

Wishing Our Readers
Happy Thanksgiving Holiday!

Our office will reopen Monday, November 30

⇨ SEE INSIDE: BLACK FRIDAY 2026 B SECTION⇦

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The Bartlett Express

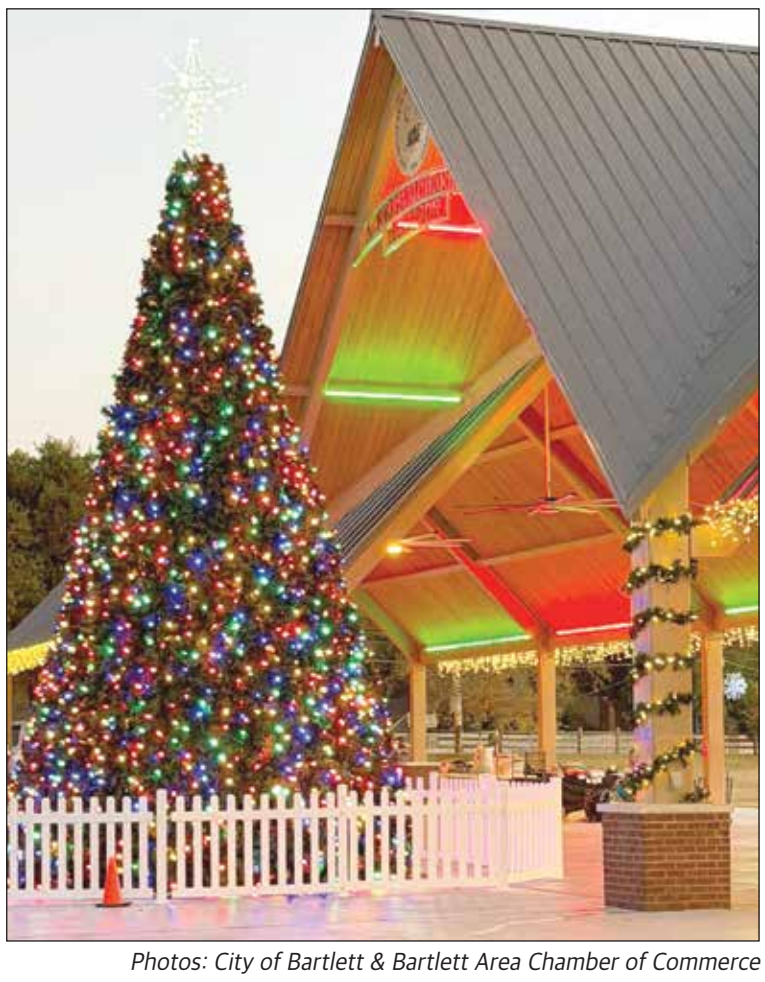
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BARTLETT CHRISTMAS MARKET KICKS OFF HOLIDAY SEASON WITH TREE LIGHTING AT FREEMAN PARK

Two-day holiday event featured local vendors, food trucks, visits with Santa and the city's annual Christmas tree lighting.







Photos: City of Bartlett & Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce

BARTLETT, Tenn. — The holiday season officially arrived in Bartlett as the Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce Christmas Market brought festive activities, shopping and community celebrations to W.J. Freeman Park on Nov. 20-21.

The two-day event opened Friday from 4 to 8 p.m. and continued Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the park, located at 2629 Bartlett Blvd.

One of Friday's highlights was the city's annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus joined members of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to help light the tree, marking the official start of the holiday season in Bartlett.

Throughout the market, visitors could browse vendor booths, shop for holiday gifts and enjoy

See **Holidays,** *page 2A*

Bartlett Fire Department welcomes newest firefighters as Recruit Class 30 graduates

Bartlett, Arlington fire recruits graduate together, prepare for service



Photo Bartlett Fire Department

BARTLETT, Tenn. — What began as a group of strangers brought together by a shared goal culminated Friday, Nov. 20, as Recruit Class 30 graduated from the Bartlett Fire Training Academy, marking the completion of months of intensive training and the beginning of their careers in the fire service.

The graduating class included recruits from both the Bartlett and Arlington fire departments, with two Arlington personnel completing the academy alongside their Bartlett counterparts.

Over the past several months, the recruits pushed themselves physically and mentally, developing the knowledge, technical skills and proficiency needed to serve as firefighters. Through countless hours of instruction, hands-on training and challenging exercises, they prepared for the responsibilities and demands of the profession.

Beyond the skills learned and the requirements completed, the academy offered something equally meaningful: the opportunity to build lasting relationships.

One of the most rewarding aspects of a recruit academy is watching individuals who arrive as strangers develop into a close-knit team. Through shared experiences, demanding exercises and the determination required to overcome obstacles, Recruit Class 30 became more than a group of trainees. They became a family.

The graduation also highlighted the partnership between the Bartlett and Arlington fire departments. Arlington officials expressed appreciation to Bartlett Fire Department leadership and officers for allowing their personnel to train alongside Bartlett recruits throughout the academy.

The two new Arlington firefighters are scheduled to take their state certification exams next week, with plans to begin serving on the streets of Arlington by the following weekend.

Both departments recognized

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HOLIDAYS,

Continued from 1A

food from a variety of food trucks. Families also had opportunities to enjoy seasonal activities and visit with Santa.

The market continued Saturday, giving residents another opportunity to explore the vendors and enjoy the holiday atmosphere at Freeman Park.

The Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce Christmas Market provided a setting for local vendors and businesses to connect with the community while helping residents kick off their holiday shopping.

The City of Bartlett also shared highlights from Friday night's Christmas tree lighting, allowing those who missed the ceremony to experience part of the celebration through a video posted by JWOO.

With its combination of holiday shopping, family activities and the traditional tree lighting, the Christmas Market marked the beginning of Bartlett's holiday celebrations.

GRADUATES,

Continued from 1A

the graduates' perseverance, dedication and commitment throughout the training process, wishing all members of Recruit Class 30 safe and successful careers as they begin serving their respective communities.

The Bartlett Fire Department also recognized the work of those who helped guide the recruits along the way. The department's Training Division, shift personnel and Fire Administration were thanked for the countless hours of instruction, mentorship and support invested in preparing the next generation of firefighters.

Their work plays an important role in ensuring recruits enter the profession with the knowledge, confidence and discipline needed to serve safely and effectively.

For the graduates, the academy may be behind them, but the real work is just beginning. As they transition into their respective departments, they will have the opportunity to work alongside experienced firefighters, put their training into practice and protect the residents and businesses of the communities they have chosen to serve.

The graduation marked not only the completion of a demanding training program but also the beginning of a career built on teamwork, service and commitment to others.

For Recruit Class 30, the journey in the fire service has officially begun. Both departments look forward to seeing what these newest firefighters will accomplish as they begin what many consider one of the most rewarding professions in public service.

BARTLETT ATHLETES, COACH EARN RECOGNITION FOR OUTSTANDING SEASONS

Lady Panthers golfer Abigail Westblade advances to state for second consecutive year as Coach Rod Galvan earns statewide coaching honor.





BARTLETT, Tenn. — Success on the golf course and the wrestling mat has given the Bartlett Lady Panthers plenty to celebrate, with one student-athlete earning individual honors and a veteran coach receiving statewide recognition for his leadership.

Abigail Westblade captured the individual championship at the Girls Golf District Tournament, shooting an impressive 81 to claim the title. The victory also secured her place in the TSSAA State Tournament for the second consecutive year.

