

THE SEWANEE MOUNTAIN MESSENGER

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Monteagle CDBG Grant Options, Ups and Downs

by Leslie Lytle, Messenger Staff Writer

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) can provide up to \$1 million in funding for counties and municipalities to undertake a wide array of projects ranging from playgrounds to fire halls to wastewater treatment plants. At a Jan. 8 public hearing at Monteagle City Hall, Southeast Tennessee Development's Stacie Willoughby presented an overview of the options available to Monteagle, the caveats, and what might enhance Monteagle's chances of being among the fortunate grant recipients. Willoughby serves as director of the Project Administration Department which facilitates the grant application process and makes sure grant recipients stay in compliance. She calls herself a "professional problem solver."

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awards money for CDBGs to the states, and the states administer the grantee selection and oversight process. Tennessee received \$26.6 million from HUD for 2026. A grantee can only have one open grant at a time. Monteagle received the full \$1 million in 2023 for fire department equipment, skidders, and two trucks.

"We were very excited about that," Willoughby said. "We're closing out that grant, so Monteagle is eligible to apply again in 2026." The deadline is March 20.

Three of the six grant categories provide funding for water or sewer related projects: water system rehabilitation, sewer system rehabilitation, and water line extension. The other three categories provide funds for fire department and EMA services, such as the grant Tracy City received for a firehall in 2024 (Public Health and Safety); improvements to roads, stormwater mitigation, and construction of public buildings such as libraries or community centers (Community Infrastructure); and rehabilitation of public buildings and downtown revitalization projects such as playgrounds (Community Revitalization). Willoughby pointed out "beautification" projects did not qualify for funding.

Integral to the scoring process and HUD objectives, to qualify for a CDBG an awardee must be able to prove 51 percent of the population who benefits from the project have low to moderate incomes. Monteagle Alderman Dean Lay asked if that would disqualify Monteagle from receiving a grant for sewer system rehabilitation since the primary beneficiaries would be commercial businesses such as restaurants and motels wanting to connect to the sewer system. Willoughby explained, sewer rehabilitation "would be considered a non-direct benefit since if Monteagle is doing well it will effect everybody in the community." Resident Martha Ann Pilcher observed, "Motels mean jobs and taxes. Sales tax revenue is Monteagle's only income."

Lay also asked if serving areas outside the city limits would disqualify Monteagle from applying for a sewer rehabilitation CDBG. Willoughby dismissed the concern — "The city owns the sewer system."

"Water and sewer rehabilitation projects usually score well, especially if you have a system that struggled in the past," Willoughby said. "All over Tennessee we have aging infrastructure and growth that can't keep up." Willoughby acknowledged Monteagle would be competing against its neighbors for grant awards.

Alderman Grant Fletcher asked if Monteagle could combine several smaller projects from different categories. "You can only apply in one area," Willoughby said. Citing the costly project underway of mitigating inflow and infiltration of stormwater into the sanitary sewer, Fletcher asked if an applicant could request funding for part of a project. "If it's one \$2.5 million project, we can submit that as the budget with CDBG covering part of that and look at your capital fund for the rest or stacking grants," Willoughby said. "We stack grants all the time, but it is risky. You may get one grant, but you may not get another." She also cautioned funding from all the grants sources might not come in at the same time, preventing a project from moving forward.

In addition, since CDBGs require a 15 percent matching contribution from the recipient, applicants must pass a resolution stating they can provide the match. A \$1 million award with a 15 percent match of \$150,000 would bring the total budget to \$1,150,000 so the match would be \$172,500. Citing another financial consideration, Willoughby said the project budget needed to include engineering and architectural expenses.

Looking to the timeline, Willoughby stressed if Monteagle decided to apply, once they decided on a project and notified her, procuring professional services such as an engineer or architect typically took up to three weeks, limiting the time she would have left to prepare a cost estimate and application before the March 20 deadline. Tennessee usually announced grant awardees in November or December. The grant contract process took another two months, Willoughby said. Together with other requirements, these factors could push the onset of construction to May. Further stymieing progress, every step of a project from environmental impact assessment to design specs to bid awarding required state approval, Willoughby noted.

"The first step is the public hearing," Willoughby said. "The next step is deciding if you want to apply and what for."

Monteagle Mayor Greg Maloof thanked Willoughby and praised her for always being available and responsive in his interactions with SETD. Maloof anticipates holding a community meeting in the near future.



Following an Oct. 22 announcement to the community, Sewanee Village Ventures (SVV) began initial stages of the construction process for 48 new apartments for employees on Jan. 8. This first phase will consist of harvesting timber as part of a larger project managed by the Office of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability (OESS). Following, site clearing will take place in preparation for construction scheduled to begin in May 2026. Illustrations, floorplans, and a site plan for the two three-story buildings can be found online here: <https://new.sewanee.edu/offices/university-offices/economic-development/sewanee-village-ventures/apartments-project/>. Expanding employee housing options is a key priority within the University's strategic plan. Adding apartments in the Village significantly advances the University's ability to provide attractive and affordable housing in Sewanee, while creating an additional pathway for many employees to live on the Domain. Importantly, this initiative will help reverse the decades-long trend of faculty and staff living farther from campus, and foster greater interaction and connection with our students. A groundbreaking will be scheduled for April 2026, and construction will take place between May 2026 and the summer of 2027 with the goal of welcoming employee residents shortly thereafter.

Franklin County Schools' Challenges: Virtual Academy, Vouchers

by Leslie Lytle, Messenger Staff Writer

"Just a little over a year ago we realized we were losing students to homeschool programs," said Rachel Shields, Secondary Supervisor who oversees the Virtual Academy. "We wanted to meet them in the middle and provide an opportunity for them to keep them in the district and not lose them to other programs." At the Jan. 12 Franklin County School Board meeting, Shields provided an overview of the virtual school program. The board also heard an update about concerns prompted by the state's new Education Freedom Scholarships, which provide tuition supplements for students attending private school far exceeding the per-student allocation to public schools.

Shields capped enrollment in the Virtual Academy at 30, with a goal of 15 students the first year. She phoned over 100 parents urging them to enroll their children in addition to sending letters and hosting orientation nights. The Academy provides instruction for grades 6-8.

Allison Dietz, Sewanee Elementary School Principal, serves in the dual role of principal at the Academy. "We started in August with 10 students," Shields said. "I was very excited to have 10. Seven of those were students we regained to the district."

"Starting an online program seemed easy," Shields said, "But you're starting a new school. It has its own set of challenges when you don't have the students sitting in the classroom to do morale

things with and parents dropping their kids off making them easy to contact." Shields acknowledged, "Two of the seven went back to their homeschool program, but the others we kept in the district [although attending] brick-and-mortar schools. We'll continue the next school year with middle grades and hope to increase the enrolment. Our goal is to transition into the high school grade level."

"What I appreciate," said Director of Schools Cary Holman, "is the parents quickly realized students were held to a very high standard and how serious we are about education. If virtual school is what it takes for them to realize how serious we are about education, that's what we'll keep doing."

With district funding directly linked to student enrollment, other new challenges follow from the state's Education Freedom Scholarship program. Board member Sarah Marhevsky stressed the ineq-

(Continued on page 5)

Monteagle: New Site Plan for Underway Building

by Leslie Lytle, Messenger Staff
Writer

"The [revised site plan] showing the way we originally approved it, is not how it's built" said Planning Commissioner Katie Trahan at the Jan. 6 Monteagle Planning Commission meeting objecting to the revised site plan for the already under construction Monteagle Market on West Main. "This is not acceptable," Trahan insisted. Commissioner Alec Mosley concurred, "What's the point in having a site plan when it's built differently."

Trahan pointed out the tanks were in a different location from what was shown on the site plan and the gas pumps were at an angle, rather than in a straight line as depicted. "This could affect traffic and landscaping issues," Trahan said. She observed the contractors started excavation for the tanks before Thanksgiving and the site plan could have been updated to reflect the change. "We should have something accurate to look at," Trahan stressed.

The one change on the revised site plan showed two parking spaces moved to the right of the entrance, with all parking in a line. Engineer Liz Rodriquez said the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) agreed to approve relocating the parking spaces if the agency received a letter from the planning commission authorizing the change.

On the advice of town planner Jonathan Rush, the commission rejected the revised site plan and voted to require a new site plan accurately depicting what was built and what would be built and prohibiting further changes without the commission's authorization.

Taking up another site plan, the commission tabled approval of the proposed TownePlace Suites project. Engineer Christian Sawyer read from an email exchange with Monteagle engineer Travis Wilson in which the contractor agreed to assume any additional costs resulting from replacing the I-24 bridge, a TDOT project. "I would feel better if the site plan had a note [documenting the agreement]," Mosley said. Also at issue was the location of water and sewer lines. Similar to the Monteagle Market project, TDOT wanted approval from Monteagle before rendering a decision. Sawyer said the contractors had modified water and sewer

(Continued on page 5)

P.O. Box 296
Sewanee, TN 37375

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 Center; Police Officer (Full-Time), Sewanee Police Department; Police Officer (Part-Time), Sewanee Police Department; Second Cook, Sewanee Dining, Sewanee Dining, McClurg; Sewanee Dining Associate, Sewanee Dining, McClurg; Sewanee Shuttle Driver, Sewanee Police Department.

For more information call (931) 598-1381. Apply at <<https://jobs.sewanee.edu>>.

