COMMUNITY NEWS

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

Happy Fourth of July

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T-G Photo by Dawn Hankins

The Flag still stands for Freedom . . .



T-G Photo by Dawn Hankins

A time for Celebration . . .



Photo submitted by Emily Ferguson

It's as American as apple pie . . .

(See more photos of Halls Mills Tractor Pull on pg. 12)

Mayor Graham says Commission passes 'responsible budget' for 2025-2026

Despite point of order from one County Commissioner, a balanced budget was passed last Thursday night.

See page 3 story about Commissioner Eric Maddox's point of order during the voting on budget resolutions.

The County rolls on into fiscal year 2025-26 with no increase in property tax rates. The property tax rate will remain the same as last year at $2.3252 per $100 assessed property value.

The budget includes a 3-percent cost of living increase and 1-percent step raises for county government employees, as well as modest adjustments to general operating budgets to maintain current service levels.

Some non-recurring capital improvement needs are being funded through one-time deductions from debt service reserves, both for general county government and for the school system.

"I believe this is a responsible budget," said County Mayor Chad Graham. "I want to commend the county commission, our finance department, and our various department heads, as well as the school system and the highway department, for their good work in helping to continue providing service to the taxpayers without the need to raise tax rates.

"All of us in county government are keenly aware that we work for the taxpayers, and we work hard to make sure that we're getting the best use out of every dollar of revenue. We do not take that responsibility lightly."

The budget as approved does not include additional personnel requested by Bedford County Sheriff's Office or Bedford County Fire Department, but Mayor Graham said the county will work on alternative ways to help meet those departments' needs.

Each penny on the tax rate brings in a theoretical $140,879 in property tax revenue. After adjusting for the typical delinquency rate, that drops to $135,244.



Mayor Chad Graham

BUDGET OVERVIEW:

General fund: $44,926,700

Highway/public works: $4,257,015 (two-thirds of funding comes from the state)

General purpose school fund: $102,653,205 (83 percent of funding comes from the state)

Debt service fund: $21,218,682

County capital projects fund: $11,205,835

PROPERTY TAX RATES: (Unchanged from 2024-25 rates)

General fund: $1.43 (per $100 assessed value)

Highway: 9 cents

General purpose schools: 62 cents

Debt service: 15 cents

Capital projects: 3.52 cents

TOTAL: $2.3252 per $100 assessed value

Commission quickly passes 2025-2026 County budget, with one brief detour

Commissioner Eric Maddox reaches out on behalf of nonprofits

By Dawn Hankins
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

Bedford County Board of Commissioners approved in special called meeting last Thursday its new fiscal year budget, which began July 1. Everything was flowing as usual until Commissioner Eric Maddox made a motion to basically move part of the $100,000 funding for the Partnership (Chamber) from the general budget into the line item (resolution) up for consideration for nonprofits.

Resolution No. 26-2 - A Resolution Making the Appropriations for the Various Funds, Departments, Institutions, Offices, and Agencies of Bedford County, Tennessee, for the Year Beginning July 1, 2025, and Ending June 30, 2026.

Maddox said he believes there were several nonprofits, like volunteer fire departments, that got left out of the budget this year. (See Maddox's explanation on page 3.)

Maddox was basically overruled due to parliamentary procedure (explained by Attorney John T. Bobo) which states he could not move specific budget line items on the floor.

If the majority of Commissioners had voted to overrule the County attorney, Maddox's motion would have been sustained. Maddox did not pursue that option.

Bobo said the resolution would have to go back to the financial management committee which originally sent the budget document to the full commission.



Instead, by recommendation, Maddox moved his

See BUDGET, 2A

BEDFORD BRIEFS

CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

All government offices will be closed Friday, July 4th, for the Independence Day Holiday.

CITY OF SHELBYVILLE FIREWORKS SHOW

Shelbyville Parks and Recreation will have a July 4th Celebration at H.V. Griffin Park, 220 Tulip Tree Rd. Free activities begin at 5 p.m. including inflatable obstacle course, toddler inflatable, Tubs O' Fun carnival ride, axe throw/carnival games, cornhole, volleyball and food trucks and vendors. Live music will be from 5 p.m.-9 p.m. with fireworks beginning at 9 p.m.

WARTRACE FIREWORKS

Wartrace Parks and Recreation presents: Fireworks & Freedom, Saturday, July 5. Festivities begin at 5 p.m. Fireworks start at 9 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

BELL BUCKLE CELEBRATION

Celebrate with Bell Buckle on the 4th. Activities include music, reading of the Declaration of Independence and of course, fireworks! Friday from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

TIMES-GAZETTE WINS TPA EDITORIAL AWARDS

During the annual Tennessee Press Association (TPA) Awards last Saturday in Memphis, the Shelbyville Times-Gazette took home a first place award in its division for "best humor column" titled, "I Miss the Snow," which was a retrospect on the good old snow days in Bedford County; a second place for "editorials" (three which covered Duksan's opening here); and a fifth place for an editorial on City development titled, "The Cart Before the Horse?" All of these articles were written by Dawn Hankins and ran during the 2024 publication year. We thank the Arkansas Press Association which judged the contest this year. Judges complimented the writing expertise of the Tennessee contestants.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

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Business Spotlight

Wild Mane Nutrition officially opened their store at 709 East Lane St.

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Doug Worsley

Cascade's newest Boys' Basketball Head Coach reflects on his first summer at the helm of the Cascade Champions

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BUDGET

From page 1A

motion to the next resolution for nonprofits-Resolution No. 26-3. This is a resolution making appropriations to nonprofits and charitable organizations for the next fiscal year.

This time, Maddox's motion received a second from Commissioner Diane Neeley.

Again, Attorney Bobo stated the commission could not line-item vote on either resolution.

The other 16 commissioners then voted to move ahead with the resolution at hand, that is, funding the Partnership, supporting the original resolution, as presented.

Maddox said following the meeting that his purpose was to give money to the nonprofits who are doing charitable work that greatly benefit the citizens of this County (firemen, senior citizens, etc.)

Maddox said Friday that the amendment he was proposing would have made a very small difference to the overall budget (only to who gets funding for non-profits) and in his opinion, would have had a much greater ROI, as over a dozen local non profits would have been able to use this funding to do "great work" in the community. He said additionally, this amendment would have funded those nonprofit requests without increasing the tax burden on constituents or requiring the County to dip into its fund balance.

Maddox further stated: "BACK STORY: The following organizations asked for additional funding back in April, at a 10:00 am "County Nonprofit Budget Meeting."

- $3,000 increase for Community Development Center; to help support services in the Child Development Center and the Children's Center for Autism
- $2,653 increase for the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center; to help individuals with disabilities find competitive and integrated employment in the community
- $1,000 increase for the Skills Development Center; so they can continue providing transportation services for the individuals from six of their residential homes into the community to pursue employment and get to medical appointments
- $3,000 increase for the Senior Citizens Center; as they continue to promote the physical, emotional and economic well-being of older adults and promote their participation in all aspects of community life
- $19,972 increase for the Argie Cooper Public Library. $10,000 of this would be one-time funds to help support their application for a grant from the state for Renovations and Additions currently in progress. The other $9,972 would allow them to give their employees a cost-of-living raise and also improve technology at the library.
- $2,000 increase for the Soil & Water Conservation Service; as they continue to reduce water treatment costs for the county by using every dollar spent on conservation to improve water quality in the Duck River.
- $931 increase for Tennessee Backroads Heritage; as they promote travel and tourism to the Southern Middle Tennessee Area.
- $2,500 increase for each of our 7 volunteer Bedford County Fire Stations (total of $17,500)
- $1,750 increase for the Arts Council
- $3,500 increase for Haven of Hope; used as matching funds for state grants so they can continue to support victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking in Bedford County
- $3,000 in new funding for the Tony Rice Center; to help their continued treatment of individuals suffering from co-occurring disorders."

He further advised, "Unfortunately, the County Commission didn't get to make the final decision on whether these requests (above) would be included in the budget (that we voted on); and "someone" or "group" made the decision on who would be funded and who would not. To be clear; these organizations were asking for additional funding.

