

Marshall County  
**Tribune**

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www.marshalltribune.com Thursday, December 29, 2022 75¢ Volume 125 - No. 45

## Lewisburg seeks new treasurer

By **Scott Pearson**  
Associate Editor

Lewisburg began a search for a new city treasurer at a special meeting held Tuesday afternoon. The council accepted the resignation of Jack King, who has served in the position since July, 2021, effective on Wednesday. King replaced Donna Park after her retirement and a drawn out search for her replacement. The council appointed Debbie Montgomery to serve as the interim city treasurer for the expected two to three month search and hiring process for a permanent replacement. Montgomery is currently the finance assistant and grants administrator for the city and will manage both positions in the interim. The council expects to extend Park an temporary consulting contract during the change over and the Municipal Technical Advisory Service has offered their assistance in smoothing the transition as well. Council also approved the first stages of the search for a permanent replacement. The council approved a trial change in scheduling for the Lewisburg Fire Department. For the next six months, the department will run on a 24 hour on duty/72 hours off duty schedule instead of the current 24/48 schedule. The schedule change would require the ad-

dition of four more firefighters, but the savings in overtime pay due to off-duty call outs is expected to balance that cost. Fewer calls on days off will also help alleviate a contributor factor to job burnout among personnel, the department hopes. The council will assess the impacts during the trial period and determine if the new schedule will remain or revert to the current 24/48. The council also appropriated American Rescue Plan funds to replace the lap pool heater at the Lewisburg Recreation Center. Heater issues have dogged the indoor pools for years. A recent engineering assessment determined that all three indoor pools, the lap pool, the therapy pool, and the hot tub, were using heaters of the same size despite the differences in the volume of water to be heated. Overwork of the lap pool heater contributed to their frequent burnout. The approximately \$28,000 approved Tuesday will cover the purchase and installation of a larger capacity unit for the lap pool which should improve unit lifespan. At previous meetings, the council has also discussed sourcing from different vendors than the current California-based vendor, which supplies replacement parts or units after frequent and long delays.

## Miss Christmas Belle 2022



The Forrest High School Cheerleaders presented the Miss Christmas Belle pageant on December 10. Miss Christmas Belle and her court are, from left: 1st runner up Finley Sue Wright, Miss Christmas Belle 2022 Sarah Armstrong, and 2nd runner up Sydney Taylor Ross. For photos from the other age groups at Miss Christmas Belle, please turn to Page A8 of today's Marshall County Tribune.

## Jingle Bell Trail winners

The Young Professionals of Marshall County capped off another year of service to the community with their now annual Jingle Bell Trail, a revived Lewisburg tradition supporting local businesses during the holiday season. Shoppers enter the drawing with each purchase from a participating business with the drawing of winners held at the lighting of the city's Christmas tree.



The Young Professionals also made a donation of \$750 to Cloth Our Kids of Marshall County, a group which works to provide at-risk children with needed clothing items.



The first place winner is Emily Weaver. She chose a \$500 gift card to Weathered Farmhouse, \$250 to Nspire Nutrition, and \$250 to Stevie's Boutique, as her \$1,000 prize.

## Study Club celebrates Christmas

*"There's a lot of value in trying new things - you don't have to be successful in everything you do." Author Rob Corn*



Author Rob Corn displays his novel "The Titanic Paradox."

Twenty-five Lewisburg Study Club members and six visitors gathered at the home of Karen Adams on December 10 for the annual Christmas meeting. Walking into Karen's home during the holidays is like walking into a Christmas wonderland. Festive lights and holiday decor featuring displays of figurines and nutcrackers are tastefully arranged throughout the living room and kitchen. Hostesses Debra Allen and Suzie Comstock, along with Karen, welcomed each person, and soon the room was filled with lively fellowship. President Denise Werner called the meeting to order and welcomed the guests. With no further business, she turned the

meeting over to Suzie Comstock to introduce the speaker, Rob Corn. Suzie first met Rob and his wife Marcie, a teacher at Westhills Elementary, when they began attending the First United Methodist Church in Lewisburg several years ago. Their friendship grew through church activities, especially when

▶ See Study, Page A3



Sandy Henson won the second place gift basket in the drawing, and Lillie Newton won the third place gift basket from participating retailers, which was picked up by her mother Jessica Newton (pictured).



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**HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE NEW YEAR**

# Obituaries

## Christopher "Chris" Lee Allen

Christopher "Chris" Lee Allen, 52, a resident of Lewisburg, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, Dec. 22, 2022.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Heritage Funeral Home. A visitation will also be held on Jan. 7, 2023, from 1- 2 p.m. at the funeral home. Heritage Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

Born on Nov. 8, 1970, in Columbia, Chris was the son of Evan & Diane Allen, Jr. and the late Debra Heffington Parker. He was a graduate of Marshall County High School and attended Middle Tennessee State University. He worked



many years as a plumber and electrician. Chris was a true outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing and hunting and loved motorcycles. He was of the Christian faith.

He is survived by his father, Evan (Diane) Allen, Jr. of Columbia, TN; daughter, Madison (Ma-

son) Hobby of Mooresville, TN; step-father, Glenn Parker; aunts and uncles, Ralph (Peggy) Allen, Deborah (Blaine) Ricketts, Cliff Allen, Becky (Dickie) Cartwright, Martha (Steve) Walters, David (Jennifer) Allen, Cheryl Church; great-aunt, Virginia Allen, and a host of cousins.

In addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by his grandparents, Evan & Lorene Allen, Ray Heffington, Mary Ellen Cellan, and uncle, Terry Leon Church.

You may share condolences with the family at the Heritage Funeral Home website: [www.Tn-Funerals.com](http://www.Tn-Funerals.com).

## Judge Hutton Smith Brandon

Judge Hutton Smith Brandon passed away at his home in Lewisburg, TN on Dec. 12, 2022. Born in Dover, TN on Aug. 31, 1933, he was the son of the late Marshall County attorney, Malcolm Ragsdale Brandon and Margaret Smith Brandon, a Marshall County school teacher.

Hutton attended Marshall County schools, including Morgan Prep School of Petersburg, and graduated from Marshall County High School in 1951. He received his Bachelor of Science in History from Middle Tennessee State University in 1955 where he met his wife, the former Floy May Sealy of Columbia, TN. He entered the military and completed his military obligations in 1957 as a 1st Lieutenant in the 10th Infantry Division U.S. Army serving at stations from Oklahoma to Bamberg, Germany.

Following his military service, Hutton entered Vanderbilt Law School where he completed his studies on an accelerated basis graduating in January 1960 with a Doctorate of Jurisprudence. Upon graduation, he was offered employment by U.S. National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in Washington, D.C. During his lengthy career with the NLRB, Hutton filled many positions in many locations across the fifty



states.

In 1977, Hutton was chosen and appointed as a federal Administrative Law Judge by the NLRB for trial cases arising under the National Labor Relations Act. He served as a trial judge in Washington, D.C. and Atlanta, GA until his retirement in 1989 as Associate Chief Administrative Law Judge.

For the ten years following his retirement, Hutton remained active in labor relations matters by serving as a labor arbitrator with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and U.S. Postal Service.

Beginning in childhood, Hutton enjoyed building and flying radio control airplanes. He also loved traveling, boating, fishing and spending time with his children, grandchildren and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Malcolm R. Brandon and Margaret S. Brandon; nephew, James Hutton Foster; sister, Marjorie Brandon Rickard; brother-in-law, Robert R. Rickard; niece, Lissa S. Rickard.

Hutton is survived by his wife of 68 years, Floy Sealy Brandon; his children, Catherine Brandon Falgoust (Stephen) and Dr. Nathan Hutton Brandon (Eileen); grandchildren, Thomas Sealy Eakin (Alexandra), Dr. Hutton William Brandon (Zoe), Lt. Nolan Thomas Brandon (Susan), Suzanne Marie Falgoust, Molly Kate Falgoust; great-grandson, Austin William Eakin; sister, Elinor Brandon Foster; brother, Roger Eastman Brandon (Anne), niece, Quinn Brandon Stewart; nephews, William Shemwell Foster (Denise), Taylor Eastman Brandon (Lela), Tyler Ragsdale Brandon (Jennifer), Robert Brandon Rickard and many great-nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Lewisburg, TN, Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023, at 2 p.m. Visitation will begin at 12 p.m. and a reception will be held at the church following the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the First Presbyterian Church HOPEtown Building Fund.

