# **Thursday** January 30, 2025 nden **CHESTER** COUNTY Dedicated to the welfare of Henderson and Chester County

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# **CCYT** to present **Newsies Jr.** Friday, Saturday

Chester County Youth Theatre will present Disney's Newsies JR. at Williams Auditorium this weekend.

Inspired by the true story of newsboys in turn-of-the-century New York City, Newsies JR. features Tony Award-winning songs, and is a 60-minute adaptation of the 2012 Broadway musical, based on the 1992 film. When powerful newspaper publishers raise prices at the newsboys' expense, the charismatic Jack Kelly rallies newsies from across the city to strike against the unfair conditions. Together, the newsies learn that they are stronger united and create a movement to fight for what's right.

This production features a cast of over 50 young actors and actresses in fourth through eighth grades led by Director Becky Hartle, along with Lauren Malecha, music; Abby Hysmith, choreography; Mary Beth Miller, costumes; and Amber Garner, stage manager and program designer.

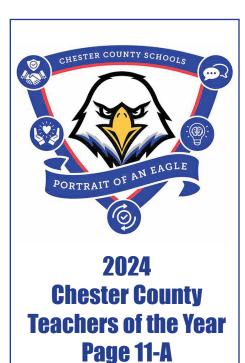
The show begins at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30 and at 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1. Advance tickets are available at www. williamsauditorium.com. Tickets are \$12 for general admission and \$15 for reserved seating.

# **FHU Lectureship to** focus on Genesis **March 16-20**

Freed-Hardeman University invites guests to attend the 89th Annual Bible Lectureship, "Promise and Providence: A Faith Journey Through Genesis," an enriching experience for Christians, church leaders, families, students and all who seek spiritual growth. Normally held in place March 16-20, due to large-scale renovations to Dryden Auditorium on FHU's Henderson, Tennessee, campus.

Read the Chester County Independent in the coming weeks for more information on this upcoming event.

To register and to view the full weekly schedule, please visit fhu.edu/lectureship.









# K dream "begins with n

Reverend Dennis McBride presented the message "Living the dream - it begins with me," at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration in Henderson Sunday, Jan. 26. The evening also included prayer, proclamation and song, all supporting the message originated by Dr. King.

### **By Kara Crump Staff Writer**

The annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration was held at Henderson City Hall on Sunday evening, January 26. The theme for the event was "Living the dream—it begins with me."

The processional was led by the Dr. February, this year's lectureship will take M.L. King Mass Choir who sang "Lift Jesus Up." The Scripture was read by Pastor Vernon Brice from Kingdom Builders Church. The prayer was given by Reverand Dennis McBride who is a Pastor from Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. The National Anthem was led by Mr. Zakkeus Bonds from Agape Christian Fellowship. The 2025 Program Committee co-chair Dr. Jerry Woods gave the greetings for the celebration.

> Proclamations were given from Chester County Mayor Barry Hutcherson and city of Henderson Mayor Terry Bell to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The MLK Committee Carter Scales and Area Youth gave the offering and prayer. The introducer of the messenger was Pastor Cleophas A. Cherry-Harvest Time COGIC.

> The speaker of the ceremony was Dr. Joseph Fisher from the Temple Worship Center COGIC of Parsons, Tennessee. The



vote of thanks was led by 2025 Dr. MLK Committee member Amanda Johnson. The benediction was presented by Pastor Rickey Anderson from Cool Springs Baptist Church.

The Master of Ceremonies was held by Pastor Todd Davis from Tillman's Chapel Church. The musicians for the celebration ceremony included choir director Lewis Thompson and drummer Cullen Bonds.

The selections for the celebration were "I Want to Be Ready" sung by soloist Leroy Woods, "Trust in God" by soloist Ajah Douglas and "I Prayed About It" by soloists Cynthia Woods and Tabitha Brice. The final selection was sung by Bettie Trice from Historic First Baptist Church. The Dr. MLK steering committee included Amanda Johnson, Milton Trice, John L. Welch and Jerry Woods.

# **Commission approves quarterlies, hears from Dixie Youth**

### **By Kara Crump Staff Writer**

The Chester County Commission held a meeting at the Chester County courthouse courtroom on Monday evening, January 27. There were no public comments made. All commissioners were present for the

Quarterly reports for the meeting were the board of education, highway department, trustee, county general, library, solid waste department, fire department, building and zoning and emergency management.

Chester County Board of Education Director of Schools Troy Kilzer II gave the report for the school. Chester County

Finance Supervisor Heather Yelverton gave the report for the Trustee's office (Chester County Trustee Lance Beshires was absent from illness) and the county general. Todd Brown gave the report for the highway department. The highway department needed approval for road lists. The roads list was approved with all in favor. Thomas Winbush gave the quarterly report for the solid waste department. The total tons of garbage was 3,863 tons. The total of tree branches given was 662 tons. The company that they are waiting for to do work on a project at the solid waste department is currently in Texas. Winbush hopes it will be "up and running" by February. More details were discussed of

each specific report at the previously held budget meetings. All quarterly reports

given were unanimously approved. Chester County Fire Chief Stephen Moore was absent from the meeting for training, but requested approval for the CBDG Grant, which was approved by all Chester County Commissioners. The County Commissioners also asked all community members to fill out a survey that a certain amount must be turned in for that specific grant. Many volunteered and turned in their surveys after the meeting adjourned. The library director Chrystal Richerson was absent from the meeting.

See COUNTY, Page 11-A



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FDIC COLL HOUSE

# Shenandoah and Clint Black help raise more than \$1.5 million for student scholarships during FHU's Celebration at the Ryman

Freed-Hardeman University celebrated its 60th Annual Benefit Dinner with an evening at the historic Ryman Auditorium in Nashville. Held Thursday, Jan. 16, the event raised \$1,555,000 for student scholarships, with performances by country music legends Shenandoah and Clint Black.

The Ryman Auditorium, best known as the birthplace of the Grand Ole Opry, has deep spiritual roots and a special connection to FHU. Built in 1892 as the Union Gospel Tabernacle, the venue was originally designed for religious revivals. In 1922, N.B. Hardeman, former FHU president and renowned gospel preacher, delivered sermons on the same stage to overflow crowds.

"The evening blended the venue's rich history with reflections on FHU's ongoing mission," said FHU President David R. Shannon. "I wish that Brother Hardeman could stand beside us right here tonight. I also wish he could stand in the middle of campus and in the middle of our student body. I think he would be proud of what's happened because what he was doing is what we are still doing—and that is all for the glory of God."

The program also took a moment to reflect on the event's rich legacy with a video segment featuring FHU leaders reminiscing about the Benefit Dinner's history. Former Vice President of Advancement Frank McMeen shared, "What we did here for 60 years was something that doesn't normally happen in a town the size of Henderson. People think of Freed-Hardeman as a small place until they see the impact of filling this place up and raising over a million dollars in a night. It's an amazing, impressive thing for Freed-Hardeman and for Henderson."

GRAMMY, and ACM-winning group Shenandoah, led by Marty

Raybon, delivered performance full of energy and nostalgia. The audience sang along to classics like "Mama Knows" and "Next to You, Next to Me," while Raybon shared uplifting messages that resonated with the crowd.

Later, GRAMMYwinning artist Clint Black shared stories from his legendary career. Reflecting on his journey from humble beginnings to stardom, Black said, "First and foremost, I'm an entertainer... I've just been traveling around, looking for another group to sing for!"

The \$1,555,000 raised through ticket sales, donations, and commemorative merchandise will provide vital scholarships, ensuring future generations can benefit from FHU's faithbased education. The next Benefit Dinner will be held in the newly remodeled Dryden Auditorium on FHU's campus in December 2025.

The mission of Freed-



FHU President David R. Shannon, from left, talks with GRAMMY-winning artist Clint Black at the annual benefit dinner Jan. 16 at the historic Ryman Auditorium in Nashville.

Hardeman University is to help students develop their God-given talents for His glory by empowering them with an education that integrates Christian scholarship faith, and

service. With locations in Henderson and Memphis, FHU offers associate, bachelor's, master's, specialist and doctoral degrees. More information is available at fhu.edu.

### **MEETING NOTICE**

Henderson Municipal Regional Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 5 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room 3.

The agenda includes a discussion and review of Administrative Approvals and a Site Plan Review for Casey's # 4579 at US 45 and Eric Bell Drive.

The Public Is Welcome.



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# **Jacks Creek Elementary**



### Kim Beachy **Kindergarten**

"Congratulations to our January Teacher of the Month, Ms. Kim! With her creative and interactive teaching style, she captures her students' attention and turns learning into an exciting adventure. By incorporating handson activities into her lessons, Ms. Kim fosters a deeper understanding of the subject matter while keeping her students engaged and motivated." ~Todd Lewis, Principal.

# **Elementary**



**Monty McNeal Office Staff** 

"Mr. Monty is dedicated, hardworking, and dependable team player who has been a true asset to East Chester Elementary for many years. Known for always going above and beyond, Monty continually seeks opportunities to help others and make a positive impact. Starting in January, Monty will be a new face in our main office, ready to bring his enthusiasm and commitment to this important role. We're excited to have Monty join the front-office team and know he'll continue to make a difference for school community!" ~Amanda Brasfield, Principal.

# **East Chester West Chester Elemetary**



**Shannon Clayton Secretary** 

"I would like to choose Shannon Clayton for January's spotlight. This school year, Shannon has become an essential part of the West Chester team as our secretary. She has taken on the accounting tasks and has excelled at navigating the busy front office with a smile. Shannon is truly a remarkable asset to West Chester, and we are so glad that she is part of the family." ~Amy Wooley, Principal.

C.C. Middle **School** 



**Jason Judd and Mike Goff** 

**P.E. Teachers** "Mike Goff and Jason Judd are the physical education teachers at CCMS. They work with all students during the week not only in PE but during RTI as well. CCMS is fortunate to have these men as part of our staff." ~Renee' Thomas, Principal.