Westblade helped lead the Lady Panthers golf team to an outstanding 41-10 record this season. Even better for Bartlett, she will return next year for her senior season, giving the team another opportunity to build on its success.

The recognition extended beyond the golf program, as Bartlett girls wrestling coach Rod Galvan was named the 2025-26 TSSAA Girls Wrestling Coach of the Year.

The honor recognizes Galvan's longstanding commitment to the sport and his leadership in developing the Bartlett Lady Panthers wrestling program into a competitive force.

Now in his 25th year as a high school head coach, Galvan has accumulated more than 200 career victories, coached 23 state placers and helped 13 wrestlers advance to the collegiate level.

Since taking over Bartlett's girls wrestling program in 2023, Galvan has helped establish a program with both regional and statewide success. Under his leadership, the Lady Panthers have compiled a 45-13 record, captured region dual and individual championships, and earned a third-place finish at last year's TSSAA State Tournament.

The team's success has continued this season, with Bartlett currently ranked

See **Recognition**, *page 3A*





Courtesy Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce

PANDA EXPRESS OPENS FIRST BARTLETT LOCATION WITH COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Ribbon-cutting ceremony included $1,000 donation to Mid-South Food Bank.

BARTLETT, Tenn. — Panda Express celebrated the opening of its first Bartlett location Nov. 17 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a $1,000 donation to Mid-South Food Bank.

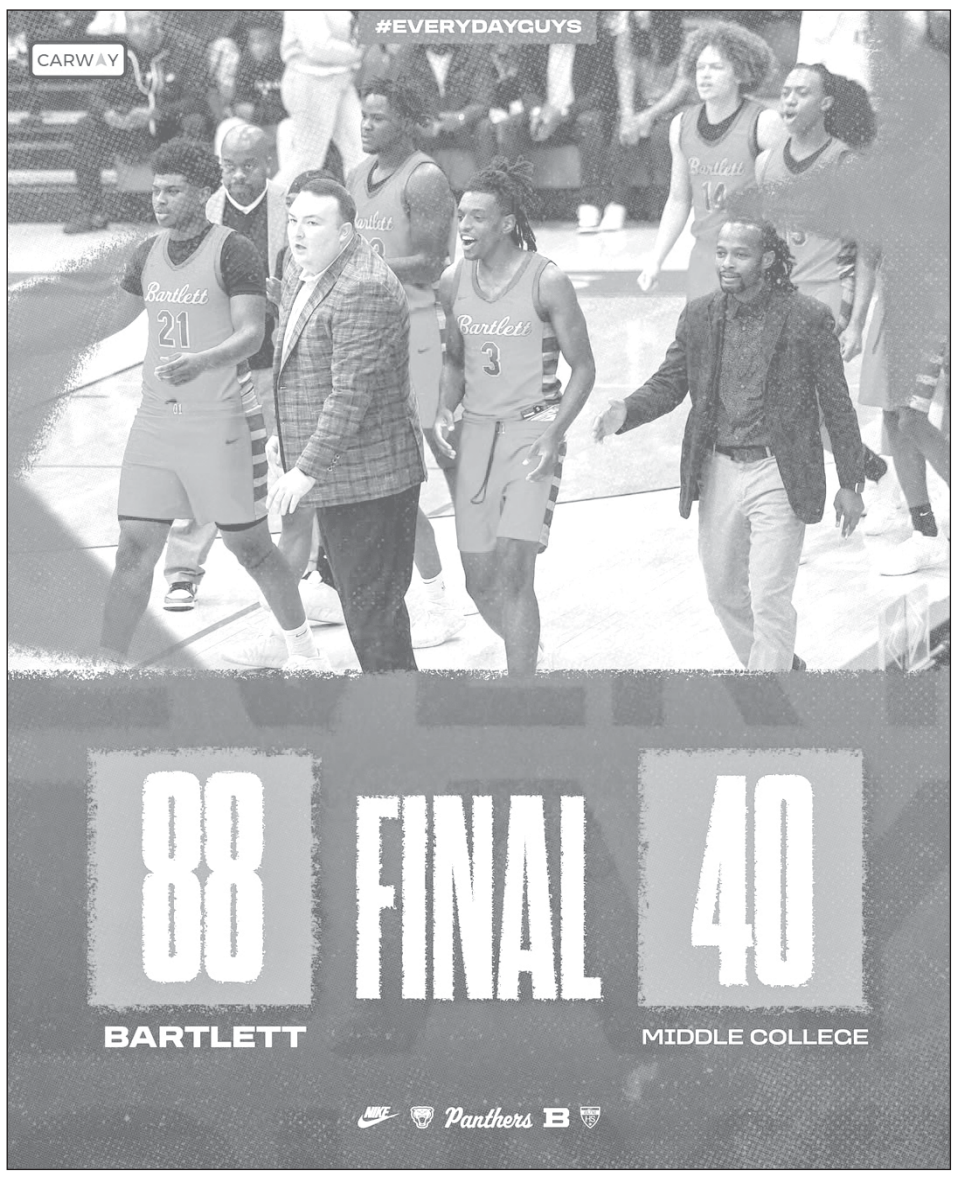
The celebration began at 9:30 a.m. at 8030 U.S. 64, where the Bartlett Area Chamber representatives joined the restaurant team to mark the occasion.

Christian Ortiz, Panda Express area coach of operations, said the company looks forward to becoming part of the Bartlett community by creating local jobs and supporting area organizations.

"Our entire Panda team is grateful to serve the Bartlett community by providing new jobs and supporting local organizations through various fundraising opportunities," Ortiz said. "We hope to be a lasting part of the community and welcome all guests into our doors to try our American Chinese favorites and discover their own."

The $1,000 contribution to Mid-South Food Bank was part of the company's effort to support organizations serving the region.

Panda Express is the largest American Chinese dining concept in the United States, according to the company. The Bartlett restaurant marks the brand's first location in the city.



The Bartlett Panthers finished Hall of Champions week undefeated, capping off the week with a victory over Middle College. The Panthers will carry that momentum into the Thanksgiving Hoopfest, where they are scheduled to face Duncanville on Friday, Nov. 27, at 7 p.m. at Duncanville High School in Texas.

Photo Bartlett Panthers Basketball



Earlier this month, Leadership Bartlett recognized Sue Coleman for her many years of leadership, dedication and commitment to the program and the Bartlett community. Her contributions have made a lasting impact, and her service is greatly valued.

Courtesy Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce



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RECOGNITION,

Continued from 2A

No. 2 in Tennessee and setting its sights on a state championship.

While accepting recognition for his accomplishments, Galvan also acknowledged the people who have supported him throughout his coaching career. He expressed appreciation for his assistant coaches and their dedication to the program, as well as his wife, Emily, for her support over the past 25 years.

Together, Westblade's individual achievement and Galvan's coaching honor reflect the dedication, competitive spirit and continued success of Bartlett athletics.

As Westblade prepares for another season with the Lady Panthers and Galvan leads his wrestling team into its championship pursuit, Bartlett has plenty of reasons to celebrate the accomplishments of its student-athletes and coaches.





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

TThe First Murder

Christian philosopher Eleonore Stump states, "Orthodox Christian doctrine holds that persons once created are everlasting and are of infinite value. If they become defective, it is up to a good God not to eliminate them, but to fix them if He can." Although Christians hold these truths to be absolute, this statement presents us with a conundrum or a difficulty. That is, how can we say God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-benevolent when we see so much evil in the world? That, of course, has been the question we have labored to address over the last many weeks.

