

## Will this be your best Christmas ever?

By **Danny Tyree**

When writing advertising copy, I sometimes find myself desperately searching for a zinger of a tag line --and settling for trite admonitions such as "Make this the best hunting season ever" or "Make this the best summer vacation ever."

I despise such capitulations to deadlines, because listeners with terminal illnesses, maxed-out credit cards or fruitless marriage counseling sessions may perceive the sentiments as glib or clueless.

Never is the situation more danger-fraught than at Christmas. A melancholy Judy Garland yuletide favorite notwithstanding, an ill-timed "Have the merriest Christmas ever" can hit people the wrong way.

Assuming you don't relish being hit the wrong way, take the reindeer by the horns (er, antlers) and accept responsibility for your own Merry Christmas. Clement C. Moore wrote about a visit from Saint Nicholas; he never promised that LIFE was going to climb down your chimney with goodies galore. So like Ms. Garland, you may have to brainstorm ways to "muddle through somehow."

Cherished memories can be both a blessing and a curse around the holidays. Sideline your rose-colored glasses and apply some perspective to those much-ballyhooed "simpler times." Not everything is perfect for everyone all the time. In those halcyon days of visiting your grandparents and playing with an inexhaustible supply of cousins, it's very likely that your "carefree" grandparents had already lost their own grandparents.

It's likely that someone in the crowd struggled with polio or tuberculosis, or lost sleep worrying about loved ones facing enemy fire. Unless you grew up in a prolonged economic sweet spot, your stoic mom and dad probably had to make genuine sacrifices to see that you had that bike or that dolly.

On these cold, gray winter days, some people spend less time stoking the fireplace than fanning the embers of old grudges. Be the better person and try reaching out to friends and relatives who are no longer in your social circle. Practice deflecting touchy topics. Santa's elves have a corner on building TOYS; try building some BRIDGES to replace those that you've burned behind you.

Accentuate the positive. Instead of counting the empty seats at the table, count the freckles on that step-grandchild you're meeting for the first time. Count the job offers heaped upon that nephew who lives on the far side of the country. Count the extra hours of family time that modern conveniences afford you (if everyone will forego the modernly convenient smartphone for a few hours).

Bad habits can steal all the happiness of Christmas. Don't feel obligated to wait until the ball has dropped in Times Square to unleash your resolutions; get a head start.

If you've worn out a pair of scissors clipping obituaries from the newspaper, it's time to be proactive and make some new friends. Depending on your budget and your mobility, do your best to get to know your neighbors, strike up a conversation while standing in line, volunteer to feed the less fortunate or send a card of encouragement to a young stranger who exhibits good citizenship.

Even with all my coaching, this may NOT be your best Christmas ever. Or even in the Top 5. But loneliness and regret don't have to be inevitable parts of anyone's Christmas. (Reasonable) happiness is yours for the taking.

I say the following with the least glibness and cluelessness possible: Have yourself a Merry Christmas.

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Seven Lewisburg retailers checked by police are complying with laws banning vape product sales to users under age 21.

"Under the direction of the Lewisburg Police Department, an undercover buyer who is over the age of 18 but not yet 21 entered seven Lewisburg businesses and attempted to buy a vape product on Tuesday shortly before 2 p.m.," Capt. Lonnie Cook said in a press release.

The retailers complied by state and federal regulations by asking for identification and denying sales, according to Cook.

"We have scheduled more operations to take place in the near future and will be conducting them at various times in order to target any clerks who sell vape products to anyone who is underage," Cook said.

### COSTLY SCAM

Scammers cheated a Lewisburg woman out of \$60,000, she told police Saturday, Dec. 7.

A caller claiming to be from the Federal Trade Commission told her she'd been scammed and needed

to send money in order to "protect" it.

The victim was ordered to send \$20,000 on Nov. 22 and \$40,000 on Dec. 1, wrapped in bubble wrap, foil, and newspaper. She was told to place the packages in shoe boxes and send them to Richmond, Texas.

### SHOT GONE WRONG

A man who allegedly fired a pistol inside his Belfast Farmington Road home Friday, Dec. 2, was charged with reckless endangerment and unlawful possession of a weapon.

Kenneth Wayne Shelton, 62, allegedly shot through a bedroom door, according to a Marshall County Sheriff's Office report.

"It scared the hell out of me," another person in the home told a deputy. That person said Shelton was having delusions.

The unlawful possession charge is due to Shelton being a convicted felon. Bond was set at \$6,000.

### FEARED JAIL

An alleged attempt to flee from police sent a driver to the jail he feared being sent to, according to a

Lewisburg Police Department report.

Brandon T. Wilson, 24, of Old Farmington Road, allegedly attempted to outrun Officer W. Evans twice in a 15-minute period Monday, Dec. 12, before stopping at the First Avenue North-Bates Road intersection.

