COMMUNITY NEWS

SHELBYVILLE
TIMES-GAZETTE

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Cascade senior Elijah Bobo 'walks by faith'



"It's like it was yesterday
I was a praying for a miracle
Scared to have a little hope
And now looking back today
Seeing all the things You've done
I can't even add them up."
(Seph Schlueter - "Counting my Blessings")

As he used a cane during Cascade High School's graduation ceremony last Friday night, 2024 senior Elijah Bobo says he was counting his blessings-to still be alive.

His family was emotional. Still, this family of great faith believes it was God's plan for Elijah to recover from the serious accident he had in March.

As graduation came to a close, his family hugged him tight; he is the oldest child of 4. It's been a rough 3 months for them all, especially the 2-year-old who really doesn't understand why big brother isn't able to do as much now.

While most seniors were out enjoying their spring break, Elijah was in Vanderbilt Hospital, following a serious auto accident on Madison Street. His mother says God was certainly with her as she received the message that day via an app which told her how she needed to check on her son.

She said thankfully, she works right off the town square. So, it didn't take her long to get to Elijah.

It is a mother's worse nightmare, mom Katybeth says, that is, to be face-to-face with a state trooper at an accident scene. She recalls that day how one asked her if she was the mother of Elijah Bobo.

Yes, then mom mode kicked in off her adrenalin. She did what she had to do for her oldest.

"I got to see him," she recalls, "which made me feel better, before he was transported to Vanderbilt by LifeFlight."

The wreck, his mom notes, involved a head on crash with a transport truck that carries dumpsters. She complimented all the emergency workers, police and business people from Dynamic Pools across the street for being Good Samaritans during her son's time of need.

Elijah was scheduled for an MRI on Wednesday to determine exactly what happened to cause his accident. He says

See ELIJAH, 2A



Brandi Smith helped her granddaughter, Landree, 6, recite the Pledge of Allegiance prior to the Memorial Day program.

Memorial Day program instills patriotism



T-G Photos by Dawn Hankins

Col. Joe Miller (left) was guest speaker for this year's Memorial Day program, presented by the United Veterans Council of Bedford County. The event was held on the Bedford County courthouse lawn.

By DAWN HANKINS

Col. Joe Miller, retired, of Rockvale, was guest speaker at this year's Memorial Day program, sponsored by the United Veterans Council of Bedford County.

"I'm in the company of heroes today," said the retired U.S. Army colonel. "What I did pales in comparison."

He wept during much of his speech, detailing the heroism of those gone on before. He shared the sorrow of a lack of patriotism in America.

He admits it is by the grace of God he was able to speak to the guests at the program on the town square of Shelbyville. The audience seemed eager to hear what this military leader had to say. Many applauded his comments.

While a humble soldier, Miller no doubt has accomplished MUCH in his life, according to his bio which was read prior to his speech. Miller, in addition to all his military career, is also involved in his church.

Among many accomplishments, he has a master's in strategic studies and has most recently worked with the TN National Guard. He's from a long line of servicemen; his grandfathers.

He talked about a changing world-one that doesn't always honor its veterans the way it should. He mentioned the freedoms to America freely given by servicemen.

Miller said while he wasn't about to tell people how to vote, he encouraged them to con-

See MEMORIAL DAY, 3A

Community's dynamic education duo retires

The Williams say goodbye to the purple & gold

By DAWN HANKINS

Community High School's graduation was bittersweet, especially this year for Keith and Jean Williams. The husband-and-wife educators are saying goodbye to their beloved Vikings and Viqueens.

It was education that brought Keith and Jean together many years ago. Now, they leave their keys on the desk-together-as new retirees. After a lifetime of textbook reviews and concession stands, they've decided to retire.

Jean is a 1978 graduate of Community. In fact, she will never really be far removed from Community. Jean's dad, John Cooper Locke, is a 1939 graduate.

Keith has family connections to the school as well; his mom, Peggy Rogers Williams, is a 1955 graduate.

They've been pretty busy. And they've worked hard to be the best professionals in their field. Both say they pray that they've made a difference in the lives of Bedford County students.

Jean earned her bachelor of science degree in early childhood education from Middle Tennessee State University in 1982. She earned her master's of education in elementary school counseling from MTSU in 1993. She has a specialist in education degree in instructional leadership from Tennessee Technological University, which she earned in 2005.

Jean's experience is as follows:

1985 - 1992 Community School - 3rd grade

1992 - 1994 Community and Cascade Elementary Schools - Counselor

1994 - 1995 Southside Elementary - Counselor

1995 - 2005 Sabbatical as a stay-at-home mom

2005 - 2007 Community School - 5th grade

2007 - 2008 Community School - 3rd grade

2008 - Present Community School Counselor

Keith has worked in administration, mathematics, economics, business law, business arithmetic, business English, general business and salesmanship.

He has a doctorate in education from East Tennessee State University. So, he's technically, "Dr. Williams."

His dissertation, by the way, was, "The Process of Musical Acquisition for Traditional String Musicians in the Homeschool Environment."

Most people who know the Williams are aware that they are really a musical fami-

See WILLIAMS, 2A



KEITH AND JEAN WILLIAMS



Picture by Gambill Photography

PRESCHOOL GRADUATE OF 2024

Everette Stewart recently graduated from Circle of Friends preschool. His family is very proud of him and say they look forward to his kindergarten year.



Photo by Savannah Lamb, Bedford County Schools

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OF 2024

Garrett Doak and fellow seniors graduated Saturday from Shelbyville Central High School. He has plans to enter the U.S. Navy. See more graduation photos on page 12 today.

Tell us why your Dad is No. 1. We will print in the June 13 edition. Send us your favorite photos. Please identify all people in photos. Send to: dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net by 4 p.m. Monday June 10.

We can't wait to see your great photos!

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Wartrace Downtowns Program

The Town of Wartrace has been accepted into the TN Downtowns program.

See Page 2A



Johnson signs with La-Grange

Shelbyville Central Golden Eagles' baseball star, Nick Johnson, signs to continue his career with La-Grange College.

See Page 9A

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ELIJAH

From page 1

he doesn't remember.

"The community has been so supportive as a whole," she says, noting how Kayla Gulich of Threads 931 in Wartrace made "Walk by Faith" T-shirts in support of Elijah.

This kept the Bobos, friends and family, going through it all.

Most people know Elijah as an independent guy who goes with the flow. But Elijah's life came to an abrupt stop the last week of March this year.

Elijah's mom believes that he might have fallen asleep as he was having sleep issues at the time.

His injuries were life-threatening and he had to get to Vanderbilt fast, so he was transported by Life Flight. Because he was just 17, he was admitted into Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt.

Despite being so active in the past with sports, Elijah's injuries were still numerous, to say-the-least, including all broken ribs on his left side and a lacerated spleen. His left femur was completed broken and he's had rods surgically implanted into his femur and also in his back.

These are permanent for this once active teen. "The knee is giving me the most trouble," he notes.

Elijah spent a week in Vanderbilt. Through therapy, he's slowly back on his feet.

Due to his injuries, he received homebound instruction through the school system from Jennifer Henderson, a retired, local educator. The family gives her a lot of credit for helping Elijah finish his 12th grade requirements.

"He ironically had better grades, his senior year, than he's ever had," laughs his mom.

Elijah was employed at Legend's Restaurant but won't be able to return that job for a while. They're holding his job for him until he's able to return to work, mom notes.

Not being able to drive himself the last couple of months, he says, has been tough. Of course that can be tough for any teenager, especially a newly graduated senior. Still, Elijah realizes it could have been much worse.

"I could have been paralyzed," he explains.

As graduation time rolled around, Elijah was able to walk the halls as is traditionally done for the lower grades by seniors. His mom recalls how students were patient and cheered him on during the walk a couple of weeks ago.

"So many kids were patting him on the back and giving him high fives," Katybeth notes.

Graduation was a stretch but he made it.

So, what are his plans for the future?

Well, no doubt, some things will be slightly delayed due to his recovery and therapy. But Elijah, a dual enrolled student in TCAT-S while in high school, knows he wants to attend Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Shelbyville in the fall and major in electrical studies.





Though he's from a famous Tennessee Walking Horse family, this Bobo says he's not interested in that profession.

What does interest this now 18-year-old, and always has, is his mission work with his church, Wartrace Church of Christ. He is hoping to go on his third mission trip this summer and visit Ensenada, Mexico, which is near Tijuana, Mexico.

Really interested in evangelical work, Elijah has ministered in the past to inner-city youth in Huntsville, Ala.

"Wherever the opportunity is, I'll go," he notes.

This Cascade senior is still a bit young to realize what his greater purpose is in life. Or, maybe he won't ever really know.

But Elijah is certain his life was spared for a reason. "Life's important," he said this week.

He added, "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

WILLIAMS

From page 1

ly. They started the Maupin Fest in Unionville several years ago and it's still going strong.

But their time has mostly been committed to education.

Keith has a specialist degree in education with a major in instructional leadership from Tennessee Tech and a master's plus in K-12 administration and his administrator's license from MTSU.

He has a master of arts in education and a bachelor of business administration from Middle Tennessee State University. A 1981 graduate of Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro, he completed his education career as vice principal of Community High School which began in 2000. Over the years, he's taught math, economics and was a business teacher from 1992 to 2000.

Keith served as the Harris Middle School computer skills teacher from 1991 to 1992. Prior to teaching he worked for Chrysler Credit Corporation, Credit Analyst, Collections. He also worked for Hodge Manufacturing Corporation Purchasing, Inventory Control, Production. Whew! When did these folks rest?

While they could travel with their family's musical group, The Haint Hollow Hootenanny,

a Middle Tennessee oldtime string band performing historical tunes in their own unique

and amusing fashion, Keith says they will probably not travel and do music.

As busy as they've been in education all these years. No doubt, they will enjoy a great rest for a while.

Other than a short interim at Harris Middle School, Keith has served at Community High School his entire career, starting in the fall of 1992 when Community was K-12. "I have coached baseball, assisted boys' basketball, and served as athletic director of both the middle school and the high school when we were 7-12. I have served through three school configurations without ever changing jobs. I taught middle school math, middle school reading, applied math, technical math, geometry, senior business, and economics."

Keith says he succeeded "the legendary Jimmy Crick" as only the second full-time vice principal in Community High School history. "I always told Mr. Crick that he had the toughest job at school and then I let Robert Ralston (principal) and Mike Bone (superintendent) talk me into taking the job after Mr. Crick retired from the VP position after 22 years. I served 24 years but Mr. Crick is still number 1."

He adds, "I worked with the finest man in the world (Community principal Robert Ralston.) Robert and I never had a cross word or raised our voices to each other in 24 years. While we sometimes had different views, we were always in overall harmony because we both look to the Lord."

Jean and Keith plan to continue to live in the Unionville community and say no doubt they'll continue supporting the Vikings and Viqueens. They say their hearts will always "bleed purple."

Jean notes, "Community School has been my school since 1966 and Keith's since 1992, but it equally holds our hearts."

They note they will both miss their "school families," but it's time for a new chapter in their lives.



Wartrace announces acceptance into TN Downtowns Program

Staff Report

The Town of Wartrace announced this week that it has been accepted into the TN Downtowns program.

