

— THE SEWANEE MOUNTAIN — MESSENGER

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Dr. Roger D. Alsup

Franklin County Board of Education Names Dr. Roger D. Alsup as Next Director of Schools

Following an official vote during Monday's board meeting, the Franklin County Board of Education is proud to announce that Dr. Roger D. Alsup has been appointed as the next Director of Schools, effective July 1, 2026.

Dr. Alsup, who currently serves as the district's Deputy Director of Schools and Human Resources Supervisor, will succeed Dr. Holman, who is concluding his tenure at the end of the 2025-2026 academic year.

Board Chair Cleijo Walker cited Dr. Alsup's deep ties to the community and his proven track record of academic improvement as key factors in the Board's decision. "We are fortunate to have Dr. Alsup as our next Director of Schools. Dr. Alsup has been in our system for the last ten years and he and his family are embedded in our community. He has served as an administrator, Human Resources Supervisor, and Deputy Director of Schools. Dr. Alsup is familiar with the schools in our system, our teachers and staff, and is well versed in all aspects of the Franklin County School System. He has had the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Holman for the last two years and the transition to Director should be a smooth one. I look forward to working with Dr. Alsup as we fulfill our commitment to making our schools better and better!"

Dr. Alsup's career in Franklin County is marked by significant achievements. As Principal of Franklin County High School (2016-2024), he was named the 2021 Franklin County Principal of the Year. Under his leadership, the school's TVAAS composite score rose from a Level 1 to a Level 5, and chronic absenteeism was reduced by over 4 percent. He also spearheaded critical safety enhancements, including the installation of controlled access entries and the implementation of active shooter

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St. George's Episcopal Church Choir



University Choir

Choral Evensong of Over 100 Voices at All Saints' Chapel

On Sunday, Feb. 22, at 4 p.m. Central the choir of St. George's Episcopal Church, Nashville comes to Sewanee for a joint evensong with The University Choir. Hear a choir of over 100 voices in All Saints Chapel led by St. George's Dr. Woosug Kang, music director, and Gerry Senegal, organist, and Sewanee's Dr. Geoffrey Ward, university organist and choir master, and Stephanie Yoder, assistant university organist. Rev. Leigh C. Preston will officiate.

Hannah Palmer Lecture: 'How to Tend to A Ghost Pool'

We're always delighted when Sewanee School of Letters alumni can return to campus to talk about their book publications and projects, so we're pleased to invite you to a lecture on Monday, Feb. 16 with Hannah Palmer, sponsored by the Roberson Project.

Hannah S. Palmer, L'11, is a writer and artist from the south-side of Atlanta. Through essays, memoir, and public art projects, she explores the hidden histories and wildness that shape our lives in the urban landscape. Her award-winning memoir "Flight Path: A Search for Roots beneath the World's Busiest Airport" (2017) was included on Atlanta Magazine's list of "essential books that explain today's Atlanta." Palmer's newest book, "The Pool Is Closed: Segregation, Summertime, and the Search for a Place to Swim," (2024) considers her neighborhood "ghost pools" in the context of investment and disinvestment in public parks and infrastructure throughout the 20th Century. John Jeremiah Sullivan describes Palmer as "[having] one of the most interesting brains in the new crop of writers who are re-examining the psycho-geography of the South. She has moved from airports and lost neighborhoods to pools but



Hannah Palmer

continues to ask deeper questions about the power grids that mark the landscape."

Palmer's lecture, "How To Tend To A Ghost Pool," will be at 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 16, in Convocation Hall. This event is co-sponsored by the Roberson Project and is free and open to the public.

For more information about the event and the work the Roberson Project has done to help preserve the site, please visit their website <https://robersonproject.sewanee.edu/>.

Franklin County Schools' Startling Leadership Changes

by Leslie Lytle, Messenger Staff Writer

"Thank you for your confidence. What an honor to lead Franklin County School District," said Human Resources Supervisor Roger Alsup in response to the unanimous vote electing him to serve as the Director of Schools at the Feb. 9 Franklin County School Board meeting. "Dr. Holman, thank you for your support and encouragement," Alsup added. "We talked about this many times." In October, Director of School Cary Holman informed the board in a letter he would not seek contract renewal in June when his three-year contract expired.

"I am looking forward to return-

ing home to be with my family," Holman said when asked about his reason for not seeking contract renewal.

"His wife and son are still in Murfreesboro. His son is in the eighth grade," observed board member Sarah Marhevsky, speculating on Holman's decision. "I think a big part of it is his working far from his family during his son's formative years."

There was some discussion among the board members about interviewing candidates for the director role. "There are multiple director of schools spots open in

(Continued on page 5)

Swim Pool Workshop

The Roberson Project on Race, Slavery, and Reconciliation is proud to present the photography workshop with artist Colby Caldwell and writer Hannah Palmer from 2-4 p.m., on Sunday, Feb. 15. The event will start at the St. Mark's Community Center.

Artist Colby Caldwell will guide the community members through the process of digital and analog scanning of the pool in the St. Mark's neighborhood to produce a unique topological map of the site. Weaving both analog and digital methods of visually analyzing the pool site, the photography workshop continues to expand the community effort to remember the site and imagine its future. The event follows Vanderbilt University artist Vesna Pavlović's reimagining of the site in the fall of 2024 and the "The Air We Breathe is Not Invisible" art event that took place in May 2025. Inspired by the "Swim Pool" history and memory, Pavlović collaborated with the Roberson Project and the University's Facilities Management to turn the pool into a garden of Spanish Bluebells. This event is free and open to everyone. To learn more, please visit: <https://robersonproject.sewanee.edu/>.

Colby Caldwell (American, born 1965), once a student of history, has tested virtually every avenue of the personal uses of photography as an instrument of memory. over & under, his most recent solo show, opened at HEMPHILL in Washington, D.C., in May of 2022. A review in the Washington Post commented, "Caldwell communes with the forest as he denatures it, conveying the threat to the natural world in partly mangled images." His work is featured in The Art of the State book that surveys contemporary art in his home state of North Carolina. His work is represented by HEMPHILL Art Works in Washington, D.C., and Tracey Morgan Gallery in Asheville, N.C. Colby was a tenured Professor of Art at St. Mary's College of Maryland from 2002-2013. He moved to Asheville, N.C. in 2013 and has taught at Warren Wilson College and Western Carolina University as a Visiting Professor. In 2015, he co-founded REVOLVE, an art hub that hosts and encourages experimental work. Colby is a founding member of Photo+. Currently a visiting Artist at WCU for AY 2025/26, Colby has a commission on view at the North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, N.C.

Public Visioning Open House for Head of the Crow

Join us for the Head of the Crow State Park public visioning open house. Tennessee State Parks is hosting an open house 5-7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 17, at St. Mark's Community Center, 481 Alabama Ave., Sewanee. We want to hear the public's vision about the future of the Head of the Crow State Park. Opened in October 2025, Head of the Crow is Tennessee's newest state park. Caves, sinkholes, trails, and forests span the 4,200-acre landscape, and it is home to the rare endemic Painted Tiger Snail.

This open house event is for you to share your thoughts, opinions, and ideas about what amenities, facilities, and trails can be added and improved across the park. We want to hear from you. Feel free to drop in any time. RSVP by visiting bit.ly/HOTC_SP.

P.O. Box 296
Sewanee, TN 37375

Summary of the January 2026 Lease Committee Meeting

The following items were approved: December minutes. Leasehold information is available online at leases.sewanee.edu or by calling the lease office at (931) 598-1998.

Please be sure and contact the Franklin County Planning and Zoning for any needed permits as well as the local utility companies to ensure there are no issues before beginning your project.

Planning and Zoning office, (931) 967-0981; Duck River Electric Membership Corporation, (931) 598-5228; Sewanee Utility District, water and sewer, (931) 598-5611; Elk River Public Utility District, natural gas, (931) 967-2110.

Agenda items are due by the fifth of each month for Lease Committee meetings. If the fifth falls on a weekend, then items are due the following Monday. Lease Committee meetings are normally the third Tuesday of the month.

Local Food Available

The South Cumberland Farmers' Market has breads, fruits, vegetables, eggs, coffee, meats and more available. Ordering is online from Friday at 9 p.m. to Monday at noon. Pickup is on Tuesdays, 4-6 p.m., at the Sewanee Community Center. To order go to <https://openfoodnetwork.net/south-cumberland-farmer-s-market/shop>.



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University Job Opportunities

Exempt Positions: Associate Dean of Students, College of Arts & Science; Director of Greek and Student Involvement, College of Arts & Sciences; Director, University Health Services, University Health Services; Forest Research and Education Biologist, Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability; Mineral Physics, Postdoctoral Fellowship, Earth and Environmental Systems; University Registrar, Provost's Office.

Non-Exempt Positions: Access Services Coordinator, Library and Information Technology Services; Accounting Administrator, Facilities Management Administration; BAS (Building Automation Systems) HVAC Tech, Finance & Treasurer; Business Office Specialist for Accounts Payable, Finance & Treasurer; Campus Security Officer, On-Call, Public Safety, Sewanee Police Department; Catering Team Lead, Sewanee Dining; Fire Alarm Technician, Facilities Management; FitWell Group Exercise Instructor, Flourishing Wellness Center; Medical Assistant, University Health Services; On-Call Catering Attendant, Sewanee Dining; On-Call, Stable Assistant, Athletics, Equestrian



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For more information call (931) 598-1381. Apply at jobs.sewanee.edu.

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Please keep the following individuals, their families and all those who are serving our country in your thoughts and prayers:

Brandon Brawley
Justin Brawley
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Mark Gallagher
Nathaniel P. Gallagher
Peter Green
Zachary Green
Jackson B. Guenther
Steven Tyler Jeffery
Gabriel Lloyd
Waylon Case McBee
Bailey Jackson McLean
Andrew Midgett
Jose D. Ramirez III
Troy (Nick) Sepulveda
Zachary Sherrill
Allison Tucker
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If you know of others in our Mountain family who are serving our country, please give their names to American Legion and Auxiliary member Shirley M. Lawson at slawson@sewanee.edu.



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Letters to the editor are welcome at the Sewanee Mountain Messenger and are a vital part of our community's conversation. Letters need to be no longer than 250 words and may be edited for space and clarity. We make exceptions from time to time, but these are our general guidelines. We strive to print all letters we receive, but publication is not guaranteed. Letters should be factually accurate. Letters that are deemed unsuitable for publication shall not be printed elsewhere in the newspaper, including as a paid advertisement.

Letters and/or their author must have some relationship to our community. We do not accept letters on national topics from individuals who live outside our print circulation area. Please include your name, address and a daytime telephone number with your letter. You may mail it to us at Sewanee Mountain Messenger, P.O. Box 296, Sewanee, TN 37375, leave it at our office, 418 St. Mary's Ln., or send your email to news@sewanemessenger.com. — KB

MESSENGER INFORMATION

Phone: (931) 598-9949

Display Advertising
Deadline: Monday, 5 p.m.
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Deadline: Tuesday, 5 p.m.
Kiki Beavers
news@sewanemessenger.com

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Deadline: Wednesday, noon
April Minkler
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MESSENGER HOURS

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
9 a.m. to noon
Thursday — Production Day Closed
Friday — Circulation Day Closed

MMUMC Food Distribution

Morton Memorial United Methodist Church located at 322 W. Main St., in Monteagle, will be distributing food on Saturday, Feb. 14, from 8–10 a.m. All in need are welcome to come. Drivers should enter the line from behind the church and park where our helpers will guide you. Volunteers will load your car for you. Expect several bags of groceries, so please make room for these shelf stable items, some frozen items, and produce before you come. Morton Memorial distributes food the second Saturday of every month come rain or shine.

43rd Annual Community Service Award Nominations Accepted

The Sewanee Civic Association invites nominations for the 43rd annual Community Service Award. The award recognizes the person or organization that has made outstanding contributions to our community. The recipient is one who has helped make Sewanee a better place and has improved the quality of life for everyone in the area. Nominations are due by Friday, March 13.

Past recipients are not eligible to receive the award again. Send the name of your nominee, along with a paragraph of why you are nominating the person or group, via email <sewanecommunitychest@gmail.com>. Nominations can also be mailed to the Sewanee Civic Association, P.O. Box 99, Sewanee, TN 37375.