Maddox said his goal was to take funding from the $100,000 that would be awarded to the Shelbyville – Bedford Partnership, and reduce their number to $41,693 - and the $58,307 difference would be used to fund the increases requested by our nonprofits (listed above).

More on this story on page 3 today.

Tennessee Walking Horse Industry Files Federal Lawsuit Challenging USDA Disqualification Rules

By Warren Wells, TWHNC CEO

On June 30, 2025, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Association ("Association"), along with horse owners Tom Gould and Ann Mills, sued the U.S. Department of Agriculture ("USDA" or "Agency") challenging multiple USDA decisions disqualifying horses in past shows and challenging the USDA rules that were applied to disqualify those horses. The lawsuit asserts that USDA has been unlawfully disqualifying horses and violating trainers' and owners' due process rights by failing to provide any mechanism to review disqualification decisions. The lawsuit focuses on three challenges that may have impacts across the industry.

First, the lawsuit challenges USDA's "No-Showback Rule," through which the Agency extends the scope of any disqualification to cover an entire multi-day horse show. Under this Rule, a horse that is disqualified may not reappear in any other class or on any other day of competition, even if that horse is not sore and could pass inspection. Because this rule prevents horses that are not sore from competing, it exceeds USDA's authority under the Horse Protection Act ("HPA").

Second, the lawsuit challenges the USDA's failure to give horse owners and trainers any opportunity to challenge disqualification decisions. USDA's rules provide no hearing or other means—either before or after a disqualification—by which an owner or trainer can challenge a disqualification and argue that a horse inspector's decision was wrong. That violates the most fundamental principles of the Due Process Clause, which requires a meaningful opportunity to be heard in connection with any government deprivation of a liberty or property interest. As the new lawsuit points out, two federal courts have found that the failure of USDA to offer any review mechanism before a disqualification violates the constitutional rights of owners and trainers—including the court in the successful case brought by the Association last year. Despite these decisions, USDA continues to impose the same unconstitutional regime.

Third, the suit challenges the USDA's continued enforcement of the Scar Rule, a regulation describing certain conditions which, if found on a horse's legs, require deeming that horse to be sore. The Scar Rule exceeds the USDA's authority under the HPA because it uses soring criteria that differ from those set by Congress in the Act. In addition, after a review conducted at USDA's request, the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine told the USDA years ago that the criteria in the Scar Rule have no actual scientific connection to soring and that they cannot be consistently applied—and thus produce arbitrary results. The failure of USDA to provide any meaningful criteria to identify soreness also means the Rule is unconstitutionally vague.

The lawsuit asks the Court to enter a preliminary injunction to immediately stop USDA from continuing to disqualify horses under the challenged rules and without affording owners and trainers any guaranteed right to appeal a disqualification. It also asks the Court to prohibit the USDA from applying the unlawful rules pending a final decision on the merits in this case.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: How does this lawsuit relate to the Wright lawsuit challenging the current USDA rules?

A: The Wright lawsuit and this lawsuit raise some of the same claims. Both suits challenge USDA disqualifications under the Scar Rule and the failure of USDA to provide owners and trainers with the ability to appeal disqualifications. Many of the arguments we are making in this case were also raised in the Wright case.

Unlike the Wright case, this lawsuit also challenges the No-Showback Rule. A victory in the Wright suit will not have any impact on the No-Showback Rule.

In addition, we are seeking a preliminary injunction in this case, which was not sought in the Wright case. There is a high burden to win a preliminary injunction, a burden we believe can be met in this case.

Q: When will the court rule on the lawsuit?

A: We are asking the Court to rule and grant the preliminary injunction before the Celebration begins on August 20.

Q: Does the lawsuit help all horse owners and trainers?

A: The lawsuit is brought on behalf of Tom Gould, Ann Mills, and the Association, but it seeks relief that would affect all horse owners and trainers. Because the disqualifications rely on rules that are used against all horse owners and trainers, the lawsuit asks the Court to set aside the rules themselves so that USDA would not be able to apply those rules to anyone in the future.

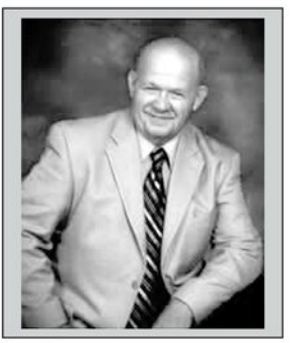
Q: What about other things the USDA does? Why isn't the USDA's foreign substance policy part of this lawsuit?

A: The lawsuit challenges rules that we believe are both causing the greatest amount of harm and that give us the best chance of success.

BREAKING NEWS...

BODY DISCOVERED IN CITY

Shelbyville Police Department confirmed Wednesday morning that a body found in Shelbyville (off South Cannon Boulevard) is in transport to the state medical examiner's office for identification.



10:42

Former Shelbyville Police Officer Ricky Blanton passes

Ricky Blanton joined the Shelbyville Police Department in 1981, where he served as a patrolman, firearms instructor, field training officer, sergeant, and lieutenant before retiring in 2014. Serving over 28 years, he trained many officers-some of which are still with the department or have moved on to other departments. Shelbyville Police Department memorialized Blanton on Facebook this week. Blanton passed away on Sunday, June 29, 2025, under the loving care of his family and Aveanna Hospice, after an extended illness.

Jury finds Beddingfield guilty in the killing of Julie Smotherman

Last week, a jury found James Michael Beddingfield, 48, of Shelbyville, guilty of first-degree murder in the killing of Julie Smotherman. A sentencing hearing will be held Aug. 18, 2025.

In Tennessee, first-degree murder is defined under TCA 39-13-202, which categorizes it as the most severe form of homicide. Premeditated and intentional killings require proof that the defendant deliberately planned the act and death results from the commission or attempted commission of certain felonies.

The penalties for first-degree murder in Tennessee can include life imprisonment without the possibility of parole or the death penalty, depending on the circumstances of the case and whether the defendant had a clean criminal history prior to the offense.

The Beddingfield trial lasted about 4 days in criminal court in Bedford County, with the jury receiving its instructions early Friday, June 27, and returning a verdict later that day.

The crime history:

On May 18, 2023, Shelbyville Police Department and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation began investigating the suspicious death of Julie Smotherman. Smotherman's body was then located in Bedford County. An Investigation into her death led to the arrest of James Michael Beddingfield, then age 46, of Shelbyville.

Metro Moore County Sheriff's Office had taken Beddingfield into custody. He was held at Bedford County Corrections, charged with criminal homicide. Shelbyville Police Department worked with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Bedford County Sheriff's Department, and Metro Moore County Sheriff's Department in the murder investigation.



Shelbyville Police Department Photo

Shelbyville Detective Nathan Everhart escorts James Michael Beddingfield, in 2023, to Bedford County Jail, following his arrest and charge of killing Julie Smotherman. A jury last week in criminal court found Beddingfield guilty of first-degree murder.

Two local Arkansas State graduates announced

JONESBORO – Arkansas State University has announced the names of students who completed degree requirements to graduate during Spring Commencement at First National Bank Arena. The list includes graduates from 43 states and D.C., and 26 other countries.

From Bedford County:

Bell Buckle – Evelyn Brittany Oliver, Specialist in Education, Educational Leadership

Shelbyville – Stacey Nichelle Badger, Specialist in Education, Educational Leadership

Chancellor Todd Shields presented diplomas at the associate, bachelor's, master's, specialist and doctoral levels, along with various program certificates, as awarded through the various colleges.

Undergraduates with a 4.0 GPA are designated as graduating Summa Cum Laude. Those with a GPA of 3.8–3.99 graduated Magna Cum Laude, and those with a GPA of 3.6–3.79 graduated Cum Laude.

Commissioner Maddox makes concerns about the Partnership known to community

During last Thursday's special called budget meeting, County Commissioner Eric Maddox called point of order during the usual call out of resolutions attached to the general budget.

His point was to make a motion to remove some funding from the Partnership/Chamber out of the general budget and move it to a line item supplementing local non-profits.

