

*Please pause to count your blessings, and how you positively affect so many others. Collectively, we make our communities better places to live, raise families, and grow old ~ and that's a wonderful thing that we can all be very proud of and thankful for.*

*Wishing you and your loved ones a Wonderful Holiday and Happy New Year!*

*RSVP Staff*



It has been difficult for me to get into the spirit of the season this year. I don't know why, there's nothing wrong. But then something happened. I went to a meeting and a group of children sang Christmas carols. My heart grew 3 sizes that day! Sometimes we all have these 'seasons' – for whatever reason there is just no joy or happiness.

Isn't it wonderful when that one little something happens to make us wake up? And all of a sudden we notice those around us, and what's going on with our friends and family and the whole world! Hopefully, we never forget for too long everything we have to be thankful for and the love that surrounds us every day.

I wish for you all the joy, peace, gratitude, love, energy, friendship & contentment your heart can stand – and then I hope your heart grows 3 sizes so you can stand some more! Remember that we love you and are thankful for all of your efforts!

## Volunteer Opportunities

- **MANNA** – volunteers are needed to deliver hot, nutritious meals to homebound seniors.
- **RED CROSS** – volunteers are needed to greet clients, get them started with paperwork, etc., at various blood drives throughout the community, as well as Admin Assistants in the local office.
- **HOSPICE** – volunteers are needed to help with hospice caregiver check-in calls or companionship.
- **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** – If you can sweep, paint, move dirt, carry boards, swing a hammer, or assist in any way, volunteer with Habitat today!
- **READING BUDDIES** – volunteers are needed in local elementary schools to help children with reading and comprehension.
- For more information on these and other volunteer opportunities, call RSVP at (256)549-8147.

## Volunteer Recognition

Ms. Erma Davidson is a wonderful, dedicated volunteer. She is faithfully volunteering at Elliott Senior Nutrition Center, as a reminder caller for the Etowah Council of Community Services meetings, and as a Senior Worker Available Today (SWAT).

Recently, she volunteered

for a Red Cross blood drive and we received this note from Dane, Red Cross Account Manager in Etowah - "Ms. Erma was solid to work with and did a very good job last week!"

Thank you, Ms. Erma for your hard work and dedication to your community and RSVP!

The winner of our on time – time sheet drawing is Ms. Vicky Griffin. Ms. Griffin has only been a volunteer with RSVP since November of this year at the Etowah Baptist Mission Center in Gadsden. Vicky already has 30 hours on record! Thank you Ms. Griffin for all of your volunteer service!

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*How many lessons of  
faith and beauty we  
should lose, if there  
were no winter in our  
year!*