The service awards will be presented at the SCA annual membership meeting that is planned for Monday, May 4. Please join us to celebrate those who serve the community.

Past recipients include Ken and Lynn Taylor; Leslie and Dale Richardson; Georgia Hewitt; Felix Wilson; Sue Scruggs; John Solomon; Kiki Beavers; Mountain Mask Initiative; Amanda Knight; the Sherrill family; Sarah Marhevsky; Kat O'Donohue; Mickey Suarez; GSA Allies; Pixie Dozier; Barbara Schlichting; Helen Bailey; Sewanee Youth Soccer; Dr. Matt Petrilla; Harry and Jean Yeatman; Marshall Hawkins; Karen Keele; Helen Shedd; Tom Watson; Susan Binkley; the Sewanee Senior Center Food Pantry (Lena McBee, Sue Hawkins, Charlsie Green); George and Ruth Ramseur; Dr. John Gessell; Dora Turner; the Community Action Committee; Geraldine Hewitt Picard; Myrtis Keppler; Connie Warner; Ina May Myers; Pete Green; Duval and Boo Cravens; Housing Sewanee; Betty Nick Chitty; Harry and Millie Dodd; the Sisters of St. Mary; Martha Dugan; Emerald-Hodgson Hospital Auxiliary; David Green; Joe David McBee; Robert Lancaster; Maria Webb; Doug Cameron; Galon Sherrill; Phoebe Bates; Marilyn Powell; and Louise Irwin.



Upcoming Meetings

American Legion

American Legion Post 51 is scheduled to meet at 9 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 14, at the Legion Hall in Sewanee. This is weather permitting.

Coffee with the Coach

Coffee with the Coach, an opportunity to learn more about Sewanee's sports teams, will meet at 9 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 17, with Softball coach Merritt Yackey, at the McGriff Alumni House. Coffee with the Coach will be livestreamed every week on <sewanetigers.com/watch/>.

Monteagle-Sewanee Rotary Club

The Monteagle-Sewanee Rotary Club will meet at 8 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 19, at St. Mary's Sewanee. Lindsay Hayler with Uplift Wellness will present the program.

Franklin County Commission

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m., Monday, Feb. 23, at the courthouse in Winchester.

Town of Monteagle

The Monteagle Town Council is scheduled to meet at 5 p.m., Monday, Feb. 23, in the conference room at City Hall.

The Town of Monteagle will have a public hearing at 9 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026, at Monteagle Town Hall located at 16 Dixie Lee Ave., Monteagle. The purpose of the hearing is to present and discuss the accomplishments of the 2023 Monteagle CDBG Fire Equipment Project. Individuals with disabilities who require special accommodation to participate in the meeting are encouraged to contact the town at (931) 924-2265 in advance. Monteagle is an equal opportunity provider and employer and does not discriminate based on race, sex, age, national origin, or physical disability.

Sewanee Utility District

The Sewanee Utility District of Franklin and Marion Counties Board of Commissioners is scheduled to meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 24, at the utility office on Sherwood Road. If a customer is unable to attend but wishes to bring a matter to the board, call (931) 598-5611, visit the office, or call a board member. The board members are Amanda Bailey, Chris McBee, Donnie McBee, Charlie Smith, and Clay Yeatman.

FCDP Monthly Meeting

The Franklin County Democratic Party is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 24, in the Franklin County Annex, Small Meeting Room, 839 Dinah Shore Blvd., Winchester. Meet our new 1st Vice Chair, Victor Gonzalez and help chart our course going into the midterms.

Sewanee Civic Association

The Sewanee Civic Association will meet at 6 p.m., Monday, March 2, in Kennerly Hall, St. Mark and St. Paul. Social time with wine begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and a brief business meeting. The program will be on "SES Celebrates 100 Years," presented by Kathryn Bruce and Allison Dietz.

Items for the business meeting include the proposed SCA budget, call for community service nominations, and the slate of officers announced. Reservations for dinner are due by Friday, Feb. 27, via email <sewanecommunitychest@gmail.com>.

This year, the SCA is celebrating 117 years of social and service opportunities for the community. Any adult who resides in the area and shares concerns of the community is invited to participate and become a member. For more information go to <sewanecivic.org>.

Sewanee Community Council

The next meeting of the Community Council is scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2026, at 7 p.m. We have reserved Monday, Feb. 23, 2026, as a possible meeting date and will meet then if there are urgent concerns. Agenda items were due on Feb. 11.

Donations Work Here

The 2025-26 Sewanee Community Chest Fund Drive is 95 percent away from the \$118,500 goal to support 19 local organizations providing essential services — quality of life programs, community aid, children's initiatives, and more.

Your donation makes a real difference. It's your generosity that fuels the Sewanee Community Chest's outreach and keeps our local organizations running. Check in with our friends at the Sewanee Children's Center, Animal Harbor, Folks at Home, the Sewanee Elementary Parent Organization, and many other organizations, and you'll hear the same story — they couldn't fulfill their missions without funding from the Sewanee Community Chest.

The Sewanee Community Chest is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and donations are tax-deductible. Send your donation to Sewanee Community Chest, P.O. Box 99, Sewanee, TN 37375. For more information go to <www.sewanecivic.org>. Go to <<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/119597>> to give through PayPal Giving.

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Nominations Open for the SCA Board

The Sewanee Civic Association invites nominations for open positions on the 2026-27 Board of Directors. Experience working in fundraising and for nonprofits is a plus, but any adult who resides in the area and shares concerns of the community is welcome.

Nominations are due by Monday, Feb. 16, 2026. The slate will be presented at the March 2, 2026 membership meeting. Voting will occur at the annual membership meeting on May 4. For more information, email at <sewanecommunitychest@gmail.com>.

Donations Needed for Sewanee Fourth of July

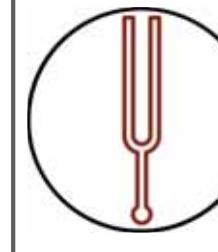
In preparation for the 40th Sewanee Fourth of July Celebration, the committee is starting to rebuild the children's games. The Sewanee Fourth of July Committee seeks donations of lumber, such as 2x4s, plywood, wooden dowel pegs, or any scrap lumber. Please contact Savannah McClure at <savpaigeg728@gmail.com>.

Volunteers are also needed to help plan the celebration. Planning meetings will start in mid-March. If you would like to be involved with planning for the parade, children's games, Almost World Famous Mutt Show and more, please email <sewaneejuly4th@gmail.com>.

Hospitality Shop News

Regular hours for the Shop are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday. The Shop is located at 1096 University Ave., Sewanee. There is a half-price sale continuing throughout the store.

The Shop is in the process of moving to a new location, 574 Georgia Ave., in Sewanee. Donation processes will resume on March 2.



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Church News

All Saints' Chapel

Services during the Academic Year: Sunday, All Saints' Chapel, 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 1; 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2; and 6:30 p.m. Growing in Grace.

Monday-Friday, St. Augustine's Chapel, 8:30 a.m., Morning Prayer; 4 p.m., Evening Prayer. All Saints' Chapel, noon, Quiet Hour.

Wednesday, Meditation Chapel, 7 a.m., Christian Meditation. All Saints' Chapel, 6 p.m., Choral Evensong, sung by The School of Theology Schola Cantorum.

Wednesday, Feb. 18 is Ash Wednesday. All Saints' Chapel will offer two services, one at 8 a.m. and another at 5:15 p.m. The second service is in collaboration with the School of Theology, and it will include music by the University Choir.

Christ Church Monteagle

This Sunday is The Sunday next before Lent. The traditional Epistle Reading is from I Corinthians 13. It is one of the readings which is often read at Weddings. Its use here is a kind of reminder that all of our Lenten efforts are of little or no value if we have not "Faith, Hope, and Love."

Ash Wednesday is on Feb. 18 this year. The Ash Wednesday service at Christ Church is at noon. Over the years attendance at Ash Wednesday services has increased in certain parts of the world and yet has plummeted in others. It is not kept in the Orthodox Churches of the East, although they have a long and stringent Lent.

Christ Church will be kept open for prayer both before and after the noon service on Ash Wednesday. Remember then that the Sundays are "in" and not "of" Lent. As the saying goes, "Each Sunday is a little Easter." That does not mean you can "pig out" on Sundays. It means that you know that Jesus Christ is risen and ascended, and you know the "Via Dolorosa" is a pilgrimage and not an end.

Christ Episcopal Church

Christ Episcopal Church of Tracy City is beginning a study of the Lectionary readings for each Sunday before the service. The study is at 10 a.m., Sundays, in the Parish Hall which is next door to the Church. The study will be hosted by the Rev. Marion Rectenwald. Marion is a retired priest who served for many years on a Lakota Indian reservation in South Dakota. Our regular service hour is 11 a.m. each Sunday with Eucharist and organ music.

City Light Church

City Light Church in Monteagle exists to see people changed by the love of Jesus and fulfill their purpose. We are located at 841 W. Main St., Monteagle, and offer

services at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sundays. Our children's ministry offers a safe and exciting environment for children newborn to fifth grade. Find out more at www.citylightchurch.cc.

Draw Near

Draw Near is a new church at 301 Montgomery St., Cowan, that is all about becoming disciples of Jesus one person at a time through real relationships. Come as you are and experience authentic worship at 10 a.m., Sunday. Classes for 2 years through fifth grade.

Community Ash Wednesday Service

The various Cowan churches will join for a shared Ash Wednesday Service on Feb. 18, 6 p.m., at Cowan First Baptist Church. The Rev'd Roger Speer will be our speaker and the host church will lead in music and song.

Ash Wednesday is the first day in the Season of Lent — a 40-day period of fasting and prayer that leads to the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection from the grave.

At the service all are invited to be marked with ashes on the forehead. The ashes remind us that we are sinners facing the reality of our own death and in need of the good news that Jesus brings in the Resurrection.

Come and join us in this special time of worship, reflection and preparation. Cowan First Baptist Church is located at 316 W. Cumberland St. The service is sponsored by the Cowan Ministerial Association.

Morton Memorial United Methodist

Transfiguration Sunday will be observed Sunday, Feb. 15, at Morton Memorial UMC. Rev. Melisa Derseweh will preach from the text of Exodus 24:12-18 with a message "On This Sunday," as we prepare to begin Lent this week. Violinist Rebecca Van De Ven will enhance our worship with music selections. A covered dish fellowship meal will follow worship.

Children are welcome at Morton! Pastor Melisa will have a children's time during worship. Our children's message this week will be focusing on the transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9). Following their worship time, children will leave for time together in activities.

Ash Wednesday will be observed Feb. 18 with a morning devotional at 7:30-7:45 a.m., in the Sanctuary followed by Imposition of Ashes available under the porte cochere 7:50-8:15 a.m. Then at 5:30 a simple soup supper will be provided. The Ash Wednesday evening worship will begin at 6:30 p.m. with music, readings and Imposition of Ashes.

To learn more, accept this invitation to worship with us. Morton

is located at 322 West Main St., in Monteagle. Worship begins at 11 a.m. In addition to a thought-provoking message, there is always inspirational music. If you are unable to attend and want to sample worship, the service is live streamed at Morton's Facebook page and is available on YouTube in the week following the service.

Morton has many active ministries and missions. Our Mission Moment in this Sunday's worship service will be about our partnership with Monteagle Elementary School. This Saturday, from 8-10 a.m., our Food Mission team will offer substantial food baskets to approximately 250 families. To receive food, drivers should enter the food distribution line, which

begins behind the church. Volunteers are also welcome, should arrive before 7:45 a.m. and are asked to park in the CVS lot next door.

St. James Episcopal

St. James Episcopal Church celebrates The Holy Eucharist each Sunday at 9 a.m. We have a Parish Potluck the first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. Our Daughters of the King chapter meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. The Men's Breakfast Group meets the first Saturday of the month. We gather each Sunday after church for refreshments and fellowship. St. James is located at 898 Midway Rd., Sewanee. All are welcome to experience love, hope, and joyful fellowship at St. James.

St. Mark and St. Paul

This Sunday the Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. The 11 a.m. service will be livestreamed on our Facebook page and remains available there.

Nursery Services: Infants and toddlers through three years old are invited to gather downstairs in Claiborne Hall.

