COMMUNITY NEWS

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

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TEEN SHOT IN HEAD ON 41A SOUTH

BCSO INVESTIGATION CONTINUES

On Tuesday, June 25, at approximately 7:00 p.m., Bedford County Sheriff's Department deputies were dispatched to the area of Normandy Road and Highway 41A South in reference to a gunshot victim in a vehicle.

Upon arrival, deputies discovered a teenage female victim with a gunshot wound to the head. The victim was a passenger in the vehicle during an apparent road rage incident that occurred on Normandy Road while the vehicle was traveling towards Highway 41A.

Other passengers described the suspect vehicle as a small white SUV, possibly a Saturn or similar body style, occupied by a white male. The victim was treated on scene by Bedford EMS before being flown from the scene by helicopter to an area hospital. There is no update on her condition at this time.

The suspect vehicle turned around and fled the scene toward Normandy on Normandy Road.

As of press time, the suspect was still at large and investigators and deputies were working to develop leads.

From the Sheriff's Office: "As always, we ask the public for your assistance in bringing this young lady's assailant to justice. If you have any information, please contact the Bedford County Sheriff's Office. If you live on Normandy Road, a connecting road or in the town of Normandy and have cameras that may have recorded the white SUV traveling during this timeframe, please notify BCSO investigators.



T-G Photo by Dawn Hankins

City Councilman 'sets the record straight' on Duksan

By Dawn Hankins

dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

Last week, Councilman William Christie sent a letter regarding the highly discussed Duksan Electera plant to local media outlets. This week, the T-G sat down with Christie and talked about what was once secretly known to this community as "Project Cardinal."

Most people in this community know that "Project Cardinal" eventually was announced as Duksan Electra America. Now there are issues regarding fire suppression at the plant and the state is going to be requested and paid to get involved.

While some of the problems are not the City's responsibility, it does fall on the City to make sure health and welfare are protected in this community. That is what has council persons like Christie now most concerned.

Christie said that the City never really knew the extent of what Duksan, located within the City limits, would be manufacturing until all the "paperwork" was said and done. Then, the City found out it was not just a battery plant but rather a facility that would be storing and transferring out volatile battery chemicals.

"It goes back to the fact that we [City] did not know it was going to be a chemical plant," said Christie.

What is known now is that Duksan is a manufacturer of battery electrolyte additives and is based in South Korea. The company engages in mass-producing secondary battery electrolyte additives by applying the organic-inorganic synthesis technology necessary for manufacturing OLED intermediates, enabling clients with sufficient and high-quality lithium battery electrolyte chemicals.

Christie said for City government to be left in the dark is ludicrous, especially since the City even lowered some of its regulations to accommodate such industrial recruitment

See DUKSAN, 11A



City Councilman William Christie

The history behind Duksan Electera

Editor's Note: Shelbyville City Councilman William Christie dropped off a 3-page letter to the Shelbyville Times-Gazette this week in regard to Duksan Electra, a battery chemical plant located in the 231 Industrial Park off Highway 231 North. This portion explains the history behind the industrial park development.

"In March 2015, the City and Bedford County signed an agreement to go in together to jointly acquire, develop and operate an industrial park with the goal of attracting businesses and jobs to our community.

In October of that year, we purchased 86.5 acres on Frank Martin Road-not far from the Walmart Distribution Center for this purpose. Each government committed $600,000 to this project and with an additional investment from TVA, we created the 231 N. Business Park. It was our stated goal to make the Park self-sufficient.

The site development of the operation of the Park was handled by the committee jointly created by the City and County to oversee it. That committee made all decisions and recommendations for the Park. The 231 N. Business Park Oversight Committee was a 5-member board. There were 2 representatives from each government on it as well as the CEO of Shelbyville-Bedford County Chamber of Commerce who then acted as the industrial recruiter for our community. For decades, the City's hotel-motel tax revenue was designated to go to the Chamber of Commerce for industrial and business development and was overseen by the Chamber's Economic Development and Tourism Committee.

Park site development continued through 2016 into 2017. Despite efforts by the Park's Oversight Committee working with state officials to attract businesses to the Park, there was little interest in it for several years. By 2019, both City and County leaders knew a more aggressive approach to industrial recruitment was needed, not just for the Park but in general. We held

See ELECTERA, 5A



Photo by Valerie Younger

LOCAL SUMMER TRACTOR PULL
The Halls Mill community hosted its summer Tractor Pull Saturday night at the Triangle Club field. It was loud, exciting fun, according to those in attendance. There were treats to keep everyone cool amidst the smoke and dust. But what better way to spend the first official Saturday of summer, right? See more pictures on page 5.





Photos by Dana Rodriguez

HAL CELEBRATES 80!
Hal Skelton was honored Saturday at the Wartrace gym with the Heart of a Champion Award. Hal is a retired educator, faithful church member, supporter of all community events and a former Cascade principal. He retired from the Bedford County School System Central Office where he served as attendance supervisor. If there was ever anyone who loved his people, most would say it was Hal. See more pictures on page 3 of this community celebration.

Economic director speaks to local 'talk track' at county meeting

Shane Hooper praised by county officials

By DAWN HANKINS

During the Bedford County budget study session Tuesday, several groups were approved for funding within the $175 million budget set for next fiscal year. One of those groups was the Bedford County Partnership for $110,000.

Partnership Executive Director Shane Hooper was given a round of praise for his economic work and even some applause. Some even said he's been praised at the state level for his economic vision.

Hooper, who was present, was

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Historical Society Meeting
Bedford County Historical Society held its summer quarter meeting on June 17.

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Volunteers Win Championship
The Tennessee Volunteers held on late to beat Texas A&M, 6-5, in Game Three of the Championship Series on Monday night

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MEETING

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asked to say a few words on the Partnership's behalf. Commissioner Eric Maddox started the ball rolling with questions.

"Does the industrial park board exist?" asked Maddox.

The mayor asked if a resolution had come down from legal yet to dissolve the industrial park group.

Commissioner Greg Vick, former chair, told the financial group, "We had our last industrial park board about 3 months ago. There is no more property in the industrial park."

He said nothing from legal has come to him. He said there are no funds, except for the $100,000 loan (match) by the City. He advised the County has no more involvement.

Mayor Graham advised, "Attorney Shofner said she was preparing a formal resolution that both the City and the County would need to pass to officially, formally, to dissolve the 231 board. I believe they technically still exist, though they have no business before them."

Maddox asked then why the County is still contributing another $100,000 to the Partnership. The mayor said that is for the Shelbyville-Bedford Partnership to answer. He asked Maddox if he would like to hear from director Hooper.

The mayor also made sure that Maddox, fairly new to the Commission, understood that the Partnership and the 231 Board are two different entities. Maddox said he understood that.

Hooper rightfully took advantage of the time he was given by the financial committee to set the record straight on a few details regarding his economic group.

He explained that the Partnership is involved in local workforce development, economic development, tourism and now oversees the Chamber. "The Shelbyville-Bedford Chamber is now part of our organization. That organization supports small businesses . . . small businesses that need advocacy."

He said that also includes networking, like the recent Rutherford County gathering, where over 300 people gathered for business sharing.

He said Partnership has worked the past year with state tourism groups. He talked about how much tourism is sharing per household.

"He's the number 1 economic director in the state of Tennessee," praised Commissioner Scott Johnson. There was applause.

Also praising Hooper was Commissioner Linda Yockey for Partnership's efforts in workforce development. She talked about the recession in years past and how Robert Daniel assisted the County with vision.

"Shane, I can't thank you enough. But mine comes from the education side."

She said workforce development is going to continue to grow. "That takes planning . . . effort and it takes somebody. That's the role that Shane has done."

After all the praise, Maddox asked Hooper the reasoning behind refusing the City's membership in the Chamber. The Commissioner reminded he has a responsibility to his constituents who ask those questions.

"I have an 8-member board I answer to," said Hooper. He explained the credentials of those board members and their business success. He said the County is blessed to have those professionals.

Hooper said while he has a board to answer to, he was going to answer some of the "talk track" that Maddox referred to.

One of those strong comments made by Hooper as he rallied the room full of county personnel and commission members was aimed at the City of Shelbyville, though he called no direct name of the group he was discussing. The audience likely knew he was referring to the City, which on record in public meeting stated it had sent the Chamber, now a part of Hooper's Partnership group, a check for $5,000, for Chamber membership-something the City said it has maintained since the late 1940s.

Hooper responded, often quipping at the mere audacity of the City of Shelbyville to want to be a member of the Chamber now.

"Now let me get this straight. We're going to do some math right quick. You send me a check for $5,000, because you want to be involved in what the Partnership stands for and does. You send me a $5,000 check because you want to show up at the Chamber events. You want to come to the ribbon cutting."

The City said during one of its last meetings that they did not understand why the Chamber rejected its membership. Hooper took the time to explain why Tuesday through this public forum, though, according to some Council members, he has not discussed with the City any those details.

He talked about how when state representatives were here, people showed up to "touch the shovels."

He also referred to how the City went to the state legislature, prior to him becoming economic director, and asked to levy the hotel-motel tax and spend it on economic development. That happened.

Then Hooper began to talk as if members of the City Council were sitting right in front of him. (This meeting was videoed for YouTube so likely Council members will eventually see it.)

"Then you turned around and you took that money away from the Chamber. You took that money away from the folks who have Mom and Pop shops. . . leadership. You cut off the legs of the leadership that was helping your small Mom and Pop businesses, the people you talk about every day that you want to help-the middle class. You took the leadership away from them, because they didn't get anything done in the industrial park, according to some. Why didn't you just take a little bit back . . . but no, you didn't use a scalpel, you came along with an axe!"

He said the City took the $250,000 from the hotel-motel tax that formerly belonged to the Chamber and then also took the building on South Cannon back from the Chamber.

"Then you want to ask to get back in the game for $5,000!" Hooper said with a sneer.

He said this is a "partnership" with other organizations, like in Nashville. He referred to a $1 million grant that was "handed" to Shelbyville Power, Water and Sewerage for sewerage needs. He talked about the governor's Give Grant for $250,000.

"But you want to write me a check for $5,000 and get back in the game, like, huh, we didn't do anything. I don't know what happened. Those numbers just don't add up."

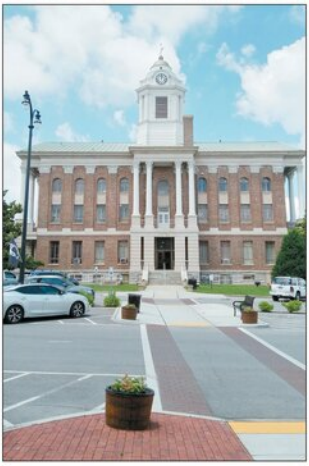
He said his board members are more than capable of speaking for themselves. But he reminded the City that when they take $250,000 away from an "organization" and then take the building way and then another $100,000, they're robbing local business people. (That $100,000 was rescinded by the City last year due to questions lingering about Duksan and other aspects of the 231 Industrial Park.)

He said all things that's been accomplished by the Partnership doesn't equal up to $100,000. "When that adds up, you let me know," said Hooper.

Walking back to his seat, Hooper explained, "And I probably said something I shouldn't have said."

The Commission plans to meet 7 p.m. Thursday, June 27, to put the final approval on the county budget for 2024-2025, which is effective July 1.

It was discussed that county employees will receive cost of living raises. There was no discussion of any increase in local property taxes.



County stats for new fiscal year

No property tax increase

Employee cost living raise? 4%

County tax rate per assessed? Total tax rate is $2.3252



T-G Photo by Dawn Hankins

Commissioner Greg Vick discusses dissolvement of the 231 park board during the County's budget session on Tuesday.



T-G Photo by Dawn Hankins

Shane Hooper, director of local economic development, talked about the local Partnership during Tuesday's County budget session meeting. Standing behind is David Coffey, who recently announced his support of "A Better Bedford." He discussed briefly the new "bi-partisan, political action committee (PAC.) Information was included in the June 20 edition of the T-G.

CITY BUDGET 2025: DONE!

EMPLOYEES GET RAISE, NO PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

By DAWN HANKINS

During a special called, final, budget meeting Tuesday, Shelbyville City Council moved to give a 4% across the board raise to City employees, effective July 1.

As well, the City property tax rate will remain the same at $1.48 per $100 assessed value. Not a lot changed as far as the new fiscal year budget. The City is in good financial condition at year end.

Following the amendment to take the City employee raises from the original 3% to 4%, Councilman Henry Feldhaus had made a motion/amendment for the City to do even one better-a 5% raise for all employees.

That motion was defeated. Council members Christie, Isaacs, and Feldhaus voted for the 5% employee raises. With a 3 to 3 vote, Mayor Carroll broke the tie and defeated the 5% increase with his no vote.

Not all was lost for the City employees. The 4% increase went on to pass 4-2 with yes votes by Turnbow, Christie, Haile and Ewing. Hanging on to the hope of higher wages for City employees, Feldhaus and Isaacs voted no.

Feldhaus said the reason he was asking for 5% is that the City has lost good employees to higher wages offered by other places. [Several police officers have left due to other opportunities and the City is hiring more.]

As for nonprofits, Shelbyville Bedford County Public Library finally got a nice step up in funding after 5 years. The City's funding for the library will be increasing in 2025 to a little over $164,000.

Council members Turnbow, Isaacs, Haile, and Feldhaus cast the yes votes for the library increase. Christie and Ewing voted against the increase in library appropriations.