Wilson told Evans he had no valid license, his car's brakes were bad, and he was scared of being sent to jail.

Wilson was charged with two counts of evading arrest, reckless driving, and driving on a license revoked for a previous DUI arrest. He was cited for open container, financial responsibility, failure to obey a traffic control device and failure to observe due care. Bond at Marshall County Jail was set at \$7,000.

### THEFTS

An estimated \$7,500 worth of work tools, including chain saws and drills, were stolen from behind a storage building at a Verona Caney Road home Tuesday, Dec. 6, a Marshall County Sheriff's Office report said.

The owner said a blue minivan was

seen on security video speeding away around 10:30 a.m.

Two Coleman mini bikes were taken from a cage outside Tractor Supply in The Acres shopping center between 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8-7:15 a.m. Friday, Dec. 9.

A chain was cut and lock broken to gain entry, police said. Loss was estimated at \$1,310.

Approximately \$120 was taken from a wallet left in the laundromat Monday, Dec. 12, at R & D Market, West Commerce Street, an LPD report said.

### SHOPLIFTING

A suspect was cited for shoplifting Thursday, Dec. 8, after allegedly taking a steel water bottle, two torch lighters and a magnetic box at Dollar General Store, Mooresville Highway.

Taylor D. Emler, 31, of L & N Avenue, who was allegedly seen by store personnel taking the items, was banned from the premises by police along with two companions who were not charged.

## Middle TN Grain Conference announced

With COVID largely in the rear-view mirror, we continue to get back to business as usual. Such is also the case for

the upcoming Middle TN Grain Conference scheduled for Tuesday, January 31st at the University of Tennessee Space Institute (UT-SI), located at 411 B.H. Goethert Pkwy in Tullahoma, TN.

As many have come to expect since its start in 2005, the Middle Tennessee Grain Conference offers some of the most practical insights and real-life solutions to emerging crop production issues; utilizing research and evidence-based data from the University of Tennessee and other landgrant colleges. This conference is also home to one of the area's largest trade shows, showcasing dozens of industry professionals who are on hand to talk what's new, efficient, and effective.

2023 registration is \$20 per person and can be paid at your local UT-TSU Extension county office or at the door the day of. Registration fees help offset the cost of program materials, equipment, signage, resource thumb drive, and conference hats (one per person).

The conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a welcome from a cast of statewide agricultural leaders including Matt Rearden with Nutrien Ag. Solutions, Carol Reed with TN Corn Promotion Council, and Stefan Maupin with TN Soybean Promotion Council. Following the welcome, a slate of hand-picked breakout sessions are being offered covering topics such as "Weed Management a Year in Review: Vines in Corn, Grass, &

Pigweed Management", "Update on the Latest Nitrogen Stabilizer Research", "Prices, Costs & Profitability: Where are Markets Headed & How Can Risk be Mitigated?", "New Advances in Technology: Utilizing Drones to Apply Pesticides & Micronutrients to Crops", "Farm Succession Planning", and many more.

This year's conference is supported and made possible by several industry partners; of special note the TN Corn Promotion Council and the TN Soybean Promotion Council. Refreshments throughout the day are being sponsored by Koch Agonomic Solutions. Lunch will be provided by "The View" Dining Hall and is graciously sponsored by GreenPoint Ag.

Following the meal, participants will have the opportunity to attend the private applicator recertification training. Current private applicator certifications expire on June 30, 2023. Cost of this recertification training is an additional \$25 per person to be paid on-site prior to the training.

At adjournment, participants will turn in completed evaluations to receive their conference hat and thumb drive loaded with pesticide manuals, budgets, and other valuable resources. Farm Manager Credit is available. Final credits can be achieved by attending the upcoming Master Farm Manager program beginning on Tuesday, February 14 at the Community Meeting Room at the Administrative Plaza next to the Coffee Co. Extension. Master Row Crop Credit is also available. For complete details on conference topics, registration, Farm Manager credits and Master Row Crop credits, contact your local UT-TSU Extension Office.

### Town of Cornersville PUBLIC HEARING/ ANNEXATION STUDY

The Cornersville Board of Mayor and Aldermen will have a public hearing regarding the plan of services and annexation study for the annexation of properties on McConnell Rd and Coleman Rd on January 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Cornersville Town Hall, 118 S. Main St. The regular meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen will occur at 6:30 p.m. on January 5, 2022 following the public hearing. The proposed plan of services will be available at the Cornersville Town Hall for public viewing. Maps delineating the area to be annexed are included below:

**Walker Garner Parcels**

Walker Garner Parcels 1-17. Lots 2, 3, 4, 5 Excluded.

**Coble Parcel**

Coble Parcel 16.

**Hasting Parcels**

Hasting Parcels 62 and 64.

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