COMMUNITY NEWS

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

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City and County officials hold workshops to present budget needs and requirements for next fiscal year

Governments working toward no property tax increases

By Dawn Hankins
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Putting the workbooks together for fiscal year budgets can be daunting at best. One take-a-way from recent City and County budget workshops is that there are always the necessary evils for both municipalities-state requirements for the County and upkeep on very expensive operations, such as the flume, on the part of the City.

Both municipalities set aside any legal talks this last week in order to get on with whether or not they will have to raise local property taxes in the next fiscal year.

The City has decided to stay at the same property tax rate of $1.48 per $100 assessed value.

The County has just begun weighing its needs and requests from its many departments. But the goal, according to Mayor Chad Graham on Tuesday during a workshop, is that the County is aiming for no property tax increase this year as well.

Still, at risk are potential County and City employee raises and cost of living increases. Inflation is reported by administrations to be through the roof.

As well, for the City, some Council members like William Christie, who also serves as vice mayor, are concerned about decreasing amounts in the City's annual fund balance.

He told the T-G this week, "I am very concerned with the decreasing amount of reserves. I really wanted to see a balanced budget presented to the City Council without going over the amount of money coming in. Unfortunately, the proposed budget is $8,000,000 roughly over the revenue. Going from $23,000,000 two years ago to $8,000,000 for the 2026 calendar year is not the direction I want Shelbyville moving."

Christie added, "I want to see our employees receive annual raises and I want to provide good services to our community, but we cannot let the reserves get too low to cover unforeseen expenses, like the flume for example. The City Council is very aware of the situation after the budget meeting Friday."



Mayor Chad Graham hands budget workshop documents to Commissioner Drew Hooker during a special budget study session on Tuesday afternoon.

The meeting to which Christie referred was a special called held last Friday at the Council Chambers at 100 N. Cannon Blvd. Items on the agenda included an ordinance for adopting the annual budget and tax rate for fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026. All Council members approved to keep the tax rate the same for the coming year.

But will that remain the case in the future?

Shelbyville City Council discussed during a budget workshop, operating and capital expenses and how both have affected the City's annual fund balance. Discussions will continue throughout June.

Council didn't vote in this particular workshop. But some major decisions are being discussed as to what is really needed this year in the fiscal year budget.

At this time, Council is going through the budget workbook which includes departmental requests.

Discussions, prior to a 30-minute lunch break, included whether the City needs to hire an employee or needs to hire someone outside, to maintain GIS. Other needs requested include a drone (mainly for codes and planning purposes but possibly shared by other departments) and a new truck to replace a 20-year-old one for the codes department.

The County as well has its long list of scheduled budget meetings before the full Commission finally approves the fiscal year numbers.

On Tuesday, following the regular monthly financial management committee meeting, there was a workshop held by the mayor and finance committee members. The County had been waiting on information from the finance team regarding state information on sales tax and insurance information.

Mayor Chad Graham said what would be discussed at the workshop Tuesday was all "housekeeping" items that keep the current budget going, whether they decide to add anything new or not, these things listed are necessary to sustain the County budget over the next 12 months.

Graham said it's a start toward a balanced budget or a number that doesn't require a property tax increase. The mayor said administration aimed to give a model structure without tax increase but also noted that everything needed or requested may not be on the table at this time.

Finance Director Daniel read line item by line-item costs associated with the operating budget for 2025-2026. The picture painted is that operating expenses have increased tremendously from office supplies to insurance costs.

Graham said hopefully, with this information released, Commissioners will be able to weigh in before the final budget is approved end of the month. Several were in attendance Tuesday.

The budget, as of now, includes annual step raises for

See BUDGET, 2A

Turn lanes and signals on Highway 231 at SR 82 coming!

TDOT finally awards contract for BC Safety Project

By Dawn Hankins and TDOT



T-G Photo

This accident occurred at Highway 231 North and the 82 Bell Buckle intersection back in 2023. This is just one of many accidents that have occurred in the spot where now TDOT plans to place turn lanes and install signals.

After many years of begging and pleading on behalf of the local community, due to countless accidents, several which have been fatal, the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) has now announced it has awarded a contract for what it deems a safety project at the intersection of US 231 (State Route 10) and State Route 82 (Sawney Webb Memorial Parkway.)

But TDOT states it will take at least another year to complete the project.

This information was released from the state last week.

TDOT awarded the project to local contractor Tinsley Asphalt with the lowest bid of $1,875,792. The Franklin County-based company is expected to complete the project by May 31, 2026.*

TDOT reports that a previous version incorrectly indicated there would be financial incentives for the contractor to finish early and penalties for any delays.

The safety project's scope covers approximately half a mile and consists of constructing turn lanes and signals on US 231 (SR 10) at the intersection of SR 82 (Sawney Webb Memorial Highway).

Work is expected to begin in the coming weeks. Due to a delay in the fabrication of signal poles due to supply chain issues, TDOT will install temporary traffic signals to bolster safety in this area.

State Rep. Pat Mathis of Shelbyville said in response, "Investing in Tennessee's infrastructure is vital for communities across the state to prosper. This much-needed signalization plan will streamline traffic flow and help keep drivers safe in Bedford County. I'm proud of the General Assembly's commitment to improving roads in the Volunteer State, and I look forward to the completion of this important project."

TDOT Regional Director Jay Norris explained, "We have heard from the Bell Buckle community about their concerns at this intersection and have been working hard to expedite this signalization project. Public safety is our

See TDOT, 2A



TASTY FOOD, GOOD COMPANY, LOTS OF GARDEN TALK

Photos by Kim Allison

Sara Wood, right, serves some tasty dessert to Becky Nichols during the recent Town and Country Garden Club picnic held at the home of Nancy Fayard. The Town & Country Garden Club promotes an interest in horticulture through educational programs at general membership meetings, encouraging members and projects of civic beautification. See full story and more photos on page 12 today.

BEDFORD BRIEFS

Flat Creek Potluck Meal

The Flat Creek Community Center will be holding its monthly First Saturday potluck on Saturday, June 7. The meal will be blessed at 6:00, and the usual entertainment program will start around 7:00. The community center is at 115 New Herman Road, right off of Hwy 82. This month, father-and-son duo Clay and Jonathan Ward's returning comedy and illusion show will be the program. The Prestidigitating Pranksters were very warmly received a couple years back, and participants say they're looking forward to having them out once more.

Yum, Ice Cream!

Raus Ice Cream Supper is June 14 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., featuring homemade ice cream, hamburgers, chips, pies and cakes. There will be a live performance by Billy Tarkington.

Police Blotter

Shelbyville Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division and Digital Forensic Unit made an arrest on May 23, in connection to an online shooting threat of the Madison Street Carnival. A 17-year-old juvenile was arrested for posting the threat on Snapchat, according to SPD. The juvenile had been involved in the carnival shooting in June 2024, that sent one adult male to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Shelbyville Police Department thanked concerned citizens who notified law enforcement of the Snapchat post.

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Ladies in Concrete

Concretemanagement program hosts over 300 middle and high school girls.

See Page 11A



Viqueens make program history

Viqueens get program-best third-place finish in TSSAA Class AA State Tournament.

See Page 10A

BC Arts Collective Spring Crawl brings in new talent

Bedford County Arts Collective's Spring Art Crawl was held last Friday night around the town square. Artist Kate Gann stands beside her art; she's new to the BAC. Danielle Armbuster of Main and McGrew had a mini workshop to share her creative process. Brian Smith, also a new Arts Collective artist, participated this year, displaying his found pieces and objects.

Heather Fry is opening a new art supply store next to the Piggly Wiggly off Highway 41 A North, called The Artist's Hoard. Fry had a booth with samplings of what's to come in her store. She is also the co-manager of the Bedford Arts Collective (BAC.)









BUDGET

From page 1A

full time employees, those meeting the necessary requirements, plus a 3% cost living adjustment for County employees.

A state minimal schedule- a 2.9% increase in salary- is suggested and included for judges. Elected officials are scheduled to receive a 3% increase in their stipends.

Non profits are not at requested increases, Daniel said, and the cost of one election is included for next year.

Codes and planning have shared increases and decreases for shared software. The IT budget, includes necessary software purchases to get cyber insurance, as required by the County's insurance company.

There are contracted service fees for the 4th phase of the Motorola project, which is planned to increase emergency radio communications. This is a project that has been behind due to company challenges.

Mayor Graham explained how the cost of living is estimated to be $700,000, in real money and that has to be accounted for to give the 3% raises to the employees and another $240,000 potentially associated with 1% step raises.

As for what people refer to as "new money," Graham said that is absorbed largely by the necessary general operating budget funds, due to increases in costs. That's another $700,000 to a million, possibly.

"You're talking about basically there's $2 million, in one way or another, round figures, being absorbed into the operating budget, notwithstanding other requests for capital, [which Daniel discussed] and/or other requests for personnel positions- fire and SO (sheriff's office) asking for staff."

In the budget are dollars for the bell tower renovation at the courthouse, however, this is paid out of courthouse renovation funds, according to Daniel.

The County clerk budget includes one-time increase for a debit-credit card scanner as the office has become really busy with passports, etc. Office supply increases hit both the County Clerk and Trustee offices due to increased customer activity, so requests were made accordingly.

The Sheriff's budget includes funding for the first phase or year of the Flock Camera expense. This is of course the readers which are being purchased and have proven very effective in law enforcement of stolen vehicles.

There's a $17,000 increase in investigative tools-removed from contract but something that should be re-bid soon. The Sheriff's Office also has in a request for $718,481, which is needed for the purchase of 12 vehicles plus the up-bid-at $492,000. This amount will come out of capital projects, according to Daniel.



Finance Director Robert Daniel and Mayor Chad Graham

Sheriff's deputies log in a lot of travel time, according to monthly reports given by the sheriff during County committee meetings.