Local Opioid Board distributes first-year funds

By DAWN HANKINS
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

On Monday, Bedford County Opioid Board met to close out its first fiscal year. Excitement abounded with the approval an announcement of its FY25 four Bedford County grantees.

The Opioid grant funds are from a national settlement involving several large pharmaceutical companies which were involved in over prescribing opioids. Bedford County was among those in the state to benefit from the lawsuit dollars.

Thousands of local governments nationwide have received settlement money from pharmacies which made, distributed or sold opioid painkillers. Some of them were major corporations and the cost was billions.

While it's sad how the funds came to exist, it is good that there is money to support needs within this community. Funds are distributed to groups assisting in the education and support of those with addictions and providing on-going resources for the community.

Below is the list of Bedford County's FY25 Grantees:

Bedford County Government received an Opioid Abatement Settlement fund for FY25, which is a requirement. A seven-member board approved four (4) grants for Bedford County for-profit and nonprofit organizations for $163,948.00.

FY25 GRANTEES

Bedford County EMS

FREE CPR Training, signs of opioid overdose, Naloxone education for the general public, and other Community Projects $46,962.50. Contact: Colin Bain, grant liaison or Johnny Poff

931-684-4403 colin.bain@bedfordcountytn.gov.

Community Clinic of Shelbyville and Bedford County, Inc. (CCsBC), 931-684-6772, Shelbyvilleclinic.org. FREE dental services for qualified Bedford County adults. $14,258.00

Drug Rescue--"Shining the Light Program" FREE Support services for MRT caregivers and children. Contact: Bonnie Cady, 931-580-2239, drugrescue4301@gmail.com. $25,487.50

Cady shared this week the Drug Rescue's mission: EDUCATE: PEOPLE about drugs and addiction. How to talk to their kids about drugs and the consequences. KIDS about the danger of Drug and the consequences. How to say NO to their peers when asked to try drugs.

EMPOWER: PEOPLE to STAND UP AND SPEAK OUT. Knowledge is Power! Report drug activity. Dea.gov (you can remain anonymous (. KIDS to say NO. HEAL: Help find the best rehab and support for those seeking to escape ADDICTION.

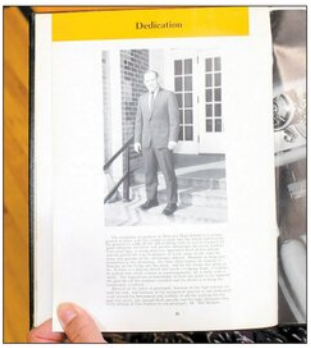
In keeping with this Mission DRUG RESCUE partnered with Sylvia Pinson who volunteers for Bedford County Jail's MRT Program (MRT is a 12-stepprogram of rehabilitation), and Benita Caldwell who works for the Center for Family development and oversees The Other Door to write a grant proposal for the Bedford County Opioid Settlement.

OUR project: SHINING THE LIGHT ON DRUGS: includes printing and distributing 25,000 informative brochures. Support for the custodial guardians (these are the people who take care of the kids of the incarcerated members of the MRT classes that reside in Bedford County), by educating them and their custodial kids, helping with essential living expenses, having fun activities for them. The project will kick off with a Picnic in the Park on June 30. Food, Fun and Games, speakers, and educational literature!! The kids will receive free school physicals, backpacks, dental, etc. We have other partners that will be working with us on this project.

Some of our partners are Community Clinic of Shelbyville. The Other Door. Relative Care Program. Bird Street Church of

See OPIOID, 3A









Photos by Dana Rodriguez

A SPECIAL DAY FOR HAL!
Hal Skelton is a legacy in Bedford County. Sure, he's a great guy. But he has been honored most recently as having a heart of a champion-in more ways than one. He was recognized last Saturday in Wartrace for his education career and his commitment to his local community. Happy 80th birthday Mr. Hal, from your friends at the Shelbyville Times-Gazette!

Public School Strong has celebration

Murfreesboro, TN – On Saturday, June 22, at 11 am, a coalition of educators, parents, labor, faith groups, and community organizations gathered at First Cumberland Presbyterian Church for the Public School Strong Celebration. The event built on the momentum for safeguarding public school funding and protecting Tennesseans employed by the public school system. It also marked a critical win against the harmful school voucher bill.

"Today, we celebrate a significant victory for Tennessee's public education system, but the work is far from over.," said Liv Cook, Public Education Campaign Organizer With Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment (SOCM). "Corporate interest groups are hell-bent on privatization to segregate our education system and disenfranchise working families. We will continue our collective efforts to secure adequate funding and strong safeguards for our public schools, as well as our fight to make universal pre-K a reality, regardless of economic or social circumstances.»

Participants from all corners of the state came together to reflect on this success, which is being recognized nationally, and to strategize for stronger public education systems in the South that are not under constant attacks. The celebration featured inspiring speeches from community leaders, educators, and students who have played instrumental roles in the fight for defending public education.

"It was inspirational to meet with groups from across the state, each representing different communities, yet all united in the fight to fully fund, protect, and transform public education in Tennessee. The Public School Strong campaign demonstrates the power of statewide collaboration and generates energy and enthusiasm for the ongoing battle against vouchers," said David Gorman, a public school teacher and SOCM member from Knox County.

As summer unfolds, the Public School Strong coalition remains committed to expanding its base and building a campaign driven and backed by working families across the state. Advocates are gearing up for the upcoming fall legislative session with a strong emphasis on prioritizing the education of all Tennessean children, not just the wealthy.

"All over Tennessee, we are being affected by the actions of a powerful few who are working to defund our local schools. We are ready to organize at the local and state level to counteract this. By building strong campaigns within our communities, we can join forces with our neighbors to stop privatization efforts and secure the resources our students, teachers, and families deserve," said Candida Layne, a parent and SOCM member from Rutherford County.

OPIOID

From page 2

Christ. Shelbyville Pentecostal Church. Feminine Care. Life Source Christian Family Solutions. Clothe our Kids will supply each kid with a clothing bag,

We are expecting 15 children plus their guardians for the picnic on June 30, 2024. We will have additional children and guardians when 2 new classes start in October.

The MRT program has graduated 73 females and 61 males since its inception in April 2022. This year they have added a garden and the MRT members are doing the work. I call it dirt therapy!

One success story! This lady, aged, 25 graduated MRT in the spring. She had been working at Tyson's while she was in jail. Tyson's promoted her and gave her a nice raise. She has assumed custody of her 2 younger siblings aged 13 & 11 because her mother died, and her father is incarcerated. With help from The Other Door, and other nonprofits, she has a furnished place to live.

Another testimony from a young lady. "I had a lot of moments when I was inside. Moments that changed me for the better. I found a God who loved me too much to let me stay the same, but completely accepted who I was. People that I met that inspired and loved me so greatly. Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, Lt. Cook, and all my MRT family. I love you."

LifeSource Family Solutions FREE mental counseling and substance treatment for qualified Bedford County Adults

Contact: Laura Tucker-Hudgins, 615-488-4480, lifesource@bellsouth.net.

$77,240.00

Bedford County's Opioid board members are: Fredia Lusk, Chairperson and Executive Director of the Community Clinic of Shelbyville and Bedford County, Inc., Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham; Johnny Poff, Assistant Director for the Bedford County EMS; Yesenia Garcia, President of the Bedford County Health Council and an UT/TSU Nutrition Specialist; Mark Potts, retired Bedford County educator and coach; Dr. Michael Talbot, Opioid Substance Specialist; and Janice Brothers, Bedford County Commissioner. Shanna Gaither, assistant CCsBC executive director and nurse practitioner, serves as the assistant administrator for the Bedford County Opioid grant.

Let's Talk Male Reproductive Health

June is Men's Health Awareness Month. Men are 24% less likely to seek medical care, compared to women, which is why it is important to highlight men's health issues, symptoms and interventions particularly when discussing reproductive health and hormone imbalances that could impact daily life. This can include erectile dysfunction (ED), low testosterone levels and infertility. These issues can be interconnected in a number of ways and require a holistic approach to diagnose and treat them properly.

Testosterone, a naturally occurring hormone that is responsible for the development of male sexual characteristics, impacts sex drive and can cause energy fluctuations, weight gain, depression and more. The production of testosterone starts to increase significantly during puberty and begins to dip after the age of 30. Common side effects of low levels of testosterone are ED, low libido and infertility.

ED refers to a male's inability to get and maintain an erection which can result from the natural aging process or as a symptom of another health problem. While low testosterone can contribute to ED symptoms, it may also be the result of decreased blood flow to the genital arteries. ED in conjunction with low libido can make it difficult to conceive.

Deficient testosterone levels can also be the cause of infertility in males and is considered a disease of the reproductive system. This is because testosterone levels directly correlate to sperm count. A low sperm count does not mean conception is impossible, but it does significantly decrease the likelihood. Infertility can also be intentionally achieved through a process called sterilization via a procedure known as a vasectomy. A vasectomy is a common and safe procedure that is the most effective form of male birth control offered today.

Treatment options are available to improve symptoms of ED and infertility, including surgery, antibiotics, medication and supplementation also known as Testosterone Replacement Therapy (TRP). Surgery is only utilized if infertility is caused by the widening of the veins in the scrotum, or a blockage in the tubes that carry sperm. Antibiotics are used to treat any infections discovered in the reproductive organs while other medications can treat symptoms associated with ED. Lastly, TRP is any natural or artificially produced substance that raises testosterone levels and could be used as a potential treatment option for low testosterone levels. The treatment involves an injection into a muscle that is given every two to four weeks under the supervision of your doctor.

While reproductive health concerns and hormone imbalances are often perceived as female conditions, they occur in men too. This Men's Health Awareness Month, be sure to communicate with your doctor if you are experiencing any of these symptoms and discuss treatment options that are best for you and your lifestyle.



John C. Richier, M.D.
Dr. Richier is a urologist at Vanderbilt Integrated Urology in Tullahoma, Tennessee.

Shelbyville receives Municipal League award
Excellence in Downtown Revitalization

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – Downtowns often serve as the beating heart of a community, and officials in Shelbyville have made dedicated efforts to ensure their downtown continues to not just survive but thrive. In recognition of the collaborative efforts of the City of Shelbyville to find new ways to preserve their historic city center, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Shelbyville with an award for Excellence in Downtown Revitalization. We will have more on this award in later additions and on our t-g.com and Facebook pages.



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FREE ESTIMATES
Licensed • Insured
From Floor to Ceiling & Everything in Between
Custom Built Decks
Custom Tile Projects
Kitchen/Bath Redesign
Jerry Reid 931-575-1793
Bright Davis 931-607-0490

LIVE FISH
FOR STOCKING PONDS
We provide hauling containers
We will be at:
Bedford Farmers Coop
Shelbyville
June 29 • 9:00-10:00
Call 931-684-3506
or
KEN JACOBS
Bowling Green, KY
270-842-2555

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING *Report for June 17, 2024*

Bedford County Historical Society held its summer quarter meeting on June 17, in the

Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church on the Square in Shelbyville. Guests included Jeff Delk, Mark and Tricia Mullins, Tammy Owen, Pam Constantine, Charles Brumblelow and Teresa Marshall.

A potluck supper kicked off the meeting at 6:30pm, hosted by members Carolyn Jones, Marc Majors, John Cortner, John and Carol Jones, and Mary Ruth Simmons. The hall was decorated in a patriotic Flag Day theme with red, white, and blue serving and dining table décor accented by floral greenery.

Following the potluck meal, a short business meeting was held to inform members of current Society business initiatives. Recording Secretary Freda Head gave the secretarial report, followed by Treasurer Hazel Foster's financial report. Corresponding Secretary Carloyn Smotherman reported Society membership stood at over 340 members with a few renewals still outstanding.

Simmons thanked Carol Robertson White, Carolyn Smotherman, Martha Smotherman Mendez, Maretta Clayborne, Norm Williams, and Jo Anne Craig Anderson for materials and articles used in the summer issue of the Quarterly. The fall issue will begin a new series on the history of the County's schools and a feature article on Bedford County's other horse, the "gaited" mule.

The Society is evaluating requests for two new historical site markers; more info will be provided as the requests are finalized. In other business, Simmons noted that the Society is continuing its year-long celebration of its 50th anniversary. Celebratory medallions were given to each member family who attended the meeting. Other member families will receive their medals throughout the 2024 celebration. The next meeting of the Society Board of Directors is on July 10, 2024, at the Public Library at 2:00 pm; anyone with input or questions may attend the meeting and present their concerns.

After the business meeting, Simmons introduced Myers Brown who presented the evening's program, "Ten Civil War Tennesseans You Should Know Something About, Bur Probably Don't." Tennessee was a crucial battleground for most of the Civil War. While battlefields like Shiloh, Stones River, and Franklin resonate with most folks, many of Tennessee's leaders of this era have been all but forgotten. This programshed new light on these 10 important figures, many of whom had connections to Bedford County.

Brown is a native of Old Hickory and currently serves as the executive director of Belmont Mansion in Nashville. Prior to joining Belmont Mansion, he served as director of Archival Collection Services and Chief Historian at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. He is the author of two books: Images of Tennessee's Union Cavalrymen (December 2008) and Images of Tennessee Confederates (April 2011). He is an adjunct professor at Trevecca Nazarene University.

Simmons concluded the meeting, reminding members that the next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 16 at the same place and time with Don and Claudia Curl, Sarah Hill, Sandra Smith, Jimmy and Melissa Simmons, and Ryan and Jeannie Print hosting.



