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East and West Chester named 23-24 Reward Schools

The Tennessee Department of Education recently announced school and district designations for the 2023-2024 year, including Reward Schools, Exemplary Districts and In Need of Improvement districts.

In 2023-24, schools earn Reward status based on their performance on the federal accountability system—A school is recognized as a Reward school when it has an overall school score of 3.1 or higher in accordance with the federal accountability calculation; and is not identified as a Comprehensive Improvement School (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement School (TSI), or Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) school.

Across the state, 377 schools, spanning 97 districts, received the Reward School designation; 10 districts received the Exemplary District designation; and 10 districts received the In Need of Improvement designation.

East Chester Elementary and West Chester Elementary have been recognized as 2023-24 Reward Schools by the Tennessee Department of Education, a prestigious designation celebrating exceptional student achievement and growth.

The Reward School distinction honors schools that demonstrate outstanding performance and/or significant improvement across essential indicators of student success. These include proficiency in academic achievement, accelerated student learning, and regular attendance.

Both East Chester Elementary and West Chester Elementary have exemplified excellence by meeting rigorous objectives across these indicators for all student groups, highlighting their commitment to fostering an inclusive and thriving educational environment.

“This recognition is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our teachers, staff, students, and families,” stated Chester County Director of Schools Troy Kilzer II. “We are incredibly proud of the hard work and collaboration that have led to this significant achievement for both East Chester and West Chester Elementary. Reward School status underscores not only high levels of performance but also meaningful progress in meeting the needs of all learners, setting a high standard for educational success in our district. Chester County is truly a great place to live and learn.”

“I am thrilled to highlight the 2023-2024 Reward Schools and Exemplary Districts for their dedication to fostering student learning and growth in their classrooms across the state,” said Lizzette Reynolds, Commissioner of Education. “This annual recognition is the result of our teachers, along with school and district leaders, who are committed to student success every day, and I commend each of you for your valiant efforts in supporting achievement for our Tennessee students.”



East Chester Elementary and West Chester Elementary Schools were named 2023-2024 Reward Schools by the Tennessee Department of Education. This prestigious designation celebrates exceptional student achievement and growth.

Photos by Holly Roeder, Independent



Send your Santa letters by Dec. 17

The Chester County Independent is working closely with Santa Claus to keep track of Chester County children’s wish lists.

Letters may be emailed to Santa at santaletters@chestercountyindependent.com by 5 p.m., Tuesday, December 17. Santa’s email will allow the jolly old elf the quickest access to his Christmas letters, but he still accepts regular mail as well. Children may post letters to Santa in care of the **Chester County Independent**, P.O. Box 306, Henderson, TN., 38340, or drop them by the newspaper office, 218 S. Church St., between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Copies of the letters will be printed in the Christmas week edition of the **Independent** on Dec. 26.

There is no charge for publishing the letters to Santa; however, parents also may submit a photo of their child to run with the letter for only \$25.

Santa looks forward to reading each child’s letter; remember to get them in early so he can forward them to his workshop in the North Pole.

CCI office closed for Thanksgiving

The Chester County Independent will be closed Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29, for the Thanksgiving holiday. The office will reopen at 8 a.m. Monday December 2.

We wish you and your family a happy Thanksgiving.



Board of Education held a non-actionable agenda

By Kara Crump
Staff Writer

The Chester County Board of Education met on Tuesday, Nov. 19, at the Chester County High School Cafeteria. This meeting was a non-actionable agenda meeting; no delegations or public comments were made. Spotlight/celebrations and updates were given only.

Norris Frank was welcomed to the Chester County Board of Education meeting by his fellow members as Appointed District 2 Board of Education Member. Norris was previously a member of the board and is now finishing the term of previous Board member Clay Rodgers, who resigned due to interfering travel obligations with work.

Chester County High School Automotive teacher James Carter gave a presentation on the Chester County High School Career and Technical Education program. Carter presented about the NBT summer camp called, “Bright Minds Start Here.” The camp was held June 3-7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the CCHS Vocational building. Students met with some of the engineers from Quality Metal Stamping on June 3 and began various camp projects. Participants aged 13-17 were welcomed and learned

problem-solving, social/serving skills and how to work in a team environment.

Quality Member Stamping Vice President Strategy Colin Serling and Manager of Employee Engagement Heather Griffin spoke to the board about the success they had seen in partnering with the school system. During their discussion, they mentioned the second annual Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs (NBT) summer manufacturing camp held previously in Chester County. With over 200 summer camps taking place in technical high schools and community colleges across the US, Chester County students were able to gain exposure to hands-on learning and the skills needed for high-tech manufacturing careers.

Quality Metal Stamping is currently applying for a grant to be able to run the camp for the fall, winter and next summer in 2025. Currently, they have 10 Chester County students employed with seven that are full-time workers.

The predicted completion of the Agriculture and Automotive building at Chester County High School has been postponed to April 2025 because of weather delays.

Jessica Conaway Donovan addressed the Chester County Board of Education at their scheduled meeting last month about their nutrition program on Tuesday, Oct. 22. Troy Kilzer, Director of Schools, gave an update to the board that the final decision for the nutrition program will be decided officially in April 2025.

The next Chester County Board of Education meeting will be at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, at the Chester County Board of Education building.

Christmas Tree Lighting is Saturday

The annual Chester County Christmas Tree Lighting will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, November 30, at the Chester County Courthouse. There will be face painting, pictures with Santa, hot cocoa/coffee, balloon making, bounce house and singing/caroling.

Many events have been scheduled for Henderson and Chester County throughout the 2024 holiday season. Following are just a few of what Chester County has to offer.

Letters to Santa can be dropped off at Santa’s mailbox, located in front of the Chester County Courthouse, beginning Saturday, November 30.

Chester County Library December story-time event— “Welcome Winter” will be held at the library at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 3 and Wednesday, December 4.

The Henderson Christmas Parade (sponsored by Anew Family Medical, See **HOLIDAYS**, Page 11-A



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Governor Lee appoints Henderson Advocate



KATIE MOORE

Governor Bill Lee has appointed Katie Moore of Henderson to a three-year term on the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities, representing the Southwest Tennessee development district.

The Council on Developmental Disabilities is a state government agency that works to improve services and supports to make life better for people with developmental disabilities and their families. “Having learning disabilities and being part of

Partners in Policymaking in 2022-2023 got me involved in the disability community,” Moore said. “I’m excited to use my voice to help more people speak up and be heard.”

“I learned about the Council on Developmental Disabilities during my Partners in Policymaking class last year. As an appointed member, I am especially interested in addressing airplane issues for people with wheelchairs, expanding job opportunities for people with disabilities,

and improving how doctors listen to those with invisible illnesses and disabilities.”

Moore is actively involved with several organizations, including the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Advisory Committee and Tennessee First Council. She hosts a Bible study on Discord and participates in special needs dance classes. Her hobbies include swimming, yoga, and creating art.

“I love doing PowerPoint presentations and getting people involved in the community,” Moore said.

“When I’m not advocating, I enjoy spending time with my family, friends, and my emotional support cat, Twix.”

Moore will meet with the full Council on Development Disabilities quarterly in Nashville and will serve as a representative in the local community. Her role will connect the Council’s

statewide work to the needs in Henderson and surrounding counties. The Council on Developmental Disabilities’ work focuses on building bridges between the experiences of real people with disabilities and the policies and service systems that affect their lives. For more information visit www.tn.gov/cdd.

CCJHS identified in ‘Need of Improvement’

The Tennessee Department of Education identified Chester County Junior High as a Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school among district designations for the 2023-2024 year, in which they named Reward Schools, Exemplary Districts and In Need of Improvement districts.

Identified annually, TSI schools score in the bottom 5% statewide for the performance of a given student group. In 2024, 186 schools, were identified for TSI as the final designation. Schools can be identified as TSI schools for any of the following given student groups when meeting the identification criteria: Black/Hispanic/Native American, Economically Disadvantaged, English Learners, Students with Disabilities, Hispanic/Latino, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Asian and White.

“The 2024 state testing results have provided valuable insights into areas of growth for students at CCJHS,” said Chester County Superintendent Troy Kilzer II. “While certain subgroups of our students were identified in the bottom 5% of performance compared to other middle-grade schools across Tennessee, this designation marks an opportunity to enhance our academic programs and ensure every student thrives at CCJHS.”

Kilzer continued to explain that under Tennessee’s Focus School designation for Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), CCJHS will receive comprehensive resources and specialized support from the Tennessee Department of Education. This targeted assistance is designed to address specific areas of need, boost performance outcomes, and empower

student success across all subgroups of CCJHS students.


“We see this as a chance to refine our approach, collaborate with state experts, and implement evidence-based strategies to better meet the needs of every learner,” Kilzer said. “Our commitment to ensure high levels of learning for all students is unwavering and we are confident these efforts

will lead to measurable growth and achievement.”

CCJHS will remain in the TSI designation until the identified performance thresholds are surpassed, signaling significant and sustained improvements. The school district and CCJHS are united in their mission to close achievement gaps, celebrate student progress, and build a brighter future for the entire school community.



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Jacks Creek Elementary	East Chester Elementary	West Chester Elemetary	C.C. Middle School	Chester Co. Junior High	Chester Co. High School
					
Stephanie Wood Interventionist	Melissa Wallace Custodian	Kylia Gladwin Paraprofessional	Dan Malone Custodian	Linda Townsend Sixth Grade Math	Dewond Johnson SPED/ Head Football Coach
“Mrs. Stephanie Hood has truly exemplified dedication and adaptability as our interventionist at Jacks Creek Elementary. Whether working one-on-one with students or stepping in to teach second-grade math, Mrs. Hood consistently goes above and beyond to meet the needs of our school community. Her 30+ years of teaching experience shine through in her ability to support students and colleagues alike, always prioritizing the success and growth of Jacks Creek students. Thank you, Mrs. Stephanie, for your unwavering commitment and impact!” ~Todd Lewis, Principal.	“East Chester greatly values and appreciates our custodian, Melissa Wallace. Her dedication, hard work, and willingness to help make a significant difference in our school community. Melissa’s positive attitude and commitment to excellence create a clean and welcoming environment for everyone. We are truly fortunate to have her on our team!” ~Paden Buckley, Principal.	“Kylia Gladwin is a paraprofessional at West Chester. She has the sweetest disposition and always has the students’ best interest at heart. She is constantly working to help others and is a team player. We are so thankful that Kylia is part of the West Chester family.” ~Amy Wooley, Principal.	“Mr. Dan joined the CCMS staff this summer. He is a very valued member of our staff. He keeps our building clean and the floors as shiny as he can get them. CCMS is blessed with his nice work-ethic, and we enjoy his laughs and smiles!” ~Renee’ Thomas, Principal.	“Linda Townsend is a sixth grade math teacher at CCJHS. Mrs. Townsend, a native of Maine, brings a wealth of knowledge to the junior high this year. “Her dynamic style of teaching keeps the students engaged and excited. We are thrilled to have her at Chester County Junior High School this year.” ~Deborah Lambert, Assistant Principal.	“Coach Johnson is in his third year as teacher and coach at CCHS. He does a wonderful job of connecting with his students both in the classroom and on the field. He just led the football team to a first place finish in the region and advanced to the second round of the playoffs. We are fortunate to have Coach Johnson as part of the CCHS staff.” ~Clay Murley, Principal.



