles at a country discount store operated by a special group of people in Lincoln County.

While the world is content to race to the multi-million-dollar finish line, we discussed becoming more self-sufficient. Such a lifestyle includes more home cooking, gardening, canning and such.

I also want to make sure we carve out more Sundays for home cooked, family meals. I can smell the fresh-baked rolls now.

We want to teach our littles good ways of living—those which will sustain them through this world. It is hard for them to give up their games and electronics but we want them to know there's other good things in life to do.

One thing on my bucket list is to look for an old-fashioned, outdoor croquet set. To my surprise, they're still sold! I loved this game as a child!

I do miss my childhood days of growing up in the country on a self-sufficient farm. Self-sufficiency farming is producing most or all of your food on your own land with little to no external inputs or help from other people or organizations.

But I also remember how hard some of those days were, killing hogs, preserving the meat, planting potatoes, harvesting the produce.

Thankfully, I still live in the country. I have land of my own. I am thankful.

My real prayer for 2024 is that we will see change in America. There is so much stress. The suicide rate is at an all-time high.

Sadly, food prices are through the roof. More families are becoming homeless.

The fact is the world can't go on at the pace it is going right now. If you think everything is just sunshine and roses in America, do some research.

Food prices rose 2.9% between November 2022 and November 2023, according to the most recent consumer price index report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. By comparison, at the same time in 2022 prices rose 10.6% over a one-year period.

The CPI uses indexes to measure changes in average costs of items in a given period. There are specific indexes for these items, including food costs.

Restaurant patrons are still paying more (5.3%) for food than they did a year ago. And the price index rose 0.4% from October to November. (Nerd Wallet.)

Hence why we're going to cook from home more in 2024. While it costs, you can stretch food dollars a bit more with freshly prepared meals.

I really don't believe that 2024 is going to be much different, politically, than 2023. Then again, it is an election year.

I know it is odd, but I'm already looking forward to November. Why?

Change is coming. To wait on God is to live a life of desire toward Him, delight in Him, dependence on Him, and devotedness to Him. Matthew Henry



**AREA FIRE** - Firefighters work to put out a single, family house fire early Monday morning in Petersburg. This was a total loss for the family.

## IN CASE OF FIRE:

# Tips from the American Red Cross

## Know how to safely operate a fire extinguisher

Remember to GET OUT, STAY OUT and CALL 9-1-1 or your local emergency phone number.

Yell "Fire!" several times and go outside right away. If you live in a building with elevators, use the stairs. Leave all your things where they are and save yourself.

If closed doors or handles are warm or smoke blocks your primary es-

cape route, use your second way out. Never open doors that are warm to the touch.

If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your exit. Close doors behind you.

If smoke, heat or flames block your exit routes, stay in the room with doors closed. Place a wet towel under the door and call the fire department

or 9-1-1. Open a window and wave a brightly colored cloth or flashlight to signal for help.

Once you are outside, go to your meeting place and then send one person to call the fire department. If you cannot get to your meeting place, follow your family emergency communication plan.

**If your clothes catch**

**on fire:**

Stop what you're doing. Drop to the ground and cover your face if you can.

Roll over and over or back and forth until the flames go out. Running will only make the fire burn faster.

Once the flames are out, cool the burned skin with water for three to five minutes. Call for medical attention.

## Community Calendar

### Commission Meeting

Bedford County Board of Commissioners will meet in regular session Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. in the Bedford County Courthouse, second floor, courtroom.

### Democratic Party Meeting

Bedford County Democratic Party will meet 6 p.m., Monday, Jan. 15, at El Mexico Mexican Restaurant, 724 N. Main St., Shelbyville.

# Is your kitchen a fire hazard?

## Beware of Common Fire Risks

Most home fires start in the kitchen during cooking — usually on stove-

tops —not in the oven. Be sure to stay in the kitchen when cooking, frying, or grilling on your stove top.

Check for curtains, towel racks or even paper towel dispensers sitting too close to the burners.

If your microwave

isn't built in, make sure it's clear of surrounding clutter and its vents aren't obstructed.

If you don't already have one, buy a fire extinguisher to keep within easy reach should something ignite while you're

cooking.

Remember, don't toss water on a grease fire if you're caught without an extinguisher. If a fire starts in a pan — and many do — put a lid on it to suffocate the flames.

## Let us help you spread the news!

We welcome you to submit content for publication in The Times-Gazette and on our website [www.t-g.com](http://www.t-g.com). Scan the QR code to the right or visit the URL to submit your content.

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Shelbyville firefighters demonstrate equipment during the Leadership Bedford class visit in December. See story and additional photos inside.

# Leadership Bedford has class day

*Law enforcement, public safety, topics*

The Leadership Bedford class spent Dec. 6 learning about local law enforcement and public safety.

The day began with a tour of the Shelbyville Police Department and Shelbyville Fire Department. Deputy Chief of Police Brian Crews gave the class an overview of the police department, and Fire Marshall Jason Richardson led the leadership group on a tour of the main fire station.

The class then traveled to the Bedford County E-911 Communications Center. Director Philip Noel described the day-to-day operations of the Comm Center.

While touring the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy (TFACA), the class enjoyed lunch at the academy sponsored by Atmos Energy.

A panel of speakers talked about additional, local public safety departments and shared information about their respective roles in Shelbyville and Bedford County and how leadership plays an important role in serving the community. These speakers included Bedford County Fire Marshall Jonathan Pearson; Shelbyville Fire Chief Matt Doak; E-911 Director Philip Noel; Bedford County Emergency Management Agency Director David Kitchens; and TFACA Director Jeff El-

liott. Chief Doak shared 12 Leadership Traits that an effective leader should have: justice, judgment, dependability, integrity, decisiveness, initiative, bearing, unselfishness, courage, knowledge, loyalty, and endurance.

Leadership Bedford's class day concluded with a visit and tour of Bedford County Justice Complex.

Assistant District Attorney Lisa Zavogiannis gave an overview of the Bedford County Court system, and County Clerk and Master Curt Cobb spoke about the Chancery and Probate Courts.

Class participants appreciated the opportunity to tour the 415-bed jail; it was one of the highlights of the class day.

Tiffany Beavers, a member of the Leadership Bedford adult class, said that her favorite part of the class day was the discussion on leadership led by Chief Doak. "He had some inspiring words to say, and it's been a cool process to learn more about the place where I live and work through the leadership program," Beavers said.

This month, the Leadership Bedford class will learn about local financial institutions and real estate businesses in Bedford County.