It's not rocket science; there is tremendous suffering in the world. There is great suffering in our society; there is suffering in our church families; there is suffering in our personal families. And each of us has had periods of great personal and private suffering. In some sense, it seems to be sinful in and of itself even to attempt to give an explanation for why God might allow evil to exist. This is especially true when we consider the suffering of children. The great Russian novelist and Christian philosopher Fyodor Dostoevsky said this, "If all the grief and sorrow and suffering in the world, if all the evil in the world could be eliminated by the tears of a single tortured child; then the price is far too great." I agree with Dostoevsky. For that reason, here, I offer no defense for the suffering of children. Therefore, in what follows, I proceed with great caution, lest I be misunderstood or offend someone in the midst of great personal suffering. Even still, the question lies before the world: why does a good God allow evil to exist? We have argued that the best answer is that God, being of unquestioned goodness, has a morally sufficient reason for permitting evil in this world. This notion is further supported by the idea that a world in which there is no pain and suffering is a world in which there is no opportunity to make moral choices. Every time we face evil and pain and suffering, we make a moral choice. And in a world in which there is no pain and suffering would be a world in which there is no opportunity to make moral choices. And in a world where there is no opportunity to make moral choices there is no opportunity for moral growth. At any rate, over the next few weeks, I want to look closer at this truth claim that we have made that God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-benevolent. by looking in the context of the biblical story of Cain and Abel (Gen 4:1-17). It is the story that has been used generation after generation after generation to show how the evil and sin that began with Eve eating the forbidden fruit has now escalated into the first murder in the history of the world, with Cain killing his brother Abel.

The story first comes to a crossroads when God approaches Cain about his anger. God knows what is in Cain's heart, so He warns Cain that his anger is going to turn into sin. At this point, the first question, naturally, is, "Why doesn't God warn Abel that his brother is plotting to kill him?" We don't know, but the fact is God stands by and does nothing as Cain rises up and kills Abel. After the murder, when He comes to punish Cain, God doesn't kill him. There is no blood for blood, or eye for eye, no tooth for tooth. There is no life for life. Instead, God first brings about a special miracle on behalf of Cain by cursing the ground when and wherever Cain tills it. Then, God sends Cain away to wander about "the land of nod" (Gen 4:16). "Nod," by the way, is a Hebrew word meaning "to wander." But before he sends him away, God takes pity on Cain and marks him so no one who finds him will kill him. Something important to note: a bit further along in the story, we read that Cain marries, has children, and establishes a city he names Enoch after his son (Gen 4:17). Now it seems to me that Cain's life after he commits the first murder in history, really doesn't seem all that bad. Meanwhile, his brother, righteous Abel, is cold, and dead, and in the ground. No doubt, this story seems to be filled with injustice and God is right in the middle of it. Where is the goodness of God in this story? How does this story even end up being part of Holy Scripture?

Nevertheless, Christians are doctrinally committed to the absolute truth that God's goodness is absolute. To say this is to claim no bias or presupposition, but it flows logically, rationally, and naturally from His divine attributes; it has been revealed to Christians through God's special revelation of Himself and is presented through the evidence of religious experience. So, then, it is understood that Christians are driven by that evidence to say that God is good. These things given, there must be something we have missed in the story. What is actually happening here?

Join us again next week as we continue to look at the first murder in human history all in pursuit of the answer to the question, "Why does God allow evil to exist?

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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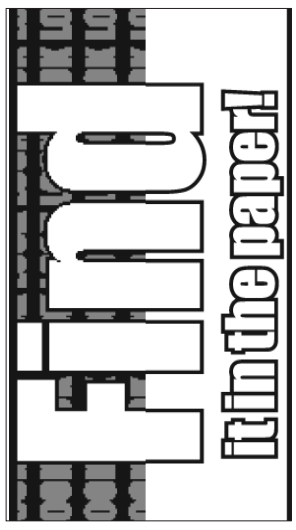
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_____

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REMIT TO: 7731 HWY 70, SUITE 102, BARTLETT TN 38134
CALL (901) 476-7116

AUTO AUCTIONS

DTS TOWING
3930 THOMAS ST., MEMPHIS, 38127

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AT AUCTION ON

DECEMBER 27, 2026 AT 11 AM

1HGCY1F29RA031504
2024 HONDA ACCORD

2C3CDZAG5PH578607
2023 DODGE CHALLENGER

1F66F5DN9M0A13673
2022 GEORGETOWN RV 36D

1N4BL4BV1KC253965
2019 NISSAN ALTIMA

KNDEB3D36V5037375
2026 KIA SELTOS

WBANU53558C115747
2008 BMW 5 SERIES

5YJ3E1EA3PF676217
2023 TESLA MODEL 3

3GNEC13T03G260270
2003 CHEVROLET AVALANCHE

KMHDH4AE1DU741795
2013 HYUNDAI ELANTRA

1N4BL3AP5FC170803
2015 NISSAN ALTIMA

1HGCY1F20RA023176
2024 HONDA ACCORD

1N4AL3AP5HN313400
2017 NISSAN ALTIMA

1N4AL3APXFC598166
2015 NISSAN ALTIMA

3FAFP13P01R161234
2001 FORD ESCORT

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

The Following Vehicles Will Be Sold On

12-11-26 AT 9 A.M.

2011 BMW 328
VIN # WBAPH7C5XBE850860

2019 DODGE RAM 1500
VIN # 1C6SRFDT7KN848797

2009 HONDA ACCORD
VIN # 1HGCS12759A018414

2013 HONDA ACCORD
VIN # 1HGCR2F81DA247539

2000 NISSAN FRONTIER
VIN # 1N6DD21S2YC428077

2012 HONDA ACCORD
VIN # 1HGCP2F34CA021133

2017 NISSAN MURANO
VIN # 5N1AZ2MG4HN138311

2016 CHEVROLET TAHOE
VIN # 1GNSCBKC6GR481713

2010 NISSAN ALTIMA
VIN # 1N4AL2AP0AN495068

2006 FORD FOCUS
VIN # 1FAHP34NX6W190925

2000 TOYOTA CAMRY
VIN # 4T1BG22K2YU754547

2013 FORD ESCAPE
VIN # 1FMCU0HX3DUC61216

2011 NISSAN MAXIMA
VIN # 1N4AA5AP3BC806089

2009 JEEP LIBERTY
VIN # 1JBGN28KX9W527323

2013 CHEVY CAMARO
VIN # 2G1FC1E39D9133340

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

SERVICES

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

AUTO AUCTIONS

WESTBROOK WRECKER SERVICE
3966 WINCHESTER RD., MEMPHIS 38118

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD, FOR SALVAGE UNLESS ALL TOW BILLS AND STORAGE CHARGES ARE PAID IN FULL, ON

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2026 AT 12:00 P.M. (NOON)

2017 CHEVERLET SILVERADO
VIN # 3GCUKSECXHG355338
BELONGING TO JIGME H SARAT MAZARIEGOS

2025 HONDA ACCORD
VIN# 1HGCY2F63SA033361
BELONGING TO JERICA LONG

901.365.7748

VICTORY AUTO SALES
4885 ELMORE RD. • MEMPHIS, TN 38128

The following vehicles will be sold at Public Auction to recover unpaid repair/towing/storage charges on

