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The
Bartlett Express

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An Arlington player faces a Munford defender during the Lady Tigers' 7-0 victory over the Lady Cougars at Arlington Soccer Stadium.

THE PAYOFF

Weeks of hard challenges starting to benefit Lady Tiger Soccer vs. Munford

By Thomas Sellers Jr
Richardson Media Group

If District 15-3A awarded Goalie of the Year to the performer with the most saves and a high save rate by shots faced, Munford Lady Cougar sophomore Emma Walker would be the runaway winner.

She proved her skills and ability Thursday night in the regular-season finale against the Arlington Lady Tigers. Munford traveled to Shelby County to face another high-level squad for the league. Although Arlington prevailed 7-0 over Munford, Walker had another All-District performance with multiple stops of Arlington attempts on goal.

Before arriving at the pitch of Arlington Soccer Stadium, the Lady Cougars forced top-tier teams like Collierville and Houston to play nearly the entire 80 minutes because of Walker's performances.

Walker has saved nearly 150 shots at a 70 percent rate heading into the Arlington contest. Meanwhile the Lady Tigers entered the contest with a sub .500 record, having faced teams like ECS, St. George's, Sacred Heart (Ky.), Bethlehem (Ky.), Lakeland Prep., USJ and Georgetown Prep. (Maryland) before going into district play.

The Lady Tigers validated those tough tests by grabbing an early 2-0 lead against Munford behind a pair of goals from freshman Adriana Ospina. Arlington built a 4-0 lead by halftime. Walker's movement in the goalie box led to several offside calls on Arlington. Walker's positioning made the Lady Tigers limit deep passes.

By the middle of the second half the Lady Tigers wore down Munford and added three more goals for the league victory.



An Arlington player dribbles upfield against Munford. The Lady Tigers earned a 7-0 win despite a strong effort in goal by Lady Cougars sophomore Emma Walker.

TWO BARTLETT TEACHERS AMONG FOUR SHELBY COUNTY AWARD WINNERS

Staff Reports

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – In surprise classroom visits, local educators were honored as four of only ten statewide recipients of the annual Tennessee Early Educator Awards. The statewide awards program, launched by Tennesseans for Quality Early Education (TQEE), honors outstanding early childhood educators for their impact on the lives of Tennessee's youngest learners.

Awardee Details:

- Leslie Bates | Kindergarten | Kate Bond Elementary | Bartlett
- Jasmine Hayes | 3rd Grade | Rozelle Elementary | Memphis
- Magita McKinney | Kindergarten | Bon Lin Elementary | Bartlett
- Moneshia Morris | Birth - Age 5 | Early Enrichment Center at Idlewild | Memphis

The Shelby County educators were surprised during class on Wednesday, September 30, celebrating the moment with their colleagues and students. Hayes, Morris, Bates, McKinney, and the other award winners each received a $1,000 cash prize, an all-expenses-paid trip to Nashville, and a shopping spree at Lakeshore Learning to celebrate their contributions to early education in the state.

"Exceptional early educators deserve to have their work seen, celebrated, and valued," said Blair Taylor, CEO of TQEE. "Each of these honorees brings something special to the children and families they serve, and we're proud to recognize their accomplishments. We hope this recognition reminds them how much their work matters and how grateful their communities are to have them."

The Tennessee Early Educator Awards highlight the importance of early childhood care and education professionals who work with children from birth through third grade. Of the 10 educators selected for

the award, 5 are recognized for their work in birth through preschool programs, and 5 for teaching in kindergarten through third grade.

Backed by a range of sponsors, including Lakeshore Learning, Ballad Health, Hyde Family Foundation, Niswonger Foundation, Nancy and Harold Dishner, the Boyd Foundation, and Crisp Communications, these awards provide well-deserved recognition to the early education profession and underscore the critical role of high-quality early learning to Tennessee's education outcomes.



Leslie Bates | Kindergarten | Kate Bond Elementary | Bartlett



Magita McKinney | Kindergarten | Bon Lin Elementary | Bartlett

Remaining award recipients from across the state can be found on the on the TN Early Educator Awards website tqee.org/educators/early-educator-awards/.

About Tennesseans for Quality Early Education

Tennesseans For Quality Early Education (TQEE) is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring Tennessee's youngest learners, birth through third grade, get the quality early care and education they need to power our state's future. Learn more about TQEE at tqee.org.

CINDY CROMWELL for ALDERMAN POSITION 2

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Inside: Community News - Page 2A & 3A | Church Listings - Page 4A
Classifieds - Page 5A | Puzzles - Page 6A

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2026 BARTLETT FALL FESTIVAL & BBQ CONTEST









PRO GRAND CHAMPION: SMOKEMASTERS BBQ	PATIO GRAND CHAMPION: 3 PUTTIN PIGGIES	HIGHEST TOTAL SCORE: BIG DAWG SMOKERS	Beef: 3 Grand Masters of Cooking Disasters; 2 3 Degrees Cooler; 1 Thunder Cookie
Whole Hog, Pro: 5 Meat Whiskey; 4 Mean Gene's Cooking Team; 3 Will Be Que; 2 Poker Porkers; 1 Fathead BBQ	Pulled Pork, Patio Division: 8 Bad Pig BBQ; 7 The BBQ Wife; 6 Team Stackhouse; 5 The Memphis Porkestra; 4 Que & Brew Crew; 3 Thunder Cookie; 2 Big Dawg Smokers; 1 3 Puttin Piggies	Sauce: 3 Hammy Sagar BBQ; 2 Will Be Que; 1 Mean Gene's Cooking Team	Chicken: 3 Get Sauced; 2 Steel & Squeal BBQ; 1 Bogeys & Butts
Pulled Pork, Pro: 5 Big Ro Ro's BBQ; 4 3 Degrees Cooler; 3 Cheap Seats BBQ; 2 Big Whit & the Boys; 1 Smokemasters BBQ	Ribs, Patio Division: 8 Team Stackhouse; 7 Big Dawg Smokers; 6 Thunder Cookie; 5 The Memphis Porkestra; 4 Smokin Hot & Saucy; 3 Que & Brew Crew; 2 Bourbon Brothers Q; 1 3 Puttin Piggies	BBQ Side: 3 Maher Valley; 2 3 Degrees Cooler; 1 Down South Grillers	POLICE vs FIRE: BFD
Ribs, Pro: 5 Mean Gene's Cooking Team; 4 Big Ro Ro's BBQ; 3 Hammy Sagar BBQ; 2 Meat Whiskey; 1 Indirect Fire BBQ		Dessert: 3 Maher Valley; 2 Que & Brew Crew; 1 Big Ro Ro's BBQ	
		Fish: 3 Big Dawg Smokers; 2 Will Be Que; 1 Down South Grillers	