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MONTEZUMA
Community
NEWS



with
GAYLE COX

Praying that everyone has a very blessed and grateful Thanksgiving. Most of us will be sharing that time with family members, and, hopefully, everyone will make good memories.

Christmas is just around the corner. There will be several community events coming up – tree lighting, Christmas parade, chorus concerts, etc.

There was a Men’s Conference held at Williams Auditorium on Thursday, Nov. 21, that was reported as a great success. The speaker was Rick Burgess from the “Rick & Bubba Show.” There were many men and boys of the community that attended.

There was also the local chapter of Ducks Unlimited Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 21, at JL Acres, and we had a record breaking attendance. Everyone had a great time; every Green Wing (children 0 - 17) went home with a prize, and eight lucky winners also took home guns from that group. Thank you to all attendees for being generous to raise BUCKS for the DUCKS. Hope to see many of you again next year.

We appreciate all our members at the center and would love for more of our community to get involved. With more help, we could plan more events for our

community.

With new leadership taking the seat in January we can pray that God’s hand will be in decisions made about our country going forward. Pray for a better economy for sure. Our local governmental meetings are in need of more community support. If you care about Chester County, please pay attention to what is taking place in our county and come out and show your interest. Everyone should be mindful of what is going on in our country and care enough to help make a difference.

Montezuma sends out Happy Birthday wishes to Joseph Fontana on Nov. 28, Jacob Beshires and Ann Patterson on Dec. 2, James Morrison, Jr. on Dec. 3 and Josh Quarles on Dec. 4.

Membership dues are \$25 after your first initial year of joining, and they are due for this current year. Membership dues need to be paid now to be considered an active member. We also take donations. Payments can be mailed to Edith Sills at 4475 Sunshine Rd, Henderson, TN 38340. Call Ann Moore at 608-2033 or myself if you have any new ideas for the center or wish to get involved. People who want to rent the community center should contact Betty Cooper at 879-9078 for booking. We ask those renting our facility to please follow our rules and show respect for the building. We try to keep it in the best order possible, and it takes everyone cooperating to make that happen. If you care about this community, please get involved in what is taking place to continue to grow our county and make it

a better place to live and raise a family. Get to know what is changing in our local government, schools, churches and communities through the news, friends, your church, teachers, etc., and if it matters to you, there are ways to help make things better.

There is much spiritual warfare with society accepting things that go against who God is and what HIS laws are that we are to follow. Every day of life has its challenges, but if we look to God for the right path, it can be a good one. Enjoy what time you have with your creator, your family and friends. Please be in prayer for the our local and federal government, law enforcement, school staff, teachers and the listed individuals of Mike Lott, Linda Hopper, Cindy Kilzer, Quinten Johnson, Donna Doyle, Jerry Fletcher, Janice Schultz, Bobbie Bethune, Mark Hall, Curtis Morrison, Renee Jordan, Ruby Hannah, Donnie Brooks, Linda Plunk, Mike Tedford, Sherry Fletcher, Chuck Beacham, Sandra Lott, Faye Crouse, Janice Morris, Jeanette Walker, Paul Schilling, Nancy Crouse and others that are sick or healing. We especially want to remember the families of Alfred Garner, Deborah Plunk and other families that have recently lost loved ones.

I am always looking for noteworthy news to share in this column. Please send to gaylescox1977@gmail.com or text me at 608-2857.

As always, until next time, I am wishing a very blessed week to all you readers!

HENDERSON
Community
NEWS



with
GLORIA HOLIDAY

Hello to everyone! For this is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad! It is great to be with you in this last week of November. Before anything else is said, let us do this: 1 Thessalonians 5:18 reads, “In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” Psalm 136:1-26 states, “O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.” I would like to take this time out just to give thanks for all that we have here in the United States of America. Yes, a day of celebration is upon us. Thursday, Nov. 28, will be Thanksgiving Day. You know I love this time of year like so many of us do. Families can come together and have a wonderful blessed time. Even though I do not have my mom, Mrs. Annie Clay, instructing me on how to make all of our favorite dishes for Thanksgiving, we will enjoy our time together as a family. While they were on this earth, I and my family learned so much from our mother

and our father, Mr. Parnell Brown. They taught us how to love people even our enemies. The number one thing my daddy would tell us is that blood is thicker than water. In other words, love your family! We are blessed to have so many great memories! Just like you have so many great memories of your loved ones! So today and every day, let us just tell the Lord, “Thank You!”

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” – Philippians 4:6.

This week, I am going to leave you with what Thanksgiving is – “Thanksgiving is a time of gratitude to God, our Creator and Provider, whose guidance and care go before us, and whose love is with us forever. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the changes, to remember that we, too, grow and change from one season of life to another. Thanksgiving is a time of changing seasons, when leaves turn golden in autumn’s wake and apples are crisp in the first chill breezes of fall. Let us remember the true meaning of Thanksgiving. As we see the beauty of autumn, let us acknowledge the many blessings which are ours, let us think of our families and friends, and let us give thanks in our hearts.” – unknown

With that being said, I want to say thank you to my community family for reading this column! I love you, and I pray for you daily. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving! Let us not forget about our soldiers. To all of our soldiers celebrating Thanksgiving away from home, we do appreciate you; thank you for your service, and we pray you had a blessed Thanksgiving Day! Let us not forget to pray for OUR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!

The city would like to say Happy Birthday Shalonda Burton celebrating on Nov. 25. Happy Birthday to Eboni Burton on Nov. 25 and Shameka Johnson Nov. 26. Shameka is employed with Southwest HRA Head Start as a Family Case Manager Coach. My daughter Glorina Holiday Elam is celebrating her birthday on Nov. 29, and we pray that you will have many more. Continue to pray for the sick and shut in.

If you live in the City of Henderson and have news about your family, birthday, anniversary, announcements, and things happening in the City, I need to hear from you. Call me at 608-6132 and leave your message, or you can text me. HAVE A GREAT WEEK! HAVE A BLESSED THANKSGIVING! BE THANKFUL AND BE SAFE!



Chester Co Firefighters contain housefire

Chester County Firefighters Hilltop/Station 20, Jacks Creek/Station 10 and Station 1 were dispatched to Herman Arnold Road for a report of a structure fire on Wednesday, Nov. 13. Firefighters arrived at the scene to find the house already fully engulfed. Fire crews worked to contain the fire to the building and were able to gain control approximately 20 minutes of the first unit arriving on scene. There were no injuries, and the house was not occupied. The first report of this fire came in on their non-emergency office phone. The cause of the fire is under investigation.



Ag Center started work October 7

The UT Extension of Chester County announced that the Chester County Agricultural Center began its work on the continuation of the new building center on Monday, Oct. 7. It is projected that the completion should be (at the earliest) in Spring of 2025.



Laurie Smith reads one million words

East Chester Elementary has announced Laurie Smith is the school’s first Accelerated Reader to read one million words this school year. Laurie is a second grade student in Lauren Hester Davis’ class. She is the daughter of Charlie and Ashley Smith of Henderson. Congratulations, Laurie!

SILERTON
Community
NEWS

By: Marcus X. Fry/
Mary Lynn Lambert

Silerton Baptist Church may be few in number, but they have large giving hearts. Members packed 214 Christmas boxes for Samaritan’s Purse. Members worked tirelessly packing the boxes but never missed a beat having an enjoyable time with many laughs.

On Nov. 17, the Church had its annual Thanksgiving dinner. It was delicious and a big thank you to all the ladies who made it so wonderful.

Volunteers from the Silerton area worked together for a few days, installing the Christmas lights in the Holly Beshires Park. They also placed the pole ornaments at the proper electric poles to be hung by the Bolivar Electric Department. A big shout out goes to the BEA for their great work. The park really looks great, so make plans to drive by and enjoy the lights.

The Gilbert and Lois Stack siblings met last week in Silerton to enjoy another traditional get-together. They enjoyed a chili and hot dog feast with

all the trimmings and also desserts. They not only enjoyed the food but also felt that the joy of being together again was the greatest event of the day. They enjoyed reminiscing and shared many laughs.

Brother Larry Murphy preached the revival services for the Silerton Baptist Church last week. Hearts were certainly touched, and members enjoyed worshipping together.

Remember to call Mrs. Donna Waldrup at 819-5865 by Dec. 14 to place your order for the Fire Department annual bake sale to be held on Dec. 20.

Now that we are fully settled here in Silerton, the Frys would like to take this Thanksgiving Day to thank everyone in Silerton for the warm and wonderful welcome the community has given us from the very day we started building the

house on my grandfather’s farm. We are beyond thankful for the friendships we have made here. Our prior home in Texas sold, which puts the finishing touch on our move to Tennessee. I am repeatedly asked two questions about our move here, and these are my standard answers: 1. How do you like it here in Tennessee? “I love it here and wish we had done it much earlier.” 2. Do you miss Texas? “I only really miss two things: our grocery store chain (H.E.B., whose founders came from Memphis) and being that much further away from the Alamo (those that understand, do; those that don’t, never will).” Though my wife Jamie is haunted by one memory from Texas. She was surprised as I was but also disappointed to find armadillos here in Tennessee for she loathes them.

Community Club Meeting Schedules

Deanburg	First Tuesday	7 p.m.
Enville	First Tuesday	6:30 p.m.
New Friendship	Third Friday	6 p.m.
Hickory Corner	Fourth Thursday	
Jacks Creek	Second Thursday	6-7 p.m.
Montezuma	First Monday	6 p.m.
Sweetlips	First Saturday in February	

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ENVILLE
Community
NEWS



with
JAN JOHNSON

Hello from Enville! I hope everyone is having a great week. Sorry that I did not have a column last week. Danny and I were out of town for his birthday.

