

McMillion leaves a legacy

By **Hannah Davis**
Tribune Correspondent

Lewisburg's Claude McMillion passed away on January 4 at the age of 84. Though he was an active member in the Marshall County community in several capacities, he was most well-known and recognized as the reverend of Lewisburg's First Presbyterian Church, where he served as a pastor for 34 years.

He first came to the church in 1967, where he met longtime friend and member, Bob Phillips.

"He was a beloved man far beyond the members of our congregation," said Phillips.

Before McMillion began his long run as one of First Presbyterian's most cherished pastors, he had already started to give back to the community. The graduate of then Southwestern College, now Rhodes College, in Memphis and an avid baseball player and fan, he coached baseball for 30 years in Marshall County, and could often be found preaching his love of Babe Ruth alongside Bible verses. Alongside his service to the church, McMillion served as chairman on the Marshall County School Board for 10 years and was a member for another 12.

"Claude was respected by so many people in so many areas," according to Phillips.

McMillion had a gift for appealing and connecting to people across communities though, and kept his connections in the education world even once he began his service to First Presbyterian Church. He earned a name for himself as a "joyful negotiator" and began to apply this more to his job in the church. During his time as pastor, he served as the moderator for the local Presbytery. McMillion had a knack for getting those in the surrounding counties to come together regarding issues in the religious community. He also earned the nickname "the minister of second chances" as he commonly married those for their second marriages.

McMillion's commitment to the human spirit extended beyond religious boundaries. According to Phillips, this was what truly marked him as an invaluable member of the community and an irreplaceable part of the church.

"He genuinely cared for both the members of the church and those outside its doors. Somehow, he made everyone happy," said Phillips.

In his service to the church, he was a regular advocate for the local Cornersville Religious Camp and Retreat Center, NaCoMe. With nearly 80 years of memories made at Camp NaCoMe, McMillion saw the value in supporting the center. In many meetings, both at the Lewisburg Church and through the Presbytery, he stood for the camp and asked for support from the community when the camp was failing.

Since he left First Presbyterian Church in 2001, his quality has been difficult to replace.

"It's a tough job being a minister to a small town, and Claude did it flawlessly," said Phillips.

McMillion coached many of his replacements over the years, but many of them were "not as beloved" according to Phillips, with the exception of the current pastor, Robert Montgomery, for whom McMillion served as a father-figure.

In his personal life, Claude McMillion married a fellow Southwestern graduate, Margaret, who was equally as warm and welcoming as her other half. According to Phillips, during the early years of her marriage to Claude, the family was suffering financially and she returned to school to earn a nursing degree. Since then, she has been a widely respected nurse and a heartwarming connection to her now-late husband. The couple have four children.



Photo submitted

Verona's Dave Hunter (right), along with son Jack, has been named the 2022 Marshall County Conservation Farmer of the Year.

Hunter named Conservation Farmer of the Year

Dave Hunter has been named the 2022 Marshall County Conservation Farmer of the Year. This award is part of a state program sponsored by the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts (TACD) in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, and the Marshall County Soil and Water Conservation District. The program seeks to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the conservation of the natural resources on their farm.

Dave Hunter began working with the district and NRCS at a very young age. His conservation work began with crop rotations, cover crops, and hay plantings when the Hunter Brothers were an operational dairy that milked over 100 head of dairy cattle in the Verona community of Marshall County. This land has been farmed by six generations of his

family, and now Dave and son Jack carry on the farming tradition.

Today, Dave operates a beef cow/calf farm where he has continued his conservation efforts by installing multiple frost-free livestock waterers, heavy use areas, livestock pipelines, pollinator habitat planting, and exclusion fencing along Big Rock Creek that surrounds the farm. Dave has also completed cross fencing to develop a rotational grazing system that allows his cattle to move from one pasture to another before the former pasture becomes overgrazed. He can manage a rotational grazing system that focuses on improving vegetation with the intent to maintain the quantity and quality of forage for animal health and productivity. Rotational grazing ensures their land will continue being productive not only during his lifetime but for future generations. He has also

recently taken one step further in his grazing system and begun the practice of stockpiling grasses to further maximize pasture grazing.

We would like to thank Dave for his participation in the TDA's Agriculture Resources Conservation Fund Program and Farm Bill Programs like Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Dave has also worked with many partner agencies such as The Nature Conservancy and UT Extension to continue to learn how to be a good steward of the land. By incorporating innovative conservation practices and ideas, Dave is preparing his farm for the next generation.

For more information about the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Marshall County Soil & Water Conservation District call the local office at 931-359-6268 ext. 3.

Cornersville approves annexations

By **Scott Pearson**
Associate Editor

Cornersville aldermen approved annexation requests first introduced in November last Thursday, with one sizable exception.

The board voted unanimously to approve the annexation of several parcels along McConnell Road, whose owners had requested inclusion into the town.

A 110-acre parcel initially included in the annexation request by then owner Brenda Hasting has since sold, with the new owner withdrawing the parcel.

A separate 40-acre parcel owned by Hasting remained in the annexation resolution.

Town Administrator Taylor Brandon said that he had already received five zoning compliance

requests from properties along McConnell for construction.

He said that, to his understanding, a Cameron Coble owned parcel included in the annexation would probably begin development within a year.

A 30-minute public hearing preceded the start of the meeting with concerns expressed about development and infrastructure impacts, especially on the need to widen Coleman Road, which will see increased traffic.

Those concerns did not ultimately outweigh the town's concerns with developments outside of the town limits contributing to demands on town services while not contributing property tax revenue to fund those services.

"We have to have our hand in it (development)," said Mayor John Luna.

The board selected Janice Kerber to fill the vacancy on the board of aldermen from three residents who had expressed interest.

Kerber will finish the unexpired term of Beth Vick, who was herself appointed to fill a vacancy.

Vick stepped down from the seat prior to accepting part time employment with the town.

Aldermen also appointed Greg Venable to an empty seat on the town's planning commission.

Aldermen also approved keeping an alley, paralleling Main Street and running behind the Church of Christ, open.

The church had requested closure of the alley, but aldermen were concerned about lots that would be left without road access if the alley was closed and by some impacted property owners not being part of the discussion.

Chapel Hill moves quickly

By **Scott Pearson**
Associate Editor

Chapel Hill Police Chief Andrew Kon wasn't far off when he said that Monday's meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen lasted about as long as TCU's hope of winning in the championship game later that evening.

The board finished their business in an unprecedented 11 minutes, aided by the addition of a work session the week prior moving forward for discussion of agenda items.

The three items on the agenda all passed unanimously.

Aldermen approved a rezoning request from Grove Hill Church on a parcel, formed from three lots zoned residential, moved to a B-2 designation.

The board approved edits to the town charter to be submitted to the General Assembly for ultimate approval, and also a \$30,813 expenditure on new extrication equipment for the Chapel Hill Fire Department.



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Obituaries

Shari L. TerBush Allen

Beloved wife, mother, grandmother (GiGi), sister, and friend, Shari L. (TerBush) Allen, 61, a resident of Lewisburg, died on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023, at Marshall Medical Center.



A Memorial Service was conducted Monday, Jan. 9, 2023, 6 p.m. at Bills-McGaugh & Hamilton Funeral Home. The family visited with friends Monday from 4 p.m. until service time at the funeral home.

A native of Lapeer, MI, Shari was born on Sept. 28, 1961, to Roger Fay TerBush and the late Beverly Jean (Palmer) TerBush. She was a clinical dietician and served as the office manager at Marshall

County Chiropractic Center for many years, alongside her husband, Dr. Randall Allen. She was his rock and helped keep all of the practice's business on track. Shari was incredibly talented and created unique one of a kind gifts and keepsakes for her loved ones. She was most proud to be the mother of three

children. Above all, she deeply loved her family, and especially adored her grandchildren.

She is survived by her father, Roger TerBush; siblings, Shannon (Patrick) Smith, Daniel (Karin) TerBush, Douglas TerBush; husband, Randall Allen; children, Matt Allen, Taylour (Eric) Seo, Kristin (Blake) Aldridge; grandchildren, Emmalyn Seo, Naleigh Seo.

Shari is preceded in death by her mother, Beverly Jean (Palmer) TerBush and brother, Micheal TerBush.

Bills-McGaugh & Hamilton Funeral Home is honored to assist the family with arrangements.

Diana Lee Church

Mrs. Diana Lee Church, 75, passed away Jan. 4, 2023, at her residence in Lewisburg with her family be

her side.

Funeral services were conducted Jan. 8, 2023, from the chapel of Lawrence Funeral Home.

Lawrence Funeral Home and Cremation Services handled the arrangements.

Paul Wayne Darnell

Mr. Paul "Bozo" "Bubba" Wayne Darnell, 65, resident of Cornersville, died Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023, at Maury Regional Medical Center.



Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Bills-McGaugh & Hamilton Funeral Home. Burial followed in Morton Cemetery. The family visited with friends Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Bills-McGaugh & Hamilton Funeral Home.

A Lewisburg native, he was born on June 15, 1957, to the late James Chester Darnell and the late Elizabeth Evelyn Collins Darnell. Bozo was a die caster at Walker Die Casting, before retiring after forty years of employment. After his retirement, former co-workers would tell him how much he made work fun for them. He was a devoted family man, an

amazing dad, and deeply loved his grandchildren. Bozo enjoyed tinkering with everything and would usually have two or three of something laying around. He was also always working on lawnmowers and chainsaws. He loved guns and would make his own shells. If you knew him, you would know never to call him on a Friday night because it would interrupt him from watching wrestling.

Survivors include his wife, Debbie Darnell; daughters, Samantha

Darnell and companion, Timothy Swartz, Melissa Hall and husband, Chris Hall, and Sara Jett; grandchildren, Andrew Smith, Jacob Smith, Justin Jett, Austin Hall, Iliyah Hall, Kayden Swartz, Shane Patton, Josh Lloyd, and Bethany Lloyd; and great-grandchild, Adelyn Hanley.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his sisters, Sheila Price, Glenda Bryant, and Patricia Ring; brother, James Edward Darnell; and son-in-law, Chris Jett.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to <https://gofund.me/6f8bf135>.

Bills-McGaugh & Hamilton Funeral Home is honored to assist the family with arrangements. Condolences may be extended online at www.billsmcgaugh.com.

Linda Sue Tankersley Hodge

Mrs. Linda Sue Tankersley Hodge, 70, of McMinnville, TN formally of the Laws Hill community, died Monday, Jan. 2, 2023, in Nashville, TN. Born in Coffee Co, TN, Mrs. Hodge was the daughter of the late Thomas Oliver Tankersley and Bertha Adams Tankersley. Linda was a homemaker and of the Southern Baptist faith. In addition to her parents, Linda is preceded in death by her husband, Donald Edwin Hodge, Sr. and two daughters, Tammy Diane Hodge and Carrie Jean Hodge.



Survivors include her children, Mrs. Hodge was survived by her children,

Eady, Brittany Champion, Jeremy Tomlin, Anthony Darrell Leonard, Jessica Lynn Bratcher, Jennifer Nicole Boyce, Katlyin Nicole Powell, Darian Amber Hodge, Kelsie Maelayna Hodge and Ashley Marie Sliger and twenty great-grandchildren.

Visitation with the Hodge family took place Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023. Funeral services followed at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023, from the chapel of Lawrence Funeral Home with Pastor Nathan Johnson, IV officiating. Burial was in Swanson Cemetery in Chapel Hill, TN.

Yancy Weddington,

Mary Sue Shelton Darnell

Mrs. Mary Sue Shelton Darnell, 77, a resident of Columbia, died peacefully on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023, at her residence.

Born on March 18, 1945, in Lincoln County, she was the daughter of the late Robert Shelton and the late Kathleen Adcock Shelton. She retired from Sanford Manufacturing after 38 years of employment.