This week in Sunday Forum, the Rev. Dr. Britta Meiers Carlson will discuss "The Sanctuary Church and the Pilgrim People of God." The presentation will discuss the ancient roots of sanctuary as the provision of refuge in the church and rooted in God's mercy. We will then consider what contemporary

(Continued on page 5)

Church Calendar

Abundant Life Assembly of God, Cowan	10:30 a.m. Morning Service, Sunday
All Saints' Chapel	8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 1, Sunday
	11 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2, Sunday
Bible Baptist Church, Monteagle	10 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday
	5:30 p.m. Evening Service, Sunday
	5:30 p.m. Evening Worship, Wednesday
Calvary Baptist Church, Winchester	10 a.m. Sunday School
	11 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday
	4 p.m. Evening Worship, Sunday
	7 p.m. Prayer Meeting, Wednesday
Chapman Chapel Church of the Nazarene, Pelham	9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Sunday
	10:45 a.m. Morning Worship, Sunday
	6 p.m. Evening Worship, Sunday
	7 p.m. Bible study, Wednesday
Christ Church Monteagle	10:45 a.m. Holy Communion, Sunday
Christ Church, Tracy City	10 a.m. Bible Study, Sunday
	11 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Sunday
Christ the King Anglican Church, Decherd	9 a.m. Sunday Service, Sunday
	6:30 p.m. Healing/prayer service
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Winchester	9 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday
City Light Church, Monteagle	9:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday
	11 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday
Cowan Fellowship Church	11 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday
Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Cowan	11 a.m. Worship, Sunday
Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Monteagle	9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Sunday
	11 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday
Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Sewanee	9 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday
	10 a.m. Sunday School, Sunday
Decherd Presbyterian Church	11 a.m. Worship (Sunday)
Decherd United Methodist Church	9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Sunday
	10:50 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday
Draw Near (non-denominational), Cowan	10 a.m. Worship, Sunday
Epiphany Mission, Sherwood	10 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, Sunday
First Baptist Church, Cowan	9:15 a.m. Sunday School, Sunday
	10:25 a.m. Worship, Sunday
First Church of the Nazarene, Cowan	11 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday
Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Decherd	5 p.m. Mass, Saturday
	10:30 a.m. Mass, Sunday
	12:30 p.m. Spanish Mass, Sunday
Goshen C. P. Church, Winchester	11 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday
Grace Fellowship Church	10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Worship Service
Harrison Chapel Methodist Church, Midway	10 a.m. Sunday School
	11 a.m. Sunday Morning Service
	5 p.m. Sunday Evening Service
Highpointe Apostolic Church, Monteagle	10 a.m. Sunday School, Sunday
	11 a.m. Worship, Sunday
	7 p.m. Worship, Wednesday
Hobbs Hill Community Church, Tracy City	10 a.m. Sunday School, Sunday
	11 a.m. Morning Service, Sunday
	5 p.m. Evening Service, Sunday
	6 p.m. Evening Service, Wednesday
Marble Plains Baptist Church, Winchester	9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Sunday

Church (from page 4)

sanctuary and accompaniment practices with immigrants in the United States teach the church about our identity as a people on pilgrimage.

Dr. Carlson serves as Visiting Assistant Professor in Practical Theology at the School of Theology where she teaches courses in theology, church leadership, and pastoral Spanish. Her research focuses on the church's public witness with and among immigrant communities. Before pursuing doctoral studies, Britta was the founding pastor of Iglesia Nuevo Amanecer, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Boston. Britta has a BA from Concordia College, MDiv from Luther Seminary, and PhD from Boston University.

Sunday Forum meets 9:45-10:45 a.m., each week in Kennerly Hall at the Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul. Our speaker next week, Feb. 22, is Hannah Matis on Social Justice in the Anglican Tradition.

Ash Wednesday: The Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes will be celebrated on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 12:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

During Lent, Holy Eucharist will be celebrated every Thursday at 12:15 p.m., in the church. Services will begin Thursday, Feb. 19.

Centering Prayer Group: Mondays at 7 p.m. and Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m., both in the sanctuary.

Lectionary Bible Study meets every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m., in Brooks Hall.

Adult Choir: Adult choir practice is Sundays 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Children's choir rehearses on Wednesday after school. To enroll your child contact Wyatt Poe at: <music@stmarkstpaul.org>.

Godly Play continues this Sunday at 9:45 a.m. for children (3 years old through fifth grade). Youth Sunday School meets upstairs in Brooks Hall.

Young people in grades 6-10 are invited to participate in Rite-13 and Journey to Adulthood (J2A) on Sunday afternoons. Please contact Hilary Bogert Winkler <hbw-church@gmail.com> for details.

Sunday March 1 is CAC Pantry Sunday. This month CAC is in need of: pancake mix, granola bars, jelly, toilet paper, laundry detergent (pods preferred), and dish soap. CAC serves those in need with food and in other ways 9 to 11am, Monday through Friday. Please call 931-598-5927.

Mardi Gras/ Fat Tuesday at St. Mark and St. Paul

Come one come all and let the good times roll for a New Orleans-themed Mardi Gras celebration at St. Mark and St. Paul Church, in Kennerly Hall, from 5-6:30 p.m., Tuesday Feb. 17. You won't want to miss the Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday festivities and feast hosted by Parish Life! Everyone and every age is welcome, so invite all your friends and neighbors.

The menu will delight your taste buds with Cajun red beans and rice. There will be less spicy fare of pancakes and sausage. Lemonade and coffee will be provided but please feel free to bring your own beverage of choice.

Entertainment will include musical talents of several pillars of our community (dancing and beads are encouraged). Donations are optional but always welcome with cash and non-cash donations accepted.

Alsup (continued from page 1)

tabletop exercises with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

"I am truly honored to step into the role of Director of Schools for Franklin County," said Dr. Alsup. "Having served this district as both a principal and deputy director, I have seen firsthand the incredible heart our teachers put into their work and the unlimited potential of our students. My focus remains clear: keeping our schools safe and ensuring Franklin County continues the push in academic achievement."

Beyond his work in Tennessee, Dr. Alsup brings a wealth of leadership from his time in Missouri and his service as a Major in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where he earned a Bronze Star for his role in the reconstruction of Falujah, Iraq. He holds a Doctorate

in Educational Leadership from Saint Louis University.

Outgoing Director Dr. Holman expressed his support for the transition, stating "I am extremely excited to know that the board has really taken the time to really recognize the work, the leadership, the commitment and the character of Dr. Alsup, and I am excited to see how he will continue to move the district forward. Congratulations immensely to Dr. Alsup on being named as the next director of schools for the Franklin County School District."

Dr. Alsup will spend the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year working closely with Dr. Holman and the Board of Education to ensure a seamless transition of leadership for the students, faculty, and families of Franklin County.

Soulful Studio at St. Mary's Sewanee

Carole Forêt, a local artist and teacher who has led retreats and taught classes in Italy, Europe and across the Southeastern US, will be leading a 4-week course at St. Mary's Sewanee: The Ayres Center for Spiritual Development this March.

Soulful Studio: Stillness-Inspired Painting will be a transformative painting workshop for beginners to intermediate artists. This immersive class is designed to elevate your art practice as participants work in oil and learn essential composition skills in value, color and techniques. Those attending will also learn how to still the mind for creativity through short meditative practices.

Classes begin Tuesday, March 10, from 4-5 p.m., and will continue each Tuesday through March 31. Limited space is available.

To register, visit the website <www.stmaryssewanee.org> or call (931) 598-5342

Presidents' Day Spelling Bee and Trivia Challenge

The Franklin County Democratic Party invites you to a night of food, fun, and friendly competition on Presidents' Day, Monday, Feb. 16, at 5:30 p.m., at the St. Mark's Community Center, 481 Alabama Ave., Sewanee. Enjoy an all-you-can-eat soup/salad/sandwich buffet. Enter your child to win a \$50 cash prize in one of two Spelling Bees. Adults can enter the American History Bee to win dinner for two at Judith. Spelling lists will be age-appropriate. Fifth-graders will be spelling from a fifth grade list, while first-graders will be spelling from a first grade list. Registration will take place the night of the contest. We will be collecting donations for the Annual FCDP College Scholarship available to Franklin County High School seniors. If you are unable to make it, you may donate here: <secure.actblue.com/donate/fcscholarship>. For more information, please contact Helen Stapleton at <hfstaple@yahoo.com>.

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School(continued from page 1)

the surrounding areas," Marhevsky said. "Apparently the time people stay in the role is much shorter than it used to be."

Alsup was among the three candidates interviewed for the director of school's position in February 2023. In the final round of ranked choice voting, Alsup received three votes and Holman received five. Alsup served as principal at Franklin County High School for eight years and in March of 2024 assumed the administrative role of Human Resources Supervisor for the Franklin County School District's central office.

Contrary to rumor, Holman has not accepted a position with the Rutherford County Schools at the present. Holman will continue as Franklin County Director of Schools until June.

Another startling mid-year leadership change saw Megan Geer removed from her role as Decherd Elementary School principal. Parents and grandparents of Decherd Elementary School children spoke out at the board meeting objecting to the decision.

All of those who commented spoke in Geers' behalf taking issue with removing her from her role as principal midyear. "My grandson cried," said Decherd PTO President Johnny Berber. "What is the urgency?" asked Jasmine Dawn Moseley who praised Geer for reassuring her son would not be bullied as an RTI student. "She was right. My son is in the top of his class now and thriving." "There is no trust. It's an environment of uncertainty," complained another grandparent. "The decision should not have been left up to one person."

"I appreciate you coming and talking," said Board Chair CleJo Walker. "But personnel issues fall solely on the office of the director. As far as us being able to do anything about that, we can't."

"The Franklin County School District has decided to take a different direction in leadership at Decherd Elementary School," Holman said when asked about the reason for removing Geer from her role as principal. "I don't think there was anything wrong as far as I know," Marhevsky said. "It was just an administrative shift." Geer was transferred to Cowan Elementary School with her position listed as "federal teacher," meaning a federally funded position as distinct from most teaching positions which are state or county funded. Decherd Elementary Assistant Principal Shaunna Fortier will serve as interim principal for the remainder of the school year.

Mark Your Calendars for Trails & Trilliums 2026

Join us for Trails & Trilliums, from April 10-12, 2026, at Beersheba Springs.

Three days of guided hikes, workshops and talks by 50 top naturalists from across the state. Visit Stone Door, Savage Gulf, Greeter Falls, Collins Gulf. The trails, waterfalls, overlooks and wildflowers are unparalleled.

Stay tuned for more details at <https://www.trailsandtrilliums.org>

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The Babson Center Welcomes Chris Elwell, C'95

The Babson Center for Global Commerce welcomes Chris Elwell, C'95, partner and managing director at Timberland Investment Resources (TIR), LLC, at 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 19, in the duPont Torian Room. Please join us for a discussion on "Forests as Natural Climate Solutions: Tensions in the Paradigm." This event is presented in collaboration with the Department of Earth and Environmental Systems.

TIR is an investment firm that manages timberland assets for clients with a focus on sustainable forestry. Elwell oversees investment analytics for TIR and serves as chair of the company's Information Systems Committee. Additionally, Elwell manages a team of forest analysts and serves as TIR's resident expert in carbon forestry and the monetization of forest-based carbon resources. Outside of his management positions at TIR, Elwell has authored articles published by prominent forestry publications. Elwell held two positions early in his career prior to joining TIR. First, he was staff Forester and Manager with Appalachian Sustainable Development working to improve the quality of forest practices. Then, he joined MeadWestvaco packaging and container company as the Business and Forester Analyst, focusing on the optimization of harvest scheduling models for areas in the Virginia region.

Elwell's love for nature was affirmed during his time at Sewanee, where he got his BA in Natural Resources. Later, Elwell earned his MS in Forestry from Yale University and an MBA from Kennesaw State University. During his time at Sewanee, Elwell served in leadership positions in the Outing Program and the Sewanee Forestry Club. Elwell leveraged his leadership excellence with these organizations to arrange events to "interact with forestry professionals and encourage social activity within the natural resources department." Elwell's search for a noble career began in his leadership roles with Sewanee's Kappa Alpha Order. His role in Greek life was "an excellent laboratory for learning about governance. One gets a close, hands-on experience for how decisions get made in organizations." Through his liberal arts education at Sewanee, Elwell gained many valuable traits, crediting his experience with the gift of "learning how to learn and enjoying it." Elwell's career has clearly exemplified the Sewanee student experience, which evokes curiosity and a strong desire to learn more about the world around you.