"Last week we went to the official kickoff for the program and there are good things coming!" town representatives said this week. "This program not just benefits the Town of Wartrace, but can also impact residents and local merchants positively. Your Town is continuing to improve itself and we cannot wait to share and show what we have done, what we are doing and what we will do."

TN Downtowns has a 2-year funding cycle. Wartrace missed the 2022 application process. But they got busy and have been now included in the 2024 grant process.

Shelbyville, Bell Buckle and Lynchburg are also considered "Downtown Communities."

Tennessee Downtowns is an affiliated program of Tennessee Main Street designed to help communities embark on a comprehensive revitalization effort for their downtown. Using the proven National Main Street Center's Four-Point Approach® to downtown revitalization, this 24-month program coaches selected downtowns and their steering committees through the steps of launching an effective revitalization effort. Space in this program is limited and highly competitive. Program activities include training, site visits, regional workshops, webinars, technical assistance and an innovation project grant.

To participate in Tennessee Downtowns, communities must:

Define a project area concentrating efforts on a traditional commercial district that is typically at least 50 years old.

Have a designated five-member volunteer steering committee dedicated to going through the training and program process.

Have a designated non-profit 501(c)(3) organization or city municipality that will host the steering committee for the program and associated grant project.

Illustrate interest on the behalf of the citizens for the revitalization of downtown.

Illustrate how the city and county government recognizes the importance of downtown as an asset to the community.

Adopt a resolution by the city government to participate in the program.

Clearly demonstrate economic need for a downtown revitalization effort through economic factors such as high vacancy rates in downtown, lack of businesses downtown, disinvestment in the area (either public or private), dilapidated buildings or aging infrastructure.

Submit a complete application to participate in an upcoming "round" (please contact us for the timeline).

Join the National Main Street Center as a "Standard member".

Seventy-eight communities have participated in the Tennessee Downtowns program, which makes them eligible for ECD's Façade Improvement Grant program.

Poplin Memorial History Awards presented

The Bedford County Historical Society annually presents the Poplin Memorial History Award at each of the county's three public high schools in memory of the late Richard Poplin, long-time county historian, writer for the Shelbyville Times-Gazette, and charter member of the Historical Society.

The award is based on four criteria – (1) scholarship in history & related social studies courses, (2) leadership in extracurricular school activities, (3) citizenship in the local community, and (4) overall academics. The $1000-awards are funded by contributions from Society members.

The Society is pleased to announce the following 2021 awardees:

• Cascade High School's honoree is Laurel Cox, daughter of Chris and Kristi Cox, of Bell Buckle. Besides her outstanding academic achievement in numerous Honors courses, Carmen participated in a variety of extracurricular school activities, including the National Honor Society, FFA, Bedford County 4-H, and the State Board of Education Student Group. Her community citizenship and service included volunteering as a math tutor, assisting with church sports activities, and serving on the Bedford County Youth Fair Board. Laurel is planning a career as an equine veterinarian.

• Disha Patel, daughter of Peter and Gina Patel of Shelbyville, is the honoree at Shelbyville Central High School. Gina excelled in history, geography, and civics, and many other Honors courses while participating in numerous school activities, including Parent-Teacher Conferences and school recycling teams. She volunteered in an array of community service projects, including events at local elementary schools, recreation center activities, and the Tennessee Walking Horse Show. Disha plans to become a physician's assistant.

• Community High School's honoree is Gunnar McGowan, son of Troy and Shelley McGowan of Shelbyville. Gunnar excelled in several Honors and dual-enrollment classes. His extracurricular school activities included varsity basketball, bowling, and golf, while also serving on the Student Council. He volunteered for several community projects, including Leadership Bedford, Boys and Girls Club, and local clothes drives. Gunnar plans to become a construction manager in the concrete industry.



The Historical Society honors these outstanding graduating seniors, congratulates them for achieving this major milestone, and urges them to go forward and make more history in their careers.

Al Simmons, President
Bedford County Historical Society

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T-G Photos by Dawn Hankins

While attending the Memorial Day program in Shelbyville Monday, I saw a veteran come in late to the program. He stood over by the basement steps of the courthouse. When I looked at my pictures later, I realized something interesting, besides his honorable salute. I had taken another picture in that area before he arrived. It was vacant. It should remind us all to honor our American patriots before they're all gone.

PENCIL SHAVINGS

Dear Soldier: Thank you!

By Dawn Hankins

As God would have it, the rain held off and it was a glorious day on the south side of the public square this Memorial Day. Thanks to the United Veterans Council of Bedford County for this tender and heart-felt program.

There was a great speaker-retired Army Col. Joe Miller. (See page 1.) He was truthful in how America is suffering from a lack of patriotism. He's right, you know.

What was disturbing to those of us in the media who covered the event (T-G and Shelbyville Now) was the small crowd in attendance. It was really a shame to see people window shopping on the square when a veteran dressed in uniform was presenting patriotic opening remarks.

I watched as many of those shoppers found locked business doors. Most close on Memorial Day.

I realize many people plan vacations on this 3-day holiday. But should we?

Are we really showing appreciation to those who put their lives on the line for their country?

Maybe some people think these services are depressing. Hmm.

Some think, maybe, they're wasting good time off with a bunch of grumpy old men.

What about those American soldiers who spent their Christmases in the trenches, freezing to death. Literally for some, that was the case.

Some might say it's boring. That was certainly not the case Monday.

I read on Facebook that some people say they didn't know anything about it. It's Memorial Day! You can find a program, if you look deep enough. Ask a veteran!

What are we teaching our younger generations about honor and respect for all our veterans? What are we saying to those families who lost loved ones or to those who now suffer with PTSD or returned disabled?

The "Missing Man" table is no doubt truly sad. But war itself is sad in many, many respects. But our soldiers are commanded to do what is right by this nation. As many have told me, they did what they had to do.

Perhaps some people don't realize the age of these veterans. Many of them attended this service with canes and were barely able to walk to the courthouse. But they did it.

We buried some this year already. The number in this county is dwindling.

The older I get, the more I want to be involved in Memorial Day-as it should be. I've put aside the barbecues. Call me old. I watch war movies and the PBS special. I attend a patriotic service.

This year, I watched for the first time, "Unbroken," a 2014 American biographical war drama film produced and directed by actress Angelina Jolie. Well done! Yes, it is hard to watch. But it is a true story about American Olympian and Army officer Louis "Louie" Zamperini, who survived with another soldier in a raft for 47 days after his bomber ditched in the ocean during WWII. They were later captured by the Japanese and sent to prisoner of war camps.

Zamperini endured days of beatings, particularly by one Japanese leader. Our American hero survived with true grit and faith. There is some semblance to the Number One Hero when he is forced to carry a huge piece of timber on his back for hours.

Zamperini attended the Olympics in Japan at age 80.

Now that takes guts. Actually, it's about forgiveness and as a Christian, Zamperini understood what that meant in order for him to carry on with the rest of his life.

So, if you missed Memorial Day recognitions this year, maybe for a really good reason, mark on your calendar next year's Shelbyville event. It's the same day, always. I've talked to my grandchildren about the significance of that day. Have, or will you?

There's nothing more fulfilling, to me, than to shake the hand of a veteran and tell him or her, "Thank you for your service." Their smile is worth the sacrifice of that day off from work. There will be likely more to enjoy. These veterans may not have that many. Thank them while you can.

Thank you for your service, military heroes. You are loved and appreciated.

Remember: Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13

Rural Transit Day observed

Bedford County Government PSA

On Tuesday, May 28, Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham signed a proclamation recognizing Rural Transit Day.

Stanley Bean, a transportation mobility manager for SCTDD who works with the SCATS program in the eastern half of the district, and Sonia Miller, director of the Senior Citizens Center and manager of the local SCATS program, were in attendance.

Many local citizens don't understand that South Central Area Transit Services (SCATS) is available as affordable, reliable public transportation, or think it's just for senior citizens.

Although SCATS is associated locally with Shelbyville-Bedford County Senior Citizens Center, it's available to users of any age. Transportation is available Monday through Friday within Bedford County or to specific nearby cities such as Tullahoma. SCATS is a part of the South Central Tennessee Development District (SCTDD).



Bedford County Government Photo

Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham signed a proclamation in observance of "Rural Transit Day" on Tuesday. From left, Sonia Miller of Shelbyville-Bedford County Senior Citizens Center, Mayor Graham and Stanley Bean of South Central Tennessee Development District.

To schedule SCATS transportation, or learn more about the program, call (931) 684-0019 at least 24 hours in advance (longer is recommended).

MEMORIAL DAY

From page 1



sider whose hands-come November-they would be placing in charge. He strongly advised all those present to "please vote" in the upcoming presidential election.

The Missing Man Table

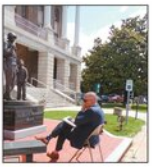
During its Memorial Day program on Monday, United Veterans Council of Bedford County posted what is known as a Missing Man Table in honor of those missing servicemen.

According to the War Memorial Center, each item on the Missing Man Table represents the emotions and feelings reserved for those who did not come home from war. The ceremony symbolizes that they are with Americans in spirit.

The table is round, to show everlasting concern for our missing service men. The cloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to serve. The single red rose; displayed in a vase, reminds Americans of the lives of these Americans and their loved ones and friends who keep the faith while seeking answers. The red ribbon symbolizes our continued determination to account for our missing. A slice of lemon reminds us of their bitter fate; captured and missing in a foreign land. A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears of our missing and their families who long for answers after decades of uncertainty. The lighted candle reflects our hope for their return, alive or dead. The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain us and those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God. The glass is inverted, symbolizing their inability to share a toast. The chair is empty, the seat that remains unclaimed at the table.

A patriotic song by Dolly Parton, "Color Me America" was the featured. Karen Purdom of Shelbyville sang the "National Anthem."

A wreath was solemnly placed in memory of the Prisoners of War. A POW flag flew on the town square.

















T-G Correction

In last week's T-G in the story about outgoing County Commissioner Julie Sanders, it was stated that she had worked with Bedford County School System in speech therapy with students. However, it was OT- a field she will continue when she moves to Florida to work with a home health agency. We are happy to set the record straight.

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Shelbyville Times-Gazette
Local News



American flag etiquette

Flag Day in the United States is June 14.

The two largest nations in North America-the United States and Canada-celebrate their countries' respective birthdays soon. It's never too early to refresh our memories about American Flag etiquette.

Whenever each country's flag is handled, it should be done with respect and reverence. Both Canada and the United States have strict etiquette and display guidelines for their flags. Here are the rules for flying the American Flag, courtesy of USA.gov.

• The National Flag of the United States is displayed in public only from sunrise to sunset. However, the flag may be displayed at all times if it's illuminated during darkness.

• When the flag is displayed horizontally, the canton/union is in the upper left-hand side of the flag. When the flag is hung vertically, again the canton should be on the observers left.

• While its preferential that the flag be flown on its own pole, if it is on a staff with other flags, it should be at the peak above any other flag.

• The United States flag flies at half-mast when the nation or a state is in mourning. The president, a state governor or the mayor of the District of Columbia can order flags to fly at half-staff.

• The flag should never be worn as apparel or used as bedding or drapery. It also should not be used for advertising purposes, or embroidered on cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, or boxes.

• The National Flag of the United States should never touch anything beneath it, which includes water, merchandise or the floor.