Survivors include her sons, Robert Darnell of Columbia, Jamie (Sandra Blevins) Darnell and sister, Connie Wright.

In addition to her



parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, James E. Darnell; daughter, Tammy Darnell; brothers, Ray Shelton, Jimmy Shelton, Robert Shelton, Lonnie Shelton, and Cecil Shelton; and sisters, Martha

Wright, Dorothy Mills, and Jean Adams.

A graveside service will be conducted Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023, at 1 p.m. at Unity Cemetery in the Howell community of Lincoln County. Visitation will be 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Bills-McGaugh & Hamilton Funeral Home.

Bills-McGaugh & Hamilton Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to assist the family with arrangements. Fond memories and condolences may be extended to the family at www.billsmcgaugh.com

Ida Mae Primm Davis

Mrs. Ida Mae Primm Davis, 93, departed peacefully into eternal rest on Jan. 5, 2023.

She was preceded in death her husband of 74 years, Reverend Jones Davis; one brother, John Cecil Primm; and one sister, Mildred Primm.

Ida Mae Davis was educated in Marshall County and employed for more than 50 years with the Horner, Heneegar and Coble families. She retired from Coble Furniture Company. She was one of the 12 black women of the



prestigious Red Rose Garden Club in Lewisburg.

She is survived by three daughters; Peggie J. Davis, Stephanie A.

Davis, and Beverly D. Pigg; and four sons; Jerry Jones Davis, Benjamin O. Davis, Keith M. Davis and Kevin L. Davis; thirteen grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; son-in-law, Michael Pigg; daughter-in-law, Patricia Davis; and many other relatives and friends.

Services were held Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023, at Greater First Baptist Church.

Mayberry and Sons Funeral Home assisted the family.

Belinda Lee "Linda" Dixon

On this day, we celebrate the life of Belinda Lee Dixon, "Linda." Linda was born on Oct. 15, 1958, in Shelbyville, TN to the late John Buchanan and Betty (Sparrow) Buchanan. She was also preceded in death by her brothers, John Buchanan, Jr., Phillip Buchanan, and a devoted uncle and aunt, Butch and Judy Sparrow.

She is survived by a loving husband of 36 years, Victor Dixon and three devoted daughters: Talitha Harris, Tamela Haislip, and Nicky (Gerard) Randolph. She was blessed with three bonus children: Toriono (Love) Brown, Vatonya Dixon, and Darren Lyttle. Linda is also survived by one sister, Brenda Buchanan of Nashville,



TN; a stepmom, Bertha Buchanan of Nashville, TN; sister-in-law, Faye Jean Kelso and brother-in-law, Thomas L Edmonson, both of Fayetteville, TN and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Linda, also known as "Granny," was loved and cherished by all her grandchildren: Montrell Harris, Taliyah Angus,

Jailen Brown, Jayden Randolph, Markel Harris, Nihla Brown and T'Myah Cannon.

Linda was baptized at a young age and recently moved her membership to Greater First Baptist Church. She was retired from the Marshall County School System and the Lewisburg Housing Authority.

Funeral services will be conducted on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023, at 1 p.m. from the Greater First Baptist Church with burial to follow in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Visitation will begin at the church two hours prior to the service at 11 a.m. and will continue until the funeral hour.

London Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

Betty Jo Harris Osteen

Mrs. Betty Jo Harris Osteen, 91, of the Caney Spring community in Marshall County, TN, died Jan. 4, 2023, at her residence.

Visitation was Jan. 7, 2023, at Lawrence Funeral Home and grave-

side services were conducted Jan. 7, 2023, at 3 p.m. at Allen Cemetery in the Caney Spring community.

Lawrence Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc. in charge of arrangements.

The family of Cornell Moore King would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of love given to them during their loss through prayers, sharing of memories during the visits, the many encouraging cards, wonderful food and memorial donations given.

The family wishes to thank the first responders, EMS and the Marshall Medical doctors and staff for the care given to Cornell. Special thanks to the London/Cornersville Funeral Home.

Cornell King Family

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Obituaries

Cornell Moore King

Cornell Moore King, 91, of Cornersville, TN, passed away on Dec. 31, 2022, at his home. He was born Jan. 19, 1931, to Guy Reeves King and Willie Emma Moore King.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother, Donald Reeves King and his wife Joanne and his sister, Angie Merrill Vanhooser and her husband, RW.

Cornell was the cornerstone of his family. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Charlotte Crunk King; daughters, Vylatte King Gooch and husband Terry of Lewisburg and Susanne King Wilson and husband Wendell of Crossville; sons, James Mickey King and wife, Kathy and Richard Blake King and wife, Robin both of Cornersville; Leslie Scott King and wife, Annette of Huntland, TN. Additionally, Cornell is survived by 14 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Much of Cornell's life was consumed with agriculture. In his early years, he worked on a multi-generational dairy farm where he continued the tradition with his children. In his nature, he expanded the farm with hogs, tobacco, ponies, and beef cattle. He worked with expanding the economy of Cornersville with his family and opened King's Feed Supply.



The town of Cornersville meant so much to Cornell; he worked with other families to keep the high school located in the town. To ensure the school's success, he was very active in athletics through himself, his children, grandchildren and now, great grandchildren. He was also active with the Cornersville Lions Club earning Lion of the Decade, helping with the construction of the show ring, and served as ring master for many years. Cornell served as a member of the school board for 15 years. With his wife Charlotte, he drove the school bus for many years on an active route and to various sporting events.

As an avid member of the Farm Bureau, the American Angus Association and various other agricultural memberships, Cornell earned various awards, including Farmer of the Year and received various grants. Farming as a way of life was so im-

portant to Cornell as he passed the tradition to his family and grandchildren. In 2022, Cornell King was awarded the high designation of owning a century farm. So many of his children and grandchildren own active farms now, including the great grandchildren showing cattle today.

In addition to farming and family, faith was truly a way of life for Cornell. He was an active member of the Cornersville United Methodist Church.

Visitation with the family and friends took place Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023, from 3 -7 p.m. at Cornersville Funeral Home.

A celebration of life service was held at Cornersville United Methodist Church at 11 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023, and burial followed in New Hope Ostella Cemetery. Visitation with the family preceded the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Cornersville United Methodist Church or the Cornell King Memorial scholarship fund at CB&S Bank, which will be awarded to a Cornersville High School graduate pursuing a degree in the agriculture industry.

Cornersville Funeral Home assisted the family with the arrangements.

Bobby Lee McDaniel

Bobby Lee McDaniel, 78, of Cornersville, died Monday, Jan. 9, 2023, at his residence.

He was a native of Marshall County, the son of the late R.Z. and Margaret Lee McDaniel. He was a Cornersville graduate of the 1962 class, warehouse supervisor for Genesco and was an elder of the Cornersville Church of Christ. He was a longtime member of the Cornersville Lions Club, where he was he was Show Chairman for over 40 years, and was named a Melvin Jones Fellow in 2019. The show grounds were named in his honor in 2022.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Wayne McDaniel and a



sister, Peggy Davis.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Kay McDaniel; one daughter, Linda Bassham of Cornersville and one son, Robby McDaniel of Cornersville; one sister, Patsy (Jack) Cox of Arkansas; two grandsons, Chuck and Chase Bassham; one great-grandson, Cam-

den Bassham; and nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be conducted Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023, at 10 a.m. from the Cornersville Church of Christ, 311 N. Main St. Cornersville, TN 37047 with burial to follow in Beechwood Cemetery.

Visitation with the family began Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023, from 4 until 8 p.m. at Cornersville Funeral Home and continued Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023, at the church from 9 a.m. until the funeral hour.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Cornersville Church of Christ Building Fund.

Cornersville Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Kenneth Michael "Mike" Sorrells

Kenneth Michael "Mike" Sorrells, 69, of Petersburg, TN, passed away on Monday, Jan. 9, 2023, at Marshall Medical Center in Lewisburg, TN. He was born May 21, 1953, in Marshall County, TN to the late James Edward "Jack" Sorrells and Evelyn Whorley Sorrells. Mike was a water well driller for over 40 years, and a member of the Hannah's Gap Baptist Church. He loved his family, friends, fishing, hunting, and collecting junk.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his son, Jason Sorrells and brother, Bert Sorrells.



He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Kay Bolles Sorrells of Petersburg, TN; daughter, Marie Sorrells of Lewisburg, TN; grandson, Jason "J.D." Mathena; brother, John (Sherry) Sorrells of Lewisburg, TN; mother-in-law, Marie Bolles of Lynchburg, TN; and numerous niec-

es, nephews, family, and friends who love him and will miss him very much.

Funeral services will be conducted Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023, at 11 a.m. in the chapel of Gallant-Riverview Funeral Home with Bro. Scotty Sorrells and Steve Sorrells officiating. Burial will follow in Old Orchard Cemetery. Visitation with the family took place Wednesday from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Gallant-Riverview Funeral Home.

Gallant-Riverview Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mike Sorrells.

Max D. Todd

Mr. Max D. Todd, 85, of Chapel Hill, died Jan. 5, 2023, in Nashville. He proudly served our country in the United States Army, was a retired dairy farmer,

and a member of Riggs Church of Christ.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023, from the chapel of Lawrence Funeral Home and interment

followed in Swanson Cemetery.

Lawrence Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc. handled the arrangements.

Claude Ashton McMillion

Claude Ashton McMillion, 84, of Lewisburg, TN, was born on March 25, 1938, and died Jan. 4, 2023. He was the son of the late Vella Lilly McMillion Knapp and Claude Augustus McMillion of West Virginia. After the untimely death of his father, his mother remarried to Emmett Grayson Knapp, Jr. of Alderson, WV.

First Presbyterian Church and Bethbirei Presbyterian Church will host a service in honor of Claude's contributions to the community at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023, at first Presbyterian Church, 122 N 2nd Ave (on the square) in Lewisburg.

Reverend McMillion is survived by his wife of 63 years, Margaret Stewart McMillion of Lewisburg, TN; children, Kim Holly (Dr. Rhea Holly) of Franklin, TN, Andy McMillion



of Madison, TN, Mike McMillion of Nashville, TN and Laura Mitchell (Darryl Mitchell) of Charleston, SC; grandchildren, Grayson Mitchell and Briggs Mitchell of Charleston, SC.

Reverend McMillion was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Lewisburg. He received his B.A. degree from Southwestern at Memphis, TN (now Rhodes College) and his masters degree from Union Theological Sem-

inary in Richmond, VA. He served as pastor of the First Presbyterian Churches of Rockbridge Baths, VA, Floyd, VA, Lewisburg, TN, and the Bethbirei Presbyterian Church in Marshall County, TN. He served the Presbytery in several ways, including as moderator three times. He served the Marshall County community for 22 years as a school board member with ten of those years as chairman of the board. He also coached youth baseball in Marshall County for 30 years.

The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the church. (122 N Second Avenue, Lewisburg, TN 37091)

Bills-McGaugh & Hamilton Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to assist the family with cremation arrangements.

Courtney Claire Parsons

Courtney Claire Parsons, 41, of Fayetteville, TN, died Monday, Jan. 9, 2023, at Tristar Skyline Medical Center.

She was born in Huntsville, AL, on Feb. 1, 1981, to Hillard Parsons and the late Pam Thomas Parsons. She was a wedding event planner and a member of St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church in Fayetteville.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Pam Thomas Parsons.

She is survived by her father, Hillard (Patti) Parsons of Lewisburg; sister, Bethany Reish-



man; two step-brothers, Kris (Kara) Blalock and Tyler (Kendra) Blalock; several uncles, aunts and cousins.

Donations may be

made to Lewisburg First United Methodist Church or St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church in Fayetteville in her honor.

A Celebration of Life will be conducted Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023, at 3 p.m. from the St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church.

Visitation with the family will begin at the church on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 3 p.m.