Letters

DONATIONS WORK HERE

To the Editor:

As we move beyond the holiday season and settle into the new year, many of us take time to reflect on how we can continue to support our community. If you find yourself asking that question, you will quickly discover the many incredible local organizations that prove, year after year, that donations work here — thanks to the Sewanee Community Chest.

Contributions toward our \$118,500 goal are nearing 90 percent and directly support vital local organizations, including Sewanee Elementary School, Easy's Dog Shelter, Folks at Home, the Community Action Committee, and St. Mark's Community Center. A gift to the Sewanee Community Chest is an investment in these programs — and so many others — that strengthen this place we call home.

The Sewanee Community Chest funds a wide range of services that touch every stage of life in our community. As we look ahead to 2026, many of these organizations are facing increased requests for assistance while also managing rising costs. When you donate to the Sewanee Community Chest, 100 percent of your contribution goes directly to supporting these local organizations.

Gifts may be made online through PayPal Giving at <<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/119597>> or by mailing a check to Sewanee Community Chest, P.O. Box 99, Sewanee, TN 37375. University employees may also arrange a payroll deduction by contacting Barbara Schloss in Human Resources. The Community Chest is a 501(c)(3) organization therefore all donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for supporting the organizations that make Sewanee such a caring and resilient community. The Community Chest Stewards and the Sewanee Civic Association Board of Directors wish you a peaceful and prosperous new year.

With gratitude,
Sarah Edmonds, Sewanee Community Chest Steward

AGING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

To the Editor:

Following a path set by other communities, we are conducting an "Aging Needs Assessment" in 2026.

Dr. Amy Patterson and Dr. Deborah McGrath, in collaboration with Dr. Cara Robinson of Tennessee State University's Center on Aging Research, along with Folks at Home, are collaborating on an "Aging Needs Assessment" to begin in the spring of 2026. Initially we are focused on the area of Sewanee and on the age group of 65 years and older. (We hope this project will get replicated in other areas in the future. The parameters of the research model constrain this first round to those 65 and older - apologies in advance.)

Letters to the Editor Policy

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.

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, come by our office, 418 St. Mary's Ln., or send your email to <news@sewaneeemessenger.com>. — KB



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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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MESSENGER HOURS

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

Sewanee Utility District

The Sewanee Utility District of Franklin and Marion Counties Board of Commissioners is scheduled to meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the utility office, 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 Johnny Hughes, Chris McBee, Donnie McBee, Charlie Smith, and Clay Yeatman.

Voting continues for the Sewanee Utility District of Franklin and Marion Counties Board of Commissioners during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., through Tuesday, Jan. 20. There are five candidates for two open board positions.

Monteagle-Sewanee Rotary Club

The Monteagle-Sewanee Rotary Club is scheduled to meet at 8 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 22, at St. Mary's Sewanee. Keith Killebrew, new Director of Arts and Lectures at the Heritage Center, Grundy County Historical Society, Tracy City, will present the program. The Monteagle-Sewanee Rotary Club will have a private club social on Jan. 29.

Create Your Story Workshop

Wildly original spoken word artist Minton Sparks invites aspiring writers into Create Your Story, a fearless writing workshop on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to noon, Jan. 22 through Feb. 12. Introductory sessions are \$50 each. Contact Minton at <msmintonsparks@gmail.com> for more details and location. For more information go to <www.mintonsparks.com>.

Town of Monteagle

The Town of Monteagle will have a Town Hall about the Downtown Adjacent Residential Overlay District at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 20, in the conference room at City Hall. For more information go to <https://townofmonteagle-tn.gov/#mayorsmemos>.

There will be a Beer Board Meeting at 4:30 p.m. for a Beer Permit for Misty's Market on Monday, Jan. 26, in the conference room at City Hall. The Monteagle City Council is scheduled to meet at 5 p.m., Monday, Jan. 26, in the conference room at City Hall. The Town of Monteagle is applying for a CDBG grant. The city council would like community input at the city council meeting on Jan. 26, 2026.

Franklin County Commission

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m., Monday, Jan. 26, at the Franklin County Courthouse in the Courtroom.

Sewanee Community Council

The next meeting of the Community Council is scheduled for 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 26.

FCDP Monthly Meeting

The Franklin County Democratic Party is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 27, at the Franklin County Annex, Small Meeting Room, 839 Dinah Shore Blvd., Winchester. Luis Mato, TNDP Communication Director, will be our guest and give a presentation about making social media

more effective.

Sewanee Woman's Club

At the Feb. 9 meeting of the Sewanee Woman's Club we will hear the exciting things that are happening and planned for at the Savage Gulf State Park. Park Manager Aaron Reid will be telling us about the recently established state park. He will give an overview of the park and also talk about future plans and new developments. He will also share renderings of the beautiful new facilities.

Bring a friend and come to the Monday, Feb. 9, Sewanee Woman's Club meeting to learn more about another great Tennessee State Park in our area. We will gather at St. Mary's, Sewanee, at 11:30 a.m., for socializing with lunch starting at 11:50 a.m. Mr. Reid will begin his presentation following lunch. The lunch will be a healthy and gourmet affair for just \$20.

For 95 years this club has been a wonderful way to connect with friends and meet new and interesting neighbors. So don't miss out! Reservations are required for lunch, or, if preferred, just to hear the program. Please make reservations by noon on Sunday, Feb. 1 to this email: <reservations.swc@gmail.com>.

Hospitality Shop News

The HVAC is not functioning at the University site and it's too cold to work inside. We will try to be open on Saturday, Jan. 17 if a repair part comes in. We can't take additional donations at this time. Donation processes will resume on March 2. Right now the bins will be taped shut and eventually moved to the new site at 574 Georgia Ave. Thank you to everyone for understanding our predicament.

Keith Killebrew to Speak at Heritage Center

Muralist Keith Killebrew will speak at 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 17, in the Assembly Hall of the Heritage Center located at 465 Railroad Ave., Tracy City. He has joined the staff of the Heritage Center and will address the expansion of the programs at the Heritage Center to include artist's and artisan's workshops for public, especially children, observation and participation. It is anticipated that this feature of the Heritage Center mission will expand the culture of appreciation within the community for the arts and historical crafts including methods of their creation.

Killebrew has recently completed a mural on the second story east elevation of the Heritage Center. The mural faces Main Street or U.S. Highway 41 as it passes through Tracy City on to Jasper. The mural depicts scenes from each of the eight galleries in the museum.

Killebrew attended Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa where he studied Interior Architecture, Art History and Studio Arts. He has thirty-four years' experience as a professional artist encompassing advertising, computer design, graphic design, illustration, interior design, magazine production, print production and fine art painting.

The program is free of charge and open to the public.

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.

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 <sewaneecommunitychest@gmail.com>.

December 2025 Lease Committee Meeting Summary

The following items were approved: November minutes; request to transfer Lease No. 587, located at 226 Lake O'Donnell Road to Fred Boyte Smith; request to transfer Lease No. 697, located at 210 Willie Six Road to Caroline and Stephen Hutchins; request to approve renovation and addition to Lease No. 133, located at 72 Maxon Lane.

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.

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Obituaries

Susan Gay Caldwell

Susan Gay Caldwell, age 62, died on Dec. 22, 2025, in Winchester. She was born on March 14, 1962, in Sewanee, to Melvin Ray Caldwell and Floye Ann Caldwell. She was preceded in death by her parents; and sisters Joyce Ann Simmons and Priscilla Lewis.

She is survived by siblings John (Rhonda) Caldwell, Ben (Tina) Caldwell, and Melody (Kelvin) Sweeton.

Funeral services were on Dec. 23, 2025, from the Chapel of Cumberland Funeral Home, Monteagle. Interment followed in Eastern Star Cemetery. For complete obituary go to <www.cumberlandfuneral-home.net>.

Jackie Don Limbaugh

Jackie Don Limbaugh, age 88 of Winchester, died on Jan. 7, 2026, at Highpoint Health Winchester. He was born on Oct. 1, 1937, in Franklin County, to Oliver Owen “Zach” and Eula Kate Clark Limbaugh. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving on on the USS Taluga “AO62.” Upon returning home he worked for General Motors and eventually retired from Jack Daniels Distillery. In his younger years, he enjoyed coaching softball and baseball. He was a faithful member of Owl Hollow Church of Christ. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Mary Jeraline Edde Limbaugh; daughter Carrie Marie Mullins; brother, Elmer Owen Limbaugh; and sisters, Shirley Fann Byrom and Peggy Ann Byrom.

He is survived by his son, Zach (Hayley) Limbaugh; daughter Dawn (Mark) Finney, six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, two nephews, and many other relatives.

Funeral Services were on Jan. 10, 2026, from the Chapel of Moore-Cortner Funeral Home with Bro. Walter Rayburn officiating. Interment followed in Harmony Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to the Broadview School Library or Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. For complete obituary go to <www.moorecortner.com>.

Lester James Linton Jr.

Lester James “Les” Linton Jr., age 72, died on Dec. 17, 2025. He was born on July 28, 1953, in Jacksonville, Fla., to Lester James Linton Sr. and Hazel Irene (Childers) Linton.

He was an artist by trade; a devoted and enthusiastic chess player; worked as a film critic; and after he moved to Tracy City wrote a film column for the Grundy County Herald for several years. He was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by many cousins and lifelong friends.