# **Chester Co. Junior High**



**Lanice White Seventh Grade Math** 

"Lanice White is a seventh grade math teacher. A 24-year educator—this is her first year at Chester County Junior High School. Mrs. White's willingness to go the extra mile and her dedication to her students has been such a positive addition to the junior high." ~Deborah Lambert, Vice Principal.



**Chester Co.** 

**High School** 

**Teresa Crouse Agriculture/ FFA Sponsor** 

"Teresa Crouse is an agriculture teacher and FFA sponsor at CCHS. She is a supportive and caring individual who always prioritizes the best interests of her students club members. Teresa consistently goes above and beyond what is expected of her and plays a vital role in the CCHS family." ~Wes McPeake, Assistant Principal.



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# Top Five Movies to **Stream Online**

- 1. Don't Die: The Man Who Wants to Live Forever
- 2. The Fall Guy
- 3. Wallace & Gromit: **Vengeance Most** Fowl
- 4. Look Into My Eyes
- 5. Unstoppable

https://www.google.com/search?q=top+five+m ovies+to+stream+online+january+2025



# Top Five Ways To Save Money On **Your Electric Bill**

- 1. Unplug appliances when not in use
- 2. Change out your furnace/AC filter regularly
- 3. Use light dimmers
- 4. Use solar power
- 5. Close your blinds

https://www.electricgeneratorsdirect.com/stories/1853-21-ways-t o-save-electricity-at -home.html



Top Five Fashion **Trends - January** 2025

- 1. Future Forward
- 2. Boho with an Edge
- 3. Living Dolls
- 4. Cherry Girl
- 5. Animal Print Everything

https://www.google.com/search?q=top+5+fashion+trends+january+2025

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# Top Five Ways To Declutter Your Home

- 1. Start small to build momentum
- 2. Use the "four-box method"
- 3. Declutter by category not location
- 4. Organize as you go
- 5. Adopt a "one in, one out" rule

https://www.google.com/search?q=top+5+ways+to+declutter+your+home+in+january+2025

# **NEW FRIENDSHIP** Community



# VICKIE ELLIS

Hello to all from this little corner of the world. Sunday was the last Sunday of January. Can you believe that? Time is flying by.

The snow was beautiful, but the cold was rough. I hope everyone made it through without any injuries or accidents. The utility bills will be up, and many have already expressed dilemmas with managing to pay their utility bill. Many say they are looking for jobs, and there are plenty out there. When I was younger, I worked nights when days were not available to have enough of a check to help pay bills. I only know that we must do what we can to survive and help ourselves and each other. Remember that utility bills and grocery prices affect everyone.

The temperature was 46 degrees Sunday, and it was a gray, dreary day. Monday was sunny. This is the last

Community

**GLORIA HOLIDAY** 

People of Chester County

everywhere. We only have

this week left in January,

so let us give thanks to the

Lord for all He has done

for us in this week because

this is the day the Lord

has made! Let us be glad

in it! You know the Lord

would not allow us to go

through our hurts, pains

and disappointments if He

heartbreaking news! Last

week, on Jan. 23, my

husband received a phone

call that his sister Loris

Holiday had passed! As we

were thinking about Loris

and her death, he received

another phone call on Jan.

25 that they found his

brother Elmer deceased.

Yes, this morning, my

heart is heavy for the loss

of our loved ones but also

for my husband! But one

thing I do know is that the

Lord will never leave us

or forsake us! The Lord

gives it, and the Lord takes

it away, but blessed be the

name of the LORD! Keep

us up in prayer as we lay

We have had some

did know we will stand.

to

with

Greetings

week in January, and we move along to February. Take one day at a time and give thanks for everything. Think about this - Jesus did not have a place to lay His head. He was always about His Father's business. Things will get better. No two days are the same. Good or bad, the days come and go. Enjoy the day God gives you; it is a GIFT!

Condolences to all who have lost loved ones.

Happy belated birthday to Billy Neal Priddy, 1-20; Arlene Hill and Nicki Bray, 1-21; Walter Willis and Kenneth Williams, 1-23; and James Ellis, 1-24.

Happy birthday to Kirbi Fahs and Matt Dickey, Jr, 1-26; Alvin Jones, 1-29; and Piper Fahs, 2-1.

Prayer requests for Wesley Bates, Paula Berry, Donna Bishop, Judy Bray, Georgia Burkeen, J.T. and Jeanette Butler, Jackie Chambers, Rickey Clayton, Davis, James Ellis, Joie Freeman, Joey Harris, LaDawn Hayes, Danny Hodges, Brenda Hopper, Kristen Hurley, Alvin and Eva Jones, Sue Lewis, Mark Lenow, Doris McKinney, Martha Mainord, Jeff Mays, Deana Morris, Darryl Newsom, Jim Newsom and Sue Newsom, Julia Parchman,

James Parrish, Powers, Pam Priddy, Ridge Ray, Todd Rencher, Donald and Doris Rowlett, Mollie Russell, Brenda Seaton, Dyke Sells, Cathy Sisson, Jacob Thomas, Kevin Thurman, Tony Tucker, Cammi Walls, Charles and Natalie Wray, Mike Young and the family of Penney Sparks. Also, remember our first responders, military, firefighters and law enforcement officers.

"Let us die daily to self, Lord, for to die to self and sin is to live that much more to God. Turn our concerns inward to the things of the soul, to eternal things that matter most. And turn our concern outward to the welfare of others and most of all to pleasing You, our God, in everything we do. Amen"

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

our loved ones to rest! Our condolences go out to the Collier family! On Saturday, Jan. 25, Frederick Jimmerson Collier had a beautiful going home

service. He was only 69 years old. Just like my sister in love Loris. She was only 69, and my brother in love was only 71. There is no number too high or low; we just have to be ready when our number is called. To his wife Stella (Greer) Collier, his children, sisters, brother and to all of his family, we are praying for you, and the Lord has you in his hands.

The City of Henderson

loves you!

On Sunday, Jan. 26, there was a great celebration going on in the Chester County City Hall. City Mayor Terry Bell, County Mayor Barry Hutcherson, several other elected officials and the people of the City were there to help keep the Dream that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had alive. Zakkeus Bonds did an outstanding job singing the National Anthem; the prayer was given by Pastor Dennis McBride with scripture by Pastor Vermont Brice. The M. L. King Mass Choir did an outstanding job with the songs. Dr. Joseph Fisher brought forth a wonderful message; it was very powerful and to the point. The theme was "LIVING THE DREAM, IT BEGINS WITH ME!" Mr. Terry Bell and Mr. Barry Hutcherson presented the

Proclamations to Dr. Jerry Woods. Thank you, Retired Commissioner John L. Welch and Dr. Jerry Woods, for a NOTEWORTHY MLK celebration!

Happy Birthday Pastor Marles Flowers on Jan. 24 and his granddaughter Carmen Barham. They celebrated their birthday together and had a wonderful time! May the Lord bless you with many more.

On our prayer list this week: Ms. Ethel Croom, Harvey Lee Muse in the hospital, Kym Coffie in hospital as well, the Holiday family, the Collier family and any family that you know of who needs prayer. Continue praying for our leaders here in Chester County and for the

Chester County Head Start is accepting applications for three- and four-year-olds for the 2025-26 school year. For more information, call 989-2561 or 989-5111.

To the people of Henderson, remember to patronize with our local businesses here in town; let us try to support our own as much as we can.

If you live in the City of Henderson and have news about your family, birthday, anniversary, announcements, and things happening in the City, please contact me; you call or text at 608-6132. HAVE A BLESSED DAY!

### **Chester County Senior Center** 731-989-7434 Monday - Friday 8:00 - 2:00 Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday January 2025 CLOSED 9:30 Instructed Painting W/ Mae. \*Advance Sign up \$ \$25.00 a Case Happy New Yea 2025 10. 8:00 Games & Fu 9:00 Dance class Coffee & Games 3:00 L1:00 Soup Fundraise 9:30-10:30 10:00 Bingo W/Courtne iames & Coffee OBILE MARKET 10:00 Jeopardy Lingo. 8:00 Games & Coffe :00 Games & Coffe 00 Day Trip 10:00 Chair Yoga 🔝 0:00 Bingo W/ Maega Advance Sign -up \$ ٠٠٠٠٠٠ Wii ~@=<u>\$</u> CLOSED 3:00 Coffee & Games 8:00 Coffee & Game 3:00 Games & F CLOSING AT 10:00 Wii 9:00 Dance clas 11:00 Birthday 12:00 Wii Celebration 1.8:00 3:00 Gan ames & Coffee 0:00 Chair 0:00 Cornhole Wii change

# Community **NEWS**

By: Marcus X. Fry/ Mary Lynn Lambert

A slew of January birthdays: Frankie Lambert and Marcus X. Fry had a nice visit with Jack Fry and wished him a happy birthday. Jack is Robert Fry's brother and first cousin once removed to Marcus. Jack is retired from the HVAC industry and has been living in Brownsville. The road Jack lives on is named after him, no doubt for his contributions to keeping countless Tennesseans warm and cool.

A lunch at Brenda's Kitchen in Henderson was held for more January birthdays, many of whom

went to school together. Attending were Richard (Jan. 24) and Rita Crowley, Judy Dillard, Marcus X. Fry (Jan. 19), Bob and Carolyn Kramer (Jan. 14), Frankie (Jan. 16) and Mary Lynn Lambert, Larry and Anita Lambert and Steve and Linda Russell.

Prayers requested for Joe Seaver's son Brandon, who had to go in for surgery. Brandon is founder/CEO of Memphis Record Pressing.

Chair yoga classes will resume at 1:30 pm Tuesday, Feb. 4, at Silerton Baptist Church. Everyone is welcome to join; there is no charge.

Bobby Naylor and Carlos Schmitt attended the 37th annual Florida Flywheelers' Antique Engine and Tractor Swap Meet this past weekend. The organization promotes interest restoring, preserving and

exhibiting antique internal combustion engines, steam engines, antique tractors and autos and other labor saving devices from the bygone years. The convention featured antique tractors and cars, tractor pulls, blacksmiths, food, a flea market and an antique village.