Leadership Bedford class members each had a favorite visit during their tour of law enforcement and public safety. These class members enjoyed a tour of Shelbyville Fire Department.



Bedford County Sheriff's Department personnel discussed the justice complex with Leadership Bedford class members.



Deputy Police Chief Brian Crews gives the Leadership Bedford class an overview of Shelbyville Police Department.



Leadership Bedford's class day concluded with a visit and tour of Bedford County Justice Complex.



## New Destiny Dog Rescue accepting donations

New Destiny Dog Rescue of Bedford County was formed several years ago to help reduce the unwanted and neglected dog populations in Bedford County. In this new year, their work continues.

New Destiny is a non-profit agency. Donations are tax deductible.

But did you know volunteers operate the Upscale Indoor Yard Sale Store as financial support for the dog rescue and adoptions? It is filled with antiques, collectables and seasonal décor.

The store is located at 202 East Highland Ave. Hours are Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Antique shoppers could spend hours looking at the merchandise at the Upscale Indoor Yard Sale Store, which supports New Destiny Dog Rescue of Bedford County.



Shoppers will find upscale home décor at New Destiny Dog Rescue, 202 East Highland Ave.

## The Mayor: New year baby of 1967

Look what someone found recently in the archives. Did you know that Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham was pictured in the Times-Gazette in January of 1967 as the first baby of the new year? As a result, his family won the T-G's first baby of the year contest.

Chad was listed as weighing in at 8 lb. and 10 oz. He was born on the afternoon of Jan. 2, 1967, at Bedford County General Hospital (then on Union Street.)

It was also noted in the T-G that Chad Donovan (Mayor Graham) was only the sixth boy to win the contest in the then 16-year history of the paper's new year baby contest.

Bertha Hodge was attending nurse. The late Dr. John Derryberry delivered Chad into the arms of his parents, Daniel and Joan Graham.

So perhaps this Times-Gazette article was the start of great things for the Mayor? Happy birthday!

## Gas prices fall six cents

Tennessee moves to 9th least expensive market in the nation

Tennessee drivers are starting the new year with pump prices cheaper than last year. Over last week, gas prices across the state dropped six cents, on average. The Tennessee Gas Price average is now \$2.74 which is 16 cents less expensive than

one month ago and 15 cents less than one year ago.

"We are starting a new year with cheaper prices at the pump, and are also seeing the cheapest gas prices since December 2022," said Megan Cooper, spokeswoman for AAA - The Auto Club Group. "We typically see lower gas prices at the start of the year thanks to lower gasoline demand, and barring any major changes in the oil market,

it's likely these cheaper prices will continue through this week - especially if crude oil prices remain low."

**Quick Facts**  
59% of Tennessee gas stations have prices below \$2.75  
The lowest 10% of pump prices are \$2.49 for regular unleaded  
The highest 10% of pump prices are \$3.15 for regular unleaded  
Tennessee is the 9th least

expensive market in the nation

Tennessee Regional Prices  
Most expensive metro markets - Jackson (\$2.85), Memphis (\$2.82), Nashville (\$2.75)

Least expensive metro markets - Chattanooga (\$2.62), Clarksville (\$2.68), Cleveland (\$2.70)

## CARRIAGE HOUSE SUPPORTS CAREGIVER RELIEF

Leeanne Reeves, executive director of the Carriage House, notes there were 18 beautiful items donated by companies and individuals for the Christmas fundraiser for Caregiver Relief of Bedford County. Reeves said there were a few bidding competitions that really increased the fun and excitement of the silent auction. "I'm pleased to say we raised \$1,137 for the Caregiver Relief Program."