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Here are some photos from the 2026 Bartlett Fall Festival and BBQ Contest, hosted by the City of Bartlett. The festival brought together great food, live music, community and special guests, including U.S. Rep. David Kustoff, along with plenty of barbecue competition. The ribs were certainly a highlight! Congratulations to all of this year's BBQ contest winners, and a special thank-you to the sponsors who helped make the event possible: Pinnacle Financial Partners, Bumpus Harley-Davidson of Memphis, The Lord's Church, Fast Turn Aviation and Family Leisure. The City of Bartlett also thanks the Memphis Barbecue Network and the event team — Adam, Maggie, Bubba and Molly — for helping make it a memorable weekend..

Photos City of Bartlett



BARTLETT PERFORMING ARTS & CONFERENCE CENTER

BRITTNEY SPENCER
OCTOBER 17
7:30P.M.



BARTLETT PERFORMING ARTS CENTER presents up 'n' coming country artist BRITTNEY SPENCER October 17th. Brittney sang w / Beyoncé on "Cowboy Carter." Played the — *Grand Ole Opry* — *NPR's Tiny Desk Concert* — *Austin City Limits*. With her powerhouse vocals, & incomparable songwriting, her debut album received rave reviews! She's toured with Carrie Underwood & Shaboozey — Opened for Brandi Carlile — Jason Isbell — Bob Dylan — Bruce Springsteen — Reba McEntire.

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October 23, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

Free and open to the community

Buckman Arts Center at St. Mary's, 60 Perkins Extd., Memphis, TN 38117

Join the legendary Urban Bush Women for a free community workshop open to the public on Friday, October 23 at 5:30 p.m., prior to the company's evening show. "Dance for Everybody" embraces the idea that each individual has a unique and powerful contribution to make and that bodies are a formidable source of agency. The goal is for "every body" to find their level of challenge and comfort and partake according to their abilities. This movement jam/dance class seeks to appreciacyounker@stmaryss-chool.org to reserve a spot.

BARTLETT FIRE DEPARTMENT PANCAKE BREAKFAST: 7-11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, at The Venue at Bartlett Station. The 46th annual breakfast features pancakes, sausage and coffee, with proceeds benefiting the Bartlett Fire Department Reserves and supporting fire education and community outreach. Tickets are available through the Bartlett Fire Department's event page.
Source: Bartlett Fire Department



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FIRE PIT FRIDAYS ARE COMING OCTOBER 30

Staff Reports

Fire Pits Fridays are returning to Freeman Park, offering families an opportunity to gather around the fire and enjoy an evening outdoors.

The event will run from 6 to 9 p.m. Fire pits will be available for roasting marshmallows, visiting with friends and neighbors and meeting new people.

Limited benches will be available, so attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs or other seating.

Source: City of Bartlett

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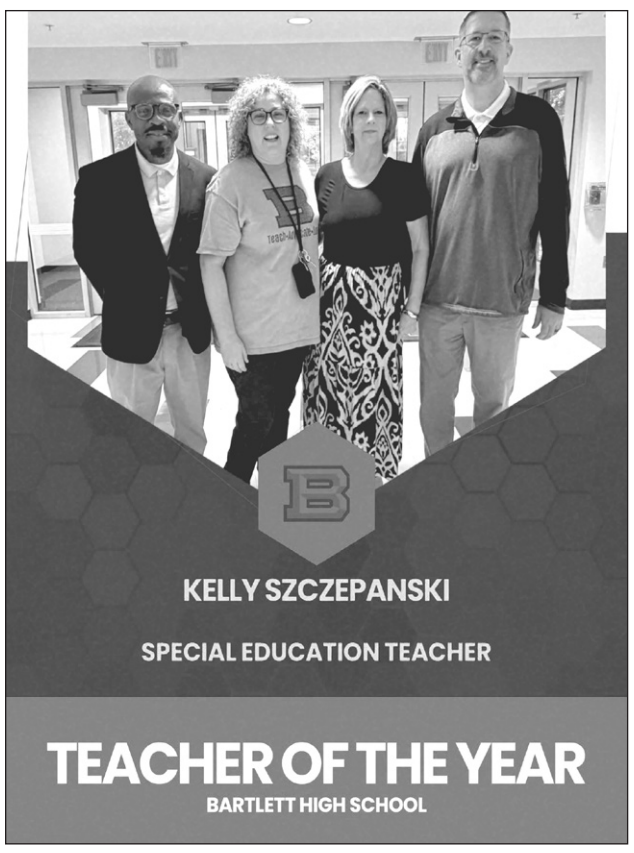
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY
The *Bartlett Express* welcomes letters to the editor and guest columns (300 words limit). We reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity. All letters/columns must be signed. Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters may be mailed to *Bartlett Express*, 7731 Hwy. 70, Ste. 102, Bartlett, TN 38134; or PO Box 529, Covington, TN 38019.

BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER HONORED AS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Staff Reports



BARTLETT — Kelly Szczepanski, a special education teacher at Bartlett High School, has been recognized as the school's Teacher of the Year for her dedication to students and her belief in their potential.

Szczepanski has a talent for seeing possibilities where others may see obstacles. Her colleagues say she builds strong relationships with students and helps them develop the confidence and skills needed to succeed.

One colleague shared the story of a nonverbal student who faced significant communication and behavioral challenges. Through patience, relationship-building and a steadfast belief in the student's abilities, Szczepanski helped him develop communication, behavioral and life skills.

Her support helped the student reach a milestone his family once thought might never be possible: graduating from high school.

Colleagues also praised Szczepanski's ability to earn students' trust and use technology to give a voice to those who cannot speak for themselves. Her impact, they said, extends far beyond academic test scores.

For Szczepanski, success can be measured in many ways — a student's growing confidence, greater independence or the realization that they are capable of achieving their goals.