Bills-McGaugh & Hamilton Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the family of Judge Hutton Smith Brandon. Condolences may be extended online at [www.billsmcgaugh.com](http://www.billsmcgaugh.com).

## Mildred Jean Beaty

Mildred Jean Beaty, 75, of Lewisburg, TN, died Friday, Dec. 23, 2022, at Williamson Medical Center.

She was a native of Jamestown, TN, the daughter of the late Jimmy and Dollie Stephens Beaty. She was employed as a line worker by Faber Castell prior to her retirement.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sisters, Arie Lackey, Dorothy Stanley, Ruby Lackey, and Helen Worsham; brothers, Richard Beaty and Otis Beaty; son-in-law Samuel Wright.

She is survived by her husband, Chester Beaty; daughters, Vickie Wright, Melinda Darnell (fiance' Terry Pollock) of Lewisburg, Shammarie (Greg) Music of Cornersville and Kathy (Billy) Kellogg of Jamestown; sons, Wayne (Diane) Beaty, Dale Beaty (fiance' Whitney Knox) of Lewisburg and Michael (Angie) Norris of Jamestown; grandchildren, Josh Wright, Shasta Beaty, Zachary Music, Ashley Clark, Brittaney Clark, Josie Clark, Shane Clark, Phillip Norris, Hunter Norris,

and Matthew Norris; great-grandson, Aydan Music and several additional great-grandchildren; sister, Christine Frye and niece, Glenda Worsham both of Jamestown.

A graveside service was conducted Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Lone Oak Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made toward funeral expenses.

London Funeral Home and Crematory assisted the family with the arrangements.

## Dorothy S. Godshall

Dorothy S. Godshall, 94, passed away peacefully surrounded by family at her daughter's home in Woodbury, TN, on Dec. 24, 2022. Born May 1, 1928, in Chester County, PA, she moved to Tennessee in 1978.

Although Dorothy's life had many hardships, her heart for the Lord was always soft and tender, filled with gratefulness to Him. She kept her faith to her last breath. She was the wife of Willard, and mother of Ken, Melvin, Regina, Rebecca and Henry. She also loved all kinds of animals and had a special attachment to her doggies!



Dorothy is survived by her son, Ken (Judy) Godshall of Willoughby, OH; daughters, Regina (Christian) Wanner of Woodbury, TN, and Rebecca (Steve) Piller of Mentor, OH; seventeen grandchildren; thirty-nine great-grandchildren; and a brother,

Harry J. Smith, Jr. of Shamokin, PA. Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband, Willard and sons, Henry and Melvin.

Visitation for family and friends will be held Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Woodbury Funeral Home, 504 W. Main St., Woodbury, TN 37190. A memorial service will be held immediately following at 3 p.m. in the chapel of Woodbury Funeral Home.

Friends may leave condolences for her family at [www.woodburyfuneralhome.net](http://www.woodburyfuneralhome.net)

## Steven Patrick Lykins

Steven Patrick Lykins, 67, passed away on Dec. 24, 2022, at his home after an extended illness. He was born on April 10, 1955, in Cincinnati, OH, to the late Albert F. Lykins and Janet R. (McBeth) Lykins. In addition to his father, Albert F. Lykins, he was preceded in death by his sister, Sandy Lykins.

He is survived by his mother, Janet R. (McBeth) Lykins of Cincinnati, OH; wife, Paula Kay (Schmidt) Lykins of Lewisburg, TN; three sons, Brian (Tracy), David, and Jeffrey (Candice) Lykins all of Lewisburg, TN; grandchildren, Jonathan, Alaina, Hayden, Jackson, Emma, and Cruz Lykins, Taylor Howes and step-grandson Justice Caswell; sisters, Diane (Jim) Shreve of Humble, TX, Susan (Bill) Aufermann of Cincinnati, OH, Kathleen (Mark) Bisdorf of Mari-



on, IN, Christine (Chris) Lonnemann of Erlanger, KY, and Barbara (Pat) Halloran of Cincinnati, OH.

A native of Cincinnati, OH, Steve moved to Lewisburg, TN, 35 years ago. He graduated from Roger Bacon High School in Cincinnati, in 1973, and earned a degree in Heating and Air Conditioning from Cincinnati Technical College. He then became a Journeyman Electrician at the Fisher Body Plant of General Motors in Fairfield, OH, before moving to the Saturn

Plant in Spring Hill, TN. Steve was an experienced scuba diver, loved boating, teaching and coaching baseball, traveling, and watching his sons and grandchildren in their various sports. Steve also enjoyed working on his farm and hunting.

Visitation with the family will be Friday, Dec. 30, 2022, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. followed by the Memorial Mass at St. John's the Evangelist Catholic Church, 1061 South Ellington Parkway, Lewisburg, TN 37091.

Honorary pallbearers are his much-loved grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Compassus Hospice, or St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

London Funeral Home and Crematory is assisting the family with the arrangements.

## Jerry Knox Murdock

Jerry Knox Murdock, 82, of Lewisburg, TN, died Thursday, Dec. 22, 2022, at Maury County Regional Health Center.

He was a native of Marshall County, the son of the late Johnny Morgan Murdock and Elizabeth Street Murdock. He was Co-owner of M & W Trucking.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife, Carol Cathey Murdock; daughter, Cathey Talley Sweeney of Lebanon; son, Mark Jason Murdock of Louisville, KY; sister, Donna Giles



of Cornersville; brother, Doug Murdock of Clinton, TN; two grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be conducted on

Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Bethlehem Cemetery.

Visitation with the family will be held on Thursday, December 29, 2022, from 10:30 am until 12:30 pm at London Funeral Home and Crematory, 324 W. Church St., Lewisburg, TN. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Wilson County CASA, 111 Castle Heights Ave., Lebanon, TN 37087.

London Funeral Home and Crematory is assisting the family with the arrangements.

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Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Member of the Tennessee Press Association  
**Holler Media, LLC**  
Send address changes to:  
1175 Nashville Hwy.  
P.O. Box 2667 Lewisburg, TN 37091  
Sports  
Chris Siers  
[sports@t-g.com](mailto:sports@t-g.com)  
Publication No. (SECD310980) Lewisburg, TN  
Published Each Thursday  
Entered as periodical rate at the Post Office in Lewisburg, TN under the act of March 3, 1879. Send Form 3579 to P.O. Box 2667, Lewisburg, Tennessee 37091.  
Counter Sales 75¢ By mail, in Marshall County 6 months \$19. 1 year \$36  
**News**  
Associate Editor  
**Scott Pearson**  
[mteditor@marshalltribune.com](mailto:mteditor@marshalltribune.com)  
**Pagination:**  
Mary Cook  
Carol Spray  
**Advertising Director/ General Manager**  
Diandra Womble  
**Advertising Deadlines**  
**TRIBUNE:**  
4 pm. Monday  
**SHOPPER:**  
Noon Tuesday prior to Tuesday publish date  
**OFFICE**  
Classified, Circulation & Accounting  
**Patty Blackburn**  
[clerk@marshalltribune.com](mailto:clerk@marshalltribune.com)  
Copyright 2019. The Marshall County Tribune (USPS 310-980) published every Thursday except New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving and Christmas by Holler Media, LLC, 1175 Nashville Hwy., Lewisburg, TN 37091. Periodical postage paid at Lewisburg, TN 37091.  
Postmaster: Send address changes to 1175 Nashville Hwy. Lewisburg 37091.

**Affordable health screenings coming to Lewisburg, Tennessee**

Lewisburg, Tennessee – Residents living in and around the Lewisburg, Tennessee can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Church Street Church of Christ - Annex Building will host this community event on 2/4/2023. The site is located at 302 West Commerce St in Lewisburg.

Screenings can check for:

- The level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and overall vascular health.
- HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels
- Diabetes risk
- Kidney and thyroid function, and more

Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available.

Special package pricing starts at \$159, but consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit our website at [www.lifelinescreening.com](http://www.lifelinescreening.com). Pre-registration is required.



Hostesses from left: Karen Adams, Suzie Comstock, and Debra Allen; not pictured Cathy Madeo

## Study

(Continued from Page 1)

Rob and Marcie accepted the roles of youth leaders in the church, and the Comstock children and the Corn children were approximately the same ages. Although the Corns have since moved to Birmingham, the families have maintained a close relationship.

