COMMUNITY NEWS

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

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GUILTY!

Raymond A. Smith awaits murder sentence

T-G Staff Report

A jury has found Raymond Antonio Smith, 47, of Shelbyville, guilty of first-degree murder in the fatal beating of Sarah Angelina Johnson. Sentencing for Smith will be held June 17 in Bedford County Circuit Court.

The crime, considered by the state to be premeditated, occurred at 3142 Sims Road home in Bedford County on March 15, 2022.

Smith was also found guilty on the charge of theft of property. The 2002 Toyota 4Runner that prosecutors said Smith fled in, and wrecked, immediately following the crime, was estimated at about $3,000.

The testimony of assistant state medical examiner, Shannon Crook, was presented Friday afternoon. The jury heard testimony from this forensic pathologist relating to the autopsy report she filed on the victim, referred to in court as "Angel."

The medical examiner described each wound and abrasion on the African American woman's 5-foot frame. She concluded that Johnson died as a result of multiple blunt force injuries to the head.

State prosecutors said in early, opening statements that there were two murder weapons- a piece of firewood and a fireplace grate. These weapons, according to the state, contained the DNA/blood of Sarah Johnson and the DNA of the defendant, which was found on the clean end of both murder weapons.

The medical examiner concluded that Johnson's manner of death was homicide. The 14-member jury* would receive a copy of the autopsy. (*Two jurors were excused as alternates upon the jury being sequestered for deliberation.)

The medical examiner explained there were multiple wounds to the victim's torso, head, ears, mouth, face, shoulders and neck. She described one blow that went clean into Johnson's skull.

The cab driver who delivered Johnson and Smith to the home of Kathy Mangrum at 3142 Sims Road about 4:15 a.m. on March 15, also testified during the trial as to the state of the defendant and victim.

Mangrum would testify that she awoke that evening on March 15 to Johnson saying, "Baby, why are you beating me?"

The medical examiner's toxicology report stated that the victim had fairly high amounts of amphetamines and methamphetamines in her system. An amphetamine is a stimulant while Meth is a highly addictive type of amphetamine.

Prosecutors stated that Smith also had Meth and THC (marijuana) in his system when arrested.

Potential effects of Meth misuse include cognitive deficits, hallucinations, and dissociation from one's thoughts and feelings and psychosis.

During the trial, prosecutors presented as evidence a video interview conducted by TBI agents with Smith, upon his arrest and prior to him being formally charged with first-degree murder. Smith continually stated, "I did not hurt Sarah."

TBI special agent Josh Anderson was called to the stand Friday and watched with the video along with the jury. Smith contended he was being framed by people who had been at the Mangrum home the day of the murder.

Smith told TBI agents that he was given Roofies and fell asleep. The state toxicology report found no such drugs in Smith's system.

Roofies, which are illegal due to their association with sexual assault and rape, can stay in a person's system for a week, according to a drug recovery website.

TBI agents told Smith that the drugs present in his system would no way allow him to sleep through "Angel's" brutal beating. So, Smith began to be painted as a selfish killer and thief.

"You wake up . . . see your loved one dying; you step over her! You just left the woman you intended to marry!"

TBI investigators found the victim's blood on Smith's shoes and on the gas pedal of the stolen 4Runner. Smith never denied wrecking that vehicle and abandoning it at the intersection of Henslee and Sims Road, less than a mile from the crime scene.



This photo of 2022 murder victim Sarah Angelina Johnson was shown to jurors last Friday during the first-degree murder trial of Raymond Antonio Smith in Bedford County Circuit Court. Smith was found guilty.

Neighbors testified of Smith's antics the night of the murder, stating he was in their yard, causing the dogs to bark. He was reported to have been seen stealing yard sale clothes from one neighbor; he changed his clothes in another's vehicle.

"You changed clothes more that night than Celine Dion at a concert," remarked a TBI agent.

Smith contended in the interview that the Cartel was after him. He believed he was being set up.

The defense tried to deflate homeowner Mangrum's testimony, asking how she could leave a murdered friend and flee to the woods. The state contended Mangrum fled out of fear of Smith; she would eventually make it to a friend's house on Pass

See GUILTY, 2A



T-G Photo by Dawn Hankins

Jason Barber and life partner, Melissa, enjoy farm life in their Longview community. They are strong individuals with lots of dreams for the future.

'I just feel like God's all over this. As my eyesight decreases, technology increases.'

- Jason Barber

Jason Barber shares life on YouTube

'Farming Blind with Duck'

By DAWN HANKINS

Longview farmer Jason Barber recently spent the day loading over100 bales of hay. While around here that might seem average, Jason's story is a bit different as he's visually impaired.

Jason has a disorder called retinitis pigmentosa (RP)- a group of rare eye diseases that affect the retina (the light-sensitive layer of tissue in the back of the eye.) To look at him, he says a person would probably not even realize his condition, that is until he bumps into them and spills coffee on their back.

That recently happened. He said the person understood.

Jason was diagnosed with RP in the late 1990s. Basically, his color perception is fading away.

"I use the example where most people come in from the outside and go into a movie theater," explains Jason. "It takes a minute for your eyes to focus, get adjusted to the low light. Mine never focuses . . . never gets adjusted. It gets better, but never like it really should be."

According to the National Eye Institute, RP is genetic and makes cells in the retina break down slowly over time, causing vision loss. Some people with RP lose their vision more quickly than others.

But being legally blind isn't slowing down this local farmer, though he knows eventually, he may be completely blind. He's making the most of his time and not dwelling on his hardships.

"I find ways to do everything in a slow and safe manner," says Jason.

In addition to cattle farming, Jason is attending conferences all over the country, telling audiences his unique story and how he continues to farm, despite his disability.

See BARBER, 12A

Educator Hamler advances toward 'Supervisor of Year'

Bedford County Elementary Instructional & ESL Supervisor Xavier Hamler was recently recognized for advancing in the Tennessee Supervisor of the Year selection process as a region-level semi-finalist!

This honor is earned by demonstrating superior abilities in:

- Managing and motivating students and faculties;
- Evoking high standards;
- Demonstrating a commitment to excellence;
- Implementing innovative programs; and
- Having a track record of exceptional gains in student learning.

This is a rigorous process and school officials remarked how they're so proud of Hamler for the wealth of knowledge and leadership he brings to BCS.

The goal of the Tennessee Supervisor of the Year program is to recognize and celebrate the wealth of excellent district leaders that exist across the state education system. Each year, an "outstanding" public school supervisor earns distinction as the Tennessee Department of Education Supervisor of the Year.

Supervisors of the Year are selected competitively through four cycles: district, region, grand division and state.

Supervisors selected at each cycle receive local recognition and awards underwritten by local sources. State recognition and awards include a banquet, honoring the nine region-level Supervisors of the Year.

The benefits to participating in the Tennessee Supervisor of the Year program include being celebrated and honored for making exceptional district-wide gains with students and serving as a spokesperson and advocate for the education profession.

Supervisors of the Year respond and fulfill speaking requests, presentations and share their experiences with the state education department.

Good luck Mr. Hamler!



Photo by Carol Garrette

Xavier Hamler, elementary instructional and ESL supervisor for Bedford County School System, (right) has advanced in the Tennessee Supervisor of the Year selection process. He is now a region-level semi-finalist and recently shared the announcement with his peers.



Submitted Photo

Jason Barber, despite being diagnosed as legally blind, still maintains a large herd of cattle on his Bedford County farm. He uses assistive technology to help him with work throughout the day.

MOTHER'S DAY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

Celebrate Mom by submitting your special photo of her to the Shelbyville Times-Gazette's upcoming special issue "Best Mom Ever!" Please include your name and phone number for contact purposes. Please identify the people in your photograph and tell us a little about the occasion on which it was taken, etc. Tell us why you think your mom is the "Best Mom Ever!" If you have someone who is like a "Mom" to you, but maybe not biologically related, submit those too! Just tell us why this person is like a "Mom" in your life.

Best mom EVER



Please submit your photos by email to: dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net
We are also accepting ads in honor of Mother's Day.
The deadline to submit photos and ad requests is Monday, May 6, 4 p.m.

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MTSU Men's Tennis Wins Fifth Consecutive Title

Middle Tennessee Men's Tennis is quickly becoming – if it isn't already – a dynasty in Conference USA

See Page 10A



Celebrating the origins of the Eucharist

The Eucharist (Holy Communion) is a central component of the Christian faith. Find out where it originates.

See Page 4A

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GUILTY

From page 1

Road.

Prosecutors provided an alibi for each of those Smith accused of trying to frame him. According to the state, no physical evidence was found to connect them to Johnson's murder.

As a matter of record, Smith, who resided on Fay Creek Road, has a prior arrest charge in Bedford County, actually, a few weeks before Johnson's murder, of dragging a woman and throwing coffee on her (from actual jail intake report.)

Was Angel's murder a crime of passion? Prosecutors asked that question since all the victim was wearing at the time of her death was her underwear.

Possibly some of the most damning pieces of testimony in the murder trial came out of Smith's own mouth during that TBI interview/video. Smith told the TBI that he had a phone video of the events of March 15, 2022.

When Anderson asked Smith about the whereabouts of the video, he said his "god parents" have it.

The TBI agent then told Smith if he could provide such a detailing video, he would be in the clear. Smith said he would try to get it.

The prosecution asked Anderson if Smith ever produced that video. He answered, "No."

The state called that one of the many lies told by Smith. Prosecutors said one of the worst was that he stated, "I did not hurt Sarah."

The state said it has proven beyond a reasonable doubt that Smith did premeditate the killing of Angel, whose photo was placed on the large, courtroom screen.

"The truth is, Raymond Smith, you killed Sarah. You murdered her. You beat her to death," said Assistant DA General Mike Randles. "You're a murderer and a thief!"

Smith used his constitutional right not to testify last week



during the trial.

Public defender, James Tucker, told the jury that they must decide how much weight they were going to place on all the evidence and witnesses brought before them by the state. During the trial, defense attorneys claimed there were "holes" in TBI evidence.

At 5:30 p.m. Friday, prior to them going into the jury room to deliberate, Tucker told the jury the fate of the defendant was ultimately in their hands.

A person convicted of first-degree murder in Tennessee shall be punished by death, imprisoned for life without parole or imprisoned for life. The sentencing hearing on June 17 will determine whether Smith lives or dies by lethal injection.



Photo by Joyce Jones

FRIENDS AND PEEPS
Local FFA member Hannah Vincent held another successful "Hannah's Chicken Swap" last Saturday, despite early morning rain. She and little friend, Avery, talked baby chicks.

