COMMUNITY NEWS

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

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LEAVING BEHIND A LIFE OF FIGHTING WITH POLICE, DRUG ABUSE

MRT graduate Renea Brannan believes all things are possible with God

This is the final installment in this series of articles about the local MRT program, featuring three of its "charter members."

By Dawn Hankins
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net



In February, 2021, Renea Brannan was booked into jail for the 28th time. She was addicted to Meth and weighed 90 pounds.

Renea's testimony is that she got use to "doing time." She says jail became her "comfort zone" and the whole process, she says, became less frightening over the years.

"That's where you see most of your friends," she recently told the T-G.

Renea is now a part of Bedford County Corrections history. She remembers when Ronnie Prince, now jailer, and others, were correction officers.

"They were my familiar."

That's kind of how life went for Renea, that is, until she entered the first MRT class here in 2022. She's come to appreciate ladies working in women's jail ministry-those who've become reoccurring parts of her life.

She believes the real change in her life came the day one of the correction officers brought her a Bible. She began reading the Book of Matthew.

"When I got to the crucifixion, I began to cry so bad," she says, explaining she then realized how God has been with her throughout her life.

People in the jail thought she had finally lost it, she recalls. But Renea said it was just the opposite; she was lost and then found.

Renea says she did not know the story of Jesus' death and sacrifice for her sins. She only knew she wanted to change her life and had to find out how to do that.

Oddly enough, she thanks the Drug Task Force, which ultimately gave her the lengthier sentence, hence, more time to find her faith.

She said jail time had become a vicious cycle, largely because she says she could make drug contacts there.

In January 2022, Renee received a 9-year sentence for her drug charges. "I knew it took me years of running and it might take Him [God] years

See MRT, 2A



SHE'S COME A LONG WAY, BABY

T-G Photo by Dawn Hankins

These girls (Katie LovVorn, Amy Merlo and Renea Brannan) used to do drugs together. Today, these original MRT program graduates are living clean lives. Renea, far right, is beginning a new job at a recovery house, Amy is studying criminal justice and Katie has her own cleaning business.

North Bedford County residents demand 'illegal slaughterhouse' investigation

Packed house at Rules & Legislative Committee meeting



Local residents told Commissioners Tuesday that they believe there's an illegal slaughterhouse operating off Highway 41A North-about 8 miles from the Shelbyville City limits. One of the public comment speakers during the Rules Committee meeting was property owner Jeremy Henderson.

By Dawn Hankins
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At the outset of the Rules and Legislative Committee meeting Tuesday, several residents off Highway 41A North made public comments about a potential, illegal, slaughterhouse-one which they say is dumping dead animal carcasses in the North Fork Creek.

Jeremy Henderson who owns property there explained to the committee that he and fellow residents have witnessed actions that strongly suggests that an illegal slaughterhouse is being operated. The operation, he says, happens mostly at night in a former horse barn that sits on 3 acres near his property.

Henderson said everything from cows to hogs are apparently being dumped into nearby North Fork Creek, which feeds into their water source-the Duck.

Henderson explained that the state ag crime investigator, Mike Whaley, said he closed the case, stating no dead animals were found at the creek area. Henderson said he had sent Whaley a "starving cow picture" a couple of days prior to that investigation.

He said barely 6 inches of dirt is used to cover the animal remains. He further advised that some of his neighbors have paid as much as $700,000 for their homes and are having to deal with the blood and guts runoff associated with this operation.

He also mentioned dumping carcasses in close proximity to personal properties, which is also illegal.

Another speaker was resident Jessie Warrick. He said apparently EPA has fined the operators.

Warrick explained that it is illegal to bury a dead animal within 100 feet from a state waterway and it is illegal to bury dead animals less than 165 feet from an adjacent property line.

". . . The guts are running down the creek onto everybody's property," advised Warrick.

Commissioner Greg Vick asked Chris White, planning director, if there are any zoning regulations that would apply. White said yes and that large slaughterhouses have to be zoned as industrial out in the County. This property in question remains zoned agriculture, according to White.

White said because of new job assignments within the crime ag department, the County has been assigned a new investigator for this case. His department, he said, took photos last week of the creek area and found a pooling of some kind of liquid. He described it as dark brown, likely not blood, but was some kind of other substance.

He assured the crowd his department is involved in pursuing further investigation of this

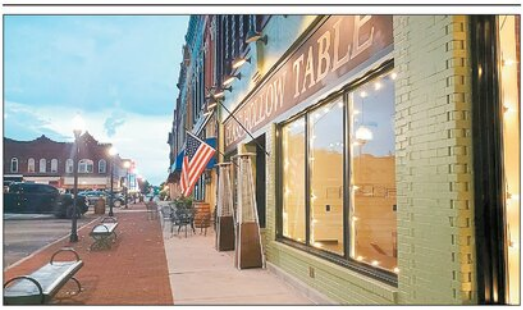
See INVESTIGATION, 5A



GREAT DAY FOR CASCADE FFA

School System Photo

No doubt Cascade High FFA leader Mike Swafford is all smiles. A groundbreaking ceremony was recently held for the new Champion Ag Center, a key part of Bedford County's Innovative School Model. See more photos on page 3.



LOCAL HAS STUNNING PHOTO COLLECTION

Jeffrey McGee took this great photo of the public square in Shelbyville. He's a Bedford County native and obviously has developed a keen eye for the beauty that rests in the historic area. The City of Shelbyville is working on the development of more parking space off the square.



GET YOUR FARMERS MARKET ON
Normandy hosts every Saturday

Photo by Rhonda Comstock

Curtis Daniel and family were among those sharing their farm products at Saturday's Farmers Market in Normandy. There's nothing like a farm-fresh egg to get the day started. The market, which features a variety of vendors, will be open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday until Oct. 18.

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Business Spotlight

Dutch Bros Coffee officially opened at 103 Collier Avenue earlier this week.

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Why Omaha?

If you enjoy baseball, a trek to Omaha is a must.

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Local library receives $12,000 state TOP Grant

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Secretary of State Tre Hargett, State Sen. Shane Reeves, and State Rep. Pat Marsh recently announced a $12,000 Training Opportunities for the Public (TOP) Grant award for Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library. This funding is earmarked to help cover the cost of digital literacy instruction at the library.

"Public libraries are essential resources in building strong communities," said Secretary Hargett. "We are grateful to partner with the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Tennessee General Assembly to enhance the technological offerings available at their local libraries."

TOP Grants are funded by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development and administered by the Secretary of State's office. Tennessee public libraries can use these funds to address unique needs within their communities.

"This grant empowers Shelbyville-Bedford Public Library to offer cutting-edge resources for the benefit of more citizens in our community," said Sen. Reeves. "Congratulations to our local library officials for their dedicated service and their efforts in helping strengthen Bedford County's future."

Resources provided through TOP Grants include digital literacy training, Wi-Fi hotspots, solar charging stations, and enhanced internet access at a library facility.

"At the heart of every thriving community is a library that provides access to essential resources like information, technology, and educational materials," said Rep. Marsh. "This funding will help our local library sustain and expand critical services that support our community's success in a rapidly changing world."

This year, $291,405 in TOP Grant funding is being awarded to increase access to technology at 54 public libraries across Tennessee.

To learn more about grants for public libraries administered by the Library & Archives, visit https://sos.tn.gov/tsla/services/grants-public-libraries.

GREAT ICE CREAM, MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP

Community Club Photos

Raus Community Club held its annual ice cream social Saturday night. Reports are the place was rockin' with great music and community fellowship. Proceeds from this event go toward the continued restoration of the historic Raus Schoolhouse. Organizers said they appreciate the crowd that turned out for the event.







MRT

From page 1A

of me sitting down . . . to be truly found. When you say: The Lost Sheep, I was it."

The Parable of the Lost Sheep, found in Matthew 18:12-14, illustrates God's immense love for every individual. In hindsight, she realizes that God rescued her all her life.

In April 2022, she noticed women getting interested in MRT. Finally, Lt. Chris Cook and BC Jail Administrator Ronnie Prince called her into the office to discuss the moral reconation therapy program.

"I told them I wasn't really ready for 100% change. I was ready for 110% change."

"MRT may not be what they say is faith-based but it taught me how to put the two together. It changed my mindset."

For Renea, that was changing a 40-year history of addiction. She's an example that it's never too late.

At that time, there was a work-release program; she got to go to Tyson Foods. She says through this program, she was also able to buy some glasses.

"That allowed me to pay enough fines off that they released my driver's license."

Sadly, the work release program was later cancelled.

Through work release at Bedford County Jail, Renea says she paid for her own online college course where she studied drug and alcohol counseling.

She's also studied CPRS or Certified Peer Recovery Specialist. CPRSs are able to provide a unique perspective to those with similar life experiences.

Still, Renea had much more to learn, about herself, through the MRT program.

"I didn't realize how many traumas I had. At my age, there were many."

If the day ended in "Y," she says there was a family fight. She wound up caring for a younger sibling as a result of her dysfunctional life.

Eventually, she sought a way to kill that pain. "I went with drugs because alcohol scared me so bad."

As a teen, she got a name for being the high school fight queen, eventually getting herself kicked out of Marshall County High School right before graduation.

Fast forward to Feb. 12, 2024.

Renea finally made parole. She was mandated 6 months to a half-way house in Franklin. While there, Renea continued to use all her MRT tools-those which are different than a physical wrench or hammer used to repair something.

"These tools may not screw a bolt on . . . but they helped me live every day." She recently began working at the Next Door, a rehab center in Nashville.

She talks about how scary it is to re-enter a familiar community after such life changes. "I have had a lot of issues living in Shelbyville. It has made me scared to leave my house."

But what MRT has taught Renea and others is the ability to search for "good people." That is, associates who won't tempt them with drugs and selfishly drag them back down the same path they walked before.

Renea and Amy admit it's hard to leave a bad life behind, especially if you're a gal that "got around." After all, as former drug-using friends, they learned and mastered how to "do all the wrong things."

But now they share their faith and stories of how they're trying to help others suffering with addiction. Another MRT graduate and their friend, Katie LovVorn, has a cleaning service and hopes to put some of the MRT graduates to work.