Please join Chris Elwell for an engaging discussion on management, integrity, and how a liberal arts foundation can inspire innovation and leadership in the business world. We thank the Graham Executive in Residence program for making this discussion possible with a generous alumni gift from Diane and Henry H. Graham, Jr.

Black History Month Celebration

Please join the Mt. Sinai M.B. Church for a Black History Month celebration. "The State of Black Children: A Call to Arms" will be from 5-7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21, at the church, 134 Walnut St., Cowan.

The speaker is Dr. Tallulah Crawley-Shinina. She is an educator, scholar, and community leader with a long-standing commitment to improving educational outcomes and fostering greater equity in communities. She earned her PhD in Educational Administration and Foundations from Illinois State University.

Contact Sandra Brown at (931) 636-4854 if you have any questions.

Social Fabric

A new, weekly, crafting circle will be at 2 p.m., Saturdays, in Brooks Hall. Knitting/crochet/sewing/mending, etc. No experience or supplies necessary! Come ready to craft, learn or teach. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact Sarah at <cac@stmarkspaul.org>

We're glad you're reading the Messenger.

[<www.sewanee messenger.com>](http://www.sewanee messenger.com)

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Monday, March 2

Kennerly Hall

Social at 5:30 pm | Dinner at 6 pm

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RSVP by Friday, February 27 to:

sewanecommunitychest@gmail.com

WWW.SEWANEECIVIC.ORG

Register and Momon to Speak at Heritage Center on Black Heritage on Plateau

Dr. Woody Register and Dr. Tiffany Momon, both professors of history at The University of the South, will deliver a joint presentation on the black heritage on the plateau at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026 at the Heritage Center located at 465 Railroad Ave. Tracy City. The public is welcome. Admission is free.

Woody Register, PhD, is the Francis S. Houghteling Professor of American History and founding Director of the Robertson Project on Slavery and Reconstruction at The University of the South. Under his direction, the Robertson Project has become a leader in the contemporary movement to investigate the influence of slavery and its legacies on American higher education. He is the recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Council of Independent Colleges, the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, the Associated Colleges of the South, the Appalachian Colleges Association, the Syracuse University Library, and other agencies. He is the author of books and articles on late 19th Century and early 20th Century U.S. history. He received his B.A. from The University of the South and PhD from Brown University.

Tiffany Momon, PhD, is Associate Professor of History at the University of the South. She is Assistant Director of the Robertson Project and Director of the Truth, Community Healing and Transformation Center at Sewanee. She received her B. S., in Political Science from Tennessee State University, a B.A. in African and African American Studies from The University of Memphis, and M.A. and PhD in Public History from Middle Tennessee State University. Momon is the founder and co-director of the Black Craftspeople Digital Archive, a digital humanities project dedicated to honoring Black craftspeople and their contributions to the making and building of the Americas. Momon's latest exhibition, Fighting for Freedom: Black Craftspeople and the Pursuit of Independence was recently on display at the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum in Washington, D.C.

The Heritage Center is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There are no admission charges; donations are welcome.

Sewanee Center for Lifelong Learning's February program

We are excited to announce the Sewanee Center for Lifelong Learning's February program. The home base for the series will be the McGuffin Alumni House (120 Georgia Avenue). The talks take place on the third Monday of each month at 5 p.m. Parking will be available along Georgia Avenue at that time. These events are open to all members of our community and promise to be a fascinating and educational experience.

"This is America: Presidents Day and Memory" presented by Anthony M. Donaldson, Jr. Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History at the University of the South, will be at 5 p.m., Monday, Feb. 16, at the McGuffin Alumni House.

Dr. Donaldson researches the intersectionality of race, class, and identity as it relates to American popular culture and politics. His courses cover topics from the Black Power Movement to Black Lives Matter, Hip Hop to Tik Tok, and Artificial Intelligence and Race. Dr. Donaldson has been featured on CNN's Paula Zahn Show, ABC 11, UNC-TV, NPR, and other media outlets. He was named 40 alumni under 40 by his alma mater North Carolina Central University. After graduating from NCCU with a B.A. (cum laude) and an M.A., Dr. Donaldson studied political economy at Georgetown University and Hong Kong University, and earned a Ph.D. in History from the University of Florida. Dr. Donaldson's forthcoming book manuscript entitled "Out of White Control: A Black Power Paradox" with UNC Press will be released next year (2027). His research examines the strong, complex interplay of race and politics in America. Dr. Donaldson's academic work supports his longtime commitment to community activism.

The session is open to the community, parents, and alumni. Water/Soft Drinks/Snacks provided. There is no charge, but space is limited, so please register <<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdTan43UrQukID7EmRtGNWWjNuUuIayzW2NB2kU5CNp-Zb-Xw/viewform>> to save your space. For more information, contact the Sewanee Center for Lifelong Learning (SCLL) at <sewanelifelonglearning@sewanee.edu>.

'Silent Reading and the Invention of Intimacy' Lecture

Please mark your calendars for a lecture by Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Mary Favret, of the Johns Hopkins University, titled "Silent Reading and the Invention of Intimacy," to take place at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 24, in Convocation Hall. A wine and cheese reception will follow.

In the history of reading, silent reading was a late development, but its consequences were profound. Not only did reading become increasingly isolated and personalized, but it fostered a new sense of interiority and intimacy. Beginning in the late eighteenth century, children were taught to read by interior vocalization, the sound of words shifting to the eye and mind rather than the mouth and ear. As silent reading became the norm, it fostered the conception that the written word granted greater immediacy to our thoughts and feelings and those of others. The written word replaced the spoken as the vehicle of truth and knowledge. In other words, you would know more about other people if you read about them than if you spoke with them. Using examples from novels and poetry of the early nineteenth century, this lecture tracks how writers themselves absorbed this change and used their work to both amplify and question it.

This event is sponsored by the Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholars Program, the Department of English and Creative Writing, the University Lectures Committee, the Dean of Students, and the Vice-Chancellor.

If you need accommodations for accessibility, please contact <ejmichael@sewanee.edu>.

Electric Bill Assistance with Project HELP

Duck River Electric Membership Corporation (DREMC) members can apply for assistance with their electric bills through the Project HELP program. Project HELP is DREMC's emergency residential energy assistance program overseen by local charity organizations, including the Franklin County Good Samaritan Association.

Project HELP provides emergency electric bill assistance year-round to help qualifying DREMC members keep their electric power on during difficult financial times.

Project HELP is supported by donations from DREMC members and employees, and their generosity has made this assistance program a valuable resource for those who live in Franklin County.

To apply for Project HELP assistance, contact the Franklin County Good Samaritan Association located at 1725 Decherd Blvd., Decherd, or call (931) 967-9336.



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SENIOR CENTER NEWS

The Sewanee Senior Center serves lunch at 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. The suggested donation is \$5, regardless of your age. Please call (931) 598-0771 by 9 a.m. to order lunch. Menus follow:

Monday, Feb. 16: Meat loaf, pinto beans, cornbread, slaw.
Tuesday, Feb. 17: Gumbo and rice, French bread.
Wednesday, Feb. 18: Tuna salad on croissant, chips.
Thursday, Feb. 19: Chef salad.
Friday, Feb. 20: Beef pot pie.

Menus may vary. For information call the center at (931) 598-0771.

Chair Exercise Class is 10:30–11:30 a.m., every Monday and Wednesday at the Community Center. Contact Susan Roberson at (516) 987-8440.

The Sewanee Senior Center does not charge any membership fee. All persons 50 or older who take part in any of the activities are considered members.

Join the Sewanee Fire Department

The Sewanee Fire Department serves the community by protecting lives and property over an 84-square-mile territory and by providing mutual aid assistance to neighboring communities for their fire and rescue needs. In 2024, the Fire Department responded to 265 calls, including structure and wildland fires, vehicle extrications, rope rescue operations, and mutual aid to Marion and Grundy County.

During the academic year, the department consists of volunteers by community members, university students, and faculty and staff. Outside the academic year, the department has 30 volunteers.

If you're interested in learning more about becoming a firefighter, please contact Nathan Stewart at <ncstewar@sewanee.edu>. The Fire Department trains at 7:30 p.m., on Tuesdays at Sewanee Station 1 (111 Alabama Avenue), and potential new members are invited to attend before making a commitment to join.

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Free Income Tax Prep Available to Bedford, Cannon, Coffee, Franklin, Grundy, Lincoln, Marion, and Warren Residents

Beginning on Feb. 6, the IRS-certified BetterFi and Sewanee Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program will begin processing and filing qualifying residents' income taxes for its 12th year in a row. This year the students and local community volunteers are working with the University of the South's Office of Civic Engagement and financial nonprofit BetterFi.

Additionally, United Way of South Central Tennessee has expanded to assist filers in Bedford, Cannon, Coffee, Lincoln, and Warren counties. The Urban League of Chattanooga is also hosting tax filing sites in Marion County.

Grundy residents will be able to sign up online to schedule appointments Mondays and Thursdays during February at BetterFi in Coalmont (9933 State Route 56) at <www.betterfi.co/vita>. Appointment availability in March and April will be forthcoming.

Other BetterFi tax sessions will be at partner sites – filers should contact the site to sign up for an appointment time slot. The current schedule is as follows: Franklin County Senior Center (931) 967-9853 Friday, Feb. 13, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Coffee-Lannom Library (931) 455-2460 Saturday, Feb. 28, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with another date to be determined; Manchester Library (931) 723-5143 Saturday, March 21 and Friday, March 27, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The Sewanee Senior Center will host a site Friday, Feb. 27, 12:30–3:30 p.m., but sign-ups must be done in person. Two sessions for Sewanee staff and faculty will be on Tuesday, Feb. 24 and Thursday, Feb. 26, noon to 3 p.m.. at the Social Lodge on campus – sign-ups available at the McClurg front desk.

Appointments in Fayetteville, McMinnville, Shelbyville, Tullahoma, Woodbury counties can be arranged with the United Way of South Central Tennessee at <www.yourlocaluw.org/vita>.

Appointments in Marion County can be arranged with the Orena Humphreys Public Library by phone at (423) 320-0484.

Any household that makes less than \$70,000 a year, is disabled, or is elderly qualifies for a free tax return.

Please note that unfortunately the BetterFi volunteers will be unable to assist with 1099-Bs.

Each resident interested in filing must bring proof of identification (a photo ID), social security cards (if filing jointly with another person then bring both social security cards and both individuals must be present), wage and earning statements (W-2, 1099, etc.), dividend and interest statements (if this applies to the resident filing), birth dates of the resident(s) and dependent(s), and banking account and routing numbers for direct deposit (found on a blank check).

If a resident filing does not have a social security card, then he/she must bring an IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) assignment letter.

If your organization would like to host a tax session or if a filer cannot make any of the tax sessions, please email BetterFi at <hello@betterfi.co> and BetterFi will try to accommodate.

Color Run Fundraiser for Literacy

The community is cordially invited to join Early Literacy Ambassadors for the third annual Color Run Fundraiser at Cove Creek Farm. The event will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21, at 933 W. Main St., Monteagle. Cost is \$10 for ages 13 and up. Kids 12 and under are free. Register at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1X9mfx7gI_MFLHt_NyCVL-pr0XDuiWD1bla4QA4VBWg/edit>. Enjoy a 3-mile loop from the farm to Mooney's and back along the Mountain Goat Trail. Walk, run, bike, skateboard, etc., and make sure to bring the kids.

For more information go to <www.earlyliteracyambassadors.com>.

Grief Recovery Group

Are you experiencing grief from the death of a loved one or loss of another kind? Then you may want to join the Grief Recovery Group starting at 9 a.m., Saturdays through May 2, at Morton Memorial United Methodist Church in Monteagle. You don't have to attend every meeting because each meeting is independent. The workbook and video teaching materials are provided.

Meetings will be in the Wesley House at Morton Memorial United Methodist Church, 322 W. Main St., Monteagle. It is the house between the CVS and the main Church building.

To find out more and to sign up, contact: Tracey Weibert at (423) 309-0818, email at <tweibertlaw@gmail.com> or Rev. Melisa Derseweh (615) 418-0559, email at <melisa.derseweh@twkumc.org>.

Save the date for...