Open enrollment for BC schools is May 1-31

By DAWN HANKINS

During Bedford County Board of Education's meeting last Thursday, attendance supervisor Terise Rhodes said more open enrollment forms are expected this year. Open enrollment is the process in which local parents/guardians may elect to enroll their child in a BCS school in which they are not zoned.

For example, if you live in the Southside School district but want your child to go to Cascade Elementary, then you must participate in open enrollment. The open enrollment window begins May 1, for Bedford County schools and closes May 31.

However, for a student to move to another zoned area, there must be space available in the requested school/grade-level. Transportation must be provided by parent or guardian to and from the school each day.

Rhodes advised that in 2023-2024, the school system received 341 applications during the open enrollment period. At this time, the school system is doing its student data verification for the coming school year.

Board member Glenn Forsee asked how many of the 341 applications last year were outside of this district. Rhodes said 18.

She added that most of the outside open enrollment forms are from Eagleville students wanting to go to Community and Christiana students wanting to come to Cascade. There have been some open enrollment applications for the city schools but not nearly as many as for Cascade and Community districts, Rhodes said.

She expects that to remain the case again this year.

Rhodes said Cartwright Elementary won't be a big area for open enrollment in 2024-2025. She said there will be a gradual increase in student population over time at the new facility.

School superintendent Tammy Garrett said there are between 30 and 50 students to be rezoned from Cascade to the new Cartwright Elementary. She said most of those have indicated they want to apply to stay at Cascade.

School board member Glenn Forsee commented, "I think we need to clearly promote our ceiling for Cartwright opening up . . . capacity for 800, eventually, but now we're coming in at 550 and growth for 800."

Forsee said it all needs to be fairly communicated.

School Board Chairman Michael Cook thanked Rhodes on the quality of information shared with the board. He said he believes some parents misunderstand at first glance the lottery process for open enrollment and asked for that feature to be a bit revamped when information is put out to the public.

In her presentation, Rhodes said if students have past attendance issues, the open enrollment will likely be denied. Rhodes said there are certain attendance rules for attending a school in another zone and in the case of zero tolerance issues, students are returned to their zoned school.

So, if your student is unruly or likes to miss school, you might want to reconsider participating in open enrollment.

"We want parents to understand that being allowed to go to a requested school outside their zone is a privilege," advised Rhodes. "And they have to meet the conditions of the policy."

Parents/guardians who live outside of Bedford County may also apply provided seats are available and transportation provided. Parents/guardians will be required to pay a $600 tuition per semester for a total of $1,200 per year. These payments are to be made at Bedford County Board of Education at 500 Madison St. Shelbyville.

Note: Bedford County residents have priority over seat availability in the open enrollment process.

Rhodes discussed during the board meeting what is required by law regarding open enrollment. She advised that in April 2022, the Tennessee General Assembly rewrote the policy for open enrollment for school districts.

Before the start of each school year, an LEA (local education association) shall identify each school that, based on the school's capacities at the building, grade, class, and program levels, has space available to enroll and serve additional students.

An LEA shall post the number of spaces available for enrollment in each school by grade, class, and program levels on the LEA's website at least fourteen (14) days before the beginning of the open enrollment period under subsection.

Before the start of each school year, each LEA shall conduct an open enrollment period of at least 30 days during which a parent or guardian of a student residing within the LEA may apply for enrollment of the parent's or guardian's student in a school that the student is not zoned to attend.

During the open enrollment period, a parent or guardian may submit an application for transfer to a school identified by the LEA as having space available to enroll and serve additional students. (d) At the end of the open enrollment period, an LEA shall approve an application for transfer if space is available for the student at the requested school.

If the number of applications for transfer to a school exceeds the number of spaces available for enrollment in the school at the building, grade, class, or program level, as identified by the LEA according to subsection (b), then the LEA shall conduct a lottery to select the students who may transfer to the school.

This is so it is fair for every student applying, Rhodes said.

(e) If an LEA grants a transfer to a student, then the parent or guardian of the student is responsible for transportation to the new school. The student must maintain satisfactory attendance, behavior, and effort to remain in the new school. (f) (1) An LEA shall not deny a student who is zoned to attend or who was enrolled in a school during the previous school year enrollment and attendance in the school.

"We can reserve a reasonable number of spaces," said Rhodes. "Our formula we use for that is a 60% projection rate-40% for out of zone, 60% for in zone."

During the open enrollment period, Rhodes said her department rolls up the current year list of students, by grade level, then figures the number of class size, based on 20 students per class in K-3; 25 students per class in grades 4-6; and 30 per class in 7-12 (the state average per law.) Special education classes are not included because they have different guidelines for class sizes.

Open Enrollment Applications submitted during this open enrollment process time frame are subject to approval through a lottery, if more students apply than available seats, as directed by this new state law.

To ensure your application is considered, it is important to submit your application between May 1-May 31, 2024. The open enrollment application will be approved based on the open seats (see adjacent list.) Please note: An application must be completed for EACH student in the household.

Thomas Magnet School has been designated as closed schools with no open enrollment option for 2024-25.

School officials note that it is important to fill out the application completely as incomplete ones will not be considered.

For more information about open enrollment, go to the school system website at bedfordk12tn.com. The information will also be on the Skyward banner when parents log into the portal and on the school system's social media pages.

Please note: An application must be completed for EACH student in the household. After reviewing open enrollment documents, please feel free to call BCS Central Office with any questions at 931-684-3284 and ask for Attendance.

Once your Open Enrollment application is completed and submitted, you will receive an e-mail notification; please be sure your e-mail address is entered correctly. Notification of acceptance or denial will be sent by July 1 also via e-mail.

24-25 BEDFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS OPEN ENROLLMENT - SEATS AVAILABLE

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADES	K	1	2	3	4	5
CARTWRIGHT ES	0	10	10	0	1	3
CASCADE ES	10	6	9	3	6	6
COMMUNITY ES	3	2	3	3	0	7
EAKIN ES	4	1	1	4	8	3
EAST SIDE ES	2	2	3	0	9	0
LEARNING WAY ES	0	2	2	0	8	0
LIBERTY ES	1	0	2	2	2	2
SOUTHSIDE ES	6	0	3	1	0	0
THOMAS MAGNET	0	0	0	0	0	0

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES	6	7	8
CASCADE MS	14	28	20
COMMUNITY MS	14	21	30
HARRIS MS	0	16	17
LIBERTY MS	0	3	0
THOMAS MAGNET	0	0	0

HIGH SCHOOL GRADES	9	10	11	12
CASCADE HS	18	23	32	25
COMMUNITY HS	21	15	28	30
SCHS	52	39	44	46



For current students, the Online Student Data Verification form is required to be completed before your Open Enrollment application will be considered.

Social Security Matters: Ask Rusty

Russell Gloor

AMAC Certified

Social Security Adviser

Older husband and working wife seek guidance

Dear Rusty

I am 74 years old, retired and receiving Social Security. My wife will be 65 in January of 2025.

Our hope was to start paying off some credit card expense by her receiving SS when she turns 65, however it appears there would be a substantial reduction to her benefits. Her work income is $37,500 a year, and she wasn't planning on retiring from work at age 65.

Because I am 11 years older, we felt it makes sense to use her Social Security as a means to lower our debt. We have $27,000 in credit card debt, and I don't really want to use my 401(k) funds due to taxes.

We pretty much live on my Social Security and pension.

Seeking Suggestions

•

Dear Seeking

Your wife's full retirement age, or FRA for Social Security purposes is age 67. Because she will not yet have reached her FRA in January 2025 when she is 65, if she claims SS to start at that time, not only will her monthly amount be reduced, but she will be subject to Social Security's annual earnings test.

The earnings test sets a limit for how much can be earned by beneficiaries who claim SS before FRA.

The earnings limit for 2024 is $22,320. The limit for next year is not yet published (it's based on changes to the national wage index) but will be a bit higher – likely about $23,500.

Thus, I can't provide the exact impact, but if your wife's 2025 earnings exceed next year's limit, Social Security will take back $1 in benefits for every $2 over the limit (half of the amount over the limit).

So, if your wife earns $37,500 per year, that will likely be about $14,000 over the limit and Social Security will take back half of that ($7,000). They "take back" by withholding future benefits, or you can repay them in a lump sum.

So, you will have a choice – repay Social Security from your other assets, or they will withhold your wife's SS benefits for the number of months needed to offset her penalty for exceeding the earnings limit. The number of months they will withhold depends on how much is owed and what your wife's monthly SS benefit is.

For example, if your wife's age-65 SS benefit is about average ($1,900) and her penalty for exceeding the limit is $7,000, Social Security would withhold your wife's benefit for four months to recover the penalty, but she would receive her full benefit for the remaining eight months of the year.

Unless your wife tells them in advance that she will exceed the limit, Social Security will find out the following year (after you file your income taxes). But, in any case, your wife cannot avoid the annual earnings test for working before reaching her full retirement age.

The earnings test goes away when your wife reaches her FRA of 67. Until that time, if she continues working she will have a choice to have her benefits withheld for a portion of the year, or simply repay Social Security in a lump sum (in which case her benefits would continue uninterrupted).

FYI, there is a silver lining in this, because if your wife has benefits withheld because she exceeds the earnings limit before her FRA, after she reaches her full retirement age Social Security will give her time credit for the months when benefits were withheld, which will result in her monthly Social Security payment amount increasing somewhat at her full retirement age.

Thus, over time, your wife may recover the benefits which were withheld for exceeding the annual earnings limit. But to get 100% of the benefit she's earned from a lifetime of working, and be exempt from Social Security's earnings limit, she would need to wait until she reaches her FRA to claim.

(This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or send email to ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.)

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Celebrating the origins of the Eucharist

The Eucharist (Holy Communion) is a central component of the Christian faith. During the Eucharistic celebration, the sharing of bread and wine, which many Christians believe symbolizes the actual body and blood of Christ after the process of transubstantiation, takes place.

Church teaching and Biblical study says the origin of the Eucharist occurred at the Last Supper of Jesus. According to the religious resource The Catholic Tradition, the Last Supper in the New Testament set the course for the tenets of the Christian faith. Christian liturgies exist because Jesus Christ told people to do what he had done, in memory of him.

The most detailed account of the first sharing of the Eucharist is found in St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians, which predates the Gospels. St. Paul 1 Corinthians, Chapter 11, offers nearly verbatim the terminology used in today's Apostolic liturgy. St. Paul's words read:

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread, and giving thanks, broke, and said: Take ye, and eat: This is My Body, which shall be delivered for you: this do for the commemoration of Me.

In like manner also the chalice, after He had supped, saying: This chalice is the new testament in My Blood: this do ye, as often as you shall drink, for the commemoration of Me. For as often as you shall eat this Bread, and drink the Chalice, you shall show the death of the Lord, until He come.