DECEMBER 11, 2026

2015 KIA OPTIMA
KNAGN4AD3G5096404

2024 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
KMHLL4DG4RU801468

2020 DODGE JOURNEY
3C4PDCGB5LT201394

1999 TOYOTA SOLARA
2T1CF22P6XC189190

2005 TOYOTA COROLLA
1NXBR32E35Z487957

2013 FORD F 150
1FTMF1CM8DKF67460

2017 FORD EXPLORER
1FM5K7BH9HGB03914

2003 DODGE CARAVAN
1D4GP25313B253462

2012 JEEP G.CHEROKEE
1C4RJFATXDC587571

2015 JEEP CHEROKEE
1C4PJMBS2FW569438

2015 JEEP CHEROKEE
1C4PJLDB9FW516274

2012 JEEP PATRIOT
1C4NJRCB7CD589503

2013 HYUNDAI SONATA
5NPEB4AC4DH732513

VICTORY AUTO SALES
4885 ELMORE RD. • MEMPHIS, TN 38128

The following vehicles will be sold at Public Auction to recover unpaid repair/towing/storage charges on

DECEMBER 10, 2026

2024 HYUNDAI SONATA
KMHL64JA1RA383766

2014 HYUNDAI EQUUS
KMHGH4JHXEU085279

2013 HYUNDAI SONATA
KMHEC4A41DA081172

2016 HYUNDAI SONATA
KMHE34L15GA021094

2016 HYUNDAI SONATA
5NPE24AF3GH275109

2018 HYUNDAI SANTA FE
5NMZT3LB7JH106783

2019 INFINITI QX 60
5N1DL0MM4KC505543

2005 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR
5LMFU27525LJ15046

2012 TOYOTA CAMRY
4T1BF1FK4CU032433

2026 KIA K4
3KPFT4DE7TE328381

2018 KIA FORTE
3KPFL4A71JE171370

2017 KIA FORTE
3KPFK4A71HE060458

2023 KIA FORTE
3KPF54AD0PE637816

2020 KIA FORTE
3KPF24AD5LE166717

YOUR CLASSIFIED AD COULD BE HERE! CALL 901.910.2489

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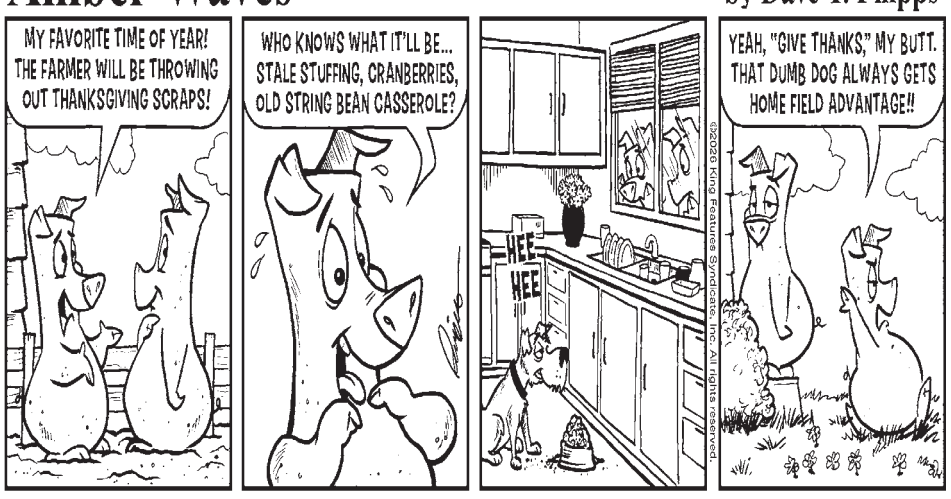


Put Your Money Where Your House Is ...

Advertise in the local newspaper
Call 901.476.7116

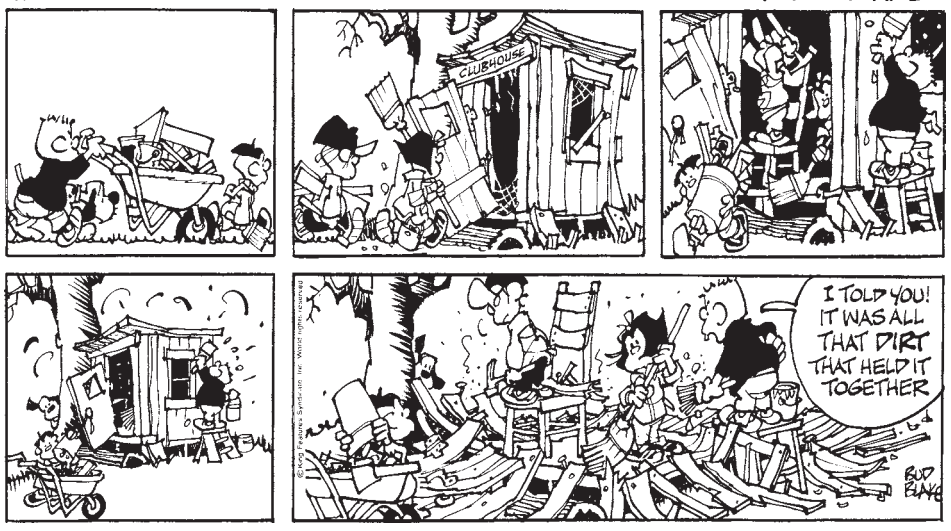
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

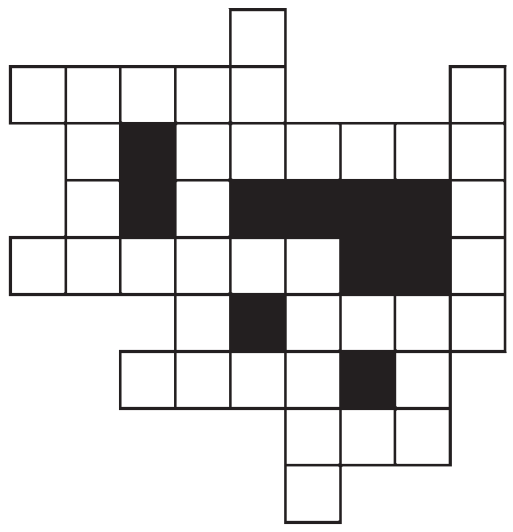


FEAR KNOT™

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

OCN
HEWLIA
LFCTE
♥ HWTA
♥ NELVIS
NFA
♥ ICLO
♥ TWESR
♥ NWA
SOIKEM
♥ DIETC
FDTE



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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Even Exchange

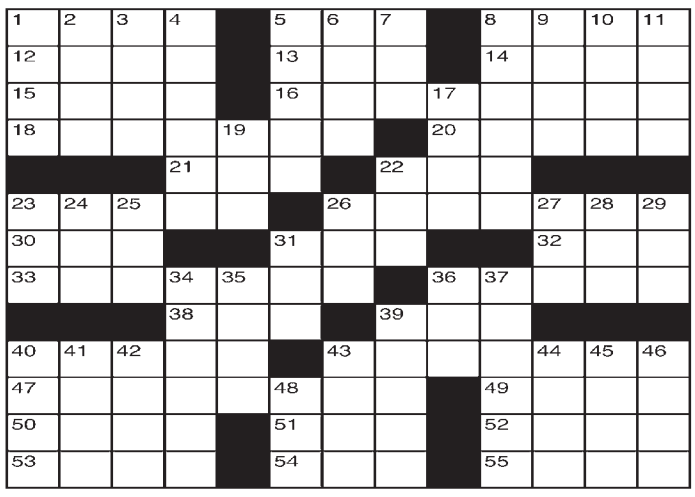
by Donna Pettman

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. Eiffel Tower locale	__ R __ __ __ __	Betrothed male	__ I __ __ __ __
2. Make happy	E __ __ __ __	Chalkboard material	S __ __ __ __
3. Fern leaf	__ __ __ __ D	Forward facing	__ __ __ __ T
4. Take out a loan	__ O __ __ __ __	Rabbit's den	__ U __ __ __ __
5. Dwelling	__ __ U __ __	Jockey's conveyance	__ __ R __ __
6. Penny pincher	__ __ S __ __	Gold digger	__ __ N __ __
7. Depart	__ __ __ V __	Rent	__ __ __ S __
8. Geraldo _____	__ __ __ __ __ A	Nile and Thames	__ __ __ __ __ S
9. Arthurian wizard	__ E __ __ __ __	Miami player	__ A __ __ __ __
10. Boxing match	F __ __ __ __	Hours of darkness	N __ __ __ __

