COMMUNITY NEWS

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

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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.

The award will be officially presented Tuesday, July 23, at the 84th Annual Conference of the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) held at the Knoxville Convention Center.

Dating back to 1810, Shelbyville's historic downtown square is laid out in a central block bound by four streets and surrounded by a grid of square city blocks of the same size. This design, known as the Shelbyville Square or Shelbyville Plan, became a prototype for numerous other public squares through the U.S. during the 1800s. Its unique destinations, like Pope's Cafe and the Capri Theater, have made it a draw for tourists as well as the backdrops for movies and music videos, according to Municipal League representatives.

In 2021, the City began the Shelbyville Historic Square

See AWARD, 3A



Shelbyville Parks and Recreation Director Mike Alsup is retiring, effective July 7. No one has been announced yet as his replacement. See more on Page 3.



Submitted Photo

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE

Rhonda Styer of Shelbyville was recently a guest speaker at the recent Quilts of Valor presentation at Flat Creek Community Center. Rhonda is a QOV volunteer and quilter, making each square special in color and design. She said she gets emotional on every quilt she presents. Please see page 12 for more of Rhonda's talk on June 1 and photos of QOV recipients.

Flat Creek Community Center celebrates everything red, white and blue

By DAWN HANKINS

It was a red, white and blue kind of a day at Flat Creek Community Center on June 1.

While State Rep. Pat Marsh was guest speaker, he would agree that the real stars of the gathering were those veterans who received honorary Quilts of Valor for their military service. (See page 12 today for pictures of those QOV veterans.)

"I know I speak for many of my colleagues in the General Assembly when I say one of our highest honors is to be able to support our veterans and active duty service members, along with their families. Whether it be through legislation, grant funding or outreach events."

He added that in recent years, the General Assembly has passed various legislation as it strives to become one of the most veteran-friendly states in the nation. That includes helping veterans with employment, education and access to mental health services.

"In 2023, the General Assembly passed legislation that created a pathway for veterans to become teachers after their service. This year, I was proud to carry legislation that also made it easier for veterans to obtain a commercial driver's license."

State history

Speaker Pro Tempore Marsh told the audience that June 1 was the state's 228th birthday. The state was formed on June 1, 1796.

He told the audience that Tennessee is ranked one of the best states in the nation in which to conduct business. He said Tennessee has the lowest tax burden of all 50 states.

Fiscal stability

In addition, he praised his home state for being No. 1 for fiscal stability. And the Volunteer State is also the lowest "debt state" in the nation,

See QUILTS OF VALOR, 2A

Local fireworks shows and activities

By DAWN HANKINS

Shelbyville and Bedford County are once again sponsoring their fireworks spectacular at the H.V. Griffin Park complex on July 4. The fireworks start at 9 p.m.

Pyro Shows provides the fireworks which are professionally shot by certified fireworks technicians. The show is shot from the Big Babe Ruth parking lot.

The Town of Wartrace will celebrate Saturday, July 6, with a slate of Independence weekend activities.

The celebration begins at 5 p.m. at Wartrace Winnett Ayers Park. Wartrace encourages all to bring their friends and family and some blankets or chairs for a night of family fun.

The air will waft with the smells of your favorite treats, some note. (Joe Deans eats-n-treats/Hit-N- Miss Ice cream, Repicci's Italian Ice & Gelato just to name a few).

Here's the kicker: Once you have your belly full sit back and listen to some toe tapping tunes that will have you wanting to sing along with the Duck River Review. Let the kids play on the playground while you take a turn at Corn Hole or shoot some hoops. And, what better way to end the night than our biggest fireworks show yet!



T-G Photo by Renee Brown

LOCAL FAMILY FIREWORKS STAND

Emily Warren and children, Andrew and Melodie, are all a part of the team at the Warren Fireworks stand located at 2006 N. Main at the Newton Chevrolet parking lot. The family has been making Independence Day memorable for folks the last 30 years! They started out at Whiteside and moved around a bit. Their last location, prior to North Main, was McDonald's. See their ad on page 12 today for great deals on fireworks!

COUNTY COMMISSION APPROVES 2024-25 BUDGETS, TAX RATES

Bedford County Board of Commissioners passed budgets and tax rates for the 2024-25 fiscal year last Thursday night. Three commissioners voted no on final budget approval.

There was no increase in the county property tax rate, which will hold steady at $2.3252 per $100 assessed value.

Even without a tax increase, the county was able to fund step raises and cost-of-living increases for county employees. Several offices will get new positions to keep up with increasing workloads as the county continues to grow.

The school budget includes the new Cartwright Elementary School which will begin classes this fall. Because of new school construction, the use of portable classrooms – considered a security risk, and a safety risk in inclement weather – has been eliminated.

Information from Bedford County Government states that the county budget includes $175.9 million in total appropriations, broken down as follows:

General Purpose Schools: $93.7 million
General Fund: $43.2 million
General Debt Service: $13.4 million
County Capital Projects: $9 million
Child Nutrition (Schools): $7 million
Highway/Public Works: $5.2 million
Education Capital Projects: $3.7 million
School Age Care: $0.7 million

The $2.3252 tax rate breaks down as follows. Each rate is per $100 assessed value:

General Fund: $1.43

See BUDGETS, 2A

Shelbyville has a new playwright: *Kyle Thomas is taking New York by storm*

By DAWN HANKINS

Shelbyville's own Kyle Thomas is very happy to report that he just returned from yet another trip to New York City, where his latest play–"Clocks Are Like Angels"--was just performed as part of the 2024 Rogue Theatre Festival.

"This is the third successive year that Rogue has selected one of my plays to be presented, and it is the second year in a row that Murfreesboro Little Theatre was able to cast and produce it and take a show on the road to the big city! They absolutely crushed their performance, too. It was so moving, and the audience absolutely roared during the curtain call."

Additionally, aside from the Rogue Festival, Kyle is also very pleased to share that "Clocks" just won the 2024 Best New Play award, presented by Playwrights First. Over 600 plays were submitted but the panel of nine, though, voted for "Clocks."

As a result, later this year they will produce a staged reading with professional actors in New York City, in a room full of Broadway producers!

All Kyle can say is "gulp."

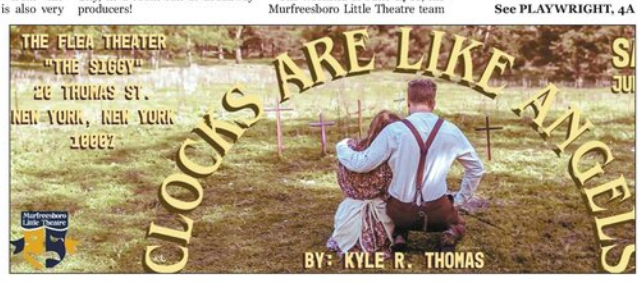
"They were really excited and moved by the piece," he says rather humbly.

It is an exciting time for this rising playwright. He's gone from monologues and interactive plays to some that are really dramatic, like "Clocks."

The weekend of June 14-16, the Murfreesboro Little Theatre team brought the show home and presented "Clocks" at Oaklands Mansion in Murfreesboro. The latest Murfreesboro show came complete with wine, charcuterie and live music before the performance. The artists performed the play, outside, at the old log cabin behind the Oakland Mansion.

See PLAYWRIGHT, 4A





ON THE INSIDE

CLASSIFIEDS ..... PAGES 7
SPORTS ..... PAGES 9-10
OBITUARIES ..... PAGE 8
PUBLIC NOTICES ..... PAGE 7
COMMUNITY EVENTS ..... PAGE 4



2024 State Legislative Highlights

The slate of budget and legislative priorities includes significant investments in rural and behavioral health care.

See Page 4A



New Head Coach Talks First Month on the Job

"I feel like this is where I'm supposed to be." Read about new coach Keisha Jarrett's first month on the job.

See Page 9A

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Helpful tips for picking and cutting watermelon



Watermelon is a summertime staple. Each summer, stores and farm stands have an abundance of watermelons on display, and many people feel no picnic or barbecue is complete without watermelon.

Watermelon is a refreshing option on hot days. It's ideal sliced and served, or can be included in fruit salads, smoothies or even Spiked cocktails. The key to a tasty watermelon is knowing how to pick one that is ripe, while serving watermelon comes down to understanding some easy cutting strategies.

• Choose a watermelon that has a firm, symmetrical shape. Avoid melons with bumps, dents or cuts.

• Watermelons should be relatively heavy. They're 92 percent water, and that juiciness should be reflected in a substantial weight for the melons size.

• Watermelon.org advises looking for a creamy yellow spot on the underside of the watermelon. This is called the Ground spot It indicates where the melon sat on the ground and ripened in the sun. Once cut from the vine, a watermelon has about three to four weeks to be consumed.

• All parts of the watermelon are edible, including the seeds and rind. The rind can be pickled or cut up to use in stir-fry dishes.

When bringing watermelon to an event, it is a courtesy to bring it already sliced or cut up. This ensures the host or hostess does not have to tackle what can sometimes be a chore. Here are three techniques to cut a watermelon easily.

Cubes

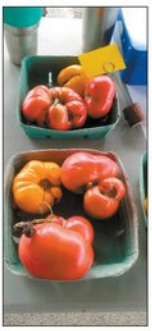
1. Cut both ends off of the watermelon.
2. Stand the watermelon on one sliced end. Use the knife to slice down and cut off the rind.
3. After removing the rind from all sides of the melon, cut into discs about 1\12-inch in thickness.
4. Then cut those discs into cubes.

Slices

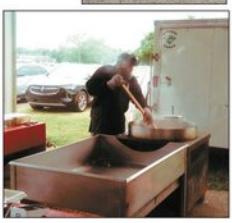
1. Cut the watermelon in half lengthwise.
2. Take one cut half and place it cut-side down.
3. Cut the watermelon into slices.
4. Repeat for the other cut half.

Strips

1. Cut the watermelon as you would with the slices. Rather than leaving it in large slices, turn the watermelon and cut the same size slices in the opposite direction. This creates strips that are easy for kids to grab and maneuver.
2. Repeat with the other half of the watermelon in the same manner.







T-G Photos by Dawn Hankins

Your local farmer's market can be found under the shelter near the big blue water tower near the Celebration grounds. The farmers market opens at 2:30 p.m. each Thursday. But vendors note that people line up as early as 1 p.m. Everyone loves summer produce! It was certainly hot this last Thursday but vendors were still able to get tomatoes, zesty bread and butter pickles, field corn, squash and even kettle corn to their shoppers.

Sparklers are not child's play



Did you know that the average primary flame blowtorch burns at around 2,000 F? USFS National Technology and Development says wildland fires typically burn between 1,600 and 2,000 F. Aluminum, brass, bronze, copper, and cast iron also can reach melting points at or slightly below 2,000 F.

Its likely safe to say that parents would never let their children handle a blowtorch, wander into a forest fire nor touch molten metals, yet many seemingly have no concerns about children playing with sparklers during July 4 celebrations. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia says people often treat sparklers much too casually, even though they can burn at temperatures of about 2,000 F. Children are allowed to hold and wave these red-hot metal rods like toys. Sparkler sticks pose a serious burn risk, and the sparks can cause additional burns and eye injuries, warns the CHOP. Young children who would not be trusted with other hot materials should not hold sparklers, warn health experts. Older children should be carefully supervised around sparklers and other fireworks.

Those who want to avoid any possible injuries on July 4 and during other summer celebrations would be wise to avoid sparklers in favor of safer forms of entertainment. Here are some ideas.

• Glow sticks light up in the dark and can be worn or waved around safely.

• Fill water balloons with a mixture of glitter and water. When the balloons pop, it is a festive display.

• Send children around with canned string products that they can spray on one another. If making a mess isn't an issue, shaving cream Fights also can be fun diversions for children.

• Adults can lead by example and leave the fireworks displays to the professionals. Take a ride over to the seaside or where a town is hosting fireworks display and enjoy the sights from a distance.

• Purchase battery-powered blinking lights, such as those sold at circuses or concerts. Kids can spend hours running around with them in hand. Less expensive flashlights purchased at a dollar store can create the same effect.

• Let children play with confetti cannons.

• Snappers or Poppers could be an option if they are sold nearby. These are small noisemakers that explode and pop when they are thrown at a hard ground surface.

Sparklers may be festive and beautiful to behold, but they are not designed to be handled by children. Alternatives to sparklers are equally fun and much safer.

QUILTS OF VALOR

From page 1

according to Marsh.

"We have cut more than $2.5 billion in taxes since 2012," said Marsh. He backed that up by stating there is still no state income tax in Tennessee and the state has eliminated the dreaded inheritance tax.

"This year, we had the state's largest tax decrease in the state's history," said the state representative.