Liberty FCE holds May meeting

Judy Smith called the meeting of Liberty FCE to order on May 20. She read the Garden Hints.

Bonnye Catron read, "When It's Iris Time in Tennessee" to open the meeting.

Roll call was answered with 6 members present. The club voted to give money to Pleasant Grove Methodist Church to say 'thank you' for allowing members the use of the building.

Judy Smith presented the education lesson, "Count Your Blessings, Not Sheep."

Share Fair is June 25 at the extension office. The club worked on their exhibit, "A History of Teapots."

Dorris Turrentine brought her great aunt's teapot.

Judy Smith read the adjournment.



FUMC Services

Join us Sunday at Shelbyville First United Methodist Church for a spiritually enriching worship service. Pastor Abe Zimmerman is preaching "Meal Time: Part 2" from Isaiah 55:2 and 1 Peter 4:9. This series examines meal and food-related passages in Scripture leading to an enriched understanding of our everyday need for sustenance, which in turn reinforces our day-to-day reliance on Jesus. Sunday School commences at 9 am, followed by the Worship service at 10 am. For those unable to attend, we offer a livestream on Facebook and a broadcast on WLIJ 1580 AM.

Community CALENDAR

ICE CREAM SUPPER

The annual Raus Ice Cream Supper will be held Saturday, June 8, beginning at 5 p.m. - 'til. Homemade ice cream and grilled burgers will be served.

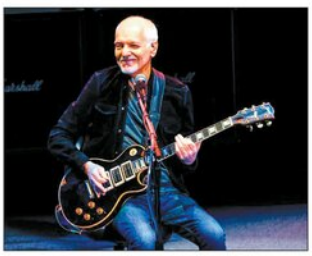
POPSICLES IN THE PARK

Shelbyville Community Bible Study will be sponsoring a "Popsicles in the Park" at HV Griffin Park on Saturday, June 1, from 10 AM to 1 PM. The day will feature food, popsicles, crafts, face painting, balloon animals, skateboard competition, cornhole and many more activities! Children of all ages are welcome and must be accompanied by an adult. For questions or to RSVP, email, Mary Ann Davis at maryanndavis57@yahoo.com or Julie Carter at julie2649@att.net.

According to organizer Mary Ann, "This is the second year that we have done an outreach at the park for Community Bible Study. Community Bible Study is branching out and reaching out to the next generation by starting remote classes and online classes along with the day class, which has been in Shelbyville for 23 years. This year's "Popsicles in the Park" is focusing on homeschoolers, after-school and children of all ages through high school! The school-aged children receive credit for their studies. The mission of Community Bible Study is to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in our communities through caring, in-depth Bible study, available to all."

WARTRACE CELEBRATES MR. HAL

Long-time educator and retired Cascade High Principal, Hal Skelton, will be honored with a special award on Saturday, June 22, at 2 p.m. at the Wartrace Gym. Ways to donate: Venmo to: @Wartrace-Gym or mail to the Town of Wartrace, 29 Main St. Wartrace, TN 37183. Shh! It's Hal's 80th birthday too!



Peter Frampton with his Gibson Les Paul.

Musician Peter Frampton honored with Les Paul Spirit Award

NASHVILLE, TN (May 28, 2024) The Les Paul Foundation, whose mission is to honor and share the life, spirit and legacy of Les Paul through generations has announced the annual Les Paul Spirit Award in partnership with Gibson Gives, the philanthropic division of Gibson.

The prestigious award will be presented to legendary musical artist and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Peter Frampton on Sunday, June 9, 2024 at 6:30pm CT at a private event* held at the Gibson Garage Nashville located at 209 10th Ave S, Suite 209 in downtown Nashville, TN.

The event will take place on what would have been Les Paul's 109th birthday, and marks the third anniversary of the Gibson Garage Nashville.

The annual award is presented to an individual who exemplifies the spirit of the late, great Les Paul through innovation, engineering, technology and/or music. In addition to the award, a grant from the Les Paul Foundation will be made in the honoree's name to the charity of his choice. Like Les Paul, Peter Frampton personifies the spirit of excellence through musicianship and industry recognition. Frampton has also experimented with new technologies and music trends, apparent in his early recordings on albums Frampton and Frampton Comes Alive! and particularly his hit singles "Do You Feel Like We Do" and "Show Me the Way," synonymous with the use of the talk box.

Let us help you plan your wedding!
Check out our helpful hints, ads and stories in the 6/6 edition of the Times-Gazette.
From floral wreaths to venues, we've got your special event covered!
Interested wedding vendors and businesses may contact dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net for display ad pricing and placement in this section

County Mayor releases statement on May Commission meeting

Bedford County Government PSA

Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham: "A few points of clarification need to be made following Tuesday night's commission meeting and subsequent responses online.

At our monthly county commission meeting Tuesday night, May 14, there was a resolution on the agenda to grant the county mayor and financial management director authority to borrow not to exceed $10.4 million as a capital outlay note for capital projects.

There were some commissioners that expressed dissatisfaction that their committee had not approved a particular project and therefore, they said, the commission rules had been broken.

For the record, the request before the commission Tuesday night was a financial management matter, to borrow money, and had been approved by the Financial Management Committee on April 23.

The suggestion that the item/resolution before the commission had not been before a committee is inaccurate.

Furthermore, on the September 12, 2023, County Commission agenda, there was the request to authorize the design and cost analysis phase specifically for Liberty School expansion, the Juvenile Detention Center, and a surplus property facility which passed 16 to 0, with two absent.

The law enforcement training range and NCRS building expansion items had been requested at the financial management committee level through multiple budget requests but had been put on hold due to lack of a funding source.

The county commission, when in session, has the full authority to override, approve, deny, defer, debate, or question any request or action on the floor and certainly could send back any item to the committee of their choice, should the majority of the body wish to have future review.

My administration is committed to addressing the needs of our county, and I am grateful for those commissioners who support a better Bedford vision."

In other County news:

Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham spoke to the Rotary Club of Shelbyville on Wednesday morning, May 29, covering a range of county issues and taking questions from the audience.

The mayor noted that the proposed county budget now in the hands of commissioners would not require a property tax increase.

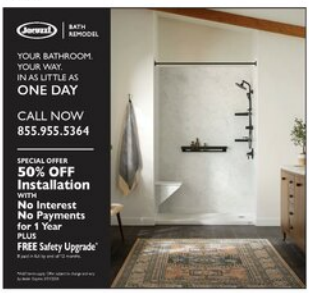
He addressed the challenges posed by the county's growth, pointing out the property tax revenue generated by one new home against the local share of the cost of educating one child.

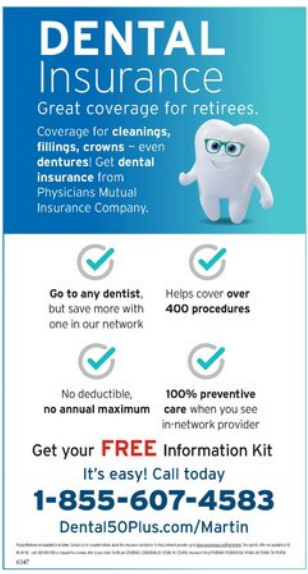
Similar challenges are faced by the county highway department in maintaining the county's more than 600-miles of rural roads.

Graham also gave an update on the lawsuit against the county by the City of Shelbyville over sales tax distribution.

He discussed his open door policy and invited citizens to visit him at his Courthouse office.

Program coordinator Maleah Claxton introduced Graham. The meeting was held at The Coffee Break on the square.













Photos by Savannah Lamb, Bedford County Schools

TOGETHER, BEING SAFE
Hats off to the SROs at the local high schools for a job well done during graduations last weekend. Graduations in Bedford County went off as planned without incident. Thanks to Bedford County Board of Education for being a part of the lives of the 2024 seniors and helping to keep them safe. Most of all, thanks to the educators of this county, especially those putting in so many years of service.

AAA: TN Gas Prices Fall Four Cents

Tennessee is the 7th least expensive market in the nation

NASHVILLE, Tenn., (May 28, 2024) — Despite a near-record number of Tennesseans expected to take a road trip over the weekend for Memorial Day, we saw our gas prices drop four cents, on average, over last week. The Tennessee Gas Price average is now $3.16 which is nine cents less expensive than one month ago and three cents less than one year ago.

"Those that took a road trip over the holiday weekend were met with the cheapest Memorial Day gas prices for Tennessee in three years," said Megan Cooper, spokeswoman for AAA - The Auto Club Group. "Now that the summer driving season is underway, drivers can likely expect to see prices fluctuate throughout the summer months. Barring any major changes in the overall gas price market, it could prove to be a slow week for pump prices across the state, especially if crude oil prices hold steady."

Tennessee drivers paid an average of $3.17 per gallon over this year's holiday, which is two cents cheaper than last year's holiday, and the cheapest Memorial Day gas prices in the state since 2021 when drivers paid an average of $2.87 per gallon.

100 Deadliest Days for Teen Drivers

Memorial Day marked the unofficial start of summer and a period known as the "100 Deadliest Days for Teen Drivers," which runs through Labor Day weekend. This is a time when there is an increase in the number of fatal crashes involving teen drivers.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), nearly half of teen driver-related deaths occur during the 100 Deadliest Days. A total of nearly 6,700 people were killed during this period, from 2013-2022. In 2022 alone, 707 people were killed in these types of crashes – a 10% increase over pre-pandemic 2019.

National Gas Prices

The national average for a gallon of gasoline wobbled slightly since last week before settling one cent lower at $3.58. The lack of pump price movement is typical in the days leading up to Memorial Day.

According to new data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), gas demand rose unexpectedly from 8.87 million b/d to 9.31 last week. Meanwhile, total domestic gasoline stocks decreased slightly from 227.8 to 226.8 million bbl, while gasoline production increased last week, averaging 10.0 million daily barrels. An increase in gasoline demand paired with falling oil prices could cause pump prices to remain relatively flat for now.

Today's national average is $3.58, seven cents less than a month ago but a penny more than a year ago.

National Oil Market Dynamics

At the close of Wednesday's formal trading session, WTI declined by $1.09 to settle at $77.57 a barrel. Prices fell as the EIA reported that crude oil inventories increased by 1.8 million barrels from the previous week. At 458.8 million barrels, U.S. crude oil inventories are about 3% below the five-year average for this time of year.