Piney Grove Baptist Church had an ordination service on Jan. 26 for Bro. Jake Hill. There was a full house at the church, and 15 pastors and deacons were present for a laying on of hands and prayers for Jake's success in his vocation, followed by a presentation of certificate and Bible. This was a special day for Jake and his wife Kim. A thank you to all who prepared the fellowship reception that followed.

# Community NEWS

Good morning from Deanburg. Sunday was a good day to worship even though it was dreary with the rain. I am so happy to see sunshine.

There have been so many deaths recently. I am so saddened and sympathetic for all the families and friends, especially Brent Ferguson who fought a long battle; sweet lady Joyce Murley Stewart lived in Deanburg for many years. She was a lovely, devoted mother; I knew Dr.

B.J. Naylor also. He was a real southern gentleman. Sympathy to all family and friends.

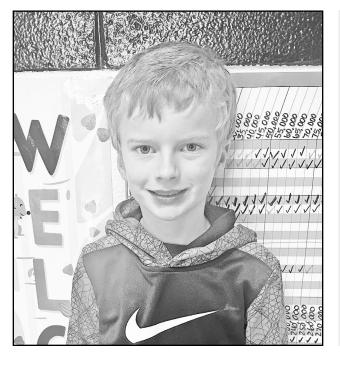
There are many who are ill and need our prayers - Tony Concialdi, Cora Talbott, Dale Rose, Shirley Mainers, JoLiene Harris, Judi Concialdi, Kristin Ferguson, Sandra Landers, Bro. Jeremy, Katrina and Lexie Arnold.

I missed the deadline last week. Birthdays were Lynn Julian, Jan. 14; Mitzi Quarles Bastin, Jan. 21; Rudy Quarles, Jan. 21; Benjamin Quarles, Jan. 23; Rhett Olver Brewer, Jan. 25; Kaitlyn Thomas, Jan. 26; Annafaith Howell, Jan.

27; and Billy May Mayo, Jan. 27.

If you are interested, put these events on your calendar. Deanburg Community Club meeting will be at 7 p.m. Feb. 4. We would love for more people to come. The Chester County Family and Community Education Club (Home Demonstration) will meet at 1 p.m. Feb. 10 at City Hall. We meet the second Monday of each month. We have several ladies but sure would like you to join.

Call me at 731-988-5122 with news or announcements. Until next time, take care.



# **Ben Hardin** reads one million words

Ben Hardin has reached his goal of ONE MILLION words read in Accelerated Reader. He is a second grade student in Beverly Bailey's class at East Chester Elementary School. Ben is the son of Perry and Alba Hardin. Congratulations, Ben!

# Community



### JAN **JOHNSON**

Hello from Enville! I hope everyone is having a great week. The forecast for this week and the weekend is calling for warmer temperatures and maybe some rain, but I will take it. January is almost gone, and February will move us closer to spring, which many of us are looking forward to. I really hope February will be a mild weather month; as for me, I am done with the bitter cold and snow, but it is probably not done with me yet!

Groundhog Day is Feb. 2 and is a tradition observed in the United States and Canada each year. It derives from the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if a groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day and sees its shadow, it will retreat to its den, and winter will go on for six more weeks; if it does not see its shadow, spring will arrive early. So we hope when Punxsutawney

Phil sticks his head out. it will be cloudy, and he does not see his shadow! There are lots of different kinds of Groundhog Day celebrations in various cities with different rituals.

Come join our Enville breakfast group each Wednesday and Friday mornings at Maggie's. We have about 15 at our table. We have lots conversations going on at the same time; the men have theirs, and the ladies have theirs. We are planning shopping trips or cooking while the guys are talking farm, ordering parts and fixing things. We have a lot of fun, good food and fellowship. Call us up, and we may meet you there for dinner!

Enville sends out Happy Birthday wishes to Zander Spain on Jan. 31, Robert Conder on Feb. 1, Teddy Hollin on Feb. 4 and Delana O'Neal on Feb. 6. Happy Anniversary to Rick and Julie Ooley on Feb. 5.

We hope you all enjoy your special day!

Our prayer list this week is for Harold and Janice Maness, Robert and Linda Johnson, Mary Lee Guvon, Mary Lou Avent, Ann Pugh, Shirley Hampton, Della Mixon, Jeremy Crowell, Dovle and Shirley Bishop, Robert Smith, Karl Starnes, Kaye Killingsworth, Janice Massengill Strickland, James Vinson, Jimmy Robertson, Jeff Finley, Jack Hampton, Glenn Butts, Gene Hanna, Rick Ooley, Mike Pugh, Mike Finley, all who have lost loved ones, our firefighters, first responders, law enforcement, healthcare workers, military, schools and school board, our county and country and, as always, each other.

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

Have a blessed week everyone!



would love for more of our



Now that we are under new leadership in this country, we should pray that God's hand will be in decisions made going forward to help our economy and the taxpayers of this country.

Our local governmental meetings need more community support. If you care about Chester County, please pay attention to what is taking place in our county. Come out to commission meetings and show your interest or concerns. Everyone should be mindful of what is going on in our county and care enough to help make a difference.

Montezuma sends out Happy Birthday wishes to Ray Wells and Madison Cook on Jan. 29, Margot Cox (my daughter) on Jan. 31, Garrett Hathcock on Feb. 2, Emmarie Phelps on Feb. 3 and Vicky Finley and Michelle Newsom on Feb. 5.

We appreciate all our members at the center and

community to get involved. With more help, we could plan more events for our community. 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 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 our local and federal government, law enforcement, school staff, teachers and the listed individuals of Kim Gray, Dober Dyer, Brenda Hannah, Donna Doyle, Mike Lott, Linda Hopper, Cindy Kilzer, Quinten Johnson, Jerry Fletcher, Curtis Morrison, Renee Jordan, Ruby Hannah, Donnie Brooks, Linda Plunk, Mike Tedford, Sherry Fletcher, Chuck Beacham, Sandra Lott, Faye Crouse, Janice Morris, Jeanette Walker, Schilling, Nancy Crouse and others that are sick or healing. We especially want to remember the families of Mayrine Adkin, Joe Allen Weir, Kevin Smith 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! Community NEWS



JOANN GREER

Hello from Sweetlips! Just a heads up, our annual stew/bake sale is Feb. 8. This is our once-a-year fundraiser. Snow date will be Feb. 15. The stew will be ready at 10:30 a.m. for pickup. Cost will be \$25 per gallon. You must provide your own containers! You may preorder by calling one of the names listed:

Neal at 608-6461, JoAnn at 879-9840, Cindy at 989-7046 and Tatum at 879-0597. There will be flyers up around town.

For those new to the community, we ask for donations of a beef roast. It should be cooked, deboned and left in its own juices. You will need to drop off your roast on Friday night to the Community Center. If it is still hot, please set it on the counter; if cool, put in the refrigerator. Also, you may also bring those yummy baked items cookies, cakes, pies, homemade bread, etc. – at that time. We ask that you put your name and what the dish is on the container.

We will peel 150 pounds of potatoes Friday evening.

Bring your sharpest knife and come help us!

I do not have my birthday/anniversary list with me, so Happy Birthday or Anniversary to all those in the month of January. Happy 91st to Ms. Francis Brooks.

Remember all the sick and shut-ins, Neal Kinchen, Wendell and Donna Murphy, Bobby and Sarah McEarl, Greg Russell and JoAnn Greer. Prayers for all those folks and any I may have missed.

Our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Harold Wayne Pickett and to Steve Hart on the passing of his mother.

Hope everyone has a blessed week. Stay safe and warm.

# Community Club Meeting Schedules

First Tuesday

Deanburg Enville New Friendship Hickory Corner Jacks Creek Montezuma Sweetlips

First Tuesday
Third Friday
Fourth Thursday
Second Thursday
First Monday
First Saturday in February

7 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 6 p.m.

6-7 p.m. 6 p.m.

# **Groundhog Day across the country**

Groundhog Day originated in German-speaking areas of Europe. When German immigrants migrated to the United States, they brought their traditions with them, particularly those who gravitated to areas of Pennsylvania.

It once was tradition in Germany to mark Candlemas Day, which occurred on February 2nd, as "Badger Day." If the badger emerged from its den and found a sunny day and cast a shadow, there would be four more weeks of winto be seen, then an early spring could be predicted. The Pennsylvania Dutch immigrants maintained the same traditions, except for the duration of winter - it would either be prolonged for six weeks instead of four or be shortened by six weeks. For these Pennsylvania communities, the groundhog, rather than a badger, was more common and therefore took on the role of the prognosticating

Considering that Penn-

sylvania was the early centralized spot for celebrating Groundhog Day, it should come as no surprise that it is still ground zero for these types of celebrations. Gobblers Knob in Pennsylvania is where thousands gather to see Punxsutawney Phil come out of his den each year. Yet this annual tradition is not exclusive to the Keystone state. There are various regions where Groundhog Day also is popular - and some do not even feature a groundhog.

Staten Island Chuck:
Staten Island Chuck is touted as the most accurate groundhog for prognostication. Staten Island Chuck resides at the Staten Island Zoo on this island borough of New York City.

· Sand Mountain Sam: People in Alabama celebrate Groundhog Day by referring to Sand Mountain Sam, who just happens to be an opossum.

· Jimmy the Groundhog: Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, has been calling itself "The Groundhog Capital of the World" since 1948, when it was a way to commemorate Wisconsin's centennial year. Now it uses the title to celebrate Groundhog Day, when Jimmy makes his predictions.

· Owlivia and Owliver: Floridians in Cape Coral turn to a set of owls, known as Owlivia and Owliver, to find out if there will be six more weeks of winter. These are burrowing owls, so they are no strangers to underground dens.

General Beauregard Lee: The General resides in Jackson, Georgia, and is so skilled at weather prognostication that he holds honorary degrees from the University of Georgia and Georgia State University.