A Celebration of Life service was on Dec. 27, 2025, at Mt. Ararat Cumberland Methodist Church in the Flat Branch Community with Bro. John Childers officiating. In lieu of flowers, it was his request that memorial contributions be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, P.O. Box 1999 Memphis, TN, 38101, or to a preferred charity of your choice. For complete obituary go to <www.cumberlandfuneralhome.net>.

Charles William McBee

Charles William McBee, age 83, died on Dec. 19, 2025 at his home. He was born on Nov. 25, 1942, in Sewanee, to Fred McBee and Willow Mae Lankford McBee. He attended barber school and was a veteran of the U.S. Army, after which he worked as a barber in the Sewanee area. In later years, he was

known in the Sewanee area for his landscaping and yardwork He was preceded in death by his parents; sister Judy Green; and brother Stephen Randolph McBee.

He is survived by his children, Stephanie McBee and Michael McBee; sister Shirley Stephens; brother Rod McBee; two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

No services were scheduled as his wishes were to be cremated. For complete obituary go to <www.cumberlandfuneralhome.net>.

John McCrady

Funeral services for John McCrady will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 17, in the chancel of All Saints Chapel, followed by interment in the Sewanee Cemetery. A reception will follow at McGriff Alumni House.

Howard William Morris

Howard William Morris, age 93 of Sherwood, died on Dec. 23, 2025, at his home. He was born on Dec. 10, 1932, in Sherwood, to Benjamin and Mattie Lou Champion Morris. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, then worked at Avondale Carpet Mill in Stevenson, Ala. until he retired. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Sallie Morris; children Margaret Morris and Franklin Morris; and siblings Albert Morris, Calvin Morris, Frank Morris Jr, and Gracie Brandon.

He is survived by children William (Tina) Morris and Melvin Morris; siblings Ben Frazier and Wanda Wann; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services were on Jan. 2, 2026, from the Chapel of Moore-Cortner Funeral Home with Bro. Franklin Hill officiating. Interment was in Mt. View Cemetery with military honors bestowed. For complete obituary go to <www.moorecortner.com>.

David “Larry” Perry

David “Larry” Perry, age 70, died on Dec. 12, 2025, at St. Thomas Rutherford Hospital. He was born on March 27, 1955, in Sewanee, to Thomas Perry and Lorine Shockley Perry. He was Auxiliary Chief of Police in Franklin County for years. He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter Jennifer Perry; mother- and father-in-law, Wilma and Wayland Ray; nephew, Dennis Hasty, sisters-in-law; Tammy Click and Joyce Ray and brother-in-law, Roddy McCallie.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Rita Ray Perry; daughter, Renae (Donald) Sharpe; brother, Paul Ronald Click; brother-in-law, Ricky Ray; two grand-daughters, one grandson, eight nieces, and three nephews.

Funeral services were on Dec. 17, 2025, from the Chapel of Grant Funeral Services with Bro. Ray Gardner officiating. Interment followed in Franklin Memorial Gardens. For complete obituary go to <www.grantfuneralservices.net>.

Barbara Ann Gipson Stewart

Barbara Ann Gipson Stewart, age 85, died on Dec. 27, 2025. She was born on Nov. 19, 1940, in Sewanee, to Ernest C. and Delphia Tims Gipson. She was a member of Oaklawn Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Earl Stewart; and sisters Ruth (Walter) Webb, Francis Ray (Bennie), and Elizabeth Gipson.

She is survived by her children, Jerry (Teresa) Stewart, Melissa

Ogle, Melany (Jeff) Gardner, and Kerry (Kristi) Stewart; sister Ernestine Biddle; nine grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were on Dec. 30, 2025, from the Chapel of Moore-Cortner Funeral Home with Bro. Johnny Mayes and Bro. Ray Gardner officiating. Interment followed in Franklin Memorial Gardens. For complete obituary go to <www.moorecortner.com>.

Patricia “Pat” Lee Wiser

Patricia “Pat” Lee Wiser, age 84 of Sewanee, died on Dec. 28, 2025, at her independent living home, Harmony at Bellevue, Bellevue, Tenn. She was born on June

9, 1941, in Manchester, Tenn., to The Rev. Louis Hoyt Wiser and Helen Lone Brown Wiser. She was a graduate of Coffee County Central High School, class of 1959. She received a BA from Vanderbilt Peabody College, and graduate degrees in English, Reading Instruction and Library Media from University of Colorado Boulder. She was a teacher at Pearl High School, Nashville; Fairfield High School and Whittier International School, both in the Boulder Valley School District; and at the University of the South, after she and her husband moved to Sewanee in 1995. She was a longtime member of the Cumberland Center for Justice and Peace, headed the Jane Addams book award committee,

was an active supporter of Folks at Home, wrote a column for the Messenger, “Looks at Books,” and was a member of numerous book clubs. She was active in the Democratic Party on both local and national levels, and attended the Unitarian Churches in Tullahoma and Bellevue, Tenn. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Phil Loney; and brother, Louis Hoyt Wiser Jr.

She is survived by two nephews, David (Lisa) Wiser and Derek (Jessica) Wiser; and two granddaughters.

At her request, a smalll private celebration of her life will be in the Colorado Rocky Mountains at a future date. For complete obituary go to <www.luffbowen.com>.

Church Calendar

10:30 a.m. Morning Service, Sunday
5 p.m. Evening Service, Sunday
6 p.m. Mid-week Service, Wednesday

Midway Baptist Church

9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Sunday
10:45 a.m. Morning Service, Sunday
6 p.m. Evening Service, Sunday
6 p.m. Bible Study, Wednesday

Midway Church of Christ

10 a.m. Bible Study, Sunday
11 a.m. Morning Service, Sunday
6 p.m. Evening Service, Sunday

Monteagle Church of Christ

11 a.m. Morning Service, Sunday
6 p.m. Bible Study, Wednesday

Monteagle First Baptist Church

11 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday
6 p.m. Bible Study, Wednesday

Monteagle Seventh-day Adventist Church

10 a.m. Bible Study, Saturday
11 a.m. Worship, Saturday
7 p.m. Prayer and Study, Tuesday

Morton Memorial United Methodist, Monteagle

10 a.m. Sunday School, until 10:45 a.m.
11 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday

Mountain of God Tabernacle, Monteagle

Online worship services. Call (931) 924-5339 or go to

<https://www.tdworldministries.org>

11 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday

6 p.m. Prayer Service, Wednesday

New Creations Ministries, Rayburn Chapel

4 p.m. Prayer Meeting, Sunday

New Hope Church of God in Christ, Cowan

11 a.m. Sunday Service, Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday Service, Sunday

Pelham United Methodist Church

9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Sunday
11 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday

St. Agnes’ Episcopal Church, Cowan

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Sunday

St. James-Midway Episcopal Church

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Sunday

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, Alto

8 a.m. Mass, Sunday

St. Mark & St. Paul

8:20 a.m. Nursery, basement of Kennerly Hall, Sunday

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Sunday

9:45 a.m. Godly Play

9:45 a.m. Youth Sunday School

9:45 a.m. Sunday Forum

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Sunday, also available

livestream Facebook

St. Mary’s Sewanee Retreat Center

4 p.m. Centering Prayer Group, Thursday

Sewanee Church of God

10 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday

Sewanee Zen, Stone Nest Dojo

7 a.m. Zazen, Tuesday-Thursday

10 a.m. Zazen and Ceremony, Sunday

Sisters of St. Mary Convent Chapel

7 a.m. Morning Prayer, Tuesday–Friday

5 p.m. Evening Prayer, Tuesday–Friday

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, Saturday

5 p.m. Evensong, Saturday

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Sunday

5 p.m. Evensong, Sunday

Tracy City First Baptist Church

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship, Sunday

Trinity Episcopal Church, Winchester

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Sunday

12:30 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study, Tuesday

Unitarian Universalist Church, Tullahoma

10 a.m. Service, Sunday

Valley Home Community Church, Pelham

10 a.m. Sunday School

11 a.m. Morning Service, Sunday

Winchester First United Methodist

10 a.m. Worship, Sunday

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.

Christ Church

As we move a bit further into each New Year churches which follow the liturgical year have readings related to the epiphanies following the one millions of Christians keep in their homes.

The Magi are interesting to all ages. From tiny children to Seniors they make for conversations and lighthearted jokes. The phrase "Wise Men still seek Him" came along about fifty years ago and now, happily, we say, "And so do wise women." As the Season moves along we read about Jesus at twelve years of age staying behind and the distress of Mary and Joseph in finding him missing as their caravan heads back for Nazareth. This is the only canonical glimpse we see of the childhood of Jesus. On the Second Sunday after Christmas many churches focus on The Baptism of Jesus.

The Orthodox focus on this as The Great Epiphany.

Christ Church Monteagle has long been blessed with people who live in the area who were Orthodox as children and could not drive to Chattanooga or Nashville. Later some Coptic students found Christ Church and the Coptic Church presented an Ikon of The Martyrs of Libya to Christ Church.

Our Sunday service begins at 10:45 a.m. We also have a service at noon on Wednesdays.

Morton Memorial United Methodist

On Sunday, Jan. 18, Rev. Melisa Derseweh will share a message titled "Who Would You Invite?" based on John 1:29-42. The children's message. It is significant in this passage that Andrew was one of John the Baptizer's disciples and went to his brother Simon, known later as Peter, inviting him to come see Jesus, who has been anointed as the Messiah.

Children are welcome at Morton! In All God's Children this Sunday, we will focus on service. Following that, children will have time in activities with Ms. Margaret in Children's Church.