Most expensive metro markets - Morristown ($3.21), Jackson ($3.21), Nashville ($3.20)

Least expensive metro markets - Chattanooga ($3.01), Kingsport-Bristol ($3.12), Cleveland ($3.14)

Tennessee Gas Price Averages

(Price per gallon of regular unleaded gasoline)

	Monday	Sunday	Week Ago	Month Ago	One Year Ago
Tennessee	$3.160	$3.171	$3.208	$3.254	$3.192
Chattanooga	$3.015	$3.038	$3.098	$3.233	$3.166
Knoxville	$3.153	$3.154	$3.201	$3.238	$3.195
Memphis	$3.175	$3.178	$3.197	$3.260	$3.179
Nashville	$3.206	$3.220	$3.266	$3.304	$3.251

Office of the Sheriff
Bedford County Tennessee
Sheriff - Austin Swing

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF: April , 2023

TOTAL MILES:	90,601		
TOTAL CITATIONS:	21		
TOTAL WARRANTS SERVED:	915		
TOTAL ARRESTS MADE:	172		
TOTAL INMATES CURRENTLY IN HOLDING:	JAIL: 301		
TOTAL PERSONS PROCESSED THROUGH:	JAIL: 380		
10-27 (Burglary):	4	(Assault/Agg. Assault):	9
10-42 (Alarms):	22	10-64 (Motorist Assist):	82
10-43 (Investigations, etc.):	380	10-72 (Fire):	4
10-44 (Stolen Vehicle):	4	10-86 (Domestic):	10
10-45 (Auto Acc. No Injury):	41	10-14 (Escort - No Arrest):	34
10-46 (Auto Acc. W/Injury):	10	10-15 (Transport In Custody):	96
10-49 (Drunk Driver):	6	10-81 (Traffic Stop):	278
10-56 (Prowler):	2	911 (Hang-up & Other):	77
(Child Abuse):	1	Other:	85
		Total:	733

Editor's note: During the May Bedford County Law Enforcement Committee meeting, Sheriff Austin Swing shared the report above. Note the large number of miles law enforcement officers have to travel. A lot of their calls are domestic disputes/assaults. Notice 22 of this month's calls had to do with alarms.

Summer weekends wouldn't be the same without backyard barbecues.

And no backyard barbecue is complete without hamburgers.

The exact origins of the hamburger are unknown, but historians believe this beloved staple of American barbecues can be traced to mid-nineteenth century Germany. According to History.com, political revolutions in Germany in the 1840s spurred many Germans to emigrate to the United States. Germans brought many of their cultural traditions with them, including their cuisine. One such dish was the chopped steak, which can be traced to Hamburg, a city renowned for its high-quality beef. Though few might now see ground beef as a remedy for digestive issues, that was a common belief in the 1860s, when a New York-based doctor named James Salisbury suggested that cooked beef patties could benefit the digestive system as much as chopped, chipped or ground beef. Buns were not yet in the picture at that time, but they were by 1904, when beef patties on buns were available at the St. Louis World's Fair. In 1921, the first White Castle restaurant opened in Kansas, and hamburgers have been a staple of American cuisine ever since.

Though it's been a century since White Castle opened its first restaurant, people are still perfecting the art of making the perfect hamburger. Exactly what defines the perfect hamburger may be open to debate, but there's no denying the desirability of juicy burgers. As grill masters prepare for another season of backyard barbecues, the following are some ways they can make their burgers juicier.

• Avoid extra-lean meat. Extra-lean meat might be healthier than the alternatives, but 93 percent lean ground beef is unlikely to produce juicy burgers. When making burgers from scratch, opt for 80 percent lean. WebMD notes that fat helps to hold burgers together while searing and cooking the meat. The result is a juicier interior than cooks are likely to get when using lean meats.



• Swap beef for lamb. Cookbook author John Holl notes in his book, The American Craft Beer Cookbook (Story), that substituting ground beef with ground lamb makes for a juicier burger. Lamb is moist, so unlike lean beef, it can be grilled as well-done without drying out. Lamb also offers a different taste than beef, adding a little variety to a backyard barbecue.

• Saddle your spatula. Flipping the burgers too much or pressing them against the grill as they cook can dry them out.

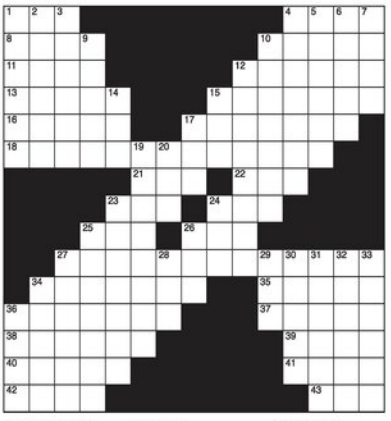
• Be conscious of carryover cooking time. Carryover cooking time refers to the length of time temperature in a food continues to rise even after it's been removed from a cooking area. Beef is among the many foods that continue to cook after being removed from a heat source, so beef burgers can be removed from the grill before they reach the desired cooking temperature. This prevents drying out and ensures that once they're served, the burgers will be juicy and safe to eat.

Shelbyville Times-Gazette

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS
1. Baby's dining accessory
4. Something free
8. Ancient Egyptian deity
10. Set-like mathematical categories
11. Top-quality
12. Expansive
13. Seizure
15. People with congenital absence of pigment
16. Gains
17. Mocked online
18. Clint's son
21. Body part
22. Humor
23. Code number
24. Your physique
25. Family of regulator genes
26. LA football player (abbr.)
27. 'The Blonde Bombshell'
34. Charity
35. Bluish greens
36. Examined closely
37. A type of equation
38. Stretched uncomfortably
39. Indian religious god
40. Clocks
41. Slowly leak through
42. Witnesses
43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN
1. Nestlings
2. Induces vomiting
3. A place to eat
4. Partner in the air
5. Offered one's take
6. Nobel-winning French biologist
7. Farm animals
9. Prevent from growing
10. Sensationalist periodical
12. Soft-bodied beetle
14. Very fast airplane
15. Imaginative creation
17. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
19. Evoked a response
20. French river
23. Shiny yellow minerals
24. Make illegal
25. U.S. military branch
26. River in France and Belgium
27. A woman of refinement
28. Male child
29. Type of medication
30. German city
31. Animal disease
32. Mediterranean dietary staple
33. Sneak out
34. Radioactivity unit
36. Performs on stage



Horoscopes

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
Family obligations are swimming through your mind, Aries. It is time to sit down and hammer out a resolution that will appeal to everyone and lighten your load.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
A special person in your life is getting closer and closer to you every day, Taurus. This may be the companion that you have been hoping for. Continue to take things slowly.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, sometimes you have a tendency to make things more difficult than they need to be. Stop obsessing over every little detail this week. Things have a way of working out.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, if someone accuses you of being too emotional this week, do not take it personally. This person may be projecting his or her experiences on you. Continue what you're doing.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, could you be holding yourself to unreasonably high standards? If you're getting frustrated by not meeting your goals, ease up on yourself for the time being.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, it is your mission to change the minds of some people at work this week, as it will bode well for you down the road. Just don't make too many extravagant requests.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Recently people have been directing accolades in your direction, Libra. This is the boost you have needed to propel yourself to do more of the things that have been your goals.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, someone simply isn't bringing his or her A-game to a work project, and it shows. It's frustrating and you want to take over, but this is supposed to be a team effort.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Simple things used to bring you pleasure and now it seems a bit of a gray cloud has descended. Don't start to fret you're getting jaded, Sagittarius. This is just a little rough patch.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, as a finish line approaches, it can be tempting to get very excited. Hold off on that elation until everything is done. You never know what can crop up in between.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
It doesn't need to be New Year's to make a resolution, Aquarius. You can aspire to change an aspect of your life anytime you want. Perhaps this is the week to embrace change?

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
Have you been putting all of your focus on only one part of your life, Pisces? Take a more balanced approach; otherwise, burnout may soon set in.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 2
Awkwafina, Rapper (36)

JUNE 3
Anderson Cooper, Journalist (57)

JUNE 4
Angelina Jolie, Actress (49)

JUNE 5
Mark Wahlberg, Actor (53)

JUNE 6
Drew McIntyre, Pro Wrestler (39)

JUNE 7
Michael Cera, Actor (36)

JUNE 8
Bonnie Tyler, Singer (73)

TV DADS WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

AL BUNDY
CARL WINSLOW
CYRUS ROSE
DAN CONNER
DANNY TANNER
ERIC TAYLOR
FRANK COSTANZA
FRED ANDREWS
GOMEZ ADDAMS
HOMER SIMPSON
JACK PEARSON
JAMES EVANS SR
JASON SEAVER
LOUIS HUANG
MICHAEL KYLE
MIKE BRADY
MITCH LEERY
NED STARK
PHIL DUNPHY
PHILIP BANKS
RON SWANSON
TONY MICELLI
TONY SOPRANO
WALTER WHITE

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!

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

Level: Beginner

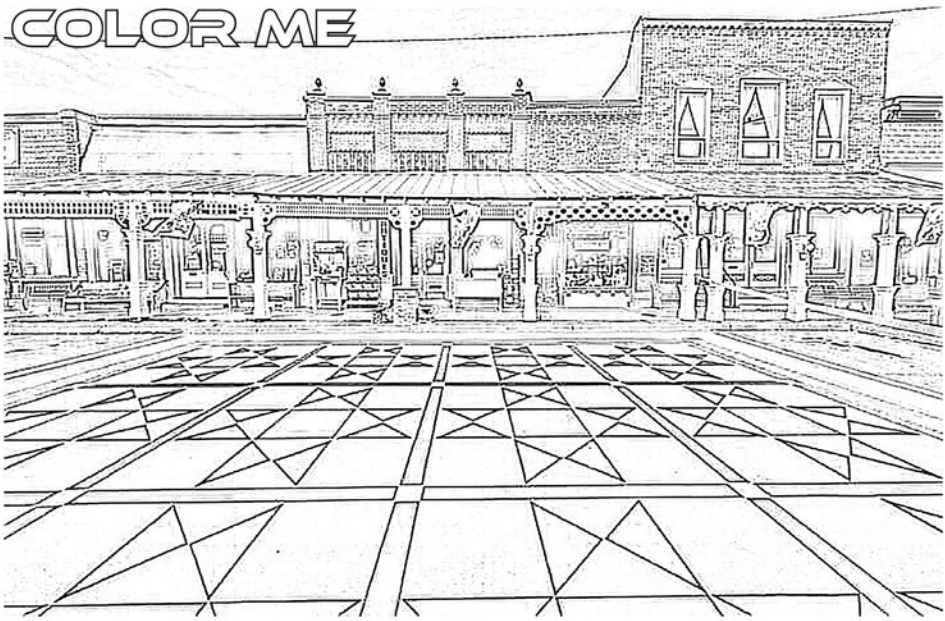
7	5					9		2
	1			4	3			5
		9		6				1
8								
		4		3				
		5	4	8	6		3	
							7	
		1		2				6

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

COLOR ME



Misc For Sale

Random Goods
General Store
876 Union Street
Shelbyville's home for housewares, sporting goods, clothing, hardware, knives and airguns.
Tues-Sat 10-6

Prepare for power outages with Briggs & Stratton PowerProtect standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading comprehensive warranty 7 years ($849 value.) Proudly made in the U.S.A. Call Briggs & Stratton 1-844-470-0523. (TnScan)

MOVING SALE
May 31, 8-2
June 1, 8-12
505 Cortner Rd, Normandy
No Early Birds
Furniture, John Deere Lawn tractor, aerator, garden tools, glassware, dishes and much more.