The three women lean on one another these days for support. But this time, they're clean and sober.

In regard to the MRT program, Renea remembers how hard it was to trust, especially men. She says "Cook" was the first man she's ever put her trust in and he hasn't let her down.

Renea says she learned to "be free in jail" despite her sentencing. She says it just didn't matter at that point that the door was locked. She credits MRT with teaching her "how to live."

She admits how she wasn't ready for the transition home. So, she wound up staying a year.

She still loves going out to MRT on Monday nights. It became the place to be at Bedford County Corrections.

"I still share . . . tell them if I'm doing good or how I feel. I will be a member of MRT until it is on my headstone."

Renea says she's still very careful to make the right choices every day. She knows one wrong choice can send her back into custody.

Lt. Cook notes he's experienced how people are "demonized" for their addictions. What most don't understand, he advises, is the trauma that accompanies that addiction.

Renea notes she had to learn how to be open-minded. "That became only possible because of the changed mind-set that MRT and faith did together."

A two-time convicted Meth felon, she believes finding faith in Jesus no doubt saved her from spending the rest of her life behind bars.

Renea faces head-on that she's on parole until 2027. But she's thankful for her blessings, like being able to get her driver's license reinstated after 10 years.

Lt. Cook has learned that when a child is hurt, traumatized, it changes the course of their life. They develop coping skills when young. Then when they're first introduced to the drugs, nothing else starts to matter.

"They feel better for a little while. They don't hurt or are afraid. All those things they can't comprehend go away."

Lt. Cook often hears that people make "bad choices." He says that's not true. "We've got to get this idea out of our heads."

Again, it all goes back to childhood trauma; he's had people tell him they started drinking alcohol as young as age 8.

He tells MRT participants, "This is not about choices. This happened to you at a time when your brain couldn't comprehend it. And everything after that is about survival until you meet that drug."

Lt. Cook says while the MRT program is highly successful with a powerful organization of people making a difference, the drug problem has only gotten worse.

But now, thanks to MRT, the jail is no longer just a revolving door for those with addictions. Lt. Cook believes the success rate of MRT will be noticed 50 years from now.

"This is how we win with drugs. I tell people, until they're tired of hearing it, that you're never going to put enough people in jail to stop drugs. We work on the human side. We reduce the number of people who want drugs."

Looking at Renea, he notes this is the first generation of MRT graduates and they're breaking the cycle of generational addiction.

It is difficult to live a normal life, Renea admits. "I have a fear of people seeing me speak to somebody and saying the wrong things just because you speak to them in the grocery store. I am a felon drug dealer . . . ."

The difference today for Renea is that she knows now her "calling" is to "bring at least one person out of the pit."

These days, Renea doesn't mind submitting to a breathalyzer in order to drive her vehicle. "I have no shame in admitting I'm an addict in recovery. Every day is a choice. Every day is about making the right choice."

Lt. Cook assures Renea how she will eventually be off parole. He promises her how people are going to begin seeing her as a changed person.

And if life does get tough, "Cook," as he's known in the MRT program, promises he and many other MRT volunteers and graduates are just a phone call away.

THE ISSUE

Something is amuck in northern Bedford County

By Dawn Hankins

When you're an investigative reporter, you have to be careful that all of the facts are true and evidence is available before heading to print. Lots of evidence was presented at Tuesday's public County Commission meeting on an issue regarding a potential illegal slaughterhouse off 41ANorth Highway.

So, let's get into it.

Last Tuesday, during a Rules and Legislative Committee meeting, several residents off Highway 41A North spoke during the allowed public comment time prior to the meeting. (Read front page story.)

This was some pretty disturbing information shared during a public meeting.

Are the people in the horse barn operating something illegal? If not, are they disposing of dead animals in an improper and unhealthy way?

Or, being the objective reporter I'm supposed to be . . . are they just helping poor people with food-goat, sheep, beef.

It is my hope after all the testimonies Tuesday night that there will be a thorough investigation into this matter. May the best man win.

I do feel for the neighbors who spent a lot of money on their homes there having to deal with such an issue. One Commissioner said this morning that the public comments were very disturbing.

Here's what I can tell you about the people who live in that northern Bedford County area off Highway 41A North. They're good people, as we say around here.

Having grown up right off that highway, I know that the residents there mind their own business. But when there's monkey business, look out. They take their farm land and homes very serious.

The Crowells have a deep history in that community. They honor what was done with the land by their grandparents.

That community may jaw at one another over things from time to time. And as small town life goes, there's still a lot of talk across the fence about things-politics, family, equal rights.

But I know from having grown up on a farm there, that community sticks together when there's a need. When my grandfather had a very serious accident many years ago, many residents of that community came running to help any way they could.

When my brother had his heart transplant, the community helped him out of love for his family.

And if there's one person you can count on to tell the truth, that's Ronald "Ronnie" Adcock. I've known him as a neighbor for years.

His mother was my 4th grade teacher. Some of you may remember him as having served as Tennessee Technology Center president for many years.

If Ronnie says there's been dead hogs on the side of Zions Hill Road, believe it.

It will be interesting to see if the state investigators uncover anything in this situation. But rest assured, the situation off 41A North isn't dead in the water. And yes, that pun was intended.

City requests vacant library property for new police-fire building

Commissioner Boutwell explains this to BC Commission

By Dawn Hankins

Commissioner John Boutwell explained to Bedford County Commission at the end of the recent monthly meeting a request made by the City of Shelbyville for some vacant acreage belonging to the library.

Boutwell, a library board member on behalf of the Commission, said there was a letter sent to the library from the City attorney's office dated May 21, 2025. He said he wanted to put this on the table so Commissioners would know what was happening.

The City requested to be placed on the agenda for an upcoming library board meeting (May 27 was initially requested but the board did not follow through last month.) Boutwell said he expects this to happen maybe at the next meeting in June. Boutwell advised his research shows this land requested was purchased originally by the library from the City for the new building on South Jefferson.

City attorney, Ginger Shofner, stated in the letter how the City wants its lead architect, Ginger French, to formally make a presentation to the library board regarding this land donation.

These properties would be used as part of the building site of a planned new public safety headquarters that would house police and fire departments.

The City has hired French and TLM Architects and Engineers out of Jackson. Originally, the idea, the letter states, was to create separate buildings for the departments but after a year into the process, it was decided that one building would be in the City's best interest.

The City recently discussed and found out to build separate buildings would be way beyond what City coffers could handle financially right now. The library property, it was discussed in a recent City Council meeting, is a great choice because of fire and police emergency needs.

The library sits, on the tax map portion 089, group A, parcel 1.03 approximately 2.8 acres total. This is to the east of South Brittain Street which runs north-south then curves west to South Main. The library owns Parcel 8.00 which is approximately 1 acre to the south of the library building and this is used for storm water purposes.

The City is also requesting Parcel 1.03-the, vacant lot to the west of South Brittain. This is where fire and police headquarters would be located. The City wants Parcel 8.00 which would be used as emergency exits for the fire trucks, etc.



NEW BC INNOVATIVE SCHOOL MODEL

School System Photo

Cascade High FFA students and leaders posed during a recent ground breaking ceremony for the new Champion Ag Center. This state-of-the-art center is designed to provide hands-on learning opportunities in a variety of modes—including a beef program in which students can gain invaluable skills working with cattle. With plans to open in the Fall of 2025, the Champion Ag Center represents a huge leap forward for the Cascade community and the school system.





CITY HAS VERY BRIEF MONTHLY MEETING

The City of Shelbyville met last Thursday for a very short monthly meeting. At this time, there are not a lot of new rezoning requests which have been placed on the agenda. Those that were approved last week were on second and final reading. There will be a public hearing concerning the 2025-26 fiscal year budget in Council Chambers at the Planning, Building and Codes Building located at 100 N. Cannon Blvd., on Tuesday, June 24th, at noon. The City's required financial statement was published in the June 12 edition of the T-G.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Shelbyville will consider a resolution to authorize the appropriations for the following non-profit organizations for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

This action will be considered at the June 24, 2025, special called city council meeting at council chamber, at the Building, Code & Planning Department, 100 N. Cannon Blvd., beginning at 12:00 o'clock P.M. Anyone wishing to comment on these allocations will be heard.

General Fund

Year Ending June 30, 2026	Allocation
EXPENDITURES	
Community Tennessee Rehabilitation Center	$25,750
Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library	$164,812
Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library (one time)	$10,000
Senior Citizens Center	$25,000
TOTAL	$225,562

Kay Parker, City Treasurer



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FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

AARON

Aaron was Moses' brother. We first hear of Aaron when Moses was telling God of his inability to speak eloquently. God said that Aaron, who spoke eloquently, could do the talking saying what Moses told him to say.

The Lord sent Aaron to the desert to meet Moses as Moses traveled from Midian to Egypt.

God instructed Moses and Aaron to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. God said Aaron was to be Moses' prophet. Moses would speak to Aaron and Aaron would speak to Pharaoh.



At the first meeting of Moses and Aaron with Pharaoh, Aaron threw his staff on the ground as the Lord commanded and the staff became a snake. Pharaoh's sorcerers did the same thing, but Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs.

Aaron continued to be beside Moses as he went before Pharaoh.