Jesus and his disciples gathered on the first day of Passover for the Last Supper. In addition to sharing food and wine, Jesus explained that one in their midst would betray Him and another would deny knowing Him.

Jesus also explained to the disciples how the bread was a symbol of his body and would be broken for them. In addition, the wine was a symbol for his blood and would be poured out for their sins to be forgiven.

Additional Christian traditions which emerged during the Last Supper include the washing of feet. Jesus washed his disciples' feet as an example to be servants to all.

From the Last Supper on, faithful Christians follow the guidance of Jesus Christ, and the Eucharist is the central component of masses within many Christian churches. Keeping this feast renews repentance and people's faith in Jesus' blood and sacrifice.

Easter is an opportunity to dive deeper into the Christian faith and the meanings behind the tenets of Christianity.



TAKE A DRIVE, EXPLORE MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Few will argue there's nothing more beautiful than a Sunday drive in springtime in middle Tennessee.

Photo by Dawn Hankins



FUMC-Shelbyville Worship
Join us at Shelbyville First United Methodist Church for Sunday worship at 10 am. Pastor Abe Zimmerman will preach "Grow Fruit" from John 15:1-8. Come and learn about Jesus, our true Vine and see what happens when we stay connected to him. For those unable to attend, we offer a livestream on Facebook and a broadcast on WLIJ 1580 AM.

Community Calendar

Airport Event
Shelbyville Municipal Airport will sponsor Aviation Day on Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free admission and parking. Food vendors onsite.

Spring in the Hollow
Lynchburg will celebrate all things spring on Saturday, April 27, during its 28th annual Spring in the Hollow event. Activities begin at 8 a.m. Special events include a bird house auction, art contest and plant sale.

Family Event
The 2nd annual Petersburg "Our Town Fair" and the 72nd Petersburg Colt Show will be held Saturday, April 27. The event will include live entertainment and food trucks.

Gates open for the Colt Show at 10:00 a.m. The show starts at 12:00. Entry fee is $20.00. Prizes 1st $75.00, 2nd $50.00, 3rd $25.00, 4th $15.00, & 5th $10.00 Perpetual trophies awarded for all 3 championship classes. The judge will be Tracy Boyd.

TWHNC Events
2024 Racking Horse Show, sponsored by RACKING HORSE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, Cooper Steel (Calsonic) Arena. April 25th – 27.

Spring Extravaganza at the Bedford County Ag Center, Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27. Lead line classes, park performance and more!

Wartrace Strawberry Festival
Wartrace will celebrate Spring and All Things Strawberry on Saturday, May 11, 9am – 4pm.

Activities include craft vendors, food trucks, parade, kid zone, baking contest, entertainment

and much more. Free admission and parking.

School registrations
PreK Registration
May 7, 2024
Harris Middle School
8:30 AM-4:00 PM
Kindergarten Registration
Tues. May 7, 2024
Each Elementary School (Cartwright registration will be hosted at East Side Elementary School & Eakin Elementary School)
8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Decoration Days
Rosebank Cemetery Decoration Day will be held 2 p.m., May 19, at Flat Creek Community Center in Flat Creek.

Houston Whitworth Cemetery will have its Decoration Day 2 p.m. May 19 at the cemetery. Donations can be mailed to: Charles Armstrong, 435 Old Nashville Dirt Road, Shelbyville, TN., 37160.

PENCIL SHAVINGS - EDUCATION NEWS

A new twist on "Annie Get Your Gun?"



BY DAWN HANKINS

The state House has cleared a bill, 68-28 vote, and sent it to Gov. Bill Lee for consideration. Nothing unusual, right?

If he signs this bill into law, it will be something for the Tennessee law books, for sure. Educators may soon have the choice of carrying guns with them to school. Is it right?

We asked some of our Facebook followers today. Here's what some said:

Did they asked the teachers if they wanted to carry at school? Asking a teacher if they would be able to and wanted to might be the first question. But why and who is shooting up at our children's schools is such an interesting question. In Japan in 2022 I think the total number of people shot to death in the entire country for the whole year was 5? In the entire country, this ain't even a conversation.

Another follower stated: I said all along teachers should be allowed to carry a gun.

Absolutely!" said another follower. "It will make these people that want to go into a public school, private school, and really any kind of establishment think twice before they try a massacre. The best thing our state can do hands down!

Actually, such a law could change the face as we know it for education. But as well, I guess many people are just sick and tired of the degradation of society, which filters down to our school system. Yep.

Teaching today, especially in the larger school districts in the state, can be downright scary, educators note. As well, think of the terror that has stricken school hallways over the last decade.

But here's a good point made by one T-G follower: So, what happens when a kid(s) finds those guns? What if they (one of more kids) over- power the teacher with the gun? Do the teachers carry the gun on their person? Or are the guns kept under lock and key? By the time the teacher gets to the gun, finds the key, unlocks the cabinet or safe, loads the gun, will it be too late? Or is the teacher supposed to hunt down the kid with the gun? What then? It's like adding fuel to the fire. You can be trained all you want on gun safety and how to use a gun, but can you be sure that that teacher with the gun won't accidently shoot your kid? It will be a high adrenaline situation. And if it's your kid with the gun and the teacher shoots him or her down, what then? It looked like he had a gun... oopsie! Teacher against student? Who gets sued? The teacher? The school? The county? The state?

I wouldn't let my kids in that school!

Too much can go wrong. I'd rather see metal detectors and or school cops. Make the state provide the school with one or both.

Putting the onus on the teachers isn't fair. If they were put in the situation where they had to use the gun on a child or accidently shot a child that would psychologically mess up that teacher for life. Not only that, would you want your child in the class with that teacher? Does that teacher go to jail? Teachers teach because they want to mold minds of our future generations. If they wanted to be cops, I'm sure they wouldn't have chosen the profession they are in. Making a teacher play cop is ludicrous.

I grew up in the rural South and teachers really didn't need hand guns. Truthfully, paddles were still used in those days/ corporal punishment. That has certainly gone out the window across the state.

Members of the public who oppose the bill for teachers to have guns at school harangued Republican lawmakers after the vote, leading House Speaker Cameron Sexton to order the galleries cleared.

Four House Republicans and all Democrats opposed the gun/educator bill. The measure would bar disclosing which employees are carrying guns beyond school administrators and police, including to students' parents and even other teachers. A principal, school district and law enforcement agency would have to agree to let staff carry guns.

I guess this is one of my favorite comments from the T-G social media: "Oh and for those of you that are not from here and not happy about it, California would probably be more suited for you.

Send letters to the editor at PO Box 380 Shelbyville TN 37162. Please include your full name and contact information (to be used only by editorial staff.)

Art Event
Bedford Arts Collective
Art Crawl
4PM-7PM MAY 10, 2024
Historic Uptown Shelbyville, TN



FUTURE LEADERS
The SCHS Criminal Justice organization, directed by Corey Ewing, recently achieved 3rd place in the High-Risk Felony Stop category at the South Central Regional Justice Invitational! Their unwavering commitment to demonstrating #leadership & #bravery during the event served as a source of inspiration for their peers. Members of the team included Asyiah Benson, Nevaeh Buchanan, Karina Martin, Tobi Churley & Hannah Brown. #StudentSuccessIsOurWhy #BedfordProud #BedfordCountySchools

TN Lawmakers arming public school educators

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Protesters chanted "Blood on your hands" at Tennessee House Republicans on Tuesday after they passed a bill that would allow some teachers and staff to carry concealed handguns on public school grounds, and bar parents and other teachers from knowing who was armed.

The 68-28 vote in favor of the bill sent it to Republican Gov. Bill Lee for consideration.

If he signs it into law, it would be the biggest expansion of gun access in the state since last year's deadly shooting at a private elementary school in Nashville.

Members of the public who oppose the bill harangued Republican lawmakers after the vote, leading House Speaker Cameron Sexton to order the galleries cleared.

Four House Republicans and all Democrats opposed the bill, which the state Senate previously passed. The measure would bar disclosing which employees are carrying guns beyond school administrators and police, including to students' parents and even other teachers. A principal, school district and law enforcement agency would have to agree to let staff carry guns.



It's been a busy year for State Rep. Pat Marsh. Thanks from Bedford County!

Bedford County property transfers

The following property sales were recently recorded in the Bedford County Register of Deeds office.

File date: April 16

Location: Old Nashville Dirt Rd; Seller, William Holton, Johnny B Cothran; Buyer, John K Graff; Price, $375,000 (Deed).

Location: Minkslide Rd; Seller, Jimmy L Gilmore, June Gilmore; Buyer, May Tory Homes LLC; Price, $370,000 (Deed).

Location: Cannon Blvd; Seller, Rocky Flanagan, Vanessa Flanagan; Buyer, Kingdom 33 LLC; Price, $1,150,000 (Deed).

Location: North Main St; Seller, Boghani Properties LLC; Buyer, Shree Balram Inc; Price, $2,000,000 (Deed).

Seller, Melodie Ann Allen Cootes, James W Allen; Buyer, Joseph Word, Joseph King; Price, $170,000 (Deed).

Location: 1478 Warner Bridge Rd; Seller, Linda Beach Bracey, W Ewing Sellers, Linda Bracey; Buyer, Savannah Brown; Price, $115,500 (Deed).

File date: April 17

Location: 104 Doak St; Seller, Lidia Barbozo Morales; Buyer, Daniel Lagunes Chavez, Silvia Rodriguez Cano; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Kayden Ave; Seller, Mark A McConnell; Buyer, Robert H McConnell Sr Testamentary Trust; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 2004 Unionville Deason Rd; Seller, Brandi Danelle Herrod, Ray Herrod; Buyer, Loan T Nguyen, Hop Khanh Bui; Price, $280,000 (Deed).

Location: Hwy 130 West; Seller, Otto Selva Noa, Madelaine Crombet Martinez; Buyer, Connie D Brock; Price, $256,000 (Deed).

Location: Burns Rd Shelbyville; Seller, James Property Investment LLC; Buyer, Derek Alcorn; Price, $212,000 (Deed).

Location: Burns Rd Shelbyville; Seller, James Property Investment LLC, James Kevin Bromley; Buyer, Derek Alcorn; Price, $212,000 (Deed).

File date: April 18

Location: 831 Phillipi Rd Wartrace; Seller, Cheryl Lena Moore, Timothy Dwayne Seibers; Buyer, Ryan A Hess, Savannah J Hess; Price, $399,900 (Deed).

Location: 399 Thompson Rd Unionville; Seller, Brandа Hillis, Branda M Buckins, Brana Marie Buckins, Ricky Hillis; Buyer, Nicolas Jame Dale Quijada; Price, $250,000 (Deed).