As for Corrections, Daniel noted how $226,481 will have to be included extra in the budget for medical and dental. "We've been faced with lot increases in medical and dental over the last few years," explained Daniel.

For the Solid Waste Department, there's a $300,000 increase in the budget as part of the waste disposal contract.

The mayor has his own request of $100,000 for elderly, low-income tax relief.

TDOT

From page 1A

most important value. TDOT is looking forward to getting started on this project, which we believe will be a great first step toward creating a safer intersection for the people who live and work in Bedford County."

"The safety of our roads is a top priority, and this project is a much-needed investment in protecting lives at one of our busiest intersections," said Sen. Shane Reeves, R-Murfreesboro. "I appreciate TDOT's responsiveness to community concerns, and I'm proud to support funding that helps deliver real improvements for the people of Bell Buckle and the entire county."

The Tennessee General Assembly recently approved Governor Bill Lee's budget, which included an unprecedented $80 million in recurring General Fund dollars to TDOT. A portion of those funds will be invested in the Spot Safety Program to support more projects like this one.

As construction begins, lane closures will be published on TDOT's weekly Lane Closure Report. As always, drivers are reminded to slow down, allow for extra time for travel, and move over when traveling through a work zone. The Move Over Law was passed in 2006. The penalty for violating the law in Tennessee can be up to 30 days in jail and a maximum fine of up to $500.

Motorists can alert TDOT to potholes by calling the TDOTFIX Hotline at 833-TDOT-FIX or using this online form: TDOT Maintenance Request. The TDOT SmartWay Map (https://smartway.tn.gov) provides the latest construction activity traffic updates. Travelers can also call 511 for travel information.

"A previous version by TDOT incorrectly indicated there would be financial incentives for the contractor to finish early and penalties for any delays.

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Mandy Motes
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Better Homes and Gardens REAL ESTATE
HERITAGE GROUP
David Bradford
AUCTIONEER
License #: 2185
931-224-3900
931-680-1680

Local spay and neuter clinic celebrates 15th anniversary

By Sherri Frame
Special to the T-G

This year marks the 15th anniversary of Middle Tennessee Spay and Neuter Clinic which is working to combat pet overpopulation in middle Tennessee. Located on Union Street, they do this by offering low-cost surgeries and vaccinations, thanks to private donors, grants, and fundraisers.

Helping animals has been a passion of executive director, Kimberly Warren, for many years. She explains, "Reducing pet overpopulation is a major piece of the puzzle. Less animals being born means less homeless animals fending for themselves, starving on the streets, being injured, or becoming prey. It helps to end the needless suffering of animals."

In recent years, grants have started to favor animal treatment rather than animal sterilization programs. It is more important than ever for people to donate and participate in the fundraising for the high-quality high volume spay and neuter clinics like MTSNC.

A favorite public fundraising event is coming up on June 14, Paws for a Cause 5k Run 1 Mile Walk. It is a dog friendly event and spectators are welcome. Registration information can be found on www.mtsnc.org under upcoming events.

Last year was an all-time high of 3,528 dogs and cats spayed and neutered at MTSNC. Since doors opened in January of 2010, there have been a total of 41,000 surgeries.

It can be misunderstood that only low-income families can take advantage of this service. In actuality, anyone can have their pets or community cats spayed or neutered at a low rate. However, specials may require people to prove their low-income status. Specials in the past have been Black Cat Day, Spay Day, Males in May, and more.



Celebrating together the 15th anniversary, with fur friends, from left, back row, Sherri Frame, Tim Zwarton, Stephanie Davis, front row, from left: Kathy Carothers, Amber Cates, Dr. Alexandria Logan, Krueger, Katharine Frengel, Kimberly Warren, and Alayna Tant. The cats are from A Nutter Cat Rescue.

Following MTSNC's Facebook page and website can keep people in the loop on specials, needed supplies, upcoming events and interesting facts about how sterilization can help an animal and their owner. Pets living longer and behaving better are just two of the reasons every pet owner should make an appointment.

"We have an awesome, experienced, staff working at MTSNC. Our veterinarians are specially trained in high volume surgeries. The doctors and staff are all compassionate and dedicated to our cause. Dr. Alexandra Logan, our medical director, is a terrifically talented surgeon with many years of experience in her field." Warren added.

Community Clinic of Bedford County has several celebrations

On April 12, 2025, Community Clinic of Bedford County celebrated its sixth year of partnership with Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry.

On May 20, 2025, CCsBC presented Dr. Julie A. Gray, associate dean of Community Based Collaboration a check for $30,346.02 for its 50% portion of the spring GALA proceeds.

A thank you note from Dr. Cherae Farmer, Dean of the Meharry School of Dentistry stated: "I am writing to you on behalf of al of s at Meharry School of Dentistry. Thank you so much of your leaderships and support that has been shown throughout this partnership. As a result, we have been successful in providing high quality dental services for the people of Shelbyville and the broader Bedford County.

I am truly appreciative of the phenomenal gala that you hosted, and all of your fundraising efforts. This generosity will further help support our efforts to improve the oral health of Bedford County residents while training the next generation of oral health professionals."

Community Clinic has thanked the following for their support of the Bedford County community; Mayors Chad Graham and Randy Carroll; Legacy Sponsors, The Ron Obenauf Family, Russell Ovrevik, and SIMS, Inc.; State Rep. Pat Marsh, State Sen. Shane Reeves, CCsBC Board of Directors, and CCsBC dental and medical staffs.



Dr. Julie A. Gray, Fredia Lusk, Executive Director; Amanda Arnold, CCsBC Director of Dental Operations; April Malone, MMCSoD Dental Hygienist; Cairra Collins MMCSoD Class of 2026, and Dr. Danny Foster, CCsBC Dentist.

PENCIL SHAVINGS

A great day spent working on Memorial Day holiday

By Dawn Hankins

Generally, I like to take Memorial Day holiday off with everyone else. But with Memorial Day programs and Mondays as the start of our organization for the Thursday edition, that usually doesn't happen.

I try to cover any Memorial Day events that the veterans are doing. But this year, I spent my time with some great folks with the MRT program from the local jail. And I must say it was certainly time well spent.

Though I thought I knew a lot about this program already, there was so much more to learn from people involved. It changed my whole perspective on rehabilitation and how MRT is greatly reducing recidivism or relapse into corrections.

I talked with Chris Cook, MRT program director, and Ronnie Prince, jail administrator, about how important the MRT program is to the recovery of many facing addiction.

But the real icing on the cake for this series was getting to meet some of the "charter members" of the MRT program which have done great things with their lives since leaving BC corrections.

These are ladies who were addicted to drugs, loved to fight (39 times incarcerated) and had very low self-esteem. I must say they're beautiful ladies inside and out.

Are they humble and thankful? You bet.

In the coming weeks, you will read about these amazing stories-three women who changed their lives for the better. And now clean and sober.

I only want to preface this series by telling you that I see clearly now, if a person has the desire, and yes, the love of Jesus as their anchor, they can overcome addiction and abuse traumas.

Stay tuned, beginning next week, June 5, for this amazing series of stories. As Chris Cook said during the interview, it's not about him. And I certainly agree, from my standpoint as well, that the success of the program is in the hands of those involved in MRT.

Did I mention there's crocheting and gardening involved too? This is another amazing aspect of this series.

Stay tuned.

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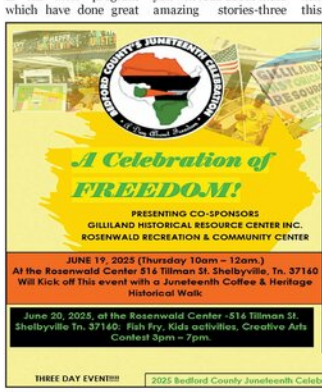

2025 BEDFORD COUNTY Juneteenth Celebration
THREE DAY EVENT
June 19, 20, 21, 2025
At the Rosenwald Center June 19 & 20, 516 Tillman St. Shelbyville Tn. 37160
June 19 - Juneteenth Coffee, Heritage Historical Walk 10-12am
June 20 – Fish Fry, Kids activities, Creative Arts contest 3-7pm.
Up-Town on the Square June 21, 2025, 100 Public Sq. Shelbyville Tn. 37160
10:00 am. – Parade
11:00 am – Opening Ceremonies
10am – 3pm. Arts, Crafts, Booth Vendors, Community Booths,
11am – 3pm. Entertainment Stage: Music, Dancers, & Singers.
1:00pm. – Award Ceremonies: Coloring, Creative Arts, Parade Contest.
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June 19, 20, and 21, 2025.

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FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

Jethro
Exodus 18

Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought Moses' family to meet him in the desert.

During his stay, Jethro observed Moses acting as the only judge among the people to make known to them God's will and to settle disputes.

Jethro suggested that Moses could not do this job by himself because it would soon wear him down. He recommends that Moses select capable men who feared God and were trustworthy and who hated dishonest gain - and appoint them to serve as judges over the minor cases. They would bring only the difficult cases to Moses.



Moses listened to Jethro and did as Jethro suggested.

Jethro returned to his home.