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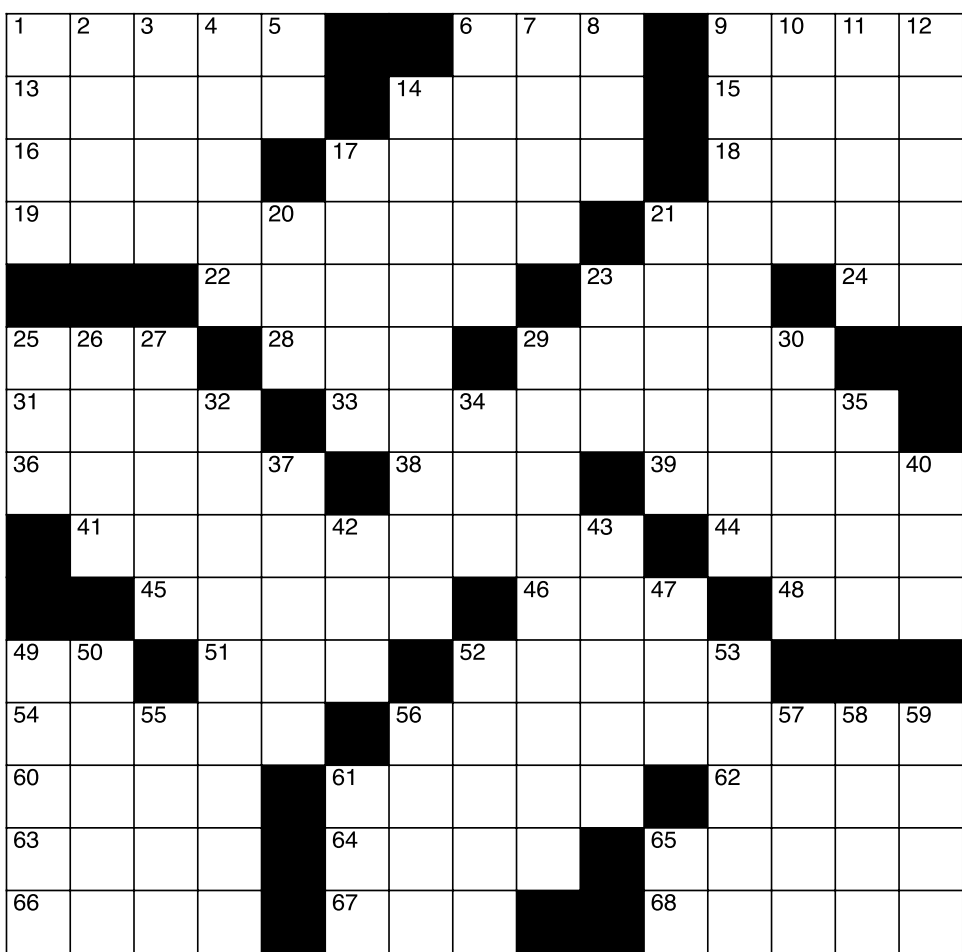
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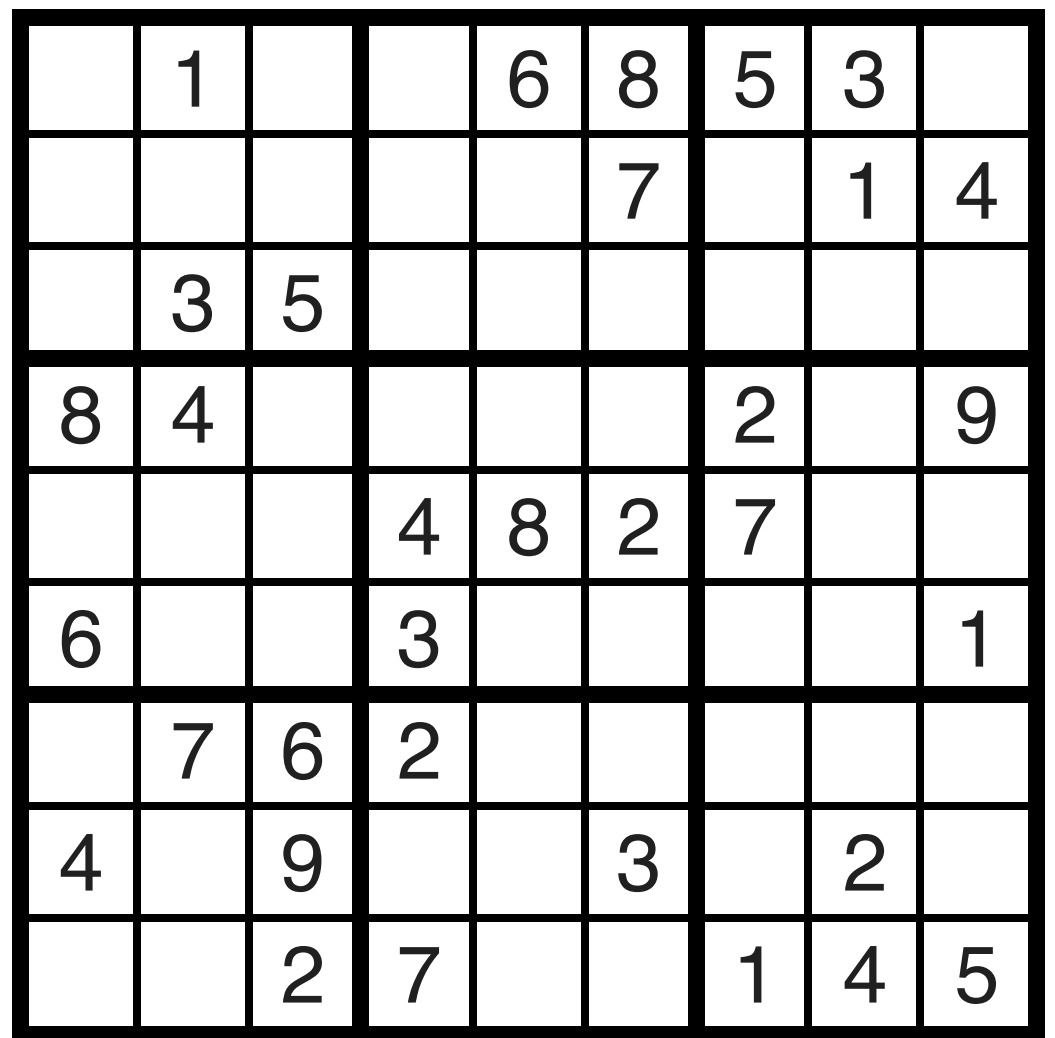


**CLUES ACROSS**

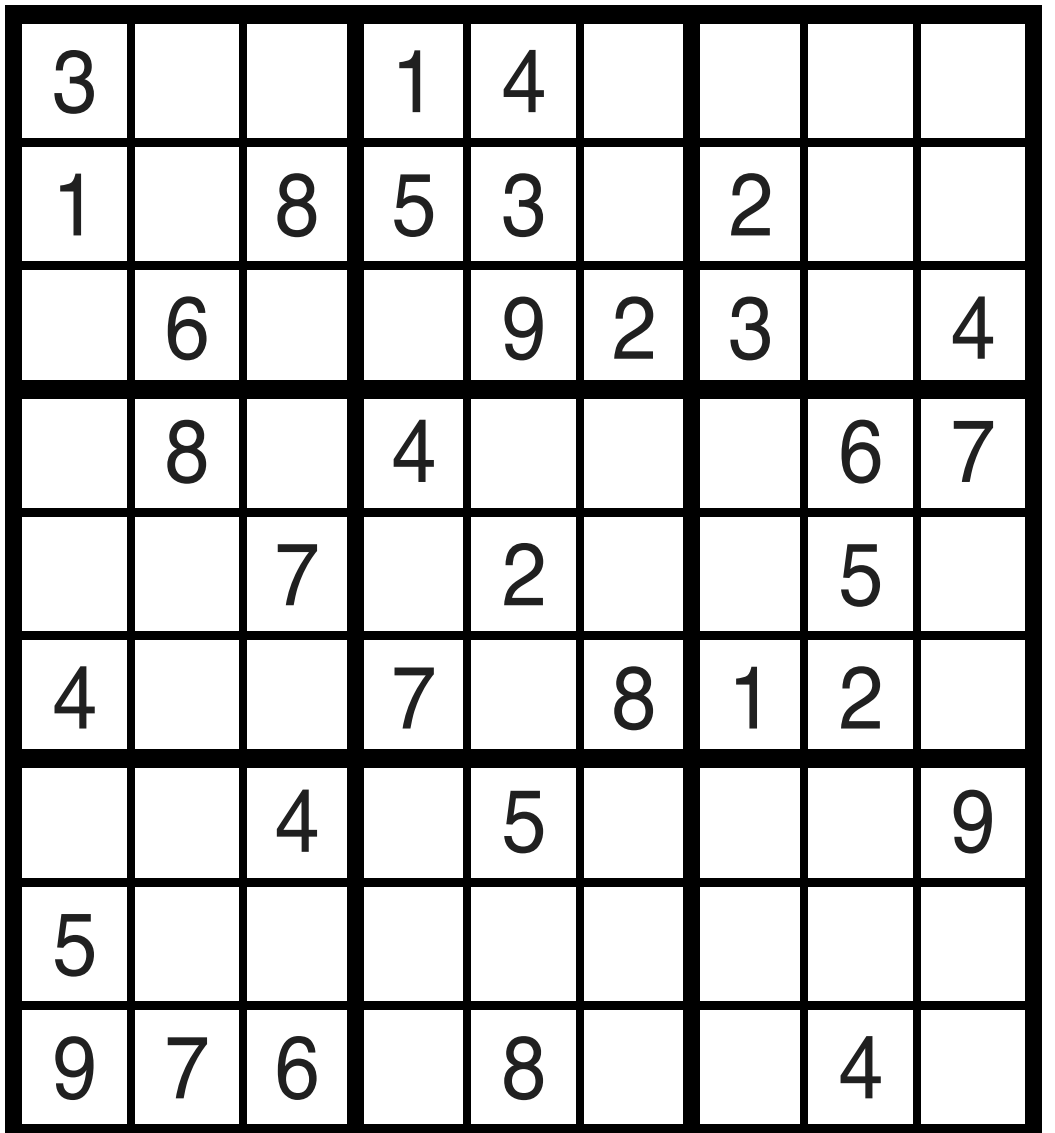
- 1. Bleated
- 6. Snakelike fish
- 9. Database management system
- 13. Russian-American violinist
- 14. Wendy's founder Thomas
- 15. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- 16. Negatives
- 17. Rescued
- 18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 19. Assigns tasks to
- 21. Island nation native
- 22. Trade
- 23. Detergent brand
- 24. Famed NY Giant
- 25. Before
- 28. Split pulses
- 29. Extremely angry; highly incensed
- 31. Body part
- 33. American state
- 36. David \_\_, US playwright
- 38. Move one's head slightly
- 39. Secret rendezvous
- 41. Improved
- 44. A place to exercise
- 45. 18-year astronomical period
- 46. Automobile
- 48. You can take it
- 49. A radio band
- 51. Jaws of an animal
- 52. Short-billed rails
- 54. Chinese province
- 56. Shameless and undisguised
- 60. Horizontal passage into a mine
- 61. Adult males
- 62. Fail to entertain
- 63. Dried-up
- 64. City in north-central Utah
- 65. Southern U.S.
- 66. German river
- 67. Oxygen
- 68. Make law