Her colleagues say those accomplishments reflect the meaningful difference she makes in the lives of students and their families each day.

The Bartlett High School community congratulates Szczepanski on being named Teacher of the Year and thanks her for her dedication to helping every student reach their potential.



Congratulations to Bartlett High School Assistant Coach Marvin Stewart, who was named a 2025-26 Tennessee Athletic Coaching Association (TACA) Spring Assistant Coach of the Year. Stewart was one of just three coaches selected for the honor and serves as an assistant coach for Bartlett High School's cross country and track teams. He was presented with a plaque and gift during last Friday night's football game. Bartlett City Schools congratulates Coach Stewart and thanks him for his dedication and leadership of Bartlett student-athletes.

Bartlett City Schools



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www.bartlett-express.news

Is God Dead? ... by *Ty B. Kerley, DMin.*

The Best Possible World?

Critics of Christianity contend that it is all well and good that Christians argue God is omnipotent, omniscient, and perfectly good, nonetheless, evil remains all the same. Last time we stated that the task of the Free Will Defense is to show no logical contradiction between two premises: 1), There is an omnipotent, omniscient, perfectly good God, and 2) there is suffering in the world. Even so, the question inevitably comes: "If God is the Creator of everything, and God is all-powerful, then couldn't God have created a world with no evil?" When it comes down to it, this is the heart of the question, isn't it? In response, skeptics lean one of two ways: either God is not all-powerful, or God does not exist. At any rate, the answer to the question is yes; God could have created a world with no evil. Having done so, however, the evil-free world that God could have created would have come at a great price—perhaps too great.

Instead, the better question might be this: "If 'God is good,' and 'God is love,' then what morally sufficient reason might God have for creating the world in which we live"— a world of immense suffering? Considering the amount of evil in the world, is this the best possible world God could have created? That is the question the seventeenth-century philosopher Gottfried Leibnitz asked and attempted to answer. Leibnitz, understanding God as all-powerful and all-loving, reasoned that of all the possible worlds that God could have created, this one in which we live must be the best of all possible worlds. Philosopher Alvin Plantinga summarizes Leibnitz's argument: "Being perfectly good, He must have chosen to create the best possible world He could, being omnipotent, He was able to create any possible world He pleased, He must, therefore, have chosen the best of all possible worlds, and hence this world, the one He did create, must be the best possible world." That is, God was not derelict in His creation event.

Interestingly, the critics agree with Leibnitz but draw the opposite conclusion. Critics maintain that since the world is filled with suffering, God must not exist (or, as Nietzsche would say, "God is dead"). At any rate, while Leibnitz's logic sounds credible, it is rejected when one can just as quickly envision a better possible world than the present one. After all, it isn't that hard to imagine. Perhaps a world in which there were more angels. Wouldn't that be a better world? What about a world in which there were more good people serving other people? Wouldn't that be a better world? The point is that this is not the "best possible world" God could have created. Therefore, the best possible world theory is not a defensible position for the Christian to explain why an omnipotent God would allow evil to exist.

The bottom line is that suffering does exist, and the question is: "Why does God allow it? Does He have a sufficient reason for allowing suffering in the world? What God did create, it is argued, was a "very good" world populated by beings He intentionally created with libertarian free will. The divine choice was simple: either create beings with free will, knowing they could misuse it, or create automatons (machines) that could only and always choose to do good. In that sense, yes, God could have created a world without evil, but it could only come about at the cost of human free will. It is argued, and accepted by most rational people, that a world in which beings have free will, along with the evil that entails, is far better than a world of beings who cannot do other than what they do. In fact, given a bit of thought, one can only conclude that every war in the history of mankind has been fought over the exercise of opposing free wills.

It would seem that God, though He is all-powerful, could not have created just any world He pleased. As philosopher John Hicks rightly notes, "God cannot make an infallible fallible creature; to make an infallible creature would undermine the moral purpose for which God created the universe." Just as God cannot create any possible world in which there is a square circle or a married bachelor, God could not have created a world where libertarian, free-willed beings always and only choose to do good. God can make sin impossible or make human beings significantly free, but He cannot do both. They are mutually exhaustive and exclusive states of affairs.

Okay, okay! This sounds all well and good except there still appears to be an incredible amount of evil in the world—an incredible amount of vicious and horrific evil! Could not God, in all His power, intercede in human affairs to reduce or eliminate evil in the world, all the while allowing beings to maintain their free will to choose good or evil anyway?

Unfortunately, evil and suffering are important topics, and there is much more to say about the Christian defense of why God allows evil. Join us next time as we continue to look into the Christian response to the coexistence of an all-powerful and all-loving God and the existence of evil in the world. Until then, consider your stance: *is God dead?*

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Ty B. Kerley, DMin., is an ordained minister who teaches Christian apologetics and relief preaches in Southern Oklahoma. Dr. Kerley and his wife, Vicki, are members of the Waurika church of Christ and live in Ardmore, OK. You can contact him at dr.kerley@isGoddead.com

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I Want My Ad To Read:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Please be sure to include your name and phone number as well as a check or credit card information for payment.

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Special!! General yard work, leaves raked, Putting down mulch. Free Estimates. Reasonable. PaCerno 901-323-2822

AUTO AUCTIONS

Paul & Crew Towing LLC
711 S. Dudley, Memphis, TN 38104

The following vehicles will be sold at auction on
OCTOBER 11, 2026

2010 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN
2D4RN5DX9AR379782

2013 NISSAN PATHFINDER
5N1AR2MN0DC651060

2023 NISSAN SENTRA
3N1AB8DV3PY257191

2001 BUICK
1G4HP54K014271945

2016 NISSAN SENTRA BLUE
3N1AB7AP0GY267046

2010 FORD F-150
1FTFX1EV6AKE60866

901.632.2320

B&B TOWING, LLC
2574 SUMMER, MEMPHIS 38112

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD TO SATISFY STORAGE AND TOW FEES ON **10/28/2026:**

2009 NISS ALT
VIN# 1N4AL21EX9C119984

2013 NISS ROG
VIN# JN8AS5MT9DW006340

2005 TOYT SNA
VIN# 5TDBA22C85S048438

1997 CHEV THA
VIN# 1GNEK13R2VJ382993

2019 VOLK JET
VIN# 3VWCB7BU2KM162239

2015 FORD FUSION
VIN# 3FA6P0HDXFR207149

2012 HARLEY-DAVIDSON
VIN# 1HD4LE216CC439670

2012 INF G37
VIN# JN1CV6AP5CM627211

2015 VOLK PAS
VIN# 1VWAT7A36FC086156

A&A TOWING
4000 N. WATKINS
901-357-3330

The Following Vehicles Will Be Sold On
10-22-26 AT 9 A.M.