Historical Society Treasurer Hazel Foster(sitting) signs up Jeff Delk of Bell Buckle as the newest member of the Historical Society at the summer quarter Society meeting.



Society members Mike Northcutt (left) and Mark King (right) review details of speaker Myers Brown's Historical Society program presentation on overlooked Confederate Tennesseans.



From left - Summer meeting hosts and hostesses John and Carol Jones, John Cortner, Marc Majors, and Carolyn Jones pause for a moment before serving up the Historical Society's potluck supper.

Hawkins brings institutional knowledge, extensive experience as Webb Alumni and Development Director



BELL BUCKLE, TENN. - The Webb School has announced the appointment of Jonathon Hawkins as Director of Alumni and Development. The announcement was made in a message from Head of School Ken Cheeseman to the Webb Community. His appointment is effective July 1.

"Jonathon's experience in alumni and development, both at Webb and at the collegiate level, will benefit our Webb community as we look to continue to grow our annual fund and consider an ambitious capital campaign in the near future," said Cheeseman. "Beyond his experience, Jonathon's warmth, kindness, and ability to communicate effectively will also enhance the culture of philanthropy at Webb."

Since 2017, Hawkins, a Murfreesboro resident, has served as Webb's Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving and most recently as Associate Director for Alumni and Development. Prior to his service at Webb, he was Executive Director of Alumni and Development for Cumberland University from 2006-2017. He is a two-time graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, where he was awarded a Bachelor of Science with a major in mass communication and a Master of Education in administration and supervision with a concentration in higher education.

"It is an honor to be named as The Webb School's Director of Alumni and Development, and I am thankful to Ken Cheeseman and the Board for their confidence and trust in me. I am eager to lead the Alumni and Development Office and its hardworking team to even greater success in support of the school's mission," Hawkins said. "As a current team member, loyal donor, and father of a Webb graduate, I am excited now more than ever about Webb's position within the educational landscape and how fundraising and alumni engagement can make a transformational impact on the school's future.

"As so many have said before, there is a lot to love about Webb including its beautiful campus and pastoral location, unique history as one of the south's leading boarding schools, commitment to honor and personal integrity, and, most importantly, strong focus on outstanding academics. Through our continued investment in academics while also strategically improving athletics and arts programs as well as the physical plant, Webb is well-positioned to become the boarding/day school of choice within the region."

While at Webb, Hawkins has been the lead for the annual giving campaign exceeding the Webb Fund goal in each of the last seven years, increasing Webb Fund totals by 32% in the last four years, and accomplishing record Webb Fund numbers in Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024. He works collaboratively with the Alumni and Development team, key leadership, and volunteers to achieve fundraising goals established by the Board of Trustees and Head of School. In addition, he serves as primary liaison for the Alumni Board and its subcommittees, Class Agent program, and is responsible for annual reunion events and activities. Hawkins was involved in the $4 million Webb 150 endowment campaign and served as chair of the highly successful 150th anniversary celebration.

TDOE Releases 2023-24 State-, District-, & School-Level TCAP Results

Student Performance Maintains or Shows Growth Across Tested Grades & Subjects

Nashville, TN— The Tennessee Department of Education released this week the 2023-24 Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) state-, district-, and school-level results, which include both fall 2023 end-of-course (EOC) exams and spring 2024 exams in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies, with the exception of math EOC data, which will be available later in the fall pending the standards setting process.

Full 2024 TCAP assessment data is available on the department's Data Downloads webpage as well as a state-level overview. The data files can be found in the State Assessments section under the Assessment Files tab.

Together, district and school leaders, educators, families, and elected officials have made tremendous efforts to support students in recovering from pandemic-related learning loss and accelerating learning. The 2023-24 TCAP results demonstrate student performance remains steady or shows growth and improvement across tested grades and subjects.

"Tennessee's strategic education investments have resulted in steady growth for students across the state," said Gov. Bill Lee. "As we continue our work to ensure that all Tennessee students are learning on grade level, we remain committed to supporting teachers and empowering families with multiple pathways to achievement so every student can thrive in their academic journey."

2023-24 Spring TCAP State-Level Overview:

English Language Arts (ELA): Overall, 39% of all students are meeting grade level expectations, with proficiency gains in most tested grades, and elementary and high schools continuing to out-perform pre-pandemic levels.

Math: In grades 3-8, 40% of students are meeting grade level expectations in math, with a nearly three percentage point gain for 5th and 7th graders.

Science: Overall, proficiency rates held steady for science, with an increase of one percentage point in overall student proficiency.

Social Studies: Results show a one percentage point gain for all students tested in social studies, showing continued improvements over the last three years.

"Our annual TCAP assessment provides valuable data to inform strategic decision-making to best support Tennessee students," said Lizzette Reynolds, Commissioner of Education. "Through the dedication of our teachers, schools, and districts, we are pleased that student performance continues to build on a strong foundation, improving outcomes for future success."

In July, individual student data will be available in the TCAP Family Portal. Families can use the portal to obtain additional information to better understand their students' individual score reports and next steps for supporting their students' academic progress.

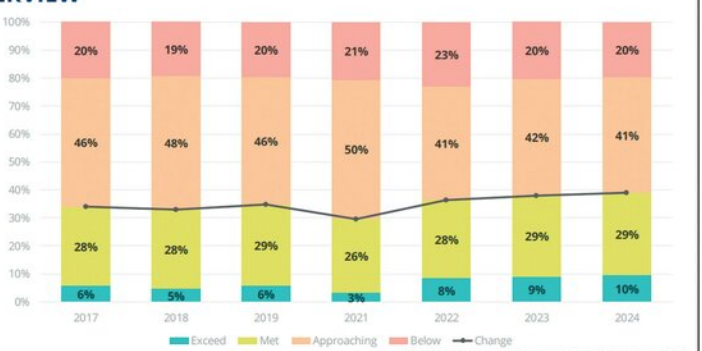
The State Report Card will be updated with this data later in July.

ELA: All Grades

ALL STUDENTS OVERVIEW

KEY TAKE-AWAYS

- **39% of Tennessee students are meeting grade level expectations** in English language arts (ELA), consistently exceeding pre-pandemic levels
- Proficiency **gains are observed in most tested grades**



SOURCE: Tennessee Department of Education, 2024

CONGRATS DEPUTY BASSO! WELCOME HOME

Bedford County Sheriff's Office recently joined in congratulating Deputy Nick Basso and all of class #2023 on their graduation from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy. The sheriff's office said they're happy to have Deputy Basso back with them after 12 weeks of training, and are excited to have him in the patrol division where he will be assigned to B Night Shift.

"We would like to thank him for his hard work and dedication in achieving this goal. We would also like to thank his family for their sacrifice while he was away, and a special thanks to Gov. Bill Lee for his participation in the ceremony and continued support of law enforcement in the State of Tennessee. Stay safe, and make us proud Deputy Basso!"





BCSO photos



SPD Photo

WELL DESERVED ACHIEVEMENT
Shelbyville Police Department recently announced that Russ Grubbs has been promoted to sergeant after 12 years of service. With his expertise and dedication, Sgt. Grubbs will now join the A night shift team.

Bedford County Corrections Jail Intake

Editor's note: A lot of today's public record involves people living outside Bedford County but still committing crimes within this county and city.

Jason Kyle Gadbois, to serve time, General Sessions Court

Leonel Salvador Garcia-Perez, financial responsibility, following to close, no driver's license exhibited on demand

Giovanni Benicio Gomez, violation of probation

William Gregory, capias, failure to appear

Scott Paul Hargrove, assault

Shane Marshall Heausler, vandalism, violation of probation

Ronald Joseph Herbert III, failure to appear, violation of probation

Robyn Eliete Henderson, violation of probation

Luis Hernandez, public intoxication

Joel NMN Hernandez-Diego, to serve time, General Sessions Court

Caleb Wayne Hester, to serve time, General Sessions Court

James Omar Hicks, no driver's license exhibited on demand

Toby Loyd Hill, possession drug paraphernalia, possession schedule I drug, schedule VI, unlawful possession of weapon

George Michael Holder, to serve time, General Sessions Court

William Tracy Johnson, driving on suspended, speeding

William Tyler Joseph, violation of probation

Cordell LeQuan Kelso, driving on suspended license

Maneshia Rheann Kidd, order revoking bond

Dane Thomas Klingbeil, possession of schedule VI, speeding

Christopher Antoni Kwapinski, assault on first responder, DUI, public intoxication, resisting stop frisk halt search

ELECTERA

From page 1

joint sessions between City Council and County Commission to discuss mutual goals.

Out of those discussions was we formed the Shelbyville-Bedford County Joint Economic Development Advisory Committee to explore options. I served on that committee along with County Council member Henry Feldhaus and Bedford County Commissioners Sylvia Pinson, Don Gallagher, and Jeff Sweeney. The governments committed $300,000 each over 3 years to create a new and better economic development program and to create a new joint economic development director position to supplement the work of the Chamber.

That Joint Advisory Committee worked diligently throughout the end of 2019 and 2020 to find solutions for industrial recruitment, consulting with various professionals in the field and requesting changes to Chamber of Commerce procedures. Unable to come to an agreement with the Chamber's Economic Development and Tourism Committee, the City and County agreed to go forward and hire their own business development professional who would become the primary industrial recruiter for the community and sit on the Park's Oversight Committee instead of the Chamber CEO.

Furthermore, the City took the step of requesting that the State amend the City's Charter to remove the requirement that the hotel-motel tax be given directly to the Chamber for its economic development and tourism work. Since May 2020, the tax goes into a special City fund controlled by the City Council for business development and tourism purposes.

In January 2021, a person was hired as the new economic development director and the first order of business was for him to advise us on how to set up a new recruiting, business development and tourism program overall. The immediate focus was on business recruitment and selling the Park. He replaced the Chamber CEO on the Park's Oversight Committee as one of its 5 voting members.

We were advised by the new director that our Park land restrictions were unnecessary and impeded the Park's marketability in his professional opinion, and on his advice the Park's Oversight Committee made immediate changes in order to position the Park for better success. Furthermore, we followed his advice and created the Shelbyville-Bedford Partnership, a 501© (6) corporation, with the goal that it would eventually house all economic development activities. The new economic development director was made the CEO/President of the Partnership in order to carry out his job. One of our other stated goals was that the Partnership would become self-sufficient in a few years, needing no more public monies from either City or County government.

As for the 231 N. Business Park, several projects have come to the Park since these changes were made to the economic development program here in Shelbyville. It is clear that our actions and decisions since 2019 have had a positive impact. We have achieved significant corporate and state investment in our community. Additional land was acquired for more projects and the Park has been completely filled.

Christie said the City has even lowered some of its regulations to accommodate such industrial recruitment. "In hindsight we probably shouldn't have done that."

Christie said he cannot look back and agree with every choice made since 2019, for either the Park or our overall economic development program. "But I know I made what choices I did based on the best information made available to me at the time and I relied on others in leadership positions to do that same."

He added, "Regarding industrial and business recruitment, often a significant factor in success is keeping the business' name confidential through most of the process. What exact information the members of the Park's Oversight Committee knew and when they knew it about Duksan, then only identified as Project Cardinal, I do not know. But I know I was misled as to the exact nature of the manufacturing that was to be conducted by it and certainly was not informed of the hazard level and necessary safety measures required. If I had known, I would not have voted in 2022 to approve the tax incentive structure given to the Industrial Development Board for Duksan and other potential business recruits and would have actively encouraged the Park's Oversight Committee to find a different business to recruit for that site in the Park."

LOCAL SUMMER TRACTOR PULL









Community CALENDAR

Coming up:

VFW Meeting

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 5019, and it's Auxiliary will hold their monthly meeting next Monday, July 1, at the VFW Post on Depot Street. Dinner is at 6 p.m. with a business meeting for members immediately following.

First Square Event

The 17th annual First Square event will be held Saturday, July 13, on the historic public square. The chili eating contest is at noon. On Friday night the 12th at 7 p.m. is a chili tasting and a car show.

FUMC-S Worship

Join us at Shelbyville First United Methodist Church for a spiritually enriching worship service. Pastor Abe Zimmerman is preaching "Set Apart: Part 2" from 1 Peter 2:1-10. This series looks at Peter's words on holiness and helps us understand what it means to be set apart as people of God. Sunday School for all ages begins 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.