Morton has many active ministries. A special Mission Moment will be heard with Susan Johnson of Isaiah 117 House.

To learn more about life in our community of faith, accept this invitation to worship. Morton is located at 322 West Main St., in Monteagle. Our service begins at 11 a.m., following coffee and refreshments in our Fellowship Center. This Sunday, there will be a fellowship meal following the worship service. If you are unable to attend but want to sample worship at Morton, the service is live streamed at Morton's Facebook page and is available on YouTube in the week following the service.

MMUMC is seeking an energetic, enthusiastic person to lead our Music Ministry, directing the choir and serving as pianist. The position has annual compensation of \$20,000-\$24,000. The ideal candidate will have two years or more experience in a church setting. For more information about responsibilities, contact the pastor at <melisa.derseweh@twkumc.org>. The church will accept resumes through noon on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026.

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.

Sunday Forum: Dr. Lydia Reinig, the College's Director of Dialogue Across Difference Program, will address Sunday's St. Mark and St. Paul weekly forum on "Stewarding Connection in Contentious Times: Dialogue as a Path to Curiosity, Humility, Justice, and Love." The talk is part of a year-long series on Micah's injunction to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God." The talk will take place Jan. 18 in Kennerly Hall from 9:45-10:45 a.m. Dr. Reinig notes that, in fraught times when communities are filled with fear and intractable divisions, the values of dialogue call us forward to steward connections across our differences. Her talk will explore how we can be part of creating the conditions and space for constructive dialogue that make being in community and finding Christ in one another possible.

Dr. Lydia Reinig directs co-curricular initiatives in public dialogue for students, offers workshops and programming for the campus colleagues, and teaches annually in the Rhetoric program. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado Boulder in Communication, and an M.A. in Communication Studies from Colorado State University. Her research in Colorado focused on public participation on local environmental policies and supported deliberative engagement in local communities. She has also conducted research on ways of sustaining dialogue in the face of polarization.

Our first book of the new year will be "The Dance of the Dissident Daughter" by Sue Monk Kidd. Beth Wiley will lead the discussion. Get your copy now, and join us Tuesday nights through Feb 10. We will gather in Brooks Hall with finger foods and drinks, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

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 <hbwcchurch@gmail.com> for details.

Easter Semester Convocation to Feature Installation of the Dean of the College

The University's Easter Semester Convocation will be at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16, in All Saint's Chapel. The ceremony will feature the installation of Jennifer Cooley as dean of the College. New members will be inducted into the Order of the Gown, and, in accordance with a tradition established by Vice-Chancellor Rob Pearigen, the teaching and scholarship of the faculty will also be recognized and honored with a convocation address delivered by a member of the University faculty. This year's remarks will be given by Professor and Chair of the Politics Department Mila Dragojević. A livestream is available here <<https://new.sewanee.edu/parents-families/convocation-live-stream/>>.

School (from page 1)

uity in private school receiving the full amount of the state's \$7,295 per pupil allocation while public schools only receive a percentage of that amount. "For our county it's roughly 70 percent," Marhevsky said. "We're getting \$5,106 per student, and the county has to kick in the remaining \$2,188."

For the 2025-2026 school year, the state capped scholarship awards at \$20,000 with \$10,000 designated for low-income students. Citing the eligibility table, with a family of four earning \$173,160 qualifying as low-income, Marhevsky observed, "Interesting choices there." The program cost the state \$144 million the first year. The original proposal called for increasing the number of scholarship vouchers to 25,000 for the 2026-2027 school year, but Speaker of the House Cameron Sexton has proposed doubling the number of vouchers issued to 40,000.

Touching on another concern, Marhevsky said the Tennessee School Board Association is urging the General Assembly to allocate full funding for special education preschool students. "We passed a resolution on this. It [special education preschool] is mostly supported by the district, but it's also required by law," Marhevsky insisted.

The board recently completed a self-evaluation, weighing performance against nine standards. With the highest possible score of 4, the board's overall composite score was 3.25. "There was some good constructive criticism," said Board Chair CleiJo Walker. The evaluation can be viewed on the meeting agenda for the January meeting at Franklin County Schools TN - Meeting Information.

The board will meet on Feb. 16 next month, rather than the regular meeting date of the second Monday.



PHOTO ARCHIVE.

<sewaneemessenger.smugmug.com>

Monteagle (continued from page 1)

line location in keeping with Wilson's recommendations. The commission wanted direct confirmation from Wilson before granting approval. A final unresolved point was the business's sign, still under design. "It has been submitted as public record there is a sign," Rush said. "It shouldn't be separated from the site plan."

Revisiting the long disputed Petro truck stop project, resident Billie Best brought several considerations to the commission's attention. Best said recently RBT, the Petro contractor, had attempted to pour footers. Best noted the RBT contractors argued they did not begin the project because of pending litigation. The argument was grounds for the project being grandfathered in and exempted from the new Monteagle storm-water ordinance. "There is still pending litigation," Best said.

Best also cited discrepancy in the RBT contractor's claim that the Monteagle Truck and Tire property would ultimately be deeded to the RBT project. "That property has never been deeded to RBT as far as I know," Best observed. The site plan approval was conditional upon having "a means of egress onto Forsite Avenue," Best said. "Without the means of egress [via the Monteagle Truck and Tire property], they have no highway entrance permit."

Best recommended, going forward, the commission eliminate "conditional site plan approval."

"We will take that under advisement," said Commission President Richard Black. According to Best, residents neighboring the Petro project are now represented by an attorney acting pro bono. "That development for that piece of property is bad for the town," Best said. "It is bad for our air, it is bad for our water, it is bad for our traffic."

MLK Day of Service

The fourth annual MLK Day of Service will be on Monday, Jan. 19, 9-11 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 1-3 p.m. Volunteers will take part in one of three different project options. We will again work in partnership with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build beds for children in our community who otherwise would not have a bed to sleep in. All of the beds we build together will stay in our local community. We are excited to offer card-making and blanket-making service projects at Biehl Commons for those who prefer not to build beds. We are thrilled to welcome one of our longstanding community partners, Blue Monarch, as a volunteer site. Volunteers can choose to register for bed building, blanket/card making, and/or working on a project at Blue Monarch. Deadline to register is Friday, Jan. 16. Register at <<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044FA8A82FABF5C34-61074661-mlkday/#>>.

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‘Creating Spaces for Democracy: Civil Discourse for Civic Life Begins on Campus’

Join us for a public lecture with Dr. Tim Shaffer – Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) Chair of Civil Discourse and Director of SNF Ithaca Initiative; Biden School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Delaware – an interdisciplinary scholar of deliberative dialogue, civic education, and democratic engagement. The lecture will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 29, in Convocation Hall.

Dr. Shaffer will explore how higher education can cultivate civil discourse and strengthen democratic life amidst polarization, offering both scholarly insights and practical tools for navigating tensions and staying in conversation.

This plenary lecture explores the critical role of dialogic and deliberative engagement in higher education, focusing specifically on how cultivating civil discourse on campus prepares students for lives of democratic participation. The mission of higher education — both public and private institutions — is deeply intertwined with upholding democratic principles and modeling spaces of inquiry across differing perspectives while being spaces of belonging and shared concern for the common good. And yet, the contemporary environment and lacking civic mindedness can make this work seem all the more fragile.

In a time in which people feel deeply divided and disconnected from their communities and civic institutions, we are proposing to have Dr. Tim Shaffer—an interdisciplinary scholar of civil discourse, deliberative dialogue, civic participation, and democratic engagement at the University of Delaware — visit Sewanee to speak on the catalyzing role higher education must play in cultivating spaces for democracy amidst polarization. In addition to scholarly grounding, Dr. Shaffer’s research expertise provides practical interventions for navigating conflict and staying in conversation.

As an interdisciplinary scholar and practitioner of deliberative democracy, civic education, and group communication, Dr. Timothy J. Shaffer focuses on the advancement of democratic practices by focusing on the role of civic professionals in institutional settings such as higher education, local government, and non-governmental organizations in relationship with diverse communities.

Dr. Shaffer is the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) Chair of Civil Discourse and director of the SNF Ithaca Initiative in the Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Delaware. He is also director of civic engagement and deliberative democracy with the National Institute for Civil Discourse at the University of Arizona. Shaffer is author or coeditor of seven books including “Deliberative Pedagogy: Teaching and Learning for Democratic Engagement,” “Creating Space for Democracy: A Primer on Dialogue and Deliberation in Higher Education,” and the latest book, “Teaching Public Affairs Students to Serve With the People: Findings and Reflections from Diverse Course Designs” with Thomas Andrew Bryer from Routledge. Shaffer earned his PhD from Cornell University.

Savage Gulf State Park Expanded by 670 Ecologically Significant Acres

In the fall of 2024, TennGreen Land Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy in Tennessee, and The Conservation Fund successfully acquired 670 acres of ecologically significant, forested land adjacent to Savage Gulf State Park in Grundy County. This collaborative conservation achievement has now taken its final step: the land has been officially transferred to the State of Tennessee, where it will be permanently managed as part of Savage Gulf State Park.

We are deeply grateful to the following partners and supporters whose visionary funding made this project possible: the Open Space Institute, the Heritage Conservation Trust Fund, the Lyndhurst Foundation, Mary Lynn Dobson, Carolyn & Jack Long, and the Friends of South Cumberland State Parks.