Continuing the study club theme for the year Discovery Through Isolation, the December program was entitled "Good Reads." Rob Corn was an excellent choice to speak on this topic because he began his writing career during the isolation months of Covid 19. Rob shared that despite the losses we all suffered during the pandemic, he will remember 2020 fondly because of the good

things that his family experienced. Isolation from the outside world enabled his family to spend more quality time together. He was quick to praise his wife for being the motivation behind his writing. Before Covid, Marcie and her sister had co-authored a book entitled "Unclaimed Baggage" which was inspired by their mother's battle with Alzheimer's. Then Marcie also wrote a second novel entitled "Always Thaddeus".

Rob's novel "The Titanic Paradox" began with a visit to the Titanic Museum in Pigeon Forge. As he browsed through the museum, Rob wondered "What would I have done had I been a passenger on the fated ship? Would I have been the one to shove my way to a lifeboat, or would I have helped others go first?" The resulting answers

to those questions led him to write a short story; however, his editor encouraged him to lengthen the story into a full-length novel and gave him guidance on how to do that. Through extensive research, Rob became invested with the passengers and their experiences on the ship. The novel also explores the theory of time travel and the paradox of how changing the past could affect the future. The novel is available on Amazon and through other book sellers. A copy is also available to borrow at the Marshall County Memorial Library.

Following the presentation, the hostesses served traditional Christmas goodies and beverages. The next meeting will be January 14 at the home of Natalie McMillen.

## Land transfers

**LAND TRANSFERS 10/23/2022 - 10/29/2022**

Michael Towery to Austin & Trena Wilhite, Jeffrey Smith S/D, Dist 3, \$270,000; Charles A & Rebecca Coble to Richard A & Allison Bruer, Coble S/D, Dist 3, \$205,000; Brian William Porter, Cary Porter, Tammy Marie King to Justin T & Kayla Marion, Hwy 431, 1 Acres, Dist 8, \$160,000; D R Horton Inc to Christopher Paul Nowak, River Forest S/D, \$268,810; Judy Henke to Angela Jill Lunsford, Warnes Ridge S/D, Dist 1, \$460,000; Ryan Perryman/Mace LLC to Shelly D Craig,

Morgan Meadows, Dist 7, \$245,000; Shirley C Towns, Forrest Craig Towns Atty in Fact to Kevin & Yi Chuang Hughes, Carroll Bryant Property, .53 Acres, \$114,900; Audrey M & Napolion Lewis to Daniel Michael Johnson, Lewis Property, 15.26 Acres, Dist 4, \$213,640; James Riley Wilkinson to Betty Jane Puckett, Ezell Addition, PO of Lot 1, Lots 3 & 4, Dist 1, \$334,800; Opendoor Property Trust I to John & Aubrey Johnson, Ann Liggett S/D, Lost 12 & 13, \$250,000; Lionel L & Barbara Gayle W Escamilla to Marya Garcia, Craig

Moore Rd, \$300,000; William Anderson Joyce Jr to Brian Jay & Julie Riden Ladd, Mount Vernon Rd, 48.23 Acres, Dist 1, \$300,000; Joshua L Donnell to Nancy Jane & Christopher Truby Martin, Stegall Road Commons, 2.01 Acres, Dist 3, \$550,000; John Brentlinger & Buffy Altman to Stacy Luna, Church Street, Dist 5, \$35,750; Joe Ellis Anderson Estate to Jason D & Brittany Lee Gregg, Wiles Lane, 5.18 Acres, Dist 2, \$289,000; Jeffrey Moore, Jason Jent, Robert Huey to Refuge Church, Caldwell Estates Revision of Tract 6 & 10, \$190,000.

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### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S FORECLOSURE SALE

Sale at public auction will be on January 12, 2023 at 1:00pm, local time, at the usual and customary location at the Marshall County Courthouse, Lewisburg, TN 37091-3371, pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by Samantha Cook for the benefit of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First National Mortgage Services, LLC, as Beneficiary, dated July 18, 2014, of record in Instrument Number 175023, in Book 639 at Page 241, in the Register of Deeds Office for Marshall County, Tennessee, ("Deed of Trust"), conducted by Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, LLC, a South Carolina limited liability company duly authorized to conduct business in Tennessee, having been appointed Trustee, all of record in the Register of Deeds Office for Marshall County, Tennessee. Default in the performance of the covenants, terms, and conditions of said Deed of Trust has been made; and the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable.

Party entitled to enforce the debt: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC

Other Interested Parties: N/A

The hereinafter described real property located in Marshall County will be sold to the highest call bidder subject to all unpaid taxes, prior liens and encumbrances of record:

Located in the Third (3rd) Civil District of Marshall County, Tennessee, and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Being Lot numbers 23, 24, 25 and 26 in Section B of Valley View Subdivision, a plat of which is of record in Plat Cabinet A, Slide 29, (Previously in Deed Book O-4, Page 304), Register's Office of Marshall County, Tennessee, and beginning in the West margin of Cheryl Drive, South 4 1/2 degrees West 100 feet; thence with North line of Lot Number 27, North 85 1/2 degrees West 277.5 feet; thence North 2 1/2 degrees West 100.8 feet; thence with South line of Lot Number 22, South 85 1/2 degrees East 292.8 feet to the point of beginning, according to the survey made by Thomas Cathey on June 30, 1959. Being the same property conveyed to Samantha Cook, an unmarried woman, by Warranty Deed from Donald Squires and wife, Amy Squires, dated July 18, 2014 and recorded July 21, 2014 in Record Book 639, Page 239, Register's Office of Marshall County, Tennessee.

Street Address: The street address of the property is believed to be 982 Cheryl Drive, Lewisburg, TN 37091, but such address is not part of the legal description of the property. In the event of any discrepancy, the legal description herein shall control. Map/Parcel Number: 071H-A-042.00-000

Current owner(s) of the property: Samantha Cook

This sale is subject to all matters shown on any applicable recorded Plat or Plan; and unpaid taxes and assessments; any restrictive covenants, easements or setback lines that may be applicable; rights of redemption, equity, statutory or otherwise, not otherwise waived in the Deed of trust, including right of redemption of any governmental agency, state or federal; and any and all prior deeds of trust, liens, dues, assessments, encumbrances, defects, adverse claims and other matters that may take priority over the deed of Trust upon which this foreclosure sale is conducted or are not extinguished by this foreclosure sale. THE PROPERTY IS SOLD WITHOUT ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, RELATING TO TITLE, MARKETABILITY OF TITLE, POSSESSION, QUIET ENJOYMENT OR THE LIKE AND FITNESS FOR A GENERAL OR PARTICULAR USE OR PURPOSE. The title is believed to be good, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Trustee.

The right is reserved to adjourn the sale to another time certain or to another day, time, and place certain, without further publication upon announcement on the day, time, and place of sale set forth above or any subsequent adjourned day, time, and place of sale.

If you purchase the property at the foreclosure sale, the entire purchase price is due and payable at the conclusion of the auction in the form of a certified check made payable to or endorsed to Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, LLC. No personal checks will be accepted. To this end, you must bring sufficient funds to outbid the Lender and any other bidders. Insufficient funds will not be accepted. Amounts received, in excess of the winning bid, will be refunded to the successful purchaser at the time the foreclosure deed is delivered.

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

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, LLC, Trustee  
339 Heyward Street, 2nd Floor  
Columbia, SC 29201  
PH: (803) 509-5078  
FX: (803) 701-9145  
File No.: 22-52610

## Obituaries

### Rickie V. Pitts

Rickie V. Pitts passed away in peace on Dec. 25, 2022, at the age of 67, after a long battle with cancer. He was born in Fayetteville, TN on June 8, 1955, to Melvin Pitts and Nellie Spradlin Pitts Porter. Melvin left this world while Rickie was young and Nellie married Charles Porter, who became Rickie's stepfather. His parental guardians growing up were Robert "Dad" and Ruby Joe McCormick. He was a graduate of Cornersville High School and during his time at school he enjoyed playing sports. The football team was talented enough to go to the playoffs during the years he played. Later in his life, he enjoyed playing industrial softball and playing on his church league softball team.



Rickie loved God, his church, family, and friends. He desired to help his community, people and animals alike, by participating in animal rescues and volunteering with HOPEtown. Rickie was member and a deacon of First Baptist Church. He helped start the "Samaritan's Purse Ministry" and "The Deacon Family Ministry" at First Baptist Church in Lewisburg. He also enjoyed playing golf with his friends.