2011 BUICK REGAL
VIN # W04GP5EC3B1031759

2014 INFINITI Q5S
VIN # JN1BV7AP3EM679411

2010 NISSAN ALTIMA
VIN # 1N4AL2EP6AC166655

2011 KIA SPORTAGE
VIN # KNDPC3A26B7034347

2012 HONDA FIT
VIN # JHMGE8H51CC006535

2010 FORD EDGE
VIN # 2FMDK3KC7ABA61345

1999 GM SONOMA
VIN # 1GTCS1448X8531677

2024 VOLKSWAGEN TAOS
VIN # 3VV5X7B28RM016712

2020 HONDA CIVIC
VIN # 19XFC1F36LE002081

AUTO AUCTIONS

A Ladies Wrecker Service:
709 S. Dudley, Memphis, TN 38104

The following vehicles will be sold at auction on
OCTOBER 11, 2026

2017 FORD FUSION
3FA6P0HD0HR156912

901.686.3737

DTS TOWING
3930 THOMAS ST., MEMPHIS, 38127

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AT AUCTION ON
NOVEMBER 8, 2026 AT 11 AM

JH4CU2F66AC000205
2010 ACURA TSX

3FADP4BJ9GM137977
2016 FORD FIESTA

WDDHF8JBXDA670855
2013 MERCEDES-BENZ E-CLASS

2T3W1RFVORW358772
2024 TOYOTA RAV4

1FAHP24W38G151108
2008 FORD TAURUS

KNDJT2A60D7612058
2013 KIA SOUL

3VV5C7B23SM060568
2025 VOLKSWAGEN TAOS

2GTEC290491112961
2009 GMC SIERRA 1500

3N8AP6DC8SL336528
2025 NISSAN KICKS

1GCNCPEX0CZ188224
2012 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500

1N4AL2EP8CC253444
2012 NISSAN ALTIMA

4K7S81357WC004244
1998 HOMD 4K7

ADVERTISE WITH *The Bartlett Express, The Collierville Herald-Independent, The Millington Star* and *The Germantown News & Shelby Sun Times* **BY PLACING AN AD IN** *The Shopper News Classifieds*!

(901) 476-7116

YOUR SERVICE AD COULD BE HERE! CALL 901-476-7116

Call to place your ad today!
RICHARDSON MEDIA GROUP
901.476.7116

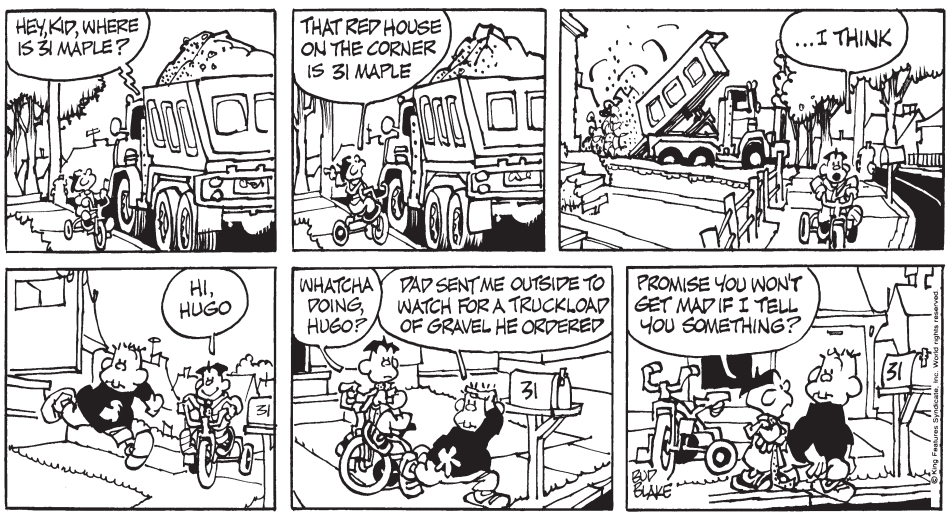
WE'VE MOVED! OUR NEW LOCATION IS: 7731 HWY 70, SUITE 102, BARTLETT TN 38134

HAVE LOCAL NEWS TO SHARE? EMAIL IT TO:

JENNIFERDESHAZO@MAGICVALLEYPUBLISHING.COM

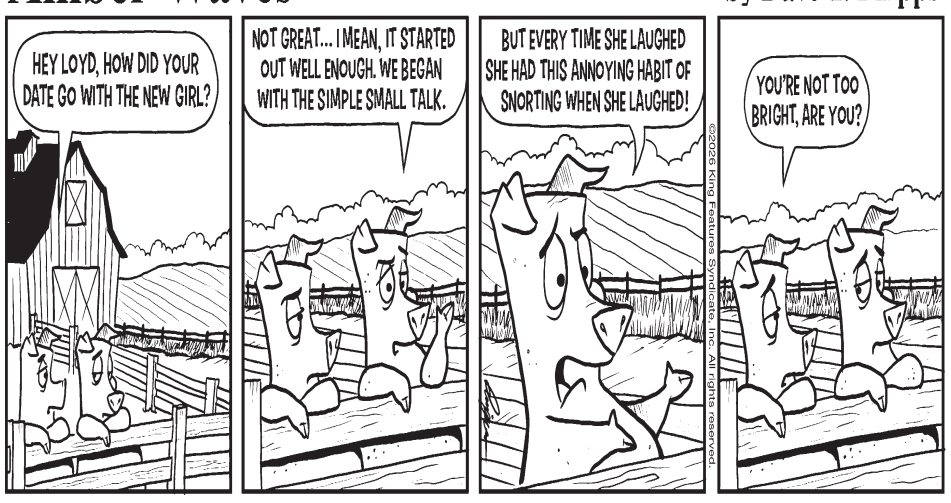
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Prawn	__ H __ __ __ __	Economize	__ C __ __ __ __
2. Playground menace	__ U __ __ __	Nanny's mate	__ I __ __ __
3. Beckham or Bowie	__ __ __ I __	Geena, Viola, or Bette	__ __ __ __ S
4. Practical joke	P __ __ __ __	Open and honest	F __ __ __ __
5. NYC player	__ __ __ __ __ E	Tugged quickly	__ __ __ __ __ D
6. Resentful	__ I __ __ __ __	Oleo's competition	__ U __ __ __ __
7. Crane	H __ __ __ __	Damp	M __ __ __ __
8. Night sky hunter	__ R __ __ __	Pungent bulb	__ N __ __ __
9. Stock or flea ____	__ __ __ __ __ T	Felt-tip pen	__ __ __ __ __ R
10. Pouch	__ O __ __ __ __	Fencepost	__ I __ __ __ __