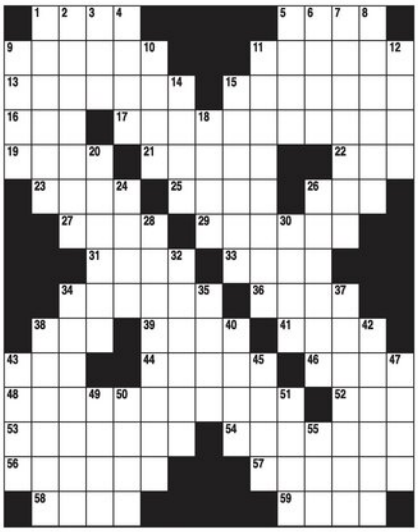
Photo by John Carney

Community celebrates Hal Skelton

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS
1. Six (Spanish)
5. Invests in little enterprises
9. Large dung beetle
11. Gored
13. Partially paralyzed
15. Still a little wet
16. Legal field media company
17. Not working
19. 500 sheets of paper
21. Church structure
22. Sheep disease
23. Small drink of whiskey
25. Weaving tradition
26. Pestilence
27. Body part
29. Nabs
31. Places to stay
33. Witnesses
34. Looked for
36. Arranges
38. Political action committee
39. Middle eastern nation (alt. sp.)
41. Hair-like structure
43. Parts producer
44. Greek city
46. Subway dwellers
48. Norm from "Cheers"
52. Clean a floor
53. Vied for
54. Canned fish
56. Inspire with love
57. Sent down moisture
58. Wrest
59. Partner to carrots

CLUES DOWN
1. Mounted
2. Assign
3. Wrath
4. Self-immolation by fire ritual
5. Parts of an organism
6. Person from England
7. Tropical plants of the pea family
8. Body part
9. Practice boxing
10. Containers
11. Contrary beliefs
12. Bleached
14. Pre-Islamic Egyptian
15. A group of similar things ordered one after another
18. Innermost spinal cord membranes
20. Cassava
24. A restaurant's list of offerings
26. Annoy constantly
28. Orchestrate
30. Z Z Z
32. Astute
34. Highly decorated tea urn
35. Teach to behave
37. Endurance
38. Urinating
40. Barbie friend dolls
42. Repents
43. Man-eating giant
45. Jewish calendar month
47. Accelerated
49. Husband of Sita in Hindu
50. Lump of semiliquid substance
51. Lying in wait
55. Cease to exist



Horoscopes

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
After some time, a difficult situation is beginning to settle down, Aries. Enjoy this well-earned peace and consider how a new perspective can help going forward.
TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, a new plan can be just what you need to make notable progress. Finding a mentor or someone who has forged a path already can be a useful step.
GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, you have a lot going on in your life right now to keep you busy. With so much going on, try not to worry about what is going on with others. Stay in your lane.
CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
It is a fine week to really think about your future, Cancer. If you have goals to start a business, start hashing out plans and give thought to seeking a partner.
LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, this week you start out with a lot of energy, but likely will burn through it early on. If you want to reach your goal, you are going to have to learn how to pace yourself.
VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
A lot of emotions are running through your mind, Virgo. They may be very confusing. It is alright to feel out of sorts. Perhaps talking to someone can offer you perspective.
LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, you may be feeling introspective and philosophical, so much so that people may catch you staring into space and lost in thought. Now is not the time to make heavy decisions.
SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, this might not be the week for parties or large social events. You are experiencing some introverted feelings right now and are best in situations that have only a few people.
SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Life isn't always fair, Sagittarius. Recognize that sometimes things won't go your way. Your resolve could be tested this week so be aware.
CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, it may be tempting to let someone else take over when the going gets tough. That likely will not be best for you, so continue to make decisions and let things play out.
AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, you are due for a big break after going through a lot of emotional ups and downs. Your positive attitude has paved the way for some brighter skies ahead.
PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
No one else is going to do a tough job for you, Pisces. You have to dig in your heels and make a plan. You are ready for this kind of assignment and the pressure that comes with it.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
JUNE 30
Mike Tyson, Boxer (58)
JULY 1
Chloe Bailey, Singer (26)
JULY 2
Margot Robbie, Actress (34)
JULY 3
Tom Cruise, Actor (62)
JULY 4
Post Malone, Rapper (29)
JULY 5
Megan Rapinoe, Athlete (39)
JULY 6
Sylvester Stallone, Actor (78)

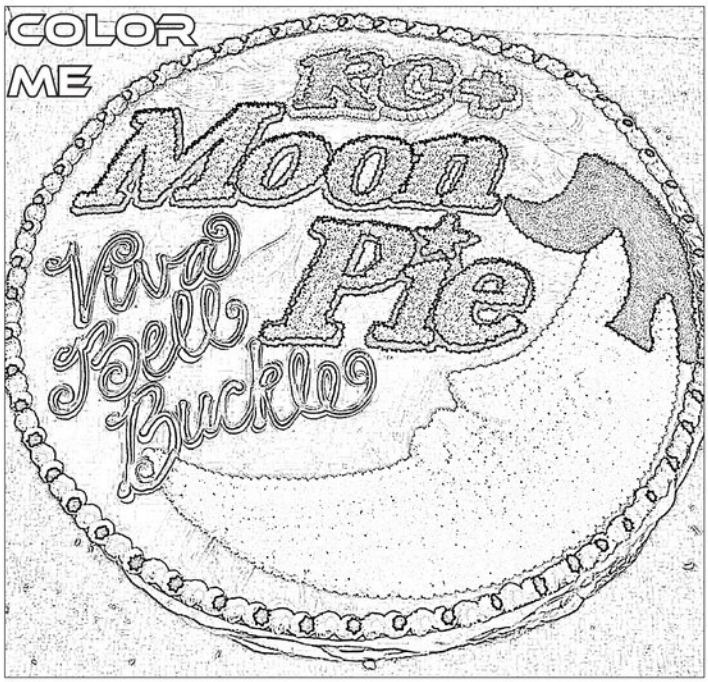
DIVE RIGHT IN WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

ABOVE GROUND
ALGAE
BACKFLOW
BACKYARD
BROMIDE
CALCIUM
CHLORINE
CLEANER
COVER
DEPTH
DRAIN
FLOCCULANT
FLOW
HEATER
IN-GROUND
LINER
POOL
PUMP
SCALE
SHOCK
SKIMMER
STABILIZER
VALVES



SUDOKU

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

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

Level: Beginner

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S FORECLOSURE SALE

Sale at public auction will be on July 23, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. local time at the usual and customary location at the Main Entrance, Bedford County Courthouse, 1 Public Square, Shelbyville, TN 37160, pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by Rebekah Kay Proctor and Corey W. Proctor for the benefit of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First Farmers and Merchants Bank, dated June 8, 2022, of record in Book TD1056 Page 165 in the Register of Deeds Office for Bedford County, Tennessee, ("Deed of Trust"), conducted by James E. Albertelli, P.A. d/b/a ALAW, a Florida corporation duly authorized to conduct business in Tennessee, having been appointed Trustee, all of record in the Register of Deeds Office for Bedford County, Tennessee. Default in the performance of the covenants, terms, and conditions of said Deed of Trust has been made, and the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable.

Party entitled to enforce the debt: U.S. Bank National Association

Other Interested Parties: U.S. Bank National Association

The hereinafter described property located in Bedford County will be sold to the highest call bidder subject to all unpaid taxes, prior liens and encumbrances of record:

LAND IN BEDFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE, LYING AND BEING IN THE 18TH CIVIL DISTRICT, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT:

BEGINNING AT A FENCE CORNER POST ON THE WEST MARGIN OF WHITAKER ROAD SAID POST BEING 25.00 FEET FROM THE CENTER LINE OF WHITAKER ROAD AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE JAMES H. TAYLOR PROPERTY AND THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE HEREIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY; THENCE WITH SAID WEST MARGIN THE FOLLOWING CALL: SOUTH 03 DEGREES 07 MINUTES EAST 735.90 FEET; SOUTH 00 DEGREES 16 MINUTES EAST 100.00 FEET; SOUTH 06 DEGREES 26 MINUTES WEST 100.00 FEET; SOUTH 13 DEGREES 08 MINUTES WEST 100.00 FEET; SOUTH 14 DEGREES 57 MINUTES WEST 60.70 FEET; SOUTH 19 DEGREES 09 MINUTES WEST 191.88 FEET TO A METAL PIN, THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE HEREIN DESCRIBED TRACT; THENCE LEAVING SAID WEST MARGIN NORTH 79 DEGREES 11 MINUTES WEST 599.05 FEET TO A METAL PIN THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE HEREIN DESCRIBED TRACT; THENCE NORTH 03 DEGREES 11 MINUTES 56 SECONDS EAST 170.72 FEET TO A FENCE CORNER POST; THENCE NORTH 01 DEGREES 16 MINUTES EAST 346.9 FEET TO AN ELM IN FENCE; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 48 MINUTES EAST 643.4 FEET TO A FENCE CORNER POST, THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE HEREIN DESCRIBED TRACT; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 52 MINUTES EAST 634.3 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 18.47 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, ACCORDING TO A SURVEY BY REX NORTHCUTT, REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR, R.L. S. NO. 77.

BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO REBEKAH KAY PROCTOR AND COREY W. PROCTOR, WIFE AND HUSBAND, BY WARRANTY DEED FROM DANNY D. DUNIVAN AND WIFE, MELISSA E. DUNIVAN, DATED JANUARY 7, 2020, RECORDED JANUARY 10, 2020 OF RECORD IN BOOK D355, PAGE 296, REGISTER'S OFFICE FOR BEDFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Street Address: The street address of the property is believed to be 344 Whitaker Rd., Shelbyville, TN 37160, but such address is not part of the legal description of the property and, in the event of any discrepancy, the legal description herein shall control.

Map/Parcel Number: 085 058.04 000

Current owner(s) of the property: Rebekah Kay Proctor and Corey W. Proctor

This sale is subject to all matters shown on any applicable recorded Plat or Plan; and unpaid taxes and assessments; any restrictive covenants, easements or setback lines that may be applicable; rights of redemption, equity, statutory or otherwise, not otherwise waived in the Deed of trust, including right of redemption of any governmental agency, state or federal, and any and all post deeds of trust, liens, dues, assessments, encumbrances, defects, adverse claims and other matters that may take priority over the deed of Trust upon which this foreclosure sale is conducted or are not extinguished by this foreclosure sale.

THE PROPERTY IS SOLD WITHOUT ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, RELATING TO TITLE, MARKETABILITY OF TITLE, POSSESSION, QUIET ENJOYMENT OR THE LIKE AND FITNESS FOR A GENERAL OR PARTICULAR USE OR PURPOSE. The title is believed to be good, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Trustee.

The right is reserved to adjourn the sale to another time certain or to another date, time, and place certain without further publication upon announcement on the day, time, and place of sale set forth above or any subsequent adjourned day, time, and place of sale.

If you purchase the property at the foreclosure sale, the entire purchase price is due and payable at the conclusion of the auction in the form of a certified check made payable to or endorsed to Albertelli Law Trust Account. No personal checks will be accepted. To this end, you must bring sufficient funds to outbid the Lender and any other bidders. Insufficient funds will not be accepted. Amounts received, in excess of the winning bid, will be refunded to the successful purchaser at the time the foreclosure deed is delivered.

This property is being sold with the express reservation that the sale is subject to confirmation by the Lender or Trustee. This sale may be rescinded by the Trustee at any time.

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

James E. Albertelli, P.A. d/b/a ALAW, Trustee
401 Commerce Street, Suite 150
Nashville, TN 37219
PH: (615) 265-0835
FX: (615) 265-0836
File No.: 24-007193

(6273tc)

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF MARSHALL COUNTY, TENNESSEE AT LEWISBURG

KRYSTAL SHENEQUIE HUFFMAN,) Plaintiff,)
vs.) Case No. 2023-PAT-13
CHRISTOPHER BRANDON MABRY,) Defendant.)

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Upon motion of Petitioner and Sworn affidavit of Cousnsel for Petitioner, who have filed Petition to Establish Paternity and Set Visitation and Support, and for good cause shown, it is hereby

ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that:

1. Petitioner has conducted a diligent inquiry for Respondent as presented to this court with particularity in Petitioner's sworn petition or affidavit.

2. The best possible notice under the circumstances and notice reasonably calculated to give Respondent actual notice is by publication in The Shelbyville Times Gazette, a newspaper located in Bedford County, Tennessee.

NOTICE TO FATHER

In this cause, it appearing from the Order of Publication, that Petitioner, by and through counsel, has been unable to successfully serve Respondent, CHRISTOPHER BRANDON MABRY, though reasonable and diligent efforts have been made, it was Ordered that publication be made for four successive weeks, in The Shelbyville Times Gazette, to notify Respondent, CHRISTOPHER BRANDON MABRY, to file an answer with this court and send a copy to Petitioner's attorney, Debbie Z. Boudreaux, who's addres is 205 West Commerce Street, Lewisburg, TN 37091, within 30 days from the last date of publication, exclusive of the last date of publication, or a judgment by default may be entered against Respondent.

This 12th day of February, 2024.
/s/ Honorable Lee Bussart
/s/ Debbie Z. Boudreaux, #030416
McKenzie Law Firm, Attorney for Petitioner

NOTICE

Symone Love Garcia (Porczick):

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 Madilyn Faith Kelly, DOB: 01/15/2012. It appears that ordinary process of law cannot be served upon because your whereabouts are unknown. You are hereby ORDERED to appear in Bedford County Juvenile Court on the 19 th day of August 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 filed 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 13th day of June, 2024.
Honorable Charles Rich
Bedford County Juvenile Court

Misc For Sale

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-888-869-5542 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move. (TnScan)

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Wanted

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

Yard Sales

FAMILY YARD SALE
Saturday, June 29
8AM-
201 April Lane
Little boy clothing
& lots of children's items, adult clothing.

Bedford County property transfers

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

File date: June 18

Seller, Global Homes Inc; Buyer, SDH Nashville LLC; Price, $247,500 (Deed).

Location: 300 Wall St Shelbyville; Seller, Kimberly Jean Buchanan, Jerri Lynn Buchanan; Buyer, Hannah Ashley Eddins, William Henry Eddins; Price, $278,000 (Deed).

Location: 1810 Madison St; Seller, Anthony W Harris, Matilda G Harris; Buyer, Olivia Harris, Michael Hickson; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Cortner Rd; Seller, Dixie J Hitt; Buyer, Kenneth J Chapline, Barbara A Trahanbe; Price, $75,000 (Deed).

Seller, Teresa Kayrene Curry, Betty S Brown, Marvin A Brown; Buyer, Marvin Jeffery Brown; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, J and M Development LLC; Buyer, John Paul Stevens; Price, $349,900 (Deed).