His efforts failed, due to parliamentary procedure, which says line items from budget cannot be moved on Commission floor. It would have to go back to the original committee which was the financial management committee.

Here's what Maddox had to say afterwards in regard to his basically ignored concerns.

"Since the beginning of the Shelbyville Bedford Partnership's existence; there has been a cloud of questions from the constituents regarding the true need and value of this organization."

I requested additional data about the background of some high-level Partnership ROI (return on investment) we were given recently. I originally requested the data at a finance workshop meeting on 6/3 and received extremely high-level information from the mayor's office on 6/20. I then made another attempt on 6/20 for increased visibility, and received that data on 6/24.

After reviewing that data, it appears that there were a lot of assumptions made within their calculations, that inflated the actual ROI the county has received on our $600,000 in donations to the Partnership over time.

One of those assumptions that inflated the ROI was the assumption that you could multiply the $140,000 in tourism grants by 11 and get the amount of additional local tax revenue generated by tourism under their watch. That assumption showed a $1.5 million ROI on tourism, when the real data, straight from the State's tourism website, shows we only saw a $65,000 increase in tourism local tax revenue in the first year the Partnership oversaw it.

Another assumption that inflated the ROI was that the Duksan opening has generated 251 direct and indirect jobs in the community. I have seen no evidence of these 251 jobs. On the contrary, the last actual jobs number I heard placed the number of employees at the facility at around 30.

Another assumption that inflated the ROI was that several large grants received by the county and the school system, which the Partnership did play some role in acquiring, led to a $1.1 million benefit for the county. I feel that there was no evidence provided to support that those grants could not have come with or without the Partnership's assistance.

Another assumption that inflated the ROI is that the 15% of their property tax ($150,000 per year) that Duksan is paying is somehow a part of the Partnership ROI. If they are going to take credit for that $150,000 per year tax payment, they should also discount the $850,000 per year property tax break that Duksan is receiving from their ROI number.

I'll also point out that not only do many of the constituents in the county have concerns, but our own Shelbyville City Council voted recently that they would not continue to fund the Partnership – to the tune of 100K annually. That within itself should make folks pause and ask questions. Why would another body of elected officials choose to not fund this organization?

With all this mentioned; I do believe that Chamber of Commerce offices (in general), if ran properly, do benefit a given community. I also do feel that there are some things that are tied to the Partnership that do bring value, but at this point, it is not worth 100k of Bedford County's tax payer's money.

I made this proposal, in order to allow the Partnership to have some funding this budget cycle; but with the understanding that a solid story of proven ROI should be offered to the commission (and people of this county) moving forward, and that every QRTLY update from their office reflect such actions and activities. I also personally believe that the Partnership should then standalone without government funding.

For now, the Partnership will continue as is; with its 100K from the county.

Although I understand the technicality of why the proposal was shut down; it continues to disappoint me that more representatives don't stand up for what is right; and seem "to go along just to get along"; but that won't change my own path.

I also want to publicly say thank you to Commissioner Neeley for also seeing the value in the proposal."

Keep the history alive in July 4th celebrations!

By Dawn Hankins

I have a favorite religious program I like to watch. Every year, they put on a great patriotic show celebrating America. But this year, I have to admit, it lost a little of its luster. I guess when I think of Independence Day, I think more of the Declaration of Independence, not musical "cowboys" in white hats.

While it was all fun, hearing the Eagles' "Take It Easy" during the fireworks show didn't fill my heart with patriotic spirit. Though, I like the song. It was certainly different.

You just can't beat John Philip Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever." Nope.

No one probably loves fireworks more than I. So, I really am a fan of the red, white and blue celebrations that go with the national holiday. That's America!

But I think in addition to all the fun and red, white and blue bunting, we always need to trace back, remind ourselves, constantly, why the holiday was originally established. And it has nothing to do with hot dog eating contests and cowboys.

Though I love Nathan hot dogs too!

What's it really all about?

On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence, announcing the colonies' separation from Great Britain. The Constitution became the legal and governmental framework for the United States.

The late President Ronald Reagan put it so elegantly:

"Let the Fourth of July always be a reminder that here in this land, for the first time, it was decided that man is born with certain God-given rights; that government is only a convenience created and managed by the people, with no powers of its own except those voluntarily granted to it by the people. We sometimes forget that great truth, and we never should. Happy Fourth of July."



So be safe. Drive safe. And be thankful you live in America.



DRAMA CAMP A GREAT SUCCESS

Bedford County Drama Camp has dived into voice training and more. On Friday, at Cascade Middle, students presented musical excerpts from "The Music Man," and "Seussical" and much more!





CITY CONTRIBUTES TO JUNETEENTH

Submitted Photo

Carolyn Buchanan (L), Janet Smith (Middle) accepting the $1,000 donation from the City of Shelbyville for Juneteenth 2025. Council member Marilyn Ewing represented the City.

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CONTACT US
NEWSROOM
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net
ADVERTISING DEPT.
advertising@t-g.com
CIRCULATION
circulation@t-g.com
(931) 684-1200
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FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

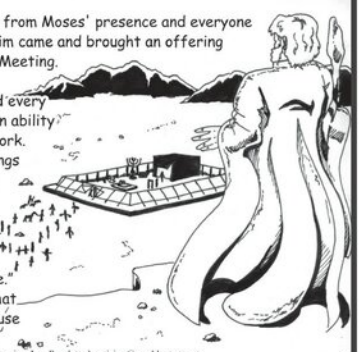
TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

Material for the Tabernacle

Exodus 35-36

Moses assembled the people of Israel and told them that the Lord had commanded that they were to take an offering for the Lord from what they had. "Everyone who is willing is to bring to the Lord an offering.....", he told them. Moses continued, "All who are skilled among you are to come and make everything the Lord has commanded: the tabernacle with it's tent and ....."

The whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses' presence and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved him came and brought an offering to the Lord for the work on the Tent of Meeting.



Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord had given ability and who was willing to come and do the work. They received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought. The people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning. The workmen said to Moses, "The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the Lord commanded to be done." Moses sent word throughout the camp that no more offerings were to be made because they already had more than enough.

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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
931-294-5845

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., 931-684-6136

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
2200 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
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Is God Dead? But who made God?

By Ty B. Kerley, DMin.

We have been standing on the back porch with the Bible skeptic, Michael, for the last few weeks, gazing at the stars. We have been working our way through the simple argument:

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

Regarding premise two, "the universe began to exist," we have considered the impossibility of walking a timeline from eternity past and ever reaching today. We have also looked at the data from the Hubble telescope, indicating the universe is expanding from a tiny beginning point, and we have looked at the Second Law of Thermodynamics, which states that the stars still have fuel to burn. These observations (and others not mentioned here) tell us the universe did begin to exist. "Therefore," the conclusion suggests, "the universe had a cause." This does not tell us that this Cause is the God of Christianity—far from it. But before we look deeper into the nature of this "Cause," we must answer a fundamental question: "Who made the Cause?" It is an important question that bears directly upon the Law of Causality, which is the foundational basis of all scientific discovery. In its pure form, science looks at "effects" and makes scientific assumptions about their "causes." We have all heard of cause and effect. At the ground level, that is what good science is based upon. And from extensive observation throughout science, we know that every effect has a cause. So, it drives the question, "If everything that begins to exist has a cause, who caused the Cause?" or, we might ask, "Who created the Creator?" It is a legitimate question, and it deserves an answer.

We can say that the first premise does not apply to the First Cause because the Christian claim is that the Cause of the universe did not "begin" to exist but has always existed in a timeless and spaceless realm. Before the universe was created, there was absolutely nothing existing except for the Cause . . . nothing. (Aristotle once defined nothing as "the thing that rocks think about"). At any rate, the Law of Causality applies only to things that "begin" to exist. That means the First Cause, existed from all eternity outside of space and time because space and time did not exist until the universe came into being. Christian apologist Norman Geisler put it this way; "When you get right down to it, there are only two possibilities for anything that exists: 1) it has always existed and is, therefore, uncaused, or 2) it had a beginning and was caused by something else." That is why Aristotle reasoned there had to be an "unmoved mover" of the universe: a First Cause that exists outside the Law of Causality that caused everything else.