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Curved segment
- 2. Wings
- 3. From pentane (Chemistry)
- 4. Gradually gets into
- 5. Commercial document (abbr.)
- 6. Overhang
- 7. Christmas and New Year's have them
- 8. Type of bulb
- 9. Lacking a plan
- 10. Tattle
- 11. Rockers like it "heavy"
- 12. One who's been canonized
- 14. Indicate time and place
- 17. Nobel Prize winner in physics
- 20. The voice of Olaf
- 21. Fragmented rock
- 23. They \_\_
- 25. Master of Philosophy
- 26. Backside
- 27. Landmark house in L.A.
- 29. An act of undue intimacy
- 30. From which a later word is derived
- 32. Equal to 10 meters
- 34. Neither
- 35. Computer language
- 37. Sacred book of Judaism
- 40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- 42. A way to dedicate
- 43. Challenges
- 47. British Air Aces
- 49. Large, influential bank
- 50. Portended
- 52. Cavalry-sword
- 53. Vaccine developer
- 55. Napoleonic Wars general
- 56. Italian Seaport
- 57. Hip joint
- 58. \_\_ Clapton, musician
- 59. Insect repellent
- 61. Decorative scarf
- 65. Delaware



Level: Beginner



Level: Beginner



Solve the code to discover words related to New Year's celebrations. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 17 = N)

**A. 1 9 13 23 24 13 5 17 4**  
Clue: Bubbly drink

**B. 23 26 25 17 26 5 9 16**  
Clue: Twelve a.m.

**C. 12 4 22 7 20 3 16 26 7 17**  
Clue: Plan to change

**D. 24 13 12 16 2**  
Clue: Fun event

Answers: A. champagne B. midnight C. resolution D. party



THIS POPULAR FOOD MAY REDUCE INFLAMMATION (SWELLING) AND STUFFY NOSE WHEN SICK.

ANSWER: CHICKEN SOUP

**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.

2	1		10
	6	4	10
9	3		20
11	10	19	

8	6	8
4	9	0
1	1	1

Solution

**Get Scrambled**

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

TOH UPSO

ANSWER: Hot soup

**THIS DAY IN... HISTORY**

**1911:** KAPPA ALPHA PSI, THE WORLD'S THIRD-OLDEST AND LARGEST BLACK FRATERNITY, IS FOUNDED.

**1944:** THE DAILY MAIL BECOMES THE FIRST MAJOR LONDON NEWSPAPER TO BE PUBLISHED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.

**1972:** U.S. PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON ANNOUNCES THE SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM.

**New word**

**SIMMER**

to keep food just below boiling when cooking or heating it

*How they SAY that in...*

**ENGLISH:** Soup  
**SPANISH:** Sopa  
**ITALIAN:** Minestra  
**FRENCH:** Soupe  
**GERMAN:** Suppe

**Did You Know?**

SOUPS ARE BROKEN DOWN INTO TWO GROUPS: CLEAR SOUPS AND THICK, CREAMY SOUPS.

**GET THE PICTURE?**

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CHICKEN SOUP

# CLASSIFIEDS

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

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## HELP WANTED / DRIVERS

**NEED YOUR CDL? WE DO** CDL Training, testing, Job placement. Company paid training available. Training at 119 EL Morgan Dr. Jackson, TN or 6711 Reese Road, Memphis, TN. Call 800-423-8820 Or visit www.drive-train.org (TnScan)

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## AUCTIONS

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

## Puzzle Solutions

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

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

B	A	A	E	D		E	E	L		D	B	M	S		
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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**



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**Dorothy Paulene Stafford**

Dorothy Paulene Stafford, 81, of Shelbyville, died December 24, 2023 at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. She was born July 9, 1942 in Columbia, TN.; a retired employee of the Bedford County Convenience Center and a member of the Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Leonard Stafford; her parents, Johnny Henry Dorton and Marie Dorton Davis and a brother, Douglas Dorton.

She is survived by her children, James Leonard Stafford, Billy Colen Stafford, Cathy Diane Hurt, Paul Howard Stafford all of Shelbyville and eight grandchildren.

Per her request she will be cremated. No services are scheduled.