· Big Al: Everything is bigger in Texas, and Groundhog Day is no exception. Instead of a groundhog, Big Al the alligator offers his forecast in southeast Texas each year.

Punxsutawney Phil may get the majority of the glory, but there are plenty more hard-working animals predicting the weather each Groundhog Day.

# Pictures from the Past Submitted by: James Bright, Chester County Historian

William Hamilton Baldy was born August 17, 1877, to William Hugh and Rose Rawlings Baldy in Monroe County Arkansas. By 1900, the family had moved to Tennessee where William married Ella Pearle Meeks, daughter of Rufus Polk and Mary Larimore Meeks in Henderson on December 6, 1899. The couple lived in her father's house on East Main Street. When her father moved to Humbolt to pastor a church, it then became the Baldy House. Today it is part of the Senior Citizens' Center with the tile letters spelling "BALDY" still set into the concrete sidewalk in front

of the building. Mr. Baldy was a civil engineering teacher at Georgie Robertson Christian college in 1898-1899. He was active in the civic, religious, social and political life of Henderson. William served as Assistant Postmaster, City Recorder, Mayor and Superintendent of the city electric plant before moving to Brownsville in 1925 to be the manager of their electric plant for 17 years. He was also Superintendent of the First Christian School



died December 20, 1945, and his wife Pearle died
August 4, 1958. Both of them are buried and located at
the Henderson City Cemetery today.

Sunday.

Although William lived in Brownsville for the latter part of his life, Henderson was always home, and he visited friends here as often as possible. Only a short time before he died, The Independent published an article by Mr. Baldy in which he reminisced of the "good 'ole days" and told of the development of this community from a village with muddy streets without walks, water, or sewers, into the thriving

modern little city it is today. Mr. Baldy played a large part in the growth and development of Henderson. William died December 20, 1945, and his wife Pearle died August 4, 1958. Both are buried in Henderson City Cemetery. Their two sons, George (1903-1923) and William Jr. (1912-1995) are also buried in the Henderson City Cemetery. Their daughter Mary Bond is buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Haywood County.



### SWHRA Head Start Pre-Registration Jan. 29-31

Southwest HRA Head Start program is now accepting applications for three and four-year old children to attend classes beginning fall 2025. The program is designed for pre-school children of low-income families who are on or under poverty guidelines. Pre-registration in Chester County will be from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29; Thursday, Jan. 30; and Friday, Jan. 31, at the Chester Co. Head Start, 1495 White Ave. Parents must provide the child's birth certificate, a copy of the child's TennCare/insurance card and family income for 2024. To verify income, bring one of the following: W-2 form, income tax for 1040, pay stubs, written statement from employers or Families First Verification, and SNAP benefit letter. For more information, contact the Head Start Center at

989-5192 or Family Case Managers Rachael Goodman at 608-9102 or Susie Strickland at 608-9049.

### Finger Volunteer Fire Dept. Fish Fry Feb. 8

The Finger Volunteer Fire Department will hold a fish fry and barbecue chicken dinner from 2-5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8. There will be all you can eat catfish or chicken with all the trimming and homemade desserts. Cost is \$14 for adults and \$7 for children. Takeout is \$14. All proceeds will go towards the operating expense of the Finger Fire Dept.

# Black History Program Feb. 15

The Eighth Annual Black History Program will be from 2-4 p.m. Feb. 15 at 247 E Main St., Henderson. The them will be Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Admission is free. Everyone is invited to attend.





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or email mcroom@chestercountyindependent.com Publication Date: February 27, 2025

# OPINION/RECORDS

# Davis, Lowe seek to expand public comment law

A pair of lawmakers who in 2023 shepherded a new public comment requirement for meetings under the Open Meetings Act are seeking to expand the law to require governing bodies to allow public comment on items beyond those on the governing body's agen-

State Rep. Elaine Davis, R-Knoville, and state Sen. Adam Lowe, R-Calhoun, have introduced a bill (https://wapp.capitol. tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/Default.aspx?BillNumber=H-B0022&ga=114) would require governing bodies to allow public comment on "any matter that is germane to the jurisdiction of the governing body, regardless of whether such matter is an item on the agenda for the meeting."

Citizens would be able

to comment on items not on the agenda

The statute enacted in 2023 required governing bodies to reserve a period for public comment at meetings in which there were actionable items on the agenda, but limited the requirement "to matters that are germane to the items on the agenda for the meeting."

Davis said that was too restrictive and the change would allow members of the public to bring up items that are relevant to the governing body's work, but may not be on the agenda. Davis, who once served on the Knox County Commission, said citizens sometimes needed an opportunity to tell a governing body about issues they might not otherwise know about.

The public comment bill

**By Deborah Fisher** 

(https://tcog.info/wp-content/uploads/HB0022public-comment-bill.pdf) makes no other changes and still allows a governing body to put "reasonable restrictions" on the period of public comment and the length of time that each speaker would be allowed to provide comment.

Current public comment law, with proposed changes

Here is the law passed in 2023, with the change in boldface.

8-44-112. Reserved period for public comment - Reasonable restrictions allowed — Notice to public commenters — Applicabil-

(a) A governing body shall, for each public meeting, reserve a period for public comment to provide the public with the opportunity to comment:

(1) On matters that are germane to the items on the agenda for the meeting; and

(2) On any matter that is germane to the jurisdiction of the governing body, regardless of whether such matter is an item on the agenda for the meeting.

(b) The governing body may put reasonable restrictions on the period for public comment, such as the length of the period, the number of speakers, and the length of time that each speaker will be allowed to provide comment. The governing body may require a person to give notice in advance of the desire to offer comments at a meeting. The governing body shall take all practicable steps to ensure that opposing viewpoints are represented fairly, if any.

(c) A notice for a public

meeting shall indicate the manner in which a person may indicate the person's desire to provide public comment at the meeting.

(d) This section does not apply to:

(1) A meeting of a governing body, or a portion thereof, where the governing body is conducting a disciplinary hearing for a member of the governing body or a person whose profession or activities fall within the jurisdiction of the governing body; or

(2) A meeting for which there are no actionable items on the agenda.

Deborah Fisher been executive director of Tennessee Coalition for Open Government since 2013. Previously she spent 25 years in the news industry as a journalist.



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# YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW...

### **City of Henderson Police Department**

January 20, 2025

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

January 22, 2025

Ronnie Landrum, 25, Henderson, was arrested and charged with prohibited sell/ provide alcoholic beverages to persons under 21. He was released from the Chester County Jail on his own recognizance.

### January 24, 2025 Orlandis Akins,

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.

# **City of Henderson Fire Department**

January 12, 2025 10:56 a.m. - 115 Hamlett

Ave., Freed-Hardeman University, Anderson Science Center, HVAC system set off

### January 13, 2025 1 p.m. – 121 Crook

Ave., Henderson City Hall, activated elevator call button, false alarm, maintenance testing call system.

### January 16, 2025 7:57 a.m. - 1086 Tucker

Cove, false alarm, dust in HVAC set off alarm.

### January 17, 2025 6:45 a.m. – 156 E. Mill St.,

Freed-Hardeman University, Laycook Center, fire alarm, false alarm, unknown cause.

# January 19, 2025

7:39 a.m. – 412 Juanita Dr., Henderson Health and Rehab, reported commercial fire, smoke coming from HVAC

January 20, 2025

12:09 p.m. - 709 Sanford St., reported house fire, false call, no fire.

### January 21, 2025

5:39 p.m. – 203 E. University St., Freed-Hardeman University, Benson Hall, steam from shower set off alarm, false alarm.

## **Sheriff's Department**

January 21, 2025

Reese Rhea, 42, Selmer, was arrested and charged with home improvement provider offenses. He is held in the Chester County Jail awaiting court appearance.

Stablein, 20, Lakayla was arrested Henderson, and charged with violation of Community Corrections Misdemeanor. She was released from the Chester County Jail on her own recognizance.

Alea Cates, 20, Jackson, was arrested and charged with simple possession of a schedule VI controlled substance. She was released from the Chester County Jail on her own recognizance.

### January 22, 2025 Jakoby Griffin,

23, Henderson, was arrested and charged with contempt of court. He was released from the Chester County Jail after posting a \$3,000 bond.

Jeremy Bell, 26, Finger, was arrested and charged with violation of Community Corrections - Misdemeanor. He is held in the Chester County Jail in lieu of a \$500 cash only bond.

Jeffery Lyons, 38, Selmer, was arrested and charged with contempt of court. He is held in the Chester County Jail awaiting court appearance.

James Pickard, 18, Bethel Springs, was arrested and charged with theft of property \$1,000 or less. He was released from the Chester County Jail on his own recognizance.

January 23, 2025

Jonathan Wood. 38. Enville, was arrested and charged with contempt of court. He is held in the Chester County Jail awaiting court appearance.

Terrence Arnold, Henderson. was arrested and charged with driving on a canceled/revoked or suspended license with five priors, criminal responsibility for failure to give immediate notice and leaving the scene of an accident. He is held in the Chester County Jail in lieu of a \$1,000 bond.

Courtney Howell, 38, Medon, was arrested and charged with domestic assault fear. She is held in the Chester County Jail awaiting court appearance.

## January 24, 2025

Cameron Flatt, 24, Finger, 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.

Tanner White, was arrested Henderson, and charged with two counts contempt of court. He is held in the Chester County Jail in lieu of a \$3,000 cash only

January 25, 2025

Adyson Matthews, 19, Henderson, was arrested and charged with domestic assault

 fear and aggravated assault - injury and weapon. She is held in the Chester County Jail awaiting court appearance.

Lucky Allen, Milledgeville, 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.

### **Chester County** Fire Department

January 20, 2025

7:50 p.m. - Station One responding, 755, Wayne Harris Road, assist EMS with LZ.

### January 21, 2025

8:44 a.m. - Roby responding, State Route 22 at Wake Forrest Road, motor vehicle crash.