Although we cannot yet say this is the God of Christianity, we can say some significant things in our conversations with the Bible skeptic, Michael, about what type of Cause the evidence suggests. Paul told the Romans that there are things we can learn about God's "eternal power and divine nature" based upon what "can be clearly seen" in nature (Rom 1:19-20). The evidence from nature suggests that the First Cause is beginningless because He is uncaused. Also, we can say that the First Cause is changeless because He exists outside of time. But we can still say more: that the First Cause is immaterial because material things involve changes, at least at the molecular and atomic level, and that the First Cause is timeless. Given that time had a beginning, the cause of time's beginning must be timeless. The First Cause is spaceless since He transcends both time and space. And we can say that the First Cause is enormously powerful by virtue of creation ex nihilo (out of nothing). But more importantly, we can deduce from the evidence so far that the creation of the universe can only be explained by an Agent and his volitions (will). Since an Agent acting to satisfy his will is a personal action, we can say the creation of the universe was a personal demonstration of the will of the First Cause. Creation ex nihilo also eliminates all pantheistic gods since the Creator, and the creation cannot be one and the same. From what we have learned from "looking at the stars," we can deduce this: there exists an uncaused, personal Creator of the universe, who in relation to the universe, is beginningless, changeless, immaterial, timeless, spaceless, and enormously powerful.

As we look to new evidence next week in our quest to answer the question, "Is God dead?" I leave you with a sobering thought. In his PhD thesis, the brilliant physicist Steven Hawking argues convincingly that time had a beginning; sadly, he spent the rest of his life trying to disprove what his own conclusion points to. Nonetheless, both atheists and Christians alike come to the same conclusion: it seems that the universe (and time) have not always been here. Robert Jastrow summarizes the significance of the evidence this way: "For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries."

Does God exist? And if so, is God dead? The quest for truth continues next week.

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.)

Five expert ways to make the most of seasonal gatherings

(Family Features)

From summer holidays and pool parties to spontaneous backyard barbecues with friends and neighbors, the hottest season of the year brings people together. When it's your turn to host, make the most of the occasion by setting up your space to maximize the fun while showing off your festive side.

"Summer is hands down my favorite time to host," said Kristina Zias, lifestyle, beauty and fashion expert and mom. "I love any excuse to bring people together and – let's be real – I'm always looking for a reason to throw a party. The key is keeping things low stress for the host and making sure guests feel comfortable the second they walk in."

Whether you're planning a full-blown backyard bash or hosting a few friends for drinks, Zias' go-to ideas are all about setting the mood and enjoying the moment.



1. Set the Scene

Without the Stress

To achieve a beautiful scene and make cleanup a breeze, try using disposable plates, utensils, napkins and cups in red, white and blue. A self-serve drink station with strawberry-infused water and a table of colorful fruit skewers adds charm without requiring much prep.

2. Tap Into Nostalgia Through Scent

Scent can instantly transport guests back to cherished summer memories, making it a powerful way to set the tone and spark conversation. Zias suggests using home fragrances to do just that.

3. Keep It Simple and Guest-Friendly

Part of summer's appeal is its easygoing vibe, so there's no need to overdo it with complicated snacks or overwhelming decor. Lean into the simplicity of the season with ready-to-serve bites that can please guests of all ages, like berries, sliced or cubed watermelon, meat and cheese trays, sliders or chips and light dips. A separate kids station with games and snacks can keep little ones entertained.

4. Create Comfortable Hangout Spots

The hot summer sun and cool indoor air means guests will likely filter in and out of the house, so help them feel welcome and comfortable wherever they may be. Consider flexible seating guests can move around on the patio or in the yard, like bag chairs or foldable lawn chairs. Complement your festive indoor drink station with beverage-filled coolers to keep guests refreshed and designate an area for essentials like sunscreen and bug spray.

5. Have a Backup Plan

The best-laid plans can go awry when summer storms pop up. Before inviting the entire town for a barbecue, make sure you have enough indoor space and seating in case of rain or extreme heat. For grilling plans, Zias recommends prepping an alternate cooking method to avoid last-minute stress. A little backup planning can help keep the good vibes going, rain or shine.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

FLAT CREEK CHURCH OF CHRIST

VBS - Sunday, July 6-Wednesday, July 9
6:30 Nightly (Meal at 5:30 on Wednesday)
Marvel at Jesus, Live for His Glory
Speakers: Buddy Koonce, Carter Woodruff, Tim Gunnells

This Sunday, Pastor Korley Carson will preach, "Child-Like Faith: Part 2" from Exodus 2:1-10. This series is a trial called Generations Worship; elementary students stay for the whole service. This series is aimed at helping young disciples become more comfortable in worship. 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 unable to attend in person, FUMC-S offers a livestream on Facebook and YouTube, and a broadcast on WLIJ 98.7 FM and AM 1580.

Business Spotlight

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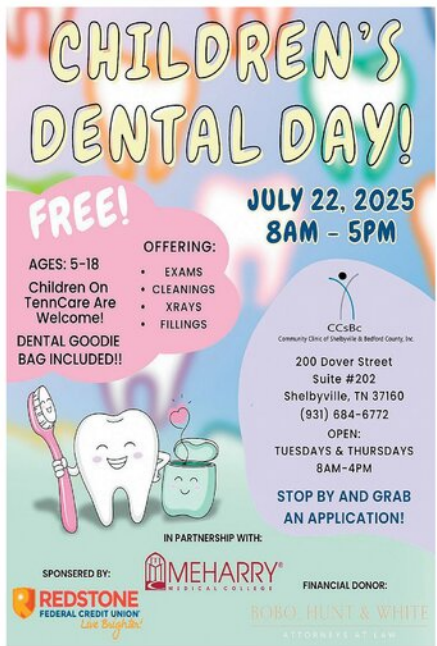
Wild Mane Nutrition

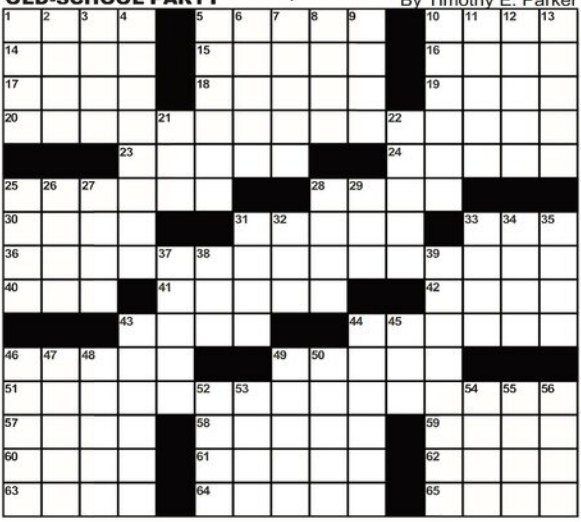


Dana Rodriguez with the Chamber of Commerce celebrates with Meyrek Patton on the official opening of Wild Mane Nutrition, located at 709 East Lane St. The store specializes in teas and specialty drinks. Stop by on the 4th. The store will be open from 8 a.m. to noon. From cucumber drinks to Spider-Man drinks for the kids, there's something for everyone.