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

Gerald Sorrells "Bugger" Welch

Gerald Sorrells "Bugger" Welch, 90, of Petersburg, TN, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022, at Donalson Care Center. He was born on July 4, 1932, son of the late William Oliver and Lizzie Mai Sorrells Welch. He was a veteran and a retired employee of the Lincoln Farmers Co-Op.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife, Millie Ruth Smith Welch; sister, Edith Wells; and brother, Marion Welch.

Mr. Welch is survived by his daughter: Sylvia (Ricky) Wilburn of Lewisburg; sons; Jackie (Julie) Welch and Dar-



shall Welch all of Petersburg; grandchildren; Janessa Mills, Houston

Welch and Jacob Wilburn; and great-grandchildren; Corley Mills, Tripp Mills, Darcy Jones Welch and Ophelia Welch.

Funeral Services were conducted Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023, at 1 p.m. in the chapel of Gallant-Riverview Funeral Home. Burial followed in Old Orchard Cemetery. Visitation with the family was held Tuesday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Gallant-Riverview Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Gerald Sorrells Welch.

Mary Alice "Joyce" Wright

December 24, 1941 - January 9, 2023

Mary Alice (Joyce) Wright, 81, was born Dec. 24, 1941, in the Holts Corner community of Marshall County and was a daughter of the late Claude Esten and Minnie Belle Vaughn Joyce. She attended Forrest School, graduated in 1959, and loved basketball and football.

After marrying, Mary and her family moved to Tusculumbia, AL, where she began her career working at Sears. After 17 years, they returned to Chapel Hill, TN, and shortly afterwards, she began working at Sears in Lewisburg, TN until its closing. Her most rewarding career; however, would soon follow at Duck River Electric in Lewisburg. She very much enjoyed interacting with the public and helping those in need.

Mary enjoyed spending time with her family and she had a passion for antiques and flowers. After retirement, most of her time was spent collecting, restoring and refurbishing old 'things' and tending to and reseeding flowers from generations past. Unfortunately, in the latter part of her life, de-



mentia took away much of her ability to enjoy these passions. However, she always did her best to be sure that they would be carried on by the generations that follow her.

Mary was described by others in many in different ways, but she may forever be known by two things in life... "the lady with the gray hair at Duck River" and "the lady with all the flowers that lives across the street from the funeral home."

Mary Alice is survived by her daughters, Pamela Wright Brown, Lewisburg, TN, Denise Wright (David) McGowen, Murfreesboro, TN, Michelle Wright (Mike) Perryman, Chapel Hill, TN; sister, Virginia Giles, Tullahoma, TN; brother,

Charlie Joyce, Tullahoma, TN; grandchildren, Chris (Morgan) Brown, Ryan Jones, Connor Perryman, Cameron Perryman; great-grandchildren, Shawn Brown, Braden Jones. In addition to her parents, Mary Alice was also preceded in death by a sister, Anna Margaret Gillespie and brothers, James Joyce and Anderson Joyce.

Family members will receive friends on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023, from noon until 2 p.m. at Lawrence Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. from the chapel of Lawrence Funeral Home with David McGowen officiating. Burial will follow in the Joyce-Blackwell-Cromer Cemetery near Chapel Hill.

Her grandsons and great-grandsons will serve as pallbearers.

For those who wish memorial donations, in memory of May Alice Wright, may be made to the Duck River Electric Project Help Fund, at any Duck River Electric office.

Lawrence Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Chapel Hill, TN, 364-2233 (www.lawrencefuneral.net) in charge of arrangements.

POLICE BLOTTER

Two Lewisburg police officers and two Jones Circle residents were injured by a woman during a fracas at the home early Saturday, Dec. 31.

Crystal J. Baugh-Hamler, 31, of Hill Street was tased after fighting officers attempting her arrest, a report filed by officer Wyatt Evans said.

A 911 call at 1:43 a.m. reported a fight involving a knife. Two people at the home, one 78 years old, suffered minor wounds from the knife allegedly wielded by Baugh-Hamler.

Baugh-Hamler resisted being handcuffed and began clawing at officers until being "drive-stunned" by Officer Adam Ferguson's taser, the report said. A drive stun involves the taser's blunt end being placed against an individual and a shock administered.

Cpl. Jenny Frost suffered a knee injury - her second on-duty injury in recent weeks - and Evans several cuts from Baugh-Hamler allegedly scratching him during the arrest.

Baugh-Hamler was charged with two counts of aggravated domestic-related assault, two counts of aggravated assault against a first responder, and resisting arrest. Bond was set at \$17,000.

CHICKEN STOLEN

An 80-year-old man was charged with stealing a chicken Monday, Jan. 2, after the property owner allegedly caught him in the act and locked him in the birds' pen, a Marshall County Sheriff's Office report said.

James Avery Sons of Collier Road was still in the pen when Deputy Clyde Ragsdale arrived. Sons allegedly said he saw the chicken in the middle of Yell Road and was returning it to its pen.

The chicken's owner told Ragsdale he heard the chickens making noise and saw Sons in the pen "corralling" three or four before grabbing one by its legs and attempting to leave.

"(The victim) said he approached the guy and pushed him back into the pen and locked him in," Ragsdale's report said.

"I asked him what he was doing. He didn't have an answer," the

chicken's owner told Ragsdale.

Sons' truck was in the middle of Yell Road with the driver's door open and engine running when Ragsdale approached.

Six chickens have been stolen in earlier incidents, always on Mondays, the victim's wife said.

Sons is charged with theft and criminal trespassing. Bond was set at \$1,000.

ATTACK BY VEHICLE

Aggravated domestic assault charges were filed against a couple who allegedly attacked each other's vehicles in the yard of their Mahaley Road home on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

A witness told Deputy Christopher Burgess that Roberta Pienkowski, 48, allegedly rammed a Nissan Quest van belonging to her husband Kurt Franklin Luna, 52, several times with her Dodge pickup. Luna is accused of slashing one of the truck's tires.

Pienkowski allegedly retaliated by shooting the radiator of Luna's van.

Neither suspect was listed as injured.

Both received \$10,000 bonds.

FLAGPOLE AS WEAPON

A man whom complained of being struck repeatedly with a flagpole Saturday, Dec. 31 at a Jesse Lane home was himself charged with two counts of domestic assault.

Mark Myers, 54, of Jesse Lane allegedly entered through an unlocked door and attacked a man. A woman using the flagpole to keep the men separated was allegedly thrown over a kitchen island by Myers but caught in the air by her brother. Both victims were listed as suffering minor injuries.

Myers was stopped and arrested by a deputy around an hour later. He was treated and released at Marshall Medical Center for a bloody left eye, then released on recognizance at Marshall County Jail.

PASSING THE POT

A man who police say had marijuana in his vehicle Wednesday, Jan. 4, allegedly tossed them to a younger passenger, telling her she

wouldn't be charged due to her age.

Ian Harrison, 19, of Hampshire was stopped in the parking lot of the Columbia State Community College center on South Ellington Parkway for a vehicle light violation.

Officers noticed and smelled marijuana, a police report said. A search allegedly revealed 7.90 grams of marijuana.

Harrison told police the marijuana did not belong to him or the 17-year-old passenger, who told an officer of the alleged toss.

Police charged Harrison with felony simple possession and possession of drug paraphernalia.

ASSAULT

A suspect was charged with aggravated assault for allegedly pointing a handgun at a man during an argument Thursday, Jan. 5, the MCSO said.

Jamaric Armstrong, 18, of Holly Grove Road is accused of calling the victim to a home on Highway 40 after sending Instagram messages. The victim told investigators he didn't know Armstrong.

The victim said Armstrong challenged him to fight and "pulled, cocked, and pointed the gun" at him before placing it on the ground. An investigating deputy was given Facetime screenshots of Armstrong holding a handgun the victim said were from a Facetime conversation. A witness also said Armstrong pointed the handgun.

Armstrong denied having a gun, police said. Bond was set at \$7,500.

THEFT

More than \$1,800 worth of tools, wooden doors valued at \$1,000, and items listed as "housewares" were taken from a home being remodeled in the 2000 block of Spring Place Road overnight Sunday, Jan. 8, the MCSO was told.

Entry was gained through a rear door and an attempt was made to enter the front door, Deputy Sam Shelby's report said.

A Remington 20 gauge shotgun and a grease gun were stolen Friday or Saturday from a residence in the 1500 block of Holly

Grove Road, the MCSO said.

Entry was through the front door.

Several items taken from the garage area were found in the rear of the back yard, Deputy Jerel Neill's report said.

Lewisburg city police reported several things stolen from a barn, truck, and horse trailer overnight last Tuesday, Jan. 3, were found along another nearby fence line on Holly Grove Road the next day, along with several power tools taken from a neighbor's shed.

*Wrapped Christmas presents, a 55-inch Roku television and a Zippo lighter were stolen from a Washington Drive home Thursday, Dec. 29, between 5:40-10 p.m., police said.

Neighbors said a white car was at the home with someone removing items from inside during that period.

SHOPLIFTING

A man scanned \$400 worth of items at a Walmart self-checking station, then left without paying, Lewisburg police said.

The items included food, a rug and scented candles.

The man ran to an SUV and left quickly when confronted by employees.

A Pulaski man previously banned from all Walmarts after an arrest in his hometown store was charged again Sunday, Jan. 7, following an arrest at the Lewisburg location.

William Ellis, 73, allegedly failed to pay for Icy Hot and pain pills.

He was cited for shoplifting.

THREAT

A man allegedly pointed a gun at a family as they drove past a home in the 1700 block of Old Berlin Road on New Year's afternoon.

Deputies checked the home and made contact with the suspect by phone and through the patrol vehicle's public address system.

The suspect walked onto the front porch, told deputies he had nothing to say to them and would not "be bullied by the police."

Supervising officers ordered the deputies to clear the scene. No arrest was made.

Shall we sing the praises of public restrooms?

By **Danny Tyree**

It's an amenity that most consumers take for granted. It's an amenity that most retailers/professionals grudgingly accept as a cost of doing business.

But I simply must salute those businesspeople who provide the miracle of indoor plumbing to their patrons.

When traveling or shopping, a restroom can be a lifesaver. We use the euphemism "when Nature calls," but Nature doesn't usually phone ahead. It shows up unannounced, kicking the front door in and toting two weeks' worth of luggage.

I am not here to chastise those business owners who in their infinite wisdom decide not to go to the hassle of providing a restroom. Just know that the shoppers who make selections while squirming, fidgeting and joggling in place tend to overwhelm the Returns desk a few days later. ("Stains? What stains?")

I will not go as far as a theologian friend, who speculates that these businesspeople have a special corner reserved in hell. ("Don't sweat the flames. Drink all the water you want. You just can't get rid of it.")

Next up on the scale is the establishments with strings attached. I remember a vacation when the "Any port in a storm" mantra guided us as we parked at a rural crossroads market. Our mission was urgent enough that we were not deterred by the sternly worded "Restroom reserved for paying customers!" sign or the glowering clerk. ("You folks just passing through? Would you recognize a meth lab? Does your next of kin know you're here?")

Predictably, this establishment did not provide paper seat liners. They would probably have clashed with the deep-fried toilet paper, anyway.

Besides, anything short of an exorcist, a flame thrower and Anthony Fauci's home phone number would

have been inadequate.

On the next rung is the place where you have to wait in line and ask for the key. I can't decide if this is more like Oliver Twist meekly asking for more gruel or your younger self asking Dad if you can take the training wheels off the bicycle.

As you do the walk of shame with the key, you are tempted to bluff to maintain your privacy. ("I donated my urethra and my gastrointestinal tract to African orphans, and I just need to use the mirror to check my worry lines.")