Location: JD McCullough Rd; Seller, Diana Curry; Buyer, Edwin G Bates Jr; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 325 Baptist Church Rd; Seller, Jesse Obrien, Tasha Robinson; Buyer, Loren Barcena; Price, $228,000 (Deed).

Location: 557 Minkslide Rd Shelbyville; Seller, Tania Pierce; Buyer, Dustin Evans, Julie Groff; Price, $445,000 (Deed).

Seller, William E Becht III; Buyer, William E Becht III, Alexandra Michelle McGarry Becht; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 900 Cowan Ave Shelbyville; Seller, Lany Xaysittiphone, Lor Khounsaknarath; Buyer, Valeria C Ontiveros Pena; Price, $210,000 (Deed).

File date: April 19

Location: 301 Bryant Lane Normandy; Seller, Michael Philip Rauch, Julie Anne Rauch; Buyer, Rauch Revocable Living Trust, Julie Rauch Revocable Living Trust, Michael Rauch Revocable Living Trust; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 113 Sims Ave Wartrace; Seller, Tammy Annette Cobb, Michael Shane Cook; Buyer, Cheryl Lena Moore; Price, $300,000 (Deed).

Seller, Reneacker Davan Swader, Davan Swader, Davan Stroman; Buyer, Gary B Stroman, Gary Bernard Stroman; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, Samuel L Davis, Nancy J Davis, Samuel C Davis, Tonya Davis; Buyer, Jeremy W Sanders; Price, $4,000 (Deed).

Location: Burns Road; Seller, Robert R Kilgore; Buyer, Kenny N Floyd, Donna K Floyd; Price, $160,000 (Deed).

Seller, Albert Steve Bobo, Dawn Stephens Bobo, Dawn S Bobo; Buyer, Ashley Bobo, Joshua Bobo; Price, $475,000 (Deed).

File date: April 22

Location: 117 Bethany Ln Shelbyville; Seller, Nona Batts, Derrius Goodman, Marshall Dennis, Jayla Hendon, Jayland Hendon; Buyer, DCC Strategic Realty Partners LLC; Price, $20,000 (Deed).

Location: 106 Butler Ave Shelbyville; Seller, Edward Green, Caroline Spencer, Bria Smith; Buyer, Q & A Home Improvements LLC; Price, $97,000 (Deed).

Location: 2105 Old Unionville Rd; Seller, Karen Bryant Mansfield, Melanie Denise Bryant; Buyer, Matthew D Moon; Price, $225,000 (Deed).

Location: Hwy 41A; Seller, WDD Realty, Holly Willis Darby, Susan Willis Devening, Mary Alice Willis; Buyer, McDonalds Real Estate Company; Price, $600,000 (Deed).

Location: Halls Mill Rd; Seller, Jay S Francis, Corilyn Francis; Buyer, Deanna Arivett, Brock Arivett; Price, $370,000 (Deed).

Location: North Main St; Seller, State of Tennessee, State of TN Dept of Transportation; Buyer, Robert Allison, Nicole Allison; Price, $3,160 (QD).

On the Hill with State Rep. Marsh

"Patriotism means to stand by the country. It does not mean to stand by the president." - **Theodore Roosevelt**

The Tennessee General Assembly is working on winding things down this month. We are moving quickly to get the bills passed and balance this year' s budget for the state. We should be voting on the $53 billion balance budget on the House floor on Wednesday at around 5 PM.

We have several pieces of legislation that I think are very important for Tennessee citizens to know and understand.

One of those pieces of legislation is a House Joint Resolution (HJR), a proposed amendment to the Tennessee Constitution. HJR 869 by House Speaker Cameron Sexton expands judges' abilities to deny bail for certain violent crimes, including terrorism, second-degree murder, aggravated rape, and grave torture. The legislation moved out of the Finance Subcommittee this week.

HJR 869, backed by statistics, shows the commonality of repeat offenders; "99.9% of those entering state prisons have at least one prior adult arrest in their criminal history, and 77% have at least five. On average, those entering or leaving a state prison have eleven prior arrests and five prior convictions."

Another beneficial bill that has passed and is awaiting signatures is House Bill 2386 by Rep. Ron Gant. This bill will provide faster and more effective collection of blood samples of individuals suspected of driving under the influence. This legislation allows an officer to execute a search warrant anywhere in the state for medical records or tests to determine the alcohol or drug content of a person's blood.

In 2022, there were 7,774 car accidents involving an impaired driver in Tennessee. According to data from the TN Dept. of Safety and Homeland Security, there were 575 fatalities and 4,964 injuries as a result.

A bill by Rep. Dale Carr, House Bill 2363, allows city leaders to create a voluntary attainable housing incentive program to encourage developers to build in their area. This bill opens the door for communities to create more attainable multi-family housing in their town or city which will help many Tennesseans.

House Bill 2861 by Rep. Michele Carringer prohibits healthcare providers from coercing a person with legal authority to make healthcare decisions for a child to consent to a vaccination.

According to this legislation, healthcare providers are prohibited from misinforming citizens that a vaccination or newborn screening is required by state law. It is a big piece of legislation allowing parents to be the true decision-makers involving their kids and vaccinations.

The final bill I wanted to inform everyone about was House Bill 835 by Rep. Bryan Richey. It has passed out of the House and is awaiting signatures from the Governor, Senate, and House Speakers. This legislation requires that election coordinators compare statewide voter registration data with the Department of Safety to ensure all registered voters in the state are

United States citizens. This bill guarantees that no illegal immigrants are illegally voting in any local, state, or federal elections here in Tennessee.

I also wanted to recognize the Taiwanese Consulate, Director General Elliot Wang, who took the time to come to Tennessee to meet with us. He was recognized on the House floor as was all of Taiwan for their struggles and battles with China for sovereignty.

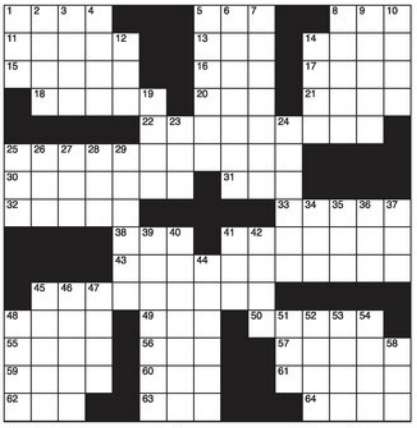
I'm honored to serve as your state representative! Please call or email me if I can ever help. 615-741-6824, rep.pat.marsh@capitol.tn.gov. You are also welcome to come to the Capitol and stop by my office at 610 in the Cordell Hull building.



Crossword

CLUES ACROSS
1. Lions do it
5. In favor of
8. Rest here please (abbr.)
11. Pulpits
13. Leisure activity
14. Fertility god
15. Financial obligations
16. When you anticipate getting somewhere
17. Spanish river
18. Sporting events
20. Type of tree
21. Ceased to be
22. Persons
25. Synthetic resin
30. Relates to photochemical reactions
31. Father
32. Former Cowboys coach
33. City in Finland
38. Run batted in
41. Got through
43. They darken skin
45. In a harmful way
48. Form of weaving
49. City of Angels hoopster
50. Caucasian language
55. Syngman __, Korean president
56. Sun up in New York
57. Paddled
59. Fishes
60. Affirmative
61. Nimble
62. Doctor of Education
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. A small island

CLUES DOWN
1. Cool!
2. Hebrew unit of measure
3. Swedish rock group
4. College army
5. Favor over another
6. Called it a career
7. Egg-shaped wind instrument
8. Israeli statesman
9. Hurries
10. Slog
12. Midway between south and southeast
14. Benedictine monk
19. Self-immolation by fire ritual
23. Family of regulator genes
24. Surrendering
25. Political action committee
26. S. American plant
27. Long-term memory
28. Bark
29. Breathes in
34. Take hold of
35. Everyone has one
36. Valentine's Day color
37. Drivers' licenses and passports
39. Outer walls of castles
40. Enters with force
41. One thousandth of an inch
42. Deceased Chinese politician
44. Sugary secretion of plants
45. Expressed pleasure
46. Shelter
47. Utilizes
48 Forest resident
51. Fashion accessory
52. A sharply directional antenna
53. __ Kristofferson, actor
54. A bad place to end up
58. MLBer Gordon



Horoscopes

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, your friends have stepped up to support you, and it is time to get together and enjoy one another's company. Think about an activity that everyone can get behind.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, the people around you may work more slowly than you, so you will likely need to be patient this week while working on a particular project. Eventually things will work out.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, exercise caution when dealing with people who promise big returns on your investments right now. Avoid financial dealings with anyone you have not fully vetted.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, some people around you would like to use flattery to get you to do what they want. However, you are too savvy to fall for people who may be guiding you in the wrong direction.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
Loved ones and friends in your life deserve your time and energy right now, Leo. Figure out a way to cut down on hours spent on the job this week.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, things going on in your life right now may be a bit more confusing than you anticipated. It can be stressful, but with some assistance from others you will get through the situation.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Someone in your life who has not always been on your side has been changing his or her ways lately, Libra. You may want to reevaluate the relationship soon.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you have been working hard to avoid conflict with someone close to you, but it could start to feel like more effort than you can care to keep up.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
An interesting travel opportunity is coming your way, Sagittarius. When the news arrives, take advantage of it and start planning your itinerary.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, is your schedule flexible right now? Try to rearrange things to take advantage of some last-minute recreational opportunities. You deserve to have more fun.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, you may be feeling moody and introspective right now. Take time to evaluate your dreams and the thoughts going through your head. There may be common threads.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
Don't let some ambiguous feedback adversely affect your mood, Pisces. You will never be able to please everyone, so focus on those people who are on your side.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
APRIL 28
Jessica Alba, Actress (43)
APRIL 29
Jerry Seinfeld, Comic (70)
APRIL 30
Gal Gadot, Actress (39)
MAY 1
Jamie Dornan, Actor (42)
MAY 2
Dwayne Johnson, Actor (52)
MAY 3
Rachel Zegler, Actress (23)
MAY 4
Randy Travis, Singer (65