**Cynthia "Cindy" Wassom Atkins**

Cynthia "Cindy" Wassom Atkins, age 65, of Shelbyville passed suddenly from this life, December 30, 2023, at Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital with her family at her side. A Celebration of Life Service will be held 2pm Saturday, January 6, 2024, at Midland Heights Baptist Church. Brother Scott Reed will officiate.

The family will receive visitors 12:30 p.m. until service time at the church. Cindy was born November 7, 1958, in Murfreesboro, TN, to Gerald "Hugh" and Elfreda Mingle Wassom. Cindy was a 1976 graduate of Tullahoma High School and then went on to obtain an associate's degree from Motlow State Community College.

She was employed with Newell Brands until 2016 before she had to retire early due to a Parkinson's Disease diagnosis. Cindy, lovingly known as "GIGi," was an avid fan of the Tennessee Volunteers and the Atlanta Braves. Even with her health diagnosis and the many challenges she experienced later in her life she was always there to make someone laugh with her witty sense of humor or just being goofy, she definitely was her father's daughter. But above all these things she was a loving, devoted mother and grandmother. She loved her children fiercely and was so very proud of them both, but those grandchildren were the apple of her eye. She was a faithful member of Midland Heights Baptist Church. Gigi was a cherished mom, sister, and grandmother who will be greatly missed. Preceding her in death are her parents, Gerald H. and Elfreda Mingle Wassom. Survivors include children: Ashley (Justin) Youngblood, Taylor (Maria) Gannon both of Shelbyville, TN. She is also survived by four grandchildren Jaxon and Kinzleigh Gannon, Leslie and Anthony Revelo. Sisters: Renee (Alan) Baker and Angie (Mason) Bryant both of Kingston, TN. Niece: Breigh (Darren) Burns and their two daughters, Aubree and Cailyn. She is also survived by chosen sister Cathy Crick and a host of cousins.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.



**Nancy Louise Prosser**

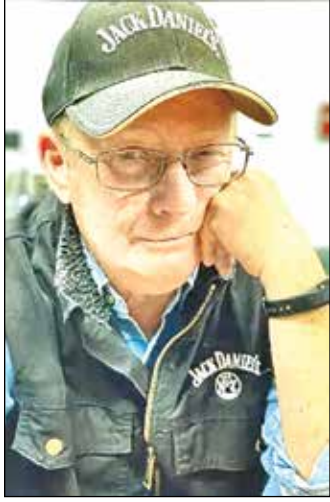
Nancy Louise Prosser, age 66, of Shelbyville, passed from this life December 25, 2023, at her home after an extended illness.

Born March 3, 1957, in Fayetteville, TN. She was the daughter of the late Doyle Pickle and Katie Swing Pickle. Along with her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Earl Prosser; and her brother, Jerry Pickle.

She is survived by: sister, Linda Burnett Wilson of Bell Buckle; close friends, Thomas (Josh) Floyd of Lebanon, and Gail Bradford of Shelbyville. She is also survived by numerous cousins and other extended family members.

Per her request, she chose cremation and no public services will be held.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.



**Michael Harold Fyffe**

Michael (Mike) Harold Fyffe, age 71, of Lynchburg, TN departed this life on December 26, 2023.

Mike was born on April 21, 1952 to the late Walter and Evelyn Fyffe of Washington, Indiana. He was of the Catholic faith. While growing up, he attended St Simons Catholic Church and later became a graduate of Washington Catholic High School.

Mike moved to Tennessee in 1983 where he was employed as a supervisor at Stanley Tools in Shelbyville, TN until its closing. During that time, he met his wife Sherry, and they later established their residence in Lynchburg, TN where Mike was employed as a tour guide at Jack Daniel's Distillery.

Mike was a loving family man and a lifelong fan of the Chicago Bears. He loved fishing and hunting and also enjoyed watching history documentaries, especially those pertaining to WWII. Those who knew and loved Mike appreciated his quick wit, wonderful sense of humor, and unique points of view on a variety of topics.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Evelyn Fyffe, sister Janice Marie Fyffe, and grandson Davin Slade Lynch.

He is survived by his loving wife Sherry Smith Fyffe, his children: Ryan Fyffe of Anderson, SC, Wesley Richardson of Lynchburg, TN, Tonya Reid of Normandy, TN, Shelly (Bruce) Dunnivant of Shelbyville, TN, and Amy (Jeremy) Knight of Normandy, TN, his siblings: Jim (Nancy) Fyffe of Evansville, IN, Pat Fyffe of Washington, IN, and Barb (Chris) Risch of Washington, IN, and his grandchildren Asher Fyffe of Anderson, SC, Hannah Cardwell of Murfreesboro, TN, Emma Smith of Normandy, TN, and Kara Beth Knight of Normandy, TN. Mike also leaves behind several nieces and nephews.

Family and friends are invited to honor and celebrate the life of Mike Fyffe. Visitation was held at Doak-Howell Funeral Home on Friday, Dec. 29, from 5 to 8 pm. Funeral services were held the following day on Saturday, December 30, at 10 a.m. in the chapel of Doak-Howell Funeral Home with Pastor CJ Thompson officiating. Burial followed at Clark Cemetery in the Longview Community.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.



**William F. Jenne**

William F. Jenne, 92, of Shelbyville, TN went to be with his Lord on December 23, 2023.

Bill was born December 7, 1931 in Memphis, TN to Clayborn and Lillian Jenne of Memphis. He leaves his wife of 49 years, Joni, of the home address, children Justin (Hope), Rodney, Charles, William, and Lynn, and the pride and joy of his life, grandchildren Jagger, Juke Rein, and Judge.

Bill spent his life as an industrial contractor building hospitals, military installations, and multi-million-dollar private sector structures. His favorite project, the Airborne Museum in Fayetteville, NC, was named the North Carolina Project of the Year in 2000. Bill spent his last years working on projects for his church, family and friends.

In addition to woodworking, Bill loved the Tennessee Walking Horse. He participated in the industry for more than 60 years and enjoyed watching his wife, Joni, and son, Justin, show horses. He was always behind the scenes helping them when they showed and assisting with putting on many, many horse shows.

At the deceased's request there will be no funeral. Monetary donations may be made in Bill's honor to Bedford Cancer Foundation, P. O. Box 1523, Shelbyville, TN 37162.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.



**Levonte Simmons**

Levonte O'Neal Simmons, age 10 months, of Shelbyville, passed from this life December 23, 2023, at home with family by his side.