Rickie is survived by his devoted wife, Carla Martin Pitts and his son, Michael Gray, whom Rickie chose from the moment they met, to call "son." He is also survived by his brothers, Jerry (Judy) Pitts of Brownstone, MI and Gary Pitts of Portland, TX; his sisters, Janice Jones and Judy (Doug) Harwell, all of Fayetteville, TN; and one granddaughter, Tannan Jensen Grace Mitchell.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his stepfather, Charles Porter; his parental guardians, Robert "Dad" and Ruby Joe McCormick; his sisters, Donna Sharon Pitts and Vickie Yvonne Nix; stepbrother, Doyce McCormick; stepsister, Geneva Dobbins.

The visitation for Rickie V. Pitts was held Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022, at First Baptist Church, 323 Second Avenue North, Lewisburg TN 37091 from 4 to 7 p.m. The visitation resumed at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, until the funeral hour of 1 p.m. with burial following in Lone Oak Cemetery.

Bills-McGaugh & Hamilton Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Rickie V. Pitts. Condolences and memories may be extended online at [www.billsmcgaugh.com](http://www.billsmcgaugh.com).

### Jessie Elizabeth Collins Purdom

Jessie Elizabeth Collins Purdom, 84, of Lewisburg, TN, died Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022, at NHC Lewisburg.



She was a native of Marshall County, the daughter of the late Leonard Collins and Susie Stinnett Collins. She was a Certified Nursing Assistant at Merihill Nursing Home.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Jimmy W. Purdom and three brothers, Leonard Collins, Fred Collins and Paul Collins.

She is survived by two daughters, Malinda (Gerald) Pollock of Lewisburg and Patty (Frank) Ulrich of Panama City, FL; two sons, Phillip Purdom of Lewisburg and Ricky (Cheryl) Purdom of North Carolina; sister, Nellie Louise Davis of Lewisburg; sister-in-law, Helen Collins; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted on Monday, Dec. 26, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. from the chapel of London Funeral Home, 324 West Church Street, Lewisburg, Tennessee 37091 and burial followed in Lone Oak Cemetery.

Visitation with the family began on Monday, Dec. 26, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. and continued until the funeral hour.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Lung Association. London Funeral Home and Crematory assisted the family with the arrangements.

## ONLINE AUCTION

**32.05 acres in Marshall County**  
**1666 Verona Caney Rd, Lewisburg**  
**Begins Dec 9th at 8am to Dec 30th at noon**  
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**POLICE BLOTTER**

A woman accused of asking people for money at NHC Lewisburg allegedly took a debit card from a patient on Monday, Dec. 19, police said.

The victim, told police he'd let the woman borrow the card because he needed someone to pay his cell phone bill at Walmart and purchase more hours. She never returned the card.

**STOLEN CAR**

The keys to a 2007 Saturn Vue SUV were left atop an air conditioning unit outside Walking Horse Lodge, North Ellington Parkway, on the night of Saturday, Dec. 17.

Those keys were gone but the SUV still outside when the owner began looking for the keys later Saturday, police said. But the SUV was gone by Sunday morning.

The owner said he suspects a man seen near the motel who is known for stealing vehicles.

The SUV is silver and has several musical groups' promotional stickers on the rear window.

**DOG SHELTERED**

Lewisburg police rescued a dog Thursday from the near-zero temperatures.

Officers were notified of a short-haired dog tied behind an Old Lane Road home. The Igloo dog shelter contained two empty bowls and no bedding such as straw or shavings, Officer Wyatt Evans' report said.

Neighbors told Evans the dog's caretakers were gone at the time and are rarely home.

The dog was taken to Marshall County Animal Shelter and Animal Control notified.

**WRECKED AND RAN**

A man allegedly sideswiped another vehicle Thursday while attempting to pass it on North Ellington Parkway, a Lewisburg Police report said.

The suspect told the victim to pull into a near-by parking lot, then sped away when she did so.

Police said the victim described the suspect as a short Latino male driving a blue or gray Ford Mustang with a Bedford County plate.

**PHONE STOLEN**

A cell phone was stolen from a locked vehicle by a woman who has allegedly been harassing the owner, police said.

The suspect allegedly ran toward the victim, a longtime acquaintance, at a Nashville Highway convenience store while carrying a knife. The victim locked the vehicle while making a purchase inside the store. She returned to the vehicle and the phone was missing.

The victim told police the suspect has a key to the vehicle and likely took the phone. She said the suspect may have a tracking device on the vehicle, has been driving recklessly near her when spotting her on the streets and is watching her home.

# Cold enough for you?

By **Danny Tyree**

I won't hazard a guess as to whether it achieves immortality like "grassy knoll" or "hanging chads," but surely the phrase "bomb cyclone storm" will remain in the public consciousness of those who endured its cruelties.

We'll laugh about this someday, but right now an awful lot of Americans have a "single digit-it" they'd like to give right back to Mother Nature.

And we're not exactly chummy with 2022, which on its way out is taunting us with, "Bet now you wish you had bought the extended warranty!"

Yes, I mourn for those who lost their lives due to the recent winter weather event (event as in "One... night... only! Well, two nights only! Would you believe three or four nights only? Tell a buddy, bring a flame thrower!"), but those of us who survived will be talking about dead automobile batteries, industrial-strength windshield de-icer, "rolling blackouts" and other inconveniences for a

long time. Assuming our tongues aren't still stuck to a lamppost in the summer of 2027.

I'm still waiting for the other snow-covered shoe to drop, but so far there has mercifully been only muted politicization of the blizzard (vis-a-vis climate change debates). Okay, I did overhear one social justice warrior protesting the term "once-in-a-generation phenomenon" because (duh) it's offensive to mayflies.

I know meteorologists gave the citizenry several days' notice of the potential hazards, but folks really should have been paying closer attention earlier in the year. For instance, when woolly worm caterpillars replaced their familiar dark bands with patterns of Four Horsemen. (Nice job of burying the lede, almanac editors!)

Catastrophes like this bring out our resourcefulness and teamwork, but they are also a

grim reminder of human frailty and mortality. Granted, wearing layer upon layer upon layer of clothing makes our guard down concerning firearms-related mortality in particular. ("Is that all you got, punk? You sure that's not an assault peashooter?")

Canceled flights, curtailed bus routes and treacherous backroads caused many families to cancel, reschedule or scale back their celebrations. The weather conditions forced travelers to progress rather quickly from Plan B to Plan C. ("I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams - assuming I get any sleep with all the &^%\$# snoring at the terminal!")

Alas, even some of the intrepid souls who made it through the snow and slush to celebrate the holidays with their loved ones became disoriented upon arrival because of the absence of familiar landmarks. (Statistics are still being compiled on how many lawn gnomes declared, "Forget this! I'm MOVING to Nome!")

Other frostbitten travelers got turned away at the front door, because they were mistaken for Blue Man Group. ("Now, if Cirque du Soleil had come knocking on the door, we'd have fetched them some eggnog, right, Ma?")

Some families redoubled their efforts to spread joy and goodwill despite the blizzard, but others made a calculated decision to tick off their neighbors. ("Did you see the price of propane, honey? We need all the free flaming sacks of dog poop we can get!")

I'm grateful that residents of the handful of states that escaped the direct impact of the winter storm have sent thoughts, prayers and good vibes our way.

They empathize because, while they dodged a bullet this time, they realize their time will come for wildfires, earthquakes, floods or ...a hundred-year infestation of smart-aleck columnists!

©2022 Danny Tyree.

## Large glossy leaves of Lusterleaf Holly shine in any landscape

### UT Gardens' December 2022 plant of the month

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. - Hollies are versatile plants with a wide range of uses in the landscape. Perhaps my favorite species of this genus is Ilex latifolia, commonly called the lusterleaf holly.

From a distance, the leaves of Ilex latifolia are often mistaken for

those of the Southern magnolia, Magnolia grandiflora. I recall the first time I saw a specimen of this plant. It was being used in a living screen, and I was about 30 yards away when I myself made this incorrect assumption! I was initially drawn to the large, flat leaves. They were wide at the base and tapered towards the tip, leathery in texture, and some were even larger than the size of my hand. Upon closer inspection, I noticed the plant's heavy berry load. The berries, which were immature and green at that time, were forming in huge clusters nestled at the leaf axils (where the leaf attaches to the branch) and encircling the stem. As the season progressed into winter, the berries turned a deep, dull red and were visible from a great distance, which only added to this plant's beauty.