St. Andrew's-Sewanee School's Admission Preview Day



February 16

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SES MENUS

Monday-Friday

Feb. 16-20

BREAKFAST

All reimbursable breakfast meals must include a minimum of three items with at least one being fruit or fruit juice. A variety of fruit, fruit juice & milk offered daily. All entrees = 2 items. Every effort will be made to follow the published menu; however, last minute changes may be necessary.

Monday, Feb. 16: No School.
Tuesday, Feb. 17: Sausage slider, juice, fruit, milk.

Wednesday, Feb. 18: package item, juice, fruit, milk.

Thursday, Feb. 19: Steak biscuit, juice, fruit, milk.

Friday, Feb. 20: Cinnamon roll, juice, fruit, milk.

LUNCH

All reimbursable meals must include a fruit or vegetable on the tray. Students may decline 2 of the 5 meal components – meat/meat alternative; grain; fruit; vegetable; milk. Daily offerings may include Yogurt Fun Packs and/or PB&J Power Packs.

Monday, Feb. 16: No School.
Tuesday, Feb. 17: Chicken tenders, mashed potatoes, pinto beans, roll, fruit, milk.

Wednesday, Feb. 18: Corn-dog, French fries, steamed broccoli, baked beans, fruit, milk.

Thursday, Feb. 19: Walking taco, lettuce/tomato cup, salsa, corn, pinto beans, tortilla chips, fruit, milk.

Friday, Feb. 20: Fish sticks, cole slaw, French fries, hush-puppies, fresh carrots, fruit, milk.

For meal pricing, go to <https://franklincountyn.tn.schoolinsites.com/menus-meal-pricing>.

Round Up for Project Help

The Sewanee Utility District's billing software has the ability to round up your bill to the nearest dollar with the difference going to the Project Help fund. Project Help collects donations from SUD customers and passes them on to the Community Action Committee, where it is used to pay folks' water and sewer bill when they need a bit of help.

Please consider rounding up your bill for this worthy cause – it really makes a difference in our community. Call the office at (931) 598-5611 to enroll or if you have any questions.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Feb. 13, Grundy County, Abbreviated Day

Feb. 16, Presidents' Day
March 5-15, SAS, College Spring Break

March 6-15, School of Theology Spring Break
March 30-3, Marion County Spring Break

March 30-April 3, Franklin County Spring Break

SAS's Bob MacLellan Named 'Counselor That Changes Lives'

St. Andrew's-Sewanee School's College Counselor Robert MacLellan has been named a 2026 "counselor that changes lives" by the board of directors and member institutions of Colleges That Change Lives (CTCL).

The CTLC gives this annual award to recognize college counselors whose work "reflects the mission of CTLC organizations: to promote and support a student-centered college search process." MacLellan, who has held this position at SAS for five years, has spent 30 years in the college admission profession, 20 of those with independent boarding and day schools.

"I began my career on the college side of the desk, working with a small private institution before moving to Cornell University," MacLellan said. "When my wife and I started a family, I moved to secondary education, which allowed me to work more closely with students.

"I'm honored to receive this recognition," MacLellan said. "SAS students have a breadth of interests and an uncommon openness to suggestions about where to attend college. My goal is to help each student build a balanced college list so they have choices when admission decisions are released."

For decades, including during MacLellan's tenure, SAS graduates have attended colleges and universities from Oregon to Maine and internationally.



Bob MacLellan

"Applying to college is an exciting and sometimes daunting process. The SAS faculty know our students quite well, and they write insightful letters of recommendation," MacLellan said. "One of the most rewarding aspects of the process is helping our students find the right college match and hearing how much they enjoy their experience when they return to visit SAS."

Head of School Karl Sjolund said, "We are thrilled, but not surprised, that Bob has been recognized in this way. Our graduates matriculate to some of the finest institutions in the country, but, more importantly, they land in places where they continue to thrive."

Small Business Educational Program Opportunity

Topics such as business planning, community assessment, tax considerations, accounting, and opportunities to network with other business owners are just a few of the programs and activities that will be offered at the UT Extension Small Business Summit and Tour. The Small Business Summit and Tour will take place from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Tuesday, Feb. 23-24, 2026. Educational programs on financing a business, customer relations, marketing, hours of operation, and family dynamics will pique your interest as you learn more about beginning a business or make your current operation better than before. The program will take place on Monday, Feb. 23, at the UT Extension Education Center at 7852 SR 56, Coalmont. Tuesday, Feb. 24 will be a tour designed around opportunities to visit with successful business owners in Grundy, Sequatchie, and Marion Counties. Transportation for the tour is provided.

A registration fee of \$50 per participant is required for the Small Business Summit and Tour. This fee includes all classes, a notebook of all materials, tour transportation, meals, and refreshments each day. Attendance both days is required and a certificate of completion will be issued at the end of the final day. The deadline to register is Feb. 18, 2026. Space will be limited to the first thirty (30) applicants so register soon! If you are interested in participating in the Small Business Summit, wish to obtain a schedule of the session topics, or obtain an application, please contact the UT/TSU Extension Office at (931) 592-3971 or log on to: https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=368&0&SINGLESTORE=true.

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School of Theology Hosts Smithsonian Exhibition on Human Evolution

The traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History will be in Sewanee through May 15, 2026. The School of Theology is hosting the traveling exhibition Exploring Human Origins: What Does It Mean to Be Human? after the seminary was selected through a national competition offered by the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) and the American Library Association (ALA).

"We are delighted to welcome Exploring Human Origins to the School of Theology at Sewanee," said Hannah Matis, associate dean for academic affairs. "The exhibit asks wonderful questions about who we are, where we've been, and what makes us human. These are questions that scientists, clergy, and laypeople are always attempting to answer, and we expect the exhibit will be a resource for seminarians, college students, and the local community."

In addition to the standing exhibition, scientists and other experts from the NMNH Human Origins Program will visit Sewanee to host public events, including community conversations and a lecture on March 3, at 5 p.m. with paleoanthropologist Dr. Rick Potts who directs the Human Origins Program at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.

Through panels, interactive kiosks, hands-on displays, and videos, Exploring Human Origins: What Does It Mean to Be Human? invites visitors of all ages to explore and learn about the milestones in the evolutionary journey of becoming human.

The traveling exhibition encourages a public conversation that focuses on multiple perspectives of what it means to be human — one that embraces the ideas and beliefs of non-scientists and fosters greater appreciation of the complexity of the science of human evolution.

The exhibition is now open and closes on May 15, 2026.

The exhibit can be found in room 126 of Hamilton Hall, which is located at 335 Tennessee Ave., in Sewanee. The exhibition is self-guided, free, and open to the public weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment. For more information or to schedule group tours, contact the director of the School of Theology Library, Dr. Romulus Stefanut, at (931) 598-1267 or rdstefan@sewanee.edu.

'The Moors' at Proctor Hill Theatre

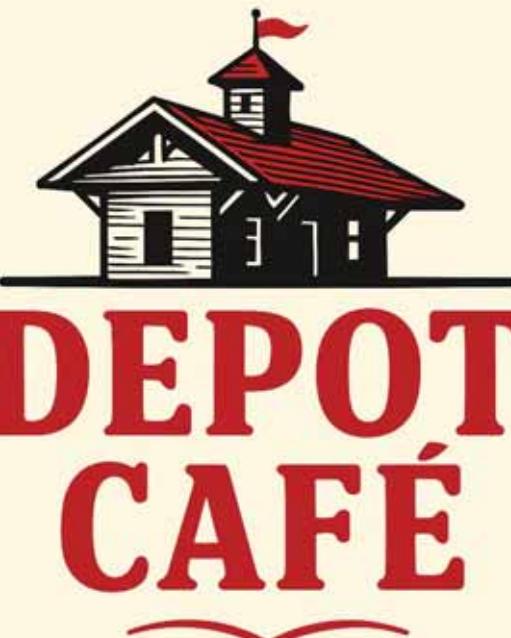
Sewanee Department of Theatre and Dance presents "The Moors" by Jen Silverman, and is directed by Ivy Francis Moore C'26.

"The Moors" is a contemporary Gothic comedy that depicts the absurd, harsh, and passionate lives of five women and their dog on the English moors in the Victorian(ish) era. Cleverly combining classic tropes from the Brontës, Poe, du Maurier, and more, the play thoughtfully explores the lasting effects of isolation and violence with reckless imagination.

Performances will be in the Proctor Hill Theatre at the Tennessee Williams Center Feb. 25–28 at 7:30 p.m., and March 1, at 2:30 p.m.

'Shared Styles' Recital

The Music Department and the Sewanee Symphony Orchestra present: "Shared Styles" bringing together guest artists Dennette McDermott, flute, and Douglas Bakenhus, bassoon, in collaboration with Mark Ardrey-Graves, harpsichord, Assistant Professor at the School of Theology. Performed on period instruments, the program explores the rich exchange of European musical traditions, highlighting how distinct national styles intersect and blend into a shared musical language shaped by travel, dialogue, and individual expression. The recital will be at 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21, in Guerry Auditorium. Admission is free.



DEPOT CAFÉ

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'Ritual, Revolution, and Rhythm'

The Sewanee Symphony Orchestra presents "Ritual, Revolution, and Rhythm" at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 19, in Guerry Auditorium, with Douglas Bakenhus, bassoon.

"Ritual, Revolution, and Rhythm" explores how musical traditions are formed, challenged, and transformed across time and cultures. From the ceremonial brilliance of Strauss's fanfare, through the elegant, expressive clarity of Mozart, and into the revolutionary force of Beethoven's "Fifth Symphony," the program traces moments when tradition is honored, questioned, and reshaped. The evening concludes with the vibrant rhythms of Arturo Márquez's "Danzón No. 2," where the orchestra becomes a space of movement, color, and shared celebration. Each work reflects a different way music moves people, not only emotionally, but physically, socially, and culturally, revealing the orchestra as both a keeper of tradition and a living, evolving voice.

Frame Gallery Celebrates Two South Cumberland Plateau Artists in 'Seen & Unseen' Exhibit on Feb. 20

Frame Gallery Gifts and Art hosts its first art exhibition of 2026, "Seen & Unseen: Landscapes of Presence & Memory," opening on Feb. 20 with a reception for the artists from 5–6:30 p.m. The exhibit features two South Cumberland Plateau resident artists, Carole Forêt and Linda Kerlin, whose work offers distinct, yet complementary ways of interpreting experience through paint and mixed media.

Carole Forêt, who splits her time between Sewanee, Tenn., and Huntsville, Ala., paints the external world she finds beautiful—landscapes, cityscapes, and still life—capturing moments of beauty in various light settings through personal observation.

Based in Monteagle, Linda Kerlin's abstract works evolve intuitively through layered paint and wax, drawing on memory, emotion, and the unseen traces of time.

Frame Gallery owner Harriet Runkle selected Forêt and Kerlin as the featured artists for this exhibition because "they offer two distinctive bodies of work that complement each other well. Carole's luminous landscapes and still life works alongside Linda's richly layered abstract paintings create a thoughtful dialogue between representation and abstraction, inviting viewers to consider the visible surface and the feelings conveyed beneath."

Open to the public, the reception on Feb. 20 provides an opportunity to meet the local artists and view their works while enjoying light refreshments. "The Seen & Unseen: Landscapes of Presence & Memory" art exhibition will remain open through March 21, 2026. To learn more and read the artists' statements, visit www.framegals.com/events/seen-and-unseen-exhibit.

'Falls the Shadow' at the UAG

The University Art Gallery is delighted to present "Falls the Shadow" by artist Kate Teale, on view in the University Art Gallery through March 30, 2026.

Teale's graphite and charcoal drawings — however simple their means, and however stripped down their subject matter — are laden with meaning.

These drawings do not render objects, but voids, doorways filled with tactile shadow. They are controlled and careful, and perfectly quiet. They wait.

Representing doorways, tunnels, and windows, Teale manipulates architectural space, making walls disappear. She distills meaning in the representation and experience of thresholds, points of transition between shelter and destruction, between confinement and escape. Doorways "make visual the transition from darkness into light — or the reverse." A doorway divides two worlds, and requires a choice.

More than metaphor or representation, these drawings require embodied understanding. Drawing, for Teale, "[should] be something we experience in our bodies and process in our sub-conscious."

The drawings included in "Falls the Shadow" are the result of the artist's 2023 residency at Christ Church College, Oxford, U.K. Their gothic forms echo, and are echoed by, the architecture of the University of the South's campus, deliberately designed to recall that of its English predecessors.