HUGE GARAGE SALE
Huge Garage Sale,
Roll away tool boxes with tools, kid's toys, clothes, small air compressor,
jacks, tents, cooker
Many more items
May 31st and June 1st
500 Hickory Hill Road, Shelbyville

YARD/GARAGE SALE
Lots of things
188 Lucas Road
Thursday, Friday and Saturday

Yard Sale
113 Melody Drive
Saturday, June 1st
8-2

Yard Sale
207 Orchard Drive
Friday, May 31st and Saturday June 1st
7 AM

Auctions

GET THE WORD OUT about your next auction! Save Time & $$$. One Call For All. Your ad can appear in this newspaper + 97 other TN newspapers. For more info, contact this newspaper's classified dept. or call Becky Moats 931-624-8916. (TnScan)

Farm & Garden

Farm & Garden Services

COW FEED - WHOLE COTTON SEED, Also, HAY - 5x5 Round bales, fertilized and net wrapped. CALL: (731) 676-0857. No texts please. (TnScan)

Help Wanted

RECRUITING HEADACHES? WE CAN Help! Advertise your job opening in this newspaper + 97 newspapers across the state - One Call/Email for All! Contact our classified dept. or email bmoats@tnpress.com (TnScan)

Pets & Supplies

When veterinary care is unavailable or unaffordable, ask for Happy & Healthy® animal healthcare products for cats, dogs, & horses. At Tractor Supply® & TFC Co-Ops® (TnScan)

Notices

Our happy home is filled with love, laughter, and creativity, but we long for a newborn to make it complete. Expenses paid. Please call Michelle and James directly at 866-860-0521 (TnScan)

Services

Free removal of scrap metal and appliances
Call Daniel at 931-800-9823

Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To $600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-844-274-6074 (TnScan)

Get Boost Infinite! Unlimited Talk, Text and Data For Just $25/mo! The Power Of 3 5G Networks, One Low Price! Call Today and Get The Latest iPhone Every Year On Us! 855-454-6457 (TnScan)

Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! A cheaper alternative to high drugstore prices! 50 Pill Special - Only $99! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW: 1-866-477-7591 (TnScan)

Choose EarthLink Fiber Internet for speeds up to 5 Gigs, no data caps, no throttling. Prices starting at $54.95. Plus, a $100 gift card when you make the switch. Call 1-855-481-3340 (TnScan)

DIRECTV- All your entertainment. Nothing on your roof! Sign up for Direct and get your first free months of Max, Paramount+, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package $84.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-844-230-4803 (TnScan)

Opportunities

YOUR LOW COST ADVERTISING Solution! One call & your 25 word ad will appear in 98 Tennessee newspapers for $275/wk or 27 West TN newspapers for $100/wk. Call this newspaper's classified advertising dept. or go to www.tnpress.com/newspaper-networks (TnScan)

Wanted

Paying Cash
For vintage sports, comics, antiques and card collections. Unopened boxes, cases and sets
931-492-4304

NOTICE

GARY WILSON:
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 GARY WILSON, JR. DOB: 12/11/2014 AND MADALYNN Wilson, dob: 04/19/2011 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 _1st__ day of July_, 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 1 st day of May, 2024.
Honorable Charles Rich
Bedford County Juvenile Court

NOTICE

KATHLEEN SMOTHERMAN:
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 Abraham Smotherman, DOB: 01/18/2016. 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 1st day of July 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 Justice Center, Shelbyville, TN. 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 20th day of May, 2024
Honorable Charles Rich
Bedford County Juvenile Court Judge

Bedford County property transfers

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

File date: May 21

Seller, Juan Balcazar; Buyer, Juvenal Lopez Mejia; Price, $26,000 (Deed).

File date: May 22

Location: 201 Triple Crown Ct; Seller, Leslie Eatherly; Buyer, Daniel Frost; Price, $317,900 (Deed).

Location: Deery St; Seller, John David Segroves; Buyer, Shelbyville Grand LLC; Price, $150,000 (Deed).

Location: E Depot St; Seller, John David Segroves, James H Caperton Jr, Nina Gay Yates Segroves Testamentary Trust; Buyer, Shelbyville Grand LLC; Price, $150,000 (Deed).

Location: 2343 Hwy 231 South Shelbyville; Seller, Victor Villapania, Maureen Villapania; Buyer, Villapania Family Trust; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, Jimmy R Spence; Buyer, Ka Du Paw, Bleh Gay; Price, $435,000 (Deed).

Location: Old Nashville Dirt Rd; Seller, William Holton, Johnny B Cothran; Buyer, Evelyn Kathleen Scott; Price, $215,000 (Deed).

Location: 695 Rabbit Branch Rd; Seller, Leah G Dunstan Estate, Leah G Dunstan Lajiness, Nicole Dunstan Hoover, Leah G Dunstan; Buyer, Daniel Hoover, Nicole Hoover; Price, $100,026.29 (Deed).

Location: New Herman Rd; Seller, William Linton Russell; Buyer, Sharon Elaine Russell; Price, $10 (QD).

Location: 307 Sims Ave Wartrace; Seller, Thomas Charles Roberts, Serenity Christina Roberts, Serenity Christina Parker; Buyer, Kaleigh Lemberger; Price, $199,900 (Deed).

Location: Spring St; Seller, City of Shelbyville; Buyer, Glass Hollow Properties, Chavigny Beasley, Jeb House; Price, $0 (QD).

File date: May 23

Seller, James Lee Burgess; Buyer, James Lee Burgess, Linda Michele Burgess; Price, $0 (Deed).

Seller, James Lee Burgess, Linda Michele Burgess, Linda Michele Riggle; Buyer, James Lee Burgess, Linda Michele Burgess, Linda Michele Riggle; Price, $0 (Deed).

Location: Unionville Deason Rd; Seller, Trudy Warpool; Buyer, William Thomas Holton; Price, $502,000 (Deed).

Location: Unionville Deason Rd; Seller, Trudy Warpool; Buyer, Michaels Homes LLC; Price, $567,630 (Deed).

Location: Industrial Pkwy; Seller, Jim Edmond Guthrie; Buyer, Bedford County Emergency Communications District; Price, $75,000 (Deed).

File date: May 24

Location: 327 Winners Circle; Seller, SDH Nashville LLC; Buyer, Cynthia Seward, Joseph Powell; Price, $308,710 (Deed).

Location: 275 Paschal Rd Unionville; Seller, Michael A Deul, Tracy Moya Deuel; Buyer, Eugeniu Cucos Jr, Natalia Cucos; Price, $495,000 (Deed).

Location: 108 Main St West Wartrace; Seller, Rex Johnson; Buyer, Laura Johnson; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 500 Moody St Shelbyville; Seller, Rhett Kelton; Buyer, Jennisha M Ohaver, Hudson Ohaver; Price, $305,000 (Deed).

Seller, Misty Sudberry; Buyer, Lisa Gayle McCullough, John McCullough; Price, $288,000 (Deed).

Location: 368 Honeybee Dr Unionville; Seller, TLI Inc; Buyer, Andrew Meador, Sara Elizabeth Meador; Price, $550,000 (Deed).



Safety tips for backyard barbecues

Backyard barbecues may be all about food and fun, but it's important that hosts take measures to ensure such soirees are safe as well. By employing the following measures, hosts can ensure their summer barbecues are safe for all in attendance.

• Place the grill in a safe location. The National Fire Protection Association urges hosts to place their grills a safe distance away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves or overhanging branches. The NFPA also notes no grill should be placed within 10 feet of any structure, including a home.

• Check propane tanks for leaks prior to using the grill. The NFPA recommends propane grill users check their tanks for leaks prior to using the grill for the first time. This inspection is simple. Apply a light solution of soap and water to the hose. The NFPA notes a propane leak will release bubbles. The smell test also can reveal a leak, as a strong odor of gas can indicate a leak. In such instances, close the tank valve and turn off the grill. If the leak stops, have the grill serviced by a professional. If the leak persists, call the fire department. The NFPA urges hosts who detect an odor of gas while cooking to get away from the grill immediately and call the fire department. Do not move the grill in such instances.

• Man, the grill at all times. An unattended grill poses a significant safety hazard. Whether you're using a propane grill, a charcoal grill, a smoker, or a hybrid, make sure an adult is keeping an eye on the grill at all times.

• Purchase long-handled cooking tools. The American Red Cross notes that long-handled cooking tools are designed to keep chefs safe. Such tools ensure cooks hands and arms do not have to be directly over flames, which can periodically flare up and pose a safety hazard.

• Ensure children are supervised when swimming. The grill is not the only safety threat that may be present at barbecues. Hosts who will open their pools or provide inflatable pools for children should make sure kids are supervised when in or around the water at all times. Before allowing kids in a pool, hosts should confirm their swimming abilities and insist kids who cannot swim or only recently learned to swim wear inflatables or life jackets to reduce drowning risk.

PUZZLE SOLUTION

			M	A	D	M	A	N			E	D	D
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	P	R	O	S	T	A	T	E		C	A	E	C	A
	O	I	D	I	A					O	N	C	E	
S	T	P							S	N	O	T		
S	H	O	D						A	T	E			
R	E	L	O	C	A	T	E		M	O				
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		P	R	E							C	A	G	E
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ANSWER: Level: Beginner

ANSWER: Level: Intermediate

ANSWER: Level: Advanced

PUBLIC NOTICE

The South Central (East) Rural Planning Organization Executive Board and Technical Committee, responsible for comprehensive transportation planning in Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Giles, Lincoln, Marshall, and Moore Counties, will meet on Thursday, June 13, 2024. The Joint Technical Committee/ Executive Board will meet at 10:30 am at the South Central TN Human Resources Agency (SCHRA) located at 1437 Winchester Highway, Fayetteville, TN 37334. This project is funded under an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Transportation. If you would like a complete agenda, driving directions, or if you need assistance or accommodation for a disability, please contact Lisa Cross at the South Central Tennessee Development District, (931) 379-2915 or email lcross@sctdd.org. TTY/TDD users please dial (800) 848-0299.

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CELEBRATE AMERICA 250!

DAR Promotes Patriots and Pioneers of America-Tennessee

As the nation approaches the 250th anniversary of the birth of America, the Tennessee Society Daughters of the American Revolution are encouraging celebrations in towns, cities, and counties throughout the state. A notable effort undertaken by the ninety-four Tennessee DAR chapters is their recently published book, Patriots to Pioneers, the First Tennessee Volunteers. This is a collection of stories of Patriots who served in the Revolutionary War to gain American Independence and then became the founders and settlers of Tennessee.

Betty Brown, Regent of the Shelby Chapter, NSDAR, of Shelbyville, presented a copy of this book to Bedford County Archives on Friday, May 17. The National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution helped to fund this gift through America 250! Celebration Grants. The 600-page volume features 372 documented and sourced Tennessee Patriot stories, 300 additional proven Tennessee Patriot names, beautiful full-color illustrations by renowned historical artist, David Wright and others, as well as an introduction and overview of the history of Tennessee's role in the American Revolution and its founding. The Tennessee Society is excited to make these stories of the Patriots and Pioneers of Tennessee available to teachers, librarians, and students of American history in locations throughout Tennessee.

One of the largest patriotic women's organizations in the world, DAR has 190,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters across the country and several foreign countries. DAR members promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism via commemorative events, scholarships and educational initiatives, citizenship programs, service to veterans, meaningful community service and more. For additional information about DAR and its relevant mission, visit www.dar.org.



Bedford County Government photo

Regent Betty Brown of Shelby Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, presents a copy of "Patriots to Pioneers" to the Bedford County Archives. From left are County Mayor Chad Graham, Brown, Archivist Carol Roberts and Assistant Archivist Kathryn Hopkins.