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ASSEMBLY OF GOD
FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
2510 Hwy. 231 N., 931-684-4809

HASKINS CHAPEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD
425 Haskins Chapel Rd., Lewisburg
931-388-7191

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BELVIEW BAPTIST
471 Troupe Rd., 931-684-3422

BETHANY BAPTIST
210 Richdale Lane, 931-684-8606

CALVARY BAPTIST
405 Lane Pkwy., 931-684-1870

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2726 Hwy. 231 N., 931-680-9603

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931-389-9680

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917 Sevier St., 931-652-8543

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689 Ebethel Rd., 931-684-4754

LONGVIEW BAPTIST
101 Cooper Rd., Unionville
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2706 Midland Rd., 931-680-0507

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101 Dow Dr., 931-684-1583

FLAT CREEK CHURCH OF CHRIST
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108 Narrows Rd., 931-684-1805

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1014 W. Lane St., 931-492-4747

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1200 Bethlehem Church Rd.,
423-618-9920

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
BRIGHT TEMPLE COGIC
516 Elm St., 931-684-7356

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LDS
2508 Hwy. 231 N., 931-450-8848

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
203 Lane St., 931-684-5906

EVANGELICAL
EAST PARK EVANGELICAL
103 E. Pkwy., 256-278-8565

METHODIST
CANNON UNITED METHODIST
1001 S. Cannon Blvd., 931-684-4767

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
122 Public Square N., 931-684-2535

MULLINS CHAPEL AME
601 Ledbetter Rd., 931-685-4547

PLEASANT GROVE UNITED METHODIST
1597 Hwy. 130 W., 931-294-5477

SCOTT UNITED METHODIST
940 Morton St., 931-684-2297

ST. JOHNS AME
1512 Raby Ave., 931-684-9931

WHITESIDE UNITED METHODIST
2400 Midland Rd., 615-828-8292

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FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
834 Union St., 931-684-3664

HILL TOP NAZARENE
1007 Smith Chapel Rd., 931-65-5234

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1614 Hwy. 82 S., 931-694-6920

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2216 Hwy. 61 W., 931-680-1539

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1701 Green Lane, 931-685-9731

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340 Maplewood Dr., 931-684-1243

BEREAN WAY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
209 Thompson St., 931-703-7076

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3602 Midland Rd., 931-437-2599

CHURCH AT ZION HILL
510 Thompson Rd., 931-581-4777

FELLOWSHIP FOR CHRIST
142 Richdale Lane, 931-684-0949

GATEWAY
1250 Madison St., 931-684-2794

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86 Union St., 931-703-5162

HOUSE OF PRAYER MINISTRY OF FAITH
907 W. Lane St., 931-639-1368

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER
865 Union St., 931-703-5162

KING CHAPEL CHURCH AT UNION RIDGE
510 Union Ridge Rd., Wartrace
931-389-9248

LIGHTHOUSE
111 Church St., 931-684-4900

LIVING STONES COMMUNITY
304 Old Nashville Dirt Rd., 931-684-6883

LIVING WATER
3383 Hwy. 41A N. Unionville
931-993-2477

MIRACLE TABERNACLE
507 Coble Circle, 931-224-5184

MOUNT VIEW
1331 Horse Mountain Rd., 931-685-0337

MULLIN CHAPEL
601 Ledbetter Rd., 931-685-4547

NUEVA VIDA
1304 Madison St., 931-580-0365

NEW LIFE
111 Church St., 931-735-6720

PEOPLE'S CHURCH
1890 Madison St., 931-680-4880

THE SHELBYVILLE CHURCH
1014 W. Lane St., 931-492-4747

SHILOH OUTREACH CHURCH
2547 Hwy. 64 W., 931-684-0972

VICTORY CELEBRATION REVIVAL
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931-684-9000
923 COLUMBIA HWY, SHELBYVILLE, TN
Joel Landers

Is God Dead? Nature in Defense of God

By Ty B. Kerley, DMin.

It is the Christian understanding that "long ago, at many times and in many ways," God spoke to His people through the prophets (Heb 1:1 ESV) and that He has, in fact, spoken to His people through two distinct mediums: through general revelation in nature, and through special revelation in the Bible. But it was from the book of nature found in general revelation that God defends Himself against Job's questioning.

Nature is the most influential teacher. Job writes, "But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you, and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?" (Job 12:7-10). It is interesting to notice this is an all-inclusive declaration; no one is left out; the beast, the birds, the fish, even the plants and bushes are held accountable; everybody knows that the Lord has done this. As readers, we get to eavesdrop on the conversation between Job and his friends. It is a repeating cycle of Job complaining, then one of his friends trying to defend God and at the same time convince Job to repent, and then the cycle starts all over again. And the cycle goes on just like that for 34 chapters! Thirty-four chapters!

Finally, God puts a stop to it in a powerful way, saying to Job beginning in the 38th chapter, "Dress for action like a man: I will question you, and you will make it known to me." Can you imagine? This is serious. Job provoked God to respond because, at the heart of his argument, Job questioned God's character and foundational attributes, such as justice and mercy. Understandably, God responds in a powerful way by building His own apologetic for Himself. In other words, God is playing the role of an apologist by preparing and then delivering an apologia to defend Himself against Job's accusations. But notice what God uses as evidence to support His argument. Nature. Throughout chapters 38-41, God calls upon Job to consider the evidence creation provides. At its core, this is what apologetics does. It looks at God's general revelation from nature, and then the evidence from nature is utilized to craft a defense for the existence of God and, ultimately, the truthfulness of Christianity.

Listen to the "great cloud of witnesses" from nature that God calls to testify on His behalf: From the cosmos, God calls forth Orion and Pleiades and all the constellations of stars to testify on His behalf. Regarding the earth, God calls upon its measurements and cornerstones; He calls upon its seas and rivers. And it's great expanse.

From the atmosphere, God calls as witnesses to His divine nature: light and darkness, wind, dew, and hail. Then frost and ice, rain and snow, clouds and lightning. He calls forth the testimony of the grain of the fields, the Lotus plants, and the grass. He calls the willow trees and cedars. From the animal kingdom, God calls to bear witnesses: the hawk and the horse; the eagle and the lion; the mountain goat, the donkey, and the wild ox; the raven, the ostrich, and the locust. He calls forward Behemoth, and He calls Leviathan.

But, in the middle of all this, in chapter 38, something almost goes unnoticed. In verse 36, in that short little verse, God calls upon Job to use his God-given wisdom and understanding to reason from the evidence presented by nature's "great cloud of witnesses" that God exists and is sovereign. God asks Job if he knows, "Who has put wisdom in the inward parts or given understanding to the mind?" God is asking Job if he knows where the human mind's capacity came from and how we think and use logic and reason. There is intent on the part of God to make these things known about Himself. And it is because of God's intentionality to "show" us these things that we call God's intentionality: revelation. But it seems to me that if, at a minimum, God holds people accountable for not clearly recognizing His existence through the evidence presented in nature (Rom 1:19ff), then there is something important for all of us to learn here. Perhaps it is this: to utilize the things that have been created, including observations in nature, discoveries from science, the records of history, and to utilize the logic and reasoning capacity of our minds. God blessed us with a particular mental capacity so that we could dig deeper, ask ultimate questions, see the handiwork of God in the things that have been made, and prepare a defense for anyone who asks us the reason for the hope that they see within us.

The beloved Christian minister Virgil Trout once wrote that if Christianity "is true, it will not be harmed by careful examination. The Christian invitation is one which is directed to your heart and your head." As Christians, we are called to do no less; to honor God, as God, using the gift of our minds, so that our hearts will not be darkened, but that we might be further filled with the light of Christ and shine forth as credible witnesses to His love; "in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation." That is what Christian apologetics is all about: loving the Lord our God with all our minds. Otherwise, we are "without excuse."

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Ty B. Kerley, DMin., is an ordained minister who teaches Christian apologetics and relief preaches in Southern Oklahoma. Dr. Kerley and his wife, Vicki, are members of the Waurika church of Christ and live in Ardmore, OK. You can contact him at dr.kerley@isGoddead.com.

MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS REMEMBERED

Gene Williams once again honored fallen heroes with a Memorial Day display at Willow Mount Cemetery. Joining him with memorial wreaths are Mary Ruth Simmons and Al Simmons, president of the Bedford County Historical Society. Elementary student Nico Higgs played Taps at 3 p.m. at Willow Mount on Memorial Day to honor Taps Across America.

Submitted Photos







TWHNC grounds improvements include 26 barns

Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration recently announced the completion of a significant infrastructure upgrade across the grounds.

In partnership with Jake Jacobs Construction, The Celebration has successfully installed concrete aisles in all barns on the property—excluding the historic white barns.

These improvements cover 26 barns, totaling more than 3,510 linear feet and 25,040 square feet of newly poured concrete.

The project was designed to enhance both safety and functionality for exhibitors and horses alike, just in time for the annual Spring Fun Show, which was held last week.

Warren Wells, CEO of The Celebration, emphasized the importance of this long-anticipated project: "We completed concrete in 26 remaining barns to ensure all barns had concrete aisles available. This equated to over 3,510 linear feet and 25,040 square feet of concrete. This is something that has been needed for a very long time. We are grateful for our many members of the Walking Horse Community that have invested in concrete for their barns over the years. If we did not have so many of them that did that, we wouldn't have been able to do this project. It is exciting to have this completed just before the Annual Spring Fun Show."

The Celebration extended its sincere thanks to Jake Jacobs Construction for their expertise and partnership in executing this essential upgrade with professionalism and efficiency.

Wells said this milestone reflects The Celebration's continued commitment to improving the experience for all participants and ensuring that the tradition of excellence of The Tennessee Walking Horse Celebration continues.



Photo by Renee Brown

The Spring Fun Show is now history, having made great strides last week. Among those attending, left to right, were: Ginele Giambi (with I Am Gunsmoke, a.k.a., Lunchy B), Bart McWaters and Michael Overcast. See more photos on page 11A



SLOW BUT SURE

T-G Photo by Dawn Hankins

Despite torrents of rain over the weekend, this little turtle was about its business earlier this week. The county missed a lot of the high winds, storms and tornadic activity that other neighboring counties faced over the weekend.