Regarding "conservation" he stated several ways the state is helping its citizens through conservation. He said $59 million has been earmarked for Tennessee State Parks capital projects. As well, $3 million was designated by legislators this year in order to make parks more accessible to Tennesseans with disabilities.

Marsh shared some 2024 Session highlights. "The 2024 session successfully carried into law a slate of conservative policies that prioritized public safety, economic development, rural health care, education and conservation," advised Marsh.

The state can be proud of a $52.8 billion zero-debt budget which is $10 billion less than last year's budget," he advised.

Marsh didn't neglect that Tennessee is a "law-and-order state" that values and appreciates its law enforcement and first responders. Some of the investments, he said, included $17 million for 60 new Tennessee State Trooper positions; 13 new TBI positions, and $3.3 million for mental health evaluations/treatment for certain misdemeanor defendants.

In addition, he mentioned in his speech that the legislature appropriated $383,500 for law enforcement to collect data on illegal immigrants in Tennessee. The punishment for bullying was strengthened (HB 2590), he added, and law makers voted to prioritize public safety when it comes to setting bond amounts (HB1642.)

As for economic development, Marsh explained that Tennessee delivers the strongest protections in the nation when it comes to managing the potential risks of artificial intelligence (AI.)

The legislature set aside $36 million to help distressed counties and rural communities with economic development initiatives for community asset improvements, marketing and downtown revitalization grants.

Education dollars

The budget adds $261 million in new recurring dollars for K-12 education, bringing the total base Tennessee Investment in Achievement (TISA) budget to $6.8 billion and the overall budget for public education to $8.55 billion.

"The new dollars will cover medical insurance premiums, retirement for teachers and funding for teacher raises to bring the annual starting base salary up to $50,000 by 2026."

Marsh also said the state will allow college students to protect themselves on campus (HB1909.) And new governmental laws will protect children online from accessing pornography (HB1614.) Parental consent will be required for minors using social media (HB1891.)

Job opportunities

Marsh told the Flat Creek community and guests that starting over a new career field, finding a job and relocating can be a huge task and often, overwhelming.

"We are working to do what we can to make the transition as easy as possible."

He said he also wants to make sure that Tennessee veterans and active-duty military members who wish to start or continue their higher education get the chance to do so, without the burden of out-of-state tuition.

"If they are living in Tennessee, but don't have official residency here, our state institutions are still able to classify them as a resident in order to receive in-state tuition."

Veteran services

He added, "It is estimated that more than 1 million veterans are facing some type of mental health condition related to their service. My colleagues and I continue to expand access to mental health services for any veteran that may be struggling. There are 24/7 support options by phone, text or online chat. We also have provided funds to nonprofit organizations who arrange in-person mental health support for veterans across the state.

"And when the time comes, the General Assembly ensured that every honorably discharged veteran would be able to have military funeral honors, if they wish to, by establishing an Honor Guard grant program for those who provide the services."

Marsh's background

State Rep. Marsh is one of six children from a tight knit family in Fayetteville. Raised in Lincoln County, he graduated from Fayetteville Central High School and went on to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. There he earned a business degree with a major in transportation. After graduating from UT, Pat began his career with the Ford Motor Company at their Nashville glass plant. In 1973, he moved to Shelbyville and joined Goggin Truck Line – a small company with six tractors and twelve trailers. He worked his way up and eventually bought the company.

As the owner, Pat grew Goggin to 500 tractors and 1,000 trailers while employing over 1,000 people. He sold the company and started a trucking company, Big G Express, with his brother, Jack, in 1995. Pat was elected in October of 2009, in a special election to represent the 62nd District. In 2021, he was selected by his fellow state House members to serve in the role of Speaker Pro Tempore for the 112th General.

He also serves on the Health, State Government, Transportation, and Calendar and Rules Committees. He and his wife, Mary, reside in Shelbyville and they have two married sons and several grandchildren.

BUDGETS

From page 1

General Purpose Schools: 62 cents

General Debt Service: 15 cents

Highway: 9 cents

County Capital Projects: $0.0352

Each penny on the property tax rate is projected to bring in $130,000 after adjusting for

delinquency.

A property's assessed value is 25 percent of its appraised value for residential or agricultural property, 40 percent of appraised value for commercial property. Although the property tax rate is basically unchanged, any individual property tax owner's bill may change if the assessed value of the property changes for some reason. The county commission, which sets the property tax rate, by law cannot interfere with the appraisal process.

To find out more about tax relief programs for low-income senior citizens, disabled homeowners, or permanently disabled veterans, contact the county trustee's office, 931-684-4303 or tonya.davis@bedfordcountytn.gov.

So, considering a pretty solid fiscal package, why did three County Commissioners still vote no when it came to the final approval of the new budget? Commissioners voting no were: Drew Hooker, Bill Anderson and Anita Epperson.

Drew Hooker, a District 1 representative, chatted with the Times-Gazette about his vote. The no vote points back to issues with Duksan battery chemical plant on Highway 231 North.

"I am proud of the county employees and school system's work. The School Board and Department heads have also done a great job. I had no concerns with what was put forth by both groups. However, I also could not support the continued funding of the Partnership and, therefore, could not vote for a budget that funded the group. They have not been transparent and have misled our County. I have grave concerns with the Duksan Project and how the process of recruitment and implementation has gone."



Drew Hooker

DUKSAN NEEDS AMPLE WATER SUPPLY

By DAWN HANKINS
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

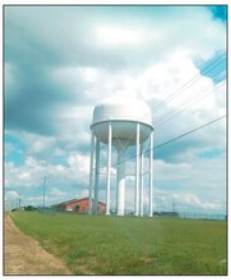
The controversy continues over the Duksan Electera plant off Highway 231 North. From what we're reading from the local community; they don't want it.

Still no word on the state inspection for fire suppression issues as discussed at a recent City Council meeting. Council meets next Tuesday night at 6 for study session.

The Shelbyville Fire Department has certainly been the messenger on needs there regarding fire safety but as the old saying goes, people need to be careful not to "blame the messenger."

There are also questions of whether BCUD water utility can supply the 300,000 plus gallons of water that would be needed, based on fire safety standards, in case of a fire at Duksan. Sources note that building water ponds of some sort could be an option.

Only time will tell. Tick tock. Tick Tock.



Let us help you spread the news!

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- *Guest Column/Op/Ed*

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

AWARD

From page 1

Redevelopment Project, designed to improve the aesthetics and momentum of the area. This began with a Tennessee Department of Transportation Alternative Program grant of $1.38 million that placed all downtown utilities underground, constructed new sidewalks with decorative pavers for crosswalks, and installed decorative landscaping, park benches, trash receptacles, and lamps. This first phase was completed in late 2022-early 2023 and made a more pedestrian-friendly downtown.

The City then applied for and received a 2023 Downtown Improvement Grant of $100,000 from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. Working with the South-Central Tennessee Development District, the mayor and city council authorized an additional $25,000 in funds to make improvements to facades and businesses on the historic square. Participating projects had to provide a match of 25% to the 75% provided through the grant fund. More than 20 businesses participated in the programs from painting, replacing windows and awnings, and updating signage.

The historic Capri Theater was able to completely revitalize their neon sign, adding a sense of nostalgia to nights in downtown Shelbyville. The City also used the funds to install a decorative informational kiosk giving visitors and locals updates on numerous events and activities happening throughout the community.

That same year, the city also sold three dilapidated downtown properties to BedCo Investments and the Grindstone Cowboy for renovation. Once completed, the properties will feature Grindstone Cowboy coffee, a restaurant, and entertainment venue, as well as an ice cream shop, retail shops, business offices, and short-term overnight rental accommodations.

At present, the mayor and city council have authorized funds for the architectural and engineering conceptual plans of a new "Riverview District." With funds from the fifth phase of the TDOT Transportation Alternative Program, this project will connect the historic square to the Shelbyville Riverwalk/River Overlook and River Bottom Park on the scenic Duck River, across the Duck River from the existing Fisherman's Park and dam. Initial plans call for underground utilities, decorative lighting, streetscaping, a stage for events and musical performances, and more.

A catalyst for the conceptual Riverview District is the soon-to-open Glass Hollow Table and Tavern, a 270-seat steakhouse that will also have entertainment areas, meeting/reception rooms, and four short-term overnight rental accommodations for those on the Tennessee Whiskey Trail.

City of Shelbyville Mayor Randy Carroll stated, "The City is grateful and proud to receive this prestigious award from the Tennessee Municipal League. The merchants, our City staff, and the South-Central Development District joined in this team effort to revitalize the Historic Shelbyville Square and the results are stunning. This award is just icing on the cake for the wise planning and investment by each member of the team. We hope you will take time to visit and stroll around our beautiful Historic Square. Enjoy!"

Each year the Tennessee Municipal League honors cities throughout the state for overall excellence, improvement, specific outstanding programs, or department accomplishments.

'I am delighted that Shelbyville received the Municipal League award for Excellence. The Council is moving forward to improve tourism and promote the City square. The river overlook and revitalization of buildings will be a great drawing card for visitors to Shelbyville. We are just getting started. The Council is trying to acquire more property so we can expand the footprint for visitors to enjoy Shelbyville.'

-William Christie, 4th Ward Shelbyville City Councilman.

Alsup says goodbye to City

Staff Reports

There will be no more early morning visits to the batting cages-no more visits to check on the outdoor swimming pool heater or times of chatting with his valued employees like Jennifer Swann and others. Mike Alsup is hanging up his official uniform for retirement.

As the 4th of July fireworks take off Thursday night, no doubt Alsup will remember a lot of good times. As well, he will be getting a lot of responsibility off his back come next week.

Directing several public parks and a full Rec Center is of course not for the faint of heart. It's really about someone who loves being with people. That's what he liked the most about his job-being with the people, he told the T-G recently.

Alsup said he plans to spend more time with his family now. No formal announcement has been made regarding Alsup's replacement. The T-G will have a story coming soon.

While there was a lot of kidding around, almost a roast at times, no doubt, this man, Alsup, called a legend in his profession, will be greatly missed. He has spent most of his life working in municipal parks and recreation.

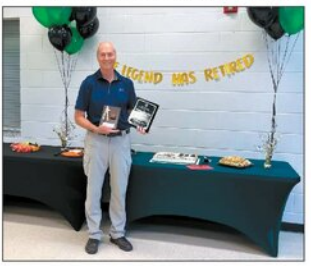
During the years he's been with Shelbyville, he's been working on a new Master Plan, which includes a new soccer field and much more. He will be handing that Master Plan over to someone else soon, but rest assured, Alsup is the type that everything will be in great order.

He's worked in parks and recreation for 45 years, he notes, and 9.5 of those years have been spent with the City of Shelbyville. Before coming to the Pencil City, Alsup was very instrumental in the design and construction for the Fort Smith, Ark., recreation center.

He will hang up his Rec shirts soon but everyone that enjoys the Rec Center at H.V. Griffin Park will think of Alsup-a man who gave a lot so others could swim, bat a ball and have a great family reunion.

He said during his retirement party on Monday, "It is an honor to get to know others and serve their needs. I encourage all of you to make a difference in someone's life, every day."

The Times-Gazette wishes Alsup the very best. He's been a mainstay when we've needed vital information about parks and recreation. So, thank you, Mike! Enjoy!





T-G Photos by Noah Maddox

Mike Alsup who is retiring from the Rec Center/City parks division, had some fun with his right hand person, Jennifer Swann, on Monday during a farewell event in his honor.

United Way

United Way of South Central Tennessee

Local United Way Awards $27,000 in Grants to Local Agencies

The local United Way is awarding $27,000 in grants to twelve agencies aligned with United Way's areas of impact in Bedford and Lincoln counties: health, education, and financial stability.

The United Way of Bedford County and the United Way of Rutherford and Cannon Counties, formerly separate entities, merged in spring 2023 and is now known as the United Way of South Central Tennessee (UWSCTN). UWSCTN focuses on enhancing education, health, and financial stability across Bedford, Cannon, Lincoln, and Rutherford counties.

"We are excited to partner with these agencies in our community this year. These programs have been awarded a grant through a committee of local community members who feel that these programs will help us move the needle in making the community more equitable for all. We look forward to continuing to make an impact in priority areas for the Bedford and Lincoln communities," shares Kristen Swann, CEO and President of United Way of South Central Tennessee.