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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
931-368-7191

BAPTIST

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

BETHANY BAPTIST
210 Richdale Lane, 931-684-8606

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

CANNON BAPTIST
713 S. Cannon Blvd., 931-684-5442

EASTVIEW BAPTIST
404 S. Fairoak St., 931-684-9521

EDGEMONT BAPTIST
150 Fairfield Pike, 931-684-7676

EL BETHEL BAPTIST
1624 Hwy. 41A N., 931-684-0691

FAIR HAVEN BAPTIST
2726 Hwy. 231 N., 931-680-9803

FAITH BAPTIST
608 Neely Ave., 931-684-3764

FIRST BAPTIST
304 E. Depot St., 931-684-1634

FIRST BAPTIST
101 Webb Rd. E., Bell Buckle
931-389-9680

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST
289 Hilltop Rd., 931-695-5119

GALILEE BAPTIST
917 Sevier St., 931-652-8543

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
1019 Madison St., Shelbyville
931-460-9037

HURRICANE CREEK BAPTIST
689 Ebethel Rd., 931-684-4754

LONGVIEW BAPTIST
101 Cooper Rd., Unionville
931-294-2281

MIDLAND HEIGHTS BAPTIST
2706 Midland Rd., 931-680-0507

MOUNT ZION BAPTIST
101 Dow St., 931-684-1583

MT. ZION BAPTIST
506 Hill St., 931-684-5807

NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST
2027 Madison St., 931-703-9972

NEW BETHEL BAPTIST
1632 Hwy. 64 W., 615-684-5636

NORMANDY FIRST BAPTIST
100 Center St., Normandy,
931-857-3800

NORTH FORK BAPTIST
1641 Unionville Deason Rd.,
931-294-5610

ROVER BAPTIST
202 Baptist Church Rd., Eagleville
931-294-5840

SEVIER STREET FIRST BAPTIST
921 Sevier St., 931-684-7460

SHELBYVILLE FIRST BAPTIST
304 E. Depot St., 931-773-0145

SHELBYVILLE MILLS BAPTIST
900 Union St., 931-684-3625

SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST
900 S. Cannon Blvd., 931-684-6138

THOMPSON GROVE BAPTIST
2966 Sims Rd., 931-685-0025

TRINITY BAPTIST
1331 Horse Mountain Rd., 931-492-5480

TWIN OAKS BAPTIST
1710 Mount Herman Rd., Petersburg
931-993-8286

VICTORY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST
2202 N. Main St., 931-684-8114

CATHOLIC

ST. WILLIAM OF
MONTEVERGINE CATHOLIC
500 S. Brittain St., 931-735-6004

ST. WILLIAMS CATHOLIC
719 N. Main St., 931-694-6154

CHRISTIAN

BETH SHAR SHALOM CHRISTIAN
207 April Lane, 931-680-9777

FIRST CHRISTIAN
309 Madison St., 931-684-7467

CHURCH OF CHRIST

BIRD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST
428 Bird St., 931-684-3876

CHURCH OF CHRIST
115 High St., Bell Buckle
931-813-3079

EASTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST
1803 Madison St., 931-684-8521

FAIRFIELD CHURCH OF CHRIST
3521 Fairfield Pike, Wartrace
931-394-4090

FAIRLANE CHURCH OF CHRIST
101 Dow Dr., 931-684-1563

FLAT CREEK CHURCH OF CHRIST
1404 New Center Church Rd.
931-684-1360

GREEN MEADOWS CHURCH OF CHRIST
355 Squire Hall Rd., 615-233-5420

RAUS CHURCH OF CHRIST
Smith Chapel Rd. Hwy. 13, 931-857-3362

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

WARTRACE CHURCH OF CHRIST
107 Bridgeview Ave., Wartrace
931-389-9496

CHURCH OF GOD

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD
278 Anthony Lane, 931-684-4646

NEW HALEY CHURCH OF GOD
2220 Patricia Dr., 931-685-1159

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

WHITTAKER CHURCH OF GOD
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

EPISCOPAL

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
203 Lane St., 931-684-5506

EVANGELICAL

EAST PARK EVANGELICAL
103 E. Pkwy., 256-273-8565

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

WOODFORK CHAPEL AME
1011 Lipscomb St., 931-684-4817

NAZARENE

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

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

HIMESVILLE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1614 Hwy. 82 S., 931-694-6920

PENTECOSTAL

EMMANUEL PENTECOSTAL
1005 Belmont Ave., 931-685-6999

IGLESIA APOSTELIC PENTECOSTAL
2216 Hwy. 61 W., 931-680-1539

SHELBYVILLE UNITED PENTECOSTAL
1701 Green Lane, 931-685-9731

WHOSOEVER WILL PENTECOSTAL
219 E. Cedar St., 931-684-4384

PRESBYTERIAN

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
600 N. Brittain St., 931-684-6541

GREEN HILL CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN
1900 Unionville Deason Rd., Bell Buckle
931-294-2040

NORMANDY PRESBYTERIAN
108 Center St., Normandy
931-857-9395

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
101 Church St., 931-685-9588

OTHER

ABUNDANT LIFE
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AGAPE WORSHIP CENTER
340 Maplewood Dr., 931-684-1243

BEREAN WAY CHRISITAN FELLOWSHIP
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BLANKENSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH
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

HOUSE OF PRAYER
86 Union St., 931-703-5162

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

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LIGHTHOUSE
111 Church St., 931-684-4900

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931-993-2477

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507 Coble Circle, 931-224-5184

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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

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

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41A Highway resident photos of what they believe is illegal animal carcass dumping

Submitted Photos

Several residents of 41A Highway North attended the public Rules and Legislative Committee meeting Tuesday to discuss during public comments what they believe is an "illegal slaughterhouse" operating near their properties. As per the rules, the neighbors signed up ahead of time with the County to speak. These photos were shared last night with commissioners and Bedford County Sheriff's Department. Complaints have also been filed with the state ag crime division but neighbors said Tuesday their complaints have apparently not been taken seriously by the state. The residents claim dead animal carcasses are being dumped into the nearby North Fork Creek and off Zions Hill Road. They reported how runoff from the kills is flowing onto neighborhood properties-some worth over a half a million dollars. Chris White, County planning director, said last night that the neighborhood is zoned agriculture and a large slaughterhouse operation, like is being suggested, would have to be rezoned industrial.

INVESTIGATION

From page 1A

case. He asked for videos from the public and that any incrementing pictures be shared with his office.

White said when confronted with code violations, the operators have denied any wrong-doing.

"What we would like to do is work it as a state criminal investigation," said White.

Another neighbor said he has counted 151 goats and sheep on the property plus 15 cows. He said this obviously shows it's a commercial operation of some kind.

"Now you can't tell me that's personal consumption. You don't buy a $340,000 barn to do personal consumption; you wouldn't need it."

He said the animals on the property look hungry and push on the neighbor's fence. Most of them are sheep, he advised.

He said he went onto the property in May and asked some men there if he could buy meat. The operators showed him a bunch of sheep in the stables and yearlings. He said he was quoted a price of $3 a pound for cow.

The resident said he fears this type of handling of meat could be unhealthy and there's no cooler on the property. He claims a hole was dug in the back of the barn where they dump.

Commissioner Bill Anderson asked if he knows who is buying the meat. Referring to a recent incident where several cars were parked at the building, the resident shared, "They all came in a car and were all dressed in white."

Long-time resident of Highway 41A North, Ron Adcock, said he owns some property near the operation in question. He complained that state ag investigator, Whaley, has never contacted him back about the complaint he filed.

Adcock said he only found out about the recent state report because some of the neighbors found the public filing online. The report, which is public information, lists Adcock and Warrick as making the complaint and the owners as being in their late 20s and residents of Nashville.

This is the publicly filed investigation report made by Whaley which can be found at TN DEPARTMENT OF AG CRIME UNIT under Incident Report, Report Status: READY FOR REVIEW Case Number: 2025-0557:

"On May 29th, 2025, I was contacted by phone by Ronald Adcock of Bedford County. Mr. Adcock advised that him and some other neighbors were getting ready to contact the news media because nothing was being done about the illegal slaughter at 2985 N Highway 41A. Mr. Adcock said that yesterday several head of sheep were brought into this facility and nothing was being done. He also said that there were two dead hogs in the creek beside the bridge located on Zion Hill Road. Mr. Adcock said he wanted someone arrested for this, it was uncalled for. I was told from DOA Food and Dairy that USDA was looking into this issue and Dept of Environment and Conservation had issued a Notice of Violation on May 2, 2005 to the owners of the livestock, Farouk Hasson out of Nashville TN. On 5/29, I traveled to Zion Hill Road, by the bridge, the location that Mr. Adcock advised to look for the dead hogs and none was located, probably because of the local rains and the creek was full. I then went to the facility off HWY 41A and did notice several sheep on location, the last time I was at this facility there was no livestock there. I did not go onto the property because of a chained gate this time and it's not against the law to own sheep. I am not aware of what USDA is doing, I went to location to look for dead animals. Case Closed. This is my third visit and no violations of dead animals."

Adcock asked people in the packed room Tuesday if Whaley had contacted any neighbors. No one responded.

"What kind of investigation do you call that?" asked Adcock. "You drive by the highway and see the gate closed and you don't see any dead animals and you close the case? We have tried to get it done in the right way and no one at this point will go in . . . no one really has the authority to go in and investigate what they're doing."

Don Lynch who lives next door to the animal operation said, "I have watched them bring wheel barrows out and dump it into the creek. They bring out trash bags and dump it into the creek."

He said tractors are being used to cover dead animals. He said it stinks and 30 to 40 buzzards hang out there.

"A couple of weeks ago, there was a dead lamb or dead goat in the back corner. I told them when they came out 'you have a dead one back there.' He said OK. So, two of them walk back there; they both grab a leg. They walk about 10 feet and throw it against the fence. And it laid there for a week."

He said Whaley had taken pictures of a dead animal he reported. Lynch said though that he's never heard back from Whaley.

"I'm probably [within] 50 feet of their land," said Lynch. "When it gets really hot or rains a lot, it gets to stinking a lot and the flies are ridiculous."

He reported to Commissioners how one day there were a lot of cars parked at the barn. He said the people threw a lot of black bags into the cars.

He told Commissioners he's heard gunshots coming from the operation. And he's very aware, he said, of noises made by slaughtered animals. He said they're mostly killing the animals with knives, however.

Commissioner Greg Vick asked what time of day this happens. Lynch said the operation runs mostly at night. He said the burying of carcasses usually happens late afternoon.

Sheriff Austin Swing said he became aware of this situation a couple of weeks ago. He said it was his department's understanding that the state ag crime division would be heading up this investigation. Sheriff Swing said he hasn't seen any photos of the investigation.

BC Chief Deputy Nikia Elliott said he initially called Whaley when the situation came to his office. He said Whaley is the expert in this area of ag investigation.