GIFTS FROM THE GARDEN WORD SEARCH

W	S	G	N	I	N	N	A	L	P	T	W	S	V	K	F	U	B	I	C
S	A	D	B	F	W	M	C	G	N	I	L	D	E	S	N	P	V	H	T
N	P	T	E	Z	B	R	W	O	N	W	Y	R	A	H	E	M	A	H	T
E	F	G	E	E	R	U	D	K	U	S	O	I	L	E	S	G	C	T	T
L	Z	Y	N	R	W	I	Y	P	R	W	E	C	A	A	L	I	Y	V	S
G	B	W	A	P	S	H	F	A	T	K	E	S	L	L	N	H	H	O	E
B	Y	D	C	M	R	L	K	V	R	U	B	T	L	N	B	E	V	O	V
I	P	R	D	A	G	S	S	C	R	I	U	R	I	U	P	E	D	C	Z
C	L	N	I	F	C	E	B	E	E	T	S	E	Y	N	U	D	R	R	D
W	O	S	H	R	W	A	A	R	Z	E	Y	A	P	N	U	G	A	M	E
O	E	M	L	C	U	S	C	A	B	Y	I	C	E	U	U	O	G	Z	P
D	F	G	P	B	D	O	K	I	O	O	W	L	U	I	L	O	S	N	T
Y	G	Y	F	O	V	N	Y	N	C	L	I	T	I	L	L	U	G	A	H
I	U	W	N	F	S	Z	T	A	A	W	L	I	R	A	T	T	C	O	C
G	L	L	E	C	P	T	R	I	P	S	Y	H	D	L	R	I	Z	O	D
H	Z	B	O	R	S	T	D	E	B	A	T	H	L	I	H	E	V	W	D
R	F	L	F	T	I	A	S	B	T	O	A	M	O	R	N	S	F	A	O
R	P	W	O	R	Y	T	Z	C	A	V	D	O	K	I	P	U	Y	V	L
B	W	O	R	D	S	P	C	T	A	D	E	T	S	A	O	V	E	L	F
P	R	Z	Z	E	N	S	H	A	D	E	M	V	E	R	F	O	N	F	N

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

BACKYARD
BEDS
COMPOST
CULTIVATE
DEPTH
FERTILIZE
GARDEN
HARVEST
HOSE
MEASURE
NURTURE
PESTS
PLANNING
RAIN
RAISED
ROOTS
SEASON
SEEDLING
SHADE
SOIL
SUNLIGHT
TILL
WATER
WEEDS

SUDOKU

Here is how it works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

Level: Beginner

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced



Misc For Sale

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laura.brandon@avoyanetwork.com

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SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES NOTICE OF, SALE OF REAL ESTATE

WHEREAS, by deed of trust dated June 30th, 2009, Clarence Wallace Frederick and wife, Anna Frederick, conveyed to Caren C. Gabriel, Trustee for ASCEND FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, a certain lot or parcel of land together with the buildings and improvements located thereon, lying, and situated in the 3rd Civil District, Bedford County, Tennessee, described as follows:

Lying and being in the 3rd Civil District of Bedford County, Tennessee

TRACT I: Being all of Lot No. 74, Forest Hills Subdivision to the City of Shelbyville, as shown on survey and plat of same appearing of record in Deed Book 62, page 199, Registers Office for Bedford County, Tennessee, to which reference is hereby made for a more complete and accurate description of said lot. Said lot fronts on Hillcrest Drive 85 feet and runs back between parallel lines in a westerly direction 175 X 185 feet, more or less.

TRACT 2: Being all of Lot No. 75, Forest Hills Subdivision to the City of Shelbyville, as shown on survey and plat of same appearing of record in Deed Book 62, page 199, Registers Office for Bedford County, Tennessee, to which reference is hereby made for a more complete and accurate description of said lot. Said lot fronts on Hillcrest Drive 85 feet and runs back between parallel lines in a westerly direction 162 X 175 feet, more or less.

Being the same property conveyed to Clarence W. Frederick and wife, Anna Frederick, by warranty deed from Debi Sudberry, unmarried, dated December 15, 2006, and recorded December 18, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. in Deed Book 281, Page 120, Registers Office of Bedford County, Tennessee. See also quitclaim deed of record in Deed Book 295, page 461, Registers Office of Bedford County, Tennessee.

This conveyance is subject to restrictive covenants of record in Deed Book 62, page 199, and Deed Book 52, page 441, Registers Office for said County.

This conveyance is subject to any and all existing easements and restrictions of record.

Map 89 E-B, Parcel 7
Property Address: 306 S. Hillcrest Drive, Shelbyville, TN 37160

Said deed of trust above is recorded in Trustee Deed Book 718, Pages 642-657, Registers Office, Bedford County, Tennessee, to which reference is made for full particulars; and

WHEREAS Carlee L. Smith has been appointed Substitute Trustee, according to the provisions of this trust deed, by an Appointment of Substitute Trustee, of record in Trust Deed Book 11 14, Page 561, Registers Office, Bedford County, Tennessee, and

WHEREAS Clarence Wallace Frederick and Anna Frederick defaulted in payment of the indebtedness under the terms and provisions of said deed of trust and under the note secured thereby.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me, I, Carlee L. Smith, as Substitute Trustee, will sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder, for cash, the above-described real estate with all improvements thereon, on May 23rd, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the South door of the Courthouse in Shelbyville, Bedford County, Tennessee. Said property will be sold free from and in bar of the rights and equity of redemption, statutory rights of redemption, homestead, dower and all other rights or exemptions of every kind, such being expressly waived in said deed of trust. A Successor Trustee's Deed conveying said property without any covenant or warranty expressed or implied, but subject to all unpaid taxes and any liens which take priority as a matter of law, will be made and delivered to the purchaser of said real estate.

The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day and time-certain, without further publication and in accordance with law, upon announcement of said adjournment on the day and time and place of sale set forth above.

Said sale is made subject to all oral announcements made at the sale.

THIS 12th day of April 2024.

CARLEE L. SMITH, Substitute Trustee
Staff Attorney for Ascend Federal Credit Union
Tullahoma, TN 37388

AMANDA BEEMAN:

The State of Tennessee, Department of Children's Services, has filed a petition against you for dependent and neglect and for change of legal custody of ALYSSA LYON (BEEMAN), DOB: 07/16/2007. It appears that ordinary process of law cannot be served upon you because your whereabouts are unknown. You are hereby ORDERED to appear in Bedford County Juvenile Court on the 3rd day of June, 2024 to answer this. If you fail to do so, a default judgment will be taken against you pursuant to Rule 55 of the Tenn. R. of Civ. P. for the relief demanded in the Petition. You may view and obtain a copy of the Petition and any other subsequently file legal documents at the Bedford County Juvenile Court Clerk, Shelbyville, Tennessee. Further questions may be directed to: Elizabeth G Spurbeck, Associate Counsel, State of Tennessee, Department of Children's Services, 1400 College Park Drive, Columbia, TN 38401, 931-777-9022.

ENTER this the 5th day of April, 2024.

Honorable Charles Rich
Bedford County Juvenile Court



Bedford County Government Photo

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham recently signed a proclamation declaring May 17 as Peace of Mind: Mental Health Awareness Day. Miss Shelbyville Jana Hahn looks on.

More than 350,000 Tennesseans have some sort of mental health-related diagnosis, and researchers have said that 49.5 percent of adolescents have some sort of diagnosable mental health disorder.

Many of those adolescents either don't have access to or have not sought care. Mental health issues can interfere with education, socialization and functioning as a member of society.

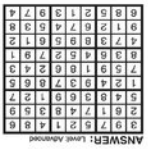
Mental health treatment has been shown to lower the suicide rate for those who receive it.

Jana Hahn says in her role as Miss Shelbyville that she supports efforts to make the public more aware of mental health issues and the importance of treatment.

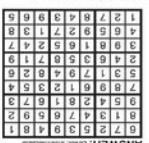
The Miss Shelbyville pageant is an official preliminary to the Miss Tennessee pageant and is sanctioned by the Miss America Organization, which, with its scholarship foundation, empowers women to lead through education/scholarships, style and success.

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SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

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Peggy Pauline Green



Peggy Pauline Green, age 70, of Lewisburg, formerly of Shelbyville, passed away Saturday, March 30, 2024, at Maury Regional Medical Center in Columbia under hospice care.

Peggy was a graduate of the 1971 class at Shelbyville Central High School. She retired from Eaton Corporation in Shelbyville.

Peggy was a member of the of Smith Chapel Methodist Church in Lynchburg.

She was preceded in death by her parents: Robert "Slab" and Alethea Murray Green; sisters, Betty Jane Warren and Joyce Ann Bearden; brother, Robert "Bobby" Wayne Green.

Peggy is survived by her daughter, Ashley Stuteville and husband Gary; sister, Patricia Blackwell; many beloved nieces and nephews.

Peggy's wishes were to be cremated. No services are planned at this time.

Memorials may be made in Peggy's memory to any animal rescue or animal shelter of your choice.

Bills-McGaugh & Hamilton Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to assist the family with the arrangements.

Elia Maria Navarrette



Elia Maria Navarrette, age 61, of Shelbyville, passed away April 19, 2024.

Funeral services will be 2 PM Friday, April 26, 2024, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. Reverend Lloyd Warren will officiate, with burial to follow in Willow Mount Cemetery.

The family will receive visitors 11 AM until service time Friday at the funeral home.

She was born November 4, 1962, in Puerto Limon, Costa Rica, to the late Efrain and Cecilia Guzman Navarrette. She was a homemaker and faithful member of Victory Baptist Church.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Michael Navarrete, and a sister, Ariam Navarrette.

Survivors include her children, Sheila Marie Navarrette, Talia Navarrete, and Joshua Michael(Alyssa) Navarrette; grandchildren, Jordan Navarrette, Tristan Navarrette, Xavian Navarrette, Alisha Navarrette, Elise Navarrette, Michael Navarrette, Ariel Navarrete, and Madison Navarrette; brothers and sisters, Frank Navarrette, John Guzman, and Helen Mendoza.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Penny Ann Moulder



Funeral services for Penny Ann Moulder, age 58, of Parsons, were held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, April 20, 2024, in the chapel of Doak-Howell Funeral Home with Brother Carrol Crosslin officiating. Burial followed at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens.

Penny passed from this life Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at Tristar Centennial Medical Center after an extended illness.

Visitation was held Friday, April 19th, from 5-8p.m. at the funeral home.

Born March 28, 1966, in Shelbyville, TN Penny was the daughter of Linda Crosslin Bumgardner and the late Jimmy Lee Moulder. Along with her father, she was preceded in death by grandparents, Raymond and Ruth Moulder, and Luke and Mattie Pearl Crosslin; and step-father, Stanley Bumgardner.

Including her mother, Penny is survived by children, Dwayne Fuller, Jonathan Smith both of Shelbyville, Cody Harris, and Sammy Harris both of Manchester; and sister, Cindy Smith of Shelbyville.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

Helen Rita Shofner



Helen Rita Shofner, of Shelbyville, Tennessee, passed away on January 4th, 2024, after an extended illness. Graveside services will be 2 PM Sunday, April 28, 2024, at Shofner Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Born on November 29, 1921, in Newport, Rhode Island, Helen was the daughter of the late Fredrick and Margaret (Sullivan) Goffe, of Newport Rhode Island. She was one of identical twins born to Fredrick and Margaret at that time, the other being Marion, or "Mim".