2024-2025 Grant Partners

Access Hope
Bedford County Schools
Boys & Girls Clubs of Bedford County
Caregiver Relief Program of Bedford County
Community Clinic of Shelbyville and Bedford County, Inc.
Community Development Center
First Choice Pregnancy Counseling Center
Haven of Hope, Inc
Hospice of the Highland Rim Foundation, Inc.
Primary Care & Hope Clinic
Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee
Shelbyville-Bedford County Senior Citizens Inc.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

If American voters were undecided about Biden's health and mental competency to continue as POTUS, then all doubts were erased by the total disaster of his performance at the Atlanta debate between he and Trump on Thursday night. The democrats gambled on this failed venture to build up Biden's falling support among his dwindling followers including his own political party. Previously videos showing Biden's obvious stumbling and faltering speech were unanimously classified as "FAKE" by democrats, the White House and most of all, the ultra-liberal media in Biden's camp. But after Thursday night's debacle and catastrophe for poor dwindling Joe that was seen live in America and on the world's stage, just how in the world will they now claim the TV broadcast was 'fake'? In a way, one had to feel a tinge of pity for poor bewildered Joe, with his mumbling raspy voice, open mouth and blank unfocused stare as he attempted to counter Trumps' s accusations of his failure over the past 3 1/2 years to perform. Biden's responses were always of a defensive and never offensive nature which is a sign of a failure in such a high-level impacting debate. In a sense, Trump ate poor Joe's breakfast in this Rube Goldberg spectacle. Even more appealing was First Lady Biden's motherly instinct as she led her bewildered spouse off the stage at end of the debate. But Joe, true to form, smilingly told reporters in a nearby Waffle House following the debate that he "did very well."

Now the question arises in even the liberal media, the Democratic party and independent voters, can Biden still claim he's physically and mentally fit to lead America for another 4 years? The facts are its questionable if he's capable of leading the country for another 4 days let alone 4 years. If there ever was reason to invoke the 25th amendment to our Constitution, now is the time for congress to step forward and bring it to the front and proceed to remove Biden. Section 4 of the 25th amendment conveys to congress the ability by majority vote to remove the sitting president if he's incapable of performing the duties of President. This amendment is complex in scope and since its ratification in 1967 there has been no sitting president removed due to mental incapability but the potential is there. Of course. the crux of the matter would be getting a majority vote of the partisan congress. Also, there is the matter to consider that if Biden were removed due to mental incompetence, then the alternative would be equally unqualified and equally clueless Harris as VP to assume the duties of president.

So, America is in a flux of uncertainty and turmoil and if Biden is not removed or voluntarily steps down then the most logical and only course of action is to make a legal change and vote him out next Nov. 5.

Charles David Sliger
Shelbyville





T-G Photo by Dawn Hankins

WORSHIP AT FUMC-S THIS WEEK

Join Shelbyville First United Methodist Church for a spiritually enriching worship service this Sunday, July 7. Pastor Abe Zimmerman is preaching "The First & The Last" from Matthew 20:1-16. The congregation will see how Jesus' parable teaches about God's heart, human hearts, and the priorities of the Kingdom of Heaven. Sunday School for all ages begins at 9 a.m., followed by the Worship service at 10 a.m. For those unable to attend, FUMC-S offers a livestream on Facebook and a broadcast on WLIJ 1580 AM.

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PLAYWRIGHT

From page 1

Kyle reveals that the historic setting was perfect!

"Clocks are Like Angels," takes place in a small town in East Tennessee in the 1930s, when TVA began dam construction and started buying up land and displacing families. Kyle said his idea came from a TVA book that he found on his dad's bookshelf.

Most of Kyle's plays come from southern events.

Yes, he is a fan of Tennessee Williams plays. Go figure.

Kyle, in the truest sense, really is an aspiring, southern playwright, who knows that dreams really do come true. His dreams of having his plays performed in New York just keep coming true.

The Murfreesboro Theatre wants more! He can hardly keep up.

"Clocks" initial performance was June 8 at the Rogue Theater Festival in New York City (not too far away from Broadway.) That makes him smile.

"The production in New York is just electrifying," he recently told the T-G. "It's at the Flea Theatre downtown."

The Flea Theater is in the TriBeCa neighborhood of Manhattan in New York City-in the shadows of the World Trade Center area, Kyle explains. It presents primarily experimental theatre and was was founded in 1996 by Jim Simpson, Tony-award winning actress Sigourney Weaver, Mac Wellman, and Kyle Chepulis.

Weaver has many awards and claims to fame. She received a Tony award nomination for her role in the play "Hurlyburly" in 1984 and everyone knows her fame from the movie and its sequels, "Alien."

There are some moments of levity in his plays.

"But once the story turns over, you could hear a feather hit the ground. When it was all over, the audience just roared. That was really gratifying."

Kyle doesn't compare himself to such actors as Weaver. He knows he has to earn his way around the street to Broadway.

But he's getting closer.

Still, in 2022, his monologue play, "Portrait of a Young Man" made it to the Rogue festival in Manhattan too. So, he's pretty popular in the Big Apple in his own right.

Don't worry. Kyle keeps a check on reality and balance in his life. He keeps his "day job," as an employee of Cooper Steel.

He says he's really not about celebrity status, anyway. What he wants is to write and share a passion for life-whether that be told in past, present or future tense.

While some people ride horses, bicycles, work out or hike, he's a writer. And he pulls no punches that just because his family was associated with the walking horse industry for many years-that's not of interest to him, though he really does appreciate the industry.

A graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, writing plays is a long-time passion. But he still maintains his role as husband, dad, moving his family back to Shelbyville and wants to also eventually become a part of the local, performing arts fabric.

"It's just been a bit of a long ride with this one," Kyle says of "Clocks."

How does he do it?

He explains, "Dialogue, fortunately, is something that comes pretty naturally to me. Once I know the stakes in a scene, once I know what the characters want, the dialogue just flows. With this one in particular, it is a group of characters on stage you don't typically see. It's a bit of a unique story which I'm very proud of . . . so happy to have stumbled upon."

His work flows quite naturally. He encourages other writers as well.

"I wrote and failed for years, because I thought, I've got a character I like and a setting and I'm off to the races."

He says he found out that wasn't the case. That horse never made it out of the track.

"They say write what you know, which I partially agree with. I would amend that a little bit and say write what you're curious about. Once my mind transitioned to that side of the equation . . . I want to ask the question I don't know the answer to. Once I started to going down that path, my writing started to build."

Suddenly, it was full speed ahead with his writing, then Murfreesboro and New York.

He said last year's "This House is Not a Home," really took off when he began writing in that manner. He said that play is a result of when secrets or truths finally come out.

"I've got several others that I have written that haven't really been read widely. I've got another one that I've just written that I'm really excited about."

It's still in the developmental stages, he advises.

"I realize, looking at my own life and the lives of others, I realize in so many ways, our lives are just about secrets-the secrets we chose to tell. Or the secrets we choose to hold."

He said in "Clocks" some of those "truths" are devastating.

"Hopefully if we do it right, by the end of it, the audience has been taken a ride. And if we really do it right, they can see something of themselves and what's happening or can ask questions of themselves of how they would react in that situation."

He said obviously, this play and hopefully many others to come will be cast in other locations. So, time will only tell how each play is perceived in a certain location and what it means to audiences.

That's the beauty of playwriting, he notes.

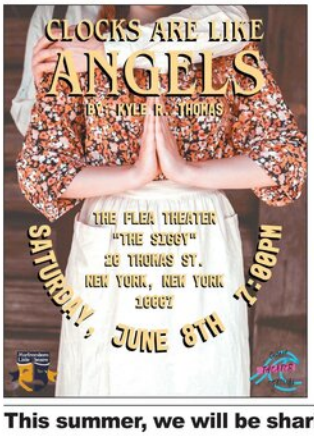
Like any author, he doesn't want to talk too much about his newest script. But he does share a little.

"I've got people who are reading it. The setting is an old, family home where a generational storm is bearing down on them. The family that lives inside does not want to leave. The story becomes an exploration of faith, a battle of wills and ultimately what can and cannot be left behind."

Get ready to purchase your tickets.

"Murfreesboro Little Theatre signed on to produce it before they've ever read it," he notes.

The Times-Gazette will continue to follow this Bedford County playwright's career.







Community CALENDAR

Democratic Party Meeting

The Bedford County Democratic Party will meet at 6:00 P.M. on Monday, July 15, at its headquarters in the Executive Building (yellow brick building next to the Fly) at 210 South Main in Shelbyville.

County Commission Meeting

County Commission meets 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 9, at the historic courthouse

Cartwright Elementary Ribbon Cutting

The ribbon will be cut on the new elementary, Cartwright Elementary on Fairfield Pike, Thursday, July 11, 5 p.m. Tours of the building will be available.

City Council Meeting

City Council will meet in regular session on Thursday, July 11, at 6 p.m.

This summer, we will be sharing portions of the 2024 STATE LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS.

113th GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUDGET



The 2024-25 state budget highlights lawmakers' continuous efforts to keep taxes low and remain fiscally responsible while prioritizing the needs of Tennesseans. The zero-debt budget is a spending plan that advances Republicans' efforts to strengthen families, improve public safety, advance education, and create new opportunities for businesses to grow.

Total legislative initiatives accounted for nearly $21 million in recurring investments and $141.5 million in nonrecurring expenditures. While revenues have slowed considerably, Tennessee continues to be among the most fiscally stable states in the nation, with no state income tax and a low overall tax burden.

The slate of budget and legislative priorities includes significant investments in rural and behavioral health care with $303 million in new dollars directed to 17 programs. These funds will help to expand bed capacity, fund infrastructure projects for children's hospitals and expand access to behavioral health inpatient care.

The budget adds $261 million in new recurring dollars for K-12 education, bringing the total base Tennessee Investment in Achievement (TISA) budget to $6.8 billion and the overall budget for public education to $8.55 million. The new dollars will cover medical insurance premiums, retirement for teachers, and funding for teacher raises to bring the annual starting base salary up to $50,000 by 2026.

Among new investments in public safety are a $17 million investment for 60 new Tennessee State Trooper positions and $750,000 in security grants for houses of worship. The budget includes a $36 million investment to help distressed counties and rural communities with economic development, such as community asset improvements, marketing and downtown revitalization grants.

It also makes a $100 million deposit in the state's Rainy-Day Fund, which serves as the state's savings account to help withstand economic downturns, bringing the fund to a historic balance of more than $2.15 billion.

Tennessee is among the lowest-taxed states in the nation and collects zero income tax. Tennessee holds the highest bond rating issued by all three of the nation's credit rating agencies, which reflects extreme confidence in the Volunteer State's preparedness in meeting financial commitments in tough economic times.

Appropriations / House Bill 2973 by Lamberth, Cochran, Hazlewood, G. Hicks, Williams -

This year's zero-debt budget highlights Republicans' continuous efforts to cut taxes for Tennesseans, maintain fiscal responsibility while prioritizing safety, infrastructure and education. It invests $52.8 billion in the state of Tennessee for the 2024-25 fiscal year, with total legislative initiatives making up $21 million in recurring investments and $141.5 million in nonrecurring expenditures. While revenues have slowed considerably, Tennessee continues to be among the most fiscally stable states in the nation with no state income tax and low tax burden overall. Public Chapter 966

Budget Implementation (BIMP) / House Bill 2971 by Lamberth, Cochran, Hazlewood, G. Hicks, Williams - This bill makes statutory revisions required for the implementation of the annual appropriations act. To maintain fiscal responsibility, lawmakers are making a $100 million investment in the state's Rainy-Day Fund, which serves as Tennessee's savings account to withstand economic downturns. This allocation raises the fund to a historic level of $2.15 billion. Public Chapter 964

Bond / House Bill 2972 by Lamberth, Cochran Hazlewood, G Hicks, Williams - Authorizes the state to issue and sell bonds of up to $877 million. The proceeds will be allocated to the Department of Transportation for the construction of highways and for the purpose of acquisition of equipment, and erection, construction, and equipment of sites and buildings including the acquisition of existing structures for expansion, improvements, and repairs to existing structures. Authorizes the Funding Board to issue bonds in amounts not to exceed 2.5 percent of the amounts specified above for funding discount and cost of issuance. Public Chapter 965

EDUCATION

- $261 million for K-12 public education to go into the TISA education funding formula
- $125 million to keep the state's commitment to raise the starting salary for every Tennessee teacher to $50,000 by 2026
- $144 million recurring for 20,000 education freedom scholarships
- $15 million for the Charter Schools Facility Fund

LAW & ORDER

- $17 million to add 60 new highway patrol troopers, supervisors and support staff
- $6.4 million for military border deployment of Tennessee National Guard
- $4.4 million for a legislative initiative to implement blended sentencing to address juvenile crime
- $1.5 million to fund a legislative initiative to reduce recidivism of repeat misdemeanor offenders
- $383,500 for a legislative initiative to collect data on number of illegal immigrants in Tennessee from law enforcement agencies
- $15 million for grant pools for volunteer firefighters, rescue squads, and EMS
- $4.45 million for Youth Villages Violence Prevention Program in Shelby County
- 13 new positions for the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
- $1.5 million authorized for pay raises for District Attorneys and Public Defenders

HEALTH

- $80 million to strengthen rural health
- $25 million for behavioral health
- $97.7 million to support Tennessee's hospitals
- $12.3 million to support Tennessee nursing homes

FAMILIES & VULNERABLE CITIZENS

- $900,000 for DIDD residential pilot program to provide permanent housing for persons with disabilities
- $1.4 million to increase personal needs allowance for long-term nursing home residents on TennCare from $50 - $70 per month
- Increasing hourly rate for indigent defense
- $2 million for four new Safe Baby Courts
- $3 million for Crisis Pregnancy Center grants

RURAL COMMUNITIES

- $36 million in non-recurring grants to help distressed counties and rural communities with economic development

CONSERVATION

- $59 million for Tennessee State Parks capital projects
- $51 million to the Heritage Preservation Fund to preserve land across this state
- $20 million to expand blueways trail access through new recreational access points to Tennessee waterways
- $10 million to improve water quality at rivers, lakes and streams across the state, making them safe for future generations to enjoy
- $10 million to expedite the Bill Dance Signature Lakes initiative
- $5 million to protect and enhance scenic beauty along our major highways
- $3 million for Access 2030 to make Tennessee State Parks accessible to Tennesseans with disabilities



SPD 2024

Shining the Light on Drugs Initiative sponsors picnic

Staff Report

The Shining the Light on Drugs initiative last weekend was a success, according to volunteer Bonnie Cady. Attending the picnic were 13 kids and their guardians.