Even when no key ritual is required, you can rest assured that the person who beats you to a single-occupancy restroom is going to be the person with (a) a free hour of playtime on Candy Crush, a person with a distorted sense of time ("2023? Already? Get outta here!") or a person with a bashful bladder. When dealing with the latter, you might yell through the door, "I can be your bladder's wingman!" or "Let me buy your bladder a copy of 'How To Win Friends and Influence People.'"

The holy grail, of course, is a spacious, modern, palatial, multi-stall, graffiti-free restroom.

That has its own problems. Operating in "we're not worthy" mode, you feel obligated to buy something, despite the inflated prices. And the guilt trip just accelerates.

"Take the cart. I need to call my mother. And send that waitress a bigger tip. And if your pocketknife is still sharp, maybe I could do something for Locks of Love! Wait...Mom said Nature kicked in her door. I hope the potty at the hardware store is unoccupied."

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Sobriety roadside safety checkpoints

The Tennessee Highway Patrol will be conducting sobriety roadside safety checkpoints during the week of 1/28/2023 on US Hwy 31Alt in Marshall County starting at 9:00 P.M.

Impaired driving is a serious crime that kills more than 16,000 people and injures 305,000 people every year in the United States.

Troopers will evaluate drivers for signs of alcohol or drug impairment. Troopers will target those who operate a vehicle while impaired and take corrective actions for other violations observed while ensuring the protection of all motorists.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol recognizes that sobriety checkpoints are highly visible and effective tools in the battle against impaired driving.

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MARSHALL COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

Light is sprung up

"The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up." - Matthew 4:16

When Jesus the Messiah started His earthly ministry He chose the rough region of Galilee. This was the fulfillment of the ancient Old Testament prophecy spoken by Isaiah the prophet (Isaiah 42:6,7; 60:2,3). The people who were living in darkness that saw great light did not see some astronomical phenomena in the sky. The great light that God's word is talking about was the Light of Life who is God's Son, Jesus

Christ (John 1:4). Not only did the prophets foretell of Messiah shinning the hope of the gospel to the Gentiles, who sat in the darkness of their sin, but Jesus Christ Himself clearly taught "I am the Light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). Christ coming to shine the gospel light of salvation in Galilee was despicable to the religious Jews of His day. To think that Messiah would first go among the rough fishermen in Galilee of the Gentiles, before He would come to the priests at the Temple and to the Jewish elders in Jerusalem was

appalling. Yet that is what Messiah did.

Sadly, the religious leaders of Messiah's day were much like what we have seen in our day where high-profile priests and pastors abused and misused the people for greed and self-satisfaction. Such is evidence that the so-called "man of God" never had a heart for God and God's people. This truth also became evident in Christ's day because the religious leaders, who were all about their position in the Jews religion, felt threatened by Jesus Christ's popularity among the people. Obviously, they hated Christ without a cause (John 15:25). This

is seen by the fact that the religious leaders eventually conspired to arrest Jesus, falsely convict Him in a kangaroo court, and moved the people against Him so as to be crucified. Therefore, Jesus Christ at the beginning of His ministry avoided the self-righteous religious leaders and went out to the sinners (Matthew 9:13). So at this time, the Messiah by-passed the Jews in Jerusalem, and went north to Capernaum in Galilee of the Gentiles, to the outcast, to the sinners, and to the unwanted. There in the darkness of the Galilee of the Gentiles was where Christ, the Light of the World,

would shine the brightest, and it was there that Jesus called His twelve apostles, where the blind received sight, the lame walked, the lepers cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead raised up, and the poor in spirit have the gospel preached unto them (Matthew 11:5).

So if you find yourself sitting in the darkness of despair and discouragement, the good news is that "light is sprung up" and that light is Jesus Christ. Read God's word about Him! Call upon Him! Come to Him and you will find the Light of Life.

David C. Hale, pastor Email: insights@gmx.com

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Swift selected to play in Nashville All American Bowl

By **Kacy Kincaid**
Sports Writer

NASHVILLE — Though it turned out to be a short-lived stint at Lipscomb Academy Saturday, Forrest High School senior football player Tayton Swift accompanied Team Blaze in the 2023 Nashville All American Bowl, where they faced off with Team Ice, Blaze coming away with the 28-21 win.

“It means the world to me being selected by my peers,” Swift said. “It means a lot because it means they believe in me as much as I believe in myself.”

The Nashville All American Bowl is the premier postseason all-star football game for high school seniors in the southeast region.

“Our coaches are from Overton (High School) and Lipscomb Academy, so it’s a big rivalry for them already,” Swift said.

“I got picked to be on the Overton team, Team Blaze. We’ve done a lot of preparing throughout the week, waking up at 5 a.m. and not going to bed until after midnight. We’ve had a lot of team bonding and getting to know each other. There are a lot of nice guys from a lot of different places.”

Swift, who has been well-known for his offensive play at Forrest, held down the safety position for Blaze.

Unfortunately, only a minute and a half into the second quarter, Swift left the game with an ankle injury after giving Team Ice a hard hit, forcing a fumble that Blaze recovered.

He will continue his



Swift makes the tackle against Team Ice.

Swift played safety for Team Blaze in the Nashville All-American Bowl.

Tribune Photos by Kacy Kincaid

football career at Tennessee Tech in the fall, where he will likely remain in a defensive role.

“The biggest next step for me is, of course, getting this ankle back where it needs to be and getting ready for my next bowl game in Tampa, the Blue-Grey All American Bowl,” Swift said.

“After that I am just striving to get better and get ready for college football. Tech really needs the young guys that are coming



Swift holds up the championship trophy for Team Blaze.

in and they said I could be a possible starter my freshman year, so I have to work hard to get there.”

Now that collegiate players have the right to pursue NIL, Swift has goals around that, too.

“I guess the last thing is just working toward NIL, it’s a big thing with high school and college athletes nowadays, so I want to be able to

get my name out there.” NIL gives players the right to accept money from businesses in exchange for using them in products or advertisements and can also promote themselves or other companies in public appearances.

Swift will be back in action in the Blue-Grey All-American Bowl, which will be broadcast on ESPN3 at noon on January 30.

Rockets can't match Magnet's offense

By **Kacy Kincaid**
Sports Writer

CHAPEL HILL — The Central Magnet Tigers had their way with the Forrest Rockets Monday night in Chapel Hill, leaving town with a 65-31 win.

Rockets Head Coach Shane Chapman went with a much-revised starting lineup, the Tigers taking an early lead in the first, 18-4, Kelley Toombs and Jayden Russell keeping the Rockets on the board.

Hope was alive in the second quarter with the Rockets holding the Tigers to only 10 points and finding some buckets themselves, but Central Magnet held a 16-point lead going into the half.

Though the Rockets had their best showing in the third, the towering Tigers continued to add cushion to their already sturdy advantage, outscoring the Rockets 22-13.

Senior Mason Harper was able to snag five of his seven points in the frame, while four other Rockets made contributions.

Throughout the game, turnovers dug a deeper hole for the Rockets, while also putting up only six points in the fourth.

Harper led the Rockets with seven points,



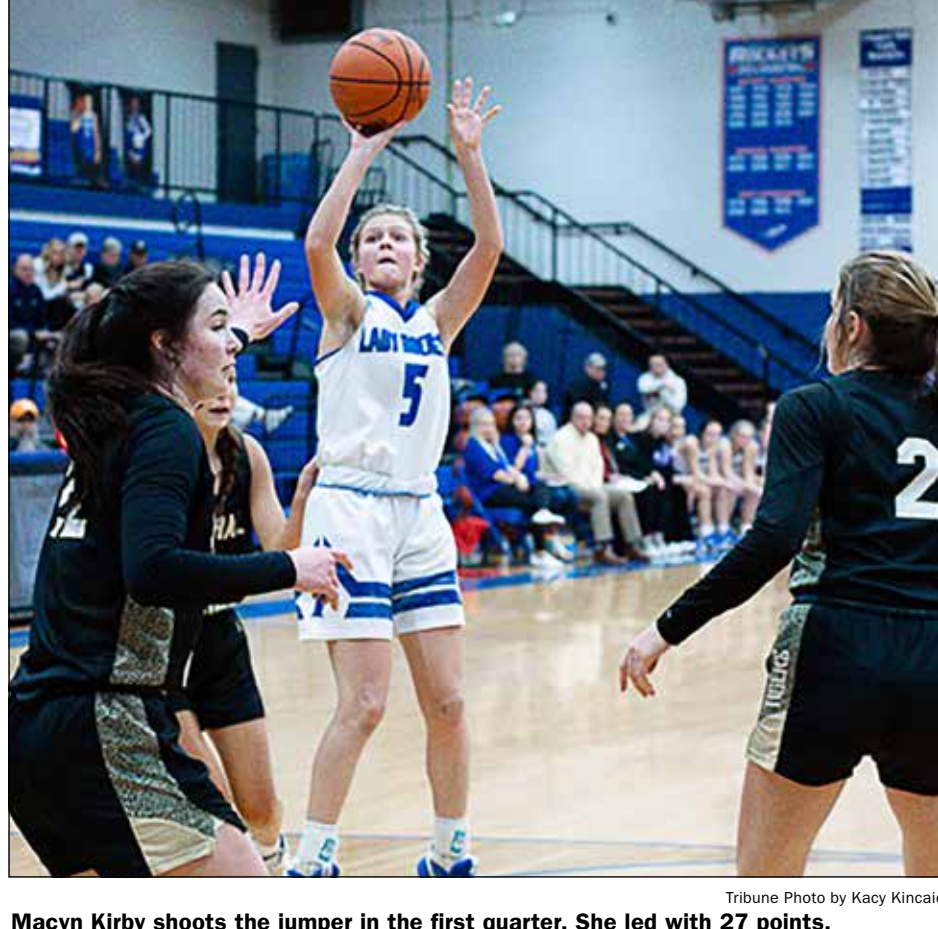
Bray McCown goes in for the layup for the Rockets. He finished with four points on Monday night.

and Davin Porter was held to only six. Mac Martin led the Tigers with 15 points.

The Rockets will travel to Unionville Friday for a matchup with the Community Vikings. Tipoff is set for 7:30 pm.

Central Magnet 18 10 22 18 — 65
Forrest 4 8 13 6 — 31

Central Magnet: Mac Martin 15, Will Becker 13, Mason Brown 9, Jake Maddox 6, Alex Perry 5, Garrett Florida 5, Stef Scarville 5, John Hays 4, Aljiah Dean 2, Isaac Smith
Forrest: Mason Harper 7, Davin Porter 6, Bray McCown 4, Ryan Meglis 4, Ben Villazon 2, Eli Bell 2, Kelley Toombs 2, Jayden Russell 2, Josh Doud 2
3-Point goals: Central Magnet (6): Brown 2, Becker, Perry, Florida, Martin; Forrest (1): Harper.
Halftime score: Central Magnet 28, Forrest 12.



Macyn Kirby shoots the jumper in the first quarter. She led with 27 points.

Kirby's heroics not enough for Lady Rockets

By **Kacy Kincaid**
Sports Writer

CHAPEL HILL — It was a tale of turnovers and a tough night on the glass for the Forrest Lady Rockets Monday night, despite a stellar outing by senior Macyn Kirby.

The Lady Rockets hosted the Central Magnet Lady Tigers, who took the 62-49 win.

The first few minutes were an even matchup, but it didn't last long as the Lady Tigers went

on a scoring run to take a 16-7 lead going into the second quarter.

The outsized Lady Rockets held their own in the paint defensively, forcing the Tigers to up their perimeter play, and they did not disappoint, knocking down six threes in the first half.

Central executed a full-court press that created multiple Forrest turnovers and a scoring drought that lasted two minutes.

Before the half, For-

rest found its groove and Kirby knocked down a three-pointer and on the next play, found senior Samantha Hopkins posted up on the block for an additional two.

Megan Mealer picked off a pass moments later to ride in for the easy layup.

The Tigers held a strong 32-18 lead at the half.