Rita Kaye Cantrell



Rita Kaye Cantrell, age 63, of Unionville, passed from this life on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at Williamson Medical Center after an extended illness.

Rita was born on November 17, 1960, in Coffee County, TN to Lorene Dotson Rector and the late John Mooneyham. She had worked in various fields throughout her career but was mainly a homemaker. She enjoyed baking, flower gardening, spending time with family and friends, and loved spoiling her grandchildren and great grandchild.

Including her mother, she is survived by her husband, Jeff Cantrell, of Unionville; children, Josh Cagle of Shelbyville, Cassandra Cagle of Unionville, Dustin Cantrell (Brittany Finch) of Unionville, and Houston (Brittany) Cantrell of Chapel Hill; stepfather, Ronald Rector of Murfreesboro; sister, Sandra Bridges of MS; brother, David Bridges of AL; grandchildren, Nic, David, Logan, Thaddeus, Aiden, Slaiden, Kinley, Alivia, Taylor, Abel, and Brady; great grandchild, Marigold; along with several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held 3:00 p.m. Sunday, May 26, 2024, in the chapel of Doak-Howell Funeral Home with T.J. Burton officiating. Burial followed at Crowell's Chapel Cemetery in the Halls Mill community.

Visitation was held Sunday, prior to funeral services beginning 1:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital @ www.stjude.org.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

Chad Michael Wallace Brown



Chad Michael Wallace Brown, age 49, of Shelbyville, TN, passed from this life Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Chad was born on November 26, 1974, in Bowling Green, KY to Janet Wallace Brown and the late Jim Brown.

He graduated class of 1992 from Calhoun High School in Georgia. By trade he was a brick mason and worked in masonry since the age of 19. He worked with a few different companies over the years before starting his own, Chad Brown Masonry, in which he ran for the past few years before his health declined. He was a member at Normandy Baptist Church and loved his church family. In his free time, he enjoyed riding his Heritage Softail Harley, cooking delicious meals, and playing his guitar.

He was described by family as a quick-witted jokester that never wasted a funny moment. He loved his family very much and they will miss him very much.

Along with his mother Chad is survived by his children, Troy "TJ" Baker, Gage Brown, Savannah Brown and Regan Brown all of Manchester; grandchildren, Aurora Baker and Kainen Brown.

A private Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

Jimmy Alfred Burks



Mr. Jimmy Alfred Burks, age 73, of Shelbyville, passed away Thursday, May 23, 2024.

Funeral services were Monday, May 27, 2024, at 1 p.m. at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. Burial, with military honors, was at Maplewood Cemetery in Tullahoma. Reverend Jack Lambert officiated. Visitation was 10 AM Monday until service time.

He was born July 7, 1950, in Bedford County to the late Lincoln and Hannah Cawthron Burks. He held membership at Homeland Baptist Church. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War where he obtained the rank of Sergeant. He worked for many years for Builders Supply in Tullahoma.

He was preceded in death by his parents. Also preceding him in death were sisters; Ruby (Don) Gilliland, Judy (Jackie) McGee, and Lena Gibbs.

He is survived by his wife of many years, Faye Bennett Burks; a son, Addam (Carrie) Burks, a daughter, Shena (Leo) Pink; sister, Jeanette (Ronnie) Noggle; and brother in law, Bobby Gibbs. Grandchildren Austin (Nikkie) Reed, Megan Reed, and Kayla (Cody) Burns; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren and step-children.

Lee Roy Loyd



Bedford County native, Lee Roy Loyd, 91, of Peoria, Illinois, died on May 26, 2024, at the Apostolic Christian Skylines in Peoria. He was born on September 25, 1932, in Unionville, the son of Roy Gray and Nannie Pearl (Bovee) Loyd. Lee Roy married Ina Jane Houston on June 23, 1953, in Shelbyville.

He served in the Army. He worked for Caterpillar for 50 years, retiring in 2001. His most notable works were his 3 patents and his engineering work on the 3208. He was a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church for 67 years. He served on numerous boards and committees at Redeemer and Concordia Lutheran School.

Lee Roy had a love for photography, which inspired others in his family to take up the hobby.

He is survived by his wife Ina Jane Loyd of Peoria, Illinois; children Shelly (Dennis) Lester of Mt. Pleasant, Texas; Charlotte (Dan) Ricks of Peoria, Illinois; Andy (Candy) Loyd of Springfield, Missouri; Joan (Ron) Potts of Peoria, Illinois; Brian (Betty) Loyd of East Peoria, Illinois; ten grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Dorothy Wheeler. A visitation will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2024, from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church of Peoria. A funeral service officiated by Pastor Chip Winter will begin at 2:00 pm. Burial will follow at Swan Lake Memory Gardens in Peoria.

Memorial contributions in honor of Lee Roy may be made to Concordia Lutheran School or Redeemer Care Ministry. Online tributes and condolences may be made at www.eumerfordclary.com.

Mary Jean Cates



Mary Jean Jones Cates, age 83, of Wartrace, passed from this life Tuesday May 28, 2024, at her residence following an extended illness. Per Mary's wishes she will be cremated, and no services are scheduled at this time.

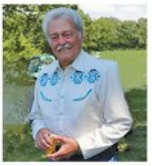
Mary was born on May 16, 1941, in Manchester to the late Ruben Ernest Jones and Mary Emma Hailey Jones. Mary was of the Church of Christ faith and was a seamstress and homemaker for most of her adult life.

Survivors include children: Angie (Phil) Vincent of Wartrace, TN, Donnie Cates Jr. of Texas, and Shannon (Brooke) Cates of Wartrace; Grandchildren: Cody Cates, James Cates, Emily Norris, Coy Cates, Mary Cates, Katie Schweitzer, Kassidee Cates, Adrianna Cates, Ryker Cates, Phillip Vincent, Jake Vincent, and 11 great grandchildren. Siblings: Dorothy Myers of Tullahoma, TN, and Jackie Jones of Indiana.

Along with her parents Mary was preceded in death by her husband Donnie Cates Sr, siblings: Helen Rhoton, Gladys Berry, Leroy Jones, John Jones, Wayne Jones, grandson: Jesse Lee Cates and great grandson River Scott Schweitzer along with many nieces and nephews.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

James Donald Hester



James Donald "Jim" Hester, age 82, of Shelbyville, passed from this life May 24th, 2024, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center with loved ones by his side.

A Shelbyville native, Jim was born April 21, 1942, to the late Joel H. Hester and Clarice Morton Lentz Hester.

Jim was a graduate of Community High School class of 1960. He served his country honorably in the Vietnam War having served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968. In 1961, he married the love of his life, Mary Faye Burton, and they spent 63 wonderful years together and raised their daughter, Tina. They resided in California for 36 years before moving back to Shelbyville in 2002 to take care of his parents. He owned his own business (Aquarius Enterprises) for 25 years. Some of his favorite things he enjoyed doing was driving dune buggies at Gordon's Well Sand Dunes, playing with his PTSD companion "Scout", and was an avid lover of antique cars. He was a member of Eastside Church of Christ.

He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Mary Faye Burton Hester; their daughter Tina Renee Hester Gymer and husband Jonathan; grandchildren, Haylee Renee Gymer, Justin Doyle Gymer, and Heidee Renee Gymer.

Funeral services were held 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 29, 2024, in the chapel of Doak-Howell Funeral Home with Darryl Lewis and Mike Richardson officiating. Military honors and burial followed at Pressgrove Cemetery in the Longview community. Visitation with the family was held Tuesday, May 28th, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Funeral Home. Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

Virgil Hal Smith



Virgil Hal Smith, 88, of Shelbyville, passed away May 23, 2024.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 43 years, Patricia David Smith, on July 20, 2000. He is survived by a son, David Hal Smith of Wartrace, a daughter, Anita Smith Heck and her husband Brad Heck of Murfreesboro; two grandchildren, Emma Grace Heck and Ethan Bradford Heck and a sister, Maxine Smith Odle of Wartrace.

He was born July 2, 1935, in Madison, TN, to the late William Parks and Oween Hix Smith.

He was a 1952 graduate of Shelbyville Central High School; a 1956 graduate of Middle Tennessee State College in Murfreesboro and a 1980 graduate of Florida Institute Of Technology in Melbourne, FL.

He was ordained Deacon of Duck River Baptist Association while a member of Trinity Baptist Church, Manchester and was a current member of First Baptist Church Shelbyville.

He was a retired Contracts and Acquisition Manager from Teledyne Brown Engineering, Huntsville, AL.

Visitation will be held Saturday, June 1, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Hillcrest Funeral Home. Graveside services will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens with pastor Jeff Rasnick officiating.

Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church Benevolence Fund, 304 East Depot Street, Shelbyville, TN. 37160.

Mark Christopher Graham



Mark Christopher Graham, age 61 of Shelbyville, TN, passed from this life Friday, May 24, 2024, at his home surrounded by his family.

Mark was a native of Bedford County, born on February 6, 1963, to the late Richard & Katie Rambo "Kitty" Graham. Along with his parents he was preceded in death by his nephew, Greg Graham.

Mark attended Shelbyville Central High School and would go on to become a talented machinist with a meticulous eye. He was a people person that never met a stranger, he always put others before himself but never shied away from speaking his mind. He loved his family, especially his grandchildren and family trips to Tybee Island. He enjoyed fishing on the Duck River, having fun with family and friends, and all UT Vols sports.

Mark is survived by his loving wife of 17 years, Regina Bailiff Graham; daughters, Shirley Merlo and husband Richard, and Veronica Adcock and husband Kris; grandchildren, Trisha Merlo, Kary Merlo, Justin Dunn, Mia Renner, Madison Adcock, and Kaleb Adcock; siblings, Bonnie Graham Rojas and husband Ed of Shelbyville, David Graham of Shelbyville, and Jeff Graham and wife Mary Jo of Murfreesboro; nephews, Richard Rojas, and Josh Graham; nieces, Ellen Osborne, and Mary Lee Ward; along with several great nieces and great nephews.

Celebration of Life services will be held 6:00 p.m. Thursday, May 30, 2024, in the chapel of Doak-Howell Funeral Home with Rev. Jim Sorrell officiating.Visitation will be held Thursday, prior to services beginning 4:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to New Destiny Dog Rescue @ www.newdestiny.org or by mail: 202 East Highland Ave, Shelbyville TN 37160

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

Mary Esther Lamb



Mary Esther Lamb, age 84, of the Rover Community in Bedford County, passed away May 14, 2024, in Nashville. She was born in Bedford County and was a daughter of the late Ernest Ralph McClaran and Rubye Ollene Drennon McClaran.

Mrs. Mary Esther was retired from the State of TN as a secretary and a member of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Hollis Doyle Lamb, Sr.; a son, Michael Lamb; a grandson, Hunter Dunaway; a brother, Leon McClaran; and a sister, Sherry Read Hobbs.

Mrs. Lamb enjoyed playing the piano and the organ. She had a passion for gardening and flowers. She loved sewing and crafting. She truly like to go to yard sales and cooking for everyone. Most of all, she loved her family and spending time with them!