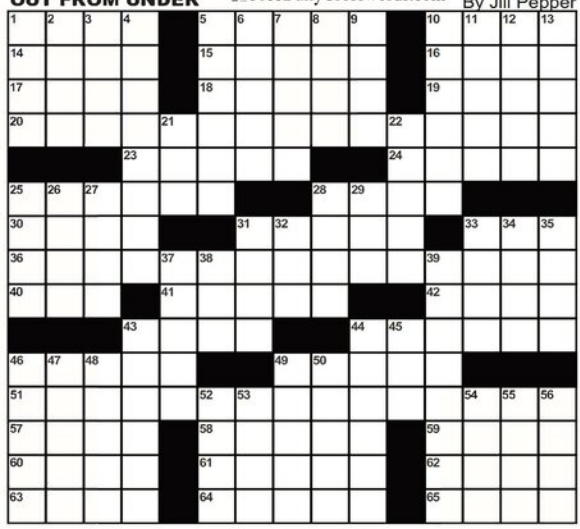


Crossword

OUT FROM UNDER

FreeDailyCrosswords.com

By Jill Pepper



CLUES ACROSS

1) This puzzle's theme word
5) Some mantel pieces
10) Crow's-nest cry
14) Snowman prop
15) Dark
16)Dalai ____
17) "National Velvet" author Bagnold
18) Late British princess
19) River to the Caspian
20) Area's ruling power
23) Encumbrances
24) Taj Mahal country
25) Least busy
28) 18-wheeler
30) Bleacher feature
31) Manhattan Project goal, briefly
33) Summer cooler
36) Polemically
40) The 168 in a wk.
41) Sharp mountain ridge
42) Hilo welcome gifts
43) Slant or prejudice
44) Make a meaningful connection
46) Assumed name
49) Parts of boilermakers
51) Certain orchestral composition
57) "What've you been ____?"
58) Relating to the ear
59) Stratford's river
60) High-school pupil
61) Slyly disparaging
62) Enjoy a novel
63) Blows it
64) Walked back and forth
65) Without

CLUES DOWN

1) European auto
2) Trattoria order
3) Kind of proportions
4) Grave warning
5) Financial plan component
6) Confederacy's counterpart
7) Bulgars and Croats
8) Food sticker
9) Headliner
10) Seniors, years later
11) Ran quickly
12) Certain Arab
13) "Big Three" meeting site of 1945
21) Fleur-de-___
22) Rain clouds
25) Rash reaction?
26) Last name in fashion
27) Camera component
28) Achy
29) Dash lengths
31) Blvd. relatives
32) "Wanna ____?"
33) Bug on a dog
34) Came down, as on a perch
35) The "Big Board," on Wall St.
37) Worker's demand
38) "Are you a man ___ mouse?"
39) Best-of-the-best players
43) Francis and Kevin
44) Reacted to a punch
45) Behave humanly, in a saying
46) Like severe pain
47) One running easily
48) Prefix with "act" or "play"
49) Acid type
50) Dodge artfully
52) Hoarse around?
53) Bluefin or bonito
54) Part of the eyeball
55) Equine tone
56) Peters out

Kid Scoop .com
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Vietnam Veterans Memorial

In 1980, a search began for an artist to design a special monument to honor the members of the military who died fighting in the Vietnam War. A contest was announced, and artists from coast to coast sent in designs.

MEMORIAL DAY

In the United States, the last Monday in May every year is Memorial Day. It's a special day for us to remember those who died while serving our nation in the military and keeping us safe.

Maya Lin's Unique Memorial Design

Replace the missing words in this article.

NAMES WALLS SURFACE UNLIKE DIFFERENT DESIGNED

A memorial _____ by a young college student named Maya Lin was chosen. Her design was _____ any other memorial in America. And at first, many people didn't like it because it looked so _____.

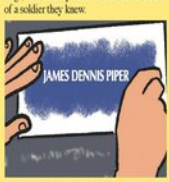
Maya Lin's design was two long black granite _____ that formed a V shape. On the shiny and smooth _____ of the wall are the _____ of more than 58,000 soldiers who died or went missing in the Vietnam War.



Photo: National Park Service

A Powerful Monument

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial opened in 1982. Visitors to the monument soon realized how powerful and special Maya Lin's design was, and each year about 5 million people visit it. Visitors often leave photos, flowers, flags, and military items at the wall in honor of a soldier they knew.



Many people use paper and crayons to make a rubbing of a friend or loved one's name as a keepsake of the memorial.

With crayons and paper, make rubbings of different surfaces around your home. Place the paper over the surface, and use the side of the crayon to make each rubbing.



Expanding the Memorial



In 1984, a statue called Three Servicemen was added near the wall. The metal statue was designed by Frederick Hart and honors those who fought and returned from the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam Women's Memorial, added in 1993, is a sculpture of three servicewomen caring for a wounded soldier. Artist Glenna Goodacre said that the soldier in the sculpture is saved by these brave women.



Read more about America's memorials at nps.gov

Extra! Extra! Symbols of Our Country

Look through the newspaper for some symbols that represent our country. How many can you find?

Standards Link: Civics: Know how various symbols depict Americans' shared values.

Book Scoop

Read About Maya Lin

Maya Lin: Artist-Architect of Light and Lines

By Jeanne Walker Harvey



Learn more about the artist who created the Vietnam War memorial.

Read about her curiosity about light and lines and how that led to her famous, groundbreaking sculpture.

Visit your local library to find this book. Your friendly librarian can help!

Double Double Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

AMERICA
ARTIST
BRAVE
CRAYONS
GRANITE
HONOR
LOVED
MAY
NAMES
PAPER
SENT
SHINY
STUDENT
VISIT
WALL

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

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Memory Game

Ask a friend to study a newspaper photo for one minute. Then cover the picture and have your friend write down as many details as they can remember. Switch places, and you try.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Write On!

A Special Memory

Write about one of your special memories.

Do the math to discover which emblem represents each branch of the U.S. military.

25 = Department of the Air Force
24 = United States Space Force
32 = United States Coast Guard
35 = Department of the Army
27 = Department of the Navy
29 = United States Marine Corps













SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE

Sale at public auction will be on July 22, 2025 at 11:00AM local time, at the south door, Bedford County Courthouse, 1 Public Square, Shelbyville, Tennessee pursuant to Deed of Trust executed by Stephen B. Swain, to Jerry Bridenbaugh, Associate, Trustee, as trustee for Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Lender, Valorem Lending, LLC on October 25, 2023 at Book 1101, Page 410, Instrument No. 23007374; conducted by LLG Trustee TN LLC, having been appointed Substitute or Successor Trustee, all of record in the Bedford County Register's Office. Default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms, and conditions of said Deed of Trust and the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable.

Party Entitled to Enforce the Debt: Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, its successors and assigns.

The real estate located in Bedford County, Tennessee, and described in the said Deed of Trust will be sold to the highest call bidder. The terms of the said Deed of Trust may be modified by other instruments appearing in the public record. Additional identifying information regarding the collateral property is below and is believed to be accurate, but no representation or warrant is intended.

Street Address: 215 Warren Circle, Shelbyville, Tennessee 37160
Parcel Number: 078K 046.00
Current Owner(s) of Property: The Heirs of Stephen Bruce Swain

This sale is subject to, without limitation, all matters shown on any applicable recorded plat; any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements, or setback lines that may be applicable; any statutory right of redemption of any governmental agency, state or federal; any prior liens or encumbrances including those created by a fixture filing or any applicable homeowners' association dues or assessments; all claims or other matters, whether of record or not, which may encumber the purchaser's title and any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose.

The following parties may claim an interest in the above-referenced property to be affected by the foreclosure: any judgment creditor or lien holder with an interest subordinate to the said Deed of Trust or any party claiming by, though, or under any of the foregoing. Such parties known to the Substitute Trustee may include: All parties claiming by, though, or under Stephen Swain.

Terms of Sale will be public auction, for cash, free and clear of rights of homestead, redemption and dower to the extent disclaimed or inapplicable, and the rights of Stephen Swain, and those claiming through him/her/it/them.

Any right of equity of redemption, statutory and otherwise, and homestead are waived in accord with the terms of said Deed of Trust, and the title is believed to be good, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Substitute Trustee.

The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day, time, and place certain without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place for the sale set forth above. If you purchase a property at the foreclosure sale, the entire purchase price is due and payable at the conclusion of the auction in the form of a certified/bank check made payable to or endorsed to LOGS Legal Group LLP. No personal checks will be accepted. To this end, you must bring sufficient funds to outbid the lender and any other bidders. Insufficient funds will not be accepted. Amounts received in excess of the winning bid will be refunded to the successful purchaser at the time the foreclosure deed is delivered.

This property is being sold with the express reservation that the sale is subject to confirmation by the lender or trustee. This sale may be rescinded only by the Substitute Trustee at any time. If the Substitute Trustee rescinds the sale, the purchaser shall only be entitled to a return of any money paid towards the purchase price and shall have no other recourse. Once the purchaser tenders the purchase price, the Substitute Trustee may deem the sale final in which case the purchaser shall have no remedy. The real property will be sold AS IS, WHERE IS, with no warranties or representations of any kind, express or implied, including without limitation, warranties regarding condition of the property or marketability of title.

This office may be a debt collector. This may be an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained may be used for that purpose.

LLG Trustee TN LLC
Substitute Trustee
10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400
Charlotte, NC 28216
Phone (704) 333-8107
Fax (704) 333-8156 File No. 25-125544 (5223tc)



CONGRATULATIONS TO DETECTIVE FARRAR

SPD Photo

Shelbyville Police Department recently congratulated Dylan Farrar on his promotion to detective in the SPD Criminal Investigations Division. Detective Farrar has been a member of the SPD since 2020, demonstrating professionalism, integrity, and commitment to serving our community, said police department officials. "We're proud to see him take on this new role and excited about the impact he will continue to make in our department."