He said Whaley told him the water was high during his last investigation. He said Whaley had to see the situation in person.

Elliott said his understanding is that it's not illegal to slaughter an animal on personal property for personal consumption.

But there are still complaints filed. The USDA has been involved for regulatory reasons.

Elliott said he's planning to call Whaley tomorrow (Wednesday) and apprise him of what's been reported by residents. He said there are many such situations that fall under state jurisdiction.

He advised that without a warrant, the sheriff's department cannot cross over that gate to the personal property. However, Elliott says the sheriff's department can hold the situation, if it deems necessary, until Whaley is able to arrive from his office in Nashville.

He said Whaley is agreeable to that. An example might be something found in the creek that is highly suspicious of illegal activity.

Members of the Rules Committee said they had no knowledge of this situation prior to Tuesday's meeting.

Is God Dead? What the stars say

By Ty B. Kerley, DMin.

Last week, we stepped out onto the back porch with the Bible skeptic Michael and looked up at the moon, stars, and planets. From this common ground, we asked ourselves, "Did the universe have a beginning, or has it always been here?" The answer, of course, is the first step of a far-reaching journey attempting to answer the question, "Is God dead?" After asking this initial question last week, we summarized our thoughts by making the following claim:

1. Everything that begins to exist has a cause
2. The universe began to exist
3. Therefore, the universe had a cause

We then concluded that the first claim is straightforward, and almost no one disagrees; everything that begins to exist has a cause. But the second claim, "The universe began to exist," we said, is set at the heart of the argument because how a person answers this claim points either to a creator or points away from one. For these reasons, there is much to be said about the second claim here this week.

To claim that the universe began to exist is, essentially, to claim that it has not been here since eternity past. That is exactly what Christians claim: that the universe began to exist the moment God created it. But how can the Christian make such a bold claim, especially without using the Genesis creation account? After all, remember the Bible skeptic Michael does not believe in the Bible. If we stand on shared common ground with Michael, we will have to find some other way to defend the claim that the universe began to exist. How about mathematics? Math can undoubtedly serve as common ground that the Christian and the Michaels of the word can agree upon.

In mathematical terms, suppose I said there is no such thing as an actual infinite set. Sounds a bit complicated, but it really is not. In math class, remember, they taught us that a set of numbers looks like this (-2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3). They call this a closed set because it is an actual set of numbers and it has a beginning and an ending. Now, if we think about an infinite set, we could write it; (. . . -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3). This would be an infinite set going back to negative infinity. But it is not an actual infinite set because it goes on forever to the left. And, since it is not a closed actual set, we should not use the first bracket to "close" the set, but it should read . . . -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3). This is a potential infinite set but not an actual infinite set. One could always add one more negative number to the end of it.

Now, suppose that the potential infinite set is a set of days instead of numbers, and suppose we said it was a set of days from eternity past to today. We could write it this way; . . . Oct 16, Oct 17, Oct 18, Oct 19). But here is the interesting part: If the universe has always existed, and if Michael and I stood on a timeline on Oct 19, and we began to walk backward through all the days going back into eternity past, we would never get to the beginning of the timeline. That is because if the universe has been here forever, then an infinite number of days have passed. But here is the amazing part: if Michael and I cannot walk an infinite timeline backward to a beginning, and if we were to turn around and begin to walk on that timeline from eternity past toward today, we can never get here because there would be an infinite number of days to walk across to get to today. The fact that we are here, all of us, today, means that somewhere in time past, there was a first day. This is an indisputable fact, and it seems to me Michael must agree. Time cannot go back for eternity any more than it can come forward from eternity to today; it had a beginning somewhere in history past. Classical philosophy calls it "the impossibility of an infinite temporal regress." In Oklahoma, we just say, "You can't get there from here!"

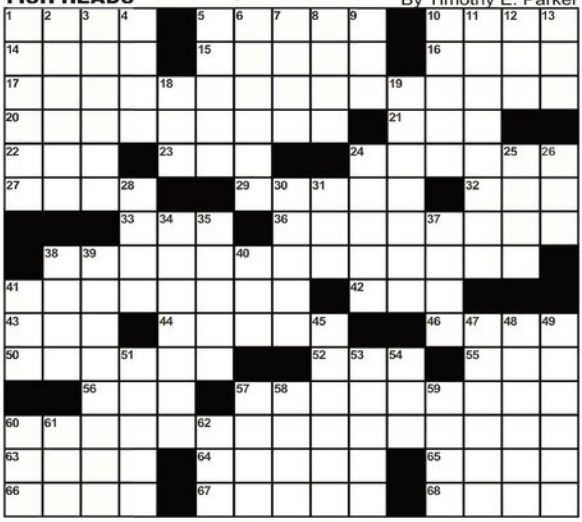
But that is not all there is to know about the cosmos that can help us determine if the universe had a beginning. In fact, it turns out that in the early twentieth century, Albert Einstein and a man named Hubble suspected something peculiar was happening in the universe that no one could see. Einstein suggested that based on his mathematical equations related to his theory of General Relativity, the universe was indeed expanding. A few years later, Hubble came to the same conclusion. What an incredible theory that all the planets, moons, and stars were moving further and further away from each other. But what does that mean? How does an expanding universe help us determine if the universe had a beginning? More importantly, what do Einstein and Hubble have to do with answering the question, "Is God dead?" Please join us again next week as we continue to stand on the back porch with the Bible skeptic Michael and listen to What the Stars Say about whether or not God is dead.

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 Wauri ka church of Christ and live in Ardmore, OK. You can contact him at dr.kerley@isGoddead.com.)

Crossword

FISH HEADS FreeDailyCrosswords.com By Timothy E. Parker



CLUES ACROSS

1) Make something close?
5) Judges' wear
10) Bouquet vessel
14) Conservative in Britain
15) NBA setting
16) Clickable item on a monitor
17) "Purple Haze" or "Satisfaction"
20) New Testament book
21) Bettor's marker
22) One attending Yale
23) Tire pressure fig.
24) Politically correct suffix
27) Space-age drink?
29) Water nymph of myth
32) Bit of body art, slangily
33) Alcohol chaser?
36) Single great stone, such as an obelisk
38) Simple kid's meal
41) Hall-of-Fame pitcher Pedro
42) Cape in Massachusetts
43) Street address abbr.
44) Internal Revenue Service, e.g.
46) Divisions of history
50) Expensive pleasure crafts
52) Put into practice
55) One of the Gabors
56) Ballerina's prop
57) Denies or renounces
60) Some daring circus performers
63) Cornstalk units
64) Stand near a painter?
65) "What___can I do?"
66) Emerald Isle language
67) Dermatologists' subjects, sometimes
68) One way to enjoy the snow

CLUES DOWN

1) It's curbed
2) Fanfare, informally
3) Mischievous waif
4) Little nipper
5) Indian queens
6) Appoint
7) Swiss canton
8) Adam's grandson
9) "Do the Right Thing" role
10) Baseball-cap feature
11) Kind of guitar
12) "Favorite" relative
13) Chang's twin
18) It has a nasty bite to it
19) Canine command
24) Bamboo eater
25) Witness stand pledge
26) To the___ degree (extremely)
28) With an expensive coat?
30) Astonish
31) Physicists get a charge out of it
34) Squinted one's eyes
35) Mimicking birds
37) Prompter's whisper
38) Coffee, informally
39) Skyscraper construction crew, essentially
40) Item on a driver's license
41) When mom gets her due
45) Small stream
47) Spin the same yarn?
48) Strongly opposed (with "to")
49) Answered with attitude
51) It has two pairs of shoes?
53) Flies off the shelf
54) Humility obstacle
57) Off the premises
58) "Largemouth" creature
59) Renders speechless
60) Rise to a raise
61) General purpose?
62) "Just a___"

Kid Scoop

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Journaling

Journaling is like talking to a friend—but on paper!



Find the differences.



Journal topic ideas

Three things I am grateful for:

Write about a time you were really surprised.

Replace the missing vowels in Kevin's journal.

I got a B on my m_th t_st t_day. Th_t is a b_g impr_vement aft_r I got a C- last W__K!

My aunt h_lped m_ last Sund_y with my mult_plicati_n tables. I think I'll g_t an A n_xt week! :-)



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

You can use a pad of paper, or staple blank pages together to make a journal.

Extra! Extra!

That's Me!

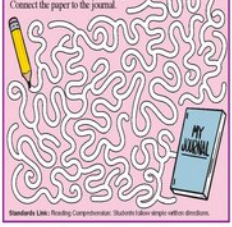
Look through the newspaper for five words that describe you. Write a journal page using each of these words in a sentence about YOU.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify adjectives.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Put Pencil to Paper

Connect the paper to the journal.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Students follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

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

BRAIN
CALM
COOL
DRAW
FEELING
FRIEND
FUN
GRATEFUL
IDEAS
JOURNAL
PAD
PAGE
PAPER
TOPIC
WRITE

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

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

From the Kid Scoop Lesson Library

Letter to the Editor

Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper and explain what you think or feel about something happening in your community. Read some published letters to the editor for ideas.

Write On!

Best Book of the Summer

Write a book review recommending a book for kids to read this summer.

Kid Scoop Together

Funny Fill-In

Ask a family member to give you some nouns, plural nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Write these words to fill in the blanks of this silly story. Then, read it aloud to your family!

Silly Journal Entry

We came home with many _____ (ADJECTIVE) memories from our visit to the theme park.

We started by riding the _____ (NOUN) boats. We took lots of photos as we floated down the _____ (ADJECTIVE) canal and through a _____ (ADJECTIVE) tunnel filled with singing _____ (NOUN) animatronics.

Then came the haunted house. My dad began to _____ (VERB) as we entered the dark hallway. Bats and _____ (PLURAL NOUN) fluttered around us, and a _____ (ADJECTIVE) ghost popped out of a dusty _____ (NOUN), making my mom and me _____ (VERB).