Mrs. Lamb is survived by her children, Hollis (Judy) Lamb, Jr. of the Rover Community, Stacie (Byron) Paschal of the Hall's Mill Community, Rebecca (Jimmy) Teague of the Rover Community; 8 grandchildren, Ryan Lamb, Krystal Lamb Mullins, Eric Lamb, Loren Lamb Hilton, Lance Paschal, Taylor Paschal, Blaine Paschal, Autumn Teague; 8 great grandchildren, Jacob Mullins, Zachary Mullins, Olivia Mullins, Levi Mullins, Bailey Merlo, Lincoln Hilton, Theodore Hilton, Hudson Hilton; sisters, Kay Smith of Unionville, TN, Cynthia Sudberry of Shelbyville, TN; brother, Marion (Sharon) McClaran of Shelbyville, TN.

Visitation with the family was held on Friday, May 17, 2024, from 4 PM until 8 PM at Lawrence Funeral Home. The funeral service will be conducted on Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 11 AM in the Chapel of Lawrence Funeral Home with Bro. Bobby Maxwell officiating. Interment followed at Cothran Cemetery in the Rover Community in Bedford County.

Ryan Lamb, Eric Lamb, Lance Paschal, Taylor Paschal, Blaine Paschal, and Byron Paschal served as pallbearers.

Lawrence Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Chapel Hill, TN is in charge of the arrangements.

Golden Eagles' Nick Johnson Signs With LaGrange College



Nick Johnson (center) signed with LaGrange College on Friday at the Eagles' Nest. *Submitted Photo.*

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

Another Shelbyville Central Golden Eagles' baseball star signed to continue his baseball career at the next level on Friday as Nick Johnson signed with LaGrange College.

Nick Johnson started every game for the Golden Eagles this past season, and was the team's best and most explosive hitter. In 126 plate appearances, Johnson's splits were .387/.516/.763 with a team-high OPS of 1.279. An elite OPS represents how great of a hitter Johnson was this season, and it was helped out by his 11 doubles, 3 triples, and 6 home runs. He also led the team with 36 RBI.

Johnson was patient at the plate, drawing 22 walks to 22 strikeouts. That is an impressive ratio considering his elite slugging percentage among his other high-level hitting statistics.

LaGrange College, a Division III school in LaGrange, Georgia, went 26-17 and made it all the way to the Collegiate Conference of the South – or CCS – Tournament Championship. They had to win both games, but fell to Maryville College in game two to come up one game short of the NCAA Tournament.

Johnson played the majority of the season in the infield, and was the only Golden Eagles' hitter to surpass 30 RBI on the season. For a small-ball team, Johnson was the most productive slugger that Shelbyville was able to count on both this season and last after he helped lead the Golden Eagles to the third game of their state sectional series, falling one game short of a historic state tournament appearance.

He leaves behind a massive hole in the lineup and the locker room moving forward.

Of course, that isn't a knock on head coach Chase Jones; rather a reminder of how essential Johnson has been to the Shelbyville Central baseball program in his time wearing the blue and gold.

Vandy Boys, Tennessee Baseball Begin Road To Omaha This Week In NCAA Regionals

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

As the teams were revealed one by one during the NCAA Baseball Tournament Selection Show on Monday, the two relatively local in-state rivals, Vanderbilt and Tennessee, didn't have to sweat out their inclusion.

Both programs – the former's extremely old school approach that has proven successful in the past contrasting the latter's new and modern baseball play style and attitude – are among the best in the SEC. The league is of course universally recognized as the premiere baseball conference in the country. Tennessee has separated themselves in the past four years under head coach Tony Vitello, winning both the SEC regular season and tournament titles for the second time in three years on Sunday. In the process, they wrapped up the nation's number one overall seed for the second time in school history with the first being in 2022 when they also won the league double. Vanderbilt, the elder statesman so to speak between the two under legendary head coach Tim Corbin, won the SEC Tournament last season, but have yet to make it back to Omaha since going three years ago.

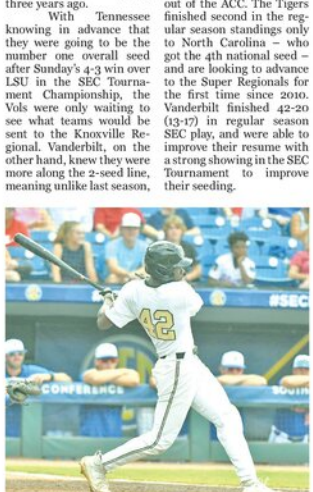
With Tennessee knowing in advance that they were going to be the number one overall seed after Sunday's 4-3 win over LSU in the SEC Tournament Championship, the Vols were only waiting to see what teams would be sent to the Knoxville Regional. Vanderbilt, on the other hand, knew they were more along the 2-seed line, meaning unlike last season, they would not be hosting a regional.

The in-state rivals were just two of the 11 schools selected from the SEC, a new record for the tournament. Tennessee was also one of five national seeds chosen to host with three SEC schools holding the top-3 seeds for the first time as well. Vanderbilt, boasting the SEC's longest consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances streak at 17, is looking to get back to Omaha for the first time since 2021 while Tennessee is looking to get back for a second consecutive season and the third time in four years.

Of course, with Tennessee earning the number one overall seed, they have the easier path on paper. However, we all know how wild and random college baseball can be, so let's take a little bit of a closer look at the two programs' potential paths in the postseason.

Vanderbilt

We'll start with the Vandy Boys. The Commodores are a 2-seed in the Clemson Regional, and will take on 3-seed Coastal Carolina in their first game on Friday. Clemson, the 6th seed nationally, had an impressive follow-up to last season, going 41-14 (20-10) out of the ACC. The Tigers finished second in the regular season standings only to North Carolina – who got the 4th national seed – and are looking to advance to the Super Regionals for the first time since 2010. Vanderbilt finished 42-20 (13-17) in regular season SEC play, and were able to improve their resume with a strong showing in the SEC Tournament to improve their seeding.



RJ Austin helped lead Vanderbilt to the 2023 SEC Tournament Championship in 2023. *Photo by Vanderbilt Athletics.*

If the Vandy Boys manage to win three games this weekend, they will move on to play the winner of what promises to be a roller coaster of a Stillwater Regional – Oklahoma State, Nebraska, Florida, or Niagara – and be one weekend series win away from going back to Omaha.

TENNESSEE

The Vols are at or near the top in just about any major statistical category that you can think of. This should come as no surprise for a team that is the number one overall seed, and Tony Vitello has done an incredible job turning around the baseball program in Knoxville since he was hired in 2017.



Tennessee after beating LSU, 4-3, on Sunday to win the SEC Tournament Championship and clinch the number one overall seed in the upcoming NCAA Tournament. *Photo by Tennessee Athletics.*

First, the offense is one of the most explosive in the country, currently sitting 9th in runs scored per game at 9.1 across 61 games this season, coinciding with leading the country after they cranked 147 home runs. At the same time, the pitching staff is elite once again with an ERA of 3.83, good enough for 4th in the country, despite playing their home games in one of the more hitter-friendly home parks in the sport.

Offensively, Tennessee is led by arguably the best 1-2 punch in the country. SEC Triple Crown winner Christian Moore bats leadoff, followed by Blake Burke in the 2-hole at the top of the lineup. These two juniors sit atop of the all-time career home runs list at Tennessee with the chance to both surpass 50 career dingers for this postseason, and among qualified hitters, Moore and Burke sit 1-2 on the team in batting average, slugging, and OPS.

First, we'll start with the best hitter in both this daunting lineup and arguably the country, Christian Moore, who many feel was snubbed for SEC POTY. Moore has mashed an incredible 28 home runs so far this season – with 21 coming in SEC play – and slashed .382/.447/.789 with an OPS of 1.236. He also drove in a team-high 63 RBI, a stat made even more impressive by the fact that he bats leadoff for the Vols, and he leads the team with 94 hits. As incredible as all these stats are for Moore, they don't quite tell the whole story of each individual at-bat. Everytime he comes to the plate, the first-team All-SEC second baseman seems to take a professional at-bat and looks dangerous on every pitch.

The same can be said for the Vols' slugging first baseman, Blake Burke. This season, the southpaw Burke slashed .372/.441/.701 with an OPS of 1.142. He has driven in 51 RBI, good enough for fourth on the team behind Billy Amick's 53 RBI and Dylan Dreiling's 60 RBI, and has hit 17 home runs, tied for third with Kavares Tears and Dreiling behind Amick's 19. The biggest improvement from last season for Burke has been his eye and plate discipline. He has been able to lay off a lot more breaking balls this season while being unafraid to go the other way with two strikes, and his strikeouts show as much. He has struck out 37 times this season compared to 49 times last year.

Of course, an offense this good can't just be because of two elite hitters; the entire lineup has to produce at an above-average/high level which is what Tennessee's has done. Of the top-six hitters in the Vols' lineup, five of them will be first round draft picks after they leave Knoxville. Hunter Ensley is the odd one out in that department, but he has proven time and time again that he shows up when it matters most, as evidenced by his 4-4 performance against LSU in the SEC Tournament Championship on Sunday.

However, a great offense is nothing without excellent pitching when the postseason comes around, and Tennessee's pitching has been as good as anyone's this season. Frank Anderson's staff is fourth in the country in ERA at 3.83, and 26th in the country in strikeouts per nine innings at 10.0. They are also fourth in walks allowed per nine innings at 2.97, meaning opponents usually have to string together hits to spark a rally instead of relying on free passes.

Drew Beam, the Vols' ace, has been the weekly game two starter all season, and the former SEC Freshman of the Year in 2022 has delivered. He leads the team in innings pitched at 85.0, and he has struck out 75 batters to just 21 walks. He has an 8-2 record with an ERA of 3.92. However, he is far from the only reliable arm that wears orange, and all of those arms will need to be at the ready if the Vols want to make another run to Omaha and fight for a national championship.

In terms of the upcoming regional, the three teams joining Tennessee in Knoxville will be Northern Kentucky, Southern Mississippi, and Indiana. The Hoosiers were one of the last four teams according to the committee, and they were one of three Big Ten teams to make the tournament. Southern Miss hosted the Vols in a super regional last season, falling 2-1 in Hattiesburg, so the Sun Belt champions will have a chance to exact some revenge in Knoxville. Northern Kentucky won the Horizon League, knocking out the regular season champions, Wright State, in the conference tournament to clinch the league's automatic bid.

The Knoxville Regional is matched up with the Greenville Regional and the 16-seed Eastern Carolina Pirates. Evansville, VCU, and Wake Forest are the other three teams in that region, and the inclusion of the Demon Deacons in Greenville allows for a potential storyline in the supers. Chase Burns, Wake's elite starting pitcher, spent his first two seasons at Tennessee, including a sophomore season last year that saw Burns repeatedly come out of the bullpen to help carry the Vols to Omaha. Burns back pitching in Knoxville has the potential to get extra spicy and would be appointment television, especially since he has been one of the best pitchers in the country this season.

The NCAA Regionals begin on Friday, and will end no later than Monday or Tuesday, depending on weather conditions.

Shelbyville Times-Gazette

Breaking Down Vol Hoops' Transfer Portal Class

BY NOAH MADDOX
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Last week, Rick Barnes and the Tennessee Basketball coaching staff received their fourth and final transfer portal commitment, and they saved arguably the best for last. Officially, Nashville native Chaz Lanier signed with the Vols on Saturday, May 25, and he was the culminating piece of a pristine transfer portal class meant to reload instead of rebuild after last season.