DETECTIVE SWIFT CELEBRATES 15TH YEAR

SPD Photo

SPD recently congratulated Detective Lieutenant Cody Swift on his 15-year anniversary with the department. Lt. Swift currently leads the SPD Criminal Investigations Division, where he plays a critical role in managing major cases and supporting our investigative team. His experience, leadership, and commitment to the department and the community have made a lasting impact over the past 15 years, said department officials. "Please join us in congratulating Detective Lieutenant Cody Swift on his 15th anniversary with SPD."

Bedford County property transfers

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

File date: May 20

Location: Union Ridge Rd; Seller, 24 Wartrace 74 LLC; Buyer, Victor K Farris, Mary Anne C Farris; Price, $200,000 (Deed).

Seller, JDSP LLC; Buyer, Clayton Seig, Nicholas Hill; Price, $110,000 (Deed).

Seller, Pleasant M England; Buyer, DCC Strategic Realty Partners LLC; Price, $385,000 (Deed).

Location: 4186 Hwy 41A N; Seller, Daniel Decker, Sandinia Decker; Buyer, AJ Holdings TN LLC; Price, $618,000 (Deed).

Location: 225 Union Ridge Rd; Seller, Vicky D Voelkel, David Eugene Olson Estate, Kevin D Olson; Buyer, Rodney Griffin, Angela Griffin; Price, $266,200 (Deed).

File date: May 21

Location: State Hwy 130; Seller, Terrie Gentry; Buyer, Precision Grading LLC; Price, $225,000 (Deed).

Location: 115 Sanders St; Seller, Marco A Diaz; Buyer, Leslie Sanderfield, James A Sanderfield; Price, $300,000 (Deed).

Location: Hwy 64; Seller, Frances Rutledge, Donna M Robinson; Buyer, Lisa Denicola; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 220 Hunters Lane; Seller, Gary W Barrett, Lloyd A Dorman, Margaret Ann Barrett; Buyer, Gary W Barrett, Lloyd A Dorman, Margaret Ann Barrett; Price, $10 (QD).

Location: 1818 Springdale Ave; Seller, Curl Properties LLC; Buyer, Joe M Lambert Jr, Curl Properties LLC; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Hwy 231; Seller, Joe M Lambert Jr, Don W Curl, Claudia Curl; Buyer, Joe M Lambert Jr, Curl Properties LLC; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 519 Powell Hollow Rd; Seller, Jeff Ross, Mitch Umbarger; Buyer, Ashley Jean Chapman, John Robert Chapman; Price, $665,000 (Deed).

File date: May 22

Location: 511 Tines Dr; Seller, Bryant Alex Bowers; Buyer, Jamie Pizir; Price, $310,000 (Deed).

Location: 112 Hilltop Dr; Seller, Leticia Vazquez; Buyer, Leticia Vazquez, Alessandra Vasquez; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 423 Pickle Rd; Seller, Brandy G Carter Pendarvis; Buyer, Brandy G Carter Pendarvis, Heather L Mears; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Warner Bridge Rd; Seller, Beverly Davis Whitehead Fears; Buyer, Patrick Smotherman; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 101 Finch Lane; Seller, Jason D Lusk, Wanda L Lusk; Buyer, James Guidrey, Virginia Dodson Stephens; Price, $455,000 (Deed).

Location: 118 Kolby Ct; Seller, Linda Lamb, Linda B Jones; Buyer, Milton Omar Arreaga Aguilon, Andrea N Ayala; Price, $280,000 (Deed).

File date: May 23

Location: 219 Eagle Blvd; Seller, Willard R Beach, Maureen Y Beach, Lisa Renee Beach; Buyer, Thongphoun Kounlavong; Price, $310,000 (Deed).

Location: 305 Scotland Heights; Seller, Stephanie Ellen Butcher Marcoulier; Buyer, Billy Ray Butcher III; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Normandy Lake Rd; Seller, Brenda Jones, Ronnie L Jones; Buyer, Kevin Dewayne Jones, Ricky Leyton Jones; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 98 Honeybee Dr; Seller, TLI Inc; Buyer, Allen C Kennedy; Price, $641,000 (Deed).

Location: Spring St; Seller, Robert Flade; Buyer, DCC Strategic Realty Partners LLC; Price, $70,000 (Deed).

Seller, Nora C Nevin Ware; Buyer, Amanda Lynn Ware; Price, $0 (QD).

WANTED

Paying cash for older sports card collections. Unopened sports card cases and boxes. Comic books and antique sports related items. Shelbyville

931-492-4304

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Shelbyville City Council will meet in regular study session on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers at the Building, Codes and Planning Building, 100 N. Cannon Blvd., Shelbyville, TN.

The Shelbyville City Council will meet in a regular Business Meeting on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers at the Building, Codes and Planning Building, 100 N. Cannon Blvd., Shelbyville, TN.

There will be a 15-minute Public Comment session at the beginning of each meeting with a limit of 3 minutes each. Subject matter is limited to items on the Agenda at the Business Meeting; however, comments can be made on any item that concerns the City at the Study Session. Speakers must sign up in person with the City Recorder 15 minutes prior to the start of each meeting.

Please call City Hall with any questions or concerns.

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$3 a dozen
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Shelbyville, TN

Troy Bilt 2" chipper all steel, SOLID maple twin bed frame, new bathroom fixtures, Christmas decorations-hanging ornaments, color light bulbs, LED lights, wreaths. Blood pressure monitor, Philips home nebulizer. Misc. office supplies, Spydur/Polycom push button phone system, Netgear router, HP ENVY printer, roll around computer table. Ninja digital air fryer oven, glass vases. Yaesu FTA-450Ladio control trans receiver, JR/DSM radio controller both with cases, Sony extra bass wireless portable Blue Tooth speaker, plus lots more.

Death Notices

Calvin Glispy Blackmon

Calvin Glispy Blackmon, age 88, of Bell Buckle, passed away May 21, 2025.

Calvin was born March 1, 1937 in Nashville, to the late Carl and Mamie Lee Wimpy Blackmon.

Early in Calvin's life, he trained and showed horses. He also enjoyed raising Gamecock Chickens. He was a longtime member of the Scottish Rite Foundation, working later and retiring from Nissan.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a stepson, Robert G. Carney of Murfreesboro.

He is survived by his loving wife, Karin S. Zernicke Hall, of Bell Buckle; two daughters, Carrollee Jackson, of Port Townsend Washington and Kirsten (David) Walls-Parker of Alexander, AR.

Feldhaus Funeral Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Dana Lee Morphis

Dana Lee Morphis, age 67, died peacefully in her home on May 21st, 2025, in Shelbyville.

Born on October 14th, 1957, in Nashville, Dana was the youngest of three children. She married Larry Morphis in 1976, and together they raised their son, Jacob. She is preceded in death by her parents, Bill Wooten and Eleanor Wooten Horn; Sister, Gail Wooten Tune; Brothers-In-Law Eddie Tune, Johnny and Jerry Morphis.

Feldhaus Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

J. T. Nelson

J.T. Nelson, age 83, of Shelbyville, passed away on May 25, 2025.

J.T. was born January 17, 1942, in Bedford County, to the late Clarence and Ola Mae Chambless Nelson.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Peggy Nelson; sons, Jerry Nelson and James Nelson. He is survived by his sons, Jeff (Linda) Nelson and Matthew Nelson, both of Shelbyville; a daughter, Beth (Tim) Davis, of Bell Buckle; a brother, Doyle Wayne (Charlotte) Nelson, of Wartrace; daughter- in-law, Cathey Nelson.

Feldhaus Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Thomas Wayne Bradley

Thomas Wayne Bradley, age 78, of Shelbyville, passed away May 26, 2025.

Thomas was born June 25, 1946, in Lebanon to the late David Sidney and Janie Margaret Reed Bradley.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his granddaughter, Kylee, a sister, Barbara Pierce Krawiec, a son-in-law Erik Dale, and two brothers, Glen and Don Bradley.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Elizabeth Ann Worley Bradley, daughters, Janie Dale, Kim (Jonathan) Finch, Barbara Finley, and Judy (Ricky) Wix, all of Shelbyville; a sister, Jean Carver, of Lebanon

Feldhaus Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements

Shirley Mae McEntyre

Shirley Mae McEntyre. 80, of Bell Buckle, died May 20, 2025.

She was born December 27, 1944, in Whitwell, TN. Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, Thomas Junior Meeks and Hazel Kilgore Meeks; her husband, David Edward McEntyre; a brother, Thomas Meeks. She is survived by two daughters, Jennifer Carol (Chris) Floyd of Shelbyville, Sherry Ann (Michael) Colvin of Bell Buckle.

Hillcrest Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Jennie Ruth Webb Neese

Jennie Ruth Webb Neese, 92, of Wartrace, died May 22, 2025.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Andy and Lassie Heatherly; her first husband Walter Webb; second husband, James Thomas Neese; sisters and brothers, Shirley Patterson, Obie Heatherly, Priscilla Boring, Ethel Watkins, Sam Heatherly and Ralph Heatherly. Ruth is survived by two sons, James L. "Jim" Webb, Walter (Randy) Webb of Wartrace; brothers, Harold (Linda) Heatherly, Clifford (Leslie) Heatherly.

Hillcrest Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mary Sarah Jochen Oberdorf

Mary Sarah Jochen Oberdorf, 81, of Shelbyville, peacefully passed away in her sleep on May 24, 2025. She was born May 26, 1943 to Patricia and Bertram Jochen in Rockford, IL.

In January 1973 Mary met Peter Oberdorf at Zion Episcopal Church in Dobbs Ferry, NY. Mary and Peter were married at St. Joseph of Arimathea Episcopal Church in Elmsford, NY on September 27, 1974. They went on to have 2 children: Sara Victoria and Patricia Marie.

Mary was predeceased by her parents, Patricia and Bertram Jochen. She is survived by her ex-husband Peter Scott Oberdorf; daughter, Sara Neeley; daughter, Patty Stiggins and husband Matt.