File date: June 20

Location: 131 Womack Ridge Rd; Seller, Robert Green, Karena Plauman; Buyer, Steven C Clanton, Robert E Clanton Jr; Price, $399,999 (Deed).

Location: 122 Anna Way Shelbyville; Seller, Sheridan Lugo; Buyer, D Shawn Stewart; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 112 Teepee Ln Shelbyville; Seller, Steve Clanton, Debra A Clanton, Debra A Aldrian; Buyer, Paul D Garghan, Brittany J Garghan; Price, $714,500 (Deed).

Seller, William David Harris; Buyer, William David Harris Family Revocable Trust, Terry W Harris; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Union Ridge Rd; Seller, Conner Graham Naffziger; Buyer, Gabriel Michael Rogerson; Price, $202,000 (Deed).

Seller, Daniel Kent Jacobs; Buyer, Rebecca Denise Fancher; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 3161 Hwy 231 N Shelbyville; Seller, Kathy W Grupke, Matthew R Grupke; Buyer, Matthew and Kathy Grupke Living Trust, Matthew R Grupke Living Trust, Kathy Grupke Living Trust; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 101 S Wood Ln Shelbyville; Seller, Chester Allen Swanger; Buyer, Chester Allen Swanger, Janelle Swanger, Michael Jackson; Price, $0 (QD).

File date: June 21

Location: 3830 Hwy 41A Unionville; Seller, David Scott Donald; Buyer, Tyler D Andrew, Sarah Adams; Price, $345,000 (Deed).

Location: 1063 Unionville Deason Rd; Seller, Brantley Stephen Jones; Buyer, Steven R Stier Trust, Mary Anne Stier Trust, Stier Trust; Price, $435,000 (Deed).

Location: Wilson St; Seller, Alexis Nicole Martinez; Buyer, Natasha Alexandra Rank; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 618 North Jefferson St; Seller, Luke Faulk, Kimberly Faulk, Devin L Faulk; Buyer, James Joshua Bayne II, Brianna Leigh Bayne; Price, $307,000 (Deed).

Location: 211 Stardust Dr Shelbyville; Seller, Sheri L Emerson; Buyer, John R Riedling II; Price, $360,000 (Deed).

Location: 209 Stardust Dr Shelbyville; Seller, Austin R Emerson, Elizabeth M Pendergrass; Buyer, Sheri L Emerson; Price, $340,000 (Deed).

Location: 701 Calhoun St Shelbyville; Seller, Debra Joyce Yancy Carney, Michael K Yancy, Peggy Ann Yancy; Buyer, Debra Joyce Yancy Carney, Michael Keith Yancy; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 703 Whitthorne St; Seller, Debra Joyce Yancy Carney, Michael K Yancy, Peggy Ann Yancy; Buyer, Debra Joyce Yancy Carney; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Carney St; Seller, William Michael Smith, Cheree Smith; Buyer, Michael H Owen; Price, $125,000 (Deed).

Location: McKinley St; Seller, Wilma Colleen Bedwell Estate, Fredna Lynn Cook, Fredna Lynn Bedwell Cook; Buyer, Charles Tubberville, Twila Tubberville; Price, $180,000 (Deed).

File date: June 24

Seller, Ray H Brown, Stacy L Brown; Buyer, Hunter Trott, Sierra Trott; Price, $304,000 (Deed).

Location: Fishing Ford Pike; Seller, Ross Rinkes; Buyer, Rinkes Family Revocable Living Trust; Price, $0 (QD).

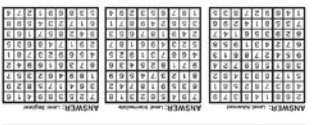
Location: 2711 Hwy 64 West Shelbyville; Seller, Dorothy Marie McMillian, Dorothy Marie McMillan; Buyer, Southern Hospitality Homes LLC; Price, $95,000 (Deed).

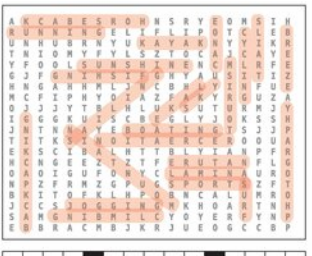
Location: 115 Horseshoe Dr; Seller, Destiny McClung, Anthony McClung; Buyer, Becki Lin Hamilton; Price, $258,000 (Deed).

Location: 111 College St Normandy; Seller, David Paul Lockwood; Buyer, Charles N Palafox; Price, $160,000 (Deed).

Location: Hwy 82 E Bell Buckle; Seller, William C Marquette Jr, Shelby M Marquette; Buyer, William C Marquette Jr, Shelby M Marquette; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Puncheon Camp Rd; Seller, Robert Clark Crosslin, Robert C Crosslin; Buyer, Robert Clark Crosslin Family Irrevocable Trust; Price, $0 (QD).





PUBLIC NOTICE

The Shelbyville City Council will meet in regular study session on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers at the Building, Codes and Planning Building, 100 N. Cannon Blvd., Shelbyville, TN.

The Shelbyville City Council will meet in a regular Business Meeting on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers at the Building, Codes and Planning Building, 100 N. Cannon Blvd., Shelbyville, TN.

Full Agendas will be posted on the City of Shelbyville Website 48 hours prior to the meetings.

Please call City Hall with any questions or concerns.



Obituaries/News

Flossie B Waterson

Flossie B Waterson, age 77, of Shelbyville, passed from this life Saturday, June 22, 2024, at her home surrounded by her family. Per her wishes, she will be cremated and a graveside service will be held 10 AM Saturday, June 29, 2024, at Willow Mount Cemetery. Sister Faye Tucker will officiate.

Flossie was born on January 24, 1947, in Rogersville. She owned and operated Creative Touch Florist for many years in Shelbyville. Flossie was preceded in death by her mother, Ruby Stapleton Jones, and sister, Jolynn Anderson.

Survivors include her husband of 33 years, Boyd Waterson; children; Darlene (Dennis) Perryman, Barbara (Jay) Pope, both of



Shelbyville; stepchildren, Dawn (Robert) Hankins, Lyle (Nicki) Waterson and Angela (Donald) Neill; 11 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; siblings, Charlotte (Elmo) Dodson of Rogersville, Wayne (Sheila) Wallace, of Surgoinsville, TN, and Jim (Debbie) Stapleton, of Bulls Gap, TN.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

Margaret Ann McGee

Margaret Ann (Faulk) McGee passed away peacefully at her home on June 21, 2024, after a long fight with a number of health issues. She is enjoying her well-earned rest after going through a painful ordeal.

A native of Fosterville, Margaret was born March 25, 1936, to Mary Ruth (Crosslin) Faulk and Clyde Faulk. Her husband of almost 70 years, Mitchell Linden McGee, died November 9, 2022. They were married Dec. 8, 1952. Margaret was a life-long member of the Church of Christ.

She is survived by Stephen Mark McGee, her only child, her granddaughter Sarah Margaret (McGee) Stone and her husband Roy H. Stone III, along with several cousins.

Visitation with the family was Wednesday from 4-7 p.m. The funeral service was at 10 a.m.Thursday, all at Doak-Howell Funeral Home with Lance Bennett and Ed Boggess officiating. Pall bearers were Dr. Howard Rupard, Jimmy Hillis, Roy H. Stone III, Adam Morgan, David McCallie, Hunter Helton, George Hetzel and Michael Morgan.

The family would like to thank all of the nurses from Compassus Hospice who were always ready and willing to work with mother in her final months and weeks; her caregivers – Betty Kilcrease, Rebecca Gene Cook, Tera Warren and Trina Hix were a true blessing to us all for their love and skilled care; Jeff Collett, a pastor for Compassus, and Brenda Hodge were regular visitors Margaret always enjoyed talking with. Dana Bobo, program director of Bedford County's Caregiver Relief, was a wonderful and helpful counselor. In addition, we would like to thank Lisa Hillis and her daughter Lisa Marie Reccord, who watched over mother in the early stages of her health issues.

Until her senior year Margaret attended school in Christiana where she was a cheerleader. Before her senior year of high school, she married Mitchell. It was expected he would return to his ship, the U.S.S. Iowa, for another tour of duty. But he was assigned stateside at a naval station near Jacksonville, Florida. Margaret would move to Florida. She managed to be salutatorian of her class her senior year at Clay County High School in Green Cove Springs, Florida despite having to



adjust to a new state and city, a new school and a first year of marriage. When she and Mitchell moved back to Middle Tennessee she worked for attorney James Bomar, who would be lieutenant governor of Tennessee and later Rotary International President.

After taking time off to spend time with her son prior to his attending school, she would go to work for Home Beneficial Life Insurance Company in the office which would eventually be purchased by American General Life Insurance Company. During the transition she spent time on the road in Sparta, Clarksville and Murfreesboro assisting in the changeovers of those offices.

Sarah Margaret, her only granddaughter, became the center of her life. She also worked for several day cares and enjoyed being with the children until her health made it difficult for her to continue. Margaret loved traveling, music, reading and supporting her son and granddaughter in all of their projects and life experiences. She also relished spending time in Atlanta watching the Braves play. She saw many of the old-time rock-and-roll stars live including Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, Fats Domino, Jerry Lee Lewis and Little Richard and attended several concerts by The Beach Boys. Margaret was especially fond of a band called The Road Crew, known as "America's Route 66 Band". Seldom did she miss one of their shows. The band members always introduced her to the crowd as "their oldest groupie". It is fitting, in a way, watching them perform a show in Franklin would prove to be one of her last outings.

Donations can be made to Lipscomb University's School of Communication, the Shelbyville-Bedford County Library, Bedford County Caregiver's Relief and Fairlane Church of Christ.

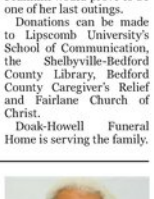
Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

Dennie Warren Maxwell Jr.

Dennie Warren Maxwell, Jr., age 89, of Shelbyville, passed away June 16, 2024, under the loving care and comfort of his family, caregivers, and the dedicated and caring staff of Life Care Center of Tullahoma.

Funeral services were 12 PM Saturday, June 22, 2024, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. The family received visitors 11 AM until service time Saturday at the funeral home.

He was born April 2, 1935, in Wartrace, to the late Dennie Warren and Annie Mai Nelson Maxwell,



Sr. He was a trainer of Tennessee Walking Horses.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Brown was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Brown Maxwell, in 2015.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family.

Larry Kent McLaughlin

Larry Kent McLaughlin, 86, of Shelbyville, passed away June 21, 2024, peacefully at home surrounded by family after a short illness. He was born in Little Otter, WV on October 2, 1938. He was the son of the late Carl B. (Doc) and Gladys McLaughlin. He graduated from Gassaway High School in 1957.

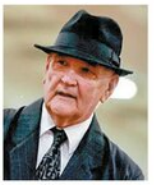
Larry retired in 2015, from Vecellio & Grogan, Inc. He spent his life in the construction industry building roads and bridges that span some of the highly traveled highway systems in the United States. Larry began his career in construction as an inspector in 1961 for the WV Dept. of Transportation, division of Highways. He quickly moved to a superintendent over highway and bridge projects for the WVDOT.

In 1969 Larry accepted a position at S.J. Groves and Sons where he would become the General Manager of Construction. While at S.J. Groves, some of Larry's notable accomplishments included projects on I-79 in Sutton, WV, US 460 in Bluefield, WV and he was responsible for a 10,000 LF taxiway for the Raleigh-Durham Airport in Raleigh, NC.

In 1987, Larry made a shift to the Danis Southeast Highways Division where he worked on several highway and site projects in Florida. Larry served as the Vice President and Area Manager.

Larry continued his career with V & G until his retirement. Even then, he continued in a consulting capacity for many years, taking the helicopter to various job locations from WV, VA, NC, and IL. Most people that worked with Larry kept his number on speed dial, because he was always willing to take and help others with their challenges.

Larry was always a well-respected member of



the construction industry. His leadership ability attracted talent because he was able to guide with liberty those being led.

When Larry retired, he and his wife, Margaret, moved permanently to Shelbyville, where he was very active in the TN Walking Horse Association and continued to show his horses until 2023.

Larry will be missed by his wife of 50 years, Margaret Corley McLaughlin. He is survived by his daughters, Elizabeth (Ronald) Eason of Titusville, FL and Marian (Scott) Kuhn of Palm Bay, FL, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Also surviving are his siblings Frank McLaughlin, Valgene McLaughlin, Charlene Perkey and Darlene Maxwell, and several nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his Aunt Jenny Hardway. In addition to his parents, he was pre-deceased by his son Michael Kent McLaughlin. Visitation will be held June 27, 2024, from 11:00-1:00pm at Richard Roach Funeral Home in Gassaway, WV, followed by his funeral at 1:00pm. He will be buried in Sugar Creek Cemetery, Gassaway, WV immediately after the service.

A memorial service will be held at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel in Shelbyville on July 1st with visitation at 5:00pm and service at 6:00pm.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to Mason Douglas, ARNP-C and Compassus Hospice Care.

Marion L. Beck Jackson

Marion L. Beck Jackson, born April 22, 1928, in Princeton, MN and passed from this life Wednesday, June 19, 2024, in Tullahoma, TN. She was the 4th youngest of 21 children born to the late Albert J. Beck and Isabella Engelmier Beck.

