

Vols blow 17-point lead in loss to Wildcats

Millions of tires produced at Rhea County Nokian plant

Tivoli Theatre aims for late 2026 reopening

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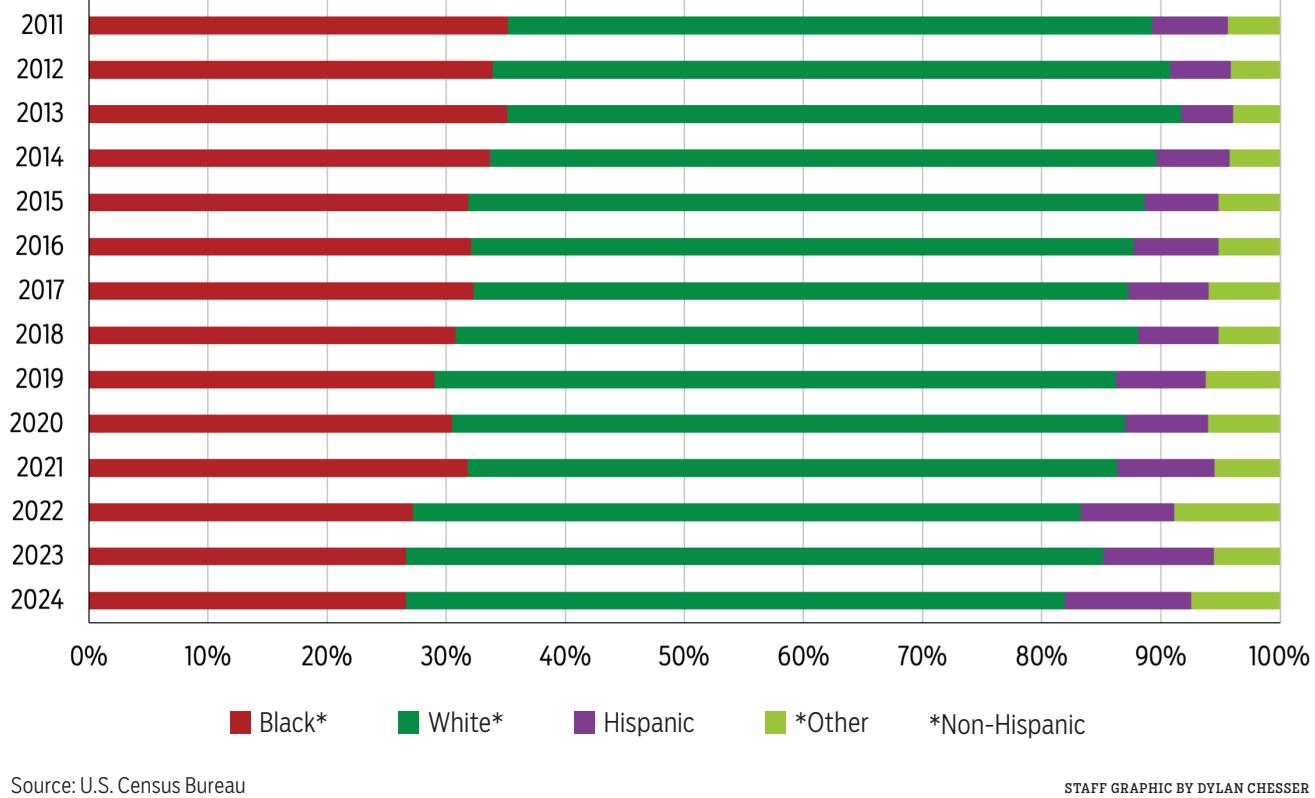
# Chattanooga Times Free Press

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## CHATTANOOGA POPULATION



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

STAFF GRAPHIC BY DYLAN CHESSER

# A SIGNIFICANT SHIFT

IN RAW NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES, THE SCENIC CITY'S BLACK POPULATION IS SHRINKING

BY JOAN MCCLANE  
STAFF WRITER

The share and number of Black Chattanoogans has fallen over the past 15 years, as the city's population grew, according to a recent census data analysis that's troubling some neighborhood leaders.