“This project is a powerful example of what we can achieve through conservation partnerships. It builds on the legacy of our very first land protection effort in Tennessee, within what is now Savage Gulf State Park, and continues our commitment to safeguarding ecologically rich landscapes and expanding one of the Southeast’s most scenic public lands,” said Laurel Creech, Tennessee State Director for The Nature Conservancy.

The newly protected 670 acres rest within the Middle Cumberland Plateau Conservation Opportunity Area, a region identified in the Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan as having exceptional habitat value.

The property also contains more than one mile of streams which flow directly into the Collins State Scenic River. The portion of the river within Savage Gulf State Park is designated a Class II Pastoral River Area, a legal status given to free-flowing, unpolluted waterways where agricultural and recreational uses harmoniously coexist with public enjoyment and ecological protection.

“We are pleased to work with TennGreen Land Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, and The Conservation Fund on a successful project which is focused on important sensitive lands and waters in Tennessee. The protection of these lands adjacent to the Savage Gulf State Park will benefit Tennesseans for decades while promoting biodiversity, recreation, and watershed protection,” lauded Wayne Anthony, Timberland Investment Resources’ Senior Investment Forester.

“Savage Gulf is yet another feather in the cap of Tennessee’s world-class state park system,” Zachary Lesch-Huie, Tennessee state director for The Conservation Fund, added. “This new park safeguards wildlife habitat and an unparalleled river ecosystem for the benefit of folks across the Volunteer state, and I’m proud of the role The Conservation Fund played in bringing it to life.”

Numerous rare species have been documented on or near the property, including the wood lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*) and the eastern slender glass lizard (*Ophisaurus attenuatus longicaudus*).

Additionally, the endangered white fringeless orchid (*Platanthera integrilabia*) and yellow crested orchid (*Platanthera cristata*) have been documented on the tract. Notably, Savage Gulf State Park is home to one of the largest remaining populations of white fringeless orchid. By securing this property, we are ensuring that these species — and many others — can continue to thrive in the wild, uninterrupted by development or fragmentation.

Friends of South Cumberland State Parks is also proud to have been a collaborator in this “Tangible expression of our mission, ‘To protect, improve, and expand the state parks of the South Cumberland Plateau, and to educate and inspire others to join in this work,’” added Ned Murray, Executive Director of Friends of South Cumberland State Parks. “We are grateful to TennGreen Land Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy in Tennessee, and The Conservation Fund for their leadership.”

Located in Grundy and Sequatchie counties, Savage Gulf became a Tennessee State Park in September 2022 after separating from South Cumberland State Park to allow for more concise management. This world-class park features some of Tennessee’s most scenic wilderness areas, including the nearly 19,000-acre Savage Gulf State Natural Area alongside the Great Stone Door area.

“The Open Space Institute is proud to help expand Savage Gulf State Park by 670 acres, ensuring that this ecologically rich landscape remains protected for generations to come,” said Joel Houser, OSI’s Director of Capital Grants. “This project reflects OSI’s commitment to climate resilience and connectivity — two critical factors for safeguarding wildlife and water resources in the face of a changing climate.”

By incorporating this property into Tennessee’s world-class park system, “We are investing in long-term ecological health and creating opportunities for people to experience and enjoy these remarkable lands,” Houser continued.

This expansion of Savage Gulf State Park reaffirms the power of partnership in conserving Tennessee’s natural legacy. With this addition, more habitat is protected, more watersheds are secured, and more opportunities for outdoor recreation are made possible. Together, we continue to build a resilient, connected landscape — one that will enrich the lives of Tennesseans today and far into the future.

Molly McCully Brown Reading

Molly McCully Brown, a candidate for the Assistant Professor in Poetry position in the English & Creative Writing Department, will read from her work at 4:45 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 20, in Naylor Auditorium.

Brown is the author of the essay collection “Places I’ve Taken My Body” (Persea Books, 2020) and the poetry collection “The Virginia State Colony for Epileptics and Feeble-minded” (Persea Books, 2017). With Susannah Nevison, she is also the co-author of the poetry collection “In the Field Between Us” (Persea Books, 2020).

She lives and teaches in Laramie, Wyo., where she is Director of Creative Writing at the University of Wyoming and Editor in Chief of Image Journal.

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, Jan. 19: Cabbage patch soup, Mexican cornbread.

Tuesday, Jan. 20: Salmon, white beans, turnip greens, cornbread.

Wednesday, Jan. 21: Open-face roast beef, mashed potatoes, slaw.

Thursday, Jan. 22: Greek grilled chicken salad.

Friday, Jan. 23: Pork chop, scalloped potatoes, green beans, rolls.

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.

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L–R: Bran Potter (Board Member, South Cumberland Community Fund); Joe Lurgio (General Manager, The Caverns); Tom Sanders (Executive Director, South Cumberland Community Fund); Todd Mayo (Founder/Owner, The Caverns); Elizabeth Farris (Senior Advisor, Grundy County Schools); David Curry. Photo by Taylan Honeycutt

The Caverns Establishes \$50,000 Scholarship for Grundy County Students Pursuing Music Business at MTSU

The Caverns, the Grundy County live music venue renowned for its underground concerts, is establishing a four-year scholarship for a Grundy County resident pursuing a degree in Recording Industry at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU).

The Caitlin Curry Scholarship funded by The Caverns—administered through the South Cumberland Community Fund—will provide one student \$12,500 per year for up to four years, totaling \$50,000. Eligible students must be residents of Grundy County at the time of application and be accepted into MTSU's Scott Borchetta College of Media and Entertainment pursuing a degree through the Department of Recording Industry with an emphasis in audio production, music business, or commercial songwriting. Interested students should submit their application and an essay through the South Cumberland Community Fund's website. The scholarship will be available to a new student when the previous recipient's eligibility expires.

"At The Caverns, we believe music can change lives and strengthen communities," said Todd Mayo, owner of The Caverns. "This scholarship gives a young person from Grundy County the chance to learn the business side of music and pursue a meaningful career in the industry."

MTSU's Scott Borchetta College of Media and Entertainment's Recording Industry Department is nationally recognized for its programs in audio production, music business, and commercial songwriting. A representative from MTSU noted that partnerships like this one help bridge the gap between education and opportunity.

"Todd Mayo and The Caverns have long offered learning opportunities for Tennessee music lovers, supporters, and MTSU students working at and attending music events," said Michelle Conceison, chair of the Department of Recording Industry at Middle Tennessee State University's Scott Borchetta College of Media and Entertainment. "It comes as no surprise that The Caverns would make such a principled investment in music's future."

The scholarship honors the legacy of Caitlin Curry, daughter of historian and part-time Grundy County resident David Curry. David Curry led the effort to save, protect, and restore the historic

Highlander Folk School in Grundy County, work that helped secure the site's listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

"It's an honor to have Caitlin's name attached to a scholarship that will create new opportunities for a young person from Grundy County," said David Curry. "She loved music, and I'm grateful that my friend, Todd Mayo, and The Caverns are creating this scholarship in her memory that will support someone working toward a future in the music industry. Caitlin never got that opportunity."

The scholarship will be managed by the South Cumberland Community Fund, which supports initiatives that strengthen communities across the South Cumberland Plateau.

"This partnership reflects what we value most—collaboration, opportunity, and a commitment to local talent," said Tom Sanders, executive director of the South Cumberland Community Fund. "The Caverns' investment will echo for generations by supporting education and creative growth in our region."

Interested applicants can apply at <TheCaverns.com/CurryScholarship>.

SES MENUS

Monday–Friday
Jan. 19–23
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, Jan. 19: No school.
Tuesday, Jan. 20: Sausage slider, juice, fruit, milk.

Wednesday, Jan. 21: Waffle, juice, fruit, milk.

Thursday, Jan. 22: Steak biscuit, juice, fruit, milk.

Friday, Jan. 23: 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, Jan. 19: No school.
Tuesday, Jan. 20: Walking taco, lettuce/tomato cup, salsa, corn, pinto beans, fruit, milk.

Wednesday, Jan. 21: Cheesy pull-apart, marinara, green beans, French fries, fruit, milk.

Thursday, Jan. 22: Chicken Alfredo, potato wedges, steamed broccoli, dinner roll, fruit, milk.

Friday, Jan. 23: Hamburger/cheeseburger, trimmings, fresh carrots w/Ranch, French fries, fruit sorbet, fruit, milk.

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

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.



December Students of the Month: K, Freya World; first grade, Cooper Green; second grade, Isabelle Swerske; third grade, Malcolm Tate; fourth grade, Lavender Barry; fifth grade, Will Mahler

SAS Earns Re-Accreditation Through Southern Association of Independent Schools

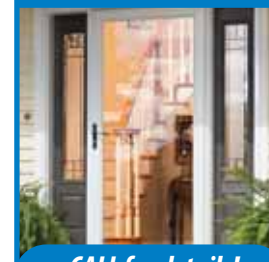
St. Andrew's-Sewanee School has successfully completed its re-accreditation process for the term July 1, 2026- June 30, 2031, according to the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS). The mission of SAIS "is to provide leadership, accreditation services, and professional development resources that will strengthen member schools as they fulfill their missions."

All SAIS schools must complete a comprehensive re-accreditation process every five years in order to remain in good standing. According to Pat Cuneo, SAIS's director of accreditation, "SAIS ensures that its schools meet or exceed a rigorous set of standards and are continually engaged in a mission-driven school improvement process that encompasses all aspects of the school life and operations."