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Weekly SUDOKU

	2	8			1	9		
4	9	1		6		2		
			3		2	4	1	
1					8	7	2	9
		2	6				3	1
		9		1	3	6	8	
7		6	5	3		8	9	2
					7			
		4		2			5	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: **O** equals **R**

AVSPO YGW YVR JWHKPUUPQ DW KOPJBRPUX DBHP DW DGP RPJWIQ VIXDGBIM RGP JWWSPQ: APDDX JUWJSPO.

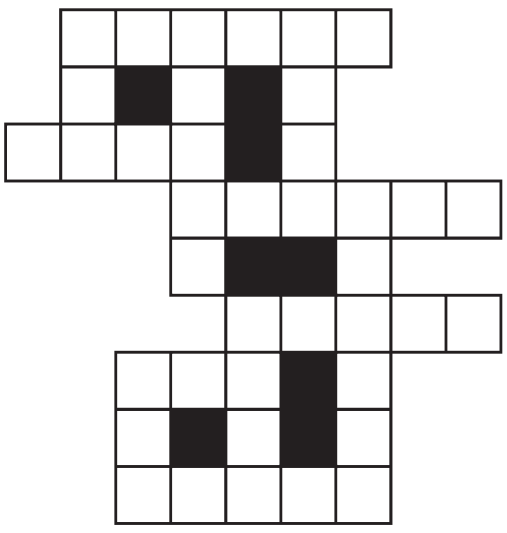
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FEAR KNOT™

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

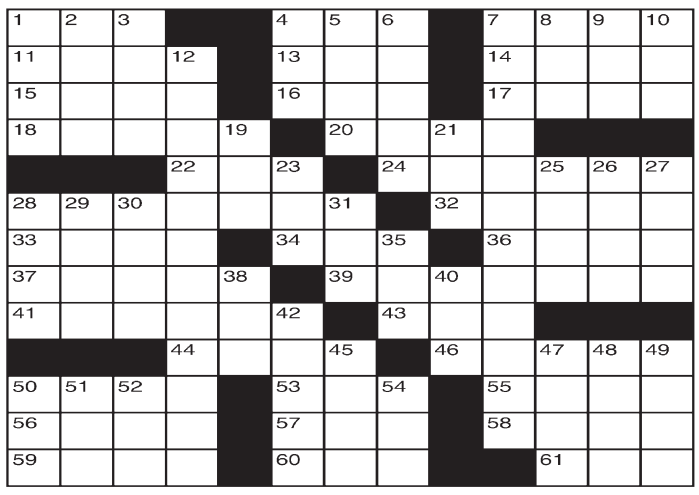
♥ APN
ABPNDE
♥ RSTPO
♥ ENDE
♥ EPHRIS
♥ TNI
♥ NPSI
EPBOR
♥ NBI
PIGANT
CBNHU
TONO



Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. **HAGNEC** becomes **CHANGE**). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥ **RATHE** becomes **HATER** or **EARTH** or **HEART**). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Hot tub
4 Gore and Pacino
7 Poet Teasdale
11 Sod
13 Architect I.M. —
14 Sty cry
15 Play opener
16 Up to
17 — Minor (bear constellation)
18 Bas-relief medium
20 Leave out
22 Grass shack
24 Paper fastener
28 Mosque tower
32 Florida game fish
33 Optimist's credo
34 Apprehend
36 harmaceutical
37 Transmits
39 Baking potatoes
41 Orders of pancakes
43 "Don't Start Now" singer Lipa
44 Intimate
46 Tactics
50 "Star Wars" knight
53 Resistance unit
55 "East of Eden" twin
56 At the summit
57 Pint-sized
58 Belafonte song
59 Orange veggies
60 Matching pair
61 Arced tennis shot

DOWN
1 Men-only
2 Brownish purple
3 — and crafts
4 Likely
5 Floral rings
6 Sari fabrics
7 Light lunch order
8 Televise
9 ICU pros
10 Rap sheet letters
12 Popular British dish
19 Owned by us
21 The "I" of TGIF
23 Sawbuck
25 Skin opening
26 Lummox
27 Heart charts (Abbr.)
28 Avoid
29 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
30 "Peter Pan" pooch
31 Roofing goo
35 Future flower
38 Enjoy Vail
40 "How's it goin'?"
42 Bamboozles
45 Biblical pronoun
47 Exam format
48 Vacillate
49 Elitist
50 Comic Leno
51 JFK info
52 — Perignon
54 Bumped into

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See This Week's Answers In Next Week's Edition

STICKELERS [sic].

by Terry Stickels

Since the Earth takes 365 1/4 days to complete its path around the sun, we add an extra day to the calendar every fourth year to compensate for this, and call it a leap year.

Looking beyond every four years, what do you guess happens to the leap year every four centuries?