We decided to ride the huge _____ (NOUN) coaster together. As our train began to _____ (VERB) up the lift hill, we had a great view of the park's colorful _____ (PLURAL NOUN) and hedges shaped like _____ (PLURAL NOUN). We flew down the first big drop faster than a _____ (ADJECTIVE)! I laughed and screamed at the same time as we swooped around curving _____ (PLURAL NOUN) and back into the _____ (ADJECTIVE) station.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE

Sale at public auction will be on September 5, 2025 on or about 11:00AM local time, At the Main Entrance, Bedford, County Courthouse, 1 Public Square, Shelbyville, TN 37160, conducted by the Substitute Trustee as identified and set forth herein below, pursuant to Deed of Trust executed by ALEXANDRA JULY LYONS AND CYNTERIUS DEVON LYONS, to Megan K. Trott, Trustee, on July 20, 2022, at Record Book TD1062, Page 93-106 as Instrument No. 22006482 in the real property records of Bedford County Register's Office, Tennessee.

Owner of Debt: NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing

The following real estate located in Bedford County, Tennessee, will be sold to the highest call bidder subject to all unpaid taxes, prior liens and encumbrances of record:

Being all of Lot No. 27, on the plan of Final Plat, Wheatfield Subdivision, Phase 1, according to plat and survey appearing of record in Plat Cabinet E, Envelope 353, of the Register's Office of Bedford County, Tennessee, to which plat reference is hereby made for more complete details of location and described of said lot.

Being the same property conveyed to Alexandra July Lyons and Cynterius Devon Lyons, Wife and Husband, by Warranty Deed from Ole South Properties, Inc., a Tennessee Corporation, dated July 20, 2022, appearing of record in Book D 375, Page 864, of the Register's Office of Bedford County, Tennessee.

This conveyance is made subject to Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions contained in instrument of record in Book D371, page 519, and Book D358, page 631; Easement for Tennessee Valley Authority of record in Book D221, page 614; Boundary Survey of record in Plat Cabinet J, Envelope 23; Shelbyville Power and Sewer Easements of record in Book D246, page 744 and Book D264, page 452; HOA Charter of record in Book Ch14, page 610; and to any and all matters shown on said plan and survey of record in Plat Cabinet E, Envelope 353; all of said Register's Office.

Tax ID: 07-079.07K-E-005.00-000

Current Owner(s) of Property: ALEXANDRA JULY LYONS AND CYNTERIUS DEVON LYONS

The street address of the above described property is believed to be 300 Durum Street, Shelbyville, TN 37160, but such address is not part of the legal description of the property sold herein and in the event of any discrepancy, the legal description referenced herein shall control.

SALE IS SUBJECT TO OCCUPANT(S) RIGHTS IN POSSESSION.

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. THE TERMS OF SALE ARE CASH. ANY TAXES OR FEES WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PURCHASER. IF THE SALE IS SET ASIDE FOR ANY REASON, THE PURCHASER AT THE SALE SHALL BE ENTITLED ONLY TO A RETURN OF THE PURCHASE PRICE. THE PURCHASER SHALL HAVE NO FURTHER RECOURSE AGAINST THE GRANTOR, THE GRANTEE, OR THE TRUSTEE.

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HUD AND WHEATFIELD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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

If applicable, the notice requirements of T.C.A. 35-5-101 have been met.

All right of equity of redemption, statutory and otherwise, and homestead are expressly waived in said Deed of Trust, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Substitute Trustee.

If the U.S. Department of Treasury/IRS, the State of Tennessee Department of Revenue, or the State of Tennessee Department of Labor or Workforce Development are listed as Interested Parties in the advertisement, then the Notice of this foreclosure is being given to them and the Sale will be subject to the applicable governmental entities' right to redeem the property as required by 26 U.S.C. 7425 and T.C.A. §67-1-1433.

This property is being sold with the express reservation that the sale is subject to confirmation by the lender or trustee. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

MWZM File No. 25-000135-505-1
Mackie Wolf Zientz & Mann, P.C., Substitute Trustee(s)
Cool Springs III
725 Cool Springs Blvd, Suite 140
Franklin, TN 37067
TN INVESTORS PAGE: HTTP://MWZMLAW.COM/TN_INVESTORS.PHP (6193tc)

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION, CARE AND PROTECTION, TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS, DOdocket NUMBER: 23CP0200MI, Trial Court of Massachusetts, Juvenile Court Department, COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester County Juvenile Court, 225 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608, 508-478-8638.

TO: Joshua Oehler and/or Father of: A petition has been presented to this court by Department of Children and Families (Whitinsville), seeking, as to the following children, **Kayleigh R Choummanivong, Aidyn S Choummanivong**, that said children be found in need of care and protection and committed to the Department of Children and Families.

The court may dispense the rights of the persons named herein to receive notice of or to consent to any legal proceeding affecting the adoption, custody, or guardianship or any other disposition of the children named herein, if it finds that the children are in need of care and protection and that the best interests of the children would be served by said disposition.

You are hereby ORDERED to appear in this court, at the court address set forth above, on the following date and time: **11/05/2025 at 08:30 AM Pre Trial Conference (CR/CV)**

You may bring an attorney with you. If you have a right to an attorney and if the court determines that you are indigent, the court will appoint an attorney to represent you.

If you fail to appear, the court may proceed on that date and any date thereafter to a trial on the merits and adjudication of this matter.

For further information call the Office of the Clerk-Magistrate at 508-478-8638.

WITNESS: Hon. Mary Beth Keating, FIRST JUSTICE, DATE ISSUED: 06/04/2025, Brendan J. Moran, Clerk-Magistrate.(6123tc)

Bedford County property transfers

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

File date: June 10

Location: Horse Mountain; Seller, Nelle Williams Mahaffey Estate, Nelle Mahaffey, Brent Walker, N P Williams; Buyer, Findley Mahaffey, Jane Jakes, Mike Walker, Geoffrey Crooks, Jennifer Crooks, Alissa Shear, Thaddeus Walker, Lera Walker; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 102 Hayfield Lane; Seller, Christian L Sherrod; Buyer, Lisa M Sherrod; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Comstock Rd; Seller, Rodney Bowling; Buyer, J & M Development LLC; Price, $0 (Deed).

Location: 146 Stonefield Circle; Seller, Lesli Wright, Charles M Moore; Buyer, Jacob Daniel Waddell, Haley Morgan Waddell; Price, $260,000 (Deed).

Location: Carpenter Lane; Seller, Douglas W Wisdom Jr, Tamara Wisdom, Mattie B Wisdom, Latricia Ann Lokey; Buyer, Michael H Owen; Price, $95,000 (Deed).

File date: June 11

Location: 111 Briar Patch Dr; Seller, Micah Olson, Amanda B Olson; Buyer, Jeffrey David Koops; Price, $200,000 (Deed).

Location: 111 Briar Patch Dr; Seller, Jeffrey David Koops; Buyer, Jeffrey David Koops, Jessica Koops; Price, $0 (QD).

File date: June 12

Seller, Haynes Service Company LLC; Buyer, Rocio Arellano, Ramon Arellano; Price, $121,000 (Deed).

Location: 2114 Hwy 64; Seller, Cory David Beckman, Anna Daniella Hooper Beckman; Buyer, Josue J Hernandez Delgado, Josefina Y Rodriguez Gutierrez; Price, $315,000 (Deed).

Seller, Brian Riddle; Buyer, Dennis Ray Young Sr, Kay Fann Young, Dennis Ray Young Sr and Kay Fann Young Oath Trust; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, William H Woodruff Sr; Buyer, Nicholas Parker Fleishour, Abigail Rebekah Fleishour; Price, $354,900 (Deed).

Seller, Rickey F Pruitt; Buyer, Rickey F Pruitt, Janine L Pruitt; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Highway 64 E; Seller, Barry L Knox; Buyer, Dillon James Sinclair, Rebecca Deanne Sinclair; Price, $285,000 (Deed).

Location: Hwy 41 A; Seller, Diane Elaine Blackwell; Buyer, Dustin Wade Hill, Jennifer Campbell Hill; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Hwy 41 A; Seller, Diane Elaine Blackwell; Buyer, Delisa Diane Hill; Price, $0 (QD).

File date: June 13

Location: Anthony Branch Rd; Seller, Sherry Watkins, Sherry Anderson; Buyer, Casey Guffey; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, Bedford Builds Habitat for Humanity; Buyer, Amyiah Kenney; Price, $245,000 (Deed).

Seller, Global Homes Inc; Buyer, Jeffrey Allan Reed; Price, $85,000 (Deed).

Location: 501 Moody St; Seller, AAA Bonding Co; Buyer, Pascual Sebastian, Sebastian Pascual; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 118 El Bethel Rd; Seller, Doris D Throneberry, James T Throneberry; Buyer, Juan Rodriguez, Janet Bailon; Price, $55,000 (Deed).

File date: June 16

Seller, J & M Development LLC; Buyer, Peter Powers, Leanna Powers; Price, $530,000 (Deed).

Location: 1507 Wilson St; Seller, Matthew Romano, Miah Jade Romano; Buyer, Purchasing Fund 2024 1 LLC; Price, $240,000 (Deed).

Location: 107 Laurel Park; Seller, SDH Nashville LLC; Buyer, Alicia Deann Smith, Rickey Manule Smith; Price, $349,990 (Deed).

Location: Sarvis Ridge Rd; Seller, Timothy Taylor, Alisa Taylor, Timothey D Taylor; Buyer, Juan Guillen; Price, $0 (Deed).

Seller, Randall Lloyd Farris, David Lee Farris Sr, Brian Dale Farris, William C Farris Jr, Sandra Lynn Davis, Cecelia Evelyn Flippo, Leisa Marie Farris; Buyer, Kurtis James, Christie James; Price, $230,000 (Deed).

Location: 158 Coop Rd; Seller, Bolby Obrien, Alexis Obrien; Buyer, Phillip Daniel Calderon, Kaylee Mee Alyssa Calderon; Price, $440,000 (Deed).

Location: 214 Hillview Ave; Seller, SDH Nashville LLC; Buyer, Noel Ashley McPherson, Eliana G Leal Real; Price, $361,255 (Deed).

Location: 113 Coffey St; Seller, David W Parker, Rex A Bicknell; Buyer, Torreigh Brianne Childress; Price, $65,000 (Deed).