Head of School Karl Sjolund congratulated the faculty, staff, board of trustees, and families for their consistent self-reflection, forward-thinking, and collaboration that inform the school's day-to-day operations as well as its long-term strategic planning.

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‘The Importance of Being Earnest’ at the MAC

London bachelors Jack and Algernon are leading double lives. They invent fake identities so they can slip away for a bit of romance and fun, but things get complicated when they both pretend to be named Ernest while courting two women.

Millennium Rep’s Teen Actors Guild brings you Oscar Wilde’s classic comedy “The Importance of Being Earnest,” beginning Friday, Jan. 16 at the Manchester Arts Center. Director Kate Duke’s cast features Tucker Hill and Carter Jernigan as Jack and Algy, Lucy Smith and Eliza Griffey as Gwendolen and Cecily, the targets of their affection, and Edgar Guzman as Gwendolen’s meddling mother. Lacey Hill as Miss Prism, Eric Smartt as Rev. Chasuble, Thomas Keith as Lane, and Kayson James as Merriman round out the very funny cast.

“The Importance of Being Earnest” runs Jan. 16–18 and Jan. 23–25, 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 <www.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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‘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.

Teale will present her work at 5 p.m., Feb. 12, in Guerry Auditorium. Reception to follow.

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

‘Tennessee Voices, American Stories’ Commemorates America’s 250th Through the Lens of Tennessee History

To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Tennessee State Museum will exhibit Tennessee Voices, American Stories.

Organized around three concepts from the preamble to the U.S. Constitution: “We the People,” “A More Perfect Union,” and “The Blessings of Liberty,” Tennessee Voices, American Stories presents artifacts and stories of Tennesseans who helped shape both Tennessee and the nation.

“Tennessee’s history offers countless examples of individuals whose courage, creativity, and determination have advanced our shared ideals,” said Ashley Howell, executive director of the Tennessee State Museum. “As America reflects on the last 250 years, this exhibit helps us understand how the experiences of Tennesseans are woven into the fabric of the American story, and how the Museum’s collection, built over 88 years, helps tell that story.”

Among the exhibition’s highlights is a sword presented by the state of North Carolina to Revolutionary War leader and Tennessee’s first governor, John Sevier. This sword is the product of a 1781 resolution of the North Carolina legislature honoring senior officers in the Patriot forces at the Battle of Kings Mountain. One of the earliest known dated Tennessee quilts, made by Rebecah Foster, will also be on display. Completed in 1808, the quilt features a striking image of an American eagle with seventeen stars, the number of states in 1808. This quilt reflects Foster’s political sentiments as well as her technical skill and artistry.

Also featured will be artifacts from pathbreaking Tennessee State Supreme Court Chief Justice, Adolpho A. Birch. Born in 1932, Birch holds the distinction of being the only person to have served at all levels of the state judiciary. His extensive career includes becoming the first African American to work as a prosecutor in Davidson County. Birch continued to break barriers in his career as the first

African American in many offices including his role as Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice.

Another notable artifact is a performance costume worn by Dolly Parton. Created by Robert Behar, the ensemble was worn during a performance at the 1998 Dollywood Foundation Benefit Concert. Parton’s philanthropic work and business ventures like Dollywood are important parts of her contributions to the state.

Through these extraordinary pieces and the stories behind them, the exhibition encourages visitors to reflect on how their own experiences will contribute to the ongoing American narrative.

“I hope that sharing information about remarkable Tennesseans and outstanding artifacts from the Museum’s collection will help visitors learn about our past and inspire them to consider how they can contribute to the nation’s story,” said Miranda Fraley Rhodes, assistant chief curator at the Tennessee State Museum.

Tennessee Voices, American Stories aligns with the initiatives of Tennessee America 250, which “celebrates and commemorates America’s 250th Anniversary by interpreting and preserving the unique Tennessee stories, objects, landmarks, and places that have defined who we are as Tennesseans and Americans.” For more information, visit <TN250.com>.

Celebrating its 89th anniversary in 2026, the Tennessee State Museum, located on the corner of Rosa L. Parks Blvd. and Jefferson Street at Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park, is home to thousands of years of Tennessee history, art, and culture. Through six permanent exhibitions titled Natural History, First Peoples, Forging a Nation, The Civil War and Reconstruction, Change and Challenge and Tennessee Transforms, the Museum takes visitors on a journey—through artifacts, films, interactive displays, events and educational and digital programming—from the state’s geological beginnings to the present day.

Additional temporary exhibitions explore significant periods and individuals in history, along with art and cultural movements. The Museum is free and open to the public Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. For more information on exhibitions and events, please visit <TNMuseum.org>.

The Museum is also the headquarters of the Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial, created to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, and recognize Tennessee’s integral role in that event and the impact of its people on the nation’s past, present, and future. For more information about the commission, its grant program, signature events and support for other programming and institutions statewide, please visit <TN250.com>.

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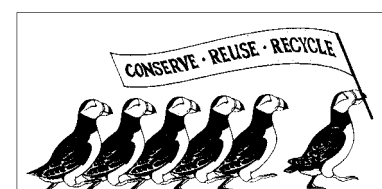
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Women's Swim and Dive Opens 2026 with Home Win

The Sewanee women's swimming and diving team opened the 2026 season with a strong all-around performance on Jan. 10, at the Fowler Center, securing a home win at the Sewanee Invitational against Midway and Brenau.

The Tigers picked up their first pool victory in the 200 Medley Relay, where Caroline Johnston, Eleanor Bishop, Audrey Francell, and Ada Digby combined for a winning 1:55.09. Sewanee maintained momentum in the distance events, beginning with Adelina Willett, who was the top Tiger finisher in the 1000 Freestyle before coming back to win the 500 Free. Her victory led a dominant 1-2-3-4 sweep with Jules Vadal, Samantha Denman, and Mary Sigman closing out the scoring.

In the sprint events, Digby won the 50 Free in 25.30, followed by Francell in second (25.51). Sewanee then swept the 100 Free, with McKenna Reed (57.93), Bishop (58.63), and Ella Deitch (1:00.36) taking the top three spots. Francell added another victory in the 100 Fly, continuing her strong day.

The Tigers added depth scoring in the backstroke, where Johnston and Deitch contributed key points, including four Sewanee women placing in the top six of the 200 Back. In the 100 Breast, Bishop claimed the event title with a 1:11.50, while Spera added additional points for the Tigers.

Sewanee closed the meet with another relay victory in the 400 Free Relay, as the A team of Francell, Bishop, Reed, and Digby took home first place to cap the women's session on a high note.

On the boards, the Tigers delivered a dominant showing as Lily Stooksbury and Anne Claud swept both the 1-meter and 3-meter events, giving Sewanee a perfect scoring start on the women's side.

Sewanee continues its January schedule with three upcoming home dual meets before traveling to Danville, Ky., for the SAA Championships in early February.

Kearns Sets Sewanee Record As Men's Swim and Dive Win

Jonah Kearns set a new Sewanee school record on the 1-meter board with his six-dive score, leading the Sewanee men's swimming and diving team as they opened the 2026 calendar year with a win at the Sewanee Invitational.

Kearns delivered one of the meet's defining highlights on the boards, where he not only swept both the 1-meter and 3-meter events, but also set a new Sewanee school record on the 1-meter (six dives) with a score of 316.50—the highest total for a six-dive list ever recorded by a Tiger diver. Korbin Smith added runner-up finishes on both boards to secure maximum diving points.

The Tigers set the tone immediately in the 200 Medley Relay, where Jackson Pillow, Winston McKenzie, Carter Nabors, and Josh Kim combined for a winning 1:41.44. Sewanee continued to build momentum in the distance events, beginning with Henry Lindeman II, who won the 1000 Freestyle in 10:29.58, leading a 1-2-3 sweep with Jon Brettschneider and Bryson Reid. The Tigers added another strong finish in the 400 IM, where Ryder Griffin (4:35.09) and Lindeman II secured a 1-2 result.

Sewanee's sprint group fueled additional scoring. Andrew Olsen captured the 50 Free in 21.84, with teammate Naeem Mangum finishing third, before Lindeman II added a victory in the 100 Free. In the 100 Fly, the men completed a full sweep led by Nabors (54.60), followed by Kim, Mangum, Horner, and Pillow. The Tigers replicated that success in the 200 Fly, where Griffin, Kim, and Pillow again locked down the top three places.

In the breaststroke, Mason Horner and Winston McKenzie combined for a 1-3 finish in the 100 Breast, adding another key scoring block.

Sewanee closed the meet with a commanding performance in the 400 Free Relay, sweeping the top three spots. The winning "C" relay of Young, Casio, Brettschneider, and Lindeman II posted a 3:26.23, finishing just ahead of the Tigers' "A" and "B" squads.

The Tigers continue their January competition slate with three home dual meets leading into the SAA Championships in early February in Danville, Ky.

Second-half Surge Pushes Men's Hoops over Millsaps

Nikolas Avaliani netted 25 points, including 20 in the second half, Fletcher Bigham registered another double-double and Sewanee connected on 29-of-32 free throws, pulling away in the second half in an 84-62 victory against Millsaps College in men's basketball action Jan. 11, at Juhan Gymnasium.

The Tigers (6-8, 2-1 SAA) scored the final nine points of the first half to take a 34-27 lead to intermission. Sewanee then posted a 9-4 spurt to start the second period, opening a 43-31 advantage just over three minutes into the half, forcing a timeout by the Majors.