The groove the Lady Rockets found before the half continued on

See **Rockets**, Page B2

Tigers split tri-match

Tribune Staff Report

LEWISBURG — On Monday night, the Marshall County Tiger wrestling team split a tri-match, beating Lawrence County in convincing fashion, while falling to Cascade.

Against the Wildcats, the Tigers recorded several wins via pin, with Carson Henderson defeating Isaac Brunelle via pin at the 132-pound weight class.

Anthony Chavez also pinned his opponent at the 160-pound class, before Anthony Smith recorded the final win on the mat of the match against Lawrence County at 195.

It was tough sledding against the Champions, with Chavez marking the only win on the mat with a pin over Cascade's Max Darefsky at 160 in the second period.

Bulldogs grapplers outlast Tigers in county clash

Tribune Staff Report

LEWISBURG — It was an all-out brawl on the mat between county rivals Cornersville and Marshall County on Tuesday night.

Both teams recorded several key wins, but in the end, it was the Bulldogs edging out the Tigers for the 30-27 win.

There were plenty of body blows in Tuesday night's match. Julius Foster outlasted Cor-

nersville's Joshua Bennett in the 113-pound weight class and earned a pin in the third period.

After a forfeit at 120 for the Tigers, it was Cornersville who struck back with Austin King at 132, who pinned Marshall County's Carson Henderson in the first period.

The Bulldogs piled up wins via forfeit at 138 and 145, but at the 152-pound weight class, Aaron Powell outlasted Cornersville's Joseph Cole in a 4-3 decision.

The Tigers made things even

more interesting with a hard-fought pin by Anthony Chavez, who defeated Jonathan Zuniga, in the third period at the 160-pound class.

In the end, it was Xavier Vizcan who pinned Marshall County's Anthony Smith in the first period that proved to be the key victory in landing the Bulldogs a win.

The Tigers will be on the road on Thursday night, traveling to Community, while Cornersville will travel to Fairview.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Youth baseball signups

There will be several upcoming dates in which Marshall County athletes can register for spring ball.

Boys and girls must be age four by April 30, 2023.

Signups will be held at the Richard Cashion Sports Complex from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on January 14, 21 and 28; from 5-8 p.m. on February 1, and from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on February 4.

Signups will be held at Cornersville High School on Saturdays only.

Cost is \$60 for the first player per family, and \$20 per additional player.

All fees are due at signup.

Games are played on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and the season will run from March until May.

Age groups for boys are A (T-ball 4-5), AA (coach pitch 6-8), AAA (kid pitch 9-10) and Ozone (kid pitch 11-12).

Age groups for girls are Sweet Tees (6U), Angels (8U), Darlings (10U), Ponytails (12U), Belles (senior 13-15).

The league is also looking for umpires and coaches.

If interested, contact Matthew Cashion, Chuck Grooms or Mike Wright for boys information and Zach McCormick for information on the girls' league

Hamlin injury leaves lasting impact on NFL



Chris Siers
The Extra Point

It's been over a week since the terrifying injury to Damar Hamlin and it's safe to say that single injury may have changed the NFL forever.

During the first quarter last week, the Buffalo safety stepped up to make a routine tackle on Bengals receiver Tee Higgins, and what followed were perhaps the scariest moment on a football field in decades.

Usually after an injury, even serious ones, injured players will give a thumbs up, or show signs of how everything will be OK.

Spectators and players alike got none of that from Hamlin after the injury.

Instead, what we got was the horrified look of Bills and Bengals players on the sideline, fighting back tears—grown men openly sobbing on the field.

At this point, everyone began to realize the play in which Hamlin went down was anything but routine.

After the initial contact, Hamlin stood up, then collapsed and went completely limp.

In the crucial minutes following the injury, trainers and first responders rendered CPR and administered a defibrillator to resume Hamlin's heartbeat.

As journalists, we're trained to report whatever it is we're covering with as much detail as possible and I've got to hand it to the ESPN crew, from Joe Buck and Troy Aikman in the booth, to Lisa Salters on the sidelines, to Booger McFarland, Adam Schefter and Suzy Kolbe did their best to continue coverage during the time until the game was canceled.

While print is nothing like broadcast, their professionalism can't be overlooked.

One of the biggest issues I had with the whole ordeal was as soon as Hamlin was in the ambulance and transported off the

field, both teams returned to their respective locker rooms and it was reported the NFL gave teams five minutes to get ready to return to play.

At this point, nobody knew the condition of Hamlin and I don't care what level of sport you're participating, seeing someone receive CPR can 100% take you out of the mindset to play.

But the almighty greenback rules all and there's no doubt the NFL wanted to resume play against arguably one of the biggest games of the year between two Super Bowl contenders.

In the week since the injury, Hamlin has shown remarkable improvement and was extremely active on Twitter during the Bills' regular season finale against New England on Sunday.

At the end of the day, football is a game.

Sure, there are inherent risks that can result in extreme bodily injury, or even death, as Hamlin nearly suffered.

But the outpouring

of support for a single player has never really been seen in a national capacity.

During Sunday's finale, teams across the NFL wore shirts in support of Hamlin and his recovery.

Speaking to Hamlin's character, he's a big supporter of donating for a toy drive and the support has reached his fundraising efforts as well.

At the time of this publication, Hamlin's fundraiser has reached nearly \$9 million.

I feel like at times, journalists, coaches, players and fans forget that football is a game.

Hamlin's injury shook everyone who saw it to their core, from every aspect of the game.

From journalists covering the game, to fans in attendance, everyone was behind Hamlin and his recovery.

And that's the kind of event that can leave lasting imprints on a game forever.

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



Tribune Photo by Kacy Kincaid

Kinslee Inlow launches the three. Inlow ended in double figures.

Rockets

(Continued from Page B1)

in the third. Forrest closed the gap within a few minutes to give Central Magnet only a single digit lead, with Kirby and Kinslee Inlow both having their biggest quarter of the game with eight points each.

But the turnovers and lack of rebounding continued to keep Forrest out of reach.

The Lady Rockets did a good job of moving the ball and driving to the basket during the second half, but it was too little too late.

The Tigers continually answered made baskets at the other end of the court.

Kirby led the Lady Rockets with 27 points and Inlow contributed 13.

The Tigers had multiple players in double digits, Olivia Hart leading her team with 19.

The Lady Rockets will travel to Unionville Friday night to take on the Community Viqueens.

Tipoff is set for 7 p.m.

Central Magnet 16 16 16 14 — 62
Forrest 7 11 18 13 — 49

Central Magnet: Olivia Hart 19, Bethany Jackson 13, Addison Melton 12, Reese Carlisle 11, Reagan Brand 4, Reilly McMillan 3
Forrest: Macyn Kirby 27, Kinslee Inlow 13, Megan Mealer 4, Samantha Hopkins 2, Kaylin Pope 2, Josie Brown
3-point Goals: Central Magnet (9): Carlisle 3, Jackson 3, Melton 2, Hart; Forrest (4): Kirby 4
Halftime score: Central Magnet 32, Forrest 18.

Damar Hamlin's toy drive nears \$9M in donations

By **THALIA BEATY**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin plans to support young people through education and sports with the \$8.6 million in GoFundMe donations that unexpectedly poured into his toy drive fundraiser after he suffered a cardiac arrest in the middle of a game last week.

He will also use proceeds from the sale of new T-shirts, emblazoned with "Did We Win?" along with his hands in the shape of a heart, to raise money for the trauma center in Cincinnati that treated him.

Hamlin, who livetweeted through his team's victory over New England on Sunday, tweeted Tuesday that he has returned to Buffalo but is still in the hospital being evaluated.

The 24-year-old has teamed with The Giving Back Fund, a nonprofit that helps athletes and celebrities manage their charitable giving, to host the "The Chasing M's Foundation" Charitable Fund. GoFundMe representatives told The Associated Press the crowdfunding platform will soon transfer the donations that have come in since Hamlin's injury Jan. 2 to the new fund. Chasing M's is Hamlin's apparel company.

Hamlin and his family "are humbled by the tremendous support that has been shown as he recovers," according to his marketing representative, Jordon Rooney. "They are incredibly grateful for the continued prayers and outpouring of concern that has been exhibited by people all over the world," Rooney wrote in an email, adding that they plan to communicate with donors over time. The new fund is now soliciting donations online and via text.

"We are working as a team to facilitate the transfer as soon as practical," said the Giving Back Fund. It plans to disclose the final total of all donations, which include support from star quarterbacks Tom Brady and Russell Wilson. As a fiscal sponsor for the donations, The Giving Back Fund is compensated for collecting the funds. The University of Cincinnati Medical Center did not respond to a request for comment.

Hamlin's injury and recovery have created a boomerang of solidarity within the football community with fans donating, players honoring him and Hamlin tweeting appreciation back at all of them.

The largest public donation to Hamlin's GoFundMe as of Tues-

day was \$33,333 from the Staten Island, New York-based ADCO Electrical Corp. Owner Gina Addeo didn't want to give an interview, but the donation itself shows support — repeating Hamlin's jersey number five times.

Similarly, Carl Fochler decided on a donation of \$25,003 on behalf of the sustainable laundry company Sheets Laundry Club he co-owns. He stayed up late the night of Hamlin's injury waiting for an update on his health. The next morning, he logged on looking for news and saw a link to a video of Hamlin talking about his fundraising for kids.

"I just knew right then it's something we had to do," he said, after talking with his business partner.

Fochler said he was born in Buffalo and adopted at six weeks old, adding another reason, besides being a die-hard Bills fan, to donate to Hamlin's work to give children hope.

"I know how lucky or unlucky you can be. Paths can change quickly," Fochler said.

Anna Isaacson, the NFL's senior vice president of social responsibility, was watching the donations roll in, even as Hamlin's health remained the priority. She began reaching out to "make sure that we all

surrounded Damar and his family with the resources to really take on this massive project, which is going to be millions of dollars worth of contributions back to youth in the community."

The league's Player Health & Safety team is already reviewing their practices and policies following Hamlin's injuries, which Isaacson said was part of their responsibility.

"People are watching our games and we have fans all over the country. And with that comes a responsibility to give back and to use these moments, often tough moments in time, and challenges to impact our society for the better," she said.

Fochler hopes the Bills make it to the Super Bowl, a dream for him and many fans. Asked how he was making sense of a moment with so many emotions mixed together — of watching a terrible injury and then the rebound of generosity, he said Damar had already made sense of it for him.

Pointing to a tweet where Hamlin wrote that he'd rather be running out of the tunnel at the start of the game with his teammates but, he said instead, "God Using Me In A Different Way Today."