12:39 p.m. - Station One responding, State Route 100E at Talley Store Road, motor vehicle crash.

## January 25, 2025

11:54 a.m. - Jacks Creek responding, 3400 Old Jacks Creek Road, grass fire.

7:31 p.m. – Sweetlips responding, Plainview Road at Sweetlips Road, smoke in the area, nothing found.

### **Chester County Circuit Court**

No reports.

Warranty Deeds Bradley Carl Barclay to Angela Bushnell and Taylor Morris - \$209,900

William and Leah Bennet to Ethan and Caitlyn Ross -\$25,000

Phillip and Jamie Cain to Susan A. Moody - \$210,000 Angela Candow to Joseph Smith - \$135,000

Corey and Jodi Compton to W&S Enterprises -\$235,000

Betty J. Cooper to William Pickett - \$200,000

CPHTN, LLC to Wesley and Cascey Tyler - \$40,000 Richard and Shelley Emison to Norma J. Morrison

Fannie Mae AKA Federal National Mortgage Association to Valerie Lynn Bogard - \$22,500

Thomas Cole Gardner to James and Becky Gardner -\$114,355

Michael Hearn to Windell and Mary Beshires - \$40,186 Laurie Hofer to Landthrift, LLC - \$23,000

Bobby and Nancy Howell to Corey A. Gutgsell -\$23,500

Integrity Home Solutions, LLC to Sara A. Keen -\$254,000

Michael and Rachel Irwin to Phillip and Jamie Cain -\$315,000

Leonard James Johnson to Leon and Carmon Johnson -

Chris Maxwell to Bobby Fortis and Constantine Roupas - \$120,000 Lymon Parsons to Marty

Plunk - \$39,900 Lymon Parsons to Adam

and Jaime Ragland - \$138,500 William Patrick -Executor, Estate of Roberta Patrick to Tammy Phelps and

William Patrick - \$0 Joe Reaves to Anthony and Madison Moody Jr. -

Regions Bank to Secretary of Veterans Affairs - \$113,468

Richard Duane Rushing to Douglas and Tina Hykes -\$512,000

Reinhard Franz Schneider to Brain and Frances Whitehead - \$170,000

Jake Schotter and Patrick and Michelle Schotter to Brooke Anne Schotter -\$220,000 Gary and Glenda Shelton

to Barry and Connie Redmond - Trustees, Redmon Family Farms Trust - \$180,000

Shree Shastriji, LLC to Henderson 24, LLC -

\$2,025,000 Ray T. Smith to Nancy Morales and Edgar Rodriquez

- \$28,000

Hollis Stewart to Kenneth and Chloe Gilbert - \$15,500 Karla Sword to Gregory and Tammy James - \$250,000

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.

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

- \* All letters must be signed by their authors and include the address and telephone number of the aurthor for verification purposes. The names of all letter writers will be published.
- written must be neatly handwritten.
- \* All letters must comply with legal restrictions regarding libel, and the Chester County Independent reserves the
- dorsing candidates for public office will not be considered \* Letters which raise new or substantially new issues will
- \* The Chester County Independent will not continue to publish letters which raise the same or substantially the
- duced 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 proper-

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- not be considered for publication within a week prior to an election. Such issues must be raised in time to give candiates time to respond.
- same issue(s) or allegations. \* The newspaper also will not publish "form" or mass-pro-

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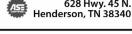
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# FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

At Sinai: Commandments Given Exodus 19-20

the Sabbath observance, etc.

When the Israelites arrived at Sinai, Moses went up into the mountain to meet with God and the Lord gave him the Ten Commandments, writing them on stone tablets.

As he was coming down from the mountain Moses saw that the people were worshipping a golden calf that they had Aaron make from their

festivals, the tabernacle and furnishings for the tabernacle,

He also gave instructions about the relationships of the people to each other,

In anger Moses threw the stone tablets out of his hand, breaking them to pieces. He took the calf Aaron had made and burned it in the fire and ground it into powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

The Lord had Moses chisel out two more mountain where he would write the commandments again.

stone tablets and take them to the Exodus 34 Illustrations by Eric Borchert copyright ©2006 Rowlett A

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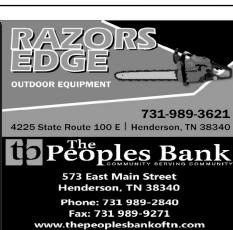
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Henderson, TN 38340 MON. - FRI.: 8 A.M. - 6 P.M. SAT.: 8 A.M. - 2 P.M.

# (PUBLIC NOTICES)

THE **CIRCUIT** ΙN FOR COURT TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT TENNESSEE AΤ **HENDERSON** 

SEAN JOHNSON, Plaintiff,

DONALD S. RHOADES

JR.,

Defendant.

PUBLICATION

It appearing to the Court from the motion and affidavit in this cause that the whereabouts of Defendant, Donald presently unknown and cannot be ascertained upon diligent inquiry, so that ordinary process cannot be served upon him.

A copy of this Order shall be published for four (4) consecutive weeks in The Chester County Independent, a newspaper published in Henderson, Chester County, Tennessee.

Defendant is hereby required to appear and answer or otherwise defend against the Complaint for, and to serve an answer to said Complaint by April 1, 2025 which is thirty (30) days from the last day of publication of this notice on W. Justin Reynolds, Attorney for Plaintiff in

this cause, whose address is Reynolds & Reynolds, P.C., 55 Court Street, Suite A, Savannah, TN 38372, or default judgment will be entered against the Defendant, Donald S. Rhoades, Jr., and this cause be set for hearing ex parte as to Defendant. Failure to answer or appear may result in a judgment against the Defendant. Entered this the 24th

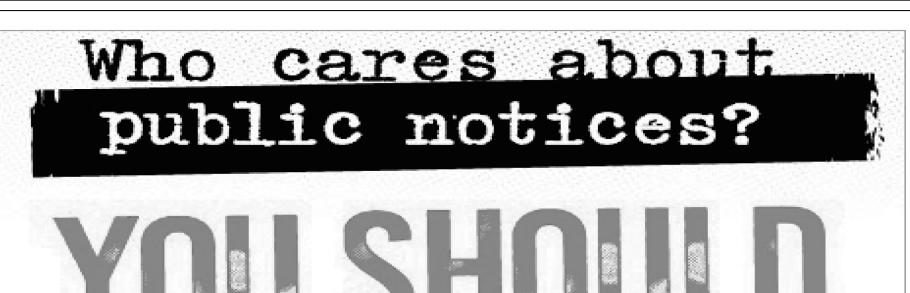
day of January, 2025. KYLE C. ATKINS, Chester County Judge Circuit APPROVED FOR **ENTRY JUSTIN** 

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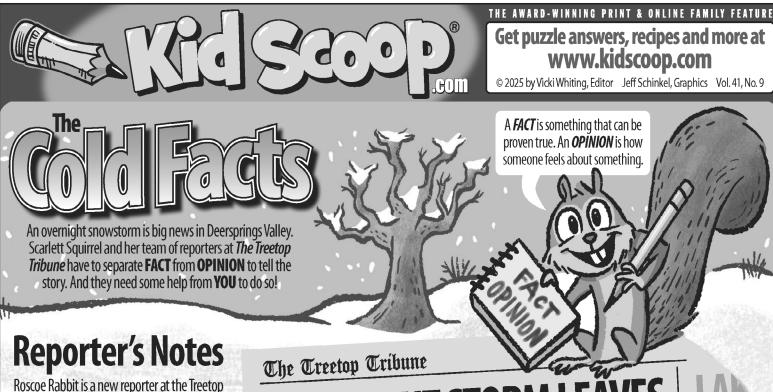
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Water leve



Tribune. He made a list of facts about the big storm in his reporter's notebook, but is he correct? Circle the **FACTS** in green crayon. Underline the **OPINIONS** in red crayon.

# **6666666666**

The heavy snowfall caused several tree branches to break.

The sound of the howling wind was scary.

Chuck Chipmunk's family had to seek shelter in a different tree when their nook started filling with ice.

The storm brought four feet of snow and temperatures fell to 4 degrees Fahrenheit.

The deep snow looked beautiful in the morning.

There will never be another storm like this in the Valley.

Parts of Critter Creek were frozen solid by 3:30 a.m.

# Take a Survey

A survey is a way to gather opinions about something.

Ask your friends and family members which of these veggies they like best. Complete the graph by coloring in a square each time someone selects that vegetable. Share your findings with everyone who took the survey.

# OVERNIGHT STORM LEÄVES VALLEY COVERED IN SNOW

By Roscoe Rabbit, Staff Reporter

DEERSPRINGS VALLEY - An overnight winter storm brought frigid temperatures to the valley last night. A low temperature of 4 degrees Fahrenheit was recorded by Oswald Owl at 3:35 a.m.

Icicles in the entry way of the Chipmunk family caused them to seek shelter in a neighboring tree.

"It was the scariest storm ever," said Chuck Chipmunk. "The winds sounded like an angry, howling wolf!"

**Just the Facts** 

Scarlett knows how important it is

to include as many facts as possible

in a news story. These facts give

readers more understanding of

what happened and why.

Look at this article about the storm.

Does it tell **WHO**, **WHAT**, **WHEN**, WHERE and WHY?

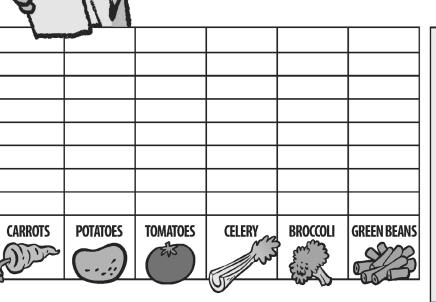
The storm blew in from central Canada and knocked out power in the town of Riversburg for several hours. But by 10:00 a.m., winds had stopped and sunshine was slowly returning to the valley.

Once the storm ended, a team of woodpeckers began to chip away at the icicles covering the Chipmunk family's doorway, and the family was able to move back home in their tree before nightfall.