Marion met William H. Jackson in January 1946, and they married April 27, 1946. William Jackson was born April 2, 1925, and passed from this life on April 20, 2005, at the age of 80, they were married 59 years. Together they had three children, William Dennis Jackson, Deborah Jackson Kennedy, and Candace Nevelene Jackson.

Marion was a loving wife, mother, homemaker, and was very active in her church, Eastern Stars. She loved to sew, cook, and worked as an aid at Saint Mary's Hospital in Palm Beach, Florida.

Along with her three children she is survived by: one brother, Charles Beck; daughter-in-law, Gloria Jackson; son-in-law, Kevin Kennedy; and 10 grandchildren, and 27 great grandchildren.



Marion is now at home with God and her family that has gone on before her. We love you, Marion.

Funeral services were 11 AM Monday, June 24, 2024, in the chapel of Doak-Howell Funeral Home with Brother Bobby McBee officiating. Burial followed at Willow Mount Cemetery.

Visitation with the family was held prior to funeral service at 9 AM on Monday morning, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Family Food Ministry c/o Westside Nazarene Church, by mail: 123 Westside Dr. Tullahoma, TN 37388.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

Derrick Dichon Kearns

Derrick Dichon Kearns, age 38, of Murfreesboro, passed away June 18, 2024. Funeral services were 3 p.m. Sunday, June 23, 2024, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. Pastor Jason Scales officiated. Burial was in Carolina Biblical Gardens of Guilford, in Jamestown, North Carolina. The family received visitors 2 PM until service time Sunday at the funeral home.

He was born September 23, 1985, in Thomasville, North Carolina, to Colisa Cannon Kearns and James Edward Kearns, Jr. He was employed with General Mills in Murfreesboro, loved to fish, and was huge Dallas Cowboys fan. He liked to see people around



him be happy, and was known as a "goofball".

In addition to his parents, survivors include four children, Destiny Kearns, Aaliyah Kearns, Dichon Kearns, and Amari Kearns; sisters, Janice Kearns and Latasha Kearns.

Ruby G. Johnsey

Ruby G. Johnsey, age 79, of Unionville, died Friday, June 21, 2024. Born in Rutherford County, Mrs. Johnsey was a daughter of the late Arlo and Ruth Dennis. She was married for 54 years to Dorris Wayne Johnsey who died in 2019. Mrs. Ruby worked for many years as a supervisor in the pencil industry. She enjoyed going for rides and tending to her goats and cattle. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a son, Kenneth Wayne Johnsey; a sister, Ruth Messick and a brother, Jerry Dennis

Survived by a sister, Sybil Crowell; brothers and sisters-in-law, James and Martha Dennis and Rufus "Slick" and Mary Ann Dennis; several nieces and nephews.

A special Thanks to Jeff and June Crowell and Jacob, Carissa and Braylee



Adcock.

Visitation with the family was from 12 to -2pm, Tuesday , June 25, 2024, at Lawrence Funeral Home in Chapel Hill. The funeral service followed the visitation at the funeral home. Burial was at the Carlton Cemetery in the Clay Hill community of Marshall County. Pallbearers were Jacob Adcock, Jeff Crowell, Mike Adcock, Chris Jaco and Bradley Adcock.



Signs a loved one might need assisted living

Assisted living facilities provide an invaluable service. When a medical condition development associated with aging or another variable affects an individual's ability to live independently, assisted living facilities can ensure such men and women get the help they need to live as fully and actively as possible.

It's not always easy to identify when an individual may need to move into an assisted living facility. Some individuals choose to do so on their own, but families often make such decisions together. As families work to determine if a loved one should move into an assisted living facility, they can look for various signs that suggest the time is right to do so. According to the Elder Care Alliance, signs that an individual may benefit from assisted living include:

- Requiring routine reminders to take medication
- Noticeable changes in weight, including weight loss or gain
- Loss of mobility or increase in falls
- Signs that household maintenance is being neglected
- Difficulty with daily tasks like grooming and meal preparation
- Increased isolation
- Loss of interest in hobbies

It's important for families to recognize that some of the signs noted above might suggest the presence of a condition or disease that would not, if treated successfully, compromise an individual's ability to live independently. For example, the Silver Sneakers program offered through Vivity Health notes that weight gain among seniors may be attributable to slower metabolism, a less active lifestyle or menopause for women. Each of those conditions can be addressed without requiring a relocation to an assisted living facility. Family members are urged to discuss anything that seems to be affecting a loved one's ability to live independently with that person's health care team before they consider if a person needs to move into an assisted living facility. It's equally important to ask a loved one's health care team which type of facility they think might be most beneficial if, in fact, they think it's in an individual's best interest to relocate. No two facilities are the same, and the Elder Care Alliance notes many specialize in specific types of care, such as tending to individuals with cognitive issues like dementia or physical issues like limited mobility.

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- *Guest Column/Op/Ed*

Shelbyville Times-Gazette

"It's Not Just Murfreesboro's Team, It's Middle's Team" – New MTSU Football Coach Derek Mason Talks Goals For The Blue Raiders

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

When Derek Mason was introduced as the new MTSU Head Football Coach back in early December, he talked about the "good bones" that the Blue Raiders' football program already has in place.

Now, Mason is looking forward to building upon the sturdy foundation that former head coach, Rick Stockstill, left behind after his 18-year tenure that saw MTSU win a share of a Sun Belt title and reach a bowl game 10 times, with four bowl wins. Coupled with on-field success, the 19th head football coach in MTSU history understands that not only is on-field success important, but so is relating to the area and community around the university as a whole.

"It's not just Murfreesboro's team, it's Middle's team, and when I say middle I'm talking about Middle Tennessee," Mason said. "I'm talking about going up from Springfield all the way down to Bell Buckle. At the end of the day, people in Middle Tennessee are very prideful with how they see things, and the more time I spend down here, this place resonates with me because I get it. It's hard working folks who love what they do, love sports, and they just want to see hometown heroes and some of their own have an opportunity to go do some successful things, and that's pretty cool."

Of course, this process is not one that happens overnight, but one that takes time and cultivation not only in the community with the average fan, but in relationships with high school coaches and MTSU alumni.

Mason played at and graduated from a smaller school in Northern Arizona as a cornerback. Walking into his office, an NAU helmet is actually one of the first things you notice, sitting on a floor-to-ceiling bookshelf surrounded by not just books but also a couple other helmets. One of them, a throwback Minnesota Vikings helmet representing his time as their assistant DB coach, catches your eye immediately, and the realization that he has coached at almost all levels of football begins to sink in. Because of his roots and almost 30 years of coaching experience, he recognizes the hard work and extra effort necessary to build a successful program at a Group-of-Five-type level.

However, he doesn't exactly have to start from scratch. From the moment we started speaking, it was very apparent that he has immense respect for not just Coach Stockstill as a person, but as a football coach. He even called the MTSU football program "the house that Stock built" in that aforementioned introductory press conference, but with a change in regime usually comes with a style shift.

"Coach Stock did a great job with the air raid, but we just want to be who we are, and that's a physical football team that is capable of winning in a bunch of different ways," Mason humbly expressed. "We can win on defense, and I think we can win up front offensively. I think we can win throwing and running, so it'll be fun to see what this team does."

"I want this team to really reflect what this community is so this community gets behind it."

It's usually easy to fill seats with a winning product, but if that product mirrors the people and fans in and around the area, the decision to keep coming back both in the hard times and the great times gets a little easier each time. That's why so many small high school teams tend to have such ferocious fan support from their local communities even when success in terms of the wins and losses might waver.

That not only applies to small-town high schools, but college towns as well all across the country. At the Blue Raider Blitz event in Shelbyville a few weeks ago, Mason likened the potential crowd environment and fan support to frenzied places like Appalachian State and Boise State, two small-town universities with rowdy and passionate students and fan bases that create intimidating home environments for visiting teams. The key to that is, in part, the fact that those programs represent the surrounding area and community as well. They aren't solely successful on the field, they're also hard-working and blue collar in their approach and do things the right way.

Luckily for Mason and MTSU, he is all about putting in the work necessary, and believes his players buying in to put in the work both on and off the field is essential.

"Everytime you step into a locker room there is a price, and the price tag is the work that has got to be done in order for you to stay. Sustainable work gives you an opportunity to have great days," he said. "Right now I've got a good football team, and I like that we have been able to look at our borders and say 'who are we?' and 'who do we wanna be here at MTSU?'."

Of course, in terms of recruiting, Mason already knows the area well from his seven seasons as the head coach at Vanderbilt from 2014-2020, and that was one of the bigger reasons that the AD, Chris Massaro, ended up hiring him. In his time at Vanderbilt, the relationships with local high schools and coaches that Mason was able to build through football camps and recruiting will help him now as the leader of the Blue Raiders.

"I tried to give as much attention to coaches and programs as I could," he said. "Vanderbilt was a private institution, and so the academic standards and rigor were much different. It didn't allow me to recruit as many in-state athletes as I'd like, but I think what it gave me...when people came to my camps, I thought our camps were always really good. We weren't about having big numbers, and we weren't about making money. We were about coaching and we were about development, and so I think that's what started to happen."



Derek Mason (center) at his introductory press conference with Dr. Sydney McPhee (right) and AD Chris Massaro (left).
Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

"People started to realize that this dude has a tough edge about him, he cares about people, and I tried to give, to the best of our ability in our program, I wanted to make sure that people felt like they were valued," he continued. "I wanted to make high school coaches feel like they were valued. Just because we couldn't take your players doesn't mean we wouldn't give you time and that we wouldn't invite you to our campus or that we wouldn't give you access to the resources that we had in terms of our schemes and what it looked like."

Mason also stressed the importance of getting all the student-athletes to graduate and grow as men off the field.

"I pride myself on graduating our student-athletes. I mean I think it's my job to give a better product back to the parents than what they drop off, and I think that's uber-important to the parents because, having two children myself, they're my most coveted and precious commodity," he said. "So me personally, I think it was just the genuine respect from the high school coaches because they feel like if I took one of their student-athletes, they were going to be developed, and I was going to do the best job that I could within our program and within our system that they were going to make it."

He went on to talk about the three big principles that people took from his time at the helm of the Commodores: He was going to be tough, he was going to care about people, and everyone was going to have a chance to have a great experience.

No other football program in the state has to deal with the same level of academic standards that Vanderbilt does, and this is a pretty big reason as to why it's so tough to win in Nashville. Despite all these obstacles, Mason was able to achieve bowl eligibility twice in his time with the Commodores.

Perhaps the biggest difference between now and the last time Mason was a head coach is the introduction of NIL across the college sports landscape that took place in 2021. As every coach does, he has his own take on what NIL actually is and what it should be used for.

"I've always been a proponent of NIL, like I don't believe a student-athlete should struggle. I believe in it, but I believe it is not for everybody, and I think that's the misnomer. Right now, NIL is not about the 99%, it's really about the 1%. Now, there are other monies available, and I think if a young man can get paid for his name, image, and likeness, and not for his play, because it's not pay-for-play, it's name image, and likeness, which means you've built a brand. You've built a brand by how you play, who you are, by what you do, how you carry yourself, like all these things matter, and I think that is where the lines have sort of gotten blurred a bit. Here at MTSU, we talk about building your brand, that's who you are, what you do, and how you go about your business. It's hard for me to find an NIL deal for you if you're not a good person, you don't do the right things, and if you're constantly finding yourself in the arms of mischief," Mason explained in detail.

"NIL is about people who do good things, people who understand how to serve their community, who understand that you work hard and you gain opportunities through building your network because your network helps determine your net worth."

Mason's fear is that education is starting to become devalued, and he hopes to "keep the main thing the main thing." However, he also recognizes that NIL is what it is right now, and he's not fighting against it in the same way other coaches might be across the country.

"If you play well, and maybe a big school wants to offer you a big NIL deal, then go take it. I'm that coach, but you do that if that's truly you," he continued, "I think there are a lot of different ways to get to that endgame, and I believe that MTSU will be one of the best ways to do it. In this day and age you also have to be ready for free agency when free agency comes. I tell our players that this is a developmental program, so spend time developing, and if you develop well enough, the payday will come."

That "payday" could come from anywhere, whether it's NIL deals at MTSU, an NFL contract, or in a (hopefully) last case scenario and as he has expressed already, even at another school. MT alum and former NFL All-Pro Safety Kevin Byard, formerly of the Tennessee Titans, is just one of many examples.

Byard of course played under longtime head coach, Rick Stockstill, and Mason understands what "Coach Stock," as he is affectionately known, meant to this program. This is one of the many reasons why he wants to achieve something that has not been done in MTSU football history – win a CUSA Championship – while also seeking to accomplish other important goals to take the program to new heights.

"I've given Coach Stock a lot of credit for the things he has done. My goals look like the goals that I have set for myself. I want to win a conference championship, and I want to win it sooner than later. Why settle for second when first is available? That's the mindset everyday," he said. "The climb is where I'm at right now. We aren't at the pinnacle, and when you're on the climb, you've got your eyes down, your head up, and all you're doing is chopping wood. To me, I know and understand, I want to win and graduate players at a high rate, and our goal is to win a Conference USA Championship and win a bowl game with class, integrity, and academic excellence."

"If we can do that, that puts us amongst the great teams in MTSU Football history."

MTSU has the capability to have some of the best resources in the entire conference, but part of that success relies upon alumni and donors to get behind the football program that Mason is trying to build. Expectations for first-year coaches are always tough to nail down because there is always so much work that must be done to implement new systems and schemes, but with the right team and collection of players, anything is possible.