Crossword

OLD-SCHOOL PARTY FreeDailyCrosswords.com By Timothy E. Parker



CLUES ACROSS

1) Dell competitor
5) Diamond surface
10) Lose an encounter with ice
14) Central part of a church
15) Coffee enticement
16) Disorderly outburst
17) Course with sines
18) Different version of a song
19) Change parts, often
20) Broadway sign make-up
23) Cantrell, Wood and Turner
24) Usher's beat
25) Country with the most lakes
28) Utilized an elevator
30) Word before "loving" and "lasting"
31) Places for human development
33) One tying a knot?
36) Couldn't care less
40) Nip in the bud
41) Year-end seasons
42) One of Napoleon's exile isles
43) It may frequently hit the bottle
44) Wake maker
46) Beach spread
49) Michael Jordan's old position
51) What a good horror film can make one do
57) Far from the bottom
58) Eat away at
59) Word after "Let's try something"
60) Important hotel number
61) X, in math class
62) Strip under a mattress
63) Tireless toy?
64) Like the best guard dogs
65) Temporary fixer

CLUES DOWN

1) Not for
2) Psychologist Jung
3) Like a soap opera twin
4) Some men's jacket sizes
5) Hot breakfast fare
6) Venue for a big-time boxing match
7) Sleeping episodes that could last years
8) Send off, as broadcast waves
9) Urban vehicle
10) Inexpensive cigar
11) Step-ups from 4-Down
12) Epitome of perfection
13) Follower of Western tracks
21) Insane
22) Comaneci of the balance beam
25) Yield, as property
26) Stratford's waterway
27) On a ___-to-know basis
28) Accelerates, as a motor
29) It might require refining
31) Quite unattractive
32) Evening result?
33) Shed feathers
34) Judicial attire
35) Wish recipient
37) African antelope with spiral horns
38) Old, slow ship
39) Item that can be raised in a car's interior
43) Emulated a smoke detector
44) Most inferior
45) Tolkien menace
46) Russian monarchs no more
47) Eight-related
48) Composed, as a text
49) Colorful garden figure
50) Milk dispenser over a pail
52) Prefix with "physical"
53) Fleshy seed wrapper
54) "Enchanted" film girl
55) " ... and make it fast!"
56) Allocate (with "out")

Kid Scoop

Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at www.kidscoop.com

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Happy Birthday, America!

July 4th is Independence Day in the United States!

How many stars can you find in this picture?



Puppy Parade

Ryan, Monica, Josephine and Jordan wanted to have a puppy parade for the 4th of July. But the puppies ran off to the neighbor's home. Can you read the clues to help figure out who owns each puppy?

Ryan and Monica's puppies are twins. But Monica's puppy does not have spots. Jordan's puppy likes wearing costumes, but Josephine's puppy likes chewing them!

Draw a line from each name to that child's puppy. Have a family member check your work.

RYAN MONICA JOSEPHINE JORDAN

Independence Day Crossword Puzzle

Complete this puzzle by using the pictures as clues.





See how many words you can make with the letters in: INDEPENDENCE DAY

Score yourself:
1-5 words: SUPER SPARKLER 6-10 words: LIBERTY BELL RINGER
11 or more words: HIGH-FLYING EAGLE

Extra! Extra! 4th of July Search

Look through the newspaper to find:

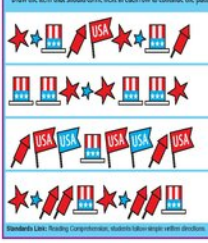
- ☐ A patriotic picture
- ☐ A flag
- ☐ Stars and or stripes
- ☐ Picnic food
- ☐ Something on sale
- ☐ A firecracker

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow written directions.

Loud fireworks can scare your pets. Be sure to keep them safe indoors on July 4th.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Draw the item that should come next in each row to continue the pattern.



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.

BALLOONS
COLLAR
EAGLE
FLAG
FOOD
FUN
HAT
HOT DOG
JULY
LOUD
PARADE
PUPPY
SAFE
STARS
STRIPES

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

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

From the Kid Scoop Lesson Library

Freedom!

Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper telling them what it means to be free in your community. Explain why you think these freedoms are important.

Standards Link: Writing: Write persuasive text in letter form.

Write On!

What Does Freedom Mean to You?

Write about why freedom is important to you.

Kid Scoop Together

July 4th Funnies

Circle every other letter to reveal the punch line for each of these riddles.

Who has to always work on the 4th of July?

(F) S I G R T E L W Y O
U R V K D S T

F _____

What did the flag say to the cloud?

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

N _____.
___ ____
_____.

What snack do fireworks eat at the movies?

(P) Y O R P D C
L O V R F N B

P ___-_____.

Why is the American flag so famous?

(I) P T K H L A W S Q F
E I H F N T I Y P S J T
Z A Q R V S T

___ ____
_____
_____.

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SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE

Sale at public auction will be on August 19, 2025 on or about 11:00AM local time, At the Main Entrance, Bedford, County Courthouse, 1 Public Square, Shelbyville, TN 37160, conducted by the Co-Substitute Trustees as identified and set forth herein below, pursuant to Deed of Trust executed by ANDREW L. CLANTON, to Megan K. Trott, Trustee, on February 17, 2021, at Record Book TD996, Page 782-793 as Instrument No. 21001757 in the real property records of Bedford County Register's Office, Tennessee.

Owner of Debt: PHH ASSET SERVICES LLC

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:

A certain real estate lying and being in the Twenty-Third (23rd) Civil District of Bedford County, Tennessee, and being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a stake in line with a fence from the Southwest, on the West margin of the Old Tullahoma Highway, 30 feet from its center, at the Southeast corner of the Raymond Breece property and the Northeast corner of the property herein described, thence following the said West margin South 49 degrees 38 minutes East 351.4 feet to a point at the beginning of a curve to the right (delta - 45 degrees 10 minutes, radius - 290.1 feet, tangent - 120.7 feet); thence following the arc of said curve 228.7 feet (chord - South 27 degrees 03 minutes East 222.8 feet) to a point at the end of said curve; and South 24 degrees 40 minutes East 21.97 feet to a fence corner post on the West bank of a creek; thence leaving the said West margin and following the said West bank South 35 degrees 24 minutes West 257.15 feet to a metal pin; South 26 degrees 17 minutes West 205.98 feet to a metal pin; and South 44 degrees 21 minutes West 296.58 feet to a fence post: thence South 41 degrees 37 minutes East 21.48 feet crossing said creek to a metal pin by a large oak on its East bank; thence with the East bank South 46 degrees 56 minutes West 116.50 feet to a metal pin: South 86 degrees 09 minutes West 130.77 feet to a metal pin: South 48 degrees 10 minutes West 273.39 feet to a 14 inch elm; thence South 25 degrees 36 minutes West 175.75 feet to a metal pin: South 41 degrees 48 minutes West 147.10 feet to a metal pin; and South 9 degrees 49 minutes West 64.43 feet to a metal pin; thence North 80 degrees 32 minutes West 48.51 feet crossing said creek to a metal pin in fence on its West bank; thence leaving the said West bank North 3 degrees 41 minutes West 107.44 feet to a fence corner post; thence North 19 degrees 30 minutes East 210.2 feet to a 6 inch elm at a fence corner; thence North 10 degrees 53 minutes West 433.6 feet to a 15 inch elm at a fence corner; thence North 28 degrees 25 minutes West 474.4 feet to a cedar fence corner post; thence North 61 degrees 30 minutes East 1041.2 feet to the point of beginning, and containing 23.71 acres, according to a survey by Rex Northcutt, Registered Land Surveyor, dated March 21, 1988. Being the same property conveyed to Rachel Elaine Latham and husband, Daniel Scott Latham, by warranty deed from Kathleen T. Welsh, unmarried, dated July 30, 2014, of record at Deed Book 321, Page 809, Register's Office of Bedford County, Tennessee.

Also being the same property conveyed to Andrew L. Clanton, a single man, by warranty deed from Rachel Elaine Latham and husband, Daniel Scott Latham, dated June 14, 2018, of record at Deed Book 344, Page 643, Register's Office of Bedford County, Tennessee.

Together with a 1978 CAPR mobile home, Model ALS, VIN SN6228, which is located on the above-described real estate.

Tax ID: 112-016.01-000

Current Owner(s) of Property: ANDREW L. CLANTON

The street address of the above described property is believed to be 2612 Highway 130 E, 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 CO-TRUSTEES.

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES: None

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 Co-Substitute Trustee(s).

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 co-trustee(s). 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 Trustor, the Trustee or the Trustee's attorney.