Born February 18, 2023, in Murfreesboro, TN. Levonte was the son of Leslie Nicole Simmons and Jalil Singleton. Along with his parents he is survived by: big sister, Nicolie Simmons; grandmother, Ruby Simmons; and great grandmother, Janice Metcalf. He was also survived by; many cousins and other extended family members that loved and adored him.

Funeral services were held 1:00 p.m. Saturday, December 30, 2023, in the chapel of Doak-Howell Funeral Home with Pastor Jeff Rasnick officiating. Burial followed at Willow Mount Cemetery.

Visitation was held prior to the funeral service on Saturday at the funeral home.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.



**Charlotte Ann Presley**

Charlotte Ann Martin Presley, age 73 of Shelbyville, passed from this life Saturday, December 30, 2023.

A native of Shelbyville, Mrs. Charlotte was born on February 5, 1950, to the late Robert L. and Virginia Martin. Along with her parents she was preceded in death by: her husband of 44 years, David E. Presley; an infant son, Lawrence David; and brother, Terry Martin.

Charlotte was a graduate of SCHS class of 1968 and attended Shelbyville Beauty School to gain her license in cosmetology. She was a hairdresser for nearly five decades, having started well before graduating high school and extended until 2019. She worked with various salons in her career that include, Sara's Beautyroma and Elizabeth's Beauty Shop before opening her own beauty salon, Charlotte's Hair Fashions, in the early 1980s. She considered her customers her extended family and treated them all with love and care.

Charlotte's nature was one of giving and nurturing. She was accepting of all people and engaged easily in conversation with others. Her specialty and gift were making others look and feel beautiful.

She was a faithful church member of First Assembly of God and was active in the women's groups, praise team and missions.

As a lover of music and gospel music, she didn't enjoy learning to read music until becoming aware of her natural ability to play music by ear. She became very fluent with the piano and accordion along with a wonderful singing voice.

She is survived by: daughters, Karisa Matusek and husband Mike, and Renee Presley both of Shelbyville; grandchildren, Landon Calderon and wife Jessica, Abigail Calderon and Ean Matusek; great-grandson, Lucas Calderon; sisters, Faye Crews and husband William and Cathy Cooper; and brothers, Robert Martin and wife Trudy and Harvey Martin and wife Lisa.

She was blessed with an extended family of nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

Her friends were numerous but her childhood best-friend, Brenda Winn Overcast, was as close as a sister. Also a close group of school friends and sorority friends that she met regularly for fellowship, cards, and games.

Funeral services will be held 1:00 p.m. Wednesday January 3, 2024, at First Assembly of God with Pastor JP Cannon, Reverend Glenn Forsee and Pastor Eddie Reed officiating. Burial will follow at Willow Mount Cemetery.

Visitation will be held 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Wednesday, at First Assembly of God prior to funeral services.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to local charities that were special to her such as:

The Shelbyville Soup Kitchen, St. Jude Children's Hospital, The local DAV chapter

A Scholarship in her name will be established for a Cosmetology student at Shelbyville Central High School. Donations can be earmarked as such to SCHS.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

## Tennessee Equine HAC to meet

The Tennessee Equine Health Advisory Commission will meet Jan. 10, 2024 at the Ellington Agricultural Center in Nashville, Tenn.

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. CDT in the Moss Building conference room located at 440 Hogan Road. Commission member participation will be allowed by electronic means.

The meeting is open to the public to attend. Participants may join via an internet-based

teleconferencing system. There is no cost to participants. Instructions and alternative methods of communication are included at the bottom of this notice.

The agenda includes approval of the previous meeting's minutes, an update on equine health in Tennessee, and a review of the equine economic impact study results.

A portion of the meeting will be reserved for public comment, which may be submitted either orally or in writing regarding business before the board.

The Tennessee Equine Health Advisory Commission studies the state of equine health, emerging health concerns, and other equine industry issues the commission deems relevant. The commission consists of nine members and is attached to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture for administrative purposes.

Microsoft Teams meeting instructions:

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

Click here to join the meeting

Meeting ID: 294 318 929 755

Passcode: 3k7U49

To make a comment, click the Raise Hand button to be recognized by the Chairman.

Or call in (audio only)

+1 629-209-

4396,,684797822#

Phone Conference ID:

684 797 822#

Agenda:

Tennessee Equine Health Advisory Commission Meeting – January 10, 2024

- Welcome - Dr. Monty McInturff – Commission Chair

- Review and approve previous meeting minutes

- Equine Health and Welfare update - Dr. Samantha Beaty, State Veterinarian

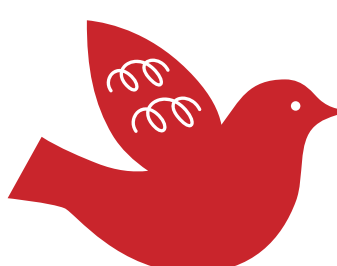
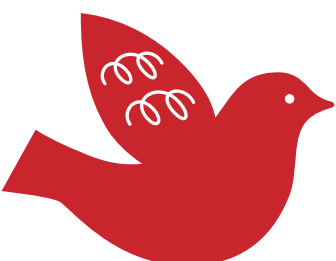
- Equine Economic Impact Study – Review the council's position on the completed Equine

Economic impact study

- Other business

- Public comment

- Adjourn





## SPORTS

## NASCAR Great Passes Away on New Years Eve

Cale Yarborough, NASCAR Hall-of-Famer and racing legend, passed away on New Years Eve in Florence, South Carolina, at the age of 84.

Yarborough was one of only two drivers in NASCAR history to win three consecutive championships, doing so in 1976, 1977, and 1978. He currently sits tied for sixth place with Jimmie Johnson with 83 career wins, and he won the Daytona 500 four times. His 14.82% winning percentage is ninth best all-time and third among those with 500 or more starts.

Heralded as being tough as nails throughout his career, it was perhaps his post-racing career that left a bigger impact on the sport as a whole. He owned his own team after he retired from racing in the late 1980s which in turn helped jump-start Jeremy Mayfield's career in 1994.

Yarborough eventually sold the team in 2000, but not before he left a lasting impact on the racetrack. He

was the first driver to win a race with an in-car camera, doing so for CBS at the 1983 Daytona 500.

His driving career was more than enough to confirm his place in the International Motorsports Hall of Fame in 1993 and the NASCAR Hall-of-Fame in 2012.