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King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Furnace fuel
5 Arles buddy
8 Grouch
12 Words said with a sigh
13 A Bobbsey twin
14 Corridor
15 Subsequently
16 Small orchestra
18 Tennis category
20 Like a gorilla
21 Up to
22 "Ben- —"
23 Marina boat
26 "My Way" singer Frank
30 Rock producer Brian
31 Monk's title
32 "Big Blue"
33 Tricky baseball pitches
36 Old photo tint
38 Hosp. hookups
39 Lincoln or Ford
40 Savory taste
43 Winding
47 "The Jungle" author
49 Haydn nickname
50 Essence
51 Joan of —
52 Not that
53 Spanish ayes
54 Salty expanse
55 Phoenix

DOWN
1 Felines
2 Surprised greeting
3 "So be it"
4 Duration
5 Photographer Adams
6 French "but"
7 Hostel
8 "Quantum Healing" author Deepak
9 Hindu royal
10 Famed boxing family
11 Humdrum
17 Mythic goatman
19 Tipsy
22 That fellow
23 "Certainly!"
24 Singer DiFranco
25 Bamboozle
26 "Help!"
27 Bit of advice
28 Slugger's stat
29 Med. group
31 ER workers
34 Korean cabbage dish
35 Wicked
36 — Diego
37 Blows one's top
39 About, datewise
40 Priority Mail org.
41 1003, in old Rome
42 Pantry pests
43 Beget
44 Diamond Head locale
45 — arms
46 Back talk
48 Remote batteries, often

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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: **U** equals **P**

ZPM BUUKA VXGSAF DABE RVXIA EAEZAQI VBPK JQXE CXQDVAQC IGXDKBCN: DVA CAR FXQS VPMVKBCNAQI.

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

— Weekly SUDOKU —

Answer

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

— King Crossword —

Answers

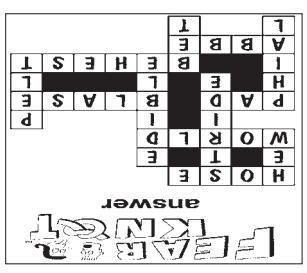
Solution time: 22 mins.



— Even Exchange —

answers

1. Grand, Grant
2. Nimble, Nibble
3. Harry, Hurry
4. Shiner, Shiver
5. Around, Ground
6. Hover, Homer
7. Orate, Irate
8. Ballot, Ballet
9. Jolly, Jelly
10. Larder, Larger



answer

FEAR KNOT

STICKELERS [sic]

by Terry Stickels

Below are four squeezer puzzles. Can you find the correct word to be placed in the middle of each to create two new words, one front-end, one back-end? Here's an example of how it works:

ever G R E E N horn

1) road _ _ _ _ book
2) bean _ _ _ _ game
3) nick _ _ _ _ less
4) push _ _ _ _ look

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"No golf today, Ted. Not until I cut the grass — Helen took my golf clubs as a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _!"

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!

Shame **MERIC** ___ ___ ___ ___ [ ]

Aside **GNATNET** [ ] ___ ___ [ ] ___ ___ ___

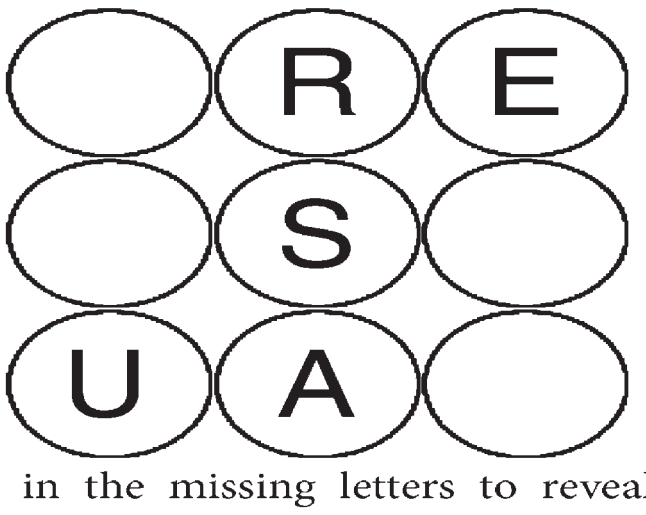
Hurl **WORTH** ___ [ ] ___ [ ] ___

Rent **EASEL** ___ ___ [ ] [ ] ___

TODAY'S WORD

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

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®

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

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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— CryptoQuip —

answer

At a bears' singles bar, I'm thinking the most common pickup line would be "What's ursine?"

— Stickelers Answer —

The Sea of Japan, East China Sea, Philippine Sea and Sea of Okhotsk.

— Word Spiral Answer —

BLEACHERS

— SCRAMBLERS —

Solution

1. Troupe; 2. Orient
3. Dosage; 4. Curdle

Today's Word

COUNSELOR

THANKSGIVING, THEN AND NOW



Ad Veritas

Daniel Richardson

Most of us learned the familiar Thanksgiving story as children: the Pilgrims, their Native American neighbors and a big meal celebrating a successful harvest. It is a memorable picture, but there is quite a bit of history between that gathering and the holiday we celebrate today. With Thanksgiving here, I thought it might be worth looking at a few of those details before we get too occupied with the food.

The gathering we commonly call the first Thanksgiving took place at Plymouth in the fall of 1621. We don't know its exact date, and it was a harvest celebration rather than the beginning of an annual November holiday. Both the English colonists and the Wampanoag people already had traditions of giving thanks.

One of the most interesting things about the event is how little firsthand documentation survives. Edward Winslow left the only surviving eyewitness account specifically describing the celebration. He wrote that the Wampanoag leader Ousamequin, commonly known as Massasoit, came with about 90 men. The gathering lasted three days, and the Wampanoag supplied five deer for the feast.

So venison has a well-established place in the Thanksgiving story. Winslow also described men being sent out to hunt birds, although his account doesn't specifically name turkey. We know considerably less about the full menu than the familiar illustrations might suggest.

Three days of feasting sounds ambitious, although I suppose we still manage something similar once we count the leftovers.

There was a sobering reality behind that celebration. By then, only about half of the Mayflower's 102 passengers were still alive. The harvest came after a year of sickness and scarcity. When I think about that, the gathering becomes more meaningful: people who had suffered tremendous loss still found reasons to give thanks.

The Wampanoag were an essential part of that story, with their own communities, leadership and traditions. Remembering their contribution helps us see actual people behind the familiar classroom picture.

It would be more than two centuries before Thanksgiving developed into the annual national observance we recognize. George Washington proclaimed a day of thanksgiving for Nov. 26, 1789—coincidentally, the same calendar date as this year's holiday. Other proclamations followed over the years, but the dates varied.

An editor helped change that, which naturally caught my attention.

Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of Godey's Lady's Book, spent years promoting a shared national Thanksgiving. In a September 1863 letter to President Abraham Lincoln, she explained that she had advocated the idea in her magazine for 15 years. She wanted Americans across the states to observe the occasion together.