WHY: \_\_\_

rainfall an ponds wi tributari who are a

WHO: \_\_\_\_\_ WHAT: WHERE: \_\_\_\_\_ WHEN: \_\_\_\_\_



Find three facts and three opinions in the newspaper. Have three friends take turns deciding which statements are facts and which are opinions. Each correct answer earns 1 point.

Standards Link: Students prrectly identify the differences between fact and opinion.

# Deliver the Treetop Tribune to Oswald Owl's home. Treeton Tribune

# Double

**BLEW BREAK FACTS FRIGID ICE** LOW **OPINION SEEK SNOW STORM** TREE **VALLEY WIND** WINTER **WOLF** 

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

AFYWLCIWTM QBAJIRVMRO DLMCRNVOEP IBEYTMTWEI GRWXWSEEKN I E G O J I S L R I RAVQLYNBWO FKABIFODUN VALLEYWJPS

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

# Kid Scoop Together

Missing Words
Replace the missing words to complete the article below.



Early in the \_\_\_

every February 2, attention turns to Gobbler's Knob.

Pennsylvania, and a groundhog \_\_\_\_

Punxsutawney Phil.

Legend states that if Phil sees

his shadow when coming out of his \_\_\_\_\_, it means he predicts six more weeks of wintery . But if he doesn't see his shadow, it means Phil predicts an early spring, according to the legend.

It's a big \_\_\_\_\_ that began in the late 1800s and gets lots news. Phil's predictions are not always \_\_\_\_\_ But that's okay, because it's all in the spirit of fun.

A group of people called the "Inner Circle" dress up in long black coats and top hats for the big Groundhog Day announcement of Phil's prediction. The president of the Inner Circle is said to speak groundhogese and is the only one who can what Phil says.

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This week's word: **PROVEN** 

The word **proven** means something that has been shown to be true or correct.

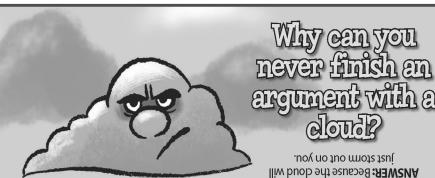
In our courts, people are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Try to use the word **proven** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

# **Opinion, Please**

Read one article in the newspaper. Write your opinion about the article. Can you use two or more facts to support your opinion? Send your opinion to the newspaper editor.

Standards Link: Language arts: Write to express an opinion.



Write On! 🐗

# What's Your Scoop?

Write a sentence or short paragraph that tells the who, what, where and when about news at your school.

From Page 1-A

Mayor Barry Hutcherson gave the update for building and zoning. There is a contract moving forward with an inspector, Ricky Watkins. Mayor Hutcherson asked for anyone that can come get their permits to do so. To help the community and bring money to help Chester County. The Director of Emergency Management Brandon Connor was also absent due to training. Mayor Hutcherson mentioned that he is currently working on some training and grants for the department.

Mayor Hutcherson discussed how he had previously communicated with Representative Kirk Haston and Senator Page Walley on the Private Act. They have it, it has been drafted and will be brought before the General Assembly soon. The updates on the health department are the construction is going well; the general area is set for demolition and rebuilding starting Wednesday of this week. It should be done in four to six weeks.

Commissioner Luke

Weaver gave the update on the fairgrounds. He mentioned they are in the process of getting electricity, water and gravel to the fairgrounds. This will be achieved through the TAB Grant and should be done before June 30. "We've already got an event booked for us. He'd kick me if I didn't mention it, but Paul Edward Jones has got a livestock show. It's going to be booked for the eighth and ninth. That's going to bring over 150 kids across from Middle and West Tennessee. It's the Chester County show and livestock and it's a real big event for our community," said Commissioner Weaver. It was mentioned to be a great revenue source when it came to gas, hotels, and taxes for the county from Airbnb's.

Mike Niesler came before the Chester County Commissioners on behalf of Chester County Dixie Youth. He stated that in 1985 the commission gave \$5,000 for 150 kids to play. In 1995, the commissioners gave \$10,000 for 350 kids to play. In 2024, the commissioners gave zero dollars for 700 kids to play. He was coming before the Chester County Commissioners to ask for \$25,000. It was explained

there was a form (from the state) that needed to be filled out to be able to move forward and give Nielser the money. It was voted in a Roll Call to be tabled for the next Chester County Commissioners' meeting. Commissioners Alexander, Ricky Hardy, Brenda Matthews, Barry Smith, Tim Crowe, Dwight Bingham, Luke Weaver, Ann Moore, Andrea Holland, Jerry King Kevin Faulkner and Jerry Lowe voted yes. Commissioners Jerry Emerson, Renee Phelps, Al McKinnon, and Bubba Edgin voted no, leaving the vote on 14/4.

In other business was to approve the Veteran Service Officer, Rebecca Smith. She was absent due to training that she's required to take by state. It was approved by all the commissioners.

Next was the Resolution that requests the General Assembly to advocate one half of the real-estate transfer tax to the county. This is to bring back money to the county that would ultimately help with the budget fund and revenue needs. This strain has come from factors such as inflation. This is on a reoccurring basis and was approved unanimously.

Following was the Resolution that is requesting to submit an application for the CBDG Grant for the Chester County Firefighter Station. It was approved in a roll call with all 18 commissioners.

Mayor Hutcherson had a letter requesting congressional support for his Ford Motor Company business. This would be from Chester County sent to Senator Hagerty, Senator Blackburn and Congressman Kustoff. The letter states it would bring our county more direct/ indirect jobs, and give economic growth to other industries. It was approved unanimously.

Chester County Clerk Stacy Smith came before the commissioners to ask for \$25,000 from the reserve (restricted) account. This was for updated equipment and maintenance necessities to be fixed. It included new card-readers, server chairs, flooring and a window. All 18 commissioners approved in favor.

Commissioner McKinnon stated during the meeting that he was really impressed with how well the county highway department handled the roads during the snow and thanked them personally.

"At the last meeting



Mike Niesler went before the Chester County Commissioners to ask for help with Dixie Youth on Monday, Jan. 27. As of 2024, donations had ceased. It was voted on to be discussed at the next meeting.

I was not here. I was in emergency surgery. I had a blood clot that nearly ended my life. I had three doctors tell me that it was lifethreatening, and I almost died. I'm just grateful for everyone that prayed for me on their church rolls or in their homes. I'm glad to

be here and I just appreciate so many things. You just get to looking at things a little bit deeper when you have professional doctors telling you what could've happened within minutes," stated Commissioner Andrea Holland during the meeting.

### **Chester County Commissioners**

**District One** Jerry Lowe Kevin Faulkner Bubba Edgin

Jerry Emerson Renee Phelps

**District Four** 

**Dwight Bingham** 

<u>District Two</u> Al McKinnon Jerry King Andrea Holland

**District Five** Tim Crowe **Brenda Matthews Barry Smith** 

<u>District Three</u> Carolyn Higgins Ann Moore Luke Weaver

**District Six** Mike Alexander Ricky Hardy **Todd Lewis** 

**East Chester** 

"I love teaching in CC and being a part of a community of educators who share ideas, support each other, and truly love the students they teach. The relationships formed with students is my favorite part of teaching. Those relationships last far beyond the 10 months spent in my second-grade class. Watching their growth, both academically and personally, is very rewarding. Teaching in this school system, with the support I receive from the school leaders, is truly a blessing."

Sandy Thompson



"I enjoy playing a part in children's first steps into the world of learning. The joy on their faces as they master new skills or grasp a concept is priceless! I am blessed with the opportunity to spend time with these students and to help nurture their creativity, curiosity and confidence. The families of Chester County are important to me and I love being able to foster relationships with the community through our schools."

Kindergarten

# **West Chester**

"I am extremely honored to have received West Chester's nomination for Teacher of the Year. I feel a great sense of pride teaching in this town that I have called home since childhood. Chester County School District is the exemplar for what it means to teach with a strong sense of community. I recognize that the impact we make on our students is because of the dedication employed by our entire school district daily. I want to express my gratitude to Mrs. Amy Wooley, my colleague teachers, my students, and our Chester County community for shaping me into the teacher I am today. This recognition means the world to me."

Madison Hopper **Third Grade District Level Teacher of the Year: PreK-4** 

# **Junior High** "I look forward to going to school and seeing my students every

day. I am so blessed to have the opportunity to build relationships with my students and I strive to be a positive influence and to make everyone feel loved and to have a sense of belonging! I love the support I get from our Board and Administration and how many fun and exciting things we are able to do with our students. I love my job and

there is nowhere else I would ever want to work."



**Davis Parten Eighth Grade PE and Golf Coach** 

# **Chester Co. Middle School**



"I love teaching in Chester County for so many reasons, but the biggest reason is the students. It is so rewarding to work hard for these kids and then watch them succeed as they grow. This small town is full of great people who deserve the best education possible. I do my best to give them that every day."

**Jill Bland Fifth Grade ELA** and Social Studies **District Level Teacher of the Year: 5-8** 

"I love teaching at Chester County Middle School because we have amazing students and supportive families. Our administrators work hard for all teachers and students, and they encourage creativity in our classroom and school. I enjoy guiding our students to reach their goals and believe that they are capable of anything they want to accomplish in life. I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve Chester County families."

> **Jennifer Crumby Fourth Grade Math and Science**

# **High School** "Throughout my 14 years



**Hunter Callis U.S. History District Level Teacher of the Year: 9-12** 

of US History EOC testing at CCHS, my students have always done exceptionally well - 2nd place in Tennessee last year. This ranking is the highest of any CCHS teacher of any subject in any year. In coaching sports for 34 seasons I had a "playbook" that I use in the classroom as well. This "playbook" includes: hard work, dedication, collaboration, attentiveness, good attitudes, working through difficult situations, con-

sistent skill-building, and developing relationships. When these aspects are consistently followed, then maturity, a love for learning, and a sense of achievement develop - which thus result in high test scores."