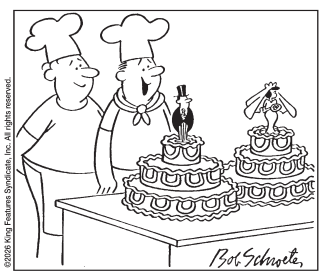
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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

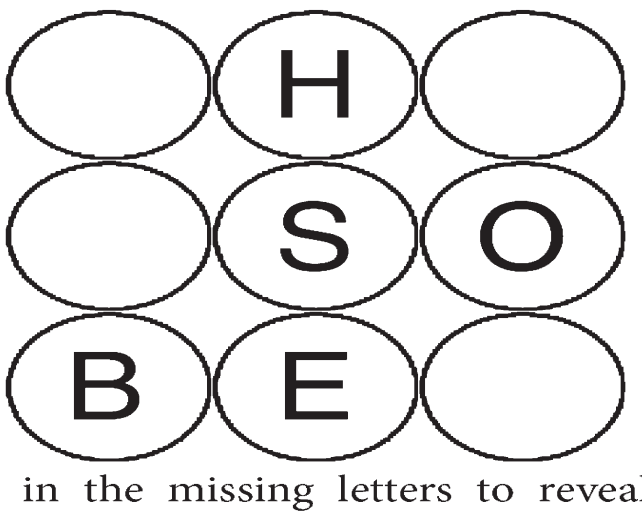
Gentle **CAPLID** ___ ___ ___ [ ] ___ [ ]
Flop **ROLES** ___ [ ] ___ ___ ___
Worth **EAVUL** [ ] ___ ___ ___ [ ]
Slight **NORMI** ___ [ ] ___ ___ [ ]

TODAY'S WORD ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___



"I hope this catches on — it's something new — _____ cakes."

WORD SPIRAL



Fill in the missing letters to reveal the nine-letter word that starts at one of the four corners and moves clockwise around the perimeter before ending in the center.

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Wishing Well®

6	3	4	8	3	5	6	7	6	5	8	6	4
C	A	S	D	S	L	L	E	O	O	A	U	U
7	5	3	7	2	3	8	4	2	3	7	8	6
X	V	W	U	C	E	R	C	H	E	D	E	D
5	2	5	6	7	8	6	3	2	4	6	4	5
E	A	D	S	E	T	A	T	N	C	R	E	O
7	6	2	5	4	3	2	8	5	4	7	3	6
C	E	N	M	S	L	E	O	I	S	O	I	G
7	5	3	7	4	3	5	8	2	6	4	5	2
N	N	F	F	I	E	A	B	L	O	S	T	D
7	2	7	5	2	5	4	6	8	2	6	2	8
I	E	D	E	S	S	N	N	E	I	E	R	B
7	4	8	2	8	7	2	8	4	7	4	8	7
E	E	R	E	A	N	S	V	A	C	R	E	E

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

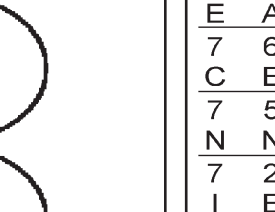
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Weekly SUDOKU — Answer

8	4	2	6	7	3	5	9	1
1	6	3	8	5	9	4	7	2
9	7	5	2	1	4	3	6	8
7	1	6	9	2	3	8	4	5
3	2	4	5	6	1	7	8	9
5	9	8	4	7	1	3	2	6
4	7	1	3	9	2	6	5	8
6	8	9	7	4	5	2	1	3
2	3	7	1	8	6	9	5	4

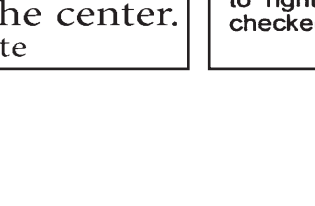
King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.



Even Exchange answers

1. Remain, Retain
2. Sydney, Sidney
3. Cloud, Clout
4. Ember, Amber
5. Chase, Phase
6. Treaty, Treats
7. Shrub, Shrug
8. Austin, Austen
9. Hardy, Harry
10. Lotion, Motion



CryptoQuip answer

When a wall plaster delivery van spills a load during rush hour, do you get stucco in traffic?

SCRAMBLERS Solution

1. Scrawl; 2. Dower
3. Lingo; 4. Item

Today's Word
WINDOW

Word Spiral Answer

PACIFIERS

Stickelers Answer

The answer is Figure D.

WORD SPIRAL

Fill in the missing letters to reveal the nine-letter word that starts at one of the four corners and moves clockwise around the perimeter before ending in the center.

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Wishing Well®

6	3	4	8	3	5	6	7	6	5	8	6	4
C	A	S	D	S	L	L	E	O	O	A	U	U
7	5	3	7	2	3	8	4	2	3	7	8	6
X	V	W	U	C	E	R	C	H	E	D	E	D
5	2	5	6	7	8	6	3	2	4	6	4	5
E	A	D	S	E	T	A	T	N	C	R	E	O
7	6	2	5	4	3	2	8	5	4	7	3	6
C	E	N	M	S	L	E	O	I	S	O	I	G
7	5	3	7	4	3	5	8	2	6	4	5	2
N	N	F	F	I	E	A	B	L	O	S	T	D
7	2	7	5	2	5	4	6	8	2	6	2	8
I	E	D	E	S	S	N	N	E	I	E	R	B
7	4	8	2	8	7	2	8	4	7	4	8	7
E	E	R	E	A	N	S	V	A	C	R	E	E

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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HEALTH INSPECTIONS — Bartlett — week of September 29–October 5, 2026

SIX BARTLETT INSPECTIONS POSTED, NONE BELOW 95

Grand Pacific clears follow-up; Quail Ridge cited for dumpster drain plug

BARTLETT — Six Bartlett establishments were inspected during the week of September 29 through October 5, and no score fell below 95.

Grand Pacific, 6196 Stage Road, scored 95 in a follow-up inspection September 29. The inspector found a case of corn on the cob stored on the walk-in cooler floor, a wiping cloth stored next to the hand sink in the drink area, an open can of condensed milk in a reach-in cooler, cardboard lining shelves in the walk-in cooler, and an open dumpster lid.

901 Hot Pot and Korean BBQ, 2965 N. Germantown Pkwy., Suite 102, scored 97 in a routine inspection October 2. The person in charge could not locate a food-grade thermometer, buffet hot food items were not labeled, buffet signage reminding guests to take a clean plate was missing, and buffet plates were not inverted — the same cluster of items cited in its September inspections.

Quail Ridge, 4055 Altruria Rd., was inspected twice October 5. The main operation scored 97, cited for a missing dumpster drain plug, dust on kitchen ceiling tiles and non-working kitchen light fixtures. Its bar scored 99 for the dumpster drain plug alone.

Jitterbug Beverages, a mobile unit at 6481 Croft Oaks Cove, scored 99 October 2 for no visible refrigerator thermometer and no permit numbers on the trailer.