Life Source Counseling Center, Shelbyville Community Clinic, Center for Family Development and Drug Rescue all had display tables. Cady always places a photo of her grandson, Bill Hallum, who died of a narcotics overdose 2 years ago. This is how she really got so involved.

This weekend, she thought of Bill, who she calls a sweet soul. She watched innocent kids color a picture for the parents that are incarcerated.

There were games, music, speakers.

Special guests included: BCSO Sheriff Austin Swing, Deputy Chief Nikia Elliott, Lieutenant Chris Cook- head of MRT, Malaya Pendergast- recent MRT graduate. Drug Rescue volunteers were Robert and Vicky Colvin.

The guests enjoyed a big amount of pizza, cookies and watermelon, courtesy of Shelbyville Community Clinic.

"God sent us a nice breeze, so it was pleasant," said Cady. "Thanks to all who worked to make this a success."





BCSO Photo

ROAD RAGE DOESN'T PAY

Bedford County Sheriff Austin Swing reports with the help of the public and BCSO detectives, his department made an arrest on last week's Road Rage case on Normandy Road and 41ASouth. William Brown of Joe Hart Road, age 42, has been charged with shooting a teen in the head earlier this week. He was being held in Bedford County jail on a $250,000 bond. Brown has been charged with 4 counts of aggravated assault with other charges pending. The Sheriff's Department reports that the victim is recovering.



SPD Photo

Congratulations, Sergeant David Dye!

This week marks an incredible milestone for one of Shelbyville Police Department's dedicated officers. Sergeant David Dye is celebrating his 13th anniversary with the SPD. Serving on the A Day Shift, Sergeant Dye's commitment, hard work, and leadership have been instrumental in keeping our community safe and strong, SPD officials said. "Please join us in congratulating Sergeant Dye on his 13 years of outstanding service. We are grateful for everything you do, Sergeant Dye! Here's to many more years of excellence!"

Charitable Filing Fees to Remain at $10

(NASHVILLE, Tenn.) — Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett is reminding all charitable organizations in our state of some favorable updates to the Charitable Solicitations Act that will benefit these entities — starting today.

Notably, the reduced $10 filing fee for all charitable organizations remains in place for the fourth consecutive year. Charitable filing fees typically range from $50 to $240.

"Tennesseans generously give to their favorite charitable organization, and they expect their donation to support these entities by strengthening the services they provide to citizens and communities," said Secretary Hargett. "We are grateful to Sen. Art Swann, Rep. Jake McCalmon, and the General Assembly for their continued support and trust in forgoing the nearly $2 million in fees once again to help strengthen the outreach of these impactful organizations."

Tennessee is home to more than 15,000 charitable organizations. In addition to the fee reduction, the Charitable Solicitations Act clarifies parameters on how charities are defined within state law to now include any entity determined to be tax-exempt. Other updates include provisions that provide enhanced transparency as to how funds were raised and spent by charitable organizations. The updated law also improves the accuracy of reporting through an enhanced certification process to ensure all information submitted by a charitable organization is true and correct.

The Act also places restrictions on any organization or professional fundraiser from operating while under investigation, and it strengthens disclosure requirements on individuals or entities that place or maintain donation bins in Tennessee.

The Charitable Solicitations Act was passed with unanimous support in both the Senate and House in 2024. Additional information about Public Chapter 533 can be found by clicking here.

For more information about the Secretary of State's Division of Business and Charitable Organizations, visit sos.tn.gov/charities.

JAIL INTAKE Bedford County Corrections

If today's intake was set to music, the theme would likely be, "driving on a revoked." While the offenders may have saved themselves some money by not purchasing licenses, insurance and in some cases, having proper registration, it costs them more in the long run, regarding bonds and court costs.

Tony Laird, drug paraphernalia

Charles William Lane, violation of probation

Taylor Michelle Ledbetter, hold extradition another state, possession drug paraphernalia

Cassandra NMN Lewis, to serve time, General Sessions Court

Kevin Lopez Godinez, failure to yield, no driver's license on demand

Austin Luangaphay, violation of probation

Patrick Hayden Lykins, to serve time, General Sessions Court

Gary Thomas Lynn, homeless, criminal trespassing

Sonya Faith Maddox, to serve time, General Sessions Court

Jose DeJesus Martinez, driving on revoked, financial responsibility, simple possession, traffic control device (stop sign.)

Ingrid Martinez-Juarez, driving on suspended, DUI, light law, open container law, speeding

Hazel Martinez Romero, no driver's license, exhibited on demand, speeding

Alanzo Lazon Mason, failure to appear

Robert Earl McClure, domestic assault, aggravated

Sandra McGowan, mfg., distribution and selling controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia

Hailey Brooke McWhorter, leaving the scene of an accident with personal injuries

Brittany Lynn Meadows, driving on revoked, financial responsibility, seatbelt law

Jose Alberto Mendez, driver failure to exercise due care; no driver's license exhibited on demand

Jose Julian Mendoza-Correno, no driver's license exhibited on demand

Crystal Michelle Metcalfe, possession of drug paraphernalia, schedule I and schedule VI drugs, unlawful possession of weapon

Marcelino Morales Godinez, driver failure to exercise due care, DUI, no driver's license exhibited on demand

Efrien Moreno Perez, DUI

Ryan Curtis Morton (other charge)

Michael Shane Mullins, criminal trespassing

Elvis Efrain Muralles Tuna, Smyrna, criminal simulation, forgery

James Joseph O'dell, to serve time, Circuit Court

Jason Brent Odom, violation of probation

Lonnie Ray Pack, driving on revoked, financial responsibility, improper display registration, registration to be carried, speeding and violation of registration law

Kerra N. Parrish, reckless endangerment

Jimmy Martin Patterson, violation of probation

Andrew Scott Peoples, disorderly conduct, vandalism

Matt Dillon Phann, mfg., distribution, sell controlled substance and violation of probation

Joshua David Philpott, possession drug paraphernalia, possession schedule VI, violation of registration law

Sean Drake Pickett, driver failure to exercise due care, DUI, possession of handgun while under the influence

Tonya Farrah Poe, violation of probation

John Sebastian Posada, 4 counts aggravated assault, failure to exercise due care, driving on suspended, financial responsibility, improper passing of a vehicle, 10 counts of reckless endangerment

Nicole Marie Price, violation of probation

Jeffrey William Quinn, financial responsibility, no driver's license exhibited on demand, violation of the registration law

Dylan Hunter Rakes, violation of probation

Ezequiel Ramirez Vazquez, no driver's license on demand, texting while driving an motor vehicle, violation of registration law

Miguel Ramos-Lares, no driver's license on demand, traffic control device (stop sign)

Kerry Yavagious Ransom, shoplifting, violation probation

Charles Michael Reed, criminal trespassing, simple possession

Orlando Joseph Reed, driving on revoked, speeding

Gregorio Mahatma Reyes-Sosa, DUI, failure to maintain lane, violation of implied consent law

Thaddie K. Rice, driving on suspended, DUI, improper display of registration

William Andrew Richards Jr., driving on revoked; possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession, traffic control device (stop sign)

Joshua Leon Richardson, driving on suspended license

Mary Alexis Rigsby, reckless/careless driving

Lincoln Jared Rombold, violation of probation

Christopher Jesus Rosales Quintero, to serve time-General Sessions Court

Jordan Ruiz Alvarado, light law, no driver's license exhibited on demand

Charles Raymond Runion, bondman surrender (other charge)

Diego NMN Sanchez, to serve time, General Sessions Court

TJ Roosevelt Saunders, driving on suspended, possession drug paraphernalia, simple possession, violation of probation

Kahmya Monae Scheaffer, assault, vandalism

Necos Lamar Scott, possession of drug paraphernalia

Dannie L. Short, possession schedule VI

Marcel Giovani Simon, order revoking bond

Ashanti Monea Smith, driving on revoked, light law

Brady Orlando Solis, driving on suspended, texting while operating a motor vehicle

Everado Espejo Sosa, DUI, open container law, speeding

Angelica Marie Stephens, simple possession

Dalton Ryan Stoestill, to serve time, General Sessions Court

Zackery Lee Tannery, hold extradition to another state

James Robert Thomason, failure to appear

Devon Lee Thompson, failure to appear

Samuel Edward Thompson, hold extradition to another state

Douglas Cody Tomlin Hunter, falsification of results of a drug test

Ediz Valesca Vasquez Moren, light law, no driver's license on demand

Hipolito Villanueva Torres, driving on suspended, speeding

Maurice Mandell Walker, failure to appear, light law, no driver's license exhibited on demand, possession of schedule VI drug

Kieran Vivon NA Ward, aggravated domestic assault

Lori Ann Watson, to serve time, General Sessions Court

Henry Thomas Walker, driving on suspended, speeding

David Leslie Wilkerson, leaving the scene of an accident

Ja'Kyri Marquis Williams, no driver's license exhibited on demand

Michael Lee Williams, shoplifting

Zachary L. Williams, shoplifting

Chloe Hilda Wilson, failure to appear

Melissa Joy Wood, falsification of drug test, to serve time, General Sessions Court, violation of probation

Juan Miguel Zavala Jr. driving on revoked, financial responsibility, speeding

David Thomas Boyd, violation of probation

Teresa Renee Canseco Aquino, driving with possession of METH, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of schedule II drug, simple possession

Tyrique Drewshaun Carter, hold extradition to another state

Orlando Ismael Cinto Barmaca, financial responsibility, light law, no driver's license exhibited on demand

Thomas Keith Cook, violation of probation

Eric Eugene Davis, violation of probation

Sabrina Ann Freeze, hold extradition to another state

Luis Fernanda Hernandez Velasco, simple domestic assault

Maricela Martinez Valdivia, failure to yield, financial responsibility, no driver's license exhibited on demand

Diego Martinez Monterey, driver to exercise due care, financial responsibility, no driver's license exhibited on demand

Deon Latwon Puckett, order revoking bond

Eddie Dorris Ray, criminal trespassing

Keshun Darrell Simmons, failure to appear

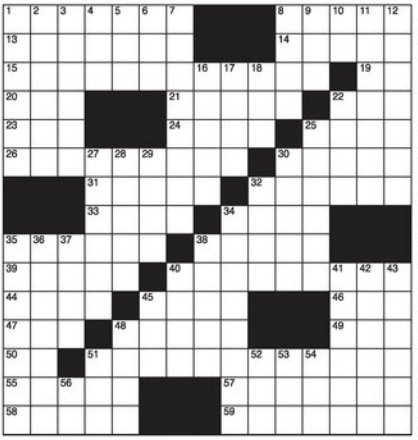
J. Darrell Vincion, capias, failure to appear, violation of probation

Ronald Blake Whitehead, firearm use in association with a dangerous felony, introducing contraband into penal institutions, possession of drug paraphernalia, resisting stop frisk halt search, 2 counts simple possession ($55,500) bond.