Location: 818 Brookhaven Cir; Seller, Michael D Rector, Katherine A Rector; Buyer, James Rollins, Aide Rollins; Price, $435,000 (Deed).

Location: 125 Newtown Rd; Seller, Bonnie Cunningham, Wanda Smitty, Thomas Edward Upchurch Sr, Elizabeth Savage, Thomas Edward Upchurch Jr, Tammy Upchurch, Billy Joe Hill Sr, Glenn Barrett, Tonya Hicks, Timothy Faulk, William Otis King III, Cheri King; Buyer, Chindaphone Buzille, Stephen Leon Ivey; Price, $295,000 (Deed).

Location: Knob Creek Rd; Seller, Joseph Gilley, Kelly Gilley; Buyer, Dylan Coe Floyd, Tiffany Floyd; Price, $550,000 (Deed).

Seller, Brenda Kay Rogers; Buyer, Matthew Hackathorn, Barbara Hackathorn; Price, $50,000 (Deed).

Location: 354 Dover St; Seller, Blue Reef Homes LLC; Buyer, Jeremiah Chance Guinn; Price, $262,000 (Deed).

Location: Knob Creek Rd; Seller, Gary E Floyd; Buyer, Dylan Coe Floyd, Tiffany Floyd; Price, $538,395 (Deed).

Classifieds

NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bedford County Audit Committee will meet on Tuesday, June 24 at 12:00PM. Meeting will be held in the Duck River Room, located on the first floor of the Historic Courthouse, 1 Public Square, Shelbyville. A meeting agenda can be found at www.bedfordcountytn.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Called Meeting of the Bedford County Financial Management Committee will be held on Thursday, June 26 at 6:30PM in the 2nd floor courtroom located in the Historic Courthouse, 1 Public Square, Shelbyville. Meeting is for Year-end Budget Amendments, 2025-26 Budgets ahead of the Special Called Commission Meeting for the same. An agenda will be available at www.bedfordcountytn.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Called Meeting of the Bedford County Board of Commissioners will be held on Thursday, June 26 at 7:00PM in the 2nd floor courtroom located in the Historic Courthouse, 1 Public Square, Shelbyville. Meeting is for Year-end Budget Amendments, 2025-26 Budgets immediately following a Special Called Financial Management Committee Meeting for the same. An agenda will be available at www.bedfordcountytn.com.

YARD SALES

Huge Yard Sale
Saturday, June 21 at 7AM until noon
208 Baptist Church Road, Eagleville, TN
Fishing boat, Yaris
Toyota car, refrigerator, freezer, furniture, tools, collectibles.
Don't miss out!!

Big Yard Sale
549 Thompson Road, Unionville
Friday, Saturday and Sunday - 8-?
Kitchen table and chairs, new tools, baby items, misc.

YOUR CLASSIFIED COULD BE HERE. Call 931-684-1200 Today.

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 Town of Wartrace, Tennessee, hereby provides certain financial information for the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget Amendment in accordance with the requirements of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 6, Chapter 56, Section 206. There will be a 2nd reading and public hearing concerning the budget at City Hall on June 30, 2025 at 5:30 PM. All citizens are welcome to participate. The budget and all supporting data are a public record and are available for public inspection by anyone at the office of the Chief Financial Officer.

Office of the Sheriff Bedford County Tennessee

Activity Report for the month of May, 2025

Sheriff Austin Swing

Total Miles: 70,879
Total Citations: 12
Total Warrants Served: 898
Total Arrests Made: 310
Total Inmates Currently in Holding: Jail: 371
Total Persons Processed Through: Jail: 379
10-27 (Burglary): 2
10-42 (Alarms): 15
10-43 (Investigations, etc): 481
10-44 (Stolen Vehicle): 2
10-45 (Auto Acc. No Injury): 46
10-46 (Auto Acc. W/Injury): 6
10-49 (Drunk Driver): 2
10-56 (Prowler): 2
(Child Abuse): 0
(Assault/Agg. Assault): 16
10-64 (Motorist Assist): 62
10-72 (Fire): 9
10-86 (Domestic): 3
10-14 (Escort - No Arrest): 12
10-15 (Transport In Custody): 49
10-81 (Traffic Stop): 247
911 (Hang-up & Other): 70
Other: 104
Total: 820

VFW MUSIC PLANNED

VFW Post 5019, 1320 Wartrace Pike (Depot Street), will hold its monthly third-Saturday music night this weekend on Saturday, June 21. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the event from 6-9:30 p.m. James Smotherman & Friends will be featured but other acoustic musicians and singers are welcome. Admission is $3, and there will be a potluck meal. No alcohol or outside beverages are permitted. For more information, call 931-607-3149 or 931-684-2523.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Wartrace, Tennessee, hereby provides certain financial information for the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget in accordance with the requirements of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 6, Chapter 56, Section 206. There will be a public hearing concerning the budget at City Hall on June 30, 2025 at 5 PM. All citizens are welcome to participate. The budget and all supporting data are a public record and are available for public inspection by anyone at the office of the Chief Financial Officer.

	GENERAL FUND			STATE STREET AID FUND		
	FY 2024 Unaudited	FY 2025 Estimated	FY 2026 Proposed	FY 2024 Unaudited	FY 2025 Estimated	FY 2026 Proposed
Revenues:						
Local Taxes	$317,048	$328,348	$353,500	-	-	-
State of Tennessee	121,147	148,082	94,070	23,997	20,092	23,300
Federal Government	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Sources	21,859	38,158	75,250	-	-	-
Total Revenues	**$460,054**	**$514,588**	**$522,820**	**$23,997**	**$20,092**	**$23,300**
Expenditures:						
Salaries	$180,244	$158,747	$166,870	-	-	-
Other Cost	354,971	376,270	257,226	42,280	9,605	11,000
Total Expenditures	**$535,215**	**$535,017**	**$424,096**	**$42,280**	**$9,605**	**$11,000**
Beginning Fund Balance:	**$450,602**	**$375,441**	**$355,012**	**$68,965**	**$50,682**	**$61,169**
Ending Fund Balance:	**$375,441**	**$355,012**	**$453,737**	**$50,682**	**$61,169**	**$73,469**
Number of FTE Employees	2.00	2.00	2.00	-	-	-

Death Notices

Annie Vaughn

Annie Vaughn, 93, of Eagleville, passed away on Thursday, June 12, 2025. A native of Hickman County, she was daughter of the late Walter Nathan Parker and Amy Armstrong Parker. She was preceded in death her husband, Norris V. Vaughn.

Mrs. Vaughn is survived by her children, Walter (Evelyn) Thompson of Murfreesboro, Richard (Amy) Vaughn of Shelbyville.

Lawrence Funeral Home in Chapel Hill is serving the family.

Daphne Elizabeth Howell

Daphne Elizabeth Howell, 54, of Shelbyville, passed from this life Thursday, June 12, 2025, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. There are no services planned. Daphne's wishes were to be cremated.

Daphne was born on February 4, 1971, in Shelbyville, to George Norman Delffs and the late Deloma Lynn Brinkley Delffs. Daphne was also preceded in death by her grandmother, Lois (Ma) Brinkley.

In addition to her father, she is survived by her husband of 16 years; Marshall Howell; son, Michael Zak Demonbreum of Tullahoma; Derek (Julie) Delffs of Chapel Hill

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

Arthur Lee Jacobs

Arthur Lee Jacobs,76, passed from this life Monday June 16, 2025, at The Waters of Shelbyville.

He was born on February 14, 1949, in Shelbyville, to the late Arthur Eldridge Jacobs and Mary Bethany Flippo Jacobs.

Arthur Lee is survived by his loving wife of 23 years Janie Jacobs, stepsons; Johnny Martin of Shelbyville, David (Rachel) Martin of Bell Buckle, Christopher (Mary) Martin of Shelbyville, Jeff Martin of Shelbyville.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

Jason Dawayne Willmon

Jason Dawayne Willmon, 51, of Shelbyville, passed away Saturday June 14, 2025, at his residence.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James Otis Willmon Sr. and Barbara Ann Baker.

He is survived by his wife, Jennifer Willmon; son, Jason Willmon Jr; daughters, Britni Wooten, Jessica Willmon and Jackie Willmon.

Gowen-Smith Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Ronald Frank Bell

Ronald Frank "Ron" Bell, age 74, of Shelbyville, passed away on June 11, 2025. Ron spent 40 years in the banking industry.

He is preceded in death by his son, Michael Pierce Bell.

He is survived by his former wife; Patti Norris; a son, Patrick Ryan Bell of Shelbyville.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Annie Elizabeth Bailey

Annie Elizabeth Bailey was born on Dec. 5, 1948, in Bell Buckle, to the late Annie Martin and Henry Martin. She died Saturday, June 14, 2025.

Annie and Thomas Bailey married at age 19; they had two children, Michael (Regina) and Brian Bailey. After 35 years of marriage, Thomas preceded Annie in death.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Faith Diane Prince

Faith Diane Prince, 61, of Tullahoma, died June 16, 2025 after an extended illness. Born in Martinsville, Indiana, she was preceded in death by her parents, Charles Allen and Raye Dail Webster; her husband, Lonnie Joe Prince; daughter, Diana Lynn Prince.

Faith is survived by her children, Ronald Joseph Prince (Sabrina), Matthew Prince, Alan Ray Prince (Kacie), Angela Renae (Calvin) Lee.

Hillcrest Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Business Spotlight

YOUR BUSINESS CAN BE FEATURED HERE!
Email dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net



Dutch Bros Coffee

Photos by Marilyn Ewing

Dutch Bros Coffee officially opened Tuesday at 103 Collier Ave. City officials were on hand for a ribbon cutting and to welcome the new establishment. Dutch Bros has been in service across the country for several years now, giving proceeds often to charities. City Mayor Randy Carroll officially welcomed the new business which specializes in such blended drinks as Dulce De Leche Freeze, which is a blended caramel and sweet cream coffee, their trademark soft top, caramel drizzle and cinnamon sprinkles.