MWZM File No.: 25-000178-671-1

For additional sale information visit: https://www.tnforeclosurenotices.com

Mackie Wolf Zientz & Mann, P.C., Co-Substitute Trustee
PARK EAST
725 COOL SPRINGS BLVD, SUITE 140
FRANKLIN, TN 37067

AVT Title Services, LLC, Co-Substitute Trustee
PARK EAST
725 COOL SPRINGS BLVD, SUITE 140
FRANKLIN, TN 37067

TN INVESTORS PAGE: HTTP://MWZMLAW.COM/TN_INVESTORS.PHP (62631c)

NOTICE

ISABEL CALLES CANSECO

The State of Tennessee, Department of Children's Services, has filed a Petition to Declare Child Dependent and Neglected as to Erick Elias Calles Xum. It appears that ordinary process of law cannot be served upon you because your whereabouts are unknown. You are hereby **ORDERED** to serve upon Stephen Marsh, Attorney for the Tennessee Department of Children Services, 200 Athens Way, 2nd Floor, Suite A, Nashville, TN 37243, 615-838-8129, an Answer to the Petition to Declare Child Dependent and Neglected filed by the Tennessee Department of Children's Services, within thirty (30) days of the last day of publication of this notice, and pursuant to Rule 39(e)(1) of the Tenn. R. Juv. P. you must also appear in the Juvenile Court of Jackson County, Tennessee at Gainesboro, Tennessee on the 2nd day of September, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., for the Hearing on the Petition to Declare Child Dependent and Neglected by the State of Tennessee, Department of Children's Services. If you fail to do so, a default judgment will be taken against you pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-1-117(n) and Rule 55 of the Tenn. R. of Civ. P. for the relief demanded in the Petition. You may view and obtain a copy of the Petition and any other subsequently filed legal documents at the Juvenile Court Clerk's Office, Gainesboro, Tennessee. (734tc)

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE

WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms, and conditions of a Deed of Trust dated October 26, 2011, executed by Richard G Pierce, an unmarried man, to Fidelity National Title Insurance as Trustee, for Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as beneficiary, as nominee for Reliance First Capital LLC, its successors and assigns, and appearing of record on November 14, 2011, in the Register's Office of Bedford County, Tennessee, at Book TD764, Page 262, and Instrument Number 11005608.

WHEREAS, the beneficial interest of said Deed of Trust was last transferred and assigned to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, the party entitled to enforce said security interest; and having appointed Clear Recon LLC, the undersigned, as Substitute Trustee by instrument filed or being filed for record in the Register's Office of Bedford County, Tennessee, with all of the rights, powers, and privileges of the original Trustee named in said Deed of Trust.

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable as provided in said Deed of Trust, and that the undersigned, Clear Recon LLC, as Substitute Trustee or his duly appointed agent, by virtue of the power, duty, and authority vested and imposed upon said Substitute Trustee will, on August 5, 2025, at 12:00 PM, local time, at the main entrance of the Bedford County Courthouse, One Public Square, Located in Shelbyville, Tennessee, proceed to sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash or certified funds ONLY, paid at the conclusion of the sale, the following described property situated in Bedford County, to wit:

The land referred to herein below is situated in the County of Bedford, State of Tennessee, and is described as follows:

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED TRACT OR PARCEL OR REAL ESTATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE SIXTH (6TH) CIVIL DISTRICT OF BEDFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS TO WIT: BEGINNING AT A METAL PIN ON THE EAST MARGIN OF MINK-SLIDE ROAD AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE TERRY A. HALL PROPERTY (DEED BOOK 264, PAGE 250) AND BEING THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF

LOT 3 AND THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE WITH SAID EAST MARGIN N 33 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 05 SECONDS E 100.05 FEET TO A METAL PIN; THENCE S 56 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 04 SECONDS E 298.70 FEET TO A METAL PIN; THENCE S 30 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS W 100.00 FEET TO A METAL PIN; THENCE N 56 DEGREES 15 MINUTES 00 SECONDS W 304.46 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, AND BEING ALL OF LOT 4 IN CHAMPION ACRES SUBDIVISION RECORDED IN PLAT CABINET "A", ENVELOPE 239, ACCORDING TO A SURVEY DATED MARCH 7, 1995, BY REX NORTHCUTT, REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR, RLS NO. 77,117, HICKORY DRIVE, SHELBYVILLE, TENNESSEE. BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED RICHARD G. PIERCE BY DEED FROM TRISHA PIERCE RECORDED 6/24/2011 IN DEED BOOK 305 PAGE 163, IN THE REGISTER'S OFFICE OF BEDFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE.

Parcel ID: 058 05600 000000

Commonly known as 541 Minkslide Road Shelbyville, TN 37160

The street address and parcel number(s) of the above described property are believed to be correct; however, such references are not a part of the legal description of the property sold herein, and, in the event of any discrepancy, the legal description herein shall control.

This sale is subject to tenant(s)/occupant(s) rights in possession.

This sale is subject to all matters shown on any applicable recorded plat; any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements, or setback lines that may be applicable; any statutory rights of redemption of any governmental agency, state or federal; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; and to any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. In addition, the following parties may claim an interest in the above-referenced property: Richard G Pierce.

If the United States or the State of Tennessee have any liens or claimed lien(s) on the Property, and are named herein as interested parties, timely notice has been given to the applicable governmental entity, and the sale will be subject to rights of redemption, if any, as may be held by the entity as required by 26 U.S.C. § 7425 and/or Tennessee Code § 67-1-1433.

All right and equity of redemption, statutory and otherwise, homestead, and dower are expressly waived in said Deed of Trust, and the title is believed to be good; however, the undersigned will sell and convey only as Substitute Trustee.

The transfer shall be AS IS, WHERE IS, AND WITH ALL FAULTS, and without warranties of any kind, express or implied, as to the condition of the Property and the improvements located thereon, including merchantability or fitness for particular purpose. Trustee shall make no covenant of seisin or warranty of title, express or implied, and will sell and convey the subject real property by Substitute Trustee's Deed only.

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.

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

THIS OFFICE IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR AND IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Clear Recon LLC, Substitute Trustee
651 East 4th Street Suite 200
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37403
Phone: (877) 319-8840
File No: 1154-3179A
Newspaper: Shelbyville Times Gazette
Publication Dates: 6/26/2025, 7/3/2025, 7/10/2025

Bedford County property transfers

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

File date: June 24

Location: 649 Mac St; Seller, Blue Reef Homes LLC; Buyer, Johnathon N Mines, Jasmine Mines; Price, $258,000 (Deed).

Location: Pickle Rd; Seller, James H Pierce, Anna A Pierce; Buyer, Jason A Law, Anna P Law; Price, $365,000 (Deed).

Seller, Michael J Oettinger Sr; Buyer, Linda Lee Morris; Price, $00 (QD).

Seller, Connie Eaves; Buyer, Randall Clinton Hickman, Phillip Mike Hickman; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 103 Collier Ave; Seller, SB Shelbyville LLC; Buyer, Watson Brothers Properties LLC; Price, $2,695,000 (Deed).

Location: Hwy 64 E; Seller, Margaret L Brandon, Lisa Kaye Brandon; Buyer, Howard Guy Hawkins, Reba Hawkins, Matthew S Allen, Ashley M Allen; Price, $136,000 (Deed).

Location: 212 Hillview Ave; Seller, SDH Nashville LLC; Buyer, Douglas Edward Altheide, Nikki Lee Altheide; Price, $359,000 (Deed).

File date: June 25

Location: 1602 Birch St; Seller, John Clayton Carlton Jr, Cynthia Lucille Carlton; Buyer, Leslie Marie South, Russell Wayne South; Price, $420,000 (Deed).

Location: 502 Sun Circle; Seller, Kacey B Gann, Brenton M Gann; Buyer, Maria Sebastian Gaspar, Sebastian Juan Baltazar; Price, $265,000 (Deed).

Location: Hilltop Rd; Seller, Stan McCullough, Kristy Tocchio, Kenneth Murray Bryant Estate, Kenneth Bryant; Buyer, Rebecca Lynn Bryant; Price, $0 (Deed).

Location: 791 Kennedy Rd; Seller, Phillip W Miles, Mandy L Miles; Buyer, Magalhaes Developers LLC; Price, $380,000 (Deed).

Location: Liberty St; Seller, Christopher Haslam; Buyer, Old Rugged Home LLC; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 221 Coney Island Rd; Seller, Boyce Gary Construction LLC; Buyer, Michael McOwen, Lisa McOwen; Price, $300,000 (Deed).