Ilex latifolia has a narrow, dense pyramidal shape, reaches average heights of 20 to 25 feet, and growth is considered slow. The large, broad leaves can reach 6- to 8-inches long and 3- to 4-inches wide. They are dark green and their upper surface is shiny and lustrous, which lends itself to the plant's common name of lusterleaf holly. The leaf margins are edged evenly with small, coarse teeth, not spiny. Ilex latifolia prefers the heat of summers in the South and is hardy from USDA hardiness zones 7 through 9. There are several cultivars, but the straight species is the most commonly found at garden centers and is a grand addition to any landscape.

In my opinion, this species has the most beautiful foliage of all the hollies. It is resistant to heat, insects

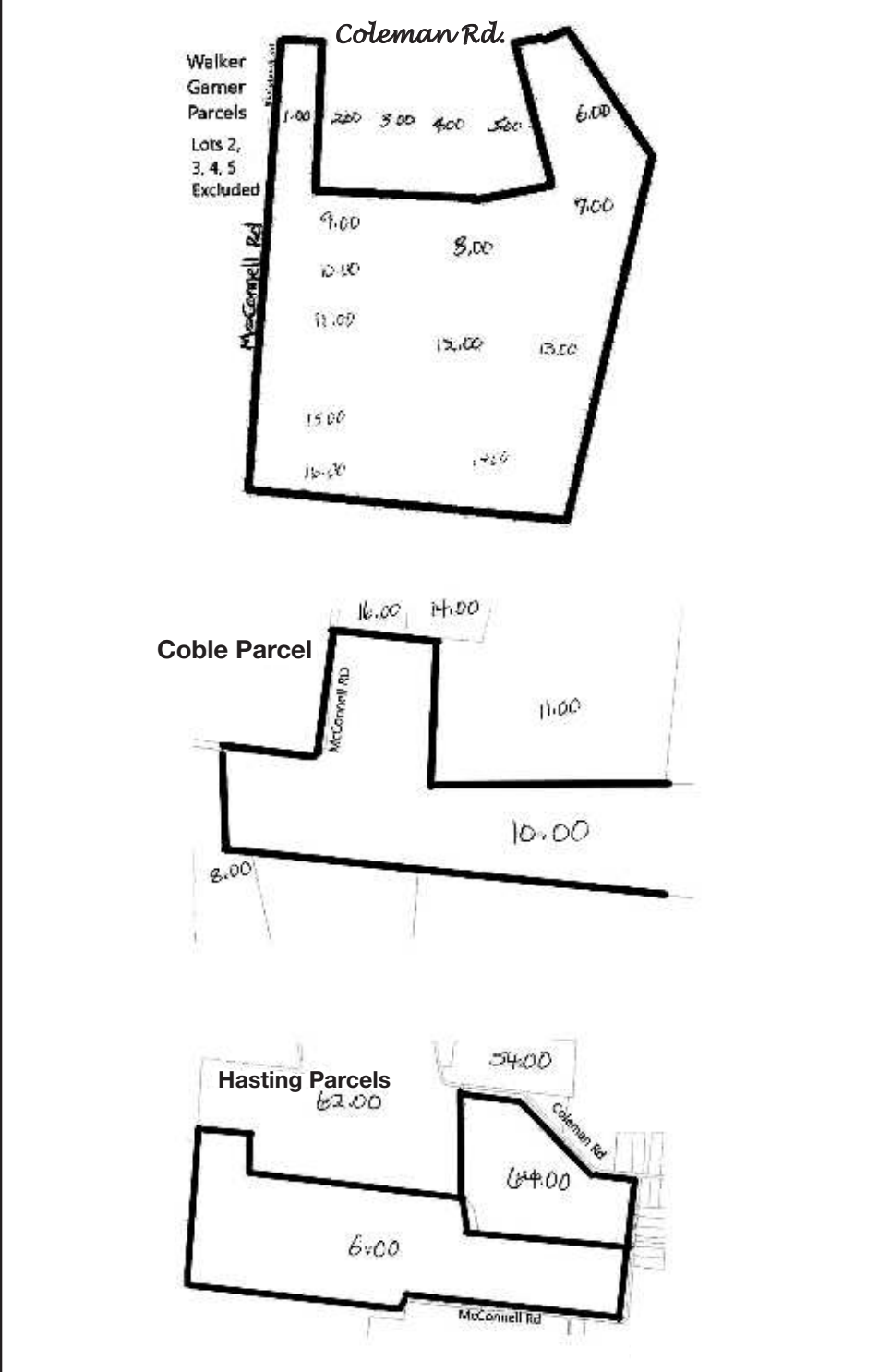
and diseases and could serve equally well as a specimen, in a grouping or as a component of a living screen. While this holly is not currently used widely in landscapes, it is worth consideration, and in the authoritative "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants," Michael Dirr writes that Ilex latifolia "certainly ranks among the best of the broadleaf evergreens."

Specimens of Ilex latifolia can be seen growing on the UT Gardens, Jackson, grounds in a screen planting located on the northern side of the east end of the conifer bed, as well as in a tapestry screen planting beyond the annual trial berms on the west side of the garden.

Submitted by Celeste Luckey Scott, Extension Agent, UT-TSU Extension Madison County

## 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:





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Greek-Style Flank Steak with Tangy Yogurt Sauce

Photo courtesy of Getty Images

# Prioritize Heart Health with a Balanced Eating Plan

FAMILY FEATURES

No matter your motivations, it's never too late or too early to start focusing on your heart health, and taking steps now can make a big difference. Small changes, like following a healthier eating plan, can help you start down a path toward improved heart health.

One step you can take is following the DASH eating plan, which is a flexible and balanced way of eating that stands for Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension and was developed by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Requiring no special foods, DASH provides daily and weekly nutritional goals to help lower two major risk factors for heart disease: high blood pressure and high LDL (bad) cholesterol.

Being more physically active, managing stress, getting quality sleep and not smoking combined with DASH can put you on a path toward a healthy heart for life.

Encouraging others to join you on your heart-health journey can also be rewarding. Research shows social support and personal networks make it more likely you'll stick to healthy habits like eating healthy.

Sharing heart-healthy recipes with family and friends is an added bonus, and these DASH-friendly meals can help you take the guesswork out of putting nutritious dinners on the table. Greek-Style Flank Steaks with Tangy Yogurt Sauce offer the bold flavors of the Mediterranean while Teriyaki-Glazed Salmon with Stir-Fried Vegetables is as easy to make as it is colorful. For a complementary combination of pork and sweet fruit flavor, these Baked Pork Chops with Apple Cranberry Sauce are perfect to serve alongside brown rice or steamed broccoli.

Learn more about heart health and find DASH-friendly recipes at [nhlbi.nih.gov/DASH](http://nhlbi.nih.gov/DASH).

## Greek-Style Flank Steak with Tangy Yogurt Sauce

Recipe courtesy of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Prep time: 25 minutes

Cook time: 25 minutes

Servings: 4

### Marinade:

- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 teaspoons fresh oregano, rinsed, dried and chopped
- 1 tablespoon garlic, minced (2-3 cloves)
- 1 beef flank steak (12 ounces)

### Yogurt Sauce:

- 1 cup cucumber, peeled, seeded and chopped
- 1 cup nonfat plain yogurt
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon fresh dill, rinsed, dried and chopped
- 1 tablespoon garlic, minced (2-3 cloves)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

To make marinade: In large bowl, combine lemon juice, olive oil, oregano and garlic.

Lay steak in flat container with sides and pour marinade over steak. Marinate at least 20 minutes, or up to 24 hours, turning several times.

To make yogurt sauce: Combine cucumber, yogurt, lemon juice, dill, garlic and salt. Set yogurt sauce aside at least 15 minutes to blend flavors. Sauce can be prepared up to 1 hour in advance and refrigerated.

Preheat broiler to high with rack 3 inches from heat source.

Broil steak about 10 minutes on each side to minimum internal temperature of 145 F. Let cool 5 minutes before carving.

Slice thinly across grain into 12 slices. Serve three slices with 1/2 cup yogurt sauce.

**Tip:** Serve in sandwich with pita bread, lettuce and tomato.

## Teriyaki-Glazed Salmon with Stir-Fried Vegetables

Recipe courtesy of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 15 minutes

Servings: 4

### Salmon:

- 2 tablespoons light teriyaki sauce
- 1/4 cup mirin or sweet rice wine
- 2 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 2 tablespoons scallions, rinsed and minced
- 1 1/2 tablespoons ginger, minced
- 12 ounces salmon fillets, cut into four portions (3 ounces each)

### Vegetables:

- 1 bag (12 ounces) frozen vegetables stir-fry
- 1/2 tablespoon peanut oil or vegetable oil
- 1/2 tablespoon garlic, minced (about 1 clove)

- 1 tablespoon ginger, minced
- 1 tablespoon scallions, rinsed and minced
- 1 tablespoon light soy sauce

Preheat oven to 350 F.