Cale Yarborough was considered to be one of, if not the toughest driver NASCAR may have ever seen, and that sentiment goes beyond the track. He once survived a 5,000ft skydiving accident when his parachute failed to open. He was also struck by lightning and bit by a rattlesnake as a child, obviously surviving both of these encounters. His car was even launched off of the track at Darlington Raceway once and he walked away mostly unharmed.

Yarborough's career helped put NASCAR in the national spotlight as one of racing's greatest legends, and his legacy will live on as such.



Photo Courtesy of Motorsports Hall of Fame

## New Year, New...Us?

Noah Maddox  
Sports Editor

As the calendar flips over to a new year once again, we are reminded of everything we may have accomplished over the previous 365 days. New Year resolutions may come with reflection for some, for others it may just be a reminder to seize every day and opportunity like it may be your last.

I tend to do a bit of both, and I think it is important for most people to do the same. You never know what could happen to your friends and family at any given moment, and the holidays always bring that stark reminder of how much those people really care about and mean to you.

Now, as the calendar flips to 2024, all of us at the Times-Gazette want to thank you for sticking with us even through a tumultuous last half of 2023. For

me personally, I want to provide the best sports coverage possible to all of our readers this year, and it starts this week with district play for high school basketball.

As you saw with last week's edition, our coverage doesn't just stop at basketball either. Wrestling is currently taking place, and in the upcoming spring there will be baseball, softball, and boys soccer, just to name a few of the local sports. Outside of the local coverage, you can expect a bit more content about Middle Tennessee State University beginning this week.

We are hitting the ground running in 2024, and we are glad that you are running right there with us. Whether it's by reading the weekly print edition or periodically checking up on the website, we greatly appreciate all of it as we strive to continually improve. Here's to an even better 2024!

## Bedford County Basketball Weekly Roundup

The Shelbyville Central Golden Eaglettes traveled down to Panama City, Florida, last week to play in the Marlin Christmas Classic, going 2-1. They represented Tennessee, and more specifically this wonderful city of Shelbyville, extremely well, playing three games in three days at a very high level. The Central Boys went 0-2 in Franklin at the Music City Hoopfest held at Page High School.

District play either begins or has already started this week for all six programs, so be sure to check here every week, and the website the day following a game, to stay updated on how every team proceeds through

the most important time of the regular season.

**Shelbyville Central Girls: 10-3 (0-0)**

Upcoming Game(s): 1/4 vs Tullahoma, 1/5 @ Riverdale, and 1/9 @ Coffee County (where District 9-AAAA play begins) LIVE on WLIJ 98.7 and AM 1580.

Past week result(s): 12/30 W 60-40 vs Jordan Christian Prep (FL), 12/29 L 49-36 vs Pickens (GA), and 12/28 W 49-34 vs Brewbaker Tech (AL). All games at the Marlin Christmas Class in Panama City, Florida.

**Shelbyville Central Boys: 3-10 (0-0)**

Upcoming Game(s): 1/4 vs Tullahoma, 1/5 @ Riverdale, and 1/9 @ Coffee

County (where District 9-AAAA play begins) LIVE on WLIJ 98.7 and AM 1580.

Past week result(s): 12/29 L 47-38 vs Dyersburg and 12/28 L 66-55 vs Page. All games at the Music City Hoopfest at Page High School in Franklin, Tennessee.

**Cascade Girls: 5-11 (0-1)**

Upcoming Game(s): 1/5 @ Community and 1/9 @ Eagleville, LIVE on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400.

Past week result(s): 1/2 60-41 L vs Cannon County and 12/29 L 76-44 @ Summertown

**Cascade Boys: 5-11 (0-1)**

Upcoming Game(s): 1/5

@ Community and 1/9 @ Eagleville, LIVE on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400.

Past week result(s): 1/2 71-48 L vs Cannon County and 12/29 L @ Summertown

**Community Girls: 3-11 (0-0)**

Upcoming Game(s): 1/5 vs Cascade, 1/9 @ Mt. Pleasant.

Past week result(s): 12/29 L 47-32 @ Moore County.

**Community Boys: 6-9 (0-0)**

Upcoming Game(s): 1/5 vs Cascade, 1/9 @ Mt. Pleasant.

Past week result(s): OFF WEEK.

## MTSU New Years Report

## Women's Basketball

The Middle Tennessee State University Lady Raiders are off to a flying start to the 2023/24 college basketball season. Led by long-time Eaglettes head coach and MT alum, Rick Insell, MTSU is off to a 10-4 start heading into conference play.

Insell is in his 18th season heading up the Lady Raiders program, and he has become synonymous with the university during his time in Murfreesboro. Insell is the most successful coach in the program's history, compiling a career record of 1,061-241 in his 18 years, and he has perhaps his strongest team yet this season.

Highlighted by a season sweep of Memphis and a 73-62 win over the Tennessee Lady Vols in Huntsville on December 6th, the Lady Raiders have established themselves as the best team in the state this season, and look to improve upon the 11 seed they got in the NCAA Tournament a year ago.

Savannah Wheeler, Jalynn Gregory, Courtney Whitson, and Anastasiia Boldyreva are the key names to look out for on this squad, and they all returned from their successful season a year ago with one goal in mind: Win and advance in the NCAA Tournament. Last season they ran into a red-hot 6th seeded Colorado team that

has continued their success to the tune of a top-eight ranking and an 11-1 start to this year, so if the Lady Raiders can continue their strong play throughout the conference schedule, a more favorable draw in the NCAA Tournament should await them.

Insell's squad opens C-USA play on Wednesday, January 10, as they travel to Ruston, Louisiana, to take on LA Tech.

## Men's Basketball

Unfortunately for MTSU, the men's hoops side of things is not going as well. The Blue Raiders have wrapped up the non-conference portion of their schedule with a 6-9 record, and they currently sit 277th out of 362 teams in the KenPom rankings.

This would match the eye-test, as the offense has really struggled to find the range under sixth year head coach Nick McDevitt. Hired back in 2018 to replace long time head coach Kermit Davis, McDevitt has seen some success in C-USA play, coming up one game short of making the NCAA Tournament each of the past two seasons. However, this year has been totally different, as the offense is in the bottom 30 according to KenPom.

The men also begin conference play with Louisiana Tech, but instead of travel-



Coach McDevitt on the sidelines. Photos courtesy of MTSU.

ing, MT will host the Techsters (no joke, that is their real name) on Thursday, January 11.