# CCHS basketball action



**ALEXIS RIVERS** 

## **Eaglettes fall to Hardin County 43-56**

The Lady Eagles were defeated by Hardin County last week in a district matchup against Hardin County. Kloe Taylor led the scoring with 12, followed by Brooke Ketchum with 11; JuJu Prather with 10; Alexis Rivers and Savannah Williams with six; Karley Heinsohn with three and Esther Osburn with two.



**IAN JOY** 

# **Eagles pickup District win 58-47 against Hardin Co.**

The boys team picked up their second district win in the last two weeks against Mc-Nairy Central and Hardin County. Jayden Williams put 26 on the score board followed by Aiden Welch with 16; Jayce Goff, and Isaiah Stafford with four; and Ian Joy with two.

Photo by Caneisha Turner





**ESTHER OSBURN** 

# **Eaglettes lose to Lexington 38-48**

The Lady Eagles fell to Lexington at home last week in a district matchup. The Eaglettes currently have one district win against North Side. Brooke Ketchum put up 15 points, followed closely by JuJu Prather with 13; Kloe Taylor with five and Esther Osburn with a free throw.



**JAYDEN WILLIAMS** 

## Eagles defeat Lexington 47-41

The Eagles picked up its second district win of the week against the Lexington Tigers. Aiden Welch was the top scorer with 22; Jayden Williams with eight; Christian Halford with six; Isaiah Stafford with five; Jayce Goff with three, Lane Estes with two and Peyton Barham with one.

Photo by Caneisha Turner

JUJU PRATHER

## **Eaglettes win squeaker 51-50**

The Lady Eagles picked up a big win last Saturday night on the road at Decatur County. Kloe Taylor led the scoring with 13 followed by Brooke Ketchum with 11; JuJu Prather with 10; Alexis Rivers and Savannah Williams with six; Karley Heinsohn with three and Esther Osburn with a pair.

Photo by Caneisha Turner





**JAYCE GOFF** 

# **Eagles defeat Decatur Co. 55-48**

The Eagles picked up their third win of the week with a win over Decatur County. Leading the scoring with 24 was Jayden Williams followed by Aiden Welch with 11; Christian Halford and Jayce Goff with five; Isaiah Stafford with four and Ian Joy with two.

Photo by Caneisha Turner



# ME PICKS

## **OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES:**

- 1. This contest is for the 2025 Game that will be played on Sunday, February 9, 2025 between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles.
- 2. Participants will pick the score of the game. One Entry Form per person.
- 3. Only Official Entry blanks will be accepted.
- 4. The Entry forms must be dropped off at 218 S. Church Ave. or emailed to mcroom@chestercountyindependent.com. Entries must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, February 7, 2025.
- 5. The tie-breaker is point spread. Second is closest to winning team. Third tie-breaker will be total points.
- 6. In the event of a tie after the tie-breakers, the winner will be drawn at random.
- THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE \$50 CASH!

# OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Kansas City Chiefs

Philadelphia Eagles

Name:		
Address:		

City:\_\_\_\_\_\_State:\_\_\_\_Zip:\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



# FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

# FHU uses big second half to defeat Tigers

Hosting the Tigers of Campbellsville University, the No. 2 Freed-Hardeman Lions led by just one point at the break, but had a huge second half to put away the Tigers in a 76-56 victory.

Earning his first career start for the Lions, (18-3, 2-1 MSC) Dalton Colbert made the most of the opportunity by sinking two 3-pointers. FHU found their stroke from long range, scoring their first 12 points from beyond the arc with Sam Powell's triple giving FHU a 12-9 lead at the 14:14 mark of the first half. For every 3-pointer the Lions made, the Tigers answered with a combined 63 points being bucketed as 3-pointers in the game. Campbellsville held a one-possession lead for a majority of the first half until a dunk from Jordan Stephens ended the first frame

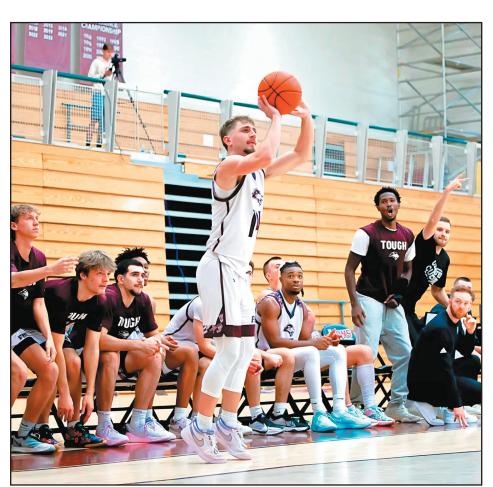
with the Lions clinging to a last 10 minutes of the con-36-34 lead.

Neither team managed to score in the first minute and a half of action in the second half, but the Tigers (10-10, 2-2 MSC) continued to hit long balls to stay in striking distance of the Lions. Solid free throw shooting kept the Lions on top until Powell tallied another 3-pointer to give FHU their largest lead of the evening at seven points. Undeterred, Campbellsville scored 11 points in two minutes to reclaim a 52-51 lead with 9:05 to go in the game. Freed-Hardeman began to push away in the final 10 minutes with a free throw from Makai Vassell opening up an 8-0 run. Powell hit two late threes while Vassell and Phil Horton put the exclaimation point on a run that saw FHU outscore Campbellsville 25-7 in the

test to see the Lions take the 76-56 win.

Both teams were solid from long range with FHU sinking 11 3-pointers with Campbellsville knocking down 10. The Lions forced 16 turnovers, converting those to 22 points. FHU's transition offense was on full display by scoring 23 fask break points to the Tigers' four.

Four Lions were in double figures, led by Jayson Nixon's 13 points after going 6-7 from the freethrow line. Sam Powell was 4-6 from deep to score 12 points while Makai Vassell connected for 11 points. Geraldo Lane was 5-7 from the floor to tally 10 points. Nixon also led in rebounds by grabbing seven. Peyton Law led FHU with five assists while Lane had three



# Women's basketball unable to hang with no. 3 Tigers



The No. 7 Freed-Hardeman University Lady Lions hosted the No. 3 Campbellsville University Tigers Thursday night. The perennial powerhouse Tigers forced a plethora of turnovers to hand the Lady Lions a 71-52 loss.

Freed-Hardeman (17-3, 1-3 MSC) got started with a 3-pointer from Carissa Curtis, but the Tigers had a perfect start to the game, going 5-5 including a set of triples to jump out to a 13-5 lead at 7:28. Kelsey Bender's layup was followed by a long ball from Rachel Satterly, but the Campbellsville start had the Lady Lions trailing 19-11 after the opening frame.

The Tigers (18-0, 4-0

MSC) had solid ball movement in the second quarter with six different players recording points. Though the Lady Lions had sparks of offense from 3-pointers out of Curtis, Kelsey Bender, and Jenna Satterly, Campbellsville ended the half on a 7-0 run to lead 42-28 at the break.

CU kept momentum in the third quarter, holding FHU scoreless the first four minutes of the second half while jumping ahead to a 51-28 edge. Lilly Kee sank a jumper in the final seconds to make the score 55-38 moving to the final frame.

Freed-Hardeman had their biggest quarters in the second and fourth, tallying 17 points in each.

FHU out-scored Campbellsville 17-13 in the final quarter, but the damage was done in the 71-52 defeat.

The Tigers forced 25 Lady Lion turnovers, turning those into 22 points. FHU forced 18 turnovers to score eight. FHU out-rebounded the opposition 33-24 while swatting four blocks to Campbellsville's two.

FHU was led by Jenna Satterly, who went 5-6 from the charity stripe to help her to 12 points, while Kaylee Odom was also 5-6 to aid her to score 11 points. Brooklyn Crouch grabbed a teamhigh five rebounds while Carissa Curtis had three steals.

# Lady Lions add state champion to golf team

The Lady Lion golf team will add a team state champion to their roster with the addition of Zoe Phillips.

Phillips helped lead the Clarksville High School Wildcats to the TSSAA Division 1 AA state championship in 2021. After that, Phillips was chosen as an All-Area girls golfer for the 2023-24 season where she earned the Class AA low-score medal in both the District 13 championship by shooting 70 and then won the Region 7 title with

Phillips said, "Choosing FHU was an easy decision for me, FHU makes it so easy to feel comfortable and part of something. I am so excited to be a part of a real team and be able to grow on and off the course! Having this opportunity is so rewarding to me, I am ready to jump in and work

Head golf coach Randall Rhodes said of his new golfer, "We are excited that Zoe is going to be a Lady Lion. She is a great player that is bringing impressive results and experience with her, including multiple wins in competition. Most importantly, her desire to compete and win tournaments will have a huge impact on our team. I look forward to the successes she will have in her career at Freed-Hardeman."





# **Volleyball adds two from Lincoln County**

Head volleyball coach Amanda Bretherick and assistant volleyball coach Will White have signed two Lincoln County High School alumnae to join the Lady Lions.

Audrey Satterfield will join as a middle blocker. Playing her club ball for Rocker City Volleyball club, Satterfield received the 2024 Team Defensive Block Award.

"I am super excited and grateful for the opportunities that God is giving me through Freed-Hardeman University," said Satterfield. "I am looking forward to being a part of a Christ centered atmosphere and being able to grow spiritually, academically, and athletically."

Coach White said, "I am excited for Audrey to join our program. She is an excellent athlete and person. I believe she will walk in and really help us moving forward."

Also joining the program as a student assistant is Kaylee Reed. For the Falcons, Reed played every position on the floor while maintaining a 4.0 GPA and serving on the student council.

"I am excited to be a part of this team as I learn the ins and outs of coaching and how they run their program," added Reed. "I look forward to learning and growing in the sport of volleyball with the team as well as growing my knowledge in God's word."

### GEORGE DROKE - SEPT. 29, 1943 - JAN. 27, 2025

George Edward Droke of Finger passed away Jan. 27, 2025, from complications of a stroke.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, at Shackelford Funeral Directors – Crook Avenue. Burial will follow at Finger Cemetery. The family will receive friends at Crook Avenue from noon until 2 p.m. service time on Saturday.