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS
1. Book size
8. Indonesian Island
13. 'The Sopranos' character
14. Plants often found in stews
15. Stern
19. Atomic #52
20. Often seen after a company name
21. Silk garments
22. Inhibiting hormone (abbr.)
23. Type of beer
24. Margarine
25. Throw lightly
26. Explains again
30. Raccoon-like animal
31. Sneaker parts
32. Platforms
33. Scored perfectly
34. One's essence
35. Strikes with a firm blow
38. Makes tractors
39. Music term
40. Lack of energy
44. Vestments
45. __ and feathers
46. Total
47. Gobbler
48. One with Japanese immigrant parents
49. Type of braking system (abbr.)
50. Home of Rudy Flyer
51. Manageable
55. Lugged
57. Irritated
58. Sea eagles
59. Warm seasons

CLUES DOWN
1. About visual sense
2. Part of a horse's saddle
3. In a way, interchanged
4. Rocker's accessory
5. Very important person
6. It precedes two
7. Flavored
8. Musical notes
9. String instrument (slang)
10. Mister
11. Fine, light linen fabric
12. Absence of bacteria
16. Discounts
17. Area units
18. A description of one's life
22. Gazelles
25. Plumbing fixture
27. Makes especially happy
28. One side of something many-sided
29. Frosts
30. Defunct monetary unit of Guinea
32. Female animal species
34. School terms
35. Written law
36. Unpleasant aroma
37. Nuclear weapon
38. One who challenges
40. Opposite of first
41. Able to be utilized
42. Less interesting
43. Implants
45. Canister
48. Gestures
51. After B
52. Romanian monetary unit
53. Long-term memory
54. Cash machine
56. The Volunteer State



BACKYARD BASH WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

BACKYARD
BARBECUE
BARK
BUFFET
BUNS
CHARCOAL
CHICKEN
ENTERTAIN
FLIP
GRILL
GUESTS
HAMBURGER
INFORMAL
MARINATE
MEAL
OUTDOORS
PARTY
PATIO
SALADS
SAUSAGE
SMOKED
STEAK
TEMPERATURE
WOOD



Horoscopes

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you may be full of more energy than you have had in a while, helping you to sail through all of your tasks this week at a record pace. Enjoy this wave while you ride it.
TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, heed your body's messages that it needs some rest right now; otherwise, you may not be up for social engagements that are on the horizon. Pisces comes into your life this week.
GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
You cannot hang out with every person who is trying to get a piece of your time right now, Gemini. It's likely you will need to space out socializing over a few weeks to meet with them all.
CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, you have been working hard to make professional progress, and it might be time to think about your next step. It could be time to take your talents elsewhere.
LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, you are often drawn to unfamiliar experiences that can teach you something new. This week could provide a host of opportunities to try something new.
VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
It is time to get off the fence and commit to one decision or another, Virgo. Your professional life hinges on your ability to take a path and then stick with it.
LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, you might be tempted to accept every invitation that comes your way. However, it is better to be smart about the people with whom you associate. Use every opportunity to network.
SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, take a look at how things should operate before you hit the floor running. You want to be strategic in how you expend your energy; otherwise, you may experience burnout.
SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
You lean toward being one of the more passionate signs in the zodiac, Sagittarius,. That passion will be on full display this week. You'll wear your heart on your sleeve.
CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
Domestic issues come to the forefront, Capricorn. You're inclined to spend time at home with loved ones. Take this time to work around the house and yard.
AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, your popularity is growing and it's time to get out there and hang with the movers and shakers. Soon even more people will learn who you are.
PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
Strengthen your ideas with a concrete foundation, Pisces. Only then will your plan come to fruition in the right manner, leading to better success.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JULY 7
Ringo Starr, Musician (84)
JULY 8
Maya Hawke, Actress (26)
JULY 9
Courtney Love, Singer (60)
JULY 10
Sofia Vergara, Actress (52)
JULY 11
Alessia Cara, Singer (28)
JULY 12
Steve Howey, Actor (47)
JULY 13
Harrison Ford, Actor (82)

SUDOKU

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

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

Level: Beginner

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

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)

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-389-3904 (TnScan)

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

Auctions

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

Services

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

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

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

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

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

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-844-278-8285 www.dental50plus.com/tnpress #6258 (TnScan)

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

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-855-281-6212 (TnScan)

Wanted

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

NOTICE

Today's date 07/03/24
The following vehicle will be sold at Auto Collection LLC.
319 Madison Street, Shelbyville, TN 37160.
Ending 08/01/22024 at 8:00AM.
If you have any interest in this vehicle
call (931) 492-4663.

Vehicle: 2013 Honda Accord VIN# 1HGCR2F8XDA045637

Bedford County property transfers

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

File date: June 25

Location: 429 Lewis Ave Shelbyville; Seller, Mitchell Boyce; Buyer, Alejandro Quintero Rosales; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, Hawkins & Price LLC; Buyer, HP Realty Co LLC; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 1607 Edmond Rd Shelbyville; Seller, Lee Don Kelton, Wanda S Kelton; Buyer, Monica Barnes Vanschaick; Price, $235,000 (Deed).

Seller, Melodie Ann Allen Cootes, James W Allen Estate, James Allen, James W Allen Jr Estate; Buyer, Josue Morales Velazquez; Price, $70,000 (Deed).

File date: June 26

Location: 224 Honeybee Dr; Seller, TLI Inc; Buyer, April Ahrendsen; Price, $550,000 (Deed).

Location: 240 Green Acres Rd Unionville; Seller, Wesley Aaron Garrison, Corey Eugene Garrison; Buyer, Jennifer Glaze Bryant, David Michael Bryant; Price, $237,600 (Deed).

Location: Charlotte Dr; Seller, Wyatt A Reid; Buyer, Edwin Comstock, Karen Comstock, Ryan Edward Comstock, Kasey James Comstock; Price, $250,000 (Deed).

Location: 174 Putman Well Rd; Seller, Donna Verbosky; Buyer, Jeremy Poarch, Amy Poarch; Price, $499,900 (Deed).

Location: 100 Wisteria Circle; Seller, Shane William Vanchaick, Monica Noel Barnes Vanschaick; Buyer, Baylee Carkuff, Jared Carkuff; Price, $325,000 (Deed).

Location: Unionville Chapel Hill Rd; Seller, Susan Martin Pearson; Buyer, Justin Stallings, Sarah Stallings; Price, $59,800 (Deed).

Location: Halls Mill Rd; Seller, Randall Davis, Gwyn Davis; Buyer, Tiffany Lea Davis Klages, Devon Klages; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 129 Mullins Hollow Rd; Seller, Jonathan David Boyce, Chelsea Jeanette Boyce; Buyer, Joey Wayne Brown, Kayla Dawn Brown; Price, $575,000 (Deed).

Location: 2904 Hwy 64 Lewisburg; Seller, Aaron Nunley, Chapel Hill BTR Inc; Buyer, Justin Palmer, Brittany Palmer; Price, $342,800 (Deed).

Location: 203 Shelbyville Mills Rd; Seller, Octavio Cortes Navarro; Buyer, Jose Isidro Diaz Gomez, Juana Hernandez Perez; Price, $352,000 (Deed).

File date: June 27

Location: Coffee Rd; Seller, James W Laster Jr, Kelly D Laster; Buyer, Laster Family Holdings LLC; Price, $115,177.48 (Deed).

Seller, Coopers Steel Fabricators Inc; Buyer, Industrial Development Board of the City of Shelbyville Inc; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Alton Ave; Seller, Vance Clay; Buyer, Joey Curl, Greg Curl; Price, $227,500 (Deed).

Location: 316 Winners Circle; Seller, SDH Nashville LLC; Buyer, Solange Ablavi Djergou Yonli, Eric Lennell Cooper; Price, $316,215 (Deed).

File date: June 28

Location: 320 Winners Circle; Seller, SDH Nashville; Buyer, Johanna Bruton, Shawn Bruton; Price, $340,915 (Deed).

Location: Warner Bridge Rd; Seller, Michelle Anette Hastings, Javier Rodriguez; Buyer, RV Partners, Russell Boothe, Angela Boothe; Price, $375,000 (Deed).

Location: 775 Union Ridge Rd; Seller, Kenneth Parker; Buyer, Wesley Hausman, Jordan Cheyenne Hausman; Price, $236,000 (Deed).

Location: 431 Anthony Rd Wartrace; Seller, Jeannette E Hogan Lapsley, Lapsley Family Revocable Trust; Buyer, Kelly Michelle Orr, Steven H Orr; Price, $775,000 (Deed).

Location: 174 Higgins Rd Wartrace; Seller, Kenneth L Merrifield, Marie A Merrifield; Buyer, Avery J Davis; Price, $325,000 (Deed).

Location: Mill Rd; Seller, Ignacio Cardenas, Jose Luis Cardenas, Irma Yolanda Rivera; Buyer, Irma Yolanda Rivera, Ignacio Cardenas; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, Ignacio Cardenas; Buyer, Irma Yolanda Rivera; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, Irma Yolanda Rivera; Buyer, Ignacio Cardenas; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Fairfield Pike; Seller, Dianne W Orndorff, Cheryl Dianne Orndorff; Buyer, Cheryl Dianne Orndorff Family Revocable Trust; Price, $0 (QD).

File date: July 1

Location: 95 Magnolia Lane; Seller, Frank Delles; Buyer, Frank Delles, Johanna Keep; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 300 Cottonwood Dr;Seller,JustinCutler;Buyer, Cortez Locke; Price, $296,600 (Deed).

Location: 128 Lorien Circle; Seller, Tina Jeannette Gaw; Buyer, Moe Chit Aung, Truede Wah, Rody Thung; Price, $285,000 (Deed).

Location: Pickle Rd; Seller, Donna Elliott; Buyer, Donna Elliott, Lois Hayden, Michael Hayden; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 101 Viking Ln Shelbyville; Seller, Jim Walker; Buyer, Alfonso Sandoval Rosales, Fabiola Berenice Licea Martinez; Price, $155,000 (Deed).

Location: 503 N Hillcrest Dr; Seller, Benson 2013 Joint Revocable Trust; Buyer, Industrial Development Board of the City of Shelbyville Inc; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Pickle St; Seller, Linda L Cook; Buyer, Debra Lynn Reed, Jordan Danielle Reed; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: John Brinkley Rd; Seller, Dwaine L Stocky; Buyer, Daniel L Strickland, Lesli L Strickland; Price, $45,600 (Deed).

Free Press, Free People



Daniel Richardson
daniel@RichardsonMediaGroup.net

As we celebrate Independence Day, we are reminded of the fundamental principles upon which our nation was founded. Among these principles, none is more critical to the maintenance of our democracy than the freedom of the press. Today, we take a moment to reflect on the vital role a free press plays in a free society and to express our deep appreciation for those who have fought tirelessly to protect this freedom—both on the battlefield and in the halls of government.

The American Revolution was not only a fight for independence but also a struggle for the right to think, speak, and publish freely. Colonial newspapers were instrumental in fanning the flames of revolution, spreading ideas of liberty and resistance. Figures like Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Paine used the press to inform and unite the colonies. The inclusion of freedom of the press in the First Amendment of our Constitution was a testament to its perceived importance by our Founding Fathers. They understood that for democracy to thrive, the people must be well-informed and free to express their views without fear of retribution.

Throughout our history, the press has served as a watchdog, holding those in power accountable. The Watergate scandal and the publication of the Pentagon Papers are prime examples of how investigative journalism has exposed corruption and influenced the course of our nation. In modern times, the press continues to uncover truths that might otherwise remain hidden, shining a light on issues ranging from political malfeasance to corporate wrongdoing. These efforts are crucial in maintaining the transparency and accountability that are the bedrocks of our democracy.

However, the free press faces significant challenges today. Journalists around the world and here at home confront threats of censorship, intimidation, and even violence. Even today Evan Gershkovich, a Wall Street Journal Reporter, sits in a Russian prison for reporting objectively on the news. Economic pressures have also led to the closure of many local newspapers, diminishing the availability of reliable news sources. The rise of misinformation and the proliferation of digital media platforms have complicated the landscape, making it harder for citizens to discern fact from fiction. Despite these obstacles, journalists continue to pursue the truth with unwavering dedication, often at great personal risk.

We must honor and appreciate those who defend press freedom. Journalists who risk their lives to report from war zones or uncover dangerous truths deserve our deepest respect. Likewise, we owe gratitude to the lawmakers and advocates who fight to protect the First Amendment and ensure that the press remains free and independent. Their work safeguards the very foundation of our democratic society.

The press also plays an essential role in fostering civic engagement. By providing accurate and comprehensive information, journalists empower citizens to make informed decisions and participate actively in democracy. An informed public is better equipped to hold leaders accountable and advocate for positive change. In this way, a free press is not just a pillar of democracy but its lifeblood.

On this Independence Day, let us remember the importance of supporting a free press. Subscribing to local newspapers, supporting organizations that defend press freedom, and staying informed are all ways we can contribute to this cause. It is our collective responsibility to defend against current and future threats to press freedom.

As we celebrate the birth of our nation, let us reflect on the enduring importance of a free press. We extend our gratitude to those who have fought for freedom on the battlefield and in the statehouse, ensuring that the right to free expression remains intact. With a vigilant, free press, we can safeguard our democracy for future generations.