Obituaries

Gary E. Gross



Mr. Gary E. Gross, age 72, of Wartrace, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, in Shelbyville.

He was born on September 5, 1952, in Wartrace, to the late John Gross Sr. and Shopie Gross. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, John Gross Jr., and sisters, Francis Elizabeth Singleton and Mildred Ann Gross.

Gary was a man of Christian faith and a proud graduate of Wartrace High School, where he enjoyed playing on the basketball team. A dedicated and hardworking individual, he was employed over the years at Gallagher Guitar Company, Calsonic, and General Mills.

In his free time, Gary found joy in collecting coins, relaxing in his garage, and cheering on his favorite football team, the Tennessee Titans. Gary leaves behind a legacy of love, devotion and cherished memories.

He is survived by his two daughters, Christy Threatt and Kemyatta Means; six grandchildren, Micah Threatt, Terrence Threatt, Yasmine Pullen, Zacara Pullen, Dameka Turner, and A. Timothy Pullen; brothers, Arthur Gross, Elder James Gross, and Morganthou Gross; sister, Joyce Gross; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and friends.

Visitation was held Tuesday, May 27, 2025, from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. at Bird Street Church of Christ with funeral Services following at 1:00 p.m. with Bro. Anthony Booker, officiating and Bishop John Batts, eulogist.

Online condolences may be sent to www.weltonfuneralhome.com. J.A. Welton & Son Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Slow Cooker Savory Street Tacos

If your idea of street tacos includes standing over a hot skillet, wipe that sweat off your brow and give these Savory Street Tacos a try. They put the slow cooker and oven to work for you, providing that delicious street taco taste without the hassle. For more ways to simplify cooking at home, visit Culinary.net.

Family Features

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

Servings: 4-6

- 1 chuck roast (2-3 pounds)
- 1 package taco seasoning
- 1 can (10 ounces) beef consommé
- 16-20 street taco tortillas
- 1 package (8 ounces) shredded cheese
- 1/4 cup avocado oil
- salsa, for serving
- guacamole, for serving
- queso, for serving

1. Cover chuck roast with taco seasoning then place in slow cooker. Pour beef consommé over roast and cook on low 6 hours to braise.
2. Heat oven to 425 F.
3. Use fork to shred roast.
4. Brush outside of tortillas with avocado oil and fill with meat and shredded cheese. Place in casserole dish and bake 10-15 minutes until tacos reach desired crispiness.
5. Place on tray and serve with salsa, guacamole and queso.

PUZZLE SOLUTION

OUT FROM UNDER By Jill Pepper

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"It's Special to Play With Your Brother" – Golden Eagles' Unique Bobo Connection Comes to an End

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn. – Ever since they were in elementary school, William and Stephen Bobo competed together in numerous sports as brothers. On Saturday, May 3, 2025, their athletic careers alongside one another officially came to an end, but the memories created will last a lifetime.

"It was extremely special," said Stephen Bobo, an upcoming junior at Shelbyville Central High School. "I think we're going to remember this for probably the rest of our lives."

"Honestly, we've always grown up playing sports together, competing against each other, hitting together, so we've always been kinda competing with each other to make each other better," said William, who just finished his senior season with the Golden Eagles. "It just stood out even more when we competed against other people."

"It is special to play with your brother."

After the Golden Eagles' baseball team suffered a surprising early exit in the District 9-AA Tournament against Columbia Central on May 3, the Shelbyville family was forced to say goodbye to the "Bobo connection" for the final time.

William Bobo, who recently graduated as a member in the Class of 2025, is heading northwest to play football at Austin Peay in Clarksville, TN, and Stephen Bobo – Shelbyville's star pitcher who is a Top-10 recruit in the state of Tennessee according to Prep Baseball – first helped lead the Golden Eagles' football program to a second-consecutive Region 5-5A title in the fall of 2024 in Stephen's first season starting under center at QB before their final baseball season together began.

"[Playing QB] was fun this year. Third down and however long, just throw it up to William," Stephen said with a lighthearted laugh.

The "Bobo-to-Bobo" connection on the football field will go down in history at SCHS as one of the most exciting and memorable duos in school history, culminating in a game-winning touchdown on the road against Coffee County to open region play three games into the season last fall. With about two-and-a-half minutes left and Shelbyville trailing, 28-25, Stephen dropped back and launched a pass down the right sideline towards his elder brother who was covered 1-on-1. William managed to haul the ball in, break the feeble tackle attempt, and saunter into the end zone with 2:17 left to secure a huge road win for the Golden Eagles.

Their chemistry wasn't only evident on the offensive side of the ball. Defensively, William and Stephen both started at safety, providing a safety blanket for what was a strong but young Golden Eagles' defense for the entire season.

"Our linebackers got a lot better throughout the season – Jackson Themm and Brody Thomas – so we didn't have to make as many plays, but probably for a team scouting us, me and Stephen had speed to contain, so teams would focus on running up the middle more and our linebackers had chances to make more plays. It just helped our overall defense," explained William.

"Even so, it [being brothers] helped a lot with confidence, especially at safety," William continued. "I could make a play over here and I can trust [Stephen] that he's going to make plays, I don't have to worry and cover as much ground as I would have with someone else because I can trust that he's going to be there. It kinda helps the chemistry of the team too, having two brothers back there. My senior year with him at quarterback, having that chemistry just helps with communication, routes, him trusting that I can make a play, or me being 40 yards downfield and keep running, expecting that he can get it to me."

Stephen was inserted into the starting lineup at safety halfway through his freshman year in the fall of 2023, and the Golden Eagles finished 10-2 with a Region 5-5A title with a win in the playoffs.

When star quarterback Nathan Delauter graduated following the 2023 season, Stephen Bobo ended up winning the starting QB vacancy over the summer heading into the 2024 campaign. With star tailback, Robert Bailey, finishing with over 2,000 yards rushing, Shelbyville's offense grew throughout the season, leading to another Region 5-5A Championship.

"Practice was a little rough at first, but I started to gain confidence throughout the year," said Stephen. "Obviously trusting William and Labron [Ransom] and Robert [Bailey] because we had a really good running game...we had weapons all around."

After helping lead Shelbyville back to the postseason, the Bobo's were instrumental in securing a pair of wins in the playoffs to set up a road matchup with Page in the Class 5A Quarterfinals, dispatching Hillsboro in the first round with ease, 42-9, before escaping Nolensville, 33-28, in a last-second thriller. However, the Bobo's final season together on the gridiron came to a close against the eventual state runner-up, 28-6, on a chilly night in November.

Even with the result, the lone Golden Eagles' touchdown came on a Bobo-to-Bobo connection in the fourth quarter when Stephen found William wide open down the field off of a playaction fake for a walk-in 36-yard touchdown with 6:39 left. Despite the loss, that moment is part of the Bobo's memory of great plays together that they'll never forget.

"We had some moments that were special...the catch at Coffee County was really cool, there was a slant against Columbia to convert on third down," William began.

Stephen interjected, "That one you dove back for?" (Stephen put it on William's back hip to lead away from the onrushing safety).

William continued, "Page, I mean the last connection from us two was a touchdown."

"Spring Hill when I ran that way then ran back," said Stephen.

"Oh yea that was good. Lincoln County was a fun game for us – we both made a lot of tackles – I mean we were just feeding off of each other on defense so that was fun," William said.

The elder Bobo concluded with praise for his head coach, Jud Dryden, in how Dryden has built the program in his three seasons at the helm.

"[Dryden] has built the program – more so the culture and chemistry aspect of it – because we've always had talent in Shelbyville, but he focuses more on the culture base and the team chemistry/family kind of bond and it helps on the field," said William.

Once football season came to a close, their focus turned completely towards the baseball diamond for winter workouts. The baseball season began on March 10, and Shelbyville finished the regular season with a 26-8 (7-3) record, good enough for second in the District 9-AAAA standings.

Stephen and William finished 1-2 in almost every major statistical category for head coach Chase Jones' team, and the uniqueness of their final season together was not lost on the brothers.

"Anytime me or William were on the mound, I just think it gave our team a reassurance that we had a good chance to win that game," Stephen said. "At the plate, they were free and just swinging it, and I think that helped us win ball games."

William was the everyday leadoff man for Shelbyville, and when he wasn't on the mound he was out in center field. Stephen hit third in the lineup, and when the lefty wasn't on the mound – sitting around 85-88 mph and having touched 91 mph twice in a game this past season – he was out in right field. Senior left fielder Caden Duggin was between them in the 2-hole and hit .366, and the three of them finished with the three highest batting averages on the team in 2025.

The brothers also have an excellent support system around them – starting with each other of course – including the encouragement of both their immediate family and extended family.

"We always get home, our mom is on the couch, we go and give her hugs, and she tells us how proud of us she is. I think all the way around – our dad, our grandparents, everybody just supporting us – there's so much love that it kinda helps us to stay loving what we do I guess," said Stephen.

"Our parents have been to almost every single one of our games. When we were younger, our dad was our coach. We come from a family of athletes, so now, talking to the men in our family – they keep us humble and remind us of how they were in high school – but we know how much they love us," William said with a hearty laugh.

"In our series at Spring Hill our uncle [Luke Thompson] came out – we went to dinner with him after the game – and he reminded us how good he was at track as an All-American decathlete at Tennessee."

Kevin Thompson, whose son Luke Thompson at Franklin High School has received a scholarship offer from the Vols for the 2026 class, was also a walk-on wide receiver under Phillip Fulmer in Knoxville.

"He reminds us that he's faster than us as well," William included.

"Except not now with his pulled hammy," interjected Stephen with a sly smile. "He pulled it running about our speed now – 11.4 [seconds]."

William and Stephen also have a younger brother – Brooks Bobo – who could be seen at just about every home baseball game this past spring with a soccer ball at his feet trying to nutmeg innocent passerbys.