On Oct. 3, 1863, Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for Thanksgiving on the last Thursday of November. The Civil War was still raging, and his words acknowledged that suffering. Along with giving thanks to God, he asked Americans to remember those widowed, orphaned or otherwise hurt by the war and to pray for the nation's healing. Presidents have issued annual Thanksgiving proclamations ever since.

The date still had another complication ahead. In 1939, Franklin Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving a week earlier to lengthen the Christmas shopping season. Some states followed his lead, while others kept the old date. Congress eventually settled the matter in 1941, establishing the fourth Thursday in November as the federal holiday.

Apparently, the struggle to keep Christmas shopping from crowding Thanksgiving has been going on longer than I realized.

What stays with me most, though, is the hardship surrounding both the Plymouth gathering and Lincoln's proclamation. Neither came at a time when everyone's troubles were behind them. People had suffered losses, faced uncertain futures and still made room for gratitude.

That seems like a useful lesson to carry to our own tables. A difficult year can leave us tired, worried or missing someone who ought to be sitting beside us. Giving thanks can make room for those feelings while also acknowledging the people and blessings that help us through them.

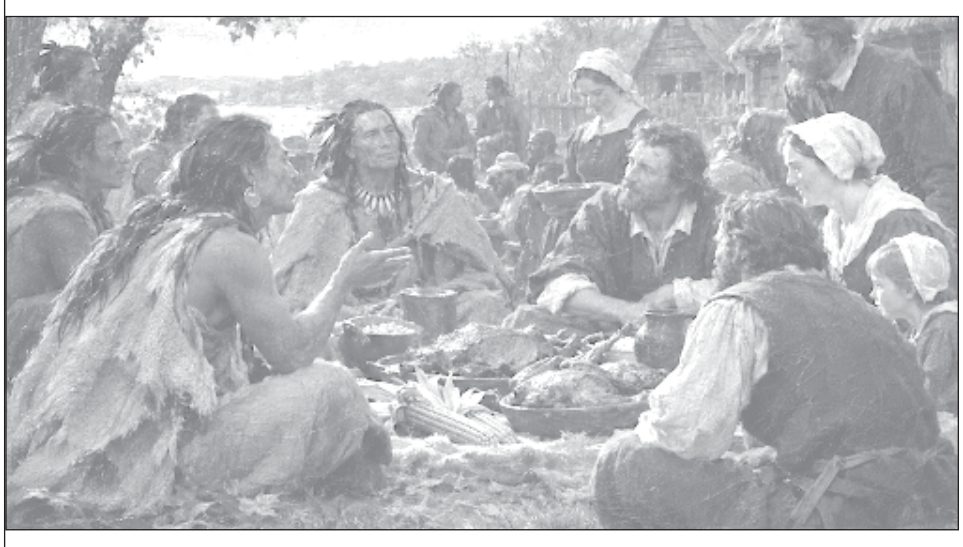
I'm looking forward to the food and family time as much as anyone. With five children, our gathering will probably involve more noise than quiet reflection. But somewhere between the meal and the next helping, I hope we take a moment to thank God, remember those who came before us and appreciate the people sharing the day with us.

There is a long history behind this holiday. This week, we get to add another family gathering to it.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Living with Purpose

By David Peel



The First Thanksgiving: What Really Happened in 1621

When the Mayflower anchored off Cape Cod in November 1620, its 102 passengers stepped into a land already reshaped by tragedy. Between 1616 and 1619, an epidemic carried by European traders had swept coastal New England, killing a large share of its Native people. The Pilgrims built Plymouth on the cleared fields of Patuxet, a Wampanoag village emptied by that sickness.

The first winter was brutal. About half the colonists died of disease, cold and hunger. In March 1621, the survivors met Tisquantum, better known as Squanto, the last of the Patuxet. Kidnapped by an English captain in 1614 and sold into slavery in Spain, he had found his way to England and back home, only to discover his people gone. Fluent in English, he taught the settlers to plant corn fertilized with fish and interpreted as the Wampanoag leader Massasoit and Governor John Carver agreed to a treaty of mutual defense.

That autumn, after a good harvest, Governor William Bradford sent four men out fowling. Massasoit arrived with about 90 men, who went out and killed five deer. The two peoples feasted together for three days. Our only eyewitness account, a brief letter by colonist Edward Winslow, mentions fowl, venison and corn. There was no pumpkin pie, no cranberry sauce and probably no potatoes. Nor did the Pilgrims call it "Thanksgiving"; to them, a thanksgiving was a solemn day of prayer, often with fasting.

The alliance held for over fifty years, until King Philip's War erupted in 1675 under Massasoit's own son, Metacom.

The national holiday came much later. After a seventeen-year letter-writing campaign by magazine editor Sarah Josepha Hale, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving in 1863, in the midst of the Civil War. In 1941, Congress fixed it on the fourth Thursday of November, where it remains today.

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.



In recognition of National Substitute Teacher Day, Bartlett High School celebrates and thanks its substitute teachers for their flexibility, dedication and professionalism. Their willingness to step in whenever needed helps keep classrooms running smoothly and ensures students continue learning. Pictured are some of the many wonderful substitutes who make a difference at BHS. Thank you for all you do!

Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce

TWO MEMPHIS CAREGIVERS CHARGED IN TENNCARE FRAUD INVESTIGATION

Staff Report

Two Memphis caregivers have been arrested on TennCare fraud and theft charges after investigators alleged they received payments for care they did not provide, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation announced Nov. 17.

Tina Poindexter, 50, faces one count each of TennCare fraud and theft involving $10,000 to $60,000. Tyrone Clements, 49, faces one count each involving $2,500 to $10,000.

The investigation began after United Healthcare submitted a fraud complaint in April 2025, according to the TBI.

Investigators allege Poindexter billed for caring for two patients during overlapping periods between May 2022 and August 2024. Clements allegedly submitted timesheets claiming he was providing care while records placed his clock-in and clock-out locations several miles from the patient's home.

A Shelby County grand jury indicted both in September. They were booked into the Shelby County Jail with assistance from the sheriff's office and the Memphis Police Department's Fugitive Unit. The release did not specify their arrest dates.