To prepare salmon: Mix teriyaki sauce, mirin, rice vinegar, scallions and ginger well. Pour over salmon and marinate 10-15 minutes.

Remove salmon from marinade.

Place salmon on baking sheet. Bake 10-15 minutes, or until fish flakes easily with fork in thickest part and reaches minimum internal temperature of 145 F.

To prepare vegetables: Thaw frozen vegetables in microwave or place bag in bowl of hot water about 10 minutes. In large wok or saute pan, heat oil. Add garlic, ginger and scallions; cook gently, but do not brown, 30-60 seconds.

Add vegetables and continue stir-frying 2-3 minutes, or until heated through. Add soy sauce.

Serve one piece of salmon with 1 cup vegetables.



Baked Pork Chops with Apple Cranberry Sauce

## Baked Pork Chops with Apple Cranberry Sauce

Recipe courtesy of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 30 minutes

Servings: 4

### Pork Chops:

- 4 boneless pork chops (about 3 ounces each)
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 medium orange, rinsed and zested
- 1/2 tablespoon olive oil

### Sauce:

- 1/4 cup low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 medium apple, peeled and grated (about 1 cup)
- 1/2 cinnamon stick
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 1/2 cup 100% orange juice

Preheat oven to 350 F.

To prepare pork chops: Season pork chops with pepper and orange zest.

In large saute pan, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add pork chops and cook until browned on one side, about 2 minutes. Turn and brown 2 minutes. Remove pork chops from pan, place on nonstick baking sheet and bake 10 minutes to minimum internal temperature of 160 F.

To make sauce: Add chicken broth to saute pan and stir to loosen brown bits from pork chops. Set aside.

In small saucepan over medium heat, cook grated apples, cinnamon stick and bay leaf until apples begin to soften.

Add cranberries, orange juice and reserved broth. Bring to boil then lower heat to gentle simmer. Simmer 10 minutes, or until cranberries are plump and apples are tender. Remove cinnamon stick.

Peel orange and cut into eight sections.

Serve one pork chop with 1/4 cup sauce and two orange segments.



Teriyaki-Glazed Salmon with Stir-Fried Vegetables

# Miss Christmas Belle 2022



## BABY MISS CHRISTMAS BELLE

From left: 4th Runner up Mia Elise Deever, 3rd Runner up Emma Todd, Baby Miss Christmas Belle Maggie Joan Holt, 2nd Runner up Maya Jayne Batte, 1st Runner up Renley Grace Scarfone



## TINY MISS CHRISTMAS BELLE

From left: 1st Runner up Kobie Najafabadi, Tiny Miss Christmas Belle Kaisley Layne Greene, 2nd Runner up Addison Rayne Crutcher



## LITTLE MISS CHRISTMAS BELLE

From left: 2nd runner up Camilla Grace Rotchford, 1st runner up Sadie Mae Matzkiw, Little Miss Christmas Belle Kallie Morgan Williams, 3rd runner up Sadie Grace Lyn Jandreski, 4th Runner up Sara Louise Porter



## PRINCESS MISS CHRISTMAS BELLE

From left: 2nd runner up Shelby Todd, Princess Miss Christmas Belle Elizabeth Grace Matzkiw, 1st runner up Peyton Rose Hobbs



## PETITE MISS CHRISTMAS BELLE

From left: 2nd runner up Karmyn Valencia Beever, Petite Miss Christmas Belle Avery Lanee Floyd, 1st runner up Rebekah Harrell



## JUNIOR MISS CHRISTMAS BELLE

From left: 3rd Runner up Linley Baker, 2nd Runner up Saylor Marie Garner, Junior Miss Christmas Belle Ashley Grace Gill, 1st Runner up Callie Grace Thompson



## TEEN MISS CHRISTMAS BELLE

From left: 1st Runner up Tara-Lynn Nunley, Teen Miss Christmas Belle Isabella Grace Dockery, 2nd Runner up Kelsey Alayah Williams, 3rd Runner up Lilly Beth Moore



Bellamy, 6 years old, and Birdie, 5 months old, are the daughters of Richard and Jade Upton. Grandparents are Tommy Upton, the late Brenda Upton, Sheila Hardison, and the late Steve Potts.

### Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Provide free tax prep services to low- to moderate-income taxpayers at the Marshall County Senior Citizens Center. No experience required.

Get started at [volunteerforvita.org](http://volunteerforvita.org).



Aiden, 7 years old, and Atlas, 3 months old, are the children of Trevor and Delanie Gillespie Walker.



The Hamlet children, Isaac (7), Piper (4) and Annabeth (18 Months) were happy to see Santa; well, two of the children were glad to see Santa!



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## Lady Rocket softball highlights '22

By **Chris Siers**  
sports@t-g.com

Every season, there are plenty of top highlights from the county that make the headlines.

In 2022, there were plenty of highs and lows from across Marshall County. Here are the top local sports stories from 2022.

### No. 4 Tigrette softball catches fire at season's end

Part of finding postseason success is catching lightning in a bottle and riding the momentum as far as it can take you.

That's exactly what the Marshall County Tigrette softball team did this past spring.

Relying on a steady roster of pitching, the Tigerettes upset Lawrence County in the District 8-AAA tournament and made a strong push to the region semifinals before seeing their season come to a close at White County.

The Tigerettes entered the district tournament as the No. 3 seed, riding a wave of momentum by winning 12 of their previous 13 games.

In an elimination rematch against the Lady Wildcats, the Tigerettes got a steady game from starting pitcher Taylor Pickle and upset Lawrence County in a second-straight meeting to not only advance to the 8-AAA title game, but also to qualify for the Region 4-AAA tournament as well.

Pickle did give up seven runs on 11 hits, but pitched a scoreless final two innings.

At the plate, Ellie Luce, Jessa Lancaster, Demiyah Blackman and Kaniyah Taylor all clubbed out two hits to help secure the Tigerettes' place in the district tournament.

After upsetting No. 2 seeded Lawrence County, Marshall County fell in the district title game, but still continued its season in the region tournament.

In the semifinal round against the Warriorettes, it was Haylee Hobby being the steady arm from the pitcher's circle for the Tigerettes. Marshall County eventually ran into some tough pitching the explosive offense just couldn't solve in the Region 4-AAA semifinals at White County.

Hobby, along with Warriorette ace Addison Abell, both pitched a dandy of a pitcher's duel, with White County able to string together just a few more hits with runners in scoring position to advance in the 2022 postseason.

Marshall County hammered out just four hits, singles by Mallory Woodward, Taylor and Blackman, while Lancaster clubbed a double.

"We have definitely made strides in the right direction. We will continue to build around the positive leadership we have from our returning players and work hard to show that Marshall County softball will continue to be a force to be reckoned with," Tigrette coach Amy Bonner said.

Marshall County finished with an 18-8 overall record in 2022.

*\*Original reporting by Chris Siers*

### No. 3 No-quit Forrest Rockets reach state tourney

If one thing can sum up the 2022 Forrest Rocket baseball team, it's the fact they were never out of any game until the final out was recorded.

The Rockets had plenty of familiar opponents, facing the Community Vikings six times, sweeping the Purple and Gold in all six meetings, including wins in the District 7-AA and Region 4-AA tournament championship games.

After defeating the Vikings 12-4 in the Region 4-AA championship, Forrest welcomed



The Marshall County Tigerettes upset No. 2 seed Lawrence County to finish second in the District 8-AAA tournament.

Tribune Photos by Chris Siers



Haylee Hobby delivers a first-inning pitch against White County in the Region 4-AAA semifinals.



Senior Cam Vaughn (5) lets out a roar of emotion after scoring the game-tying, ninth run in the bottom of the seventh inning in the Class AA State Sectional matchup against York Institute.



The Rockets dogpile on Preston Gentry, who singled home the game-winning run in the bottom of the eighth inning.

York Institute and Missouri commit Nicolas Smith on the mound.

Facing Forrest's Riley Durbin, the game immediately fell into a classic pitcher's duel.

Smith homered in the top of the first inning on a softly hit ball that carried over the left field fence with a strong gust of wind.

From there, fans were delighted to four-straight innings of scoreless, high-quality pitching from both squads.