Seller, Town of Wartrace, Hollywood Cemetery; Buyer, Mahaffey Family, Mahaffey Heir Reserve; Price, $0 (Deed).

Seller, Paige Allyson Miller; Buyer, Athena Karges, James Todd Miller; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 313 Spring St; Seller, Robert Flade; Buyer, Kimberly Smythia, Paul Smythia; Price, $299,900 (Deed).

Location: Puncheon Camp Rd; Seller, Weston R Burris, Jenna L Burris; Buyer, The Happy Book Stack LLC; Price, $187,500 (Deed).

File date: June 26

Location: Hwy 41 A; Seller, James Donald Crowell Estate, Earl Brent Pewitt, James D Crowell; Buyer, Judy Piar; Price, $0 (Deed).

Location: 1429 Horse Mountain Rd; Seller, Rhonda L Brannon, William Frank Brannon, Rita Carol Brooks, Terry Brooks; Buyer, Chad Alexander, Cortenay Alexander; Price, $395,000 (Deed).

Location: Ray St; Seller, Santiago Ixcoy Chic, Santiago Ixcol; Buyer, Elena Herrera Lopez Rosa, Rosa Herrera, Rosa Elena Herrera Lopez; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Augusta Court No 28; Seller, Anthony M Matusek Jr, Carolyn Simmons Matusek; Buyer, American Home Constructors Inc; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Augusta Court No 28; Seller, American Home Constructors Inc; Buyer, Elbert Lee Graves, Linda Graves; Price, $455,000 (Deed).

Location: 522 Higgins Rd; Seller, Christoper W Haslam Sr, Winter Noel Haslam, Christopher W Haslam; Buyer, Old Rugged Home LLC; Price, $0 (QD).

File date: June 27

Location: 956 Horse Mountain Rd; Seller, Carl Brent Stacy; Buyer, Jacob Hardy; Price, $289,900 (Deed).

Location: 160 Haskins Chapel; Seller, Padgett Law Group, Samantha Southerland, William C Southerland; Buyer, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Company; Price, $301,544.51 (TRD).

Seller, Robert A McKillip, Peggy M McKillip; Buyer, McKillip Revocable Family Trust; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Fairfield Pike; Seller, Clara Marie Foekler; Buyer, Elizabeth E Sharp, Christopher R Martindale; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, Katherine Lynn Hickok, Barbara Ann Corbett; Buyer, Barbara T Thompson; Price, $249,900 (Deed).

Location: Gilmore Lane; Seller, Heather Stover, Amber Stidman, Randall Stover II; Buyer, Cory Mason, Andrea Mason; Price, $162,500 (Deed).

Location: 130 Tanner Cir; Seller, James G Marshall; Buyer, Melinda Doran; Price, $260,000 (Deed).

Seller, J & M Development LLC; Buyer, Brandi Carter, Dustin Cody Carter; Price, $535,000 (Deed).

File date: June 30

Location: 4700 Hwy 41 A North; Seller, Ann Chandler; Buyer, Ann Chandler Family Trust; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 353 Possum Trott Rd; Seller, Carl Terry Craig; Buyer, Kimberly Lynn Heaven, Matthew Shane Craig; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Bunker Hill Rd; Seller, Donald Petty, April Petty; Buyer, Cody Nash, Kara Beth Nash; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, Donald Petty, April Petty; Buyer, Earl Reed Manier; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Bunker Hill Rd; Seller, Cody Nash, Kara Beth Nash; Buyer, Donald Petty, April Petty; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, Vicky D Voelkel, David E Olson Estate; Buyer, Tim Nowlin, Amanda Nowlin; Price, $52,370.34 (Deed).

Location: Public Square; Seller, Coffey Family Partnership LP; Buyer, Marsha Shepard; Price, $300,000 (Deed).

Location: 101 Saint James Place; Seller, George W Greene Jr, Sherri T Greene; Buyer, Kathryn Hollin; Price, $3960,000 (Deed).

Location: Elm St; Seller, Shelbyville Housing and Development; Buyer, Shelbyville Housing Authority; Price, $0 (QD).

YARD SALES

Seven month old AKC registered Pomeranian puppy. $800. Please call. 931-619-7335.

Free Five Week Old Kittens. Three females and four males. Call or to request photos text: 931-580-2970.

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

Invitation to Bid

South Central Human Resource Agency, P.O. Box 638, 1437 Winchester Hwy, Fayetteville, TN 37334 is accepting bids for our food market basket for the Head Start 2025/2026 school year. Bids will be received electronically until July 31, 2025 and no later than 10:00 A.M. CST.

Invitation to bid packets may be obtained by contacting the Finance Director at (931) 433-7182 ext 1112.

South Central Human Resource Agency reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

OLD-SCHOOL PARTY By Timothy E. Parker

	1 A	2 C	3 E	4 R	■	5 F	6 A	7 C	8 E	9 T	■	10 S	11 L	12 I	13 P
14 N	15 A	16 V	17 E	■	18 A	19 R	20 O	21 M	22 A	■	23 T	24 O	25 D	26 O
27 T	28 R	29 I	30 G	■	31 R	32 E	33 M	34 I	35 X	■	36 O	37 N	38 E	39 S
40 T	41 L	42 L	43 U	44 M	45 I	46 N	47 A	■	48 T	49 I	50 S	■	51 N	52 G	53 G	54 A	55 S
■	■	■	56 L	57 A	58 N	59 A	60 S	■	■	■	61 A	62 I	63 S	64 L	65 E
66 C	67 A	68 N	69 A	70 D	71 A	■	■	72 R	73 O	74 D	75 E	■	■	■	■
76 E	77 V	78 E	79 R	■	80 U	81 T	82 E	83 R	84 I	■	85 M	86 R	87 S	■
88 D	89 O	90 E	91 S	92 N	93 T	94 G	95 I	96 V	97 E	98 A	99 H	100 O	101 O	102 T
103 E	104 N	105 D	■	106 Y	107 U	108 E	109 S	■	■	■	110 E	111 L	112 B	113 A
■	■	■	114 B	115 A	116 B	117 Y	■	118 B	119 O	120 A	121 T	122 E	123 R	■
124 T	125 O	126 W	127 E	128 L	■	129 G	130 U	131 A	132 R	133 D	■	■	■	■
134 S	135 C	136 R	137 E	138 A	139 M	140 A	141 N	142 D	143 S	144 C	145 R	146 E	147 A	148 M
149 A	150 T	151 O	152 P	■	153 E	154 R	155 O	156 D	157 E	■	158 E	159 L	160 S	161 E
162 R	163 A	164 T	165 E	■	166 T	167 I	168 M	169 E	170 S	■	171 S	172 L	173 A	174 T
175 S	176 L	177 E	178 D	■	179 A	180 L	181 E	182 R	183 T	■	184 T	185 A	186 P	187 E

New memorial marker installed at Parsons Cemetery

Parsons Family descendants and families held their annual Decoration Day on Sunday, May 25, at the cemetery located on Parsons Road in northern Bedford County. There was something new and exciting this year as a memorial marker was dedicated and installed.

Al Simmons reported the news.

Here's a little history of the Parsons family.

George Washington Parsons came to Bedford County from Virginia in 1807, married Margaret Fisher in 1809, and settled in the Halls Mill area. He served in the War of 1812 and was a millwright and farmer by trade. They had 13 children-4 daughters and 9 sons, among them George II.

George I and Margaret are buried in the Halls Mill Cemetery.

George Washington Parsons II married Elizabeth Ann Allison. They settled farther northwest of Halls Mill on 50 acres of North Carolina Land Grant #259 which was purchased by George I in 1819. The land passed to son George II who donated one-half acre of this land in 1888 for the cemetery. The earliest known grave is for William Parsons, dated November 10, 1866.

Parsons Cemetery families and descendants partnered with the Bedford County Historical Society to design, purchase, and install the marker. The marker honors the Parsons Family and the donation of land for the family cemetery on Parsons Road.

Today, the Parsons Family and descendants meet annually on the fourth Sunday in May at 2 p.m. for their remembrance and decoration service.