Elendale Elementary Pre-K, 6950 Dawnhill Rd., received an approval rating in a routine child care facility inspection October 1 with no violations noted.

Inspection reports are public record. Complete reports for all Tennessee establishments are available at inspections.myhealthdepartment.com/tennessee.

This Week's Inspections at a Glance

Bartlett health inspections, September 29-October 5, 2026. Source: Tennessee Department of Health / Shelby County Health Department.

Grand Pacific — 6196 Stage Road
Food service, follow-up, September 29 **— Score: 95**
A case of corn on the cob stored on the floor in the walk-in cooler. Keep items at least six inches above the floor.
A wiping cloth stored next to the hand sink in the drink area. Corrective action: keep wiping cloths stored in sanitizer between uses.
A can of condensed milk open in the reach-in cooler. Corrective action: place what remains of any opened can into a food-safe container with a label.
Cardboard lining some shelves in the walk-in cooler. Corrective action: use only non-porous material to line shelves.
The dumpster lid is open.

Elendale Elementary Pre-K — 6950 Dawnhill Rd.
Child care facility, routine, October 1 **— Score: Approval**
No violations noted.

Jitterbug Beverages (mobile unit) — 6481 Croft Oaks Cove
Food service, routine, October 2 **— Score: 99**
No visible thermometer in refrigerator.
No permit numbers on trailer.

901 Hot Pot and Korean BBQ — 2965 N. Germantown Pkwy., Suite 102
Food service, routine, October 2 **— Score: 97**
Person in charge or chef unable to locate a food-grade individual thermometer.
Buffet hot food items are not labeled.
Missing buffet signage reminding guests to get a clean plate and utensils prior to serving.
Buffet plates are not inverted.

Quail Ridge — 4055 Altruria Rd.
Food service, routine, October 5 **— Score: 97**
Missing drain plug in the dumpster. Corrective action: provide a drain plug for the drain hole to discourage pests.
Dust present on the ceiling tiles in the kitchen.
Light fixtures in the kitchen are not working.
Comment: the permit is paid.

Quail Ridge - Bar — 4055 Altruria Rd.
Food service, routine, October 5 **— Score: 99**
Missing drain plug in the dumpster.
Comment: the permit is paid.

THE PAPER WE KEEP



Ad Veritas

Daniel Richardson

Most weeks, a newspaper has a fairly short life on the kitchen table. You read it, perhaps pass it along to someone else, and eventually make room for the next one. But every so often, something in those pages becomes worth keeping.

Maybe it is a photograph of your grandchild at a ballgame, a story about the family business or an obituary that captures something of a person you loved. What we put together on a deadline becomes something a family holds onto for decades.

This is National Newspaper Week, observed Oct. 4–10, and it seems like a good opportunity to reflect on what newspapers mean to the communities they serve—not just as businesses, but as a part of everyday life that is easy to take for granted.

At *Richardson Media Group*, our newspapers serve communities across Tennessee. Each town has its own identity, its own concerns, and its own stories worth telling. Sharing a printing plant and other resources helps us get the work done, but the purpose of each newspaper remains local. Readers want to know what is happening where they live.

A few weeks ago, I wrote about the storm that knocked our printing plant in Huntingdon out of commission. We worked through a power outage, internet problems and equipment trouble before finally getting newspapers rolling again. It was frustrating for our staff and for readers whose papers arrived late.

But there is a considerable difference between a newspaper arriving late and a newspaper never arriving again.

Across the country, that second situation has become painfully common. Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism reported in its *2025 State of Local News* study that nearly 3,500 newspapers had ceased printing since 2005—almost 40 percent of the nation's local newspapers over those two decades.

Some publications have moved online, and not every lost newspaper leaves a community without reporting. But Medill identified more than 200 counties with no locally based news source and more than 1,500 others with only one remaining, usually a weekly newspaper. Nearly 80 percent of those "news desert" counties were rural.

That term sounds rather clinical until you consider what it means.

A town doesn't stop having news just because its newspaper closes. There are still school events, ballgames, new businesses, emergencies, and families with stories worth sharing. Public meetings still happen, and decisions still need explaining. The question becomes who will do the work of finding out what happened and telling everyone else.

It is tempting to assume the internet will handle that. Digital journalism certainly has an important place, including in our own work. But Medill found that digital-only local news outlets remain concentrated in metropolitan areas and have not replaced the reporting lost elsewhere. A website can deliver a story, but somebody still has to produce it.

The same is true of social media. Sharing information is useful, but sharing a report and reporting it in the first place are different jobs. Someone has to make the calls, check the details, ask the follow-up questions and take responsibility when something needs correcting.

That work is not always glamorous. Neither is designing pages, selling advertising, running a press or preparing newspapers for delivery. Our recent printing troubles were a reminder of how much effort happens out of sight, and how dedicated our people are to getting the finished newspaper into readers' hands.

I'm grateful for that dedication. I'm also grateful for the subscribers and advertisers who make it possible. National Newspaper Week recognizes all of those contributions, because local journalism depends on more than the person whose name appears above a story.

We also have a responsibility to earn that support. A newspaper should be useful, accurate and interested in its community. We should listen when readers suggest a story, raise a concern or point out something we missed. Supporting local journalism should not mean lowering expectations for it.

But appreciation has to become participation somewhere along the way. Buying an issue because your child is pictured in it is wonderful. A subscription helps make sure someone will be there to photograph the next group of children, too.

So, to our subscribers, thank you. Encourage a friend or family member to join you. To our advertisers, thank you for choosing to reach your neighbors through these pages. And when readers patronize those businesses, mentioning an advertisement they saw helps those businesses understand the value of their support.

I don't believe small-town newspapers are something we should simply accept losing. The communities we serve are still full of people worth knowing and stories worth telling.

Keep the clippings that matter to your family. Help keep the newspaper that makes them possible.