JD Gardner's basket tied the game at 27 with three minutes to play in the first period and Bigham's field goal put the Tigers in front for good. Gardner added two free throws with 90 seconds to play before a 3-pointer by Bigham and then two foul shots by Jacob Amonett, who contributed 13 points overall, 11 in the first half, including three 3-pointers.

Jaxon Toney scored on the first possession of the second half for the Majors before a layup by Bigham and a 3-pointer from Avaliani. Field goals by Bigham and Aidan Treacy stretched the lead to 12.

Baskets by Caleb Kent and Cameron Lumar pulled Millsaps within nine but the Majors head coach was whistled for a technical on a foul underneath the Sewanee basket at the 14:29 mark. Amonett made two free throws and Philip Ryan, who was fouled on the play, added two more, pushing the advantage back to 13.

Luke LeFors netted a 3-pointer and Kent's short jumper made it an eight-point game with 13 minutes to go. Sewanee answered with a 22-9 run over the next six minutes, with Avaliani netting eight points, including a four-point play after making a 3-pointer in the corner plus the foul.

The Tigers connected on 11-of-12 free throws during the stretch as well, with Millsaps in front trouble and eventually three Majors fouling out. Avaliani was a perfect 8-for-8 at the foul line in the game to lead the Tigers effort and Ryan made all six of his attempts as well.

Bigham finished with 20 points, 15 boards, five assists and five blocks while Jack Bakken added 10 boards.

Tigers Hold Off Millsaps, 71-67

Olivia Falvey poured in 24 points, Eliza Everett registered 11 rebounds and six assists and Janie Boyd made three huge 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, helping Sewanee to a 71-67 victory over Millsaps College in women's basketball action here Sunday afternoon at Juhan Gymnasium.

The Tigers (8-6, 1-2 SAA) led 47-42 at the half but scored just eight points in the third quarter, making only 3-of-10 shots with six turnovers. Millsaps netted just 13 points in the period, shooting 3-for-17, and the teams headed to the final period tied at 55.

Hannah Cleveland posted a layup to open the fourth quarter and Falvey made a layup before Boyd's first triple of the period. Falvey added 1-of-2 free throws and Sewanee led, 63-56, with 7:20 remaining. Bailey Johnson netted a 3-pointer for the Majors, but Boyd answered with a three for the Tigers with 4:55 to play.

Sewanee did not score for almost four minutes and Johnson connected on another 3-pointer before a putback by Anaya Lewis made it 66-64 with 97 seconds on the clock. The Tigers missed six consecutive shots and committed a pair of turnovers before Boyd ended the scoring drought with her third triple of the quarter with 1:03 remaining, pushing the lead back to five.

Johnson again answered for Millsaps with her sixth triple of the game with 39.3 seconds to play. Falvey missed a runner in the lane with a shot clock winding down for the Tigers and after a timeout with 7.2 seconds on the clock, Lewis fumbled the inbounds pass, with the ball hitting her foot and rolling out of bounds.

Cleveland was fouled and made both attempts with 3.6 seconds remaining for the final points.

Falvey collected six rebounds and three assists while Boyd finished with 13 points, five boards and four assists. Everett netted only two points but contributed in lots of other ways.

Elyse Warren led the Majors with 19 points and 17 boards while Johnson posted 18 points and Tia Anderson added 12. Garin Freeman recorded eight points and 10 assists as well.

The Tigers put together a 15-3 run in the first quarter that started with a layup from Micha Lovelace. Grace Gavin and Adison Howard each made 3-pointers and Brianna Keating-Rendon added a triple before a layup by Howard. Lovelace netted two free throws for a 21-13 Sewanee advantage with two minutes to play in the period.

Anderson hit a pair of 3-pointers for Millsaps, the last one just before the buzzer, cutting the Tigers lead to 24-19 after 10 minutes.

Falvey netted a triple and two free throws early in the second quarter and she made another three, keeping the lead at six with 6:29 to play before the half. She posted her third 3-pointer of the period, stretching the advantage to nine, and a triple by Howard kept the lead at nine with 2:43 remaining in the period.

Warren netted consecutive field goals, but Keating-Rendon posted another triple and Boyd hit a floater off the glass. Freeman connected on two foul shots in the final minute for the Majors and Sewanee took a 47-42 lead to halftime.

The Tigers shot 52 percent from the field overall and 9-for-13 from behind the arc in the first two quarters.

Sewanee hits the road for the next four games beginning Friday at Oglethorpe University.

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6 p.m., Friday, Jan. 16, University Swimming and Diving vs. Asbury


4 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 17, University Swimming and Diving vs. University of Montevallo

6 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 20, SAS Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence

4:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 23, SAS MS Boys' Basketball vs. Covenant Christian Academy

6 p.m., Friday, Jan. 23, SAS Varsity Girls' Basketball vs. Riverside Christian Academy

7:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 23, SAS Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. Riverside Christian Academy



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NATURENOTES

by Yolande Gottfried



Crocuses. Photo by Louis Rice

Early Bloomers

Louis Rice wrote: "It's been so mild I have Crocuses blooming on Jan. 8! That's gotta be a record for me!" We had two daffodils on Jan. 10. When I went to photograph them, they had fallen over due to the cold and one had been eaten. I didn't think there was anything that ate daffodils!

The scientific name of the genus for daffodils is *Narcissus*, the name, of course, of the figure of Greek myth who was changed into the flower as punishment for gazing constantly in the water at his own beauty. Versions of this myth are found in many countries around the Mediterranean, where this flower originated. It spread throughout the Roman Empire with its soldiers, who carried narcissus bulbs with them for their medicinal properties in cleaning and healing sword and spear wounds. The name daffodil came from these Roman soldiers, and subsequently the Normans, singing of the flowers in the fields of asphodel, where in the Homer's Greece, souls went after death. "Of asphodel" eventually become corrupted to "d'affodils."

Crocus, on the other hand, has the genus name *Crocus*. Our spring crocus originated in the Mediterranean region and was spread to the botanical gardens of Europe starting in the sixteenth century. It was brought to our continent by English colonists, probably by the women who brought their gardens with them. John Bartram, the famous Philadelphia gardener, received some in a shipment in 1740 from Peter Collinson, an English merchant and botanist. His son, William Bartram, reported them as "above ground", along with snowdrops, narcissus, and tulips, on January 15, 1802. Crocus has been called "Valentine's flower" because it was often in bloom by then.

Nature Notes will be happy to receive any other reports of other early bloomers — hepatica anyone?



Carl



Blaze

MARC's Mountain Adoptables: Meet Carl & Blaze

Carl is one spunky little kitten who wants your loves and cuddles. He is not like an ordinary kitten, he loves to play fetch with his favorite toys. Carl is a busy boy and then very ready to get some snuggle time in your lap. When Carl was found on the side on the road on a very cold night, he was so grateful because he was only able to use one eye. (Hint, that's where he got his name Carl from the show "The Walking Dead.") Carl is a Domestic Shorthair kitty, brown and black Tabby, around four months old and weighs about four and one half pounds. Are you looking for love and entertainment with a kitty who likes to interact with his people, Carl is your guy.

Blaze is a very friendly happy boy. He is likely an American Bulldog mix, gray and white color, is around three years old and weighs about 60 pounds. Blaze walks well on a leash and knows sit and shake and loves to play. He was very friendly with a female dog with whom he was found and has shown that he can be friendly with male dogs, but his exposure has been limited due to him being confined in a kennel because we don't have a foster home. He loves cuddles, kisses, and scratches. Blaze is a very smart boy. Blaze is looking for a foster or forever home. Don't miss out on this great companion.

If you would like to learn more about Carl and Blaze, 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.

MARC - Marion Animal Resource Connection is a 501(c)(3) non-profit animal welfare organization. It is not a shelter and relies on foster homes to save animals. MARC also provides low cost spay/neuter procedures for animals and is available for teaching humane care of animals in schools and to community organizations.

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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.

B.A.R.K. Ranger — Fiery Gizzard State Park, Saturday, Jan. 24, 12:30–1:30 p.m. \$10 per dog. Register for event. Meet at Fiery Gizzard State Park Visitor Center, 11745 US-Hwy. 41 Monteagle. Join Rangers Jessie and Hannah to have your dog become a TN State Parks B.A.R.K. Ranger. We will be going on the easy, 1-mile Storybook Trail at the Fiery Gizzard State Park Visitor Center. Each dog and their owner will need to complete a short checklist of tasks out on the trail and then they can be sworn in as an official B.A.R.K. Ranger. They will receive their B.A.R.K. Ranger dog tag and a certificate that they will sign with their paw print. Please wear comfortable walking shoes, bring dog poop bags, dog leash, and water for yourself and your pup. Registration is required for this program.

It's Knot Time — Fiery Gizzard State Park, Saturday, Jan. 24, 1–2 p.m. Donations accepted. Register for event. Meet at 11745 US Hwy. 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. 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.

Coffee with a Ranger — Head of the Crow State Park, Monday, Jan. 26, 9–11 a.m. Meet at Park Office/Visitor Center, 17 Lake O'Donnell Rd., Sewanee. Join Ranger Allen at Head of the Crow's Visitor Center to talk and ask questions about the park over coffee and treats.