CHURCH ACTIVITY

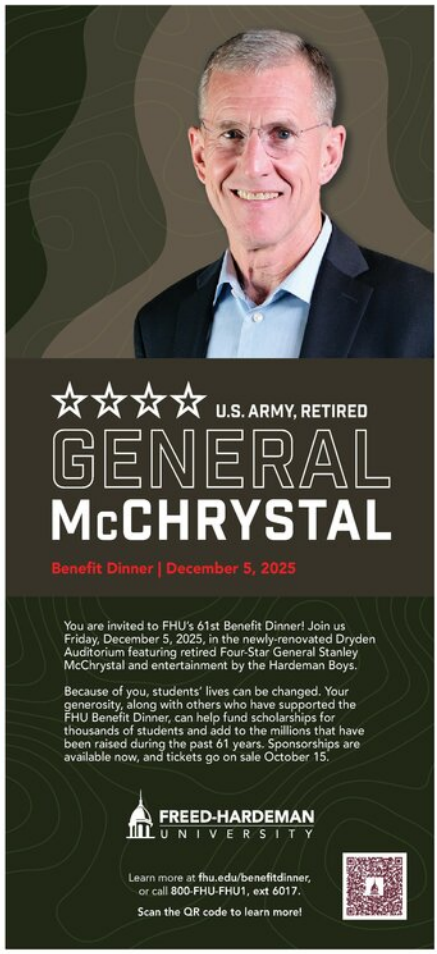
Photo by Jeffrey McGee

Pastor Abe Zimmerman at First United Methodist Church Shelbyville will preach "The Heart of Service: Part 1" from Matthew 25:31-46 this Sunday. The church will focus on the importance of serving and how our gifts can be used to help others. Sunday School for all ages begins at 9 a.m., followed by the worship service at 10 a.m. Nursery and Children's Church are available during worship. For those joining at home, the service can be viewed via the FUMC-S Facebook or YouTube livestream or tune in to WLIJ 98.7 FM and AM 1580.



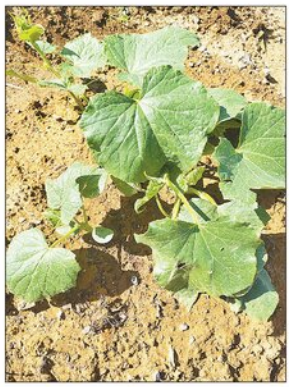
GETTING AN EARLY START ON THANKSGIVING DINNER

Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen is looking for a group or family or business or Church that would like to support a Thanksgiving meal on Tuesday, November 25th, 2025. The serving time for the meal on Tuesday would be from 2 to 4 p.m. If you are interested in cooking and/or serving, please contact the Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen at 931-735-6122 and leave a message for Buddy or Tamika.









MRT, MRT, how does your garden grow?

According to jail reports, very well!

By DAWN HANKINS
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

Lt. Chris Cook, program director for the local MRT program, told those in attendance at the Public Safety Committee meeting Tuesday night that the jail garden is "fantastic." In fact, he estimates thus far, 500 pounds of produce has been harvested.

"Those ladies take a lot of pride in it," he said. "Their goal is $20,000 worth of produce. They're going to hit that easily."

Cook said none of the women really have a lot of gardening experience, which makes it an even greater accomplishment for the inmates. It's just another way, he said, for the women to learn some life skills that they can use in the future.

He said as a matter of fact, some have even mentioned going into horticulture when they're released. Now that's a win-win, he advised.

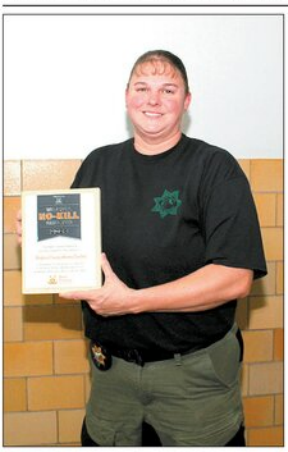
Cook said he had to release himself from duties at the garden this season due to some administrative work. He was amazed recently when returned to see how the ladies had managed on their own with the gardening.

He said they've read gardening books and figured out the best methods on their own.

Jail Administrator Ronnie Prince said recently that the produce grown in the jail garden has helped his food budget. And he said with a variety of greens, it is giving the prisoners healthier meals.

Lt. Cook advised that the jail kitchen is under regulation by a separate authority than restaurants. So, the jail has permission to do farm to table.

The Times-Gazette will continue to follow the MRT program.



Josie Lowery, Bedford County Animal Control director

Bedford County Government Photo

During the County Public Safety Committee meeting Tuesday evening, Josie Lowery, animal control director, announced that the shelter had been recognized for a prestigious award.

Bedford County Animal Control she announced has been recognized by Best Friends Animal Society as a "no-kill" animal shelter with a 90 percent save rate for calendar year 2024.

"You have joined an elite group of organizations across the country who are leading the way to making us a no-kill nation," said Best Friends CEO Julie Castle in a letter to BCAC director Josie Lowery.

"This accomplishment represents much more than a number. It represents a culture of caring and compassion. It represents a dedicated staff, committed volunteers, and motivated supporters. It represents innovative, thoughtful programming. And it represents extraordinary leadership, both within your organization and within our broader animal welfare movement."

Best Friends Animal Society is a not-for-profit animal welfare organization based in Kanab, Utah. It has a partnership network with shelters and rescue groups across the country.

FISH HEADS By Timothy E. Parker

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

Cuke sandwiches make summer complete

By Dawn Hankins

This time of year, people around here give away cucumbers because they're generally so plentiful. So, catch up with a friend who gardens or attend one of the local farmers markets for the freshest cukes.

Shelbyville has its farmers market at the Celebration grounds pavilion on Thursdays at 2:30 p.m. (First Come, First Served.)

Normandy has its market every Saturday from 8 a.m. until about 2 p.m.

Yield: 4 sandwiches

Family Features

- Garlic toast
- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup mayo
- 2 teaspoons dried dill
- 2 teaspoons thyme
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 2 cucumbers
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste



1. Cut crust off bread and set aside.
2. In bowl, mix softened cream cheese, mayo, dill, thyme, onion powder and garlic powder. Peel cucumbers then coarsely chop and add to cream cheese mixture. Add salt and pepper, to taste.
3. Spread mixture over bread and cut into triangles.

Tip: *Recipe can be doubled, if needed.*

Free legal clinic taking place here on June 21

Legal Aid Society, a nonprofit serving low-income residents of middle Tennessee, is holding a Bedford County Expungement Clinic from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 21, at Edgemont Baptist Church, 150 Fairfield Pike, Shelbyville, TN 37160.

At this clinic, attorneys will provide free assistance for those with criminal charges on their records. The attorneys can assist with the expungement process, which can wipe certain charges off a person's record, making it easier for them to seek and maintain meaningful employment.

To register in advance, please call 833-920-0420 or email trobb@las.org.

HIRING

Advertising Sales Representative

Richardson Media Group, Inc.

Richardson Media Group, publisher of several community newspapers across Tennessee, is hiring Advertising Sales Representatives in various regions. Openings are available in the coverage areas of the **Martin Post, Dresden Enterprise, Jackson Post, Lake County Banner, Camden Chronicle, Carroll County NewsLeader.**

This is a commission-based position with high income potential. Hourly compensation may be considered for the right candidate.

Duties include:
- Selling print and digital advertising
- Maintaining and growing client relationships
- Visiting businesses and community locations
- Attending local events as a representative

Qualifications:
- Sales experience is helpful but not required
- Must be dependable and self-motivated
- Strong communication and people skills
- Reliable transportation required

If you're outgoing, organized, and want to support local business growth, we'd love to hear from you.

Apply by emailing:
daniel@richardsonmediagroup.net
or by calling: (731) 418-4001

Get Involved in Local News
Seeking Community Contributors

Richardson Media Group, Inc.

Richardson Media Group, publisher of several community newspapers across Tennessee, is seeking **freelance writers, student contributors, photographers, and community members** to help us tell the stories that matter most in their communities.

We currently have contributor opportunities in several regions, with immediate needs at the **Crockett County Times, Lake County Banner, Buffalo River Review, and Waverly News Democrat**. Additional openings may be available at other RMG publications across the state.

This is a freelance, per-article position. Hourly pay may be considered for experienced contributors who consistently produce publishable work. While we're happy to offer guidance and feedback, contributors should be able to meet deadlines and follow editorial direction without extensive long-term training.

Opportunities include:
- Writing local news and community stories
- Covering public meetings or events
- Submitting publishable photos with captions
- Pitching story ideas from your community

Ideal candidates:
- Are responsible and deadline-driven
- Have strong writing, grammar, or photography skills
- Can work independently and communicate clearly
- Are familiar with or open to learning AP style

Whether you're a student, freelancer, or just passionate about your community — we'd love to hear from you.

Send samples and a short introduction to:
daniel@richardsonmediagroup.net
Call (731) 418-4001 for additional information

Middle Tennessee Volleyball Announces 2025 Schedule

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Head Coach Alexa Keckler has unveiled the 2025 Middle Tennessee volleyball schedule, featuring 28 total matches — including 12 at Alumni Memorial Gym in Murfreesboro.

The season opens with three non-conference tournaments, beginning at the Big Dawg Kickoff hosted by Butler University in Indianapolis, Ind., on August 29–30. The Blue Raiders will face Purdue Fort Wayne and Evansville before closing the tournament against the host Bulldogs.

MTSU will then return home to host the annual Blue Raider Bash, welcoming Marist, UT Martin, and SEC opponent Mississippi State.

The final non-conference tournament will take place in Oxford, Ohio, where the Blue Raiders will face Miami (Ohio), Duquesne, and Southern Indiana.

Following the tournament slate, Middle Tennessee will travel to Virginia for a pair of matchups, taking on Virginia Tech on September 18 and Radford on September 19.

Conference USA play begins with a home series against Kennesaw State on September 26–27, followed by a road trip to Jacksonville State the next weekend.

This season, MTSU will face both of CUSA's newest additions – traveling to Newark, Del., for matchups on October 10–11, and hosting Missouri State to close out the regular season in November.