Birthdays for last week are Alice Starnes on Nov. 22, Cheri Hutcherson, Molly Marchbanks and Tommy Wade on Nov. 24 and Casey Weatherington on Nov. 28.

I think the cold weather has arrived, but hopefully, it will not last long. It is

supposed to warm up a few days next week then get cold again. This is the yo-yo time of year! Keeps our sinuses confused!

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. We had our first big meal on Sunday at our daughter, April’s, with all Danny’s family. We had a great time. Then, Sunday night at our church, we enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving program and meal. On Thanksgiving Day, our house will be full with all my family. We always have a good time, and we will be so full of turkey that we may be gobbling! School is out for the Thanksgiving holiday. I hope everyone has a great and safe week!

Happy birthday wishes go to Rick Ooley on Dec. 1 and Linda Wade on Dec. 2. We hope you all enjoy your special day!

Please remember to pray for Robert and Linda Johnson, Harold and Janice Maness, Jeremy Crowell, Mary Lee Guyon, Mary Lou Avent, Robert Smith, Pat Cates, Ann Pugh, Shirley Hampton, Della Mixon, Kaye Killingsworth, Shirley Bishop, Emily Freeman, Bonnie Johnson, Mildred Goodwin, Janice Massengill Strickland, James Vinson, Jimmy Robertson, Jeff Finley, Rick Ooley, Mike Finley, Glenn Butts, Justin Godsey, our firefighters, first responders, law enforcement, healthcare workers, military, our county and country and, as always, each other.

If you have news, call me at 608-3058, or if you want to rent the community center, call Pat Cates at 688-5125 or 315-8062. Have a blessed week everyone!

NEW FRIENDSHIP
& MIFFLIN
Community
NEWS



with
VICKIE ELLIS

Hello to all from this little corner of the world. The temperature is 63 degrees at the time of this writing, and the skies are blue-gray with whitish-gray clouds. The sun is out, and birds are visiting. Yesterday was a gorgeous day. It was sunny with beautiful blue skies and white clouds.

Monday was 70 degrees. Enjoy while you can. The following days are forecasted to be upper 40s to mid 50s, and on Nov. 29, the night temperature is forecasted to be 25. Everyone needs to prepare for the winter now. Wrap pipes, drain water hoses and check your antifreeze if your car is older. It would be nice to have window scrapers for frost and such. I like the can of deicer. It is faster. Looking ahead, the forecast for Dec. 1 through Dec. 3 shows night temperatures as 19, 19, and 26 but will eventually go back up into the mid 30s. Get the gas logs ready. Vacuum them off. I hope those who use wood have enough to start. I cannot even imagine how much a cord of wood costs

today. We used wood in our earlier days. Hard work! Stay warm and get some hay or something for the outside pets.

Thanksgiving is tomorrow. I hope everyone enjoys their food and those they share their day with. There will be early shoppers and those preparing to hit the stores for Black Friday. When we were out recently, the amount of cars already in the Target parking lot was unreal. I do not know where the money comes from. Credit cards? Some saved during the year. The month of November is nearly over, and we will be headed into December, the last month of 2024. Stay safe. Happy Thanksgiving!

Condolences to all who have lost loved ones. We lost our son 12-11, and I know how it feels to lose a loved one during this time of year. My dad died, 1-3; mother, 2-24. Our anniversary is 12-6. We all have months like this. The love remains, and those who leave us are never forgotten. God bless you all.

Happy birthday to Kathy Pounds, Hunter Butler and Mark Morris, 11-24, and Doris McKinney, 11-27.

Happy anniversary to Ann and Ray Pusser, 11-26.

Please continue to remember these in prayer – Wesley Bates, Paula Berry, Georgia Burkeen, J.T. and Jeannette Butler, Jackie Chambers, Rickey Clayton, Myra Davis, Joie Freeman, Jennifer Gateley, Carolyn

Goff, Bro. Glen and Judy Harris, Joey Harris, LaDawn Hayes, Danny Hodges, Brenda Hopper, Kristen Hurley, Mark Lenow, Doris McKinney, Martha Mainord, Brianne Locke Matheney, Jeff Mays, Deana Morris, Darryl Newsom, Jim Newsom, Glenda Parchman, Julia Parchman, James Parrish, Trudy Powers, Pam Priddy, Ridge Ray, Todd Rencher, Phillip and Polly Robison, Donald and Doris Rowlett, Mollie Russell, Brenda Seaton, Nona Seaton, Dyke Sells, Cathy Sisson, Jacob Thomas, Kevin Thurman, Tony Tucker, Cammi Walls, and Mike Young. Also, pray for our military, law enforcement, our country and first responders.

“If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.” – Meister Eckhart.

“It’s not happy people who are thankful, it is thankful people who are happy.” – unknown

I pray you all have a wonderful week and may it be filled with love, joy, peace and blessings. Remember: if you have news, please email me at mimmiepots@gmail.com. I would truly appreciate any news. People from here and those who have moved from our area but still want to keep in touch through the newspaper are hungry for news from home. Until next week, Happy Trails to You.

New survey reveals Tennessee parents’ perspectives on school quality and engagement

TennesseeCAN unveils the 2024 State of Educational Opportunity Survey

TennesseeCAN, a nonpartisan, nonprofit K-12 education group working to ensure that every child in Tennessee has access to great teachers and great schools, released “The State of Educational Opportunity in Tennessee”, a survey of parents of school-aged children that provides key insights to how Tennessee families are thinking about and engaging in their student’s education.

The report highlights responses to 15 key questions across five categories, including school quality and opportunity; tutoring, summer learning, and mental health, out-of-school activities, information and engagement, and college and career readiness.

“Tennessee parents who participated in this survey reinforced a strong sense of optimism and aspiration that I have always known to be true in the Volunteer State,” said Chelsea Crawford, Executive Director of TennesseeCAN. “That is, we believe in our kids, we believe in the value of K-12 education, and we are willing to do what it takes to ensure all our students can learn and achieve in school and beyond.”

Between July 8 and August 22, 2024, 407 parents and guardians whose children attend traditional public schools, magnet schools, charter schools, private/independent schools, and other

types of schools, completed the survey.

The Tennessee survey revealed important perspective, including:

1. Tennesseans are satisfied with their chosen school, and still aspire for more for their students.
 - Tennessee has among the highest percentages of families who believe they have a choice in where they can send their children to school, and who responded that, if given the choice, they would send their child to the same school they attend today.
 - Yet less than half of Tennessee families said they are “very satisfied” with their child’s school.
2. Tennesseans are willing to engage in their child’s learning in meaningful ways.
 - Tennessee ranks above the national average for parents who say they understand academic achievement, are familiar with how budget decisions are made at their child’s school and rely on assignments or tests to gauge learning progress.
 - However, this trend does not apply at the school level. With only 26% of families saying they reviewed school performance, Tennessee ranked well below the national average.
3. Income level dictates different experiences for Tennessee families.
 - Significant disparities exist between low-, middle-, and high-income families in

terms of access to tutoring, summer camps, and out-of-school activities.

- Lower-income families show less confidence that their children will be well-prepared for college or the workforce.

The report is part of the “The State of Educational Opportunity in America: A Survey of 20,000 Parents,” one of the largest education-focused surveys of parents in the past decade which offers an unprecedented, state-by-state examination of the current education landscape and what is important to parents. The State of Educational Opportunity in America was completed by 50CAN and Edge Research.

“With such a large sample size, we are able to dig into the findings by state and across a range of important audiences. By making the findings publicly available, this is a gift of data that can inform conversations among communities and elected officials,” said Pam Loeb, Principal at Edge Research.

For more information about the 2024 State of Educational Opportunity in Tennessee, visit tn-can.org.

For more information about the national survey, and to access the full results and data set, please visit 50can.org or contact: Ned Stanley, VP of Communications, 50CAN at 415.654.4292 or ned.stanley@50can.org.

Lifestyle Pricing

The Chester County Independent charges \$35 for engagement announcements with photo, wedding announcements with photo, anniversary announcements with photo and miscellaneous lifestyle photos. Birth announcements are free without photo, \$28 with photo and \$38 for color photo. Hunting and fishing photos are \$30. For more information, call 731-989-4624 or email news@chestercountyindependent.com



The library adds a storytime day

Pictured is Chester County Library Director, Chrystal Richerson hosting the Storytime Program and reading the chosen-themed book for the week to the audience. The theme for the Storytime Program was learning different languages/being bilingual. Friends of the Chester County Library, Alba Hardin, read the bilingual book, “El Perro con Sombrero” (by Derek Taylor Kent and illustrated Jed Henry) in Spanish to the attendees while Richerson translated in English. Afterward for crafts time, the children colored and created their own sombreros for each of them to wear on Wednesday, Oct. 9. The Chester County Library has changed its Storytime Programs to each Tuesday and Wednesday at 10 a.m., previously only held on Tuesdays.

Statewide graduation rates break record again at 92.1%

The Tennessee Department of Education recently announced the 2023-24 statewide graduation rate is 92.1%, breaking the previous record achieved in the 2022-23 school year at 90.6%. The graduation rate for the Chester County district was 91.6%.

“Once again, Tennessee’s unwavering dedication to fostering student success has led us to achieve an extraordinary milestone—setting a new state record for graduation rates for the second consecutive year,” said Lizzette Reynolds, Commissioner of Education. “This achievement reflects the tireless efforts of our district and school leaders, educators, and families working together to help all our students achieve their goals and be successful.”

For the 2023-24 school year, the most notable takeaways from graduation data include:

- Clay County Schools,

McKenzie Special School District, South Carroll Special School District, and West Carroll Special District each had over a 99% graduation rate.

- 73 districts graduated 95 percent or more of their students on time.
- 1,756 more students graduated in the 2024 cohort compared to last year, for a total of 67,232 students graduating across the state.
- 78 districts improved their graduation rates from 2023 to 2024, with seven districts improving by five percentage points or more.
- The English learners student group demonstrated a 12-percentage point increase in their graduation rate from 67% in 2022-23 to 79% in 2023-24.
- 23 districts finished the year with over a 99% graduation rate for at least one of the following student groups: English Learners,

Black, Hispanic, Native American, Economically Disadvantaged, and Students with Disabilities.