New York-based artist Kate Teale received her M.A. from Oxford University, England, her Art Diploma from City and Guilds of London Art School and her M.F.A. from Hunter College, C.U.N.Y. She teaches at the Parsons School of Design, New York, NY.

The UAG will be closed for the University of the South's Spring Break, March 5–15, 2026.

Community Art Show at Artisan Depot

The Franklin County Arts Guild announces the theme for the first Community Art Show of 2026 at the Artisan Depot located at 204 Cumberland St., Cowan. The theme of this upcoming show is "Is Love Free?" The show will be up through March 29. Submitting artists and their families and friends are invited to an opening reception from 5–7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 20, at the Artisan Depot.

Go to www.franklinarts.org or call (931) 313-5686 for more information.

Peace Crane Exhibit Opening

If you have been to duPont Library recently you may have noticed a tent adorned with origami cranes in the lobby. This is the library and the Cumberland Center for Justice and Peace's new exhibit. The tent serves as a meditation room. You are all invited to use the tent for some calm moments.

There will be an official opening for the exhibit Friday, Feb. 20, at 1 p.m., in the lobby of the library. The date coincides with the World Day of Social Justice. Kate Coffelt, manager of the Hamilton County Community Bail Fund with CALEB (Chattanoogans in Action for Love, Equality, and Benevolence) will be the speaker. Please come celebrate this day with us!

You can help add to this exhibit at any time. You can make cranes and drop them off at the library or come to the library where paper and instructions are available for you to make them on site. Feel free to write messages on your cranes if desired. We might not break the world record for the most cranes in an exhibit (2,331,631), but we would love to break 5,000.

'Crimes of the Heart' at the MAC

Three sisters reunite in Mississippi after the youngest shoots her husband because she "didn't like the way he looked" in Beth Henley's Southern comedy/drama "Crimes of the Heart," opening Feb. 13 at the Manchester Arts Center.

Secrets are spilled and tempers flare. It's funny, messy, and relatable. If you've ever had a complicated family — or just enjoy watching one from a safe distance — this Pulitzer Prize-winning play is for you!

This Millennium Rep production is directed by Kelly Lapczynski and features Zoe Hunt, Lola Smith, Savannah Romero, Haylee Eaton, Eric Keith, and Kevin Cummings.

"Crimes of the Heart" runs Feb. 13–15 and 20–22, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors and military, and \$10 for students, and are available at millenniumrep.org or by calling (931) 570-4489. The Arts Center is located just off Manchester's historic square at 128 E. Main St.

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New Moon Sunrise Sadhana with a Sound Meditation

On Tuesday, Feb. 17, community members Pippa Brown, Nathalia Penton, and Danielle Miranda will be hosting a New Moon Sunrise Sadhana with a Sound Meditation from 5–7:30 a.m. CST at the Sewanee Community Center. This event is free and open to all

community members. Yoga Mats and blankets are provided by the center. Warm and comfortable clothing to move and meditate in is recommended.

Sadhana is a Sanskrit term used in Yoga to refer to a daily spiritual practice. Usually practiced alone, it involves a dedicated routine of yoga, meditation, breathwork, and chanting or prayer to build self-awareness, clear the mind, and cultivate inner peace. When practiced together as a group or in community, it is a powerful way to amplify the energy and create a harmonizing effect that deepens the focus and collective spiritual experience. Celestial events such as new moons and full moons of

fer ideal energetic backdrops for collective spiritual upliftment. The new moon and Chinese zodiac new year on Feb. 17 is an opportunity to come together and ritualize the letting go of 2025 and call in uplifting energy for the new year.

The Sadhana will begin at 5 a.m., and consist of three parts: a recitation of the morning prayer Japji or “Song of the Soul,” a Kundalini Yoga practice, and a chanting sequence of the seven Aquarian mantras. Sound immersion will be facilitated throughout the Sadhana by Danielle Miranda. Amrit Vela (Time of Immortality/Nectar) is a Punjabi term used to refer to the early morning period of the day, usually between 3–6

a.m. Spiritually, the early morning is considered an auspicious and peaceful time for connecting with the Divine across various traditions. Scientifically, this is a time when the Earth’s atmosphere is in a unique state where there are lower levels of electromagnetic interference. The lower density in the Earth’s ionosphere (or ether) allows for radio waves to travel farther. This parallels spiritual traditions beliefs around the veil between the spiritual and material worlds being thinner during the dark hours of dawn and dusk.

All faiths and seekers are welcome. Whether you are seeking to deepen or begin a yogic practice or just want practical tools for man-

aging stress, connecting with your body and energy, and regulating your nervous system, this practice will give you a powerful spiritual experience of yourself.

Pippa Browne and Nathalia Penton are Kundalini Yoga, Breath-work, and Meditation teachers based in Sewanee who regularly teach yoga, breathwork, and meditation classes at the Sewanee Community Center. Danielle Miranda offers sound immersions with gongs and himalayan bowls, creating grounding and supportive spaces for rest and relaxation. Check out the Sewanee Community Center calendar for more about classes.



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Division of Elections

Mark Goins, Coordinator of Elections

Key Dates for the 2026 Election Cycle

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 - State and County Primary Election

Primary elections may be held for **state judicial offices and applicable county offices**, subject to the call by political parties.

Deadline to Call Primary	Monday, August 25, 2025
Deadline to Rescind Call for Primary	Friday, November 21, 2025
First Day to Pick Up Petitions	Monday, December 22, 2025
Qualifying Deadline*	Thursday, February 19, 2026, 12:00 Noon
<p><i>* This qualifying deadline applies to primary candidates, candidates nominated by caucus, and independent candidates for the offices on the May primary ballot.</i></p>	
Withdrawal Deadline	Thursday, February 26, 2026, 12:00 Noon
Voter Registration Deadline	Monday, April 6, 2026
Early Voting Period	Wednesday, April 15 – Thursday, April 30, 2026
Absentee Ballot Request Deadline	Saturday, April 25, 2026

Thursday, August 6, 2026 - Primary and General Election

Primary elections will be held for **Governor, U.S. Senate, U.S. House, Tennessee Senate (odd-numbered districts), Tennessee House, and Republican and Democratic State Executive Committees**. General elections will be held for **vacant state judicial offices and applicable county offices**.

First Day to Pick Up Petitions	Friday, January 9, 2026
Qualifying Deadline*	Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 12:00 Noon
<p><i>* This qualifying deadline applies to primary and independent candidates for the offices on the August primary ballot.</i></p>	
Withdrawal Deadline	Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 12:00 Noon
Voter Registration Deadline	Tuesday, July 7, 2026
Early Voting	Friday, July 17 – Saturday, August 1, 2026
Absentee Ballot Request Deadline	Monday, July 27, 2026

Tuesday, November 3, 2026 - State and Federal General Election

All candidates (including independents) for **Governor, U.S. Senate, U.S. House, Tennessee Senate (odd-numbered districts), and Tennessee House** must follow the qualifying dates for the August election. For **municipal elections** held with the November election, the qualifying dates below apply.

First Day to Pick Up Petitions	Monday, June 22, 2026
Qualifying Deadline	Thursday, August 20, 2026, 12:00 Noon
Withdrawal Deadline	Thursday, August 27, 2026, 12:00 Noon
Voter Registration Deadline	Monday, October 5, 2026
Early Voting	Wednesday, October 14 – Thursday, October 29, 2026
Absentee Ballot Request Deadline	Saturday, October 24, 2026



The SAS girls' wrestling team from earlier in the year (left to right): Arabella Mitchell, Leonora Pate, Elena Brodsky, and Annika Stefanut.

SAS Girls' Wrestlers Headed to Sectionals, Vying for State

Four members of the girls' wrestling team made it to the regional competition last weekend, and all four made it to the podium, coming in third overall out of 10 teams.

Coach Matt Sparacio said, "These girls showed tremendous heart, overcoming some pretty tough match ups and avenging loses from earlier in the year. I'm fortunate to be their coach."

The wrestlers are: senior and first-year wrestler, Annika Stefanut, Sewanee; junior Arabella Mitchell, Estill Springs; sophomore Leonora Pate, Sewanee; and eighth grader Elena Brodsky, Sewanee.

They will compete this weekend in the sectionals, vying for a spot in the state championships.



Sarah Russell Leonard

SAS Senior Sarah Russell Leonard Performs in State Swimming Meet

Senior Sarah Russell Leonard competed in the TISCA State Swimming Championship meet on Feb. 6 and 7. Recovering from illness and an injury, she swam a 1:01.89 in the 100 fly, taking 31st overall and eighth in the small schools division. On Saturday, she swam a 5:33.31 in the 500 freestyle, taking 32nd overall and tenth in the small schools division. Both times were right at her lifetime bests.

This meet marks four consecutive state qualifying years for Leonard. To celebrate her season and her commitment to Centre College, join the SAS community on Friday, Feb. 20, at 3:30 p.m. at her signing in the Wood-Alligood Gymnasium.

"No one works harder in the pool than Sarah Russell," SAS coach Lucy Rudman said. "Even with her injury and recovering from COVID, she knew she wanted to swim her senior year State meet. I felt so lucky to watch her close out her incredible high school swim career."

HOME GAMES

9 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 14, Men's Tennis vs. Covenant College
 11 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 14, Baseball vs. Anderson University DH
 9 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 15, Men's Tennis vs. East Texas Baptist
 11 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 15, Baseball vs. Anderson University
 5:15 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 17, SAS MS Girls' Volleyball vs. Tracy City
 2 p.m., Friday, Feb. 20, Baseball vs. Oberlin College
 4 p.m., Friday, Feb. 20, SAS Varsity Tennis vs. University School of Nashville
 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21, SAS Varsity Boys' Soccer vs. Franklin County High School

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Price Named USA Lacrosse Preseason All-American

Senior Marlin Price was named a USA Lacrosse Preseason All-American Honorable Mention, as announced by the organization.

Price was one of 89 players honored nationwide and was recognized as an attacker. The Carrollton, Va., native capped her junior campaign by appearing in all 17 games, making 16 starts, and posting 62 goals and 24 assists for 86 points. She added four game-winning goals, 10 man-up goals, and two man-down goals. In addition, Price recorded 34 draw controls, 20 ground balls, and eight caused turnovers during the 2025 season.

The reigning Southern Athletic Association Offensive Player of the Year and a first-team All-SAA selection, Price also earned IWLCA second-team All-Region honors.

Sewanee finished the 2025 regular season undefeated and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. The Tigers open the 2026 campaign in Wisconsin on Feb. 14–15, facing Wisconsin River Falls and Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

SAS Varsity/JV Basketball Ends Regular Season Play Honoring Seniors

The SAS Mountain Lions celebrated their senior players last weekend to close out their regular season, hosting Lookout Valley High School.

The girls' team crushed Lookout Valley 31-6, while the JV boys' team suffered a big loss, 39-8.

Despite solid play the entire game, the varsity boys came up short, 62-51. Head Coach Larson Heitzenrater said, "I could not be more proud of the effort, grit, and perseverance of our team this year. No matter the score we play hard from tipoff to the final buzzer."

Girls' Head Coach Tim Wallace said, "The girls really saved their best performance for their last home game. Missing two significant contributors, including co-captain Annabelle Close, the team bonded together to earn their fifth win of the season." Leading scorers were senior Lilly Crigger and freshman Savannah Blosser with ten points each, and senior Keely Kendrick with four points along with double-digit rebounds.

Between the boys' and girls' games, senior players were honored: Lilly Crigger, Sewanee; Keziah Ingeli, Rome, Italy; Kelly Kendrick, Decherd; Abby Stephens, Kingsport, Tenn; Sam Goodpaster, Sewanee; and Jackson Mayo, Sewanee.

The Mountain Lions began tournament play this week.

WEAR WHITE AT NIGHT.

Walkers and bikers should wear light, reflective clothing after dusk. Don't assume drivers can see you — be on the lookout for your own safety.



Men's Lacrosse Falls at Randolph-Macon

Griffin Peterson tallied two goals and Robert Freeman added three points, but the Sewanee men's lacrosse team fell to RV Randolph-Macon on Feb. 8, at Day Field in Ashland, Va.

Peterson scored twice on three shots, while Freeman posted a goal and two assists to go along with a caused turnover and a ground ball. Henry Westfall and Charles Moran each recorded two points, while Manoli Loupassi, Hudson Gregory, Harrison Fuller, Jake Greene, and Blake Powers added one point apiece.