Wishing you all a reflective and meaningful Independence Day. Let us continue to cherish and defend the freedoms that make our nation great.

BEDFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monthly Commissioner Business Meeting
Tuesday, July 9, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M.
Bedford County Historic Courthouse
1 Public Square, 2nd Floor, Courtroom
Shelbyville, TN 37160
Meeting agenda can be found at
www.bedfordcountytn.gov.

Public Comment Procedure: State law provides for a period of public comment at local government meetings to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on matters that are germane to items on the agenda. Any person interested to speak should:

1. Record name and address on a sign-up sheet that will be provided, prior to the meeting being called to order.

2. When called upon, address comments to the Chairperson in a respectful manner.

3. Limit remarks to three minutes for items(s) germane to the Agenda.

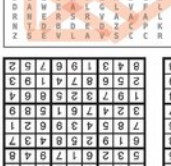
Persons with a disability who wish to request special accommodation to participate in the public meeting should notify Suzanne Alexander one business day prior to the meeting if at all possible, by calling (931) 684-7944 or email your request to suzanne.alexander@bedfordcountytn.gov to discuss accommodations. Every reasonable effort will be made to meet your need.

PUZZLE SOLUTION

	S	E	I	S					S	B	I	C		
S	C	A	R	A	B			H	O	R	N	E	D	
P	A	R	E	T	I	C		S	E	M	I	D	R	Y
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ANSWER: (cont. Bohner)



ANSWER: (cont. Rittenberry)



ANSWER: (cont. Alvarado)

Larry Eugene Presley

Larry Eugene Presley, age 76, of Shelbyville, passed away Monday, June 24, 2024, at his home.

A graveside service was held at 10:00 AM Friday, June 28, 2024, at Willow Mount Cemetery.

He was born June 23, 1948, in Winchester to the late Louise Ford Davis of Bixby, OK, and the late Lawrence Howard Presley of Franklin County.

Larry was a source of wisdom and unconditional love for those who knew him, and his absence will leave an irreplaceable void in the lives he touched. A man of deep faith, Larry loved God and cherished spending time with his family on his farm, hosting family dinners and game nights until late hours. He was also a naturally-gifted mechanic and craftsman, able to fix or create almost anything with his hands. He retired from American National Can while operating a successful business as a highly sought-after auto body mechanic for over forty years.

He is survived by five children: Cynthia Presley Sullivan (Willie) of Shelbyville, TN; Jennifer Price (Wes) of Shelbyville,



TN; Christopher Presley of Lynchburg, TN; Bradley Presley (Julia) of Estill Springs, TN; and David G. Presley of Nashville, TN. He is also survived by a sister, Mattie Rider, of Bixby, OK; 16 grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, four nieces & nephews, and a host of extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his infant daughter, Lori Ann Presley, and by his brother, David E. Presley, of Shelbyville.

To memorialize Larry, the family asks that you give his love away to others in the same way he gave unconditional love to those in his life.

Memorial donations may be made to Homes of Hope of Bedford County @ www.hohobc.org.

Ninnie Mai Smith Benson

Mrs. Ninnie Mai Smith Benson, age 85, of Shelbyville, passed away June 27, 2024, at her home, under the loving care and comfort of her family and the caring and professional staff of Alive Hospice.

Funeral service will be 12 noon Saturday, July 6, 2024, at Galilee Primitive Baptist Church. Burial will follow in Willow Mount Cemetery. The family will receive visitors one hour prior to service Saturday at the church.

She was born March 8, 1939, in Bedford County, to the late James Andy Greer Smith and Essie Mai Warren Smith. She was retired from Bedford County Nursing Home and held membership at Thompson Grove Baptist Church.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Phyllis Benson and a son, Jerry Benson; brothers and sisters, Ruth Rucker, Ann Blackburn, Minnie Francis, Earnest Smith, James A Smith,



Joe Lewis Smith, Jessie B. Smith, Ursula Smith, and Grandville Smith. Survivors include her children, Linda Edwards, Jacqueline Jackson, Darlene Chavez, Caroline (James) Underwood), Terry (Karena) Sims, and Jackson Benson; a sister, Hattie King and a brother, Thomas R. Smith; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

James Lester Patterson

Funeral services for James "Mr. Jim" Lester Patterson, age 82 of Shelbyville, were held Monday, July 1, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the chapel of Doak-Howell Funeral Home with Jarred Young officiating. Burial followed at Hagewood and Hand Cemetery in Charlotte, TN. Mr. Jim passed from this life June 26, 2024 at his home surrounded by his loving family.

Visitation was Sunday, June 30, 2024, from 2:00 -5:00p.m. at Doak-Howell Funeral Home.

Mr. Jim was born August 21, 1941, in Nashville, TN to the late George & Marie Donnelly Patterson. Along with his parents, he is preceded in death by his loving wife of 52 years, Ann M. Patterson; brother, Jerry Patterson; and sister, Linda Rolfe.

He was a graduate of Waverly High School and attended Austin Peay before serving his country in the U.S. Navy. He would then go on to be a tower engineer with AT&T for 35 years having retired in 1999.

He was a lover of softball, bird hunting, fishing, golf, dirt and street bikes. He especially loved spending time with family and friends.



He is survived by his stepchildren: Beverly (Allen) Peralta, Joe Evans, Robin (Allen) Johnson, grandchildren; Heath (Chrissy) Young, Jarred (Natasha) Young, Brad Evans, Justin (Brittany) Evans, Brandy (Shawn) Graves, Elizabeth Gentry, Kyle (Beth) Stovall, brothers; Mike (Dianne) Patterson, Joe (Janis) Patterson, Charlie (Reatha) Patterson, sister; Margaret (Jim) Simmons and several great grandchildren.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home will be serving the family.

Matt Gassaway

Matt Gassaway, age 41, of the Wheel Community, passed away Thursday, June 27, 2024. He was born in Columbia to Marty Berry Gassaway and Geraldine Andrews Gassaway. Matt was of the Christian faith. He worked in construction and was a former Paramedic. Matt was preceded in death by his faithful fur baby, Charlie Murphy.



Matt loved hunting and fishing but most of all Matt loved helping people. That was why he chose to become a Paramedic. He loved his work but later made a career change to work independently in the roofing industry working to help people with their insurance claims. He always wanted to feel like he was helping someone! His love for his daughter was his light in this dark world but his faith was very strong.

Matt is survived by his daughter, Serenity "Reny" Gassaway of the Wheel Community; parents, Marty and Geraldine Gassaway of the Wheel Community; sister, Misty Gassaway Blade of the Wheel Community; nephew, Jake Townsend of the Wheel Community; and special dog, Billy Jack.

Visitation with the family was Tuesday, July 2, 2024 from 10 AM until 1 PM. The funeral service was conducted at 1 PM on Tuesday, July 2, 2024 from the Chapel of Lawrence Funeral Home with Bro. Brent Haley officiating. Interment followed at Wheel Cemetery in the Wheel Community of Bedford County.

John Cooke, Jeremy Swift, George Newman, Adam Johnson, Charles Haskins, and Brian Bruce served as pallbearers.

For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to any animal rescue organization of your choice.

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

Talking about Alzheimer's disease and the various dementias

Dementia is an umbrella term that alludes to various conditions arising from damage to brain cells that affect the cell's ability to communicate. This damage can affect a person's ability to think clearly and his or her behavior and emotions, says the Alzheimer's Association. There are several types of dementia, and Alzheimer's disease is one of them.

It is important to recognize that dementia is not a normal part of aging. Many conditions contribute to dementia. Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the most common form of dementia, accounting for between 60 and 80 percent of all diagnoses, says the Alzheimer's Society. The symptoms of dementia include:

• memory loss that can include both short-term and long-term memory issues

• difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or language that are severe enough to impact daily activities

• changes in mood or behavior

Symptoms of AD can overlap with other types of dementia. However, unlike other dementias that may affect only one part of the brain, AD generally affects most of the brain. The most common early symptom of AD is difficulty remembering new information. Thato's because AD typically affects the part of the brain associated with learning first, says the Alzheimer's Association. As the disease progresses, which it's bound to do because it is degenerative, symptoms become more severe. Disorientation, confusion and behavioral changes may become more pronounced. Over time, even speaking, walking and swallowing can become difficult due to changes to the brain.

The National Institute on Aging says abnormal buildup of proteins known as amyloid plaque and tau tangles are implicated in dementia occurrence. People with AD also may experience a loss of connections between neurons in the brain. Neurons are responsible for transmitting messages between different parts of the brain, and from the brain to muscles and organs in the body.

AD is not the only type of dementia. Heroes' a look at some lesser-known forms of the disease.

• Vascular dementia: After AD, vascular dementia is the next most common form of the condition. Vascular dementia occurs when there is trouble with the blood supply to the brain, which often occurs after a stroke.

• Dementia with Lewy Bodies: This dementia is linked to the presence of Lewy bodies, which are clumps of proteins in the brain. Symptoms of this dementia mimic both Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, which can make it hard to diagnose.

• Frontotemporal dementia: This dementia affects the frontotemporal lobes, impacting language, thinking and behavior.

• Mixed dementia: This occurs when two or more dementias are happening at the same time. AD and vascular dementia usually are responsible for mixed dementia.

A visit to the doctor is warranted whenever personality, memory and language issues present. It can take time to diagnose dementias, so any symptoms that adversely affect the brain should be reported to a physician immediately.

Motlow State: Shaping The Future Workforce Through Innovation, Partnerships, And Technology

BY MICHAEL TORRENCE, PH.D.

The education and training marketplace plays a pivotal role in shaping not only the future workforce, but also the overall economic landscape. With advancements in technology and shifts in job market demands, Motlow State, aligns its educational and training offerings, in conjunction with business and industry, school districts, and state agencies, the systems and training programs are uniquely positioned to advance local and statewide initiatives. We hope to continue seeing broad yields, significant growth, and positive results in this era.

Motlow State continues to listen, explore, create, implement, and assess. Our ability to create responsive programmatic design is situated, not necessarily in immediacy, but quality expediency. There is no partnership that is long or short term that wishes to create synergy that is flimsy. Over months and years, for example, partnerships between educational institutions and industries habitually are cut and measured. For example, the collaboration between Uncle Nearest, Jack Daniel's, and Motlow State Community College, is a testament to resilience, patience, and execution involving the TBR, THEC, SACSCOC, the Tennessee General Assembly, two of the world most recognizable brands, and our college wide teams. The forthcoming program is a partnership that exemplifies how curriculum tailored to specific sector needs (such as distilling and spirits business management) can prepare students for successful careers while simultaneously catapulting/fostering industry growth. The aforementioned is our thesis and our hypothesis. We believe we truly support local talent and due to this intention, we will continue to attract global multinational companies who can assist in creating sustainable employment for our communities. Motlow State continues to exemplify the modern education and training institution. We are increasingly designing to be responsive to the changing demands of the marketplace. By closely aligning curricular offerings with industry needs, educational institutions can ensure that students acquire relevant skills that are in high demand. This direct response to the labor market not only enhances employability upon graduation, but also fuels economic growth by addressing skills gaps that can hinder industry expansion.

Motlow State, with a cadre of faculty and professional affiliated adjunct instructors within their fields, pushes intentionally for a focus on skill and competency development. We recognize the rapidly changing needs across industry sectors for enhanced learning platforms. We have made learning available anywhere, anytime, and on demand. For example, search electronic access through our robust library holdings, both hard copy and digital. Tennessee and the world await at your fingertips. The integration of digital technologies in education—ranging from online learning platforms to AI and VR—transforms the learning experience, making it more accessible, flexible, and tailored to individual learner needs. This use of technology not only expands access to education, but also increases its effectiveness, allowing learners to engage with material at their own pace and according to their personal learning styles. Here is a point of fact to consider, the smart phones we carry today have more computing power than the rocket that initially sent astronauts to the moon.

Moreover, our digitization and Academic Resource Center (ARC) efforts act as a model while we aim to steward our ability to train faculty on current pedagogical and andragogical tools, platforms, and software that impact our students. Our goal is to one day collect and analyze data on student performance in real–time which we hope enables our college to provide targeted interventions and personalize the learning experience further, thereby improving educational outcomes and student retention rates. Our students are our "why." The ongoing conversations that we have about students and their needs, but include student voices and student perspectives. The aforementioned provides our ever evolving culture of connection and shared governance a legacy matrix that can continually create space for improvement. Engaging with our Student Government Association officers is but a step in the direction of longitudinal institutional development. Student Club leadership and their institutional advisors have a continued opportunity to help us amend, adjust, and advocate. The shared responsibility of preparation for transfer, workforce development, and employability belongs to our institution, its students, and our communities of collaborators and supporters.