"Really we play everything," said William. "We play pickleball now, chess, pickup basketball, soccer with [our younger brother] Brooks. We started pickleball a year and a half ago with our cousin Luke [Thompson]."

William and Stephen also golf together, and they both gave organized basketball a go in middle school before figuring out that they were more suited for football and baseball.

"We played basketball in middle school just for fun. I mean, we could play defense and get rebounds, but that's about it. Basketball is just one of those sports you have to practice a lot," William said.

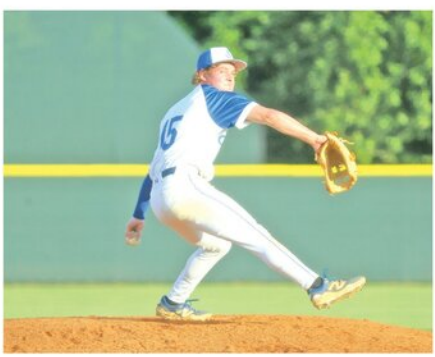
Stephen interjected with a laugh, "We're decent. We're not good, but we're not terrible."

Moving forward, Stephen is preparing for the upcoming school year at Shelbyville with plans to return to both the gridiron followed by the baseball diamond. Meanwhile, William is set to move in at Austin Peay on June 1 to get started on summer practices with the team in preparation for his freshman year in the fall.

"I'm definitely gonna miss baseball," William concluded. "It was honestly my first love, my first sport that I really practiced everyday trying to be good at. I was nervous and didn't really wanna graduate for a little while, but now I have a plan with football at Austin Peay so I'm excited."



William Bobo (center) officially signs with Austin Peay for football while his younger brother Stephen (top right) looks on. Bobo will play WR for the Governors in the fall. William finished his senior season on the mound with a record of 7-2 and an ERA of 3.29 in 9 starts. He struck out 54 batters while walking just 15 in a team-high 49 innings. At the plate, the elder Bobo was the Golden Eagles' everyday leadoff man, hitting .440 with 27 RBIs, 45 runs scored, 10 doubles, six triples, and two homers. He finished his senior season with .440/.561/.681 splits for a monstrous OPS of 1.242. *T-G Photo by Noah Maddox.*



Stephen Bobo (15) finished the 2025 season with a 6-3 record and an ERA of 1.11 on the mound while tallying a team-high 66 strikeouts to just 17 walks in 44.1 innings. At the plate, he batted a blistering .534 with 36 RBIs and eight doubles while working a team-high 28 walks to just six strikeouts all season. He finished the year with .534/.630/.757 splits for an astronomical OPS of 1.387. *T-G Photo by Noah Maddox.*

Viqueens Make Program History At State; Season Ends in Semifinals

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – It took until the seventh inning, but the Community Viqueens found a way to take down the Westview Chargers (15-7, 6-2), 3-2, at Starplex Field #3 on Thursday morning to advance to the TSSAA Class AA Softball State Tournament Semifinals.

This marks the first time in program history that the Viqueens have won two games at state, even if it did take until the final frame to put runs on the board.

"We were patient and eventually got our bats going," said Viqueens' head coach Cam Farrell. "You get your bats going, and that changes a whole lot. Their pitcher [McCall Sims] is committed to UT [in the OF] and she's a dawg. I think we just kind of figured it out and got it going, but I think they were also determined after yesterday left a bad taste in our mouths. We were determined to come out here and play some better ball."

After falling to Liberty Creek on Wednesday night, the Viqueens were forced into a quick turnaround with first-pitch for Thursday morning's first set of elimination games set for 9:00, but Farrell's ace, Annie Prince, dominated the Chargers' lineup to keep Community alive.

Prince fanned 16 batters, bringing her total in the state tournament to 43 strikeouts in three games. She gave up two earned runs on 106 pitches and three hits with just one walk in 7.0 innings.

"I'm proud of her [Annie Prince]; when we got on the bus this morning, I asked her if she was ready to go – I could tell she was tired and a little sore – and she said she was locked in and ready to go. She's just got that dawg in her."

For Westview, Sims started in the circle, giving up three earned runs on seven hits and one walk while striking out eight on 96 pitches in 7.0 innings.

It was a pitcher's duel for the first six innings with neither team able to truly threaten the other offensively. However, in the top of the seventh, Gracie Daniel and Mattie Maxey – batting fifth after a lineup change that moved Carlie Blanton up to second – hit back-to-back singles to jump-start the Viqueens' eventual game-winning rally. Haylee Webb bunted the runners over, and then Kamryn Farrell drove home Daniel on a sac-fly to left for the first run of the game.

Alana Tate followed that up with an RBI double to left to score Maxey, then reached third on an errant throw by the catcher. Pinch-hitter Aliana Leverette's infield-single brought Tate home to give Community a 3-0 lead going into the bottom of the seventh.

Down to their final three outs, the Chargers put a scare into the Viqueens' supporters after Sarah Byars led off with a bloop-single down the right-field line and was brought home thanks to Maddie Gray's two-run home run to left, trimming the lead to one, 3-2.

However, Prince quickly slammed the door shut, striking out the next three batters to give the Viqueens another shot at Liberty Creek.

Carlie Blanton went 1-2 with a walk, Gracie Daniel finished 2-3 with a double, and Mattie Maxey went 1-3. Kamryn Farrell went 1-2 with an RBI, Alana Tate went 1-2 with a double and an RBI, and Aliana Leverette went 1-1 with an RBI.

In the semifinals immeditely following the win over Westview, the Community Viqueens (32-6-2, 8-0) saw their 2025 season come to a close at the hands of the Liberty Creek Wolves (31-2, 8-0), 12-1 after five innings.

"I think the best way to say this is, the steak was cooked to perfection, it was put on the table, and we didn't get to taste it," said Viqueens' head coach Cam Farrell. "I think those girls will be hungry, and I think the ones that are for real and about it, they'll get after it, and they'll come back ready to go. I think it's also gonna force some of the ones that weren't playing to level up and come out here and get to it."

The Viqueens committed a total of 12 errors, bringing their total up to 17 in the two games against the Wolves. Conversely, they committed just one in the other two games combined.

"Tons of errors man, we can't do that. That was very uncharacteristic of us, I don't know if we just threw it all in the Westview game... you just can't do that with this team [Liberty Creek]," said Viqueens' head coach Cam Farrell. "They're the best team that we've seen this year. Alabama [Gulf Shores Classic], here, anywhere that we've played, that is the best team by far, and you can't make mistakes with them because they're gonna be on it."

Liberty Creek, set to move up to Class AAA next year with an official student population of 977 as of October 2024, is the defending state champions, and its two-year run in Class AA will finish with two state championship game appearances as well as at least one championship.

The mistakes began to multiply almost immediately for Community following Mallie Grizzle's leadoff double to start the game. The next batter, Emerson Fitzwilson, laid down a bunt against Viqueens' starter, Taylar Wessner, and she reached safely on an uncharacteristic throwing error to first from the normally reliable Wessner – Community's usual starting shortstop – which allowed Grizzle to round third and score the first run of the game.

Since Annie Prince had thrown 108 pitches in the first game of the doubleheader against Westview on top of the 209 pitches she threw on Wednesday, Farrell gave the start to Taylar Wessner. Wessner got the first two innings and then pitched in the fifth, giving up five runs with just one earned on four hits and one strikeout in 3.0 total innings of work on 51 pitches. Gracie Daniel worked the third and fourth innings, giving up seven runs – all unearned – on three hits and two walks on 48 pitches.

To continue the Wolves' rally in the top of the first, Maddie Floyd was hit by a pitch, and then a wild pitch advanced Fitzwilson and Floyd into scoring position. They would both come around to score after Maisen Lewis laced a 2-RBI single to give the Wolves a 3-0 lead before recording an out. Another mistake would allow Liberty Creek to take a 4-0 lead after the top of the first when Community's Carlie Blanton threw a strike down to second with two outs in an attempt to end the inning, but the stealing Hailee Langston somehow evaded tag. Kenslee Gregory promptly took off for home from third and reached safely.

The Viqueens got a run back in the home half when Anna Haskins led off with a single into left followed by a one-out walk worked by Carlie Blanton that led to a two-out RBI-double from Mattie Maxey. However, the inning came to an abrupt end when Alana Clark – courtesy running for the catcher Blanton – was thrown out at third base by Wolves' catcher Kenslee Gregory.

After finding a way to push across a run in the first, the Viqueens' struggled against Liberty Creek starter KiKi Belcher, tallying just three more hits for the rest of the game. Belcher struck out five and walked one on 68 pitches while giving up five total hits and the one earned first-inning run.

Liberty Creek tacked on a run in the second after Maddie Floyd beat out a potential inning-ending double play at first to allow Addi Kiser to score from third and extend the Wolves' lead to 5-1.

Community went down 1-2-3 in the bottom of the second, and then the wheels really started to fall off for the Viqueens defensively to start the third. Gracie Daniel swapped places with Wessner, moving from short to the circle, and unfortunately for the Viqueens, they went on to drop not one, but two routine fly balls that directly led to both runs scored in the inning. First, Hailey Langston's infield pop-up ended with Wessner and Kamryn Farrell running into each other and dropping the ball, allowing runners to reach second and third with just one out. This directly led to a sac-fly RBI from Gregory, and then Langston's routine fly ball was dropped in right-center field when Haskins and Victoria Wells collided, allowing Liberty Creek to grow the lead to 7-1.

Wessner legged out a two-out infield single in the bottom of the third but was left stranded on base.

Liberty Creek put up five runs in the top of the fourth thanks to an astonishing six errors that included two dropped pop-flys in the outfield to take a 12-1 lead.

Community nearly scored its second run of the game when Mattie Maxey legged out an infield single followed by a double by Haylee Webb. Maxey attempted to round third and reach home, but a perfect throw from Fitzwilson gunned her down at the plate.