Tyler Clary led Sewanee with two caused turnovers and four ground balls. Asa Nischwitz went 13-of-20 at the faceoff X with eight ground balls, while Clay Upchurch was perfect at 2-of-2 with a ground ball. Gus Albright collected three ground balls, and Beau Burnetter added two ground balls.

Flynn Bowman finished with nine saves in goal for the Tigers. Randolph-Macon totaled 11 saves, including 10 from Jack Isaacs.

Sewanee was 21-of-30 on clears and converted just 1-of-7 extra-man opportunities.

Randolph-Macon struck first after capitalizing on a Sewanee turnover with just over five minutes left in the opening quarter. The Yellowjackets won the ensuing faceoff and scored again 30 seconds later to take a 2-0 lead.

With under 2:30 remaining in the first, Bowman made a save to spark a Sewanee possession, and freshman Harrison Fuller scored the Tigers' first goal of the 2026 campaign off an assist from Loupassi. Randolph-Macon answered with a man-down goal with 55 seconds left in the quarter.

Hudson Gregory opened the second quarter with a goal off an assist from Freeman, igniting a

stretch of back-and-forth scoring. Randolph-Macon responded with two goals, both from Charlie Hilgartner, to push the lead to three. Freeman then found Peterson for a goal, but the Yellowjackets added another tally one minute later.

Following a faceoff win by Nischwitz and a Randolph-Macon penalty, Freeman scored on the man-up to give Sewanee its fourth goal. Clay Upchurch won the next draw, and Blake Powers tallied his first career point with an unassisted goal to pull the Tigers within one at 6-5 with 7:46 remaining in the half.

Hilgartner completed his hat trick seconds on a man-up opportunity to restore a two-goal cushion, and Randolph-Macon added another off a turnover with 2:40 left before halftime.

After a scoreless first 12 minutes of the third quarter, Randolph-Macon broke through with 2:52 remaining to extend its lead. Sewanee answered just before the horn, as Westfall fed Greene for a buzzer-beating goal with one second left.

Nischwitz won the opening faceoff of the fourth quarter, and Moran followed with his first goal of the season to cut the deficit to one.

Randolph-Macon responded with a goal after a Tiger penalty expired and added another off a turnover to go up 11-7 with 9:45 to play. With under nine minutes remaining, Laney Healy caused a turnover, and Westfall assisted Peterson on his second goal of the game.

The Yellowjackets hit the crossbar on a late possession, giving Sewanee one final chance, but Peterson's attempt with 27 seconds remaining went wide as time expired.

Tigers Fall in Final Seconds to Berry

Olivia Falvey's jumper with 1.4 seconds to play put Sewanee in front, but Elly Callihan's three free throws with 0.8 seconds remaining provided the decisive points in Berry College's 47-46 victory over the Tigers in women's basketball action on Feb. 8, at Juhan Gymnasium.

The Tigers (8-14, 1-10 SAA) trailed by 10 points early in the fourth quarter before battling back, taking advantage of the Vikings (13-8, 7-3) making just 1-of-11 shots in the period. Grace Gavin's 3-pointer from the corner started a 13-2 run for Sewanee.

Janie Boyd followed with a triple and Micha Lovelace picked up a loose ball under the basket and scored on a layup with five minutes to play, cutting the deficit to 41-39. Callihan hit a 15-footer with 3:29 to play for the Vikings, their only field goal of the period, before a Hannah Cleveland layup.

Boyd then nailed another 3-pointer from the left wing for a one-point Sewanee lead with 2:24 to play. Neither team scored until Berry's Briaiah Lewis was fouled with 26.8 seconds on the clock, making 1-of-2 and knotting the game at 44.

After a deflection, the Tigers got the ball out of bounds under their own goal with 3.6 seconds remaining. Falvey's 17-footer swished the net with 1.4 seconds to go, only her second field goal of the game.

Berry called timeout and inbounded the ball to Callihan near its bench, where she heaved a 3-pointer, but a foul was called on the play. After a lengthy delay to check clock timing, Callihan stepped to the line and made all three attempts for the deciding points.

Sewanee's ensuing inbounds pass fell out of bounds and Berry escaped with the victory, their sixth straight overall. Jade Lewis led the Vikings with 17 points while Briaiah Lewis added nine and Callihan and Lauren Ellard each posted eight. Berry shot just 30 percent from the field in the contest and 6-of-22 from 3-point range.

Boyd collected 18 points with four 3-pointers for the Tigers and Cleveland recorded 11 points and seven rebounds.

The Tigers scored the first eight points of the game and led 10-2 five minutes into the contest. Boyd and Cleveland each made 3-pointers and layups while the Vikings did not score for almost four minutes to start the contest. Lovelace's layup at the four-minute mark made it 12-3 Sewanee, but the home team did not score for the remainder of the quarter.

Ellard and Gabrielle Aiello both netted triples for Berry and Ava Travis collected a layup, cutting the Tigers lead to 12-11 after one period.

Lewis collected a 3-pointer for the Vikings to open the second quarter before two foul shots by Falvey knotted the game at 14. The teams traded baskets before 3-of-4 free throws by Ellard and a jumper from Lewis gave the Vikings a 21-16 edge.

Lovelace made a 3-pointer from the wing in the final minute and Boyd's layup in the last 10 seconds of the half tied the contest at 21. Sewanee shot just 28 percent (7-for-25) from the field while Berry was 7-of-21. The two teams combined to hit 6-of-24 from 3-point range as well.

Tallman Leads Tigers at Dean Hayes Indoor Classic

Sewanee's indoor track and field teams turned in a strong showing on Feb. 7, highlighted by a first-place finish from Parker Tallman in the 800 meters and multiple personal-best performances across the meet.

Tallman led wire-to-wire in the men's 800m, crossing the line in 1:58.86 to claim first place. The time marked a personal best and now ranks second all-time in Sewanee program history. Gordon Love also posted a personal record in the event, running a 2:21.51 to place 13th.

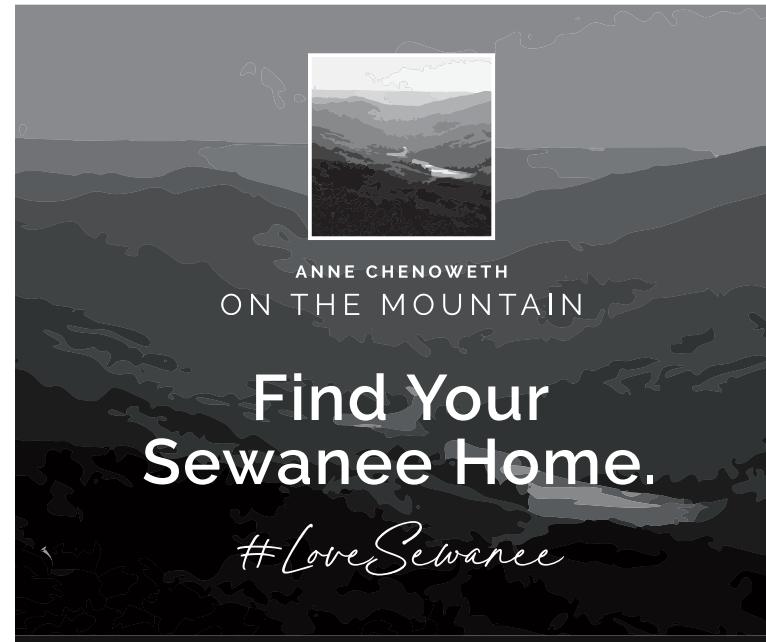
In the sprints, Ethan Kline clocked a 6.75 in the 55m prelims to finish 10th. Maxwell Finn recorded personal bests in both the 200m and 400m, taking 14th in the 200m with a time of 24.18 and 11th in the 400m with a 54.32.

Distance runners continued the Tigers' momentum, as Declan Oberlies finished sixth in the mile with a time of 4:40.31. Jack Collins placed seventh in the 3000m, running 8:51.02, a mark that now ranks third all-time in Sewanee history.

On the women's side, Eleanor Graham posted a personal-best 5:31.12 in the mile, moving her into third place on Sewanee's all-time list.

The Tigers also found success in the field events. Lulus White placed fourth in the shot put with a throw of 12.10 meters (39-08.50), while Joshua Locklear finished sixth with a mark of 11.40 meters (37-05).

Sewanee returns to the track next weekend at the Centre International on Saturday, Feb. 14.



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NATURE NOTES

by Yolande Gottfried



First spring beauty. Photo by Lin Cameron

Groundhogs and Birds

This Saturday, Feb. 14, we mark Valentine's Day or Olde Groundhog Day. If you were dissatisfied with the groundhog's prediction on Feb. 2, you can get a second opinion. When Pope Gregory adjusted the calendar in 1582, 11 days were skipped, so that Feb. 2 in the old Julian calendar fell on Feb. 14 in the new Gregorian calendar, a reform that was accepted in the colonies in 1752. Some old settlers in isolated areas, notably the Appalachian, Cumberland, and Ozark Mountains, still celebrated Olde Groundhog Day on Feb. 14 (and Olde Christmas on Jan. 6, for that matter). As Jack Lorenz observed in earlier editions of the Messenger, these settlers were descendants of isolated farmers in western New York and Pennsylvania who emigrated to the Southern Mountains (after George Washington's suppression of the Whiskey Rebellion) and continued to observe the Julian date for Groundhog Day. Many folks in the older generations in the Sewanee area shared this belief in Olde Groundhog Day. As to Valentine's Day, there was a medieval belief that birds chose their mates on this date and indeed birds seem to be more active and vocal now than they were in the depths of winter. Appropriately, the Great Backyard Bird Count this year runs from Friday, Feb. 13 through Monday, Feb. 16. Go to www.birdcount.org to see how you can participate.

Sewanee Herbarium Winter Event

Botanical Drawing Workshop — Leaves!, Saturday, Feb. 28, 9:30–11:30 a.m., Spencer Room 173, Mary Priestley. Leaves are some of the most fun, and challenging, botanical structures to draw. For this workshop, we will bring some plants from the greenhouses at the University Farm to draw. We will look closely at leaf function, structure, and arrangement, then move on to drawing leaves, plants, and possibly flowers, depending on what is available. Participants will do a pen and ink illustration with the option of adding color. Bring your cell phone; other materials will be provided. There is no cost, but please reserve so we know how many people to expect. Email <mpriestley0150@gmail.com>.

Nature Journaling Continues

The Nature Journaling group, sponsored by the Sewanee Herbarium, meets Thursdays, 9–11 a.m. Grab a pencil and paper and plan to join us. Email <mpriestley0150@gmail.com> for more information and meeting location.

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State Park Offerings

To confirm that these events will occur as listed and to register, go to Fiery Gizzard State Park <<https://tnstateparks.com/parks/events/fiery-gizzard>>, (931) 924-2980; Head of the Crow State Park <<https://tnstateparks.com/parks/head-of-the-crow>>, (615) 762-5917; Savage Gulf State Park <<https://tnstateparks.com/parks/events/savage-gulf>>, 931-692-3887. All times are central.

For the Love of Nature: Guided Hike — Fiery Gizzard State Park Saturday, Feb. 14, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Donations accepted. Register for event. Join Ranger Hannah at the Fiery Gizzard North trailhead, 131 Fiery Gizzard Rd., Tracy City, for a lovely hike on the Grundy Forest Day Loop celebrating the natural beauty of the Fiery Gizzard — waterfalls, forests, and all of the many reasons we love the park! Hikers should dress accordingly for the weather, wear sturdy hiking boots, and bring water. The Grundy Forest Day Loop is a moderate 2-mile loop with rocky terrain and slight elevation gains. Hikers should review the EEC (Essential Eligibility Criteria) at <https://reserve.tnstateparks.com/gallery/tsp_masterg/451/items/06FB1546-1297-47E8-A1612BC6EBEB1838.pdf> for this hike prior to signing up. Hikers will be emailed 24hrs prior to the hike should it need to be cancelled due to inclement weather.

Valentine's Day Hike — Head of the Crow State Park, Saturday, Feb. 14, 10–11:30 a.m. Donations accepted. Register for the event. Meet at Pack Hollow Trailhead, 2036 Old CCC Rd., Sewanee. Join us for this Valentine's Day Hike! Bring yourself, bring a friend, bring that special someone, or load everyone up and bring the whole family! This hike is free to attend. We will primarily be talking about the geology and formation of the Cumberland Plateau, which includes the beautiful Head of the Crow State Park. This hike is weather-dependent. Please dress appropriately for the weather.