*~Thomas Wentworth  
Higginson, "April  
Days," 1861*

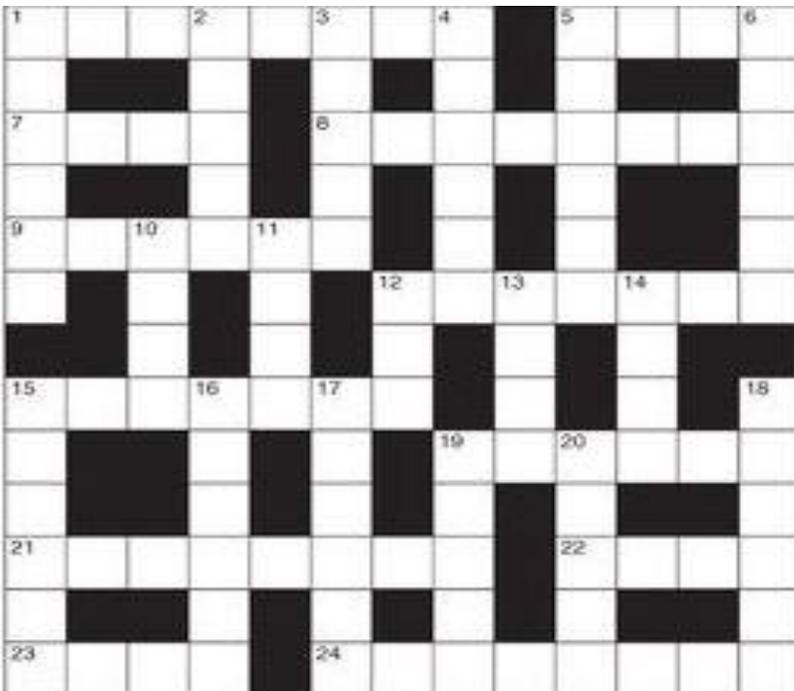


## Upcoming Events

- **January 1-15** – Habitat for Humanity will be accepting applications for new homes. Call 256-543-1898 or visit [www.gadsdenhabitat.com](http://www.gadsdenhabitat.com) for details.
- **January 1** – New Year’s Day; Etowah County Courthouse closed
- **January 11** - Seniors Outfitted for Defense meeting. Call RSVP @ 256-549-8147 by 1/10/18 to reserve a seat.
- **January 15** – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Etowah County Courthouse closed
- **January 21** – Sanctity of Life Sunday. Call the Etowah Pregnancy Testing Center @ 256-442-6101 to schedule a speaker or get bulletin inserts for your place of worship.
- **January 22** – Free Income Tax Program begins. Call RSVP @ 256-549-8147 for schedule.
- **February 1** – Tickets go on sale for the 2018 Choose Life Banquet to be held April 26<sup>th</sup>. Please call the Etowah Pregnancy Testing Center @ 256-442-6101 for more information.
- **February 10** – 3rd Annual High Tea; Call Cherokee County Historical Society @ 256-927-7835 for details.
- **February 14** – Happy Valentine’s Day!
- **March 11** – Daylight Saving Time begins, don’t forget to move your clocks up one hour!
- **March 17** – St. Patrick’s Day
- **March 17** – Gadsden Heart Walk on 300 Block Broad St 8am. For info [gsanealabama@heart.org](mailto:gsanealabama@heart.org)
- **March 20** – 1<sup>st</sup> day of Spring!
- **March 30** – Good Friday; Etowah County Courthouse closed.



## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

1. US volcano, Mount... (2,6)
5. Supersonic planes
7. Taj Mahal city
8. Cambridge & Oxford universities
9. Treeless Arctic zone
12. Coniferous tree found in Europe
15. Vienna is there
19. Croatian capital
21. Peninsula in southwest England
22. Manchurian river
23. Central attraction of Piccadilly Circus
24. Region that includes Japan, China and Korea (4,4)

### DOWN

1. Roughly built settlements, ...towns
2. Large African antelope
3. Nasty disease named after a river in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, ...virus
4. Underground train system
5. City in northwest India
6. People from Stockholm
10. Scotland’s monster lake Loch...
11. German industrial region
12. Washington-based spy group
13. Italy’s Leaning Tower of...
14. Kuwaiti ruler
15. Native American tribe
16. Sport played at Wimbledon
17. Earth’s glacial period (3,3)
18. Portugal and Spain
19. Bantu peoples of Natal
20. West Africa nation

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## VOLUNTEER BIRTHDAYS

Vickie Dobbins	01/02	Rebecca Tillery	01/27	Sherry Stapleton	03/02
Katherine Smith	01/02	Deb Vice	01/27	Monza Miller	03/04
Kellye McDowell	01/04	Judy Christian	01/29	Agnes Skinner	03/04
Doris Jelks	01/05	Sammye Hill	01/29	Linda Godsey	03/05
Thomas Mintz	01/06	Joan Grove	01/30	Melisa Guinn	03/05
Shirley Ward	01/06	Sharon Wappelhorst	01/30	Jean James	03/06
Carol Hudson	01/08	Lucille Marbury	01/31	Linda Smith	03/08
Marcia Kendrick	01/09	James Lee	02/02	Janice Wininger	03/08
Betty Chestnut	01/10	Karl Mayfield	02/02	Mary Jane Quinn	03/09
Bobby Hinkle	01/10	Judy Clontz	02/06	Doris Cash	03/10
Judy Oxley	01/10	Alice Neal	02/06	Clara Hoyt	03/10
Frances Ramey	01/10	Virginia Stanfield	02/07	Bud Utter	03/10
Dannie Box	01/11	Ruby George	02/09	Bessie Granger	03/12
Georgia Ann Grimes	01/11	Frances Core	02/10	Doyle Spinks	03/12
Delma Smith	01/13	Dolores Smith	02/10	Dewayne Long	03/14
JL Bellamy	01/14	Reather Adams	02/11	Joseph Chestnut	03/18
Kitty Phillips	01/15	Peggy Ballenger	02/14	Barry Bottoms	03/21
Shirley Williams	01/16	Martha Ashley	02/17	Betty Crowe	03/21
Judith Crane	01/18	Karen Wilmon	02/19	Margaret Knight	03/21
Dennis Nunnally	01/22	Melba Lories	02/21	V.V. Davis	03/24
Nadine Smith	01/22	Jane Brittain	02/24	Jack Fuller	03/26
Gregory Wilson	01/25	Jimmie Bailey	02/27	Jennie Amos	03/27
Kenneth Hudson	01/26	Margie Chapman	02/27	David Gober	03/27
Edna Cole	01/27	Venice Spears	02/28	April Breland	03/28
Lois King	01/27	Gloria Smith	03/02	Sarah Chapman	03/28