Single Event Can Fall Under Civil, Criminal Law With Different Results

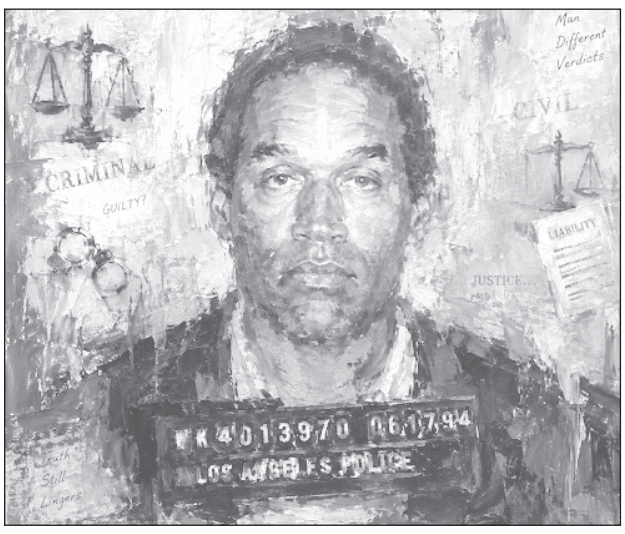
Living with Purpose

By David Peel



Civil law and criminal law can both arise from the same event, but they answer different questions, use different rules, and can reach different results. The O.J. Simpson cases are the clearest modern example.

In 1994, Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were killed. The State of California charged Simpson with murder. That was a criminal case. A prosecutor, not the victims' families, brought it. The state had to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The defense argued the evidence did not meet that standard, including the famous moment when a glove recovered from the scene appeared not to fit. In 1995 the jury acquitted Simpson. An acquittal means the state failed to prove the charge. It is not a finding that the defendant is innocent of every related claim, and it does not pay the families for their loss.



The families then filed a civil wrongful-death lawsuit. That case asked a different question: whether Simpson was legally responsible for the deaths and should pay damages. The burden of proof was preponderance of the evidence, meaning more likely than not. In 1997 a civil jury found him liable and awarded substantial damages. No one went to jail because of that verdict. The remedy was money, not punishment.

Most civil injury cases are not like that. In the average car wreck, the injured person does not sue because the other driver meant to cause harm. It is the opposite. The claim is that the driver was negligent: failed to keep a proper lookout, ran a light, followed too closely, or otherwise did not use reasonable care. That negligence is why the law requires the at-fault driver to make the injured person whole for medical bills, lost income, and other harm.

Insurance is built around that distinction. A liability policy is written to cover accidental, negligent conduct. It generally does not cover intentional acts. Criminal law asks whether someone should be punished for a wrong against the public. Civil injury law, in the ordinary case, asks whether carelessness caused a loss that should be paid.

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Mr. Peel seeks justice for those injured in tractor-trailer and car accidents, medical malpractice, and disability. He often addresses churches, clubs, and groups without charge. Mr. Peel may be reached through PeelLawFirm.com wherein other articles may be accessed.

THE BARTLETT EXPRESS HAS MOVED!
OUR NEW LOCATION IS: 7731 HWY 70, SUITE 102, BARTLETT TN 38134

Huey's Wins at Tennessee Hospitality & Tourism Association's Stars of the Industry Awards

MEMPHIS (September 25, 2026) - Tennessee Hospitality & Tourism Association (TNHTA) celebrated the outstanding individuals and teams driving the state's hospitality sector at the annual Stars of the Industry Awards, held Sept. 17 in Gatlinburg, TN.

Huey's was honored to represent Memphis in front of hundreds of hospitality professionals from across the state of Tennessee, with three of their team members chosen out of 375K hospitality employees statewide. Huey's was awarded: Restaurant Employee of the Year (Brian Davis, 20+ years with Huey's), General Manager of the Year (Reiko French-Whittington, nearly 20 years with Huey's), and Restaurateur of the Year (Ashley Boggs Robilio, 30+ years with Huey's).

Ashley Boggs Robilio, President of Huey's, shared, "It's really an honor for our team to be recognized throughout the whole state of TN. It's a testament to the work they put in, and to the city of Memphis, which continues to lift us up. We're very grateful for everyone's support and hope we can continue representing our city's incredible hospitality industry for years to come."



Huey's representatives celebrate three honors at the Tennessee Hospitality & Tourism Association's Stars of the Industry Awards, held Sept. 17 in Gatlinburg. Brian Davis was named Restaurant Employee of the Year, Reiko French-Whittington earned General Manager of the Year, and Ashley Boggs Robilio received Restaurateur of the Year.

Submitted Photo

From hotel housekeepers to executive chefs, front desk agents to tourism leaders, the awards highlight those who go above and beyond to deliver unforgettable experiences across the state.

Tennessee Tourism by the Numbers

Tennessee's tourism economy continues to set records. Visitor spending has grown 40% since 2018—nearly double the national growth rate of 22%—and reached a record $32.5 billion in direct visitor spending in 2025.

In 2025:

• 150 million visits were made to Tennessee.

• $32.5 billion was generated in direct visitor spending, up 2.7% year over year.

• $89 million was spent by visitors each day.

• $3.3 billion in state and local tax revenue was generated by tourism.

• $1,180 was saved in annual taxes by the average Tennessee household as a result of tourism-generated revenue.

The long-standing event underscores the industry's vital role not only in Tennessee's economy, but in shaping the millions of travel experiences that define the state's signature spirit of hospitality and unmatched service.

About Huey's

Huey's has been serving up blues, brews, and burgers since 1970. In this local, family-owned restaurant, you'll find a casual setting and laid-back atmosphere, where entertainment includes writing on graffiti walls and listening to live music every Sunday. Huey's has been voted Best Burger in Memphis every year since 1984 in Memphis Magazine and is also known for their commitment to the Memphis community that supports and sustains them.

Website: http://www.hueyburger.com/
Facebook: facebook.com/HueysRestaurants
Instagram: @HueysRestaurant

About the Tennessee Hospitality & Tourism Association (TNHTA)

The Tennessee Hospitality & Tourism Association is the voice of the state's hospitality industry, representing hotels, restaurants, attractions, and tourism partners across all 95 counties. TNHTA advocates for policies that support industry growth, provides professional development and workforce resources, and celebrates the people and places that make Tennessee a world-class destination. Through collaboration, education, and recognition, TNHTA empowers its members to thrive and helps ensure the continued success of Tennessee's vibrant hospitality and tourism economy.



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the crew at Wiemar's Jewelry, located at 7525 US Hwy 64, Memphis, is showing its support by wearing pink throughout the month.

Courtesy Photo