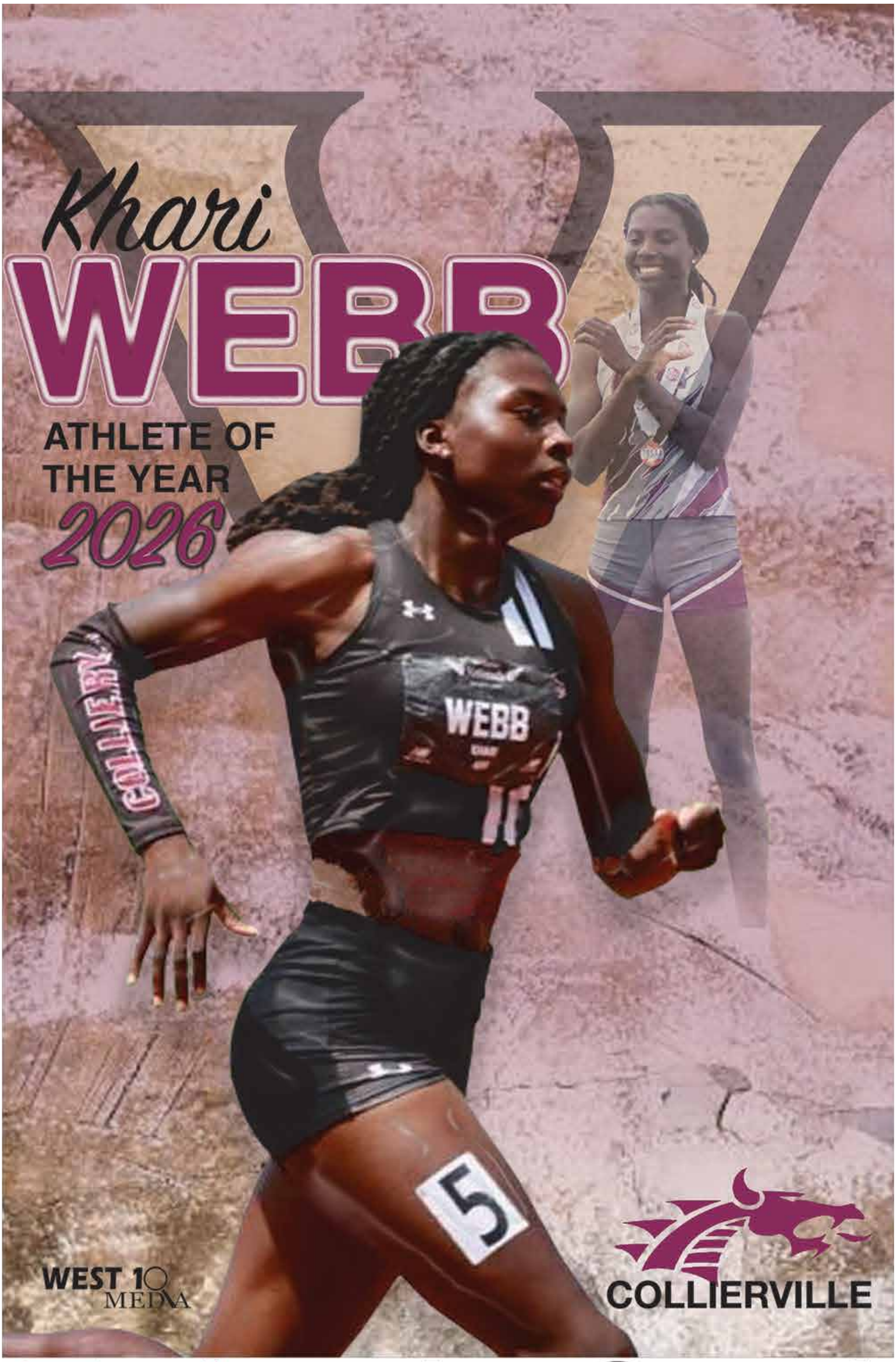
The charges are accusations. Both defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in court.

The Bartlett Express

To find out more information about placing your ad in our next publication call Vicki today!

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ADVERTISING MANAGER
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VICKI@MAGICVALLEYPUBLISHING.COM





Twice As Good

Collierville's Webb first two-time winner in West 10 Media Award History

By Thomas Sellers Jr.
West 10 Media Sports

For the first time in the history of the West 10 Media Female Athlete of the Year Award, there is a two-time winner.

Collierville graduate Khari Webb was the winner of the 2025 honor and duplicated the feat with an outstanding swan song with the Lady Dragons Track program. Webb is used to be a part of a winning streak as she was a large part of Collierville Track winning a third straight State Track championship.

The 2026 athletics season came to a close on May 21 with the Lady Dragons Track & Field making history. The Lady Dragons captured their third consecutive TSSAA State championship at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Head Coach Alisa Seymour guided her squad to titles in 2024 and 2025 in Murfreesboro on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University. The 2026 championship parade took place in East Tennessee with the Lady Dragons improving on the previous two title runs.

After setting a Division I State record with 155 team points in 2025, Collierville surpassed that mark this year, finishing with 161 points to secure the title.

Collierville set the tone early in the day with field events. Ehi Aigbomian led the way, capturing the State championship in the triple jump with a mark of 38 feet, 4.25 inches. She also added a runner-up finish in the shot put with a throw of 41-5.

Then Collierville had a couple of record-breaking performances with Ava Williams delivering a remarkable moments clearing 13 feet, 9 inches in the pole vault to set a new state record. On the track, the 4x400m relay team of Addison Young, Cali Gillard, Anna Buckhold, and Kennedi Woods closed out the meet in spectacular fashion. The quartet clocked a time of 3:47.24, breaking the previous state mark of 3:47.32 set by Collierville just last year.

Now it is time for the West 10 Media 2026 Female Athlete of the Year's curtain call. Webb capped off an outstanding meet with multiple titles. After winning the pentathlon earlier in the week, Webb claimed gold in the high jump (5-4) and the 300-meter hurdles (41.98), while also finishing second in the 100 m dash. Kylie Walden also delivered a stellar performance, winning the 200m dash in 24.01 seconds. She added a second-place finish in the 100 and placed fourth in the 400, just behind teammate Kennedi Woods, who finished third.

Webb is off to the University of Vanderbilt adding this honor to her historic prep career. She leaves Collierville with the program in elite standing.

The Lady Dragons became the first girls track & field team to win three straight titles since Whitehaven accomplished the feat from 2015 to 2017.

PAST WINNERS

2015: Bethany Berger (Tipton-Rosemark Academy)
2018: Savanna Owens (Briarcrest)
2019: Rachel Sullivan (Briarcrest)
2020: Maddie Eskin (Houston)
2021: Maiya Reed (Munford)
2022: Micaiah Halliburton (Millington)
2023: Brie Howard (Brighton)
2024: Brooke Harrison (Tipton-Rosemark Academy)
2025: Khari Webb (Collierville)



BLACK FRIDAY

Shopper's Guide

Black Friday 2026:

Smart shopping tips, gift ideas and ways to save this holiday season

Black Friday falls on Friday, Nov. 27, this year, with Cyber Monday following on Nov. 30. However, shoppers no longer have to wait until Thanksgiving weekend to find holiday bargains. Many retailers have moved their promotions earlier in November, giving consumers more time to compare prices and complete their holiday shopping.

For those planning to take advantage of the annual sales event, a little preparation can make a big difference. From electronics and household appliances to clothing, toys and gifts for everyone on the list, Black Friday offers opportunities to save money while getting a head start on Christmas.

Here are some ideas to help shoppers make the most of Black Friday 2026.

Start with a holiday shopping list

Before heading to the stores or browsing online, take time to make a list of people who need gifts and what they might enjoy receiving.

Consider gifts for children, spouses, parents, grandparents, teachers, friends and co-workers. Having a list can help shoppers avoid impulse purchases and keep spending under control.

It is also helpful to establish a spending limit for each person and a total holiday shopping budget.

Remember to include wrapping paper, gift bags, stocking stuffers and other holiday necessities in the budget.

Look for deals on electronics

Electronics are traditionally among the most popular Black Friday purchases.

Televisions, laptops, tablets, headphones, smartwatches, wireless speakers and gaming systems are worth watching during the holiday sales season.

Shoppers considering a new television may want to compare screen sizes, picture quality, smart features and warranties before making a purchase.

Computers and tablets can make practical gifts for students, professionals and family members who enjoy technology.

For children and teenagers, gaming consoles, controllers, headphones and popular video games may be on holiday wish lists.

The key is to compare specific models rather than focusing only on the advertised discount.

Consider kitchen appliances and household items

Black Friday is also a good time to look for savings on household appliances and products that make everyday life easier.

Air fryers, coffee makers, stand mixers, blenders, pressure cookers and countertop ovens are popular gift possibilities.