Grundy Lakes Clean Up — Fiery Gizzard State Park, Saturday, Feb. 21, noon–2 p.m. Free. Meet at 587 Lakes Rd., Tracy City. Join Rangers Hannah and Jessie for a Grundy Lakes Clean Up Day. We will be cleaning up old debris piles on the Lone Rock Trail as well as trash around the lakes. Please dress accordingly and dress for the weather. If you have work gloves, please bring them. Also make sure you have plenty of snacks and water. We will be meeting at the main Grundy Lakes parking lot where the bathrooms are located.

It's Knot Time — Fiery Gizzard State Park, Saturday, Feb. 21, 1–2 p.m. Donations accepted. Register for event. Meet at 11745 US 41 Monteagle. Join Ranger Josh for a free hands-on knot tying program focused on practical outdoor skills. We will meet at the park visitor center and depending on weather will be outside at the pavilion or stay warm and dry inside the building. During this interactive program, participants will learn several essential knots commonly used for camping, securing gear, setting up shelters, and outdoor safety. Each knot will be demonstrated step-by-step, followed by time to practice with guidance from the ranger. We'll also discuss when and why each knot is used, and how these skills apply to real situations you may encounter while enjoying the park. This program is beginner-friendly and designed for anyone. No prior experience is required. All materials will be provided. Whether you're new to outdoor skills or just want to sharpen your knot knowledge, this program offers a fun and practical way to build confidence on the trail and in camp. Registration is required, and space and supplies are limited. Participants must register in advance to attend.

Be Aware of Phone Scams Targeting Utility Customers

This is a public service announcement from Duck River Electric. Be aware of phone scams targeting utility customers.

Scammers are calling Duck River Electric-served business and residential members, threatening to disconnect power unless a bill is paid immediately. These calls are NOT from Duck River Electric.

If you receive a call like this, hang up immediately. Even if the call sounds legitimate, be cautious.

DREMC does not use toll free 1-888 or 1-800 numbers, which the scammers sometimes use. Even if someone asks you to contact DREMC using a 931 area code, check with DREMC directly regarding the status of your account by calling one of the numbers for the cooperative listed at dremc.com.

If you need to verify the status of your DREMC account, log in to your account online through <dremc.com>, use the mobile app or call Duck River Electric directly at any of the numbers on their website.

Stay alert to the scammers' attempts; protect your information; and help spread the word to friends and family.

For more information on how to detect a possible scam tactic, check out page 25 >of this month's issue of The Tennessee Magazine or visit <dremc.com>.



Buddy



Murphy

MARC's Mountain Adoptables: Meet Buddy & Murphy

Buddy is a black and white Border Collie mix with a touch of brown on his hind legs, and a spot of white on the tip of his tail. His blue eyes and floppy ears and "let's have an adventure" expression show you he is ready for a good time whether it be going for a walk, playing with a toy, or stretching out next to you for some quality tummy rubs. At 37 pounds, 22 inches long and 22 inches high at the shoulder, Buddy is a great size. Good with kids. Potty trained and infrequently barks. At about 10 months old, he is enjoying living inside and exploring the fenced back yard. Come meet Buddy and see if he is your perfect match.

Murphy is a tricolor Border Collie mix who loves to chase a toy, bring it to you, and then snuggle. At about 32 pounds, 22 inches long, and 20 inches high at the shoulder, Murphy's perky ears and cute grin tell you just how happy he is to be with you. Murphy is learning to walk on a leash and enjoys it very much. Murphy enjoys a good soft blanket to nestle into and loves you to join him for kisses on the nose. Good with kids. Potty trained. Quiet. At about 10 months old, he is enjoying living inside and exploring the fenced back yard. Don't wait to meet Murphy and your new family member.

If you would like to learn more about Buddy and Murphy, please fill out an Adoption Application found on our MARC website <www.marc4change.org> and/or contact Sue Scruggs, cell phone (423) 619-3845. All MARC animals ready for adoption are spayed or neutered and up-to-date on their vaccines and preventatives. MARC has a trainer available to work with dog adopters and dog fosters as needed.

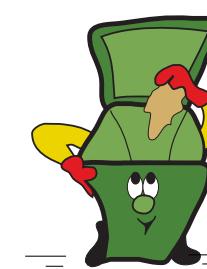
WEATHER

DAY	DATE	HI	LO
Mon	Feb 02	27	19
Tue	Feb 03	43	32
Wed	Feb 04	51	35
Thu	Feb 05	44	18
Fri	Feb 06	29	28
Sat	Feb 07	57	28
Sun	Feb 08	43	24

Week's Stats:
 Avg max temp = 42
 Avg min temp = 26
 Avg temp = 33
 Precipitation = 0.88"

Reported by Sandy Gilliam
 Domain Ranger

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LOCAL SERVICES

OFFICE REOPENING: A Place Of Hope Mental And Behavioral Health Services is reopening. Family, individual, and children accompanied by responsible adult. Providing physical communication. Legal referrals for evaluation, disability assistance and personal. Written evaluations and recommendations available. Call (931) 924-0042 or (931) 213-4033 for appointment.



MESSENGER DEADLINES

News and Calendar:
Tuesday, 5 p.m.
Display Advertising:
Monday, 5 p.m.
Classified Advertising:
Wednesday, noon

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE: The Sewanee Utility District of Franklin and Marion Counties Board of Commissioners is scheduled to meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 24, at the utility office at 150 Sherwood Road. If a customer is unable to attend but wishes to bring a matter to the board, call (931) 598-5611, visit the office, or call a board member. The board members are Amanda Bailey, Chris McBee, Donnie McBee, Charlie Smith, and Clay Yeatman.

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SES Turns 100

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Year(s) at the school _____

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FROM BARD TO VERSE

by Robin Bates

Valentine's Day

These days I can see us clinging to each other
as we are swept along by the current
I am clinging to you to keep you from
being swept away and you are clinging to me
we see the shores blurring past as we hold
each other in the rushing current
the daylight rushes unheard far above us
how long will we be swept along in the daylight
how long will we cling together in the night
and where will it carry us together

--W.S. Merwin, *Here Together*

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Community Calendar

Friday, Feb. 13

GC Schools Abbreviated Day

9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
5:45 p.m. Kundalini Yoga, Nathalia, Sewanee Community Center, until 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 14 • St. Valentine's Day

Happy Birthday Sewanee Mountain Messenger!

8 a.m. MMUMC food distribution, 322 W. Main St., Monteagle, until 10 a.m.
9 a.m. American Legion Post 51, Legion Hall
9 a.m. Grief Recovery Group, Wesley House, MMUMC, 322 W. Main St., Monteagle, (2 of 13)
10 a.m. Hospitality Shop open, until 2 p.m.
2 p.m. Social Circle, crafting circle, Brooks Hall.

Sunday, Feb. 15

1 p.m. Knitting Circle, Mooney's, until 3 p.m.
2 p.m. Roberson Project photography workshop, artist Colby Caldwell and writer Hannah Palmer, starts at St. Mark's Community Center, 481 Alabama Ave., until 4 p.m.
4 p.m. Hatha Yoga, Helen, Community Center

Monday, Feb. 16 • Presidents' Day

*FC, GC, MC Schools No Classes
SAS Admission Preview Day
SCA Board Nominations due <sewanecivic@gmail.com>*

9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
9 a.m. Pilates, intermed, Kim, 293 Ball Park Rd.
10:30 a.m. Chair Exercise, Susan, Sewanee Community Center, until 11:30 a.m.
5 p.m. Lifelong Learning, McGriff Alumni House
5:30 p.m. FCDP Fundraiser Spelling Bee/Trivia Challenge, St. Mark's Community Center, 481 Alabama Ave.
6:30 p.m. Kundalini Yoga, Pippa, Sewanee Community Center, until 7:45 p.m.
7 p.m. Roberson Project lecture, "How to Tend to a Ghost Pool," (free) Hannah Palmer, Convocation Hall

Tuesday, Feb. 17 • Lunar New Year • Mardi Gras

5 a.m. New Moon Sunrise Sadhana w/Sound Meditation, Sewanee Community Center, until 7:30 a.m.
8 a.m. GC Food Bank, 114 S. Industrial Park Rd., Coalmont, until 10 a.m.
9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
9 a.m. Coffee w/Softball Coach Merritt Yackey, McGriff Alumni House; livestream <sewanetigers.com/watch/>
10 a.m. Hospitality Shop open, until 1 p.m.
10 a.m. Pilates, beginner, Kim, 293 Ball Park Rd.
11:30 a.m. Grundy County Rotary, Dutch Maid Bakery, Tracy City
noon Pilates, intermed, Kim, 293 Ball Park Rd..
4 p.m. S. Cumberland Farmers' Market pickup, Community Center, until 6 p.m.
4:30 p.m. Babson Center Q&A, Chris Fischer, C'99, Social Lodge, Georgia Ave., until 5:30 p.m.
5 p.m. Mardi Gras Celebration, Kenerly Hall, St. Mark & St. Paul's, until 6:30 p.m.

5 p.m. Public Visioning Open House for Head of the Crow State Park, St. Mark's Community Center, 481 Alabama Ave., until 7 p.m.; RSVP <bit.ly/HOTC_SP>
5:30 p.m. Yoga, Pippa, 293 Ball Park Rd.

Wednesday, Feb. 18 • Ash Wednesday • First Night of Ramadan

9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
9 a.m. Pilates, intermed, Kim, 293 Ball Park Rd.
10 a.m. Art Wednesday, (free), Artisan Depot, 204 E. Cumberland St., until noon
10:30 a.m. Chair Exercise, Susan, Sewanee Community Center, until 11:30 a.m.
5:30 p.m. Hatha Yoga, Helen, Community Center

Thursday, Feb. 19

8 a.m. Monteagle-Sewanee Rotary, Lindsay Hayler, Uplift, St. Mary's Sewanee
9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
9 a.m. Nature Journaling, email <Mpriestley01@gmail.com> for details/meeting location
9:30 a.m. Body Recall, Judy, conference room, Monteagle City Hall
10 a.m. Hospitality Shop open, until 1 p.m.
10 a.m. Pilates, beginner, Kim, 293 Ball Park Rd.
noon Pilates, intermed, Kim, 293 Ball Park Rd.
4:30 p.m. Babson Center, "Forests as Natural Climate Solutions: Tensions in the Paradigm," Chris Elwell, C'95, Torian Room, duPont Library
7:30 p.m. Concert, "Ritual, Revolution, and Rhythm," Sewanee Symphony Orchestra, Guerry Auditorium

Friday, Feb. 20

9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
1 p.m. Peace Crane Opening, duPont
5 p.m. Opening Reception, "Seen and Unseen," Frame Gallery, until 6:30 p.m.
5 p.m. Opening Reception, "Is Love Free?," Artisan Depot, Cowan, until 7 p.m.
5:45 p.m. Kundalini Yoga, Nathalia, Sewanee Community Center, until 7 p.m.

Local 12-Step Meetings

Friday
7 p.m., AA, open, Christ Church, Tracy City

Saturday
7 p.m., NA, open, Decherd United Methodist

Sunday
6:30 p.m., AA, open, the Wesley House, Morton Memorial United Methodist Church

Monday
5 p.m., 12-Step Women's Study Group. Call (931) 327-5551 for information and for the Zoom link

7 p.m., AA, open, Christ Church, Tracy City

Tuesday
11 a.m., Grundy Recovery Alliance Community Endeavor Open Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

7 p.m., AA, open, First Baptist, Altamont

7 p.m., AA, open, Trinity Episcopal Church, Winchester

7 p.m., AA, open, the Wesley House, Morton Memorial United Methodist Church

Wednesday
10 a.m., AA, closed, Clifftops, (931) 924-3493

7 p.m., NA, Decherd United Methodist

Thursday
6 p.m., Life's Healing Choice, Grundy County Recovery Alliance, Coalmont

6 p.m., Celebrate Recovery, City Light Church, Monteagle

7 p.m., Serenity in Sewanee AA, open, Brooks Hall, Sewanee

7 p.m., Al-Anon, First UMC, Winchester

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