The Viqueens went down in order in the fifth to trigger the 10-run run-rule, ending a historic run this season for Unionville's softball program as well as the careers of their two seniors – Carlie Blanton and Taylar Wessner.

"Their [Carlie and Taylar] impact was huge," Farrell said. "They both kinda got together and had the attitude that we won't accept anything less as far as getting to the state tournament, and then setting the mindset of 'we'll figure it out from there.' They have been extremely positive, and they have helped out the younger ones. I mean, Taylar could have yelled at a freshman out there [for dropping a fly ball] but she just kinda talked her up and told her we just have to do what we do. They're just positive kids, man, just great kids. My biggest worry leaving softball season – and I always want to win the state tournament – is, I always want to sleep knowing that the girls that are leaving this program are going to be successful, and without a doubt, I know that they will be. Just the way they are and how they are with other people, they're going to be that."

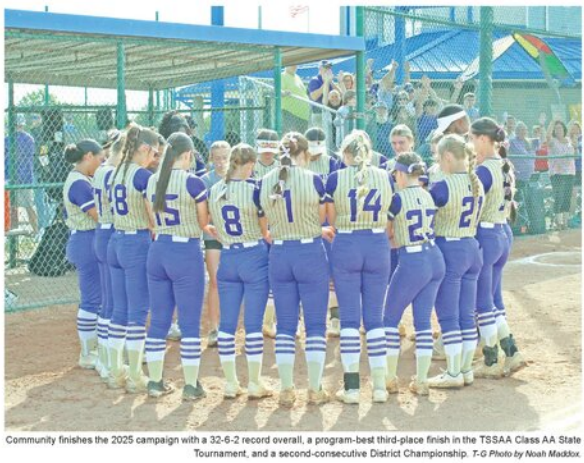
"Their impact was great and they are both going to be extremely missed, I mean, they're going to be missed. They never left the field."

Community won two games at the state tournament for the first time in program history, and with the majority of its team in-line to return for next season – including one of the best pitchers in the state in Annie Prince – the Viqueens are poised to build off what was built this season.

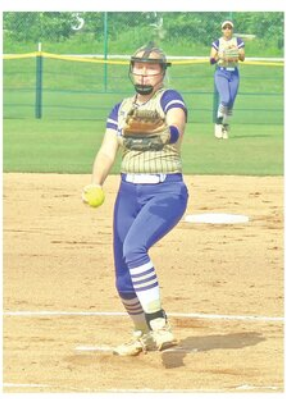
"I'm looking forward to getting back to the drawing board," Farrell concluded. "We'll have some new pieces – we'll have a lot of pieces that are returning as well – and I can't wait to see what they do and I can't wait to see how the returners respond to this."

Anna Haskins went 1-2, Wessner finished 1-2, and Mattie Maxey went 2-2 with an RBI. Haylee Webb recorded the fifth and final hit for the Viqueens, finishing 1-2 at the plate.

Community's season comes to a close at 32-6-2, the District 9-AA Champions, the Region 5-AA Runner-Up, and Class AA Softball State Semifinalists.



Community finishes the 2025 campaign with a 32-6-2 record overall, a program-best third-place finish in the TSSAA Class AA State Tournament, and a second-consecutive District Championship. *T-G Photo by Noah Maddox.*



Annie Prince (14) struck out 16 in 7.0 innings of work in the win against Westview, bringing her total in three starts at the State Tournament to 43 strikeouts. *T-G Photo by Noah Maddox.*



Ladies in Concrete - Area middle school and high school girls gather outside the School of Concrete and Construction Management Building at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn., on Tuesday, May 13, to participate in the second annual Ladies in Concrete Workshop hosted by the university's Concrete Industry Management Program and CIM Patrons. More than 300 young female participants were exposed to various trades within the industry such as flatwork, finishing, mix design and more, led by CIM alumni and representatives from industry partners. *(MTSU photo by J. Intintoli)*

MTSU hosts Concrete Workshop

Over 300 middle and high school girls attend

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — Middle Tennessee State University's celebrated Concrete Industry Management program hosted over 320 area middle and high school girls Tuesday, May 13, at the second annual Ladies in Concrete Workshop.

It was a time designed to expose them to a variety of potential careers in a career field that has traditionally been dominated by men.

Following last year's successful inaugural event at the School of Concrete and Construction Management Building, this year's event drew even more girls and young women to campus to get an up close view of different parts of the concrete industry through hands-on workshops demonstrating common things seen on a jobsite.

The event provided eight workstations — heavy equipment, hand tools, mix design, pre-casting, finishing, masonry, 3D printing, and welding — for the girls to have immersive experiences with professional equipment, all hosted by 17 different alumni and local industry partners.

CIM Patron Board President Natalie Martin, a CIM program alum, created and organized the event for the purpose of letting young girls know that there is a much-needed place for women within this industry working with the most used building material in the world.

CIM Patrons are a group of alumni and industry professionals who volunteer their time to promote, recruit and fundraise for the CIM program. They are a nonprofit organization serving the program through financial, marketing and mentoring assistance.

"I want to give middle and high school girls experience in this industry from a young age, so when they get to college, they're more on an equal playing field," Martin explained, her emphasis based on her own experience as a nontraditional student, having graduated from the CIM program at 38 years old in 2016.

"I can now provide a life for my kids that I never thought I could, and I proudly have done that all by myself because of this industry," she said.

Hannah Neal, rising CIM junior from Murfreesboro, was a part of the group of female students and alumni that acted as tour guides for the day, sharing with the group their job titles and experiences within the concrete business and their unique degree. Paired with students from Central Magnet High School in Murfreesboro, Neal detailed just how grateful she was for being a part of this experience, and how she wished for an opportunity like this when she was much younger.

"We have so many amazing women and men who have decided to spend their time away from their companies to show these hands-on experiences for these young girls, and that is something I'm so thankful to be involved with since I'm still learning, too," she said.

Alongside a nearly 100-student increase from last year, the event hosted even more schools, bumping the total up to 12 combined middle and high schools from the Midstate. The CIM program aims to increase these numbers even more next year.

Rising Smyrna High School senior Zoie Tubbs was one of the many participants who had the opportunity to participate in the event alongside her peers, finding the day to not only be enjoyable, but also expanded her horizons on what she perhaps would want to pursue after graduation.

"I think this is a really good opportunity for us as girls to learn about the concrete industry, and to actually feel invited to this career. Being here maybe changed my mind for what I want to do," she said.

Tubbs' interior design teacher, Christy Burns, perhaps said it best: "These girls, while yes, they're leaving here with hard hats and swag bags, they're also leaving here with hands-on experiences that they won't ever forget, and where they may not have thought about a career in concrete before, hopefully they've had that opportunity for exposure."

To learn more about CIM, one of five such programs nationwide and one of 11 College of Basic and Applied Sciences' 11 departments, visit https://www.concretedegree.com/the-cim-program/.



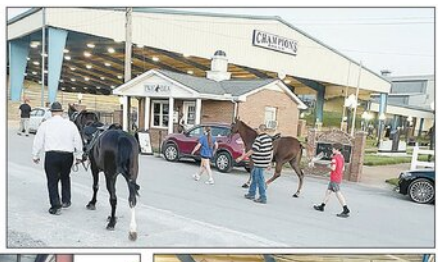
As fellow workshop participants look on and guided by the workshop facilitator, a young participant tries her hand at marking a slab of concrete outside the School of Concrete and Construction Management Building at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn. *(MTSU photo by J. Intintoli)*



Donning pink gloves and safety goggles, a group of middle and high school girls practice the concrete finishing process on Tuesday, May 13, inside the School of Concrete and Construction Management Building at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn. *(MTSU photo by J. Intintoli)*

TWHNC grounds improvements include 26 barns











Town and Country Garden Club enjoys May meeting

Picnic-style luncheon held at Stonewall Ridge Farm

The May 21 meeting of Town and Country Garden Club was held at Stonewall Ridge Farm, the lovely home of Nancy Fayard, located on Wartrace Pike.

The garden club generally meets at Riverbend Country Club but with remodeling soon at hand, they've started meeting at different places. The May meeting was certainly enjoyed by all, the club reports.

The garden club will have the delight of meeting again in October at Nancy's home.

The picnic lunch was truly a spring treat. The meal, served on the front porch of the Fayard home, was provided by hostesses Anne Farrar, Charmagne Farrar and Sara Wood.

The lunch menu consisted of cucumber sandwiches, chicken croissant sandwiches, fresh fruit salad, shrimp pasta salad and blueberry and cream cheese tarts.

Nancy Fayard presented the program and told of the history of the farm and renovations made to the property over the last 15 years. She said many of the historic buildings have been repurposed.

Members enjoyed touring Stonewall Ridge Farm following the program. Naturally, of particular interest to the garden club, was the Fayard garden. The group also took a tour of the fruit trees and berry patch on the farm.







Blueberry Tarts

- 2 (1-oz.) packages frozen mini phyllo pastry shells
- 4 oz. cream cheese
- 3 tablespoons sugar, divided
- 1 (6-oz.) container honey vanilla Greek yogurt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1/2 cup cranberry juice
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 cup blueberries



Bake pastry shells according to package directions; cool completely.

Beat cream cheese and 1 tablespoon sugar in a medium bowl with an electric mixer until creamy; add yogurt, vanilla and lemon zest, beating until smooth. Spoon mixture evenly into cooled pastry shells; refrigerate until ready to serve.

Combine juices and remaining 2 tablespoons sugar in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat, stirring until sugar dissolves. Reduce heat to medium; stir in blueberries. Simmer 10 minutes or until blueberries begin to pop and sauce thickens; remove from heat and let cool. To serve, spoon sauce evenly over filling in shells.



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