Helen was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Howard B. (Buddy) Shofner, Jr., her eldest daughter, Maureen Shofner Minch of Nashville, a niece Caroline Bidlack, a nephew Jared McGowan. another nephew John Christopher Shofner, both of Shelbyville and her twin sister Marion (Mim) Goffe Bidlack of Newport, Rhode Island. Survivors include daughter Barbara Shofner Swain, son Howard Bentley Shofner, III (Debbie), nephews Donald and Kenneth Bidlack of Newport, RI, grandchildren Jena, Zach, and Kyle Swain of Shelbyville, and Allison Minch Singleton (Matthew) and Justin Minch of Nashville, along with numerous great-grandchildren, grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

The family of Helen Shofner would like to thank the staff and administrators of Hickory Gardens Assisted Living of Madison, TN for their care and support of Helen and the family. Your kindness cannot be measured. A special thanks goes out to Jenn Harvey, the resident nurse at Hickory Gardens, for her kindness and compassion. Lastly, our thanks go out to Adoration Hospice, especially Chaplain Eddie, Nurses Laura and Cassie, and all others who contributed to Helen's support in her transition.

Jimmy Dewayne Flippo



Jimmy Dewayne Flippo, age 68, of Bell Buckle, passed away April 22, 2024, at his home, under the loving care and comfort of his family and Hospice Compassus. Funeral services were 11 AM Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. Burial followed in Pressgrove Cemetery.

The family received visitors 5-8 PM Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. He was born November 4, 1955, in Bell Buckle, to the late Charlie Jim "Bud" Flippo, and Mary Westbrooks Flippo. He was a retired truck driver, enjoyed fishing, and spending time with his family. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Sandra Flippo and an infant brother Charles Ricky Flippo. Survivors include his wife, Mary Ann Dillon Flippo; a daughter, Nicki (Aaron) Orr; grandchildren, Makenzie Orr, Landon Orr, and Devin Orr; adopted children, David (Amber) White; grandchildren Betty White, Leigh (AJ) White, Nicole White, Hunter White, Ava White, Ariel White, Bri White, Trey White, Rene White, Leland White, Karsyn White, Gracelynn White and Anthony Dunn. Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Jonathan Wayne Utz



Jonathan Wayne Utz, age 34, passed away Monday, April 22, 2024, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville.

A Memorial Service will be Saturday, April 27, 2024, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. Visitation will begin at 11 AM Saturday until service time.

Jonathan was born March 5, 1990, in Champagne, Illinois.

He is survived by his mother, Tracy Freeman Utz of Shelbyville; grandparents, Pete and Judy Arnold and Jack and Theresa Utz, all of Shelbyville; a son, Lucas Gabriel Utz, of Lynchburg, a daughter, Linda Marie Utz, of Lynchburg; a sister, Racheal LeeAnn Utz and a brother, Matthew Tyler Freeman, both of Shelbyville. Also, numerous loving aunts, uncles and nieces and nephews.

Melinda Lynn Dyer



Melinda Lynn Dyer, 62, of Bell Buckle, died April 16, 2024.

A memorial Service was held 3:00 P.M. Sunday, April 21st, at Hillcrest Funeral Home with Mark Pierce officiating. Visitation was at 2:00 P.M.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Glen Wheeler Molder, Ina Elizabeth Lane Molder and her husband, Ronnie Avery Dyer.

Melinda is survived by her brother, David Lane Molder (Teresa); nieces, Kayla Elizabeth Molder, Kimberly Dawn Molder; nephew, Christopher Lane Molder (Aubrey); great nieces, Sara Elizabeth Lynch, Graceyn Jade Molder and great nephew, Callen James Molder.

Doyle Medford Caffey



After a two-year absence from his beloved wife, Peggy, Doyle Medford Caffey went to join her in Heaven on April 22, 2024. He was surrounded by his family at the time of his passing.

Funeral Services will be held 2:00 p.m. Saturday, April 27th, at Hillcrest Funeral Home with the Rev. Jeff Rasnick officiating. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be Friday from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl Stephen Caffey and Mary Lou Wheeler Caffey; his son-in-law, James Price and his wife of 64 years, Peggy Joyce Sanders Caffey.

He is survived by his son, Steven J. (Nancy) Caffey; his daughter, Cindy K. Caffey; two grandsons, David Benjamin Caffey and Aaron Tyler (Ashleigh) Caffey.

Doyle was often described as a "Gentleman Farmer." He was born and raised on the family farm here in Bedford County until it was foreclosed upon during the Great Depression. He bought back the family farm in the early 60's, restoring the house in which he was born, and moved his family back to the farm in 1975.

His was a life of service. Doyle was one of five young men from Bedford County who left on the same day to serve their country in Korea and returned safely. He was a Master Sargent/machine gunner. Upon returning, he obtained a bachelor's degree in industrial arts from MTSU. He was a designer for Arvin/Calspan at Arnold Engineering and Development Center (AEDC) until his retirement in 1986. He was instrumental in bringing Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) to the base. He became a professional land surveyor in the late 50's working on the weekends and at night until beginning his own company, Caffey Surveying, Incorporated in 1986. He was also a charter member of the Tennessee Association of Professional Surveyors.

Just as he served his country, he firmly believed in serving his community. He was a member of the Jaycees and the Lions Club. He served on the power board for Shelbyville Power, Water and Sewerage as well as the Shelbyville Planning Commission.

Finally, just as he served his country and while serving his community, he also served the Lord. He faithfully served First Baptist Church as an usher and later was ordained as a deacon.

After joining Blankenship Methodist Church, he could be seen every month serving in the fellowship breakfast until he became too infirm to continue.

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Cascade Baseball Retires Jared Carkuff's Jersey Before Sweeping Grundy County



Jared Carkuff (left) poses with Travis Sheffield (middle) as his #10 jersey became the first to be retired in the Cascade Baseball program prior to game two against Grundy County. *Photo by David Smith.*

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

GAME ONE

The Cascade Champions jumped on the Grundy County Yellow Jackets in the top of the first inning on Monday and never looked back in a 15-4 win in game one of their District 9-AA series.

Jordan Childress led things off with a double in the first inning, and after three consecutive baserunners reached via free passes given out by Yellow Jackets' starter Gavin Knight, Logan Green singled into left field to drive home two more runs and take a 3-0 lead. After James Magee doubled home another run, Green scored on a wild pitch and then Logan Pulley drove home the sixth run of the inning on a groundout to the second baseman.

Walker Craig got the start on the mound for Cascade, and he went five complete innings on 90 pitches, giving up six hits and four runs with two of them being earned. He struck out seven batters while walking three, and he picked up the win.

Zach Crosslin relieved him for the sixth and seventh innings with only one batter reaching safely – via an error – while he struck out one on just 16 pitches.

Grundy County was far less successful on the mound than the visitors as evidenced by the six-run first inning, and the Champions continued to put the pressure on the hosts at the plate. They scored two more runs in the third inning to extend their lead to 8-0, but then Grundy County made a little bit of a push.

The Yellow Jackets plated two runs in both the fourth and fifth innings while their pitching held Cascade scoreless to cut the lead to 8-4. Unfortunately for Grundy County, the dam broke in the top of the sixth inning, as reliever Cadon Dove gave up three runs in the inning and then gave up four more in the top of the seventh to end any hope of a comeback for the hosts.

Gavin Knight, despite the rough start, ended up going 3.2 innings on 90 pitches, giving up five hits and eight runs with five of them earned. He struck out six batters, but he also handed out four free passes while hitting a pair of batters.

Cadon Dove went 3.1 innings in relief, giving up seven hits and seven runs – all earned – while walking five and striking out four on 87 pitches in the 15-4 home defeat.

GAME TWO

Before game two of the series, the Cascade Champions honored one of their own, Jared Carkuff, with a jersey retirement ceremony that included Carkuff throwing out the first pitch. Carkuff, who recently accepted the head coaching position for the football team in mid-March, reached the state tournament all four years as a player at Cascade, and he posted a career ERA of less than 1.00. He went on to play baseball at Austin Peay, and reached Triple-A in both the Toronto Blue Jays and San Diego Padres organization after being drafted in the 35th round in 2016.

Afterwards, the Cascade Champions clinched at least a share of first place in District 9-AA with a 7-3 win in game two against Grundy County to complete the series sweep.

Powered by Jayden Hathcock's dominant performance on the mound in just his second start returning from injury, the Cascade offense once again took off in the first inning.

Thanks to a Walker Craig three-run home run and a James Magee RBI single in the bottom of the first inning, the Champions took a 4-1 lead over the visiting Yellow Jackets that they never gave up.

Hathcock went six complete innings on the mound, giving up only three hits and three runs with only one of them – the first inning run – being earned. He struck out eight batters while only walking two on 91 pitches in a performance that was a complete 180 from what he showed at Chapel Hill in the previous series.

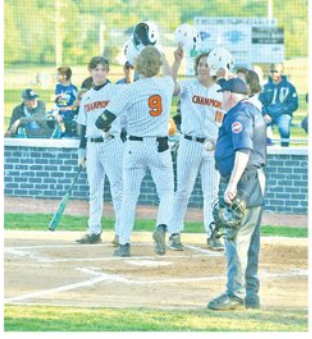
Grundy did find two runs in the third to cut the lead to 4-3, but both of those came via errors in the field. Afterwards, Hathcock retired eight consecutive Yellow Jackets to allow his offense to put up two insurance runs in the fifth inning and one more in the sixth against Jaxson Woodlee and Isaac Martin.

Woodlee, the starter for the visitors, went five complete innings on 104 pitches, giving up five hits and six runs with five of them being earned. He struck out seven batters and walked three, and gave up that one home run to Craig in the first inning.

Martin came in for Woodlee in the sixth, giving up one run while walking three.

Travis Sheffield brought in Zach Crosslin to close things out in the seventh inning, and Crosslin, despite giving up a one-out double to Peyton McGee, posted his third consecutive scoreless inning against Grundy County to close out the 7-3 victory.

Cascade left eight base runners stranded on the night, so the damage could have been even worse for the Yellow Jackets, who drop to 2-6 in district play. The Champions improve to 6-2 in district play, and 13-6 overall. They are scheduled to travel to Marshall County on Friday night in game one of a two game series that will conclude on Monday evening in Bell Buckle.



Walker Craig (9) celebrates after his go-ahead three-run home run. *Photo by David Smith.*



Jayden Hathcock (14) was back to his dominant self against Grundy County, tallying 8 strikeouts and only giving up one earned run across six innings of work. *Photo by David Smith.*

Eaglettes Blow Out Lady Knights to "Strike Out Cancer," Rippy Hits Walk Off Grand Slam Against Spring Hill

GAME ONE

The Shelbyville Central Golden Eaglettes took care of the visiting Nashville Lady Knights on Saturday, 9-0, during their "Strike Out Cancer" game on Saturday before walking off Spring Hill, 9-6, on Monday night.