Chattanooga's population grew from 168,075 in 2010 to 191,495 in 2024, one-year census estimates show. During that period, the city's white population increased from 94,184 to 105,941, while the Black population dropped from 56,882 to 50,945.

At the same time, Chattanooga's Hispanic population jumped from 10,056 to 20,381.

"The mayor's promise to the Black community during his first term was, he promised to leave the African American community better off," Tiffany Rankin, a Lincoln Park leader who has long advocated for the preservation of the city's historic Black neighborhoods and landmarks, told the Chattanooga

Times Free Press. "How is this possible when Chattanooga is continually sold off by the establishment?"

Officials with Chattanooga Mayor Tim Kelly's administration have said that one of the core goals of Kelly's

One Chattanooga platform is to help build a Black middle class.

Stephanie Cepak, Kelly's spokesperson, said in a statement that Kelly believes in his One Chattanooga plan, "which seeks economic success and prosperity for all."

"The mayor has diligently worked to catalyze economic vitality in the Black community, and this intentionality continues into his second term through programs to increase affordable housing and home ownership, investing in historically underserved neighborhoods like the One Westside and expanding pathways to entrepreneurship," Cepak said.

The city is barred by the state from instituting rent control, but the Kelly administration has been nationally recognized for innovative approaches to incentivizing construction of affordable housing, according to Cepak's statement.

See SHIFT • A11

## NASA's new moon rocket may launch as early as February

BY MARCIA DUNN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA's giant new moon rocket moved to the launch pad Saturday in preparation for astronauts' first lunar fly-around in more than half a century.

The out-and-back trip could blast off as early as February.

The 322-foot rocket began its 1 mph creep from Kennedy Space Center's Vehicle Assembly Building at daybreak. The

4-mile trek took until nightfall.

Thousands of space center workers and their families gathered in the predawn chill to witness the long-awaited event, delayed for years. They huddled together ahead of the Space Launch System rocket's exit from the building, built in the 1960s to accommodate the Saturn V rockets that sent 24 astronauts to the moon during the Apollo program. The

See NASA • A12



NASA's new moon rocket, Artemis II, makes its way from the Vehicle Assembly Building to pad 39B at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Tivoli Theatre aims for late 2026 reopening

See B8

for full weather reports

Source: WRCB-TV Channel 3

# Tension, chaos is the new normal

BY TIM SULLIVAN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS — Work starts around sunrise for many of the federal officers carrying out the immigration crackdown in and around the Twin Cities, with hundreds of people in tactical gear emerging from a bland office building near the main airport.

Within

minutes, hulking SUVs, pickup trucks and minivans begin leaving, forming the unmarked convoys that have quickly become feared and common sights in the streets of Minneapolis, St. Paul and their suburbs.

Protesters

also arrive early, braving the cold to stand across the street from the fenced-in federal compound, which houses an immigration court and government offices. "Go home!" they shout as convoys roar past. "ICE out!"

Things often turn uglier after nightfall, when the convoys return and the protesters sometimes grow angrier, shaking fences and occasionally smacking passing cars. Eventually, the federal officers march toward

See TENSION • A12

# Weight-loss drugs have heavy truth

BY DANI BLUM  
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Weight-loss drugs like Wegovy require a lifetime commitment. Stop taking them, and you'll almost always gain back the weight you lost.

But many patients don't want to hear that. Dr. Padmaja Akkireddy, an endocrinologist at Nebraska Medicine, estimated that more than half of her patients don't want to stay on a weight-loss drug long term. And data shows that most Americans quit the drugs within a year of starting them.

Even Oprah Winfrey said that she stopped taking a weight-loss drug "cold turkey" for a year, then gained back 20 pounds. "I tried to beat the medication," she told People magazine. It was then that she realized "It's going to be a lifetime thing," she told the magazine.

Many people have to stop taking the drugs because they can no longer afford them. Others grow tired of side effects like fatigue, nausea and constipation. Some just don't want to rely on a drug forever.

See WEIGHT LOSS • A12

MONDAY

See B8

for full weather reports

Source: WRCB-TV Channel 3

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