He was born Sept. 29, 1943, in Finger. He made his home in Finger and lived there his whole life. He was the son of the late James "Jim" Edward Droke and Elizabeth Stovall Droke, all who lived in the Finger community their whole lives. He was a graduate of McNairy High School.

He worked at Jarvis Auto Parts Factory in Bolivar before working



at Owen's Corning Fiberglass in Jackson as a lab technician until the plant closed. Afterwards, he worked



building homes around the Henderson and Chester County area. He also worked for Chester County Nursing Home as a maintenance technician for several years. He enjoyed his time in and around the Finger and Henderson community.

He spent time in the Tennessee National Guard in Henderson serving honorably and rising to the rank of Sergeant. He received an Honorable Discharge. In 1971, the Finger community petitioned for him to be a sheriff's deputy for Finger.

In his later years, he enjoyed working on the family farm and watching his grandkids and great grandkids grow.

He is survived by his only son, Russell (Esperanza) Droke from Bartlett; their three children, Carol (Ryan) Tomblison of Memphis, Amanda Droke of Chattanooga and Lance Droke of Bartlett; and two great-grandchildren, Emory and Pierce Tomblison.

### MAYRINE ADKINS - JULY 3, 1942 - JAN. 20. 2025

Mayrine Dickson Adkins, 82, of Finger passed away Jan. 20, 2025, at her home surrounded by her family.

Funeral services were 11:30 a.m. Thursday at Shackelford Funeral Directors – East Main Chapel with Bro. Iran Smith officiating. The family received friends at East Main 10-11:30 a.m. service time on Thursday.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children Hospital.

She was born July 3, 1942, in Missouri City, Mo., the daughter of the late Milton Bill and Norma Jean Patterson Dickson.

She grew up in Finger and attended Old Friendship School. She married Woodrow Gayle



Adkins in 1957. Mr. Adkins preceded her in death in 2003.

She loved the Lord and her church family and had been a member of the Old Friendship Baptist Church since 1970.

She had worked for Quality Manufacturing and had retired after more than 20 years. She enjoyed vegetable and flower gardening, was an excellent cook and enjoyed celebrating holidays, especially giving gifts and

decorating at Christmas. She was a devoted wife, and loving mother and grandmother.

She is survived son, Richard by a (Sharon) Adkins Finger; grandchildren, Crystal (Jesse) Adkins, Nicholas Adkins, Cody (Lindsey) Duncan and Nick D'Acquisto; greatgrandchildren, Samuel Webb, Scarlett Webb, Chyenne Webb, Andrew Webb, Kylan Murphy, Matthew Adkins, Atlanta Adkins and Brayden great-great Adkins; grandchildren, Taven Duncan and Leonidas Webb; and two sisters, Shannon (Dave) Nowlin and Donna Lynch.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; a grandson, Dustin Adkins; one brother, Bobby Dickson; and a sister, Pat Stout.

### **KEVIN SMITH – JAN. 12, 1970 – JAN. 22, 2025**

James Kevin Smith, 55, of Henderson passed away Jan. 22, 2025 at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital.

Graveside services were 2 p.m. Sunday at Chester County Memory Gardens with Scott Dunaway officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis.

He was born Jan. 12, 1970, in Henderson, the son of the late James Earl and Joyce Ann Forrester Smith. He graduated from South Side High School in 1988. He attended Tennessee Technology School at Crump and at Jackson where he received his certificates in electrical



maintenance.

He married Jennifer Willis in 1995. They made their home in Henderson. He was a member of the Bethel Baptist Church and accepted Christ as his savior in 1995.

He worked in production and maintenance at Ormet Aluminum and the rest of his career BlueScope Buildings.

He was an avid hunter, death by his parents.

loving deer and turkey hunting. He enjoyed working out, staying fit and being a dad to his children. He began to battle cancer in February 2023 and battled to the

He is survived by his wife, Jennifer Lea Willis Smith of Henderson; a son, Blake (Liane) Smith of Henderson; one daughter, Kaylea Smith of Jackson; and grandchild, Riley Blake Smith, arriving in March; one sister, Lisa (Kerry) Smith of Finger; a nephew, Kyle (Samantha); one niece, Kyleigh; three great nieces, Madison, Emily and Faith; and a great nephew, Griffin.

He was preceded in death by his parents

### JOE WEIR - AUG. 19, 1953 - JAN. 20, 2025

Joe Allen Weir, 71, of Beech Bluff passed away Jan. 20, 2025, at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital.

There will be no services.

He was born Aug. 19, 1953, in the Rocky Springs community of Madison County, the son of the late Vernon and Ruby Edna Seeley Weir. He went to school at



of the late Vernon and Pinson and South Side. Ruby Edna Seeley Weir. He worked at the TN He went to school at Department of Forestry at Pinson, all his working career, until he retired.

He is survived by a sister, Linda Goodrum of Hornsby; a special nephew, Patrick Weir; and several other nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Jerry Lee Weir and Jimmy Weir; and two sisters, Mary Lou Warren and Patsy Ruffin.

# **Obituary Pricing**

Death Notice (name, city/community, dates of death and birth, age, funeral date and name of funeral home) --> FREE

Basic - Up to 45 words --> \$35

Standard - 46-200 words --> \$50

Enhanced - 201-300 words --> \$90

Premium - 301-500 words --> \$175

Deluxe - over 500 --> \$250

Add photo --> \$10

ALL OBITS MUST COME DIRECTLY FROM THE FUNERAL HOME IN CHARGE OF SERVICES UNLESS SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES APPLY.

# Vanderbilt Transplant Center Sets World Record for Heart Transplants in 2024

The Vanderbilt Transplant Center had a banner year in 2024, setting a world record by performing 174 adult and pediatric heart transplants. The number of patients whose lives were saved by Vanderbilt's heart transplant team far surpasses any previous total by an individual transplant center.

"I have to say, even I was surprised at the final number of transplants," said Ashish Shah, MD, professor and chair of Cardiac Surgery. "But this one year was really built on 10 years of hard work, innovation and our reputation to do difficult things."

Kelly Schlendorf, MD, associate professor of Medicine and section head of Heart Failure and Transplantation, is quick to point out that a busy transplant program depends on a busy waitlist.

"Equally important to achieving our volume," Schlendorf said, "is a widespread heart failure outreach presence and the tremendous efforts of our multidisciplinary team in shepherding patients quickly through an extensive transplant evaluation process while simultaneously taking care of their heart failure."

Schlendorf notes that in 2024, more than 500 patients were referred to Vanderbilt for transplant con-

sideration from more than 15 U.S. states, including many patients considered too high risk for transplant at other programs.

Vanderbilt transplanted 36% more hearts in 2024 than 2023. In 2024, 10 of the lifesaving procedures were performed on pediatric patients.

Shah, who holds the Alfred Blalock Directorship in Cardiac Surgery, and Schlendorf agree that a major factor in the growth was that VUMC increasingly accepts organs that other centers decline and has successful outcomes because of its advanced organ preservation technologies. They also credit an organ recovery team that can mobilize at a moment's notice and fly throughout the country, and expertise in cardiac anesthesia, intensive care, infectious diseases and other disciplines that help care for patients during and after surgery.

surgery.

"This milestone reflects the extraordinary skill of our entire transplant team and the seamless collaboration across every aspect of patient care," said Bret Alvis, MD, associate professor of Anesthesiology and interim medical director of the Surgical Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit. "It's truly exciting to see how our combined efforts continue to push the boundaries of what's possible in

heart transplantation."

Maricar Malinis, MD,

associate professor of Medicine and medical director of the Transplant Infectious Diseases Program, said, "We are honored to be part of this significant achievement. Each specialty, including infectious diseases, plays a crucial role in optimizing transplant candidates before surgery and minimizing potential post-transplant complications. Transplantation truly is a team effort, with the shared goal of enhancing patients' quality of life."

The transplant team includes cardiologists and cardiac surgeons, intensivists, nurses, advanced practice providers, pharmacists, social workers, case managers, rehab specialists, financial coordinators, nutritionists, organ procurement coordinators, preservationists, operating room staff, cardiac anesthesiologists and nurse anesthetists, among others, led on the adult side by Shah and Schlendorf and on the pediatric side by Carlos Mery, MD, MPH, professor and chief of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt; and David Bearl, MD, MBA, associate professor of Pediatrics and medical director of the Pediatric Heart Transplant Program at Monroe Carell.

# Henderson church of Christ

Sunday Bible Class - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship - 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

# **Good Grief**

## **Grief is work**

By David Coy Good Grief Grief is pain of mind

produces misfortune, injury or evil of any kind; sorrow and regret. (Websters 1828) Thus, grief is painful, grief is separation, grief is personal, grief is universal and grief is therapeutic. We all experience grief, and thus we should support one another. Many different factors contribute to how we as individuals react/respond to our grief experience. These include our cognitive and emotional maturity, our rearing, our relationship to our loss, our support system or lack of it. Grief is difficult and challenging for those who love much and love deeply. Grief has been described as taking a journey, yet its length and difficulty depends upon the criteria mentioned above. With any painful journey, therapy is involved; we must heal from our wound, and this therapy may involve the physical, mental, emotional, social

our life. The singular goal in grief is to accept the new reality that life has thrust upon us and keep moving forward, one step at a time, one day at a time. Just as in a physical injury, if we stop using it, atrophy will set in, and we will lose our use of

the effected part or area.

Long ago, in the early days of our history, Cain questioned when asked why he was his brother's keeper. The answer was then and remains always, we are. Therefore, we are to serve one another as we have the ability and opportunity. A man may ask a preacher how many ministers the congregation has, and he answers 100; the inquirer then asks how



David Coy

many members are there, and the preacher says, 100. Jesus taught by precept and by practice to serve others (Matt. 20:28). We are to carry one another's burdens. In so doing our load is lighter and our work easier.

Call David at 879-6284.