Alyvia Smith, a former Eaglettes' softball player that graduated in 2023, threw out the first pitch Saturday after beating non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and being declared cancer free on March 18, 2024. She was honored pregame, and she was brought to tears after her story was read over the PA system while she was in the circle.

After Alyvia was honored, Sammie Brown got the start in the circle for the Eaglettes, and she went four complete innings, only giving up one hit while striking out five batters with only one walk on 51 pitches. She also hit a lead-off home run to right-center field as part of a three-hit night that also included a double.

The Eaglettes' bats were hot all around, plating nine runs in a game that was never really close to pick up their third win of the season.

GAME TWO

In Shelbyville Central's District 9-AAAA matchup against the visiting Spring Hill Lady Raiders, Ali Rippy hit a grand slam to center field to turn a 6-5 deficit into a 9-6 victory on Monday.

Spring Hill jumped out to an early 4-0 lead through the first four innings against starter Sammie Brown, but the Eaglettes' bats plated a trio of runs in the bottom of the fourth to cut into the lead.

Brown went seven complete innings, giving up only five hits while striking out nine batters and walking three. Of the six runs surrendered, only two of them were earned, as the Eaglettes overcame six fielding errors.

The Eaglettes scored another run in the fifth to tie the game at 4-4, and each team would trade one run apiece for the next three half-innings before Rippy's grand slam.

Sydney Moore and October Dresback led Shelbyville at the plate with both going 3-4 with one RBI apiece. Lilly Brown recorded a hit and a RBI while Bailey Dunn drove home two runs on her one hit in the fourth inning. Rippy's grand slam was her only hit of the game.

The Shelbyville Central Golden Eaglettes pose with Alyvia Smith (right) after she threw out the first pitch on Saturday. *Photo by Noah Maddox.*



The Eaglettes tallied 11 hits total compared to Spring Hill's five hits.

MTSU Men's Tennis Wins Fifth Consecutive C-USA Title

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

Under the guidance of Jimmy Borendame, Middle Tennessee Men's Tennis is quickly becoming – if it isn't already – a dynasty in Conference USA after winning their fifth consecutive tournament championship over #53 Liberty, 4-2, on Sunday.

The Blue Raiders kick-started things by winning the doubles point, which statistically speaking has led to an MTSU win roughly 80% of the time this season. That meant the Blue Raiders only needed to win three of the six singles matches. In those matches, Leo Raquin beat Marques Da Silva in straight sets, 6-3, 6-3, Marcel Kamrowski also beat Luis Felipe Miguel in straight sets, 6-3, 6-4, and Jakub Kroslak won the clincher in straight sets as well over Thando Longwe-Smit, 6-3, 6-3.

"It's just a sense of relief for me, you know," Borendame expressed post match, "I like winning, but I hate losing more, and right now I'm just trying to soak it all in."

Borendame took over the program in 2011, winning back to back Sun Belt Championships in 2011 and 2012, but before 2019, MTSU hadn't made the NCAA Tournament since that 2012 title. A seven year title drought was not what he was hoping for, but it made that first championship in 2019 that much sweeter. That championship feeling has not gone away for five seasons, and after defeating the Flames in Murfreesboro, he still recognizes how difficult it is to win just one title, much less five in a row.



MT Tennis poses with the C-USA Tournament Championship Trophy after winning their fifth-consecutive conference title.
Photo by MT Tennis/Owen Fink.

"It's extremely hard [to win just one title]," he said, "we already had a giant target on our back, and now that target has just gotten bigger."

"I don't talk about it a lot, but there are so many different pieces involved," he continued, "and to get everyone involved to mesh with the culture every year, it is a task, but it's enjoyable."

Some of those pieces were new players, including a freshman, Jakub Kroslak (pronounced "Yah-Cub"), who won the match clinching point for the second time this season.

"I was even dreaming yesterday about it [winning the clincher] and I can't even describe how I feel right now," he said afterwards.

"Yesterday it was a dream, and today my dream came true."

However, it wasn't all flowers and rainbows for Kroslak, who arrived on campus in January and had limited time to get acclimated to college tennis before the season began.

"It's so tough to come in in January," Borendame acknowledged, "It usually takes them a full 2-3 months to get their feet underneath them, and for two weeks that guy [Kroslak] didn't even have a bed."

"It took a while for him to adjust, but with the clincher, his confidence is going to go way up."

Kroslak was tied 3-3 in the first set before he turned it on to win in straight sets, and he acknowledged his head coach for helping propel him to victory.

"I couldn't hit my serve which has been my biggest weapon," he said, "but I started to serve better in the second set."

Before the second set, Borendame had some words of instruction for his talented freshman to help him settle down and lock in with his serve."

"Jimmy [Borendame] just was trying to calm me down a little bit," Kroslak explained, "telling me to enjoy it, and he told me to just toss the ball a little bit higher."

That seemingly minuscule adjustment helped propel Kroslak to victory in straight sets and clinch another tournament championship.

Another one of the new pieces, grad-transfer Leo Raquin, came to MTSU specifically for moments like these, and he was able to see his goals come to fruition as the number one singles player on the Blue Raiders squad.

"It was my last semester and I wanted to win a championship and a ring," Raquin said, "so that is why I came here [to MTSU]."

"I was a little stressed at first to be honest, but now I am very happy."

Every single time Raquin won his singles match this season, Middle Tennessee won the match as a team, just going to show how important he has been in his one season in Murfreesboro.

After Sunday, the Blue Raiders are now 20-9 on the season and in prime position for a favorable NCAA Tournament regional matchup.

"Winning today just improved our ranking position for the NCAA Tournament, and we may now even be a possible two seed," said Borendame.

This is good news for the Blue Raiders, who have a goal to make program history.

"Our theme for the year is TCOOS [the chip on our shoulder]," he explained, "No team in the history of the program has ever made the Round of 16, so we'll take it one round at a time and see if we can get there."



Jimmy Borendame (middle) holds the C-USA Tournament Trophy.
Photo by MT Tennis/Owen Fink.



Jakub Kroslak collapses to the court after winning Sunday's clinching point. *Photo by MT Tennis/Owen Fink.*

The Selection Show is this coming Monday evening, April 29, at 5:00 p.m. There will be a watch party at The Boulevard Bar & Grille with 15% of the proceeds going to the Student-Athlete Impact Fund.

Shelbyville Central Splits Series Against Spring Hill

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

GAME ONE

The Shelbyville Central Golden Eagles won game one of their District 9-AAAA series at Spring Hill, 7-2, on Monday night behind a dominant complete-game pitching performance from Stephen Bobo.

Bobo went seven complete innings, giving up only four hits while striking out eight batters on 97 pitches. He did not issue a single walk, and only one of the two runs Spring Hill scored were earned.

Nick Johnson and Nick Hopper led the Golden Eagles with two hits apiece, and they both recorded a RBI. Johnson went 2-2, hitting a solo home run and a double while also drawing a walk, and he came around to score all three times.

Shelbyville as a team tallied eight hits and worked eight walks while only committing two errors.

After a scoreless first two innings, the Golden Eagles put up four runs in the top of the third inning, and after plating one more in the fourth, took a commanding 5-0 lead. Spring Hill would respond with a run in the bottom of the fourth inning, but after Shelbyville tacked on a run in both the top of the sixth and seventh innings, the hosts could only muster up one run in the home half of the seventh to get the final score of 7-2.

Shelbyville picks up their 17th win of the season, and after game two against Spring Hill, only has game two of their series against Warren County left in district play.



Nick Johnson (7) recorded the only RBI of game two against Spring Hill for Shelbyville after hitting a home run and a double in game one.
Submitted Photo.

GAME TWO

Spring Hill came back in game two to win, 7-1, and earn a series split against Shelbyville Central on Tuesday night behind a complete game, three-hit performance from Gavin Schramm.

Schramm only gave up three hits on 91 pitches, and the one run he gave up was earned. He struck out eight batters while giving up zero free passes as the Golden Eagles' bats struggled to find the same rhythm and success they had in game one.

William Bobo scored the only run of the game for the hosts, and he went 2-3 at the plate with a pair of singles and a pair of stolen bases.

Stephen Bobo was the only other Golden Eagle to record a base hit – also a single – while Nick Johnson tallied the team's only RBI of the night when he sacrificed William Bobo to the plate.

Carston Williams managed to go five complete innings despite not having his best stuff, giving up seven hits but only giving up one earned run out of the three runs total given up thanks to three fielding errors by the Golden Eagles' defense. He struck out four batters while walking four on 92 pitches.

Williams was relieved by Ashton Worley to start the sixth inning, and after Whorley put up a zero in the sixth, he gave up four runs in the seventh with two of them being earned. Whorley went 1.1 innings, giving up four hits and striking out one batter while walking none on 26 pitches.

Michael Estrada came in to get the last two outs of the seventh inning, throwing 16 pitches as he struck out one batter and walked one other. Shelbyville pitching stranded 12 Raider baserunners as a whole.

Spring Hill opened the scoring in the top of the second inning with one run, and they held that lead until the bottom of the fourth when Johnson drove in Bobo for his second RBI of the series.

The Raiders immediately responded in the top of the fifth, plating two runs to take a 3-1 lead which they would never relinquish. Shelbyville did not score again, and after Spring Hill tacked on four insurance runs in the top of the seventh to take a 7-1 lead, Schramm set the Golden Eagles down in the seventh to clinch the series split.

Shelbyville Central falls to 17-11 (4-5) on the season at the time of printing while Spring Hill improves to 15-8 (6-4).

Lady Champs Basketball Team Honored By TSSAA For Academic Excellence

BY NOAH MADDOX
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Janie Demonbreum's Cascade Lady Champions were honored at their postseason banquet last Thursday night by TSSAA for their excellence in the classroom this academic year.

Their academic success was tangible, as the team as a whole had a GPA of 3.72. They also were honored for each player and manager having at least an individual GPA of 3.50.

This punctuates a successful second season on the hardwood for Coach Demonbreum that saw the Lady Champs both win double-digit games and reach the Region Semifinals for the first time since 2018/19.



The Cascade Lady Champions' basketball team were recognized on Thursday for their success in the classroom. *Photo by David Smith.*

Somethin's cooking in Bedford County schools







Bedford County students enrolled in the culinary arts classes have been really cooking this month!

Chef Michael Walker's Spring Semester #CulinaryArts students from #ShelbyvilleCentralHighSchool, who completed their #ServSafe Food Handler industry certificaCulinary Arts students have been busy! #CulinaryArts I & II students have been perfecting their knife skills by practicing on vegetables!