Entertainment

THURSDAY EVENING JANUARY 12, 2023

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30																													
BROADCAST	ABC Celebrity Jeopardy! (N)	CBS Young (N)	NBC Law & Order (TV14)	FOX Hell's Kitchen (N)	A&E Chicago P.D. (TV14)	AMC The First 48 (TV14)	ANIMAL The Parent Test (N)	BET S.W.A.T.: "Witness" (N)	BRAVO The Voice (TV14)	CARTOON Young (N)	CMT The Tonight Show (TV14)	CNN The Tonight Show (TV14)	COMEDY The Tonight Show (TV14)	DISCOVERY The Tonight Show (TV14)	DISNEY The Tonight Show (TV14)	ESPN The Tonight Show (TV14)	ESPN2 The Tonight Show (TV14)	FOOD The Tonight Show (TV14)	FREEMFORM The Tonight Show (TV14)	FX The Tonight Show (TV14)	HGTV The Tonight Show (TV14)	HISTORY The Tonight Show (TV14)	LIFETIME The Tonight Show (TV14)	MTV The Tonight Show (TV14)	NEWSNAT The Tonight Show (TV14)	NICK The Tonight Show (TV14)	PARMT The Tonight Show (TV14)	SYFY The Tonight Show (TV14)	TBS The Tonight Show (TV14)	TCM The Tonight Show (TV14)	TLC The Tonight Show (TV14)	TNT The Tonight Show (TV14)	TRAVEL The Tonight Show (TV14)	TV LAND The Tonight Show (TV14)	USA The Tonight Show (TV14)	VH1 The Tonight Show (TV14)	HBO The Tonight Show (TV14)	MAX The Tonight Show (TV14)	SHOW The Tonight Show (TV14)

FRIDAY EVENING JANUARY 13, 2023

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30																													
BROADCAST	ABC Shark Tank (TV14)	CBS S.W.A.T.: "Witness" (N)	NBC Fire Country (TV14)	FOX To Be Announced	A&E WWE Friday Night Smackdown (TV14)	AMC The First 48 (TV14)	ANIMAL The Parent Test (N)	BET S.W.A.T.: "Witness" (N)	BRAVO The Voice (TV14)	CARTOON Young (N)	CMT The Tonight Show (TV14)	CNN The Tonight Show (TV14)	COMEDY The Tonight Show (TV14)	DISCOVERY The Tonight Show (TV14)	DISNEY The Tonight Show (TV14)	ESPN The Tonight Show (TV14)	ESPN2 The Tonight Show (TV14)	FOOD The Tonight Show (TV14)	FREEMFORM The Tonight Show (TV14)	FX The Tonight Show (TV14)	HGTV The Tonight Show (TV14)	HISTORY The Tonight Show (TV14)	LIFETIME The Tonight Show (TV14)	MTV The Tonight Show (TV14)	NEWSNAT The Tonight Show (TV14)	NICK The Tonight Show (TV14)	PARMT The Tonight Show (TV14)	SYFY The Tonight Show (TV14)	TBS The Tonight Show (TV14)	TCM The Tonight Show (TV14)	TLC The Tonight Show (TV14)	TNT The Tonight Show (TV14)	TRAVEL The Tonight Show (TV14)	TV LAND The Tonight Show (TV14)	USA The Tonight Show (TV14)	VH1 The Tonight Show (TV14)	HBO The Tonight Show (TV14)	MAX The Tonight Show (TV14)	SHOW The Tonight Show (TV14)

SATURDAY EVENING JANUARY 14, 2023

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30																													
BROADCAST	ABC Will Trent: "Pilot" (N)	CBS NFL Football: "Regional Coverage - Texans TBA" (LIVE)	NBC America's Got Talent: All-Stars (TV14)	FOX Celebrity Name Game (TV14)	A&E SVU: "Desire" (TV14)	AMC Jack Reacher (TV14)	ANIMAL Major League (TV14)	BET Insane Pools (TV14)	BRAVO The Contender (TV14)	CARTOON Reg. Show (TV14)	CMT Vacation (TV14)	CNN CNN Newsroom (N)	COMEDY Men II (TV14)	DISCOVERY Expedition Unknown (TV14)	DISNEY Loud (TV14)	ESPN College Basketball (LIVE)	ESPN2 College Basketball (LIVE)	FOOD Diners (TV14)	FREEMFORM Bad Boys (TV14)	FX Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (TV14)	HGTV Fixer to Fabulous (TV14)	HISTORY The Unexplained (TV14)	LIFETIME How to Murder Your (TV14)	MTV 60/Second (TV14)	NEWSNAT NewsNation Prime (TV14)	NICK Big Nate (TV14)	PARMT Spider-Man (TV14)	SYFY The Green Hornet (TV14)	TBS Movie (TV14)	TCM Monsieur Beaucaire (TV14)	TLC Love in Paradise (TV14)	TNT Ocean (TV14)	TRAVEL Ghost Brothers: Lights (TV14)	TV LAND Mom (TV14)	USA Fast (TV14)	VH1 Fast (TV14)	HBO Hereditary (TV14)	MAX Safe (TV14)	SHOW Your Honor (TV14)

SUNDAY EVENING JANUARY 15, 2023

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30																													
BROADCAST	ABC Finding Nemo (TV14)	CBS East New York (N)	NBC The Tonight Show (TV14)	FOX The Tonight Show (TV14)	A&E The Tonight Show (TV14)	AMC The Tonight Show (TV14)	ANIMAL The Tonight Show (TV14)	BET The Tonight Show (TV14)	BRAVO The Tonight Show (TV14)	CARTOON The Tonight Show (TV14)	CMT The Tonight Show (TV14)	CNN The Tonight Show (TV14)	COMEDY The Tonight Show (TV14)	DISCOVERY The Tonight Show (TV14)	DISNEY The Tonight Show (TV14)	ESPN The Tonight Show (TV14)	ESPN2 The Tonight Show (TV14)	FOOD The Tonight Show (TV14)	FREEMFORM The Tonight Show (TV14)	FX The Tonight Show (TV14)	HGTV The Tonight Show (TV14)	HISTORY The Tonight Show (TV14)	LIFETIME The Tonight Show (TV14)	MTV The Tonight Show (TV14)	NEWSNAT The Tonight Show (TV14)	NICK The Tonight Show (TV14)	PARMT The Tonight Show (TV14)	SYFY The Tonight Show (TV14)	TBS The Tonight Show (TV14)	TCM The Tonight Show (TV14)	TLC The Tonight Show (TV14)	TNT The Tonight Show (TV14)	TRAVEL The Tonight Show (TV14)	TV LAND The Tonight Show (TV14)	USA The Tonight Show (TV14)	VH1 The Tonight Show (TV14)	HBO The Tonight Show (TV14)	MAX The Tonight Show (TV14)	SHOW The Tonight Show (TV14)

MONDAY EVENING JANUARY 16, 2023

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30																													
BROADCAST	ABC (15) NFL Football: "Texans TBA" (LIVE)	CBS Neighbor: "Bob Hearts" (TV14)	NBC The Voice (TV14)	FOX 9-1-1 (TV14)	A&E The First 48 (TV14)	AMC The First 48 (TV14)	ANIMAL The First 48 (TV14)	BET The First 48 (TV14)	BRAVO The First 48 (TV14)	CARTOON The First 48 (TV14)	CMT The First 48 (TV14)	CNN The First 48 (TV14)	COMEDY The First 48 (TV14)	DISCOVERY The First 48 (TV14)	DISNEY The First 48 (TV14)	ESPN The First 48 (TV14)	ESPN2 The First 48 (TV14)	FOOD The First 48 (TV14)	FREEMFORM The First 48 (TV14)	FX The First 48 (TV14)	HGTV The First 48 (TV14)	HISTORY The First 48 (TV14)	LIFETIME The First 48 (TV14)	MTV The First 48 (TV14)	NEWSNAT The First 48 (TV14)	NICK The First 48 (TV14)	PARMT The First 48 (TV14)	SYFY The First 48 (TV14)	TBS The First 48 (TV14)	TCM The First 48 (TV14)	TLC The First 48 (TV14)	TNT The First 48 (TV14)	TRAVEL The First 48 (TV14)	TV LAND The First 48 (TV14)	USA The First 48 (TV14)	VH1 The First 48 (TV14)	HBO The First 48 (TV14)	MAX The First 48 (TV14)	SHOW The First 48 (TV14)

TUESDAY EVENING JANUARY 17, 2023

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30																													
BROADCAST	ABC The Rookie (TV14)	CBS FBI: "Hero's Journey" (TV14)	NBC Night (N)	FOX The Resident (TV14)	A&E Neighbor (TV14)	AMC Major League (TV14)	ANIMAL Lone Star Law (TV14)	BET Lone Star Law (TV14)	BRAVO Lone Star Law (TV14)	CARTOON Lone Star Law (TV14)	CMT Lone Star Law (TV14)	CNN Lone Star Law (TV14)	COMEDY Lone Star Law (TV14)	DISCOVERY Lone Star Law (TV14)	DISNEY Lone Star Law (TV14)	ESPN Lone Star Law (TV14)	ESPN2 Lone Star Law (TV14)	FOOD Lone Star Law (TV14)	FREEMFORM Lone Star Law (TV14)	FX Lone Star Law (TV14)	HGTV Lone Star Law (TV14)	HISTORY Lone Star Law (TV14)	LIFETIME Lone Star Law (TV14)	MTV Lone Star Law (TV14)	NEWSNAT Lone Star Law (TV14)	NICK Lone Star Law (TV14)	PARMT Lone Star Law (TV14)	SYFY Lone Star Law (TV14)	TBS Lone Star Law (TV14)	TCM Lone Star Law (TV14)	TLC Lone Star Law (TV14)	TNT Lone Star Law (TV14)	TRAVEL Lone Star Law (TV14)	TV LAND Lone Star Law (TV14)	USA Lone Star Law (TV14)	VH1 Lone Star Law (TV14)	HBO Lone Star Law (TV14)	MAX Lone Star Law (TV14)	SHOW Lone Star Law (TV14)

WEDNESDAY EVENING JANUARY 18, 2023

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30																													
BROADCAST	ABC Conners (TV14)	CBS Price Is Right (N)	NBC Chicago Med (TV14)	FOX The Masked Singer (TV14)	A&E The First 48 (TV14)	AMC The First 48 (TV14)	ANIMAL The First 48 (TV14)	BET The First 48 (TV14)	BRAVO The First 48 (TV14)	CARTOON The First 48 (TV14)	CMT The First 48 (TV14)	CNN The First 48 (TV14)	COMEDY The First 48 (TV14)	DISCOVERY The First 48 (TV14)	DISNEY The First 48 (TV14)	ESPN The First 48 (TV14)	ESPN2 The First 48 (TV14)	FOOD The First 48 (TV14)	FREEMFORM The First 48 (TV14)	FX The First 48 (TV14)	HGTV The First 48 (TV14)	HISTORY The First 48 (TV14)	LIFETIME The First 48 (TV14)	MTV The First 48 (TV14)	NEWSNAT The First 48 (TV14)	NICK The First 48 (TV14)	PARMT The First 48 (TV14)	SYFY The First 48 (TV14)	TBS The First 48 (TV14)	TCM The First 48 (TV14)	TLC The First 48 (TV14)	TNT The First 48 (TV14)	TRAVEL The First 48 (TV14)	TV LAND The First 48 (TV14)	USA The First 48 (TV14)	VH1 The First 48 (TV14)	HBO The First 48 (TV14)	MAX The First 48 (TV14)	SHOW The First 48 (TV14)

THURSDAY EVENING JANUARY 19, 2023

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30																													
BROADCAST	ABC Celebrity Jeopardy! (N)	CBS Young (N)	NBC Law & Order (TV14)	FOX Hell's Kitchen (N)	A&E Chicago P.D. (TV14)	AMC The First 48 (TV14)	ANIMAL The Parent Test (N)	BET S.W.A.T.: "Witness" (N)	BRAVO The Voice (TV14)	CARTOON Young (N)	CMT The Tonight Show (TV14)	CNN The Tonight Show (TV14)	COMEDY The Tonight Show (TV14)	DISCOVERY The Tonight Show (TV14)	DISNEY The Tonight Show (TV14)	ESPN The Tonight Show (TV14)	ESPN2 The Tonight Show (TV14)	FOOD The Tonight Show (TV14)	FREEMFORM The Tonight Show (TV14)	FX The Tonight Show (TV14)	HGTV The Tonight Show (TV14)	HISTORY The Tonight Show (TV14)	LIFETIME The Tonight Show (TV14)	MTV The Tonight Show (TV14)	NEWSNAT The Tonight Show (TV14)	NICK The Tonight Show (TV14)	PARMT The Tonight Show (TV14)	SYFY The Tonight Show (TV14)	TBS The Tonight Show (TV14)	TCM The Tonight Show (TV14)	TLC The Tonight Show (TV14)	TNT The Tonight Show (TV14)	TRAVEL The Tonight Show (TV14)	TV LAND The Tonight Show (TV14)	USA The Tonight Show (TV14)	VH1 The Tonight Show (TV14)	HBO The Tonight Show (TV14)	MAX The Tonight Show (TV14)	SHOW The Tonight Show (TV14)

Titans turn from losing AFC South title to hiring new GM

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



NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Titans enter the offseason at their earliest point since the 2018 season with more questions than wins, and they must hire a general manager before they can start figuring out their future.