But the game spun heavily in favor of York in the sixth and seventh innings.

With their backs against

the wall and trailing 9-1 entering the bottom of the seventh inning, Forrest found itself in a nearly impossible situation.

The thing about that squad, they were never out of a game until the final out.

Senior catcher Cam Vaughn doubled to lead off the inning and ignited an improbable eight-run rally, which tied the game at nine apiece at the end of the seventh.

Kain Moses, feeling the momentum of the offense, turned in a perfect, 1-2-3 eighth inning and Brennan Mealer appeared to have walked off the game with a solo home run

to center field, but saw the hit changed to a ground-rule double.

York eventually loaded the bases and Preston Gentry stepped to the plate and clubbed a walk-off RBI single to not just complete the biggest comeback in program history, but also send the Rockets to the Class 2A state baseball tournament.

"I just told them that there are good teams in this world. There are great teams in this world. There are tough teams in this world. There are gritty teams in this world. And then there's the 2022 Forrest Rockets. They are never out

of any ballgame, whatsoever," Rocket coach Andy Burkett said after the win Against York.

The ride didn't end there, as simply making it to the state tournament in Murfreesboro wasn't enough for Forrest.

The Rockets followed up with a tournament opening win against Decatur County Riverside in a rain-shortened, 1-0 thriller.

Although the final two games the Rockets played in the tournament ended in losses, the Rockets battled through the end and saw

See **Highlights**, Page B6

# Titans are in panic mode after latest loss



**Chris Siers**  
The Extra Point

It's officially time to hit the panic button for the Tennessee Titans.

On Christmas Eve, the Titans saw the Houston Texans snap a nine-game skid in Nashville and the Titans' grip on the AFC South lead slip away with the 19-14 Houston victory.

For years, the Titans have been reliant on a stellar defense and a top-tiered ground game.

The formula can only work for so long, though, when the Titans' roster is as banged up as it is.

With Ryan Tannehill likely out for the season, it became Malik Willis' show to run the offense.

If one thing is clear, it's the Titans' third-rounder is not ready to be an everyday NFL starter.

While the Titans' offense hasn't been a true gun-slinging, air out system, Willis couldn't even generate 100 passing yards against the Texans.

Willis went 14-of-23 for 99 yards and two interceptions.

The Titans' receivers haven't done a whole lot for Tannehill as it is, but the passing game was blatantly non-existent on Saturday.

Henry turned out his



Malik Willis went 14-of-23 for 99 yards and two interceptions as the Titans' starting quarterback on Saturday.

Photo courtesy of the Tennessee Titans

typical 126 yard day with a touchdown, but if anything has been learned over the last five games, he can't do it by himself.

Plenty of fans have been calling for Todd Downing's job all season, and for good reason.

The Titans rank 27th in the NFL with 17.9 points per game, with only Tampa Bay, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, Houston and Denver being worse.

At this point, the Titans are limping to the finish line with in-

juries across the board, including Tannehill, Dylan Cole, Amani Hooker and Kristian Fulton.

And the Titans' schedule isn't any easier in the last two weeks either, with Dallas up next on a short week for Thursday Night Football, and the season finale at now-AFC South leading Jacksonville.

With the Titans' loss on Saturday, all eyes are now turned to the finale against Jacksonville, which will decide the AFC South cham-

panion.

The Jags certainly have been playing better as of late, winning four of their last five games and averaging over 30 points per game in each of those four wins.

So what happens if the Titans lose their last two games?

Where should the front office go from here?

In a loaded AFC, featuring the likes of Josh Allen, Patrick Mahomes, Joe Burrow and Justin Herbert, it begs the question as to what

direction the Titans should be heading.

When John Robinson was fired earlier this month, it became clear the Titans' ownership wants to head another direction.

It should also be asked if it's time to blow up the Titans' roster and start rebuilding.

Tannehill isn't the quarterback to compete against the top gunslingers of the NFL and with the number of injuries across the board, it may be time for the ownership and

new general manager, whenever they are hired, to start shipping off key pieces from the Robinson era and start rebuilding from scratch, at least on the offensive side of the ball, because the status quo hasn't been producing, and with a quick glance at the schedule, it's not looking like much can change over the last two weeks of the season.

•Chris Siers is sports editor of the Tribune. Email him at sports@t-g.com.

## Banged-up Titans have nothing at stake but health vs. Dallas

By **TERESA M. WALKER**  
AP Pro Football Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans have absolutely nothing on the line Thursday night except pride and the chance to build some momentum by snapping a five-game skid.

Getting as healthy as possible for their regular-season finale in Jacksonville (7-8) with the AFC South title on the line matters much more.

The Titans (7-8) are fighting for their fourth straight playoff berth because of the franchise's longest skid since 2015 after a 19-14 loss to the NFL's worst team in Houston. Now they face a quick turnaround hosting Dallas (11-4) with the Cowboys needing to win out to win the NFC East.

As much as coach Mike Vrabel might want to rest every starter and treat this as an exhibition, he also has

the NFL's most banged-up team having used a league-high 82 players. That comes a year after setting the league record with 91 players in a non-strike season.

His message Monday was simple and short: "Say less and do more." Vrabel also calls this a great opportunity for players taking advantage of the chance to play.

"We'll just keep having to find guys that want to do that," Vrabel said.

### What's working

The defense. Yes, as banged up as this unit is and despite giving up 10 points in the fourth quarter of their loss to Houston, the Titans held their 10th opponent to 20 points or less. Twice, they held Houston to field goals after getting inside the Titans 10.

But the banged-up secondary has allowed opponents to throw at will against Tennessee,

and the Titans gave up three of their four biggest plays in the fourth quarter on pass plays, including a 37-yarder that set up the winning touchdown.

### What needs help

The offense. Malik Willis scored his first NFL touchdown on a 14-yard run with an assist from offensive lineman Jordan Roos. But the rookie quarterback had as many throws (23) as Derrick Henry had rushing attempts. Henry ran for 126 yards and averaged 5.5 yards per carry with a 48-yard touchdown run.

Willis was sacked four times by halftime behind the patchwork offensive line. He finished 14 of 23 for 99 yards passing with both interceptions in the fourth quarter, the last on the final play in the end zone with Treyton Burks manhandled with no flag.

The Titans got Burks back from a concus-

sion that cost him two games. Willis threw to him late in the first quarter for a 20-yard completion wiped out by a hold on rookie right tackle Nicholas Petit-Frere. Burks was targeted officially three times with no catches, though he did have one carry for 15 yards.

### Stock up

Veteran wide receiver Robert Woods. He caught all four passes thrown to him for a team-high 30 yards, and he leads the Titans with 44 receptions for 448 yards. His best asset? He's been available every game despite the left ACL tear that ended his 2021 season.

### Stock down

Derrick Henry. Yes, he's the NFL's second-leading rusher has 1,429 yards and 13 TDs, but he also has five fumbles in the Titans' five-game skid. The three-time Pro Bowler and

two-time NFL rushing leader came into this season with a combined 11 fumbles over his previous six seasons.

"That's three games in a row I've fumbled the ball and no excuse," Henry said. "I need to be better."

### Injured

The Titans may need to reach the playoffs just to have a chance for quarterback Ryan Tannehill to return from an injured right ankle. They put two starting offensive linemen on injured reserve last week after losing their three-time Pro Bowl left tackle in September.

They have 18 currently on injured reserve with one spot left to bring a player back this season. LB Zach Cunningham, activated off injured reserve Friday, couldn't finish the loss to Houston with another injury to his elbow. Titans OLB Bud Dupree also hurt his chest and was limited to 28

snaps.

Petit-Frere, who came in with an injured ankle, was replaced by Le'Raven Clark in the second half. That left the Titans with only left guard Aaron Brewer from opening week as the only starting offensive lineman still available.

### Key number

6 — This franchise currently has a six-year streak of winning records at stake. The Titans also haven't lost six straight games since the skid that cost coach Ken Whisenhunt his job after a 1-6 start to his second season in 2015.

### Next steps

Heal up as much as possible for Week 18 in a game whose date and kickoff has yet to be set. Having a division title on the line could push the game against Jacksonville to the NFL's final game of the regular season on Jan. 8.

## TCU's Sonny Dykes at home, coaching 1st CFP team from Texas

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**  
AP Sports Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas — Sonny Dykes was nearing the end of a season as an off-field offensive analyst, and pondering his next move.