Cascade students have been busy with Culinary Arts I made chicken teriyaki with their vegetable cuts, while Culinary Arts II made vegetable soup with homemade vegetable stock. All students also tried a Strawberry Soup made by Ms. Sager! #Yum

Additionally, a Sullivan University chef visited Culinary Arts I students to discuss the university & demonstrate an edible cookie dough recipe using brown butter. #YesChef #Education #BedfordCountySchools

Tasty Mother's Day breakfast

There may be no better way to start Mother's Day than serving Mom some breakfast in bed. A homemade meal before Mom even gets out of bed can set the right tone for a day that celebrates all mothers have done and continue to do for their children. There's no shortage of breakfast in bed options to serve Mom this Mother's Day. If Mom loves a traditional hearty morning meal, this recipe for Mixed Berry French Toast courtesy of Taste of Home (tasteofhome.com) is sure to please.



Bedford County culinary students have been busy making tasty dishes like this French toast recipe. Yum!

Mixed Berry French Toast
Makes 8 servings

6	large eggs
1 3/4	cups fat-free milk
1	teaspoon sugar
1	teaspoon ground cinnamon
1	teaspoon vanilla extract
1/4	teaspoon salt
1	loaf (1 pound) French bread, cubed
1	package (12 ounces) frozen unsweetened mixed berries
2	tablespoons cold butter
1/3	cup packed brown sugar
	Confectioners' sugar and maple syrup (optional)

Whisk together the first 6 ingredients. Place bread cubes in a 13 x 9-inch or 3-quart baking dish coated with cooking spray. Pour egg mixture over top. Refrigerate, covered, 8 hours or overnight. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Remove berries from the freezer and French toast from the refrigerator and let it stand while the oven heats. Bake French toast, covered, for 30 minutes. In a small bowl, cut butter into brown sugar until crumbly. Top French toast with berries; sprinkle with brown sugar mixture. Bake, uncovered, until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean, 15 to 20 minutes. If desired, dust with confectioners' sugar and serve with syrup.

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BARBER

From page 1





Submitted Photos

AGRbility and STAR Center representatives recently visited with Jason Barber during the filming of his life documentary. These groups have been very supportive of Jason wanting to continue to farm despite his vision problems.

Managing and recording cattle tags proved difficult for Jason Barber but with the assistance of AI technologies, he's able to keep track of all the herd. The Barber Family Farm in Longview dates back to the 1800s.

Most of the time, RP is caused by changes in genes that control cells in the retina. These changed genes are passed down from parents to children.

If Jason's disease is inherited, the condition likely goes way back in his family history. He advises his great-grandmother, Florence Moore (his dad's maternal grandmother,) was blind when she died, but he admits she was also 100 years old.

"What I understand, it can skip generations. It may jump two or three generations and pop up."

Jason adds that the disease is degenerative and there's really no cure. He says in his case, it can get worse, and has, over time.

His central (the front of his view) is gone but his peripherals (from the side) are still good.

"I just don't even see you. I do an eye scan. I kind of look toward you but I don't see you."

When Jason looks at you, he may be doing a scan something like that reminiscent of the old TV hero, "Bionic Man." His doctor has complimented him on being able to do the scan.

"That's how he's able to get on his tractor, 4wheeler," notes Melissa, who is Jason's life partner.

Jason said he's constantly looking using his peripherals. For now, it's all manageable.

"When I was diagnosed, they said it could be 20 years, 40 years, 50 years, or may never go. But odds are at some point . . . I may be dead before it ever hits that point. We just don't know."

There are operations and procedures, and stem cell transplants, but Jason says he opts at this time not to risk it. He notes there is a local woman with RP who is blind; she had the stem cell transplant which he says unsuccessful.

According to the National Library of Medicine, in recent years, cell transplantation therapy in retinitis pigmentosa has made some progress. Researchers have found that the transplanted cells can be used as a substitute for degenerated cells or they can release some growth factors to enhance cell survival, growth and function of retinal cells.

However, the clinical use of these cells has several problems, such as: limited availability of the right kind of stem cells and potential rejection by the host immune system.

RP can also be caused by some medicines, infections, or by an eye injury — but these causes aren't as common, according to the Eye Institute.

On the farm

Modern technology, like AI from his iPhone, helps RP patient Jason. He can ask most anything via his phone and get a pretty good answer regarding farm needs.

To make things a little easier, he's revamped the herd and is down to about 20 head. He still maintains about 100 acres of farmland for hay.

While his life wouldn't be over if he had to quit farming, Jason says he's done it all his life. As a child, he followed his paternal grandfather, John Luster Barber, around their 1800s era family farm. It was by his grandfather's side, he said, he learned a lot about how to farm and manage money in the process.

Jason later farmed cattle with his dad, Gale Barber, who passed in 2020. "Where he couldn't, I would lift the load. But he'd be my eyesight. That's why we were a good team."

Sitting high on his tractor, overlooking the Bedford County farmland, he knows it's a view that will always be etched in his mind, despite RP. He thanks his family, and Melissa, who he said is a true God-send.

Jason notes that thankfully, he's a saver and was in a good financial position to buy his parents' home on Longview Road. He says he was equally blessed that his father passed the family farm, located just down the road, on to him.

Good use of technology

Jason has most recently had the opportunity to do his own YouTube channel, "Farming Blind with Duck" and already has several subscribers. He also just organized and completed a professional, life documentary with Middle Tennessee Film Collective.

On YouTube, he encourages those with vision difficulties to never give up. He tells them that through assistive technologies, he continues to drive tractors, mend fences and feed cattle.

"My grandfather always told me, 'can't never could do anything,'" he shares. "Just because I'm legally blind, doesn't mean I'm going to roll over and give up something I love."

Jason also works with a group called AgrBility on his long-range plans for the farm. He was out doing some fencing one day and a representative of this group visited.

Jason said they just hadn't worked with someone visually impaired who manages 1,200-pound cows. But they put him into contact with the local vocational rehabilitation group, which would acquaint him with an organization which evaluated him on technologies.

"It was all new to them," Jason says. "My problem was the cattle tags with the numbers on it. I said I just want to be able to log them, etc."

Jason said STAR Center, based out of Jackson, sent a representative out to the farm. Finally,

a representative suggested the iPhone, which was available to him free.

Jason soon discovered the voice over feature on his Apple phone. After getting past the initial frustrations of the feature, he says it has been the "game-changer."

"There were other technologies . . . but a cow does not sit still long enough to take a picture."

Jason has even discovered an app for his daily life needs, "Be My Eyes," which utilizes volunteers to help the visually impaired. He can go to the grocery store and if he's looking for a particular box of cereal, he calls a volunteer which acts kind of like a GPS.

Jason says all he knows is that "Be My Eyes" is yet another blessing. He admits, the first time he used the app on the farm, it was a bit ridiculous. But it made sense to him-even when it mentioned a pile of cow dung.

He is currently looking into a pair of glasses with AI technology. "I just feel like God's all over this," he says. "As my eyesight decreases, the technology increases."

Becoming a public speaker

Jason's been to Nashville speaking engagements and to states like Wisconsin and Georgia, where he talked before professionals in all types of fields about his disability.

"The two conferences I'd been to, you didn't really see visually impaired people. But you didn't really see an end user, talking about the things that you use and how you use it," Jason explains.

Jason recently joined the Vanderbilt Eye Institute support group. He has also joined Sam Seavey's "The Blind Life," which is a members-only YouTube group that shares life tips for the visually impaired.

He explains in conferences how he basically navigates day to day. He says perhaps in the future he may be talking about newly discovered farming techniques to help visually impaired farmers.

Life before RP

Jason worked for Bedford County Fire Department until his eyesight became an issue in the late 1990s. "Something was going on . . . driving the fire truck at night, especially in the rain."

He had his eyes checked and even then, doctors weren't 100% sure of what was happening to his vision. He had already worked up to lieutenant and says he wanted to retire from BCFD.

He said it was too much of a liability for the fire department for him to continue. He decided to step away from something he had done since he was a kid.

He tooled around the Unionville Volunteer Fire Department, which his dad helped open in the 1980s. His friends gave him the endearing nickname, "Duck" because of his distinctive walk.

"Duck," as he's still known to most in Unionville, still works with the County fire department as acting assistant chief. As well, he attends fundraisers and social functions with his long-time friends.

Jason and Melissa have been soul mates for about 7 years. Melissa says since that time, she's noticed a decrease in Jason's visual perception.

Melissa understands what it is like to live with a disability; she was born with spina bifida- a condition that occurs when the spine and spinal cord don't form properly.

Melissa did not know about Jason's vision issues prior to their first meeting. He says though he knew she was in a wheelchair.

After a few jokes about some initial "unfriending" on Facebook when they first met, they now realize how God opened a beautiful door through their relationship.

Life isn't easy for Melissa but she doesn't dwell on her disability. "I walked on crutches and braces until I was about 28. I had back surgery. It did not work out the way I thought it would. So, I went into the chair not too long after that."

They are no doubt both fiercely independent. "You can't deny it . . . just the facts when you see us, that's what we are on the outside," says Melissa. "But I don't like that being their only focus-our disabilities-when we meet them."

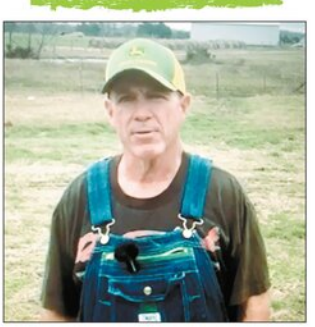
Jason notes they truly depend on one another for physical support. "She helps me with my cases of need, I help with hers. Neither one of us likes to ask for help."

Melissa adds, "We joke that he's my legs and I'm his eyes. He pushes me in my chair. It makes him look like a gentleman, when I'm really guiding him."

They both laugh and note they're not as disabled, as a whole.



Jason Barber has his own YouTube channel-"Farming Blind with Duck," an outlet where he can encourage others with vision disabilities to not give up on their dreams. "Duck" continues to bale hay, work cattle and repair fencing-all something he's loved to do since he was a child.



Jason Barber of Unionville recently finished production on a documentary about his life, which will be distributed by Middle Tennessee Film Collective. Jason has vision impairments but continues to farm through assistive technologies.
Going all over the country to talk about farming is something this Longview farmer loves. He hopes to inspire others through his talks about using assistive technology on the farm.
During the filming of his life documentary, several County officials, including Mayor Chad Graham and Bedford County Fire Chief Mark Thomas, were among those sharing about Jason Barber's inspiring life. Neighbors also weighed in on the "Duck's" life and love for farming.





Jason keeps his "tractor sexy," that is, in good condition for longevity. Yes, he admits to waxing it from time to time.