The NCAA Men's Basketball transfer portal officially closed on May 1, but draft-eligible players were given extra time to go through the draft process as long as they were already in the portal beforehand. Lanier of course fell under this umbrella, and he ended up choosing the Vols over rival Kentucky and BYU.

Portal Exits

Zooming out to take a look at this transfer portal cycle as a whole, the Vols lost DJ Jefferson, Freddie Dilione V, Jonas Aidoo, and Tobe Awaka. Dilione V committed to Penn State back in April, Aidoo stayed in the SEC to join John Calipari at Arkansas, Awaka committed to Arizona at the end of April, and Jefferson committed to Longwood on April 24.

Despite Dilione V's nature of being a former high-profile recruit, Only Awaka and Aidoo played any significant role in the Vols' run to the Elite Eight and SEC regular season title this past season. The seven footer Aidoo started at center and averaged 12.1 points per game shooting just 51.5% FG with 7.6 rebounds per game and 1.8 blocks per game in just under 25 minutes per game. He was a lanky and mobile rim protector that sometimes struggled against stronger opponents, but his entrance into the portal was a surprise to Barnes. Aidoo was a top-three big man in the SEC this past season, so the staff knew they would have to find someone(s) to replace his production.

Meanwhile, the 6-foot 7-inch Awaka was a nice reserve off the bench, averaging 5.1 points per game and 4.6 rebounds per game in 13 minutes per game. He was one of the better offensive rebounders on the team, and he was frighteningly strong in the paint. Awaka also had his moments in the NCAA Tournament, most notably against Texas in the second round. In Tennessee's 62-58 win, Awaka kept the Vols' offense afloat in the first half, finishing



Felix Okpara (34) blocked 83 shots last season which ranked 7th nationally. *Photo by Ohio State Athletics.*

the game with 10 points on 4-5 shooting while inhaling four offensive rebounds. However, his four fouls in 11 minutes epitomized some of the fans' frustration with Awaka at times, but everyone is rooting for his success at Arizona.

To replace those four, plus the three seniors that started for the majority of the season in Unanimous First-Team All American, SEC POTY, and future lottery pick Dalton Knecht, Josiah Jordan-James, and Santiago Vescovi, Barnes did work in the portal. The four players he found to come to Rocky Top were Hofstra's Darlinstone Dubar, Ohio State's Felix Okpara, Charlotte's Igor Milicic Jr., and North Florida's Chaz Lanier.

Darlinstone Dubar

Let's begin with the first official commit, Darlinstone Dubar. The 6-foot 8-inch wing brings size and position versatility for Tennessee, which seems to be a common theme for this year's class. Dubar is an athletic and efficient scorer offensively while bringing a borderline-elite shooting stroke. He shot 40% from three last season, including 46.8% on corner threes on 62 attempts.

On spot ups, he averaged 1.19 points per possession which was in the 87th percentile last year while in transition he averaged 1.35 PPP which was also in the 87th percentile. This tells me that Dubar is a perfect piece to get out in transition while also playing off the ball in the half court. He was also a willing cutter, averaging 1.56 PPP which was in the 90th percentile. There's also some potential for him in the post to take advantage of mismatches, as he averaged 1.14 PPP in that department which was in the 89th percentile.

He is the perfect 3-and-D archetype for the modern NBA, and he also shot 77.1% at the rim last year. Granted, that was at Hofstra in the CAA, but watching his drives on film it is obvious to me that most of his touch around the rim should translate to the SEC just fine.

Dubar averaged 17.8 PPG, 6.8 REB, and 1.4 AST on 53.9% FG, 40% 3-PT, and 73.4% FT shooting splits at Hofstra last season, and playing on a team with one of the best point guards in the SEC in Zakai Zeigler – who led the league in assists – should only increase his efficiency. Another note on Dubar is that he was the only player in college baseball last season to make 30+ dunks and 70+ three-pointers.

Defensively, Barnes has talked about how Dubar is not just willing, but looking forward to the opportunity to play on the court at the same time as Jahmai Mashack and the reigning SEC DPOY in Zakai Zeigler. Dubar had a 3.1% block rate, With his size and length (his wingspan pops out on film), look for the Vols to maintain their stifling defensive identity once again.



Darlington Dubar (1) shot 46.8% on corner threes last season at Hofstra. *Photo by Hofstra Athletics.*

Felix Okpara

After Jonas Aidoo surprisingly entered the portal, the Vols honed in on the 6-foot 11-inch Okpara to replenish their backline depth and maintain their rim protection presence. The uber-athletic Ohio State product is from Nigeria, and he actually played at Hamilton Heights Christian Academy in Chattanooga, Tennessee, for a time in high school.

Last season, Okpara blocked 83 shots in just 23.5 minutes per game. This would have broken the Tennessee single-season blocks record by 10; Yves Pons and CJ Black currently share the record with 73. Okpara's 83 blocks landed him 7th nationally last season, and he also led the Buckeyes in rebounding, pulling down 6.4 boards per game to go along with his 6.6 points per game.

The addition of Okpara brings a couple things. First, his ability to protect the rim and rebound as the last line of defense only helps the Vols defensively, and he is more than mobile enough to cause problems on both ends both around the basket as a lob threat offensively and on the perimeter when he has to switch or hedge on to guards. Secondly, he is a tenacious offensive rebounder, as evidenced by his 10.7% offensive rebounding rate a season ago. This helps replace not just Aidoo, but Awaka as well, and Okpara averaged 2.9 fouls per game in his 25 MPG last season which means he played high level defense for more than half the game while managing to stay out of extreme foul trouble.

Okpara shot 64% at the rim last season, and this accounted for the vast majority – 88% – of his shot attempts. He also has a certain tenacity about him, and it shows up in his willingness to go up and dunk the ball with ferocity as much as he can despite playing in a conference dominated by massive big men like the Big Ten. He averaged 1.14 PPP on putbacks, landing him in the 57th percentile, and he also showcased an ability to be an outstanding roll man in the pick and roll, averaging 1.16 PPP which was good enough to land him in the 70th percentile.

The only downside with Okpara is his free throw shooting, which hovers around 60% for his career. This indicates that his spacing may be limited in terms of his ability to consistently take and make the mid-range shot that Aidoo was so adept at, but with all the other creators around him that should not be as big of a deal as some might make it out to be, especially when you learn about the other two transfers that will be joining him in Knoxville next season.



Igor Milicic (24) shot 45.2% on corner threes last season at Charlotte. *Photo by Charlotte Athletics.*

Igor Milicic Jr.

Milicic is a 6-foot 10-inch forward with a playstyle that screams out stretch-five potential. He has a nice handle, but it's the shooting that excites me the most. He shot 45.2% on corner threes last season on 42 attempts, and 36.5% from all other 3-PT areas on 96 attempts. Combined with his incredibly smooth stroke, he also shot 73.5% at the rim last season while playing in the defensive-minded Conference-USA.

The Croatian native, who played his high school basketball in Germany, averaged 12.8 PPG, 8.5 RPG, and 1.7 AST on 48.7% FG, 37.6% 3-PT, and 81.8% FT shooting splits. Despite what the assist numbers say, he is a willing and able passer, and he is also able to be a solid rim-protector at times.

Off the ball, Milicic averaged 1.16 PPP on spot-up shooting last season, landing him in the 85th percentile. He also was a demon in transition, averaging 1.24 PPP to settle in the 78% percentile. Like Okpara and Dubar, Milicic is a willing cutter, and that part of his game will probably be showcased much more with Zakai Zeigler running the point.

A fun little exercise is combining Milicic's and Okpara's splits from last year to compare to Aidoo and Awaka, and what I got is pretty interesting. The latter's combined stat line from last year looked like this: 16.5 PPG, 11.9 REB, and 1.4 BLK on 55.3% FG and 20% 3-PT (they rarely ever attempted a three). Meanwhile, the former's reads as follows: 19.4 PPG, 14.9 REB, and 3.5 BLK on 53.7% FG and 37.6% 3-PT.

I'd say that Rick Barnes is embracing the stylistic shift that the modern game has begun to incorporate and adjusted accordingly. Even before landing Lanier, which I'll get to momentarily, the additions of Milicic, Okpara, and Dubar made for a fun thought exercise in terms of five guys on the court together. A lineup of Zeigler, Mashack, Dubar, Milicic, and Okpara is one we will almost certainly see plenty of times this upcoming season, and the endless possibilities and potential on both ends of the court is almost intoxicating in its excitement.

Chaz Lanier

The last and most renowned portal target was Chaz Lanier from North Florida. Lanier, perhaps influenced by the success of Dalton Knecht last season, was looking for somewhere that could help him improve his draft stock, but since he went to the NBA Combine that meant his commitment for his final year of eligibility to either of the three schools targeting him – BYU, Kentucky, and Tennessee – would have to wait.

Tennessee was able to be his final visit, and Lanier committed shortly thereafter last week. He is an elite scorer and athlete, and at 6-feet 4-inches with his athleticism he is able to put pressure on the rim at all times. Last season, Lanier had a career high in usage rate at 25% while also having a career best in AST% at 11.7% and turnover% at 9.9%. What do those numbers mean? They mean that Lanier knows how to value the basketball and limit turnovers while operating the offense at an extremely high level. For context, Dalton Knecht had a usage rate above 30% last season.

Lanier dominated in conference play, averaging 22.9 PPG which was good enough for third in the country behind Zach Edey and Knecht. Overall, he averaged 19.7 PPG, 4.8 REB, and 1.8 AST while shooting 51% FG, 44% 3-PT, and 88% FT. Point blank, these are elite splits.

He is a lethal scorer both on the catch and off the bounce, shooting 66% at the rim and 44% from three. He shot 36.7% on corner threes (11/30) and 45% on all other three-pointers (81/180). Of those 81, 11 of them were made threes deeper than 25 feet, so he also has extreme range.

Despite all that, I think my favorite part of his shot chart from last season is the fact that he only attempted 20 true mid-range jumpers as opposed to 53 shots in the floater/top of the paint area.

Around the basket, he is not afraid to go above the rim to finish on his drives, and he is an elite pick-and-roll ball handler. Although his assist numbers are a bit low, he had a 12% assist rate last season, but when he looked to score off the ball screens, he averaged 1.13 PPP which was in the 93rd percentile last year. He also loves scoring off dribble handoffs, averaging 1.26 PPP last season in those situations which landed him in the 90th percentile.

To complement all of this on-ball scoring prowess, Lanier was also an elite off-ball scorer last season, averaging 1.23 PPP on spot ups which was also good enough to land in the 90th percentile. He shot 67% eFG – effective field goal percentage accounts for the fact that three pointers are worth three points and two pointers are two points – on catch and shoot shots as well.

For context, NBA evaluators say that anything above 51% overall is decent, and Lanier also shot 62.7% eFG overall.

One final note: Tennessee's four portal additions – Dubar, Milicic, Okpara, Lanier – last year made a combined 235 threes. Meanwhile, Zakai Zeigler, Dalton Knecht, Josiah Jordan-James, Santiago Vescovi, Jordan Gainey, and Jahmai Mashack made a combined 304 threes.



Chaz Lanier (2) shot a jaw-dropping 44% from three last season at North Florida. *Photo by North Florida Athletics.*

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