In order to advance academic achievement and prepare students for postsecondary success, districts continue to offer summer programming and tutoring supports for additional learning time, innovative college and career exploration, and access to Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

For more information on graduation rates for individual districts and schools, please visit the department’s Data Downloads webpage, <https://www.tn.gov/education/districts/federal-programs-and-oversight/data/data-downloads.html>

For Tennessee Department of Education media inquiries, contact Edu.MediaInquiries@tn.gov.

What’s Happening in Our Area

Senior Center Quilt Raffle Fundraiser

A quilt raffle fundraiser is being held at the Chester Co. Senior Center. You can go see the quilt at the center from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Tickets are \$5 or three for \$10. All proceeds will benefit the Senior Center. The drawing will be held in December just in time for Christmas! Fundraiser sponsor is Sherry Cox.

CC Head Start Accepting Applications

Chester Co. Head Start, 1495 White Ave., Henderson, is currently accepting applications for the 2024-25 year. Information needed at time of pre-registration includes the child’s official birth certificate, the child’s up-to-date immunization record, the child’s TennCare or insurance card, dates of birth for all family members, two emergency contact people and proof of household income for 2023 (Income

Tax or W-2 Forms, year to date pay stubs, or Families First, etc). For more information, call the office at 989-2561.

American Legion Post 157 Meeting Dec. 9

Davidson-Haltom American Legion Post 157 Auxiliary Unit will have a meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 9, at the Chester County Senior Center. We are accepting applications for charter members, and all eligible people are welcome to attend and find out more information

CC Carl Perkins Center Open House Dec. 12

The Chester County Exchange Club Carl Perkins Center for the prevention of child abuse invites the community to attend a ribbon cutting at 11:45 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, and an open house from noon to 2 p.m. the same date. These events will be held at their new location at 195 Record Drive, in Henderson.

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New Tennessee Laws passed in 2024

tnAchieves shares fall 2024 report

***This is a continuation of the list of new Tennessee laws that ran in the Nov. 7, Nov. 14 and Nov. 21 editions of the **Chester County Independent**

Death penalty for child rapists – Under a new law, the death penalty could be on the table in cases of child rape. The measure increases the penalty for rape or aggravated rape of a child to death, life in prison without the possibility of parole, or life in prison. Previous law classified the offense as a Class A felony punishable as either a Range III offense, which carries a sentence of 40-60 years in prison or a Range II offense of 25-40 years in prison. Child rape is one of the worst crimes imaginable, and there are times life imprisonment for the rapist does not go far enough. This legislation gives courts the ability to go after the most severe offenders of child rape with the most severe punishment. From Senate Bill 1834, Effective Date: July 1, 2024, Public Chapter 951.

Protecting children from continuous sexual abuse – Lawmakers passed a measure which adds continuous sexual abuse of a child to the list of offenses that require community supervision for life. Under the new law, a person convicted of continuous

sexual abuse of a child must serve the entirety of their sentence, which averages 24 years. From Senate Bill 287, July 1, 2024, Public Chapter 525.

Expanding child endangerment offenses – Under a new law, parents and guardians are subject to a Class A misdemeanor offense for knowingly leaving a child in the care or supervision of a person who is a registered sex offender. From Senate Bill 1587, Effective Date: July 1, 2024, Public Chapter 952.

Protecting children from abusers – This year, legislation passed to ensure a child cannot be in a home where there is a history of child abuse. The law holds caregivers, parents or guardians accountable to protect the child from abuse by other individuals in the home. From Senate Bill 2070, Effective Date: July 1, 2024, Public Chapter 613.

Increased penalties for child endangerment – Tennessee lawmakers are actively working to prevent children from being knowingly endangered by an adult. A new law passed this year creates a higher offense for any adult who knowingly endangers a child. The measure increases the charge from a Class D felony to a Class

B felony for anyone who negligently places a child eight years old or younger in imminent danger of death, injury or physical or mental impairment. From Senate Bill 2662, Effective Date: July 1, 2024, Public Chapter 885.

Dependent and neglected child – A new law clarifies that the definition of a dependent and neglected child means a child at the time of the filing of the petition. A dependent and neglected child petition can be filed by a person or agency other than the Department of Children’s services. From Senate Bill 2349, Effective Date: July 1, 2024, Public Chapter 862.

Cracked down on child pornography – To ensure Tennessee laws against child pornography apply to AI-generated images, legislation passed which adds AI-generated images to a punishable offense under the state’s laws dealing with sexual exploitation of children. Advances in technology have made it easier for perpetrators to create and distribute realistic-looking images and videos of minors, blurring the lines between real and fake content. From Senate Bill 2668, Effective Date: July 1, 2024, Public Chapter 911.

tnAchieves is proud to share the fall 2024 report from College Promise titled Preparing Tennessee Students for College, Career, and the Future. Tennessee has been a longtime leader in higher education policy innovation and implementation, with the most well-known being the Tennessee Promise.

The scholarship offers every Tennessee high school senior the opportunity to go to community or technical college tuition and mandatory fee free. As a partnering organization to the Tennessee Promise, tnAchieves serves more than 90 percent of high school seniors in the state.

“A quality education can change the trajectory of a student’s life, and Tennessee Promise is focused on ensuring students seeking a post-secondary education earn a meaningful credential,” said Governor Bill Lee.

“By providing every high school graduate with the opportunity to attend college tuition-free, we are creating greater opportunity and outcomes for Tennessee’s most vulnerable students while helping our state meet its workforce goals.”

Beyond the Tennessee Promise program, tnAchieves continues to innovate ways to support students. tnAchieves builds and executes student-focused programming that enrolls students in postsecondary education and provides critical support to at-risk students improving their chances at completing a credential or degree before pursuing meaningful careers in Tennessee.

“tnAchieves has considered itself the engine behind the TN Promise for more than a decade,” said tnAchieves President and CEO Krissy DeAlejandro. “We know that it takes more than eliminating the funding barrier to ensure increased college enrollment and completion. tnAchieves is more than college access and success. It is a holistic career pathways model focused on building Tennessee’s future workforce.”

In this report College Promise explains how tnAchieves is using a statewide model to transform the way Tennesseans think about college and better prepare students for success after high school.

Highlights include:

An explanation of how tnAchieves crafted and implemented a statewide proactive coaching model alongside emergency aid funding. Results of this program show that participants are 6X more likely to graduate from college than their peers.

The value of community partnerships, and tnAchieves’ model for conceptualizing, piloting, studying, and scaling programs.

Did You Know?

The popularity of vegan diets is on the rise as people increasingly turn to plant-based eating. According to Soylent, a soy-based meal replacement beverage company, the number of vegans exceeded 9.7 million in the United States in 2019. Projections estimate that by 2040, only 40 percent of the global population will continue to eat meat. The online resources Made in Canada reports that, in 2020, 4.6 percent of Canadians were vegan. Between 2017 and 2021, the compound annual growth rate for plant-based ready meal sales in Canada was 441.8 percent advises the site.



City of Henderson Police Department

November 18, 2024

Quincy Haynes, 22, Mount Juliet, was arrested and charged with driving on a canceled/revoked or suspended license. He was released from the Chester County Jail on his own recognizance.

November 19, 2024

Sadarius Blakemore, 40, Jackson, was arrested and charged with driving on a canceled/revoked or suspended license with one prior due to one DUI conviction. He was released from the Chester County Jail on his own recognizance.

November 23, 2024

Chadwick Haynes, 47, Henderson, was arrested and charged with driving on a canceled/revoked or suspended license. He was released from the Chester County Jail on his own recognizance.

City of Henderson Fire Department

November 18, 2024

3:25 p.m. – US Highway 45N at White Avenue, motor vehicle crash with no injuries, no entrapment.

November 20, 2024

10:23 a.m. – 124 W. Third Street, false alarm, burnt food on stove.

1:22 p.m. – 203 E. University St., Freed-Hardeman University, Benson Hall, second floor hall, false alarm, unknown cause.

3:31 p.m. – 209 E. Main St., Freed-Hardeman University, Paul Gray Hall, room 208, false alarm, burnt macaroni with no water in microwave.

November 22, 2024

3 p.m. – State Route 100E at South Mifflin Avenue, motor vehicle crash with no injuries, no entrapment.

Chester County Sheriff’s Department

November 18, 2024

Myonni Alexander, 31, Henderson, was arrested and charged with simple possession of a schedule VI controlled substance. He was released from the Chester County Jail on his own recognizance.

Todd Englet, 48, Bethel Springs, was arrested and charged with violation of Community Corrections – Misdemeanor. He is held in the Chester County Jail in lieu of an \$800 cash only bond.

November 19, 2024

Bethany Williams, 38, Wildersville, was arrested and charged with contempt of court. She is held in the Chester County Jail without bond.

November 20, 2024

Robby Singleton, 54, Henderson, was arrested and charged with driving while in possession of methamphetamine, simple possession of schedule II methamphetamine, possession of a schedule II controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released from the Chester County Jail after posting a \$3,000 bond.

Jeremy Chumney, 24, Jackson, was arrested and

charged with contempt of court. He was released from the Chester County Jail after posting a \$1,000 cash bond.

November 21, 2024

Ronald Preuss, 56, Luray, was arrested and charged with two counts of dogs not allowed at large. He was released from the Chester County Jail on his own recognizance.

Arthur Shivers, 40, Henderson, was arrested and charged with contempt of court and evading arrest. He is held in the Chester County Jail in lieu of a \$1,000 bond.

Willie Horton, 25, Henderson, was arrested and charged with false report. He was released from the Chester County Jail after posting a

\$2,000 bond.

November 23, 2024

Kyle Raposa, 32, Henderson, was arrested and charged with evading arrest by motor vehicle. He is held in the Chester County Jail without bond.

Chester County Fire Department

November 18, 2024

6:49 p.m. – Sweetlips responding, 2155 Sweetlips Road, call dispatched and canceled enroute.

November 19, 2024

1:43 p.m. – Jacks Creek responding, 8515 State Route 100E, structure fire.

November 24, 2024

5:22 p.m. – Roby responding, 1680 State Route 22, motor vehicle crash.

Chester County Circuit Court

No reports.

All information included in Your Right to Know is provided by law enforcement, emergency service agencies and the Chester County Court System, and reflects reports, bonds, charges, jail status and court disposition at the time the report is received.