Other conference opponents include home matches against Liberty and WKU, along with road trips to NM State and FIU.

The 2025 Conference USA Tournament is scheduled for November 21–23 in Miami, Fla., hosted by FIU.



MTSU Volleyball recently released its schedule for 2025. *Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.*

Blue Raider Tennis signs Brazilian standout Sthefany Rodrigues de Lima

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Middle Tennessee women's tennis is adding international talent to its 2025-26 roster with the signing of Brazilian talent Sthefany Rodrigues de Lima, announced Friday.



MTSU Women's Tennis announced the signing of Sthefany Rodrigues de Lima (pictured). *Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.*

A native of Volta Redonda, Brazil, Rodrigues de Lima brings a wealth of competitive experience to the Blue Raiders, having spent the last few years competing on the International Tennis Federation Women's World Tennis Tour. At just 18 years old, she's already recorded professional singles wins and competed in W15, W60 and W75 tournaments across South America.

As a junior, Rodrigues de Lima reached a career-high ITF world ranking of No. 167 in January 2024. She tallied 75 singles victories during her junior career. In doubles play, she captured five titles, including J60 Itajai tournament wins in 2023 and 2024. Her breakout season came in 2022, when she claimed two doubles championships at both the J2 Cochabamba and J5 São Paulo events and one singles title at the J100 Salvador.

Rodrigues de Lima will join a Blue Raider squad that continues to attract and develop international talent, aiming to build on the success of last season in the NIT, Conference USA play and in the International Tennis Association.

Three Blue Raiders take home Conference USA All-Academic Team honors

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Three Middle Tennessee student-athletes were named to the 2025 Conference USA Outdoor Track & Field All-Academic Team, the league announced this week.

Joel Iheakolam earned his first All-Academic selection, while Juan Lucas and Hailee Gorham each received the honor for the second time, following their recognition during the 2024 cross country season.

Iheakolam, a sophomore public health major, holds a 3.76 GPA. He had a standout outdoor season, placing fifth in the triple jump at the CUSA Outdoor Championships. He claimed first-place finishes at both the Outdoor Music City Challenge and the Tennessee Invitational and was the runner-up at the Yellow Jacket Relays.

Lucas, an aerospace major with a 3.90 GPA, capped his season with a sixth-place finish in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the CUSA Championships. He also narrowly missed the top 10 in the 1,500 meters. Lucas recorded a personal best of 9:23.61 in the steeplechase at the Yellow Jacket Invitational in Atlanta, earning a third-place finish.

Gorham, who boasts a perfect 4.0 GPA as an aerospace major, rounds out the trio. She has maintained her flawless GPA for consecutive semesters during the 2024–25 academic year. On the track, she ran a personal-best 2:27.69 in the 800 meters at the CUSA Championships in Murfreesboro and finished third in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the Yellow Jacket Relays with a personal-best time of 12:19.16.



Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

Blue Raiders Set for 2025 Emerald Coast Classic

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Middle Tennessee women's basketball team will compete in the second annual Emerald Coast Classic women's basketball tournament this fall.

The event, hosted by Global Sports at Raider Arena on the campus of Northwest Florida State College in Destin, Florida, Nov. 24-25, will showcase eight teams split into two separate pods. The Blue Raiders will compete in the Bay Bracket along with Mississippi State, Providence and Alcorn State, while Nebraska, Virginia, Northwestern State and Purdue Fort Wayne make up the Beach Bracket.

Middle Tennessee will open the event against Providence on Monday, Nov. 24, at 11 a.m. CT. Mississippi State and Alcorn State will square off at 1:30 p.m. that afternoon. The bracket's third-place game is set for Tuesday, Nov. 25, at 11 a.m., followed by the championship game at 1:30 p.m.

All games will be streamed live on FloSports.

Fan travel packages are available now at emeraldcoastclassic.com/travel. Tickets will go on sale later this summer at emeraldcoastclassic.com/women.



Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

If You Enjoy Baseball, A Trek to Omaha is a Must

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

Omaha, Nebraska. Typically, if someone told you to visit just about any city in not just Nebraska but the Great Plains as a whole, you might give him or her a dismissive look and move on. However, there's something extremely special about Omaha – the Men's College World Series.

This year is the 75th anniversary of the MCWS being held in the "Gateway to the West." The first two years of the MCWS were held in Kalamazoo, MI, before one year in Wichita, KS, but the event has found a special home in East Nebraska. And if you enjoy the sport of baseball to any degree, attending this event at least once in your lifetime is imperative. For nine or ten days per year in late June, college baseball's crown jewel is rightfully on full display.

I actually went to Omaha last year for the best-of-three Championship Series. I was fortunate enough to be able to watch my beloved Tennessee Volunteers win the program's first national championship over Texas A&M in three games, and every single expectation I had coming in was shattered.

For starters, before the baseball even began, I had to check out Rocco's. Rocco's Pizza & Cantina, famous for their annual "Jello Shot Challenge" that raises money for charity. Omaha itself is a pretty walkable city, and its downtown area is quite spacious and easy to navigate. Rocco's is also less than a block away from the grounds of the MCWS, providing a convenient destination for nightly postgame festivities.

The experience inside Charles Schwab Field Omaha – also known as "The Chuck" – is simply breathtaking. Literally, in a sense, because the "corn sweat" caused temperatures to soar into the 100's with higher than 80% humidity, but also figuratively. It's difficult to describe the serenity and calmness you feel sitting in your seat watching pregame warmups while the organ continues to play over the speakers with unabating enthusiasm, only interrupted momentarily by NCAA-mandated messaging emitting from the jaw-dropping scoreboard out in right field. During the action, the organ is a prominent feature to maintain the atmosphere from pitch-to-pitch and during any breaks in action. For example, "Stayin' Alive" is often heard reverberating throughout the stadium when a batter is fouling off pitches in a two-strike count.

Past center field, there is an impossible-to-miss 100-foot-tall Ferris wheel located just outside of the stadium that provides a calm and relaxed view of the diamond. In this "College World Series Family Fun" area there are all sorts of games and activities that people of all ages will enjoy, including children.

This year, Tennessee was bounced in the Fayetteville Super Regional against Arkansas, so the Vols are not defending their national championship in Omaha. Thus, I will not be making the roughly 12-hour drive back to the easternmost city in Nebraska for a second-consecutive season. In fact, there is no guarantee – no matter how likely the Vols are to return under Tony Vitello – that Tennessee will ever make it to Omaha again, much less the championship series. I made the gut decision to drive up there last year once they were two wins away from the program's first national championship, and I would do it again in a heartbeat. In the future, I hope to be able to have enough funds to last the entire week-plus if the Vols are there again. In the meantime, I would advise everyone reading this to go. Go at least one time in your life because it is an experience that you will never forget. It sounds insane to say, but you should go experience the Men's College World Series in Omaha

I used to wonder why I would hear stories about LSU fans that would buy a pass to every session for the entire event when LSU didn't even make it to Omaha, for example. I no longer have that question. On the contrary, I actually completely understand those people; I would do the same thing if I was at that stage in my life. That city cares so much about baseball, and cares about maintaining the elite prestige of the Men's College World Series. It's quite noticeable, and it enhances the entire experience. Every local I met and talked to in the three days I was in town gave off a joyous and blissful vibe; those nine or ten days in June feel like the pride and joy of that entire city.

Nowadays college sports feel like they are in an ever-present state of flux. College football's national championship changes venue every year as does college basketball's Final Four, but college baseball's homestretch is special because it is intrinsically intertwined with a single location in the United States, and I hope that never changes. At this point, having the Men's College World Series in a different location would be like moving the Rose Bowl out of Pasadena, or playing The Masters outside of Augusta. It would just feel wrong. Some traditions are meant to stay just that – traditions.



Charles Schawb Field Omaha, the site of the annual Men's College World Series. *Photo courtesy of @tkvaughn999 on Twitter.*

MTSU Men's Basketball to compete in 2025 Cayman Islands Classic

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team is set to travel to the Cayman Islands to take part in the 2025 Cayman Islands Classic as part of the team's 2025-26 non-conference schedule.

"We are looking forward to competing in the 2025 Cayman Islands Classic," said head coach Nick McDevitt. "We have great respect for the other programs in this event and understand the challenge that this set of games presents. It will help prepare us for the challenges that we will face in Conference USA play."

The Blue Raiders will be joined by McNeese State, who advanced to the second round of the 2025 NCAA Tournament, George Washington and Murray State, who MTSU played last season in the Murphy Center. The tournament, hosted by Caymax Sports Ltd. will take place November 23-25 at the John Gray Gymnasium in George Town, Grand Cayman.

The event kicks off on Sunday, when Middle Tennessee will continue its second-longest rivalry in program history for the 147th meeting with the Murray State Racers at 6:30 p.m. CT. For the second game of the event, MTSU will go head-to-head with George Washington for the first time in program history, with the game tipping off at 4 p.m. Monday. The Blue Raiders will close out their tournament Tuesday at 4 p.m., facing off against McNeese State for the first time since 1988.

Past Cayman Islands Classic champions include Boston College (2024), Utah State (2023), Kansas State (2022), George Mason (2019) and Creighton (2018). Travel packages are now available for purchase, along with all-tournament and booster passes. For more details, visit www.caymanclassic.com.



MTSU Men's Basketball announced they will be competing in the 2025 Cayman Islands Classic. *Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.*

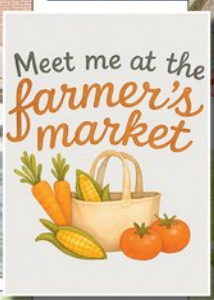
MORE PHOTOS FROM NORMANDY'S FARMERS MARKET

















CLOUDS: TEEN PERSPECTIVE

Fifth grader Emma captured these cloud photos recently in Bedford County. Local gardeners and farmers are reaping a good harvest due to an ample amount of spring rain. Summer begins Friday, June 20.



LOCAL EDUCATOR CAPTURES PUBLIC SQUARE BEAUTY

Photos by Jeffrey McGee

People might argue it but Bedford County has one of the most beautiful town squares. Please support local businesses.