## Football

On the football side of things, MTSU made a change at head coach for the first time in 18 years, firing Rick Stockstill after failing to reach a bowl game this season. Stockstill is a great person and coach, it was just time to make a move as the football program felt like it was becoming a bit stale.

To replace him, the Blue Raiders brought in for-

mer Vanderbilt head coach, Derek Mason, and he has already infused some desperately needed new energy into the program. Mason had a record of 27-55 in Nashville, but he did lead the Commodores to bowl appearances in both 2016 and 2018. That record isn't exactly a fair assessment of the success he had at Vandy, so there is (rightly so) a lot of buzz in Murfreesboro for Mason's first offseason.



Derek Mason announced as new head coach for MTSU.



Dr. Gavin Jones, Research Ecologist, Rocky Mountain Research Station and Nick Kryshak, Research Associate, Rocky Mountain Research Station capture Mexican spotted owls (not listed as an endangered or threatened species) as part of a GPS tagging study on Lincoln National Forest near Cloudcroft, New Mexico. (USDA Forest Service photo by Preston Keres)

## Species in peril

By Jamie Hinrichs, Pacific Southwest Region

Meghan Snow and Cal Robertson, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, contributed to this report

National forests and grasslands across the country are home to dozens of species from frogs and fish to foxes and fishers listed as endangered or threatened. The uninterrupted habitats that extend for hundreds of miles and areas of complete solitude give many species the space needed for recovery of their populations.

Large, extremely hot fires have ripped through many of these lands, charring if not destroying habitat crucial to species survival. To help reduce the risk of large, devastating fires, the Forest Service is working to remove vegetation that could feed a fire and is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to simultaneously support the conservation of listed species.

The plants and animals within public lands are an invaluable part of our natural heritage. Ensuring this biodiversity is maintained for generations to come is a complex task. And for the past 50 years, this work has been carried out through partnerships tied together with an important environmental law — the Endangered Species Act.

“The 1973 Endangered Species Act has helped us have enduring enjoyment and ecosystem services from wildlife,” said Anne Poopatanapong, a Forest Service wildlife biologist who has worked on species conservation for 26 years. “Conserving any species also conserves the wealth of benefits they provide — from soil restoration to pest population control, to inspirations for wonder.”

The Endangered Species Act, signed into law on Dec. 28, 1973, has proven to be incredibly effective. Actions taken have prevented the extinction of 99% of species under federal protection. Each successful conservation and recovery project has required the collaboration of many individuals, organizations and agencies.

Biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service work together in Plumas National Forest to release endangered Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by Cal Robinson)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the species program, often partners with the Forest Service on steps to protect species listed under the act. Collaborative efforts carry intertwined goals forward. Wildlife specialists and biologists from each agency review project plans, survey forests for species populations, collect data, and analyze the best available science. The Forest Service often includes wildlife conservation measures in as part of land management planning,



which means on-the-ground activities needed to increase forest resilience align with the needs of wildlife.

For example, specific types, sizes and heights of trees are left in areas of a forest known to be actively used as nesting or denning sites by threatened or endangered species. The Forest Service plans work to occur during times of the year that will not disrupt key life stages, such as mating season or when adults are caring for young. The Fish and Wildlife Service reviews these plans before work is started to ensure that species needs are being met.

“The work being completed by the Forest Service will help conserve habitat for listed species and reduce the risk of large-scale, high-severity wildfires that impact our communities and wildlife,” said Michael Fris, field supervisor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office in California.

While the Endangered Species Act spurred the collaboration between employees of the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service, the results of the work are far-reaching and will help conserve forest biodiversity for years to come.

Explore the species profiles below to learn a bit about some of the captivating creatures the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and partners continue to recover together.

**California Spotted Owl**  
The California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*) is a medium-sized brown bird with white spots on its head and chest. It is found in forests across California and Nevada. In 2023, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed to provide the owl with protections under the Endangered Species Act listing large-scale, high-severity wildfire as the biggest threat to the bird.

The owl is an excellent hunter, partially due to a large circle of feathers around its eyes, known as a facial disc—those which collect soundwaves and direct the tiniest of noises toward the owl’s ears. This helps the owl pinpoint prey moving through the understory.

While the owls are listening for their next meal, more than 1,700 microphones are out in the forest listening for the owl. Take an audio journey to Sierra National Forest for a lesson on acoustic monitoring from Erin Netoskie, a bioacoustics researcher with the Peery Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Lab. Then, learn more about this work and how wildlife biologists use the data to improve understanding of the owl’s response to wildfires.

**Fisher**  
Fishers (*Pekania pennanti*) may look like a mix between a tiny bear and a cat, but they are in the weasel family. The small mammals have brown or black fur, white patches on their chest, a broad head, pointy snout, bushy tail and small ears. In 2020, the Fish and Wildlife Service listed the Southern Sierra Nevada distinct population segment of fishers as endangered, noting large-

scale, high-severity wildfire as the largest threat to the species.

Fishers eat a variety of foods in the forest. In fact, scientists know fishers are one of the few animals that can successfully hunt and kill porcupines.

The fisher can roam large distances, but they prefer forested areas with a large tree canopy cover with a mix of evergreens and California black oaks. Fishers prefer to stay out of sight while roaming the forest and finding them takes a team.

Join the Region 5 Sierra Nevada Carnivore Monitoring Project out in the woods to hear how experts track the elusive creature. Then, learn how radio collaring on Stanislaus, Sierra and Sequoia national forests, as well as national park

lands is helping biologists and land management agencies understand how fishers are responding to wildfire impacts.

**Foothill Yellow-legged Frog**

The foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*) is named for the yellow shading on its belly and underside of the rear legs. Elsewhere, its skin is generally a mixture of gray, olive and brown. In 2023, the Fish and Wildlife Service determined that four of the six distinct population segments of the foothill yellow-legged frog required protection under the ESA. The distinct population segments in the South Sierra and South Coast are listed as endangered with those in the North Feather and Central Coast listed as threatened.

While their populations are declining, it’s not for a lack of trying. Female frogs lay one egg mass per year — which can contain anywhere from 100 to 4,000 eggs. Unfortunately, the eggs and frogs are facing challenges in their native streams, from off-roading in closed areas, invasive predators like crayfish and bullfrogs, and a fungal pathogen called chytrid.

But for every challenge, there is a team that’s passionate about finding a solution

With a little help, foothill yellow-legged frogs can get a yellow leg up on surviving their most vulnerable years to reach adulthood and lay the eggs of the next generation.

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