In conclusion, Motlow State embraces modern education and training approaches, exemplifying responsiveness to the evolving demands of the marketplace. Through strategic partnerships with businesses, industries, and state agencies, Motlow State has positioned itself to advance both local and statewide initiatives. One of our goals is to simply foster economic growth and prepare students for successful careers. We recognize the accelerated moving targets and continue to prepare ourselves to meet the needs of the existing and forthcoming student body. Businesses cannot wait. Industry cannot wait. We cannot wait, so as a member of the leading higher education institutions across the state of Tennessee (we are all leading), Motlow State embraces the continued value of open access, while standing on the strategic mission to further teaching, innovation, learning, and training with evidenced based practices in support of student success. By prioritizing skill and competency development, leveraging digital technologies, and fostering a student–centric approach, Motlow State will continue to advance the way in providing accessible, flexible, and effective education that meets the needs of learners and the demands of the current and future workforce.





Submitted Photos

FLAT CREEK CC CENTER HONORS VETERANS

Roger Debatin, president of Flat Creek Community Center, helped organize this great Quilt of Valor program, along with several other volunteers. See more Quilts of Valor pictures on page 12 today.



"I Feel Like This Is Where I'm Supposed To Be" – New Eaglettes' Basketball Head Coach Keisha Jarrett Talks First Month on the Job

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

Shortly after the Shelbyville Central Golden Eaglettes lost to Coffee County in the Region 5-4A semifinal to end their season, Kyle Turnham stepped down as the head coach. This opened up an opportunity that Keisha Jarrett is taking full advantage of after she was hired at the end of May.

"I feel like this is where I'm supposed to be. I've coached before, I played at a high school level, played at the collegiate level, but I just never would have thrown myself out there to actually be a coach," Jarrett said. "I feel like I have the knowledge and the tools and all the mentorships that I need to be a great coach."

Jarrett played at Clarksville High from 2002-06 where she finished her career 6th on the all-time career scoring leaders list. She still holds that spot today with 1,364 career points. After graduation, she went on to continue playing basketball at Cumberland where she was voted as the Senior Team Captain and was a four-year letterman.

Jarrett truly believes that her time playing college basketball has best prepared her to be a head coach. She has experiences to draw back on – and remembers how difficult the adjustment was – so she can help get her players for the next level as well as winning in the high school ranks.

"When I went to college, the conditioning was totally different. If the girls want to be able to play at the next level, I want those girls to have an easy transition, and I know what it takes and looks like to be successful at the next level."

Conditioning is a massive part of a team's success, but if she was going to have the same kinds of numbers on the team like last year, conditioning would only get her and the team so far. With only 8 girls on the team last year and at least three graduating, Jarrett knew she had to get to work in spreading the word to come out and try out.

"Coming into it I already kind of knew the odds against the team, but I didn't want that to get in the way with what I wanted to build," she explained. "I came in thinking I definitely needed to recruit the hallways and get the word out. Just come try out, come see me and see how the vibe is."

Fortunately for Jarrett and the Eaglettes' program, the work she put into spreading the word worked.

"Went to tryouts and I expected maybe 10-12 people," she said. "Luckily I was blessed enough with 18 girls that came out. I also had some girls reach out that they wanted to come out and were not able to make it, so I am also holding another tryout in the fall."

It really seems that Jarrett's style and approach meshes well with the students at Shelbyville Central. Some of that probably comes from her time in the school systems in Rutherford County already. She has the basketball experience of course, but she also seems to have a certain relatability with the kids that can be hard to determine from just an interview. She is infectious with energy – during our interview, she was extremely upbeat about how her team performed and how the future of the program looks – which usually bodes well for someone's job performance in general, much less working with and teaching kids every day.

Jarrett says that her friend was actually the one that found the job opening, and even encouraged her to at least apply and go through the interview process. Principal Charlie Pope, along with a few others, conducted the interview, and what left an impression on Pope would be something that, on the surface, might not seem like a big deal.

"She was the only person to say 'I want to be here at Shelbyville Central' and that was refreshing," Pope said in his previous statement.

As it comes to actual play on the court, Jarrett has a plan for that as well, and her motivation is exactly what you would want to hear.

"I've played all my life," Jarrett said. "Since I couldn't play the game anymore, it was always about being able to mentor and give back my knowledge to the younger generation."

She is a stark contrast compared to her predecessor, at least in terms of coaching style. Nothing against past coaches of course, but the difference in style might come as a breath of fresh air to a program that is working to find a way back to the heights it enjoyed over 20 years ago. Jarrett brings a clear vision and direction to help develop this program not just for this season, but for the future as well.

"I definitely want the girls to have fun. I want us to be united as a team. I want us to be able to play structured basketball but also want them to be skilled enough to be able to read the defense and recognize those things in game, building up their basketball IQ. Defense-wise we want to be aggressive, be the type of team to be able to run up and down, and also switch defenses, zone, trap, and full court man," she explained. "With me wanting to do these things, I can't just play with five girls even with as much conditioning as we can give these girls."

"If we want to win games, it's going to be a team thing and not just the five girls on the court."

In the second to last week of June, the Eaglettes went up to Murfreesboro to compete in the summer camps on the campus of MTSU, playing eight games over the course of three days.

"We were together for maybe three weeks before the camp," she said. "It's a good time for me to see what we're really good at and things that we are not so good at. I really didn't think we were gonna do as well as we did. I feel really good about going into the season, and if we continue to work on these things we can compete at a high level. It's also them believing in themselves and having the confidence to play like I would like them to play."

Of the eight games the Eaglettes played at MTSU, they lost just twice. Both teams they lost to made either the state sectional round or the state tournament last season. Even though the summer camp games aren't always about wins and losses, winning six of the eight games played after being together for only three weeks with a new coach and teammates says a lot about the kind of players Coach Jarrett is working with.

"The level of intensity and aggression that they played at was very fun to see," she said. "It was fun seeing them respond to me and them trusting me enough to lead them to excellence."

Of course, a bigger goal of the summer camp games is to play as many players as you can to not only see how different players react to different in-game situations, but see how certain players react to being put on the bench at various times. It goes both ways. With that many games in such a short period of time, it's inevitable that you will be forced to put some lineups out there on the floor that do not have a lot of chemistry or time together.

"Varsity and JV, everybody was able to hit the floor and be exposed to the game," Jarrett continued. "I was able to see some of their character as well as their skillset."

Of those 18 players previously mentioned that went to summer camp, only five of them are returning players. Throw in the fact that there will be another tryout held in the fall, and the Eaglettes could end up fielding almost a completely different team. There will already be major rotation changes, but if Jarrett can get the girls and the school to continue to buy into the program, it seems like they may get their mojo back. A youthful and energetic coach bringing a fast and frenetic but high basketball IQ style of play should do wonders as it comes to filling up Rick Insell Gymnasium in the coming years.



Jarrett's (center) Eaglettes' won 6 of 8 games at the MTSU summer camp. *Submitted Photo.*



Jarrett was a Senior Team Captain in her fourth and final season during her time at Cumberland University from 2006-10.
Submitted Photo

Three Blue Raiders earn Conference USA Scholar Athlete Awards

MT ATHLETICS

DALLAS – Three Middle Tennessee student-athletes earned Conference USA Scholar Athlete Awards for their respective sports, as announced by the league Friday. Owen Stamper earned the men's golf honor for the second consecutive season, while Leo Raquin took the men's tennis award and Purity Sanga was named the women's cross country Scholar Athlete Award recipient. This marks the second straight year that three Blue Raiders have earned Scholar Athlete Award honors.

Stamper, a Scottsville, Kentucky native takes home the men's golf Scholar Athlete Award for the second consecutive season. He represented the Blue Raiders as an individual at the NCAA West Lafayette Regional. The senior finished in the top five of four tournaments, including a win at the Argent Financial Classic, while also being named to the CUSA Commissioner's Honor Roll. He concluded his career with a 72.2 scoring average and a career-low round of 65, as well as being named the 2023 CUSA Golfer of the Year.

Raquin, a native of Besancon, France, went 18-9 at the top spot for the Blue Raiders in 2023-24. The senior caps off a season that saw him named CUSA Player of the Year, CUSA Newcomer of the Year, earn First Team All-CUSA in both singles and doubles, as well as, named to the CUSA Commissioner's Honor Roll. He finished his career with 100 wins, boasting a 56-17 singles record and 44-23 doubles mark.

Sanga, a graduate student from Kapsabet, Kenya, won the 2023 CUSA Championships as Individual and went on to place 13th at NCAA South Regionals in the 6k with a personal best time of 19:01.30. The first team All-CUSA runner was also named the CUSA Cross Country Women's Athlete of the Year, CUSA Championships Most Outstanding Senior and earned USTFCCA All-Region honors, as well as, being named to the CUSA All-Academic Team.



Owen Stamper, Leo Raquin, and Purity Sanga all were named Scholar Athletes of the Year for their respective sports.
Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

Lauren Giesecke Named Head MTSU Women's Golf Coach

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Lauren Giesecke, a renowned women's golf coach with nine years of head coaching experience, has been named head coach of the Middle Tennessee women's golf program, Director of Athletics Chris Massaro announced Monday. Giesecke becomes just the fourth Blue Raiders head coach in the program's history.

"We're thrilled to welcome Lauren and her family to MTSU," said Massaro. "Her proven ability to win, from leading Grand Canyon to five victories this past season to her rise from walk-on to team captain at Indiana, demonstrates the work ethic and leadership we value in our coaches. I always also impressed by the way she guided the program from Division II to Division I during her tenure. This was a tremendously strong pool of candidates, so I want to thank everyone involved in the search process."

The Kokomo, Indiana, native comes to Murfreesboro from Grand Canyon, where she had been the head coach of the Lopes since 2015. Under Giesecke, GCU broke numerous Division I era program records in the 2022-23 season, bringing home six top-three finishes and 5 top-three finishes in a row during the 2023 spring campaign. The Lopes earned 24 All-WAC honors with Giesecke's guidance, including two Freshman of the Year awards, and recorded 15 team tournament victories and 11 individual tournament titles.

"I am incredibly honored and excited to join Middle Tennessee as the new women's golf coach. This is such an amazing opportunity to lead this incredible group of student-athletes," said Giesecke. "I hope to be able to contribute to the rich athletic tradition of MTSU. I'm looking forward to building on the success, both academically and athletically, of this program and help our student-athletes reach their fullest potential. After visiting the athletic facilities and meeting everyone on campus, I knew this would be the perfect fit for me and my family. Thank you to Chris Massaro, Diane Turnham and Lee De León for this opportunity, I am so excited to be a Blue Raider!"

A graduate of Indiana, Giesecke led Grand Canyon to a historic 2017-18 season, including WAC Coach of the Year honors, the WAC Championship, and a berth to an NCAA Regional. In her final season with the Lopes, GCU finished third at the WAC Championship and won a D-I program-best five tournament titles. The program finished in the top-five in 10 of its 11 events and top-three in nine tournaments.



Lauren Giesecke was just announced as the new MTSU Women's Golf Head Coach on Monday.
Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

Prior to arriving at GCU, Giesecke was an assistant coach from 2013-15 at South Florida, where she helped the program rise in the national rankings and helped coach standout Ashley Burke to all-conference status and an NCAA regional berth.

Giesecke graduated from Indiana in 2011 with a degree in Exercise Science and a minor in Coaching as a four-year member of the Hoosiers' golf team.

Before coaching at USF, she worked as the Junior Golf Manager of PGA of America's Georgia Section, helping organize and run junior golf tournaments. She also spent time with the American Junior Golf Association and International Junior Golf Tour. In addition to her collegiate duties, Giesecke coached the 2019 Toyota Junior Golf World Cup girls team in Japan.

Summer Construction Brings Projects From Paper to Life For MTSU Athletics

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — Anyone who's driven by the northwest corner of Middle Tennessee State University lately will have seen the progress being made on many facets of Build Blue Phase One, most notably the frame of the new Student Athlete Performance Center in the North End Zone of Floyd Stadium.

But those who have come to camps, taken a walk on campus or just been a part of CUSTOMS this summer will have likely seen many more construction projects around the MTSU Athletics Complex than just the one featuring the large crane.

To update Blue Raider fans on everything happening in the world of construction in MTSU Athletics, Staff Writer Sam Doughton sat down with Larry Maples, Associate AD for Equipment and Capital Projects, and Nathan Wallach, Assistant AD for Broadcast Technology and Gameday Operations, to learn about all that's happened these past few months with the SAPC, the new video board in Floyd Stadium, the new control room and the new loading dock in the Murphy Center.

Student-Athlete Performance Center on Track for 2025

The newest presence on the Athletics side of campus that you can't miss is, of course, the SAPC, which had its final beam placement ceremony earlier this month. Maples said the project is on-schedule so far to open the building, which will house a new weight room, training room, equipment room, football offices and meeting rooms, among many other amenities, ahead of the 2025 football season.