The Titans ended a streak of six straight winning seasons by losing their final seven games to finish 7-10, their worst record since going 3-13 in 2015. Owner Amy Adams Strunk hired her first general manager, Jon Robinson, after that season.

She fired Robinson two losses into this season-ending skid. Strunk didn't speak to reporters but told the team website Monday that the Titans have been working on the search for the past month.

"We're not going to rush the process just to get someone in as quickly as possible," Strunk said. "The way we have it planned right now is we have two rounds, and we're going to see where these interviews take us."

The Titans requested permission to interview a handful of candidates Monday with San Francisco coach Kyle Shanahan confirming they had asked to talk to 49ers assistant GM Adam Peters and director of player personnel Ran Carthon. The Titans also requested an interview with Browns assistant GM Glenn Cook.

Ryan Cowden, the Titans' vice president of player personnel, assumed Robinson's duties after the firing. He is expected to be a candidate along with director of player personnel Monti Ossenfort. The Titans sent director of pro scouting Brian Gardner to two NFL sessions promoting mi-

nority candidates for front-office jobs.

Whoever is hired must bring in players who can stay healthy.

The Titans earned the AFC's No. 1 seed by going 12-5 a year ago despite using an NFL-record 91 players and followed that up leading the league yet again with 86 players used and 23 placed on injured reserve, including quarterback Ryan Tannehill.

"The short answer is that it wasn't good enough," coach Mike Vrabel said of a season that ended with a 20-16 loss at Jacksonville that cost Tennessee a third straight AFC South title.

Salary cap management

The Titans are \$17 million over the salary cap for 2023, the fourth-worst cap number in the league. The new GM's first job will be creating cap space with three-time Pro Bowl left tackle Taylor Lewan, who injured his right ACL for the second time in three seasons, a top candidate for the first cut.

Outside linebacker Bud Dupree could be a post-June 1 cut after missing 13 games since being the Titans' big offseason signing in 2021 coming off a torn ACL. Injuries limited linebacker Zach Cunningham to six games. Wide receiver Robert Woods

also could be cut despite leading the Titans with 53 catches for 527 yards.

Big decisions

The Titans will need to extend two-time Pro Bowl defensive lineman Jeffery Simmons even with his fifth-year option picked up last season after trading away Pro Bowl receiver A.J. Brown last April.

They hold the 11th overall pick in the draft and must decide what to do with Tannehill and two-time NFL rushing leader Derrick Henry entering the final year of their contracts. Are the Titans rebuilding or reloading as they look toward a future that includes plans to open a new, enclosed stadium for the 2026 season?

Tannehill had the NFL's highest salary cap number for 2022 after re-doing his deal in 2021, but that \$57.4 million dead cap number drops to \$18.8 million. Tannehill was limited to 12 starts and finished the season on injured reserve with torn ligaments in his right ankle after spraining it twice, the last on Dec. 18.

"I definitely have some good years left," said Tannehill, who turns 35 in July.

Henry is going into the final year of his contract having turned 29 last week. He finished second in the NFL in rushing with 1,538 yards and set a career high with 398 yards receiving. His 1,936 yards from scrimmage were the second most of his career.

Offensive woes

The Titans gave fans what they've wanted for months Monday, firing offensive coordinator Todd Downing along with three other assistants. Vrabel also fired offensive line coach

Keith Carter, secondary coach Anthony Midget and offensive skills assistant Erik Frazier. The team announced the moves approximately four hours after Vrabel spoke to reporters.

Downing spent two seasons running Tennessee's offense. His arrest Nov. 18 for speeding and driving under the influence hours after Tennessee's final win of the season was likely a factor in his dismissal. On the field, the Titans were outscored 196-94 after halftime — managing only 37 points in the fourth quarter.

Tennessee's injury woes hit the offense with top rookie Treyton Burks missing six games, and three original starting offensive linemen finishing on injured reserve.

Defense not problem

The Titans went 5-6 in one-score games. The defense did its part, holding opponents to 20 points or fewer in 11 games and finishing 14th in the NFL in points allowed (21.1 per game).

Only two-time All-Pro safety Kevin Byard and rookie cornerback Roger McCreary started every game on defense, and Simmons played the next most snaps at 840 despite spraining his left ankle on Oct. 23 and needing painkilling shots before each subsequent game.

Tennessee finished first against the run, giving up 76.9 yards per game, the second-lowest in the history of a franchise that began playing in 1960 as the Houston Oilers. However, the Titans finished last against the pass, giving up 274.8 yards a game.

Five first-year coaches in NFL playoffs

By **JOSH DUBOW**
AP Pro Football Writer

Coaching changes paid off in a big way for several teams this season.

From impressive turnarounds for Jacksonville and the New York Giants to big boosts for Minnesota and Miami, a record-setting five of the 10 teams that hired new coaches for the 2022 season made the playoffs.

Doug Pederson led the Jaguars on a worst-to-first flip in the AFC South, Brian Daboll helped the Giants go from last place to a wild-card berth, Kevin O'Connell took Minnesota from a losing record to 13 wins and an NFC North title, Mike McDaniel got Miami to its first playoff berth since 2016 and Todd Bowles helped Tampa Bay repeat as division champs for the first time in franchise history.

That broke the previous record of four coaches getting to the postseason in their first season with a team set in 1997 when Jim Fassel (Giants), Pete Carroll (Patriots), Bobby Ross (Lions) and Steve Mariucci (49ers) did it.

There were a record-tying 10 coaching changes last offseason and not all of the newcomers had success with Denver firing Nathaniel Hackett last month and Houston firing Lovie Smith on Sunday night.

Chicago's Matt Eberflus finished with the worst record in the NFL, Josh McDaniels turned a 10-win playoff team in Las Vegas into a 6-11 team, and the Saints had double-digit losses for the first time since 2005 in their first year under Dennis Allen.

The most impressive turnaround came in Jacksonville where Pederson helped the Jaguars become the first team since the 2008 Dolphins to win their division the season after posting the league's worst record.

Daboll's work helping the Giants go from 4-13 to 9-7-1 despite a flawed roster hurt by a staggering \$54.8 million in dead money on the salary cap to get to the postseason for the first time since 2016.

Bowles struggled a bit more as Tampa Bay won just eight games to become the fourth division winner in NFL history with a losing record. Two of the

previous three — the 2010 Seahawks (7-9) and 2014 Panthers (7-8-10) — won a playoff game, while Washington (7-9) lost to the Bucs in the 2020 playoffs.

The Texans are once again looking for a new coach after the rare, back-to-back seasons of one-year coaching tenures. Houston fired David Culley after his first season in 2021 and Smith this season.

The only other team since the merger to do that was the 49ers, who had three coaches in a row last a year or less from 1976-78 with Monte Clark, Ken Meyer, Pete McCulley, and did it again in 2015-16 with Jim Tomsula and Chip Kelly.

Rematch weekend

All six games on wild-card weekend are rematches from the regular season, including three matchups of division foes with Baltimore playing Cincinnati, Miami visiting Buffalo and San Francisco hosting Seattle.

Two of those three matchups ended in splits in the regular season with the Ravens and Bengals, and Dolphins and Bills splitting their two games.

The 49ers swept the Seahawks but know how little that matters after losing to the Rams in the NFC title game last season following two regular-season wins.

In the Super Bowl era, teams that swept an opponent in the regular season are 14-10 in a playoff rematch, including 13-6 when the game is at home like it is for the 49ers on Saturday.

In the other rematches, the Chargers are seeking to avenge a Week 3 loss to Jacksonville, the Giants are looking to do the same after losing to the Vikings in Week 16, and the Cowboys are trying to do it after losing in Week 1 to Tampa Bay.

This is the fifth time since the merger that every game in the opening round of the playoffs is a rematch from the regular season, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. It happened on four-game wild-card weekends in 2009, 2004, 1994 and 1992.

Streaking

The Niners are headed into the postseason on a quite a roll, having won the last 10 games of

the regular season with Jimmy Garoppolo starting the first five games and Brock Purdy the last five.

The last team to have two QBs with consecutive five-game winning streaks were the perfect Dolphins in 1972 with Bob Griese and Earl Morrall.

San Francisco is the 13th team in the Super Bowl era to end the regular season on a winning streak of at least 10 games.

The results of the previous 12 haven't been overly impressive with only three winning the Super Bowl with the 1972 Dolphins, 1976 Raiders and 2003 Patriots extending the streaks through the postseason.

Two others got to the Super Bowl before losing with the 1967 Raiders and 2007 Patriots falling in the final game.

Five of the teams lost their first playoff game: the 2019 Ravens, 2012 Broncos, 2009 Chargers, 2006 Chargers and 1993 Oilers.

Kansas City won a wild-card game in 2015 before losing in the division round and Pittsburgh won the division round game in 2004 before losing in the AFC title game.

Happy returns

Nyheim Hines' emotional kick return TDs for Buffalo on Sunday were historic as well.

Hines became the first Bills player to return the opening kick for a TD since Terrence McGee did it against Miami and added another later in the game to become the first player with two kick return TDs in a game since Leon Washington did it for Seattle in 2010.

Hines was also the last player with two punt-return touchdowns in the same game doing it in 2019 for the Colts and became the first player to have a game with at least with at least two kickoff-return touchdowns and one with at least two punt-return touchdowns in his career.

The returns gave the NFL nine combined punt and kick return TDs — the second fewest in the Super Bowl era to the seven in the nine-game, strike-shortened 1982 season.

Jags chemistry building among offensive weapons

By **MARK LONG**
AP Pro Football Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Zay Jones has been in the NFL long enough to realize — and appreciate — the uniqueness of Jacksonville's receiving group.

The Jaguars signed three pass catchers in free agency to help second-year quarterback Trevor Lawrence, and each of them delivered a career season.

Jones, fellow receiver Christian Kirk and tight end Evan Engram quickly bonded with Lawrence and became one of the most dynamic trios in the league.

They played significant roles in helping the Jaguars (9-8) win the AFC South for the second time in franchise history and will be counted on in a wild-card matchup against the Los Angeles Chargers (10-7) on Saturday night.

"It happened faster than I had even anticipated," Jones said. "We just started speaking the same language. Where did that come from? I think maybe the freedom and availability we have in this building to say anything and be ourselves."

Jones, Kirk and Engram have combined to catch 239 passes for 2,687 yards and 17 touchdowns, roughly 68% of Lawrence's completions and two-thirds of his TD passes.

Kirk leads the way with 84 receptions for 1,108 yards and eight touchdowns. Jones is close behind with 82 catches for 823 yards and five scores. Engram has 73 catches for 766 yards, with four TDs.

Together, they finished just shy of becoming the first NFL team to have three newcomers with 800 yards receiving each. "I think it comes down to guys really just being unselfish," Lawrence

said. "When there's really no egos, that makes things a lot easier for me to do my job to the best of my ability and not worry about who's getting the ball necessarily, just trying to get it to the right place."

No egos? Really? All four insist there has been no angst about who's finding the ball, who's finding the end zone or who's getting the credit.

"Everybody has a right to have some type of ego, but we don't," Engram said. "Everybody's had their day; everybody's had their success. And we see how much fun we're having winning. I've never been a part of a winning team like this. I'm going to keep doing whatever it takes to keep this going, and that's what they're going to do, too."

"We've got a special group and we're on a special path. We found a process that works along that path, and we're all committed to it."