For homeowners, consider looking for discounts on vacuum cleaners, cordless tools, cookware, bedding, small appliances and home organization products.

These items can make practical Christmas gifts, particularly for someone setting up a new home or updating an older kitchen.

Shoppers should compare features and warranties to make sure a discounted product meets their needs.

Find gifts for children and grandchildren

Toy shopping is another major part of the Black Friday season.

Parents and grandparents can look for discounts on building sets, dolls, board games, bicycles, outdoor toys, arts and crafts supplies, educational games and popular electronic toys.

Consider gifts that encourage creativity, reading, problem-solving and family interaction.

Board games and puzzles can provide hours of entertainment without requiring batteries or electronic screens.

For younger children, books, building blocks, pretend-play sets and art supplies are thoughtful options.

Before purchasing toys, check age recommendations and product safety information.

Refresh wardrobes with holiday clothing deals

Clothing and accessories can also provide good gift opportunities during the

See Black Friday, *page B2*



Gift Ideas for 2026

Top picks for everyone on your Christmas list

Shoppers are gearing up for the biggest holiday shopping season of the year as electronics, beauty favorites, toys and thoughtful gifts take center stage. Here are some ideas to get your holiday shopping started:



Smart speakers, digital photo frames, portable Bluetooth speakers and wireless headphones are popular choices for people looking to give practical gifts with a little excitement.

ELECTRONICS & TECHNOLOGY

- Apple AirPods – Wireless earbuds
- Amazon Echo Show – Smart home display
- JBL Bluetooth Speaker – Portable music
- Digital Photo Frame – Family memories
- Apple Watch – Smart fitness and communication
- Wireless Charging Station – Everyday convenience



Perfume, skincare collections, handbags, jewelry, cozy pajamas and beauty gift sets are excellent choices for friends, sisters, mothers and daughters.

BEAUTY & FASHION

- Coach Handbags – Stylish everyday accessories
- Sol de Janeiro Gift Sets – Fragrance and body care
- SK-II Skincare Sets – Luxury skincare
- UGG Slippers – Cozy winter footwear
- Perfume Gift Sets – Holiday fragrances
- Gold Jewelry – Timeless accessories

TOYS & CHILDREN'S GIFTS

- LEGO Building Sets – Creative play
- Bitzee Digital Pet – Interactive toy
- Barbie Dolls – Classic favorite



Parents and grandparents can look for LEGO sets, collectible toys, interactive pets, plush characters and family games.

- Pokémon Collectibles – Popular collectibles
- Nintendo Switch Games – Gaming entertainment
- Squishmallows – Soft plush toys



Air fryers, robot vacuums, soft blankets, candles and kitchen gadgets combine usefulness with holiday cheer.

HOME & KITCHEN

- Ninja Air Fryer – Kitchen convenience
- Shark Vacuum – Home cleaning
- Keurig Coffee Maker – Coffee lovers
- Cozy Throw Blanket – Comfort gift
- Candle Gift Basket – Home fragrance
- Robot Vacuum – Smart cleaning



Perfume, skincare, makeup collections and beauty gift baskets make thoughtful presents.

GIFTS UNDER $50

- Insulated Tumblers
- Portable Bluetooth Speakers
- Board Games
- Makeup Gift Sets
- Fuzzy Slippers
- Personalized Coffee Mugs

BLACK FRIDAY, *Continued from B1*

holiday shopping season.

Look for sales on coats, sweaters, boots, athletic shoes, pajamas, handbags, scarves and winter accessories.

Matching family pajamas are a popular holiday tradition and can make a fun Christmas morning photograph.

Shoppers also may find opportunities to purchase clothing basics, such as socks, undershirts and sleepwear, at reduced prices.

When shopping for someone else, remember to check sizing and return policies before purchasing.

Think about gifts for the home

Home-related gifts can be both attractive and useful.

Decorative pillows, throws, candles, picture frames, kitchen accessories, cookware and seasonal decorations are possibilities for friends and family members who enjoy decorating.

For someone who loves entertaining, consider serving trays, specialty glassware, table linens or a new coffee maker.

Smart home products, including video doorbells, lighting systems and wireless speakers, also may be available at promotional prices.

Don't overlook gifts that aren't traditional merchandise

Not every Christmas gift needs to come in a box.

Gift certificates to favorite restaurants, movie theaters, spas, salons and local entertainment venues can be thoughtful presents.

Consider purchasing tickets to a concert, theater performance or sporting event.

Memberships to museums, botanical gardens, fitness centers and other attractions can provide enjoyment throughout the coming year.

For families, an experience gift such as a weekend getaway, cooking class or special outing may be more memorable than another household item.

See Black Friday, *page B3*

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BLACK FRIDAY, *Continued from B2*

Support local businesses on Small Business Saturday

Black Friday is followed by Small Business Saturday on Nov. 28, making the weekend an excellent opportunity to support locally owned businesses.

Independent retailers, boutiques, gift shops, specialty stores and local artists often offer unique merchandise that shoppers may not find at larger chain stores.

For residents in the greater Memphis area, shopping locally in Bartlett, Germantown, Collierville and surrounding communities can help support neighborhood businesses and keep more shopping dollars in the local economy.

Look for handmade gifts, jewelry, specialty foods, home accessories, artwork and locally produced products.

Restaurants and other service businesses also offer gift certificates that can make excellent holiday presents.

Shop online, but shop carefully

Online shopping makes it possible to compare prices and browse thousands of products without spending the day in crowded stores.

However, shoppers should take precautions when purchasing merchandise online.

Use established retailers and make sure websites have secure payment systems. Be cautious of unfamiliar sellers offering prices that seem too good to be true.

Avoid clicking on suspicious links in unsolicited emails, text messages or social media advertisements.

Check shipping costs, delivery estimates and return policies before completing a purchase. Also, review credit card and bank statements for unfamiliar transactions.

Using a credit card rather than a debit card for online purchases may provide additional dispute protections, depending on the card issuer.

Compare prices before celebrating a bargain

One of the biggest mistakes shoppers can make is assuming every Black Friday sale represents a substantial savings opportunity.

Retailers sometimes advertise large percentage discounts, but the original price may not reflect what the item normally sells for.

Research products ahead of time and compare prices at several retailers.

Price-tracking websites and shopping apps can help consumers determine whether an advertised sale price is truly competitive.

Also, look at the model number and product specifications. Some retailers sell special versions of products during the holiday season, making direct comparisons more difficult.

Keep receipts and review return policies, particularly for electronics and other higher-priced purchases.

Don't forget Cyber Monday

For those who prefer to avoid crowded shopping centers, Cyber Monday on Nov. 30 offers another opportunity to find online discounts.

Many retailers extend Black Friday promotions throughout the weekend, while others introduce additional online offers.

Cyber Monday is worth watching for computer accessories, electronics, clothing, home goods and other holiday purchases.

Shoppers who do not find the right deal on Black Friday should not feel pressured to buy something simply because it is advertised as a limited-time offer.

Make a plan and enjoy the season

Black Friday can be an exciting way to get a head start on holiday shopping, but saving money should remain the primary goal.

Make a budget, compare prices, research products and focus on gifts that family and friends will genuinely enjoy.

Whether shopping online, visiting a favorite department store or supporting a neighborhood business, consumers have plenty of opportunities to find thoughtful gifts during the 2026 holiday season.

Most importantly, remember that the best Christmas gifts are not necessarily the most expensive ones.

A little planning, some thoughtful shopping and a willingness to support local businesses can help make this holiday season both affordable and memorable.







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