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Letters to the Editor Policy

The Chester County Independent encourages letters to the editor, especially those that are deal with local issues and topics in a timely manner. In order to be considered for publication the following criteria must be met:

- * All letters must be signed by their authors and include the address and telephone number of the author for verification purposes. The names of all letter writers will be published.
- * Letters should be typewritten if possible, and if not typewritten must be neatly handwritten.
- * Letters must be less than 350 words. Longer letters may be returned to their authors to be shortened.
- * All letters must comply with legal restrictions regarding libel, and the Chester County Independent reserves the right to edit all letters.
- * Letters from candidates for public office and letters endorsing candidates for public office will not be considered for publication.
- * Letters which raise new or substantially new issues will not be considered for publication within a week prior to an election. Such issues must be raised in time to give candidates time to respond.
- * The Chester County Independent will not continue to publish letters which raise the same or substantially the same issue(s) or allegations.
- * The newspaper also will not publish “form” or mass-produced letters originating from special interest groups.

Letters should be emailed to news@chestercountyindependent.com or mailed to P.O. Box 306, Henderson, TN 38340. Our office address is 218 S. Church Ave., Henderson, TN 38340. All letters to the editor become the property of the Chester County Independent and are not returned. The Chester County Independent reserves the right to edit or refuse to publish any letter.



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FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE


TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

A Blessing Stolen
Genesis 27

Esau was Isaac and Rebekah's firstborn and the blessing of his father was to come to him. In Isaac's last days, he asked Esau to kill and prepare him some venison just as he liked it and then he would give him his blessing. Rebekah, whose favorite son was Jacob, overheard the plans of Isaac and Esau and plotted with Jacob to fool his blind father and receive the blessing himself. Jacob was smooth skinned and Esau was hairy so Rebekah instructed Jacob to cover his hands and parts of his body with a young goat's hairy skin and wear Esau's clothes and take a meal of a young goat in to Isaac and convince Isaac that he was Esau and have Isaac give him the blessing.

The trick worked and Jacob received the blessing from his father, a blessing that, by tradition, rightfully belonged to Esau. Genesis 27:27-29.

As soon as Isaac had blessed Jacob, Esau arrives and offers the meal he had prepared to his father. He learns that His brother had tricked him out of the blessing. He begs to be blessed, but the blessing was irrevocable and it had already been given. Esau continues to ask his father for a blessing as he weeps over his loss.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

S U B S T I T U T E
TRUSTEE'S SALE

Sale at public auction will be on January 6, 2025 at 11:00AM local time, at the front door, Chester County Courthouse, 133 East Main Street, Henderson, Tennessee pursuant to Deed of Trust executed by Tom C Gardner, to David Marttala, Trustee, as trustee for Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First National Bank of Middle Tennessee on January 6, 2022 at Record Book 486, Page 514, Instrument No. 69470; conducted by LLG Trustee TN LLC, having been appointed Substitute or Successor Trustee, all of record in the Chester County Register's Office. Default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms, and conditions of said Deed of Trust and the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable.

Party Entitled to Enforce theDebt: SERVBANK, SB, its successors and assigns.

The real estate located in Chester County, Tennessee, and described in the said Deed of Trust will be sold to the highest call bidder. The terms of the said Deed of Trust may be modified by other instruments appearing in the public record. Additional identifying information regarding the collateral property is below and is believed to be accurate, but no representation or warrant is intended.

Street Address: 446 Barham Avenue, Henderson, Tennessee 38340

Parcel Number: 033M D 001.00

Current Owner(s) of Property: The Heirs of Tom C. Gardner

This sale is subject to, without limitation, all matters shown on any applicable recorded plat; any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements, or setback lines that may be applicable;

any statutory right of redemption of any governmental agency, state or federal; any prior liens or encumbrances including those created by a fixture filing or any applicable homeowners' association dues or assessments; all claims or other matters, whether of record or not, which may encumber the purchaser's title and any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose.

The following parties may claim an interest in the above-referenced property to be affected by the foreclosure: any judgment creditor or lien holder with an interest subordinate to the said Deed of Trust or any party claiming by, though, or under any of the foregoing. Such parties known to the Substitute Trustee may include: All parties claiming by, though, or under Tom Gardner.

Terms of Sale will be public auction, for cash, free and clear of rights of homestead, redemption and dower to the extent disclaimed or inapplicable, and the rights of Tom C Gardner, and those claiming through him/her/it/them.

Any right of equity of redemption, statutory and otherwise, and homestead are waived in accord with the terms of said Deed of Trust, and the title is believed to be good, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Substitute Trustee.

The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day, time, and place certain without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place for the sale set forth above. If you purchase a property at the foreclosure sale, the entire purchase price is due and payable at the conclusion of the auction in the form of a certified/bank check made payable to or endorsed to LOGS Legal Group LLP. No personal checks will be accepted. To this end, you

must bring sufficient funds to outbid the lender and any other bidders. Insufficient funds will not be accepted. Amounts received in excess of the winning bid will be refunded to the successful purchaser at the time the foreclosure deed is delivered.

This property is being sold with the express reservation that the sale is subject to confirmation by the lender or trustee. This sale may be rescinded only by the Substitute Trustee at any time. If the Substitute Trustee rescinds the sale, the purchaser shall only be entitled to a return of any money paid towards the purchase price and shall have no other recourse. Once the purchaser tenders the purchase price, the Substitute Trustee may deem the sale final in which case the purchaser shall have no remedy. The real property will be sold AS IS, WHERE IS, with no warranties or representations of any kind, express or implied, including without limitation, warranties regarding condition of the property or marketability of title.

This office may be a debt collector. This may be an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained may be used for that purpose. LLG Trustee TN LLC Substitute Trustee 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400 Charlotte, NC 28216 Phone (704) 333-8107 Fax (704) 333-8156 File No. 24-125104

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE

WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms, and conditions of a Deed of Trust dated June 15, 2007, executed by David A. Leath, an unmarried man and Anna Sheffield, an unmarried woman to Robert M. Wilson as Trustee, for Mortgage Electronic

Registration Systems, Inc., as beneficiary, as nominee for Countrywide Home Loans, Inc, its successors and assigns, and appearing of record on June 19, 2007, in the Register's Office of Chester County, Tennessee, at Record Book 302, Page 279, and Instrument Number 29536.

WHEREAS, the beneficial interest of said Deed of Trust was last transferred and assigned to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB not individually, but solely as trustee for Residential Mortgage Aggregation Trust, the party entitled to enforce said security interest; and having appointed Clear Recon LLC, the undersigned, as Substitute Trustee by instrument filed or being filed for record in the Register's Office of Chester County, Tennessee, with all of the rights, powers, and privileges of the original Trustee named in said Deed of Trust.

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable as provided in said Deed of Trust, and that the undersigned, Clear Recon LLC, as Substitute Trustee or his duly appointed agent, by virtue of the power, duty, and authority vested and imposed upon said Substitute Trustee will, on December 31, 2024, at 11:00 AM, local time, at the Chester County Courthouse, located in Henderson, Tennessee, proceed to sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash or certified funds ONLY, paid at the conclusion of the sale, the following described property situated in Chester County, to wit:

The land referred to herein below is situated in the County of Chester, State of Tennessee, and is described as follows:

BEGINNING at the intersection of the centerline of State Route 200 and the centerline of Wells Road, which point is the southeast corner of the herein described tract; thence from the point of beginning, and with the centerline of Wells Road, the following calls: north 73° 04' 27" west 91.33

feet; north 79° 54' 36" west 67.56 feet; north 86° 19' 04" west 284.11 feet; north 79° 47' 53" west 92.22 feet; north 69° 55' 04" west 90.59 feet; north 63° 47' 03" west 170.76 feet to a point; thence, on new lines through Johnson, the following calls: north 27° 58' 59" east, passing an iron pin at 25' +-, and continuing on for a total distance of 660.58 feet to an iron pin set; south 60° 44' 50" east, passing an iron pin at 737' +-, and continuing on for a total distance of 762.27 feet to a point in the centerline of State Route 200; thence with the centerline of State Route 200, south 28° 06' 49" west 442.62 feet to the point of beginning, containing 10.00 acres as surveyed by Advanced Land Surveying, Inc., R.L.S #1999 on June 13, 2007.

This is a part and parcel of the real estate conveyed to David D. Leath and Anna A. Sheffield from Dennis Jack Johnson and wife, Kathy A. Johnson by Warranty Deed dated June 15, 2007, of record in the Register's Office of Chester County, Tennessee in Record Book 302, page 277.

Parcel ID: 015 02301 00004015

Commonly known as 3925 State Rt 200 Henderson, TN 38340

The street address and parcel number(s) of the above described property are believed to be correct; however, such references are not a part of the legal description of the property sold herein, and, in the event of any discrepancy, the legal description herein shall control

This sale is subject to tenant(s)/occupant(s) rights in possession.

This sale is subject to all matters shown on any applicable recorded plat; any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements, or setback lines that may be applicable; any statutory rights of redemption of any governmental agency, state or federal; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; and to any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. In addition, the following parties may claim an interest in the above-referenced property:

David A. Leath, Anna Sheffield, The J. Barton Hunt Revocable Trust, Jacky Barton Hunt, Trustee.

If the United States or the State of Tennessee have any liens or claimed lien(s) on the Property, and are named herein as interested parties, timely notice has been given to the applicable governmental entity, and the sale will be subject to any applicable rights of redemption held by the entity as required by 26 U.S.C. § 7425 and/or Tennessee Code § 67-1-1433.

All right and equity of redemption, statutory and otherwise, homestead, and dower are expressly waived in said Deed of Trust, and the title is believed to be good; however, the undersigned will sell and convey only as Substitute Trustee.

The transfer shall be AS IS, WHERE IS, AND WITH ALL FAULTS, and without warranties of any kind, express or implied, as to the condition of the Property and the improvements located thereon, including merchantability or fitness for particular purpose. Trustee shall make no covenant of seisin or warranty of title, express or implied, and will sell and convey the subject real property by Substitute Trustee's Deed only.

The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day, time, and place certain without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place for the sale set forth above.

This property is being sold with the express reservation that the sale is subject to confirmation by the lender or trustee. This sale may be rescinded by the Substitute Trustee at any time.

THIS OFFICE IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR AND IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Clear Recon LLC Substitute Trustee 651 East 4th Street Suite 200 C h a t t a n o o g a , Tennessee 37403 Phone: (877) 319-8840 File No: 1216-3288A

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MEETING NOTICE

Henderson Municipal Regional
Planning Commission
will meet on Wednesday,
December 4, 2024 at 5 p.m.
in City Hall Conference Room 3.