Mason is seeking to accomplish these things through something he calls the "Blue Collar Project." The Blue Collar Project has a saying – "Boro Built, Middle Made" – and he is optimistic about the work his team is putting in this offseason both on and off the field as renovations are happening all around them. This includes a social media post from a couple months ago during Mason's first few months on the job that showed the entire team working together to build a Nutrition Station, something that required everyone to work together.

"To me, the Blue Collar Project gives us a chance to find connection, meaning, purpose, and opportunities to connect. To me, that's what the nutrition station was, it was an opportunity for guys who wanted something to figure out a way to do it. We did it, and we did it together," he said. "Same thing with our locker room. Our locker room is old, I'm good with that. Everything doesn't have to be new. We're building a new building over there, and that's the price of progress, but our seniors will never see that new building, so what do you think matters to them? The new building that they'll never see, or the building that they're in that gets taken care of everyday because guys clean it, take care of it, pick it up, and value it just as much as they're going to value the new building. We have opportunities in and around our space to create value and experiences. Attitude affects outcome."

He also went on to explain the meaning of "Boro Built, Middle Made," saying that "you were refined here in Murfreesboro, but you were Middle [Tennessee] made."

"Sometimes in life you don't have to depend on other people, but in the spaces we are in, to succeed, you can't get it done by yourself," Mason concluded.

He's right, of course, because football is the ultimate team sport. However, as important as the 11 players out on the field at any given time are, the fans and home crowds play a massive role in a team's success as well, which is why Mason hopes that the community will rally behind the Blue Raiders in the fall.

Wheeler Named Female CUSA Athlete Of The Year

BY MT ATHLETICS

DALLAS – Middle Tennessee guard Savannah Wheeler was named the 2023-24 Michael L. Slive Female Athlete of the Year, announced by the league office Wednesday afternoon.

Wheeler, a fifth-year point guard at MTSU, was named the 2023-24 Women's Basketball Player of the Year and CUSA Tournament MVP. She is a three-time First Team All-Conference member and was named a First Team Mid-Major All-American by World Exposure Report.

The Catlettsburg, Kentucky, native led the Blue Raiders to a CUSA championship title and a Round of 32 appearance in the NCAA Tournament. Wheeler paced the league in scoring (18.7), assists per game (5.7) and minutes per game (38.6) during conference play. She became the all-time conference leader in free throws made (656-of-773) and concluded her career ranked third on the all-time scoring list (2,361).

Wheeler is the fourth Blue Raider to be tabbed CUSA Athlete of the Year and the fifth player under Head Coach Rick Insell to earn a Conference Female Athlete of the Year accolade.

The 2023-24 slate marks the 21st season that CUSA has honored a Male and Female Athlete of the Year, and the seventh that the awards have been named in remembrance of CUSA's founding commissioner Mike Slive following his passing. The winners are determined by a vote of the conference's athletics directors.



Savannah Wheeler (4) won the 2024 CUSA Female Athlete of the Year in addition to leading the Lady Raiders to just their sixth ever NCCAT win. *Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.*

Victorious Volunteers Win First Baseball National Championship

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

The Tennessee Volunteers held on late to beat Texas A&M, 6-5, in Game Three of the Championship Series on Monday night to win the program's first ever national championship.

Tennessee took a commanding 6-1 lead in the seventh inning after an all-time slide at home by Hunter Ensley somehow avoided the tag at the plate.

Despite losing Game One on Saturday night, the Vols rallied to win Game Two thanks to World Series MVP Dylan Dreiling's 7th inning two-run home run to take a 2-1 lead they would not relinquish in a 4-1 win. Dreiling became the first player in Men's College World Series history to hit a home run in all three games of the championship series, and all three happened to come with two outs in the 7th inning.



Photo courtesy of Tennessee Athletics.



Tony Vitello (center) led the Vols to the program's first every national title on Monday night. *Photo courtesy of Tennessee Athletics.*

Under head coach Tony Vitello, who only needed seven seasons to reach the mountaintop of college baseball on Rocky Top, the Vols have been the best program in the country over the last four years, leading the nation in wins (211), win percentage (.773), NCAA Tournament wins (25), and home runs (566).

This year's team may go down as the greatest college baseball team of all time. They became the first-ever SEC team to win 60 games in one season, they won both the SEC regular season and tournament titles, and they became the first team in NCAA history to have five players hit 20 or more home runs. They finished just five home runs away from breaking LSU's all-time record of 188 home runs hit in one season despite the Vols losing over 20 innings of play due to run-rule victories.

The pitching staff finished with a top-five ERA in the country as well, and they held an extremely explosive Aggies' offense to just six total runs in the final two games of the series, punctuated by senior lefty starter Zander Sechrist allowing just one run while striking out seven in 5.1 innings of work.

The Vols finish the year at 60-13 and national champs.

Two TSSA Teams Punch Tickets to USYS National Presidents Cup



Two TSSA teams punched their ticket to the USYS National Presidents Cup after reaching the Southern Presidents Cup Finals. *Photo courtesy of TSSA.*

TSSA RELEASE

Murfreesboro, Tenn. – Two Tennessee State Soccer Association (TSSA) teams have secured a spot in the US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup after reaching the Southern Presidents Cup Finals this week. Lifting the trophy at the regional competition was SCOR 11 GU13 Lady Mustangs (13U Girls), while TSC Williamson 2007 Girls Showcase (17U Girls) also represented Tennessee as finalists.

By reaching the last day of the Southern Presidents Cup, which was hosted in Plano, Texas, both teams officially secured a spot in the USYS National Presidents Cup next month in Wichita, Kansas.

"This Southern Regional Presidents Cup in Plano, Texas, was everything. Big, organized, competitive, festive and rewarding for all our traveling parents and players," said Sean Moua, head coach of the SCOR 11 GU13 Lady Mustangs. "This was our first time, and now every time and every season, our aim. Onto Nationals!"

SCOR 11 GU13 Lady Mustangs did not allow a single goal at Southern Presidents Cup, registering five consecutive shutouts and outscoring their opposition by a tally of 10-0. They advanced to the elimination rounds after winning their group, recording nine points off three straight victories and a 5-0 goal differential. The Lady Mustangs then earned their fourth consecutive shutout in the Southern Presidents Cup Semifinals on Monday, blanking SA City 11/12G Red (STX), 2-0. They carried that momentum into the 13U Girls Final on Tuesday, where they secured another clean sheet over Union 10 FC 2011 Girls (AL) following a 3-0 result. With that win, they were officially crowned 13U Girls Southern Presidents Cup Champions.

Also advancing the Southern Presidents Cup Finals on Tuesday was TSC Williamson 2007 Girls Showcase, who earned their spot in the semifinals after claiming six points (2-1 record) on a 6-3 goal differential to lock up the runner-up spot in their group. TSC Williamson then defeated NCFCY White North G (NC) in the 17U Girls Semifinals, blanking the North Carolina side by a tally of 2-0. Following that victory, TSC Williamson booked a reservation with CSC EAGLES 2007G (LA) in the Southern Presidents Cup Final but fell to the Louisiana representative in a hard-fought contest, 3-1.

The National Presidents Cup will be held from July 12-16 in Wichita, Kansas, with the top qualifying teams from around the country battling for the right to be called a national champion. Hosted by US Youth Soccer, the Presidents Cup provides a progressive, competitive environment for teams seeking a series of unique challenges highlighting competition, camaraderie and community.

To contact the Tennessee State Soccer Association, please call (615) 590-2200. Also make sure to follow us on social media!

Lady Raiders Set for 2024 Fort Myers Tip-Off

BY MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Middle Tennessee women's basketball team will compete in the third annual Elevance Health Women's Fort Myers Tip-Off this fall.

The event, hosted by Intersport at Suncoast Credit Union Arena in Fort Myers, Fla., Nov. 28-30, will showcase eight teams split into two separate pods. The Blue Raiders will compete in the Island Division featuring predetermined matchups, along with Iowa State, Purdue and South Carolina, while Belmont, Davidson, Michigan and Virginia Tech make up the Shell Division featuring a tournament bracket.

MTSU is set to take on Purdue on Thursday, Nov. 28 and will face Iowa State on Saturday, Nov. 30. Game times and broadcasting information will be announced at a later date.

Travel packages for fans looking to join their favorite team at the Elevance Health Women's Fort Myers Tip-Off will be available in the coming weeks at www.womensfortmyerstipoff.com/travel. The Westin Cape Coral and Marina Village and the Marriott Sanibel Harbor are the event's host hotels and fans will have the opportunity to stay where the teams stay and experience resort life to the fullest. Additionally, the Luminary Hotel & Co., a boutique hotel that opened in September 2020, is the premium destination to enjoy the many attractions of historic and lively downtown Fort Myers.

About Intersport

Since 1985, Intersport has been an award-winning innovator and leader in the creation of sports, lifestyle, culinary and entertainment-based marketing platforms. With expertise in Sponsorship Consulting, Experiential Marketing, Hospitality, Customer Engagement, Content Marketing, Productions and Sports Properties, this Chicago-based Marketing & Media Solutions Company helps their clients to create ideas, content and experiences that attract and engage passionate audiences. To learn more about Intersport, visit www.intersport.global, like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter and Instagram.



Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

About Elevance Health, Inc.

Elevance Health is a lifetime, trusted health partner fueled by its purpose to improve the health of humanity. The company supports consumers, families, and communities across the entire care journey – connecting them to the care, support, and resources they need to lead healthier lives. Elevance Health's companies serve more than 118 million people through a diverse portfolio of industry-leading medical, digital, pharmacy, behavioral, clinical, and complex care solutions. For more information, please visit www.elevancehealth.com or follow us @ElevanceHealth on Twitter and Elevance Health on LinkedIn.

Keep Up with Kitchen Trends



If you're considering a kitchen renovation, you've probably heard cautions about avoiding overly trendy designs that can diminish your home's value and limit its appeal to future buyers. That's sound advice, but many of this year's trends are relatively neutral and have long-term staying power.

Kitchen upgrades are typically all about making practical updates to meet the needs of a family. The key to smart design is incorporating functional elements a family requires while striking a balance between style and trends that quickly become outdated.

Before you dive into a kitchen project, consider these on-trend design recommendations from the experts at Wellborn Cabinet.

Add Health-Focused Features
As the hub of nutrition, it's no surprise wellness design features are making their way into the kitchen. Some examples include appliances with air frying or steaming features, and double ovens are appearing in more homes, making home meals for the family easier to manage. Also look for technology that simplifies meal planning and managing your pantry inventory, as well as features that regulate food storage temperatures more precisely, including during power outages.

Shift Back to Wood Stains
Painted cabinets had their moment, but the latest designs are revealing a movement back toward warm wood grains, specifically oak. As trends continue to shift toward embracing natural elements, as well as exploring diverse color palettes, cabinet manufacturers are constantly innovating to meet the demands of consumers and design professionals alike.

To elevate contemporary cabinetry design, Wellborn Cabinet introduced captivating finishes that celebrate natural materials and textures. Inspired by the highly desired white oak at a more accessible price point, Boardwalk offers a breath of fresh air, allowing the unique oak wood grain to take center stage. The striking finish of Peppermill introduces a versatile darker brown hue with a subtle gray undertone, adding depth, dimension and sophistication. If you're not quite ready to fully embrace natural wood tones, Alabaster may be a perfect alternative; this hue provides the timeless elegance of neutral white.

Dedicate Space for Beverages
Food prep may be a mainstay in functional kitchen design, but a growing number of homeowners are calling beverages a close second with the addition of built-in coffee bars or smoothie stations and specialized storage for beer and wine. Countertop or supplementary nugget ice makers are another example of trending kitchen accessories that reinforce a growing focus on beverages for all occasions.

Go for Contemporary Cabinetry
Your kitchen's cabinet doors play an important role in defining your design aesthetic. Consider Wellborn's wide variety of door styles, several of which have been redesigned to support the trend toward a simpler, smaller rail that's in favor among designers and homeowners alike. With softer, more up-to-date appearances, they feature eased profiles to produce simple, straight, clean appearances. Options like Breckenridge and Ridgebrook offer updates to the modified shaker style with a clean, modern, less clunky aesthetic. Made of quality, solid wood, they feature a reversed raised center panel to coordinate with a variety of design styles.

Embrace the Middle Ground
Kitchen islands are hardly a new design element, but an increasing number of homeowners are making them a major focus of their renovations. A kitchen trends study by Houzz revealed 42% of homeowners are opting for islands that are 7 feet long or more. That's extra prep space, but also more room for casual seating or socializing while hosting. Also gaining popularity are double islands for double the workspace.

Skip Bland Backsplash Tile
The wall space between your countertops and upper cabinets may not amount to much, but it's a sure place to make a style statement. This year's designers are saying farewell to stark white subway tile backsplashes. Instead, nature- and earth-inspired tones are trending. You can still use subway tile but consider a variation from the traditional stacked design. Texture is another option for modernizing your backsplash; think handcrafted tiles or earthy textures but take care to avoid overly busy patterns.

Find more inspiration for your kitchen remodel at wellborn.com.

DUKSAN

From page 1

into the industrial park off Highway 231 North.

"In hindsight we probably shouldn't have done that," Christie shared.

Christie said he cannot look back and agree with every choice made since 2019, for either the Park or the City's overall economic development program. "But I know I made what choices I did based on the best information made available to me at the time and I relied on others in leadership positions to do the same."