It's a dream turned into reality for Maples, a 2013 alumnus of Middle Tennessee with a degree in Engineering Technologies, who has been a part of the planning for this new building when it was just an idea with no concrete plans. Seeing the steel go up and concrete poured has been special, Maples said.

"It's one thing to see it on paper and know it in your head," Maples said. "It's another to walk through the building and actually experience the size and scope that goes with what you've planned and see it come to life."

Fans can expect to see the building change game-to-game when they attend football games at Floyd Stadium this fall, Maples noted, explaining that if it all goes to plan, the building will be "100 percent dried in" by the end of the season, allowing construction work to accelerate in the interior of the building.

New Video Board to be ready for Game One against Tennessee Tech

Wallach had similarly good news to report on the all-LED videoboard's progress in the opposite end zone that's predicated the shutdown of Faulkinberry Drive for the better part of the past month, saying that the board is on track to be fully installed by August, allowing Wallach and his staff plenty of time to test it and troubleshoot any issues ahead of football's season opener on August 31.

The video board physically will take up the same space as the old scoreboard, allowing for the old supports to be utilized once again. But the LED footprint has increased from 23 feet by 36 feet to nearly 34 feet by 60 feet. Wallach said the increased footprint will allow for full screen replays, most notably, but also give the production team more leeway on certain in-game segments as well, particularly once the new control room comes online.

The new video board will also have a camera platform on top, a change in the layout of Floyd Stadium due to the construction of the SAPC. Programs must provide at least one end-zone cam location for TV broadcasts and team filming, and the design of the SAPC predicated a change from the North End Zone to the South at MTSU.



Construction on new amenities and improvements to Floyd Stadium are well underway for the summer with hopes of being completed in time for the home opener against Tennessee Tech.
Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

Wallach noted MTSU's partnership with Daktronics and Piros Signs, who were instrumental in the design and installation of the new video boards in Murphy Center ahead of last season, has come through for this project this summer, noting that many of the same folks who installed the Murphy Center boards are now installing the Floyd Stadium project.

"They're a very talented group who are out there in the hot sun welding," Wallach said. "It's going well, it's big. It's exciting, from our vantage point in the tower, to see it go up."

New Control Room set to be operational ahead of Basketball Season

Wallach might be even more excited about the potential of MTSU's new broadcast control room, currently being built in the southeast corner of the Murphy Center's concourse level. Balancing the Parent Company's schedule, who's been contracted for all athletics projects but the video board installation this summer, has pushed the date of opening the new control room back slightly from the dream date of the start of football to closer to mid-October.

But working simultaneously with Take One Broadcast Solutions out of Hendersonville, Tenn., who are building the racks of tech that will make up the core of the control room in their warehouse ahead of installation at the Murphy Center, will help keep things on schedule once construction itself wraps up in September.

"Fortunately, with all this gear, they're actually going to build our entire control room in their warehouse," Wallach said. "Light it up, make sure everything is working, test everything and then they will break it down with the interconnects in between the racks and bring the complete racks, set them in the space, reconnect them. Then, we should be good to go."

Wallach said the new technology that will come with the control room is when fans will really begin to notice the upgrades to both the basketball and football video boards, as the modern system will grant the in-game video board team the ability to use cameras with greater clarity, have more channels of replay available and be able to unlock more power to do in-game fan engagement, such as showing split screen feeds.

And for the folks working behind the scenes, Wallach said, the operations should be much, much smoother.

"I'm hoping we can show fans in November the difference when we get the new cameras and new signal flow worked out," Wallach said.

New Loading Dock work to resume in near future

Maples said during the course of starting construction on the new loading dock for the Murphy Center, which will be located in the Southeast corner (the one closest to the press box tower in Floyd Stadium), workers ran into issues with the water lines that head into Murphy Center, specifically finding them located more shallowly in the ground than was originally anticipated.

"Originally, we were trying to have this open for game one of this (football) season," Maples said. "That was going to give us a little more control for traffic flow."

That caused work on the loading dock to pause as contingencies were considered and now the project is projected to be done closer to the start of basketball season than the start of football. With the planned Phase Two of Build Blue likely to affect the Northeast corner of the Murphy Center, where the current loading dock is located, most profoundly, Maples said the Southeast corner, which is also located on the main "industrial" hallway and avoids the traffic complications of Middle Tennessee Boulevard, quickly stood out as the best spot for trucks to load in and out equipment for concerts, sporting events, graduations and everything else the Glass House hosts for the Middle Tennessee community.

Save, when shopping for your July Fourth barbecue

Barbecues are part and parcel of July Fourth celebrations. Such get-togethers might be even more notable in 2024, when Independence Day falls on a Thursday. That means many people will likely be taking off on Friday, July 5, which adds another day to celebrate with friends and family around the grill this year.

Opportunities to entertain will abound this July, and that can take a toll on hostsÓ pocketbooks. As the holiday approaches, individuals planning to host a July 4 barbecue can heed these tips to save on food and supplies at the grocery store.

• Ask guests to bring a side and/or beverages. Hot dogs and hamburgers may garner the bulk of the culinary attention at a July 4 barbecue, but side dishes are necessary as well. When inviting guests, ask each to bring a side dish or dessert. Potato salad, mixed greens, pasta salad, chickpea salad, and other cold fare go well with traditional barbecue favorites, and asking guests to bring these along can save hosts substantial amounts of money. If guests cannot bring food, ask them to bring beverages like soft drinks, iced tea, beer, or wine.

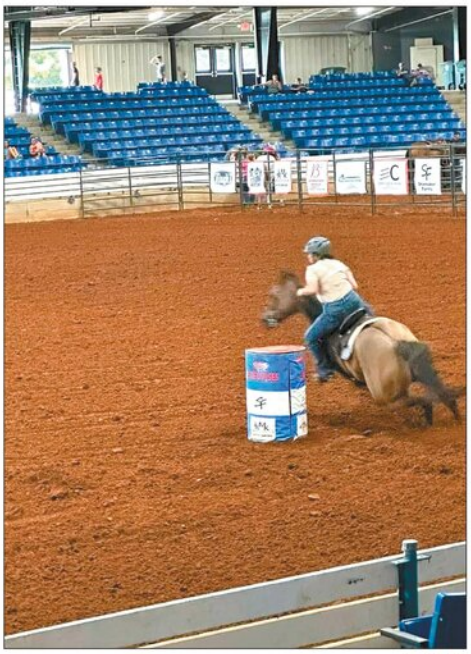
• Shop ahead. Hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken breasts, and other summer grilling favorites can be frozen and thawed outcome the day of the barbecue. Shopping ahead for such items, as well as beverages, can help hosts spread out the cost of hosting, which can make it easier to manage the cost of throwing a party, particularly if the guest list figures to be sizable.

• Consider less expensive cuts of meat. If steak is on the menu at your Independence Day barbecue, consider purchasing less expensive cuts of meat. The Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association notes that chuck cuts like flat-iron steaks and petite filets are flavorful cuts that won't cost nearly as much as rib-eyes and New York strip steaks. Hosts also can save on burgers by purchasing ground beef and creating their own patties as opposed to purchasing pre-made hamburgers from their grocer's meat department. The HPBA notes that chicken thighs, legs or quarters also tend to be less expensive than chicken breasts.

• Grill up healthy fare. Vegetables are less expensive than meat and poultry, and there's many ways to prepare veggies over an open flame. Grilled vegetable skewers are flavorful and popular, and guests might appreciate some nutritious fare to counter all the less healthy items they're accustomed to eating at July 4 barbecues.







TWHNC Photo

A GREAT SHOW!
The IBRA (International Barrel Racing Association) Youth Extravaganza was held last weekend at Cooper Steel Arena on the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration grounds. A highlight is always the youth barrel racing events.

Simple tips for more flavorful grilling

Grilling is sometimes described as an art form. Many skilled grill masters are a testament to that assertion, and its apparent to anyone who enjoys grilled foods that some who man the grill have a knack for producing flavorful dishes.

Though grilling requires a little trial and error on the path to becoming a go-to grill master, there are some simple strategies anyone can employ to produce more flavorful finished products.

• Dry rub foods before putting them on the grill. Grilling enthusiasts may debate if a dry rub or a marinade is best for grilled foods, and that back-and-forth may never produce a definitive answer. The choice of dry rub or marinade is ultimately up to the cook, but a dry rub can be more convenient because it can be applied shortly before foods are placed on the grill without sacrificing flavor. Many recipes call for foods to marinate for several hours or even overnight. Both dry rubs and marinades can improve the flavor profile, but the former can do so without too much planning ahead of time. Dry rubs also tend to be made with ingredients such as salt, pepper and brown sugar that many people already have at home, adding to the convenience of this approach that can enhance flavor without too much effort.

• Oil the grates before cooking. Similar to utilizing a dry rub when cooking, oiling the grill grates can add flavor and make grilling more convenient. Various online grilling experts and forums advise using a silicone brush to apply an oil with a high smoke point (the smoke point is the temperature at which the oil will begin to smoke). The online grilling resource 4thegrill.com notes that corn (smoke point 450 F) and peanut oil (440 F) are better than extra virgin olive oil (410 F) when oiling a grill grate. The oil applied to the grate can add some additional flavor, and also create a nonstick surface that ensures food is not torn apart while it cooks over an open flame.

• Bring meat to room temperature. One of the keys to successful grilling is to ensure foods cook evenly. Prior to grilling meat, take the meat out of the refrigerator roughly 20 to 30 minutes before you intend to put it over a flame. This allows the meat to reach room temperature, which in turn increases the likelihood it will cook evenly.

• Cook with wood. The culinary experts at Williams-Sonoma note that wood can be used to add flavor to grilled foods. Williams-Sonoma recommends soaking wood chips, herbs, or grapevine cuttings for 30 minutes and then draining before using with a charcoal grill. Avoid soaking wood or aromatics when grilling on a gas grill, as doing so can make it difficult to ignite the grill.

Grilling is a skill that anyone can develop over time. But even novices can employ a few strategies to increase the flavor profile of their next meal cooked over an open flame.





Flat Creek honors its veterans with Quilts of Valor

Quilts of Valor Foundation began in 2003, when Catherine Roberts had a dream. Her son, Nate, was at the time deployed in Iraq.

As if something out of a movie, Catherine saw her son wrapped in a quilt. His demeanor changed from despair, she said, to one of hope and well-being.

The message was "quilts equal healing."

Though she began with a specific set of standards and ideas about the QOV program, Catherine had no idea she was about to change the lives of hundreds of thousands of service men and women across this nation.

Catherine was clear that the quilts had to be quality made-not a charity quilt. It would be "awarded" and not passed out like magazines or videos. Catherine declared that a QOV would say unequivocally: "thank you for your service, sacrifice and valor in serving our nation."

The first QOV was presented at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center to a young soldier from Minnesota who had lost his leg in Iraq. QOV became a nonprofit in 2005.

Volunteer and local seamstress of Quilts of Valor is Rhonda Styer of Shelbyville. "The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation," Rhonda notes, "is to cover service members and veterans with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor."

Styer ended her speech at the center by saying, "On behalf of the QOV, Chain of Prayers, Inc, Flat Creek Community Center, my mother, my sister, Judy, and all those who helped me, and myself, we award these quilts."

"When I award a Quilt of Valor," she said recently at Flat Creek Community Center, "I am touched to my core when I see the face of the person receiving this award. We celebrate freedom because our soldiers have so willingly and unselfishly laid their lives on the line for us. Awarding a Quilt of Valor shows how much we appreciate all you have done."



'To the veterans in the room, whether you've worn the uniform for our Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard, your courage and skill have made the stars and stripes a powerful symbol of strength and hope.'

– Tennessee State Rep. Pat Marsh





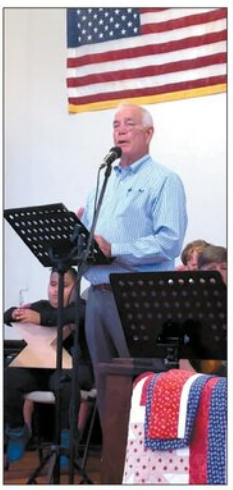


Submitted Photos

LOCAL VETERANS HONORED IN FLAT CREEK
Honored with Quilts of Valor during the recent patriotic event at Flat Creek Community Club were: Dan Jackson, Gary McCrory, James Houle, Ralph Baliff, Amanda Brand, George McCall, Jim Lenke, Charles Womble, Norman Cochrane, Larry Milliken and Samuel Dean Gilbert.







ABOVE:
Inge and Jim Wood were among the musicians at the June 1 event at Flat Creek Community Center.

RIGHT:
State Rep. Pat Marsh

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