It surely helps that all three newcomers got paid, at least to some extent. Kirk signed a four-year, \$72 million contract that included \$37 million guaranteed. Jones got \$24 million over three years, with \$14 million guaranteed. Engram gambled on himself by signing a one-year, \$9 million but likely will be the most sought-after tight end when free agency opens in March.

Engram hopes to remain in Jacksonville, and teammates already are openly campaigning for him to land a long-term deal.

Lawrence, Jones and Kirk believe they're just getting started, too. The Jaguars expect to add suspended receiver Calvin Ridley to the mix next month, but they don't want to disrupt the chemistry in what's emerged as the team's deepest and most talented groups.

Three-peat incoming? 'Dawgs have chance at football history

By GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

Kirby Smart has spent the past 16 years coaching at the top two powerhouses of this era in college football, so he already knew the question on everybody's mind the morning after his Georgia Bulldogs won their second straight College Football Playoff championship game.

"I really don't want to talk about three," Smart said Tuesday in a Los Angeles hotel ballroom shortly before the Bulldogs flew home.

Smart might not want to discuss it, but he couldn't deny he is already thinking about Georgia's chance to do something unprecedented in the last eight-plus decades of college football after obliterating TCU 65-7 in the most one-sided postseason college football game in history.

The Bulldogs have more national championships (2) than losses (1) over the past two seasons, establishing the new gold standard in college football after this 15-0 season.

They'll have a golden opportunity next year to play for a three-peat, which has

never been done in the AP poll era, which dates to 1936.

"Starting to think about the next one, I do think it's going to be much tougher," Smart said. "And I do think we're going to have to reinvent ourselves next year, because you can't just stay the same. We have a lot of guys that are going to come back, and it's easy to get comfortable. And comfortable does not win."

In the long history of the AP Top 25, no team has ever been awarded three national championships in a row by poll voters. Twelve teams, including Georgia this season, have been ranked No. 1 in consecutive seasons in the final Top 25 since the poll became an annual endeavor in 1936. A number of teams — notably Minnesota in the 1930s and Army in the 1940s — claimed threpeats as awarded by other polls.

No team has ever won three straight titles in the AP poll, the coaches' poll, the Bowl Championship Series or the College Football Playoff. That puts Georgia squarely on the cusp of history — with a good chance to make it.

"I mean, this place is spe-

cial," said Javon Bullard, the defensive back who will return in 2023 after making two interceptions and recovering a fumble against TCU. "Just growing up as a kid from the state of Georgia, playing for the University of Georgia, it's special. So the word 'dynasty,' it's something we're building together. And that was built before us, and it's going to continue to be built after us."

Sure, the Dawgs' personnel losses will be significant: The remarkable career of 25-year-old quarterback Stetson Bennett is finally over, while standout defensive tackle Jalen Carter declared for the NFL draft immediately after the game. Other expected losses include defensive backs Kelee Ringo and Christopher Smith, giant tight end Darnell Washington, linebacker Robert Beal and a chunk of the offensive line.

But waves of talent have hit Georgia every year of Smart's tenure at his alma mater. The Dawgs have another bumper recruiting class alongside the addition of several elite players in the transfer portal, most notably the leading re-

ceivers at Mississippi State (Rara Thomas) and Missouri (Dominic Lovett).

Georgia also has a remarkably comfortable schedule in 2023, with a late-season trip to Tennessee looming as probably the biggest obstacle to another unbeaten regular season and trip to the SEC title game.

Vegas agrees: The Bulldogs are the 3-to-1 favorite to three-peat, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

In the bigger picture, Georgia will need years to rack up the accolades of Nick Saban's Alabama era. The Bulldogs have won two national titles and two SEC championships under Smart; six of Saban's seven national titles and eight conference titles have come with the Crimson Tide.

But Georgia is only the fourth team since 1980 to win two straight national titles and to reach this precipice of history.

The last team to get this close to a three-peat also was Alabama, which won national titles in 2011 and in 2012. The Tide began 2013 ranked No. 1 and won their first 11 games, but Auburn kept Alabama out of the SEC

championship game and the final BCS title game with the legendary Kick Six — Chris Davis' 109-yard return of a missed field goal for a touchdown on the final play of the game.

Southern California got within a few minutes of a third straight national title back in 2005 after going undefeated all the way to the BCS title game at the Rose Bowl. The Trojans' bid ended in heartbreaking fashion with Texas' 41-38 victory led by Vince Young in one of the sport's greatest games.

College football is always changing, and Georgia got another reminder Tuesday when beloved quarterback Stetson Bennett elected not to come to the traditional morning-after news conference.

Bennett, who hopes for an NFL career that would be even more improbable than his college ascent, said on the field after the game that his obligations to Georgia were finished after the final whistle.

"I know he's got G.O.A.T. status in Athens, Georgia, forever," Smart said.

Bennett once again an underdog in draft class

By CHARLES ODUM
AP Sports Writer

Stetson Bennett has a new world of doubters to disprove.

After winning a second consecutive national championship at Georgia, the 25-year-old quarterback is now facing questions about his NFL draft qualifications.

Bennett (5-11, 190) is seen as undersized and lacking elite arm strength — the same questions he faced when he walked on at Georgia in 2017. After leaving for junior college and returning to win back-to-back titles, including Monday night's 65-7 rout of TCU, Bennett is being excluded from the list of top quarterback prospects in the April NFL draft.

After watching Bennett pass for four touchdowns and rush for two scores against TCU, Georgia coach Kirby Smart said draft experts are making the same mistake college recruiters made six years ago.

"When you have a quarterback that can do the protections and check things and know what the defense is doing, yet still beat you with his feet, you've got a high-level quarterback," Smart said. "And people have slept on Stetson Bennett for too long. He needs an opportunity to play for a long time at the next level."

College football has a long list of standout QBs who never caught fire in the NFL. Just among two-time national championship winners,

that list includes Matt Leinert (USC), A.J. McCarron (Alabama) and Tim Tebow (Florida). McCarron was a fifth-round pick; Leinert and Tebow, both Heisman Trophy winners, went in the first round.

Bennett never allowed himself to forget his background as a walk-on. He remained driven through the end of his college career. He was not satisfied with his performance in Georgia's 42-41 College Football Playoff semifinal win over Ohio State so he capped his career with perhaps his best game, according to Smart.

Bennett completed 18 of 25 passes for 304 yards. Both TD runs and two of his four scoring passes came in the first half as the Bulldogs (15-

0) built a 38-7 lead. He added two third-quarter scoring passes before Smart took him out to an ovation from Georgia fans.

Bennett was named offensive player of the game in each of his four CFP games, all of them wins.

Even so, Alabama's Bryce Young, Ohio State's C.J. Stroud, Kentucky's Will Levis, Tennessee's Hendon Hooker and Florida's Anthony Richardson are among the quarterbacks expected to be selected in the first two rounds while Bennett may have to wait until the third day of the draft.

Dane Bugler, NFL draft analyst for The Athletic, said Bennett's draft outlook has improved this season but he is still viewed as a possible late-round pick who will "be drafted to be a backup, not a

starter."

"About midway through this season was when I started to hear from scouts that Bennett had a realistic chance of being drafted," Bugler said Tuesday. "And those chances only increased with the way he finished the season."

ESPN draft analyst Matt Miller said Bennett was projected as a possible undrafted free agent before the season but has improved his draft outlook.

"His lack of size and arm strength are still issues and there will be those who believe the supporting cast around him elevate his game, but Bennett's poise and toughness paired with his accuracy and timing give him a chance to stick in the NFL," Miller said.

Because he returned for his sixth season made possible by the NCAA because of the pandemic, Bennett is older than some quarterbacks selected in the 2022 draft.

Bugler said Bennett has an "average arm."

"Will stare down targets and his accuracy is good, not great," Bugler said. "But he has very good awareness and anticipation. Better athlete than expected. Really tough, both physically and mentally."

Bennett said before the Peach Bowl he won't be deterred by those who question his potential to play in the NFL.

"I will not be making the call to cut off my football career unless my leg gets cut off early," Bennett said. "That will be somebody else's call."

ESTATE AUCTION
SATURDAY, JANUARY 21ST - 10:00 AM
440 Cathey St., Lewisburg, TN

The Estate of Rose Marie Griffin
By Order of the Chancery Court, Marshall County, TN
House and Lot - Personal Property

Directions: From S. Ellington Pkwy in Lewisburg take Spring Place Road toward town to Cathey Street.

Real Estate Will Sell at 12:00 Noon



House and lot featuring living room, dining room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bath, utility room, carport, outbuildings and nice chain link fenced lot.

PERSONAL PROPERTY
Bedroom Suite, Night Stand, Dressers, Chest, Lamps, Oak Center Table, Metal Bed, Rocker, Coffee Table, End Tables, What-not stand, Telephone Desk, Jewelry boxes, Entertainment Center, Rolling cart, Dishes, Glassware, Carnival Glass Pitcher & Candy Dishes, Dolls, Albums, VCR, Books, Electric Fans, Hand Tools, Yard Tools, Yard Swing & Stand, Commemorative Coins, Nice Dog Pen and Many Other Items to numerous to list.

Note: Houses built prior to 1978 may contain Lead Based Paint. Buyers will be required to sign a waiver for Lead Based Paint day of sale.

Terms: Real Estate - 20% down day of sale, balance due with final court approval. The 2022 taxes will be paid by the buyer. Deed will be delivered and possession given upon confirmation of the sale by the Chancery Court and closing date no later than February 27, 2023.

Personal Property - Cash or Check with proper ID day of sale.

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Rodgers' future uncertain after Packers miss playoffs

By STEVE MEGARGEE
AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Aaron Rodgers wants to think it over for a while before the four-time MVP decides whether he wants to return to the Green Bay Packers for a 19th season.

The 39-year-old quarterback also noted the choice isn't solely his to make. The Packers have to want him back.

"I think to assume it's a foregone conclusion would be probably slightly egotistical," Rodgers said Sunday night regarding the Packers' interest in his return. "But I'm going to be a realist here and understand that there's a lot of different parts to this."

Rodgers' future is the biggest issue facing the Packers (8-9) as they move forward now that a 20-16 loss to the Detroit Lions has kept them out of the playoffs to end a string of three straight postseason berths.

Packers coach Matt LaFleur said after Sunday night's game that he "absolutely" wants Rodgers back.

Rodgers didn't approach the MVP form of his 2020 and 2021 seasons. His 12 interceptions — he threw only 13 combined from 2019-21 — were one off the career high he set as a first-year starter in 2008. His passer rating was the lowest of his career.

"I think there were a lot of variables in play this year," LaFleur said Monday. "I really do. And sure, are there some things that he could've done better? Absolutely. Just like there are some things that I know I could've done better and you can go right down the line to every coach, to

every player."

Rodgers played much of the season with a broken right thumb and injured his ribs during a Nov. 27 loss at Philadelphia. If Rodgers isn't back, the Packers likely would turn to 2020 first-round pick Jordan Love, who has just one career start but performed well in relief of an injured Rodgers in the Eagles game.

After Sunday's game, Rodgers discussed factors he'd consider.

"Do I feel like I have anything left to prove to myself?" Rodgers said. "Do I want to go back and gear up for another grind? Or is it time? Is it time to step away? Is it time for another voice to be leading this team? I think I need to get away and contemplate those things, and those are real to me, and I have a lot of pride in what I've accomplished in this league, but I'm also a realist and I understand where we're at as a team."

"We're a young team. There could be some changes with some of the older guys and it could be time to step away. But I could take some time and say, 'Hell no, I need to get back out there and go on another run.' But I'll have to see what it feels like once I'm away from it."

Red zone issues

The Packers lost both their games with the Lions because of red zone struggles that hurt them all season. Green Bay scored touchdowns on just 11 of its 22 goal-to-go situations, the worst percentage of any NFL team and the lowest for any Packers squad since 2006.