He added, "Regarding industrial and business recruitment, often a significant factor in success is keeping the business' name confidential through most of the process. What exact information the members of the Park's Oversight Committee knew and when they knew it about Duksan, then only identified as Project Cardinal, I do not know. But I know I was misled as to the exact nature of the manufacturing that was to be conducted by it and certainly was not informed of the hazard level and necessary safety measures required. If I had known, I would not have voted in 2022 to approve the tax incentive structure given to the Industrial Development Board for Duksan and other potential business recruits and would have actively encouraged the Park's Oversight Committee to find a different business to recruit for that site in the Park."

Even the County Commission has asked Hooper repeatedly during meetings what volatile products would be distributed. Commissioner Drew Hooker did not get the answers from Hooper he was looking for earlier this year but was instead directed by Hooper to the state for answers.

Hooker told Hooper he was asking those questions on behalf of his constituents who were concerned about the manufacturer being at their backdoor.

This is the first U.S. company for Duksan. Christie said he's been told, but has no evidence, that Duksan had been rejected by some other U.S. towns, before settling into Shelbyville.

"Had we known other towns had refused to bring them to their town, we would not have given those millions of dollars in tax credits," said Christie.

"Over the past several weeks, there has been a lot of talk about the 231 North Business Park and in particular, recruitment of Duksan Electera to that park," said Christie. "As Councilman for the 4th Ward since December 2014, I have witnessed the development of that Park as well as Duksan's recruitment to Shelbyville and I want to set the record straight on a lot of misinformation."

See sidebar story for Christie's information about the history behind Duksan.

Christie further explained in his letter what he calls the "various moving parts of economic development in Shelbyville."

During his interview with the T-G this week, Christie said, "My question is why would our economic developer, brought here and paid for by us, mislead us about this plant?"

Hooper was initially paid a salary of $145,000, when hired as economic director a couple of years ago. Christie said as well, the economic board is made up of highly intelligent people yet no one said anything about Duksan.

Christie refers to Bedford County Economic Development Director Shane Hooper who the councilman said should have explained to them that Duksan was rejected by other towns.

"It all falls back on Shane Hooper," said Christie, "because he should have been looking out for our best interest. "What was his gain for doing that?"

Millions of tax credits later, there is now debate about the future of the manufacturer, which is located on Highway 231 North next to Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital. During the City Council meeting last week, it was approved, upon recommendation of Shelbyville Fire Department, for the City to pay the State of Tennessee $50,000, to investigate Duksan's water availability and other issues relating to its fire suppression systems.

Duksan had plans to open this summer. The City continues to hold that certificate of occupancy, pending that state fire marshal's report.

The City is asking the state fire marshal's office to investigate Duksan's inability to provide the property amount of water (over 300,000 gallons) in case of a fire. There are other issues which the state will be investigating.

Christie said despite that disappointment, he knows that the City has its sights on making sure Duksan opens and operates as safely as possible. And he said he understands that Duksan has been very cooperative in that regard.

"I am pleased with the tremendous efforts that City staff have been able to take to enforce all building and life safety codes for that plant."

But he does have regrets about his past involved in local economic development, he advised.

"In addition, I have regrets over the structure of the economic development program we created in the form of the Shelbyville-Bedford Partnership. We set up that organization to have a 7-member board of directors, 4 of whom were to be government officials, the City and County mayors, a Councilman and a Commissioner. That was so the City and County would still have significant input in economic development decisions, including overseeing the job of the new economic development director who is serving as the Partnership's CEO/president.

When it became apparent that some members of the City Council were not pleased with the performance of the director, especially in not providing complete information on Park recruitment, the Partnership moved to increase its board of directors to 9 members, effectively diluting local government oversight, according to Christie.

"Unfortunately, a Councilmember on the board voted for that expansion. I replaced the councilmember for a brief time on the partnership board," said Christie.

He added, "The original goal was to make the Partnership financially independent from taxpayer money. Couple that with the concern over the director's withholding of relevant information on the Park, Council made the decision to no longer fund the Partnership-an annual $100,000 as had been done for several years.

City officials have stated that decision resulted in the Partnership board voting to completely remove City representatives from that board, despite the fact that the City had invested over $400,000 in this new economic program and had funded various side programs along the way. Christie advised, "Since that time, the relationship between that organization and the City Council has been strained and has made cooperation among the various players more difficult, especially with all the attempts to sideline the City from any media coverage for its contributions past or present and refusing to acknowledge the presence of City officials at public events."

In addition, the Partnership last year took under its umbrella the former Shelbyville-Bedford County Chamber of Commerce. Besides the hotel-motel tax going to the Chamber's division for economic development in the past, the City has for decades been a $5,000 supporting member of the local business side of the Chamber. When the City sent in this year's membership renewal form and check, the Partnership CEO, based on a letter received by the City, rejected it and returned the money to the City, stating in the cover letter that local governments were not eligible for Chamber benefits, despite evidence to the contrary and that "government participation is recognized through membership within the Shelbyville-Bedford Partnership."

The City, Christie further advised, just wants to support the work of the Chamber of Commerce and its various local business members so they've requested a thorough response from Hooper. Council is still awaiting response, according to Christie.

"It has been disappointing and disheartening to see such childish antics when from the very beginning in 2019, the City has invested heavily in this joint mission to jumpstart economic development, including serious solo contributions to Chick-fil-A and MTSU. I wish the Partnership's board of directors, especially those native to our community, would see this for what it is, provide more guidance to their president and put a stop to these strategic attempts at one-upmanship."

Christie said though all parties may disagree on some very serious matters, failing to recognize and show respect to others is not the way to move forward nor build a solid working foundation for the benefit of local citizens.

Christie ended his letter by stating, "In conclusion, I want the public to know that the City is moving forward with its own programs in economic recruitment, using the hotel-motel tax funds and has recent successes in business recruitment. I will continue to support City-led development."

Kathy Reed moves to Central Office

ESL and Instructional Support Coordinator



Superintendent of Schools Tammy Garrett recently announced the new role of English as a Second Language (ESL) and Instructional Support Coordinator, a position that will address the increasing enrollment of English language learners within the district and replace the former Director of Curriculum and Instruction position, to previous Eakin Elementary School Principal Kathy Reed. She has been in the classroom and administration with Bedford County Schools for over 37 years.

"We are excited to welcome Mrs. Reed to this vital role," commented Garrett. "Her years of experience within our district, coupled with her deep understanding of the needs of our English as a Second Language learners, makes her the perfect advocate to ensure every student receives the support they need to succeed. We are proud, too, that she is a Bedford County native!"

Prior to Eakin Elementary, Reed was also the principal at Learning Way Elementary School, assistant principal at Community Middle School and taught in the classroom at East Side Elementary School and Thomas Magnet School. She has a master's degree and an education specialist degree (Ed.S.) in School Administration from Trevecca Nazarene University and Middle Tennessee State University.

Reed says teaching is her calling and the reward is truly great. "Teaching is my calling. There is no greater career than teaching. Helping students learn, grow and become the best version of themselves is the most rewarding profession. I feel so blessed to have been a teacher and principal for all these years," comments Reed.

She expresses her excitement and goals for the new support role. "I appreciate the trust that has been placed in me, and I will do my best to serve the students, families and teachers of students who speak English as a second language. One of my goals is to build stronger connections between schools and families while being an advocate for students. I can't wait to get started serving Bedford County in this new capacity."

Reed expands on her appreciation for the district and the benefits of a small community.

"Bedford County is family and a great place to work. Everyone is so helpful and willing to go above and beyond to help each other out. Being a small community has given me the opportunity to get to know people and develop lifelong relationships."

When not busy with school life, Reed enjoys sewing, crafting, needleworking, reading, watching movies and anything involving water. She is married to her lifelong partner of 40 years Johnny Reed and has two adult children, Ashley and Tripp.



T-G Photo by Dawn Hankins

TOWN KEEPS GROWING
There's much to do in the City of Shelbyville. New businesses are popping up on the square and reconstruction is going on at several. Have you checked out the new candy store across from the theater? Watch for an interview with this great couple coming up in the T-G.



9 facts about the Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence is a document that indicates the founding principles of the United States of America. The declaration was issued by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, and announced the separation of the 13 British colonies in North America from the United Kingdom.

That significance means the public may want to learn more about the Declaration of Independence. Here are some key facts.

1. While Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, it was carefully reviewed and modified by other members of the Continental Congress, notably John Adams and Benjamin Franklin.

2. The Continental Congress actually voted for independence on July 2, 1776. The written Declaration was dated July 4, 1776, but it wasn't actually signed until August 2nd of that year. John Adams thought July 2nd would be marked as the national holiday.

3. Fifty-six delegates signed the Declaration of Independence, but not all were present on that day in August.

4. While many know that John Hancock signed first, with his prominent signature readily visible, it is believed that Thomas McKean of Delaware was the last person to sign.

5. Others signed according to state delegation and in columns, starting with the northernmost state (New Hampshire) to the southernmost (Georgia).

6. About 200 copies of the Dunlap Broadside were printed. Today, 26 copies remain.

7. The original rough draft of the Declaration of Independence has been lost.

8. The Declaration of Independence was not universally accepted, and many people in the colonies remained loyal to the British monarchy and opposed American independence.

9. The Declaration of Independence has a message written on the back of it. It reads, Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776.



Submitted Photo

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

Unionville Volunteer Fire Department will have fireworks available for purchase through July 4, or until they sell out. Hours are between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. Hours extend closer to the 4th, organizers note. Proceeds support community fire services.

Roasted Sweetpotato Mango Salsa

Recipe courtesy of the North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission

Servings: 12



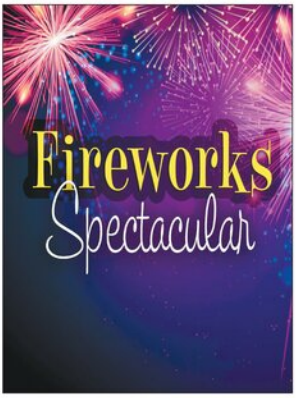


- 1 1/2 cups (2 medium) sweetpotatoes
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 tablespoon chili powder
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 cup mango
- 1/2 green bell pepper
- 1/2 red bell pepper
- 1/2 cup purple onion
- 1 jalapeno
- 1/4 cup cilantro
- 1 tablespoon fresh-squeezed orange juice
- 1 tablespoon fresh-squeezed lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon fresh-squeezed lime juice
- chips or crackers

1. Heat oven to 400 F.
2. Peel, rinse and cube sweetpotatoes 1/4 inch or smaller. Toss sweetpotatoes with salt, pepper, chili powder and olive oil.
3. Spread on baking sheet and roast 20 minutes.
4. Peel and cube mango. Seed and cube bell peppers. Dice onion. Seed and dice jalapeno. Finely chop cilantro.
5. Once sweetpotatoes cool, mix with mango, peppers, onion and jalapeno. Cover with fresh-squeezed orange, lemon and lime juices.
6. Chill and serve with chips or crackers.

SOURCE:

North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission



Happy 4th July!

The City of Shelbyville and Bedford County will host their annual 4th July Fireworks spectacular on Independence Day, beginning at 9 p.m.

Pyro Shows provides the fireworks, which are professionally shot show by certified fireworks technicians.

The show is shot from the Big Babe Ruth parking lot, according to Mike Alsup, Shelbyville Parks & Recreation Department director.



Fantastic facts about fireworks

Cities and towns across the country commemorate special days with various festivities, particularly when warm weather beckons people outdoors. Fireworks long have been a popular way to cap off parades, concerts, sporting events, and national days of celebration. Entire communities come together to watch spectacular shows in which blazing pops of color light up the night sky.

Smithsonian magazine reports that pyrotechnics displays have been astounding audiences all over the world for centuries. As early as 200 B.C. fireworks were developed in China to first scare off mountain men and later evil spirits. However, soon the Chinese incorporated Fire drug essentially saltpeter, sulfur and charcoal (a recipe for gunpowder), into their cultural celebrations. Early Chinese fireworks consisted of the gunpowder mixture stuffed in bamboo tubes.

Fireworks have evolved since then, but by and large they Ore still comprised of the same main parts: an oxidizer, fuel and chemical mixture to produce desired colors. Fireworks are a wonder to behold when they are part of professional displays, and their history can be interesting as well.

• While the Chinese invented fireworks, Italians helped fine-tune them. Italians are credited with designing aerial shells and figuring out that certain metallic powders could create specific colors.

•nThe largest consistent fireworks show in the United States is the Macys show in New York over the Hudson River on July 4th. More than 3 million people view the show, which includes more than 40,000 shells.

• The Walt Disney Company is the largest consumer of fireworks in the world, according to Business Insider. It also is the second largest purchaser of explosive devices, behind only the U.S. Department of Defense.

• High-energy metal compounds like copper chloride emit colors like violet and blue in fireworks. Low-energy compounds like strontium chloride produce orange and red.

• The pattern fireworks will produce in the sky is determined by how stars are arranged inside of the shell. Stars are the cubes or spheres that contain the chemicals needed for the firework reaction.

• Mental Floss notes that Daytime fireworks are made up of colored smoke and can be seen during the day.

• Individuals who are employed in the manufacture of fireworks must wear cotton clothing, including undergarments, as synthetic clothing can create sparks capable of detonating fireworks, according to Alamo Fireworks.

• Various fireworks shapes have their own names. They may be called willows, palms, crossettes, horsetails, rings, cakes, and more.

• New Castle, Penn., is known as the Fireworks Capital of America because Zambelli Fireworks International and Pyrotechnic both got their start there in the mid-nineteenth century.

• Scientists are currently working to create more eco-friendly fireworks.