Parsons Ceremony memorial dedication participants, from left, were: Lila Beasley (Emcee), Karen Maynard (cemetery board member), Marie Parsons (historical society member/marker unveiling), Malyssa Maynard (vision poetry), Betty Brown (Pledge to American Flag), Marie Smith (registration), Kevin Collier (invocation and Call to Remembrance), Kary Collier (cemetery board member and benediction). Not pictured – Historical Society President Al Simmons (marker presentation and dedication.)



Photos by Al Simmons

Parsons Family descendants gathered in front of new cemetery marker - Kary Collier, Lila Beasley, Kevin Collier, Marie Smith, Karen Maynard, Patsy Trott, Mahayla Maynard, Malyssa Maynard, Ron Smith, Betty Brown, Janice Strohm, Amber Frizzell, Clay Morton, Dana Morton, Jacey Collier.

GREAT SUMMER TIME TREAT

Courtesy of Whitney Danhof, County extension agent

Enjoy those fresh peaches, while you can! Here's a great summer recipe sure to please during the July 4th holiday.

Peach Pretzel Salad

- 2 cups crushed pretzels
- 3/4 cup butter, melted
- 1 cup + 3 tablespoons sugar, divided
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 8 ounces frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (3-ounce) box orange gelatin
- 1 (3-ounce) box peach gelatin
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1 cup cold water
- 4-5 medium ripe peaches, peeled, pitted and chopped

In a bowl, combine the pretzels, butter and 3 tablespoons of sugar. Spread in the bottom of a 9"x13" pan sprayed with vegetable spray. Bake at 400 degrees for 8 minutes. Let cool. With an electric mixer, beat the cream cheese and remaining 1 cup of sugar. Add the whipped topping and beat until smooth. Spread over cooled crust and refrigerate until firm, about 45 minutes. Combine gelatin with boiling water and stir until dissolved. Add cold water and peaches and refrigerate until slightly thickened, about 45 minutes. Pour over the cream cheese layer and refrigerate until set.

Whitney Danhof
Extension Agent III
Family and Consumer Sciences
UT Extension - Bedford County
2105 Midland Road

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: 07-079-079-K-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)



HELPING OUT THE SOUP KITCHEN

SCSK Photo

Friends from Fair Haven Baptist Church volunteered at Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen this week. Reminder: Breakfast is now served every Sunday at the soup kitchen at 336 S. Cannon Blvd., thanks to The Experience Community Church. Serving is from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

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

The Celebration Hosts MTSU's "Blue Raider Blitz" Event

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn. – Middle Tennessee's annual "Blue Raider Blitz" tour made its fourth of five stops on Wednesday night held inside the Blue Ribbon Room on the grounds of The Celebration. Derek Mason, Nick McDevitt, and Rick Insell all spoke to the Shelbyville crowd about each program's upcoming season individually as well as the growth of MTSU as a whole, specifically about the new SAPC building for student-athletes.

For football, Mason brought in 62 new players, including 30 high school recruits with 20 of those recruits from the state of Tennessee. Thus, MTSU finished with the top-ranked recruiting class in Conference USA despite going 3-9 (2-6) a season ago.

"We needed players to fit our mold," Mason said, "Our push is also to fill Floyd Stadium because the fans change the energy of the stadium and affect how the games are played."

On the hardwood, both Nick McDevitt and Rick Insell experienced similar levels of roster turnover, primarily due to graduation. On the Men's side, McDevitt is replacing nine members of a team that finished 22-12 (12-6) and second-place in CUSA a year ago. So far, he has filled eight of the nine roster spots, and seven of those eight signees are already on campus meshing with the six returners.

"I really like our group," said McDevitt, "They've started to mesh and gel well. You really just never know if there's going to be a turf war between new guys and returners, but we really like how this group is going about their work."

Five members of the team are from the state of Tennessee while one incoming freshman hails from right here in Shelbyville – Jax Howard of The Webb School.

For Coach Insell, he is faced with the unique challenge of having to replace all five starters from a season ago. Knowing that possibility was highly probable coming into the season, Insell and his staff made sure to hit the ground running on the recruiting trail, and he feels like yet another stellar season is in the cards for his group.



(from left to right) MTSU FB HC Derek Mason, MBB HC Nick McDevitt, and WBB HC and Shelbyville native Rick Insell speak to the local crowd on Wednesday night. *T-G Photo by Noah Maddox.*

"We got our wagon loaded," Insell joked, "We have a good chance to win another 20-25 games and go to the NCAA Tournament. I'm pretty excited about what we've got."

His team is also set to host a great group of teams inside Murphy Center this season. The full schedule has not been publicly released, but the likes of Tennessee, Auburn, Belmont, and Memphis are all slated to come to Murfreesboro at some point during the 2025-26 campaign.

MT Soccer Releases 2025 Fall Schedule

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Fresh off a 2024 campaign that saw the Blue Raiders advance to the Conference USA Championship semifinals, the Middle Tennessee soccer program has released its 2025 fall schedule, highlighted by ten home matches and two first-time matchups, as announced by head coach Aston Rhoden Thursday afternoon.

The preseason will begin with the annual Blue vs. White scrimmage on August 2 at home, with kickoff at 3 p.m., before the team travels to play a neutral site exhibition against Southern Mississippi August 9.

The Blue Raiders will kick off the regular season on the road, traveling just an hour up the road to take on Belmont August 14 in Nashville. MTSU returns home for the 2025 home opener August 17, when Jackson State comes to town for a 1 p.m. kickoff from Dean A. Hayes Soccer Stadium. The Blue Raiders will continue the home series against Alabama A&M August 21 before going head-to-head with Indiana State for the first time in program history to close out the opening homestand August 24 at 1 p.m.

Hitting the road for one additional time in August, MT is set to travel to Mobile, Ala. to go compete against the South Alabama Jaguars on the 28th, returning to Murfreesboro to close out the month against West Georgia for the first time on the 31st.

The month of September sees the Blue Raiders travel to Nashville for a contest against in-state rival Lipscomb Sept. 4. MTSU will welcome Vanderbilt for the first match between the two at Dean A. Hayes Soccer Stadium since 2022 on Sept. 7 before hosting Tennessee Tech for the penultimate non-conference match Sept. 11. Closing out the non-league schedule, the team will travel to Evansville, Ind. on Sept. 14 to take on Evansville, last playing the program in 2021.

Just like the season prior, Middle Tennessee will open its conference slate of matches at home, this time, seeing the Jacksonville State Gamecocks travel to Murfreesboro Sept. 21. For the first Conference USA road stand of the season, the Blue Raiders will wrap up the month of September in Bowling Green, Ky. at Western Kentucky Sept. 27, heading west just after to face Sam Houston in Huntsville, Texas and Louisiana Tech in Ruston, La. on October 2 and 5, respectively.

MTSU will host a three-game homestand to close out its contests in Murfreesboro, welcoming FIU for an Oct. 12 matchup. The last home week of the season sees New Mexico State and UTEP travel to Dean A. Hayes Oct. 16 and 19. The Blue Raiders are set to complete the regular season in Kennesaw, Ga., taking on Kennesaw State for the final CUSA match of the slate Oct. 25.

The Conference USA Soccer Championship is set to run from November 2 through 7, hosted by Liberty in Lynchburg, Va.

MTSU Unveils New State-of-the-Art Turf at Floyd Stadium

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – MTSU Athletics is proud to announce the installation of state-of-the-art synthetic turf at Floyd Stadium ahead of the 2025 football season – featuring a prominent field logo from Murfreesboro Medical Clinic & SurgiCenter (MMC) as part of an expanded partnership between the two local institutions.

MTSU Athletics partnered with Warner Athletic, a local athletic field building company based in Smyrna, Tenn., to install the new turf system. Warner is a distributor for Shaw Sports Turf and performs high end athletic field projects throughout the southeast.

This collaboration builds on an existing relationship that already includes MMC's branding on the playing surface at Murphy Center, home to MTSU men's and women's basketball. The presence of the MMC logo on both signature athletic venues underscores a shared commitment to Blue Raider