Fired from his previous head coaching job and with three young kids at home, the son of longtime college coach Spike Dykes even considered a career change after more than two decades in football. He had researched what he would need to do to get a real estate license.

Five years later, the 53-year-old is settled in at home, in Texas, still doing what he always wanted to do and is now near the peak of his profession with TCU (12-1) making it into the four-team College Football Playoff.

"It's been a lot of things, a culmination of a lot," said

Dykes, The Associated Press Coach of the Year who is in his first season as head coach at the school where he was a consultant for coach Gary Patterson in 2017.

The Horned Frogs, undefeated until an overtime loss to Kansas State in the Big 12 championship game, play Big Ten champion Michigan (13-0) in the CFP semifinal Fiesta Bowl on Saturday. They are the first Big 12 team other than Oklahoma — and first from Texas — to make the CFP.

"Being a Texas guy, the state of Texas means a lot to me, the history of college football in the state of Texas means a lot to me," Dykes said.

That season working for the Frogs, when they made their only other Big 12 title game, was an opportunity for Dykes to get home after going 19-30

in four seasons at California. The job out West was never really a good fit for the folksy, Texas-born coach.

"I was looking around, trying to get a job and trying to decide ... taking a job some place that I didn't necessarily want to go, was that the direction I wanted to go in," he said. "I've obviously always wanted to coach."

Then SMU offered its head coaching job, only about 40 miles and four years away from a return to replace Patterson at TCU. Dykes, whose first head coaching job was at Louisiana Tech, led SMU to 30 wins in its best four-season stretch since it became the only program ever shut down by the so-called NCAA death penalty three decades earlier.

The Frogs went 23-24 during that same time, and parted ways with Patterson even

before the end of his 21st season. Dykes was immediately considered the favorite to replace him, which happened after the regular season.

"I didn't want them to think about coming in and think this was supposed to be a rebuilding year," Heisman Trophy-finalist senior quarterback Max Duggan said, recalling his initial conversation with Dykes. "We can win now. We've just to fix a lot of our issues, culture-wise and discipline and accountability."

The Frogs did win, and a year after Dykes was formally introduced, they were back in the same room for the playoff announcement.

ball, not football.

Sonny Dykes was a Texas Tech assistant for seven seasons, the first seven after his father retired when on the staff of the late Mike Leach. He went west for the first time as offensive coordinator at Arizona from 2007-09, then had a 22-15 record in three seasons at Louisiana Tech before taking the Cal job.

Now, Dykes is leading a TCU program that won its only AP national title in 1938, when quarterback Davey O'Brien was the school's only Heisman Trophy winner. The Frogs, then still in the Mountain West, were 13-0 during the 2010 season that ended with a Rose Bowl victory and No. 2 national ranking.

When TCU wrapped up this regular season with a win over Iowa State, it was Sonny's 83rd career win — one more than his father.







# Highlights

(Continued from Page B1)

their season end with an 9-8 loss to White House Heritage.

Forrest finished the season as the District 7-AA champion, Region 4-AA champion and with an overall record of 26-8.

*\*Original reporting by Chris Siers*

## No. 2 Veteran talent, leadership sends Tigers to 2nd round of playoffs

Earlier this summer, Marshall County Tiger coach Thomas Osteen knew his team had the potential to be a contender among the best in Class 4A.

Were they ever. Marshall County relied on a bevy of senior leadership, a stingy defense and a balanced offense that could pile on the yards, both through the air and on the ground.

The lone hiccup in the regular season came on October 6 at Pearl Cohn, who eventually played for a state championship.

On average, the Tigers piled up 36.7 points per game and allowed just 12.5 points to opponents.

In six games, the Tigers gave up eight or fewer points, including shutouts against Glencree and Lawrence County.

Despite falling on the road to Pearl Cohn, the Tigers locked up second-place in Region 5-AAAA and secured a home playoff game against Chester County at Preston Hopkins Field.

The ride eventually came to a close in the second-round of the Class 4A state playoffs at Lexington.

Lexington had the perfect recipe to limit the explosive Marshall County offense but running the ball and playing clock control.

That's eventually what ended the Tigers' season.

"I'm really proud of our kids for the way we fought them all night and gave our selves chances. We knew we wouldn't have a lot of possessions offensively, so we had to make the most of them and didn't do that. The margin for error is so thin against a team like Lexington," Marshall County coach Thomas Osteen said.

With such a successful team, chalked full of seniors and quality leadership on the field, Osteen said the 2022 season was one of the most fun teams he's been around.

"It's tough to wrap it up. I'm just going to remember how much fun I had coaching this team.

It was fun to come to work every day because these guys wanted to be pushed. They wanted to be coached. You want every season to end in a championship. That being said, Marshall County and Lewisburg has a great group of young men entering the real world. I hope Marshall County football played a small part in shaping their lives," he said.

Junior Silas Teat directed the Tiger offense, completing 125-of-200 passing attempts for 1,645 yards. He threw 26 touchdowns and had just six interceptions on the season.

The Marshall County ground game was led by senior Demari Braden, who piled up 13 touchdowns on 828 yards, averaging nearly six yards-per-carry during the 2022 season.

The Tigers had several downfield targets for Teat as well, with sophomore Aja Jones being the big-play threat down field, while junior Jayden Randolph was Mr. Consistency and was

able to move the sticks on key downs throughout the season.

Both Jones and Randolph eclipsed the 500-receiving yard mark this year and combined for 18 touchdowns.

Jakavan Curry highlighted the Tiger defense, recording 120 total tackles this season, while linebackers Thomas Beech and Trey Warner were the headhunters for Marshall County.

Marshall County finished with a 10-2 overall record this season.

*\*Original reporting by Chris Siers*

## No. 1 Lady Rockets force tiebreaker in state championship

The Forrest Lady Rocket softball program needs no introduction—the program's history speaks for itself.

The Lady Rockets captured the 2019 Class 2A state title and looked to repeat in 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic canceled the season and thwarted Forrest's aim at back-to-back titles in as many years.

While they missed out on a title in 2020, Forrest followed in 2021 with their second-straight title, setting up yet another run at the crown in 2022.

Forrest's postseason trek began with their 22nd-straight district title that culminated in an absolute tear through the Class 2A ranks that once again put the Lady Rockets in the state tournament.

Twice in the postseason, Forrest had to edge out wins against Community for the District 7-AA and Region 4-AA title.

After beating Community in the region championship, Forrest made quick work of Westmoreland in the Class 2A state sectional to once again qualify for the state tournament.

Forrest opened the state tournament with a comeback win over Meigs County to stay in the winner's bracket.

It wasn't until a 10-6 loss by Alcoa did Forrest suffer a defeat in the state tournament.

Having to come out of the consolation bracket, a 4-3 win over Loretto and an 11-5 win over Alcoa forced a winner-take-all tiebreaker against the Lady Tornadoes.

With both teams exhausted by a lengthy run in the state tournament, it was Alcoa who claimed its first-ever title with the 6-1 win over Forrest.

"We made it this far and we came home with something. Yeah, our goal is to win it, but that just doesn't always happen so we are still successful in our eyes, we still put in the work and I am still super proud of them whether you come home with it or you don't," Forrest coach Shelby Lightfoot said. "That first time there is



Silas Teat stands tall in the pocket and keeps his eyes downfield.



Demari Braden picks up a block and scampers forward for a 37-yard gain against Lexington.

nothing like it out of all of them that you have and that is the one you remember. Hats off to them, they have a good ballclub and they could have easily shut down after we had that first game and they didn't; they keep it close, close enough until they got their bats going, so it worked out for them."

Forrest (30-12) only lost one senior in Addison Bunty while they bring back five juniors (Julie Williams, Hadley Frazier, Parker Wales, Carli Warner, Macyn Kirby), seven sophomores (Briley Burnham, Sarah King, Christa Warren, Abby Ferguson, Maggie Daugherty, Leslie Bartoli, Jenna Goodman), five freshmen (Ella Chilton, Emory Hall, Haddie Patton, Miranda Stout, Karson Mihalek) and several eighth-graders (Marley Chilton, Megan Dunn, Haylee Webb, Lindsey Lee) for the 2023 campaign.

*\*Original reporting by Anthony S. Puca*



Junior Julie Williams was solid in the circle for Forrest, going the distance while giving up five earned runs in the title game.



The 2022 Class 2A state runners-up Forrest Lady Rockets finished the season with a 30-12 record, an undefeated district record and captured both the District 7AA Tournament and Region 4AA titles.