Winter Tree Identification Hike — Head of the Crow State Park, Saturday, Jan. 31, 1–4 p.m. \$3 to \$15. Register for event. Meet at Pack Hollow Trailhead, 2036 Old CCC Rd., Sewanee. Looking to improve your tree identification? Winter is the hardest time of year to ID trees because of the lack of leaves, so it is a great time to challenge yourself. If you can ID trees in the winter, you can ID them year-round. Join Ranger Allen for a 2.9-mile hike around our Sherwood Day Loop, where you will learn how to identify various tree species by their bark, buds, and twigs. Bring appropriate winter hiking clothing and footwear, water and any desired snacks. Binoculars (optional).

Save the date for...

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

February 16

Email Admission@sasweb.org to reserve your spot or to schedule a visit day more convenient for you and your family.

[StAndrewsSewanee](https://www.instagram.com/StAndrewsSewanee)
[SASWeb](https://www.facebook.com/SASWeb)

Episcopal Boarding & Day School | Grades 6 - 12 | sasweb.org

WEATHER

DAY	DATE	HI	LO
Mon	Dec 15	41	25
Tue	Dec 16	52	32
Wed	Dec 17	50	49
Thu	Dec 18	49	44
Fri	Dec 19	57	29
Sat	Dec 20	56	30
Sun	Dec 21	56	41
Week's Stats:			
Avg max temp =		52	
Avg min temp =		34	
Avg temp =		44	
Precipitation =		1.19"	
DAY	DATE	HI	LO
Mon	Dec 22	61	40
Tue	Dec 23	68	50
Wed	Dec 24	61	57
Thu	Dec 25	67	57
Fri	Dec 26	64	50
Sat	Dec 27	68	60
Sun	Dec 28	65	28
Week's Stats:			
Avg max temp =		65	
Avg min temp =		49	
Avg temp =		57	
Precipitation =		0.28"	

Reported by Sandy Gilliam
Domain Ranger

We're glad you're reading
the Messenger.

Messenger Classifieds

ART

Stephenson's SCULPTURES IN BRONZE

Jeanie Stephenson
(931) 691-3873
www.stephensonsbronze.com

EMPLOYMENT

HIRING: Hey Tigers! Are you looking for a job that fits your life on the Mountain? The Blue Chair Tavern is looking for energetic, reliable individuals to join our crew. Whether you're a University of the South student looking for a flexible shift between classes or a staff member seeking a fun secondary environment, we want to meet you! We are at the heart of the Village, and we're hiring for all positions to help us provide the best experience for our Sewanee community.

NOW HIRING FOR ALL POSITIONS

Why it's great for you
Bartenders: Fast-paced, social, and great for those who know the community.
Server-Guides: Perfect for high-energy people who love interacting with locals and students.
Line & Prep Cooks: Great for those who want to work in a focused, high-output kitchen.
Host/Hostess: The perfect entry-level role to get to know everyone on the Mountain.
Barbacks & Dish Support: Essential roles for those who like to stay busy and work behind the scenes.

WHY WORK AT "THE CHAIR"?

We know life in the Domain is unique, so we offer *Student-Friendly Scheduling:* We'll work around your class schedule, finals week, and Sewanee breaks.
Prime Location: Located right in the Village — easy to walk or bike to from your dorm or office.
The Best Vibe: Work where the community gathers. It's more than a job; it's being part of a Sewanee tradition.
Competitive Pay: Great hourly rates plus excellent tip potential in a high-traffic spot.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

The Sewanee Spirit: Friendly, helpful, and community-minded.
Reliability: We need folks who show up ready to work, especially during busy Village events.
Team Players: Willingness to jump in where needed to keep the tavern running smoothly.

HOW TO APPLY

Ready to join the Blue Chair family?
Stop By: Come see us at the Tavern in the Village. Ask for Chef Rick and bring a copy of your resume (or just your class schedule!).
Email Us: Send your info and which position you're interested in to <chegaugogo@gmail.com>.

HELP WANTED: The Messenger seeks a reliable individual to help with circulating the newspaper in Sewanee. Approximately two hours a week on Thursday evening and Friday morning. Must have reliable transportation. For more information email <news@sewaneeemessenger.com> or call the office (931) 598-9949 and leave your name and phone number.

MESSENGER DEADLINES

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

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD FOR SALE: Available for woodstove, fireplace or firepit. (Please designate your preference.) Stock up for next year. \$125/pickup load, delivered and stacked. (423) 322-7639 or (931) 212-2585.

FOR SALE OR RENT: 3 tiny houses with 15 acres, 10 minutes from Sewanee University. Cowan area. Each unit is unique. Very private setting. Hot tub, sauna, outdoor fire pits. Hiking trails. Two common areas. Mountain view. Very relaxing. Gatlinburg setting right here in Franklin County for all to enjoy. Short term rentals \$175 per night. If interested call (931) 308-9150.

FOR SALE BY OWNER: Beautiful, historic 2424 sf charming cottage in center of Monteagle at 12 Moffat St. 3BR/3-1/2BA. Incredible 1200 sf mostly insulated garage. Darling private secret garden. Fully renovated top to bottom in 2018. Pre-inspected and move in ready. Comes fully furnished if desired. Buyer agents welcome. Great investment potential. Contact <eaglesrest1517@gmail.com>.

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CAR WASH/DETAIL: By Appointment. Located at Sewanee Auto. (931) 691-7883. Email <Laurenthomas0217@gmail.com>.

Mountain Mini-Dozer Services
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Small property cleanup, fence line clearing, backhoe work, tree/brush cleanup, post holes dug, gravel road maintenance, tree/junk removal.
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References gladly provided

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE: There will be a Beer Board Meeting at 4:30 p.m. for a Beer Permit for Misty's Market on Jan. 26, 2026 in the Conference Room at City Hall.

NOTICE: The Monteagle City Council will meet for the regular meeting on Jan. 26, 2026 at 5 p.m. in the Conference Room at City Hall.

NOTICE: The Town of Monteagle is applying for a CDBG grant. The city council would like community input at the city council meeting on Jan. 26, 2026 in the conference room at city hall. The meeting starts at 5 p.m.

Support local. Shop and dine locally.

DONATIONS NEEDED 4 MARC

Pee pads • Dog toys • Paper Towels



DROP OFF @

MARC, 225 Sequatchie Ln., Sequatchie, TN
or Taylor's Mercantile, 10 University Ave., Sewanee
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SES Turns 100

What's your favorite Sewanee Elementary
School memory, teacher or event?



Name _____

Year(s) at the school _____

Drop off at Sewanee Elementary School

FROM BARD TO VERSE

by Robin Bates

Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

the side of the busstop woman
trying to drag her bag
up the front steps before the doors
clang shut i am on her side

i give her exact change
and him the old man hanging by
one strap his work hand folded shut

as the bus doors i am on his side

when he needs to leave
i ring the bell i am on their side

riding the late bus into the same
someplace i am on the dark side always

the side of my daughters
the side of my tired sons

--Lucille Clifton, which side are you on?

New to the Mountain?

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<www.sewaneemessenger.com>



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8 a.m. to 9 p.m. 7 days a week

Community Calendar

Friday, Jan. 16 • First Messenger of 2026

Last day to register for MLK Day of Service
9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
10:30 a.m. YouFit, Betsy, Community Center;
also at noon
4:30 p.m. U of S Easter Semester Convocation,
All Saints' Chapel
5:45 p.m. Kundalini Yoga, Nathalia, Sewanee
Community Center, until 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 17

10 a.m. Hospitality Shop open, until 2 p.m.
2 p.m. Speaker, Keith Killebrew, GC Heritage
Center, 465 Railroad Ave., Tracy City

Sunday, Jan. 18

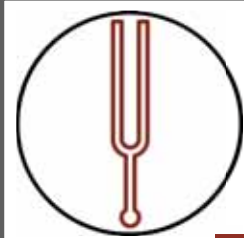
1 p.m. Knitting Circle, Mooney's, until 3 p.m.
1:30 p.m. YouFit, Betsy, Community Center
4 p.m. Hatha Yoga, Helen, Community Center

Monday, Jan. 19 • Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday • MLK Day of Service • No school, Franklin, Grundy, Marion Counties, University of the South

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.
6:30 p.m. Kundalini Yoga, Pippa, Sewanee
Community Center, until 7:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 20 • Voting ends for SUD Board of Commissioners

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.
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. Monteagle Town Hall, Downtown Adjacent Overlay District, conference room, City Hall
4 p.m. S. Cumberland Farmers' Market pickup, Community Center, until 6 p.m.



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4:45 p.m. Poetry Reading, Molly McCully Brown,
Naylor Auditorium, Gailor Hall
5 p.m. Sewanee Utility District board, Utility
Office, Sherwood Rd.

Wednesday, Jan. 21

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, Jan. 22

8 a.m. Monteagle-Sewanee Rotary, speaker
Keith Killebrew, St. Mary's Sewanee
9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
9 a.m. Nature Journaling, email Mpriest-
ley0150@gmail.com> for details/meeting
location
9:30 a.m. Body Recall, Judy, conference room,
Monteagle City Hall
10 a.m. Pilates, beginner, Kim, 293 Ball Park Rd.
10:30 a.m. Create Your Story writing workshop,
(\$50); sessions 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12;
<www.mintonsparks.com> for details>
noon Pilates, intermed, Kim, 293 Ball Park Rd.

Friday, Jan. 23

9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
10:30 a.m. YouFit, Betsy, Community Center;
also at noon
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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