The agenda includes a
discussion and review of
Administrative Approval, Site
Plan Review Amendments,
Nonconforming Uses and End of
Year reminders.

The Public is Welcome!

NOTICE TO FURNISHERS
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AND MATERIALS

TO: NSITE, Inc.
STATE PROJECT NO.:
12LPLM-S3-022
PIN NO.: 128605.00
COUNTY: Chester

The City of Henderson is
about to make final
settlement with the
contractor for construction
of the above project. All
persons wishing to file
claims pursuant to Section
54-5-122 TCA must file
claim with Mayor Terry Bell,
The City of Henderson, at
121 Crook Ave., Henderson,
TN 38340 on or before
Friday, December 30, 2024.

NOTICE TO FURNISHERS
OF LABOR
AND MATERIALS TO:

Traf-Mark Industries, L.L.C.
PROJECT NO.:
R4BVAR-M3-030,
R4BVAR-M3-031
CONTRACT NO.: CNX062
COUNTY: Chester

The Tennessee Department of
Transportation is about to make
final settlement with the contractor
for construction of the above num-
bered project. All persons wishing
to file claims pursuant to Section
54-5-122, T.C.A. must file same
with the Director of Construction,
Tennessee Department of Trans-
portation, Suite 700 James K.
Polk Bldg., Nashville, Tennessee
37243-0326, on or before 1/3/2025.

NOTICE OF MEETING
AND PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of
Directors of the Industrial Development Board of the City of
Henderson, Tennessee (the "Issuer") will be held in
Conference Room #3 on the 1 st floor of the Henderson City
Hall located at 121 Crook Avenue, Henderson, Tennessee, at
10:30 a.m. local time on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11,
2024, to consider and act upon all business which may
properly come before the Issuer, said business to include, but
not necessarily be limited to, giving approval to, authorizing
officers of the Issuer to execute documents in connection with,
and holding a public hearing (pursuant to Section 147(f) of the
Internal Revenue Code) on, the issuance of a revenue bond or
bonds in the aggregate principal amount not exceeding
\$5,000,000 (the "Bond"). The Bond will be a qualified
501(c)(3) bond, as defined in Section 145 of the Internal
Revenue Code, the proceeds of which will be loaned to
Freed-Hardeman University (the "Borrower") to finance the
construction and equipping of a campus facility known as the
Jones Family Dining Hall (the "Project") to be located on the
campus of the Borrower between the Brown-Kopel Business
Center and the Gardner Center on E. Main Street, Henderson,
Tennessee. The Project will be owned and operated by the
Borrower. Any interested person may attend the meeting and
make known his or her views with respect to the issuance of
the Bond and the location and nature of the Project. Any
person wanting to provide public comment at the meeting
shall express their desire to do so in person at the meeting
during the public comment portion of the agenda.

Industrial Development Board of the City of
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ACTIVITY

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1) Brewery equipment
- 5) Current craze
- 9) Home run in Idaho?
- 14) Genesis twin
- 15) Oath of old
- 16) Peaceful branch?
- 17) Little brook
- 18) Scrabble piece
- 19) Festive celebrations
- 20) Three different seats
- 23) Fixes, as a carnival game
- 24) Butterfly snare
- 25) “Friends” female
- 29) Alone (with “by”)
- 33) Bushed
- 34) Czech-German river
- 36) Nero’s zero
- 37) Three different seats
- 41) “Caught in the act!”
- 42) Be upwardly mobile?
- 43) Cold-water shorebirds
- 44) Scammed
- 47) Toastmaster’s preparation
- 48) Fond du ___, Wisc.
- 49) Hope-Crosby’s “Road to ___”
- 51) Three different seats
- 59) Spinach like plant

- 60) Claim to be true
- 61) Doing nothing
- 62) “Slowly” in music
- 63) Snub-nosed dog, briefly
- 64) Coke, for one
- 65) Fertile loam
- 66) Winter vehicle
- 67) Venetian-blind component

CLUES DOWN

- 1) Word of action
- 2) Large section of an atlas
- 3) Nursery powder
- 4) Stew in one’s own juices
- 5) Kind of outlet
- 6) Curing, in a way
- 7) Fancy parties
- 8) Where Adam lived
- 9) Molasses candy
- 10) Advisories
- 11) A Jackson 5 member
- 12) Entering overtime
- 13) Conclude one’s case
- 21) Sportscaster
- 22) Architect’s afterthought
- 25) Capital near

PLAYING USHER

By Mary Jersey

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
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51	52	53						54				55	56	57
59								60				61		
62								63				64		
65								66				67		

Casablanca

- 26) Hawaiian greeting
- 27) Dagger companion
- 28) “To each ___ own”
- 29) Pastoral woodwind
- 30) Follow
- 31) Lavender flower
- 32) Bones’ partner
- 34) “___ Brockovich”
- 35) Abbreviated wts.
- 38) “Fanny” novelist

Jong

FreeDailyCrosswords.com

- 39) Jelly used in molds
- 40) ‘50s campaign button name
- 45) Chooses by voting
- 46) Salsa go-with
- 47) Turned on a pivot
- 49) Feature of a miter joint
- 50) “Is this some kind of ___?”

- 51) Laze around
- 52) Lunchbox treat
- 53) Barn-topping device
- 54) Knocks firmly
- 55) Random muscle movements
- 56) An object of worship
- 57) Paella pot
- 58) Nicely arranged

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F I I P F E T G U H G G E Y R A T O Q P
P T E E F I Q F T A V G M N M E M S F G
F C T U C L C S G R Y R L A F M B O A G
I A T M L I R E M G Q V R Y A L G I I I
L N T I B E V H R E M I A N G R M S L T
M I R P T L L R C L N U D N S I Q E N P
B D F R F H D N E E U E V F Y P V E A E
V R A I D E F F S S R D P R S A M R E N
U U Q G N A R E T E V C U Q C Y T V C M
Q G T T N A N E T U E I L T O Q R M H E
Y O F F E N S E V I P M I L Y E A N A A
V G U A R D L P M P I V P Y S I H A Y D
O P E R A T I O N N E E T E Y L D C A Q
N S P U F P Y M R A D B R R B V V V A H
E R R E T T H M O G S U A L A B U N L Q
B S H Y R A T I L I M P Y U I B T S H D

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ACTIVE
- ARMY
- CHIEF
- COMMANDER
- COUNTRY
- DEPLOYMENT
- DISCHARGE
- DRILL
- DUTY
- GUARD
- INACTIVE
- LIBERTY
- LIEUTENANT
- MARINES
- MILITARY
- NAVY
- OFFENSE
- OFFICER
- OPERATION
- QUARTERS
- RESERVE
- SERVICE
- TOUR
- VETERAN

SUDOKU

numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Here is how it works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the

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

Level: Beginner

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

Horoscopes

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, be careful what you ask for, as things have a funny way of coming true for you this week. Censor your thoughts for now, and perhaps hold your cards closer to the vest.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you may have a lot of anxious thoughts right now. Friends provide a welcome diversion later in the week, and you also may want to put in more hours at work to stay distracted.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, plans aren't panning out as you'd hoped, so consider other opportunities. Stop and consider all the possibilities as soon as possible and then make a decision.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Thoughts of love and relationships are on your mind, Cancer. However, you will have trouble expressing just how you feel to others. Think through your words before saying them.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you are a whirlwind of activity, and this causes a bit of disruption to a normally organized week. Others may remark on how you seem to be all over the place, but you know your limits.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

It's hard to imagine fitting anything else into your packed schedule, Virgo. Somehow you manage to do it. But the effects could prove stressful. Try lightening your load this week.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

It's time to plan and prepare, Libra. Take out a pen and paper and start making lists or use a digital planner. It's the only way to remain organized with so much going on.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Matters at home are a priority this week, Scorpio. Focus your attention on tackling things around the house and you'll have more time to devote to fun down the road.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

It might be time to pinch some pennies, Sagittarius. This week you could come up a bit short, and it doesn't bode well for the rest of the month. Consider new revenue streams.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, things turn out to be calm this week, and it is surprising how much you can accomplish. This slow pace is just the reprieve you've needed.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, there's not much you can do about a particular problem, so it may be better to stop thinking about a solution. Put your attention toward something you can control.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, a few minor tweaks to your schedule and you could be able to tackle a number of tasks this week. Enjoy the productivity.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- NOVEMBER 24
- Katherine Heigl, Actress (46)
- NOVEMBER 25
- Christina Applegate, Actress (53)
- NOVEMBER 26
- Natasha Bedingfield, Singer (43)
- NOVEMBER 27
- Caroline Kennedy, Diplomat (67)
- NOVEMBER 28
- Trey Songz, Singer (40)
- NOVEMBER 29
- Russell Wilson, Athlete (36)
- NOVEMBER 30
- Ben Stiller, Actor (59)

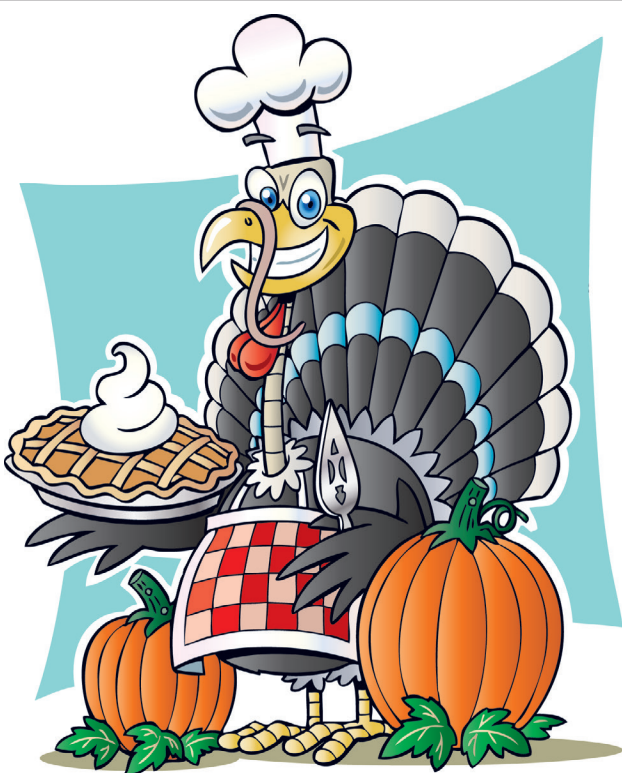
Turkey Tales

Many seasoned and budding chefs are spending extra time in the kitchen this week, preparing for Thanksgiving dinner. They will be studying new recipes or referring to tried and true in an effort to complement the perfect Thanksgiving turkey. Whether you are roasting, baking or frying, check out these recipes for some tips from a few of Amy Turner's second graders from East Chester Elementary.

If by chance you still have questions, read on below for information on the annual Butterball Turkey Talk-Line.

How to cook a turkey:

- First, kill the turkey.
- Next, pe the fithers.
- Then, kut the tell.
- Finally, cook the turkey.
- By Addilyn



First, you go outside and kill a turkey. After that, you take the organs and feathers off.

Next, you seson with bails mint and salt and pepper.

But first you cook the baisel with butter.

Finally, you're finished.

By Jupiter

First, you buy a turkey and bring it back home.

Next, you take your fresh turkey and place it with foil.

Then, you rub butter all over it.

Finally, you set the oven on 350 degrees and let it cook for five hours.

By Elliance

Butterball Turkey Talk-Line returns for 43rd season

The Butterball Turkey Talk-Line has returned for its 43rd season. The Talk-Line has been a staple for Thanksgiving cooks and hosts for decades, assisting millions of holiday hosts since it launched in 1981.

New this year, Butterball is partnering with StoryCorps Studios, the brand storytelling division of StoryCorps, a national nonprofit that records and preserves conversations at the Library of Congress between everyday Americans. Together, Butterball and StoryCorps Studios are creating the National Thanksgiving Archive — a collection of conversations about Thanksgiving memories and traditions that remind us of what we have in common this holiday season.

Beginning today, in an effort to foster togetherness through positive connection this holiday, consumers

are encouraged to visit storycorps.org/national-thanksgivingarchive and record a conversation with a loved one. The website features instructions, helpful recording tips, and timely conversation prompts.

Those that record will then have the option to submit their recording to the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, the largest single collection of human stories ever gathered. Later in November, the stories submitted to the National Thanksgiving Archive will be unveiled on Butterball and StoryCorps social media platforms, just in time to remind us of the joys of gathering with friends and family.

WHO: Butterball and its beloved Turkey Talk-Line experts

WHAT: Butterball Turkey Talk-Line experts are available for interviews

on all things turkey and Thanksgiving, including:

- The StoryCorps Studios partnership and how to record a story for the National Thanksgiving Archive
- Turkey prep tricks and common mistakes
- Holiday how-to suggestions
- Memorable calls from the past 43 years
- And so much more!

WHEN: The Butterball Turkey Talk-Line is open for its 43rd season beginning today, Nov. 1, through Dec. 24.

WHERE: Butterball Turkey Talk-Line experts are standing by and ready to lend a helping hand via 1-800-Butterball, text, social media and more.

• Visit storycorps.org/nationalthanksgivingarchive to record a conversation with a loved one for the National Thanksgiving Archive.

From Page 1-A Holidays

PLLC) will be held at 7 p.m. in Downtown Henderson/ Main Street on Thursday, December 5.

The Chester County Library Ugly Sweater Ornament Contest event will be held at the library at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 7.

The Chester County High School Christmas Concert will be held at Williams Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10. This performance will include the Chester County High School Band and Chorus. A five-dollar admission fee will be required at the door for entry.

Chester County Library December story-time event— “Yeti or not, here I come!” will be held at the library at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 10 and Wednesday, December 11.

The Henderson Hometown Holiday Shopping Weekend event will begin on Friday, December 13 to Saturday,

December 14. Visit any participating restaurant or store for a chance to win one of two \$160 Chamber Bucks Giveaways. Each name is entered to win for every \$25 spent. For more information, contact the Henderson|Chester County Chamber of Commerce at (731)-989-5222.

A new event hosted by the community’s local churches called, “Lighting of the Park” will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. nightly at Chickasaw State Park on December 13, 14 and 15. Friday will be hosted by the First Methodist Church, Saturday will be hosted by the Old Friendship Baptist Church and Sunday will be hosted by the Grace Baptist Church. Donations will be accepted at the exit per day.

A Chester County Country Christmas will be held at Williams Auditorium at 6 p.m. on Saturday, December 14. There is \$15 General Admission seating only available. There will be local talent, singers, musicians and performances of holiday songs by local members of the community. Tickets will be on sale at

williamsauditorium.com.

The Chester County Middle School Winter Concerts will be held at Williams Auditorium on December 16 and December 17. On Monday December 16, the fourth-grade concert will be held, and on Tuesday December 17 the fifth-grade concert will be held from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. each night.

Chester County Library December story-time event— “Holidays” will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 17 and Wednesday, December 18.

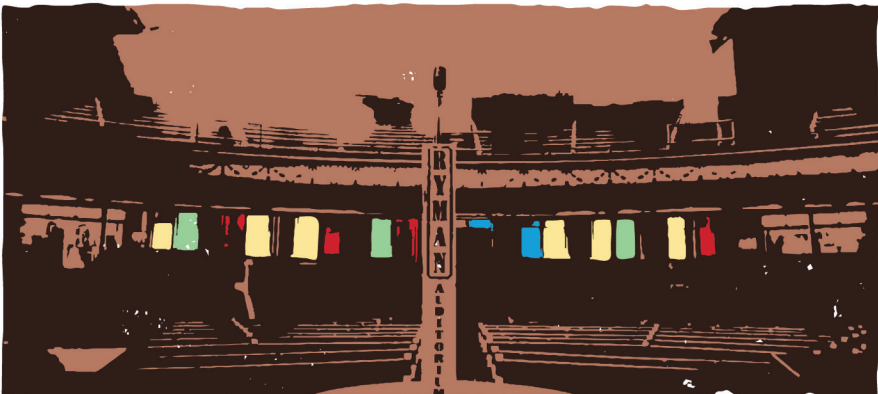
Chester County Library will be hosting the Interactive Elf Movie (for teens/tweens) event at the library at 1 p.m. on Friday, December 20.

A Cozy Christmas Movie: A Charlie Brown Christmas event will be held at the Chester County Library at 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 21.

Chester County Library December story-time event— “Twas the Night Before Christmas” will be held at the library at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, December 23.

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Aiden Welch dribbles down the court Friday night as the Eagles took on South Gibson. Welch was the leading scorer with 14.

Photos by Caneisha Turner



Savannah Williams prepares to pass the ball to a teammate in Friday nights game against South Gibson.

Photos by Caneisha Turner

S. Gibson takes two from CCHS

By Caneisha Turner Sports Writer

The Chester County Eagles and Eaglettes had a tough time in their home opener against South Gibson High School Friday night.

The Eaglettes fell 51-32

while the Eagles ended the night losing to South Gibson 73-52.

Leading scorers for the Eaglettes were JuJu Prather with 11; Brooke Ketchum with nine; Alexis Rivers with five; Kloe Taylor scored four followed by

Hannah Cherry with three. The Eagles scoring was led by Aiden Welch with 14; Jayden Williams, 10; Christian Swift, nine; Christian Halford, seven; Peyton Barham and Jayce Goff, six each.

Lady Eagles fall to TCA 30-57

By Caneisha Turner Sports Writer

The Chester County High School Lady Eagles opened its season on the road at Tennessee Christian Academy in Jackson.

The final score was 57-

30. The Eaglettes trailed the entire game, coming within 10 points at the end of the first quarter.

Senior Brook Ketchum led Chester County scorers with 10 points; Senior Karley Heinsohn scored nine;

Freshman Ester Osburn had four, and Junior Kloe Taylor had two.

The boys team did not play against TCA and will be scheduled at another time.



JuJu Prather, no. 34, is pictured with the ball, attempting to shoot over the TCA defender. The Eaglettes lost 30-57.

Photos by Caneisha Turner

Lady Lions volleyball adds Alabama defensive specialist

Looking to next season, head volleyball coach Amanda Bretherick has added Haley Forester to her back row.

A 5-0 defensive specialist, Forester received an invitation to the Exact Sports Volleyball Camp. In 2022 and 2023, the Moody High School alumna was selected to the JV Volleyball All-County Tournament team. In addition to her work on the court, she was invited to the 2022

USSSA All-America Softball camp.

With a plethora of academic awards, Forester is currently ranked second at MHS while being a member of the Beta Club, Key Club, Sigma Delta Phi Science Honor Society, and the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society. She also is a Mercer Case Scholar and was chosen as the 2023 Moody High School Student of Excellence.

Forester says, "I am

thrilled to say I will be joining Freed-Hardeman University in the fall to play volleyball at the next level! I am really excited to meet my teammates and build relationships that I hope will last a lifetime. Volleyball has changed my life in a lot of ways. To be able to play collegiately is a blessing! This opportunity means so much to me because not only will I get to grow athletically and spiritually, but I'll also be

getting the education I need to pursue my dreams. I fell in love with Freed the first time I stepped on campus at Maroon and Gold Day because of the welcoming environment from every-

one that makes you feel at home. I can't wait to make Freed my home for the next four years! GO LIONS!!!"

Coach Bretherick remarked, "We met Haley at camp this summer and im-

mediately resonated with her energy and love for the game. She will be a great fit for our program and we can't wait to see what all she will accomplish in the coming years."



Lions golf signs Goodpasture standout

While preparing for his Spring season, head coach Randall Rhodes looks to the future of Lion golf with the addition of Goodpasture Christian's Daniel Whitman.

Whitman was a medalist in the 2023 Nashville School Days tournament with a 66. He also qualified for the 2024 Tennessee State Open where he finished with 70. A three-time Region championship qualifier, Whitman was the

Golden Eagle Open champion in 2022.

"Daniel is a great young man and is eager to start his career as a Lion. His accomplishments as a player and a multi-sport athlete are impressive, and have prepared him for this next step," said Coach Rhodes. "From the day he committed to play for FHU, he's worked hard to continue growing his golf game. We're excited about his enthusiasm, talent, and work

ethic that he will bring to our program."

In addition to his prowess on the golf course, Whitman is a multi-sport athlete, helping the Cougars to a baseball state championship in 2022 and the baseball title in 2023.

Whitman says of his future, "I am really excited about the opportunity to be a part of FHU Golf, and I can't wait to get to work."



PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

CHESTER COUNTY BASKETBALL

AIDEN WELCH

ALEXIS RIVERS

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RANDY SMITH – SEPT. 22, 1957 – NOV. 24, 2024

Randy Allen Smith, 67, of Henderson passed away Nov. 24, 2024, at his home. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27, at Shackelford Funeral Directors – East Main Chapel with Bro. Ronnie Geary officiating. Burial followed at Sweetlips Cemetery. The family received friends at East Main from 5-8 p.m. on Tuesday.

He was born Sept. 22, 1957, in Henderson, the son of the late Charles Perry and Johnnie Rhea Goodwin Smith. He grew up in Henderson and was a 1976 graduate of Chester County High School. He married Elizabeth Ann Shelton on Dec. 27, 1979. They were married 45 years and made their home in Henderson.



He loved working his farm which he did most of his life until his health prevented it. He was a heavy equipment operator for the Chester County Highway Department for about 20 years. He enjoyed listening to music, barbequing hogs and doing mechanic work. He was generally good hearted and would help anyone who had a need. He was hardworking and did not like being idle. He especially loved

his grandchildren and spoiling them. He was a member of the Sweetlips Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Ann Shelton Smith of Henderson; two daughters, Sherry Carpenter of Henderson and Charolett (Michael) Welch of Henderson; four grandchildren, Shelby (Ethan) Nanney, Perry Welch, Elizabeth Welch and Tiffany (John) Barton; three great-grandchildren, Lakelyn Barton, Gunner Barton and Oakleigh Nanney; three sisters, Jackie (Joe) Fletcher, Betty (Kenny) Terry and Donna (Wendell) Murphy, all of Henderson.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Benny Lynn Smith and Charles Daniel Smith.

DEBORAH PLUNK – OCT. 2, 1960 – NOV. 19, 2024

Deborah Joan Gruggett Plunk, 64, of Henderson passed away Nov. 19, 2024, at her home.

A Celebration of Life

was from noon-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at Shackelford Funeral Directors – Crook Avenue Chapel. In lieu of flowers, donations

may be made to the City of Henderson Animal Control. Visit them on Facebook.

She was born Oct. 2, 1960.

Obituary Pricing

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What to know about exercise and dementia risk

Three seconds go by in a flash, but that’s enough time for another person to join the masses already diagnosed with dementia. According to Alzheimer’s Disease International, every three seconds someone in the world develops dementia, a condition that more than 55 million people were living with in 2020.

The World Health Organization notes that various diseases and injuries that affect the brain can contribute to dementia. As menacing a threat as dementia presents, individuals are not helpless against it. In fact, exercise, which can help lower risk for heart disease, stroke and various other conditions, can be a valuable ally against dementia as well.

What is the link between exercise and dementia?

Dementia remains something of a mystery, but the Alzheimer’s Society notes that evidence is now strong enough to support the assertion that lack of physical exercise increases a person’s risk of developing dementia. The Alzheimer’s Society also notes that researchers have discovered improvements in thinking and memory and reduced rates of dementia

among middle-aged and older adults who exercised compared to those that did not.

Is cardio the most effective exercise at lowering dementia risk?

Speaking with CNBC, Silky Singh Pahlajani, a clinical professor of behavioral neurology and neuropsychiatry at Weill Cornell Medicine, noted that cardiovascular exercise, often referred to as cardio, can provide the biggest benefit for brain health of any form of exercise. Cardiovascular exercise can increase heart rate, which helps deliver oxygen cells to the brain. The National Institutes of Health notes that oxygen shortages prevent the brain from working as well as it should, and a 2023 study published in the journal Redox Biology found that oxygen abnormality plays a crucial role in the occurrence and progression of Alzheimer’s disease.

How should aging adults approach exercise if they have been largely sedentary?

Middle-aged and older adults who have not been physically active throughout their adult life but want to begin incorporating exercise

into their daily routines are urged to speak with their physicians prior to beginning a fitness regimen. Preexisting conditions may make it difficult, if not impossible, to engage in certain forms of exercise. A personal physician can consider a patient’s unique medical history and then recommend certain exercises that won’t put him or her in jeopardy of suffering an injury or illness. A gradual approach to exercising is typically best for individuals who have lived a sedentary lifestyle. Starting off slowly with a short walk or light physical activity like gardening can help the body acclimate to physical activity at a safe pace. As adults bodies’ become more accustomed to exercise, men and women can then gradually increase the intensity of their workouts, switching from walking to jogging on a treadmill when possible.

There is no cure for dementia, but adults are not helpless against the various forms of the condition. Researchers have discovered that preventive measures like routine exercise can be an effective way to reduce dementia risk.

Study to explore antibiotics role in childhood asthma

The use of antibiotics in the first year of life has been found to be a risk factor for the development of childhood asthma.

What is not known is how to protect children from the long-term effects of infant antibiotic use. Researchers at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt are seeking to determine the age when infants are most susceptible to the risk of developing childhood asthma once exposed to antibiotics and the pathways through which infant antibiotic use can increase the risk childhood asthma onset.

“There are currently no strategies to prevent asthma, the most common chronic lung disease in children,” said Christian Rosas-Salazar, MD, MPH, assistant professor of Pediatrics, Allergy, Immunology, Pulmonary Medicine at Monroe Carell. “Understanding the mechanisms that lead

to asthma in children who receive antibiotics in early life can help us develop interventions to prevent this condition.

“By examining how antibiotics can disrupt an infant’s microbiome and identifying a critical window of opportunity to intervene, the ultimate goal of this project is to inform the design of microbiome-based therapeutics, such as probiotics and/or bacterial products that can help deliver antibiotics safely during early life and reduce the burden of childhood asthma.”

Rosas-Salazar received \$4.1 million from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute to conduct a five-year study, “Effect of infant antibiotics on the development of early-life airway and gut microbiome and risk of childhood asthma,” where his team will use available data and biospecimens collected from several birth cohorts from across the

country that are part of the Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) Program of the National Institutes of Health.

Results from previous studies indicate that the association of antibiotic exposure early in childhood and the risk of developing asthma is likely due to changes in the human microbiome, but the techniques utilized couldn’t accurately identify relevant bacterial species or functions. Rosas-Salazar said that is critical in designing interventions to prevent long-term detrimental effects of infant antibiotic use.

“Our objective is to address a critical and unmet need,” said Rosas-Salazar. “The findings could be used to develop microbiome-based interventions to prevent childhood asthma in children needing antibiotics in early life,” he said.

Number of whooping cough cases on rise nationally

Whooping cough is making a comeback, and medical providers say the highly contagious bacterial infection that causes severe coughing fits is preventable.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, whooping cough, also known as pertussis, declined dramatically.

“Cases have skyrocketed nationwide,” said Anthony Flores, MD, MPH, PhD, professor of Pediatrics and Edward Claiborne Stahlman Professor at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt. “The levels that are being reported are higher than pre-pandemic.

“We have had a couple of cases, but the CDC has reported seeing record numbers. It’s a vaccine-preventable disease,” he said.

While it has been difficult to pinpoint the reason for the rise in cases, Flores, director of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Monroe Carell, said waning immunity and vaccine hesitancy may be the likely culprits.

“Our vaccines are still very effective, and following the recommended booster schedule is by and large our biggest preventive measure,” said Flores. “If I could repeat anything over and over again, it would be to vaccinate, vaccinate,

vaccinate. It will reduce the severity of what we are seeing.”

Initial symptoms of whooping cough are similar to that of a common cold — runny nose, fever and a mild cough. The illness is spread through respiratory droplets when an infected person sneezes or coughs. The cough often intensifies, lasting for several minutes at a time, making it difficult to breathe and causing a “whoop” sound when gasping to breathe.

Antibiotics are the standard treatment if the illness is diagnosed in time, but once the exhausting, hacking cough begins, comfort care with rest and fluids is the primary therapy.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), preliminary data show that more than five times as many cases have been reported as of Oct. 19, compared to the same time in 2023. The number of reported cases this year is higher than the same time in 2019.

The volume of cases reported in Tennessee is mirroring what is being seen nationwide and can be severe in infants and the unvaccinated.

“Babies are the most vulnerable, and they don’t present with the classic symptoms,” Flores said. “It

is important for providers to know that we are seeing higher cases and when considering RSV, flu and other respiratory illnesses to consider pertussis as well if there is a high enough index of suspicion for it. It’s a pretty standard test, a nasal swab.”

“Of the cases that are resulting in hospitalizations, the majority of them are really young, less than 5 months old, and they are unvaccinated, or the mothers were not vaccinated.”

People with underlying immune deficiencies and the elderly are also at increased risk of complications from the disease.

Pregnant mothers are encouraged to get a booster in the third trimester to help provide some immunity to their child once they are born.

The first round of pertussis vaccinations begins at 2 months with subsequent shots at 4 and 6 months, then again before the age of 2 and at the start of kindergarten and teens.

Vaccines do not prevent infection nor provide lifelong protection. Boosters are recommended every 10 years throughout adulthood to help curb spread and severity of infection.

Sorrow and Service
By David Coy
Good Grief

Mrs. Lincoln stated that after the death of their son Willy early in 1862 Abraham Lincoln drew much closer to God. Abraham knew a life of hardship with the angel of death visiting his life many times. At the age of nine years old, Abraham lost his mother. In February of 1862, the Lincolns lost their son Willy to Typhoid fever. It is said that Elizabeth Keckly would later observe the President standing in “silent, awe stricken wonder” at the foot of the bed where his son lay and gave his last breath. In the same year, the President would lose one of his dearest friends who would die in battle.

In strength of character, the rest of us hope we would possess under similar circumstances. He wrote a letter of consolation to Fanny, the daughter of his dear friend. Mr. Lincoln would also lose his sister at 19. Adult losses included his fiancé, his father, two sons, his protégé Elmer

Ellsworth (who was also the first Union soldier killed in the war) and three brothers-in-law. Fanny was not the only recipient of a letter of consolation that Mr. Lincoln would write. In such he wrote, “...in this sad world of ours, sorrows come to all, to the young, it comes with bitterest agony because it takes them unawares.” Yet he would also encourage, “You can not now realize that you will ever feel better. Is this not so? And yet it is a mistake. You are sure to be happy again...I have had experience enough to know what I say, and you need only to believe it, to feel better at once.”

We can mimic the same strength and service which may strengthen and encourage others



David Coy

who are walking in their journey with grief. We are approaching the holiday of Thanksgiving, yet a heart of thanksgiving and service should exist within us throughout the year and be displayed at every opportunity that affords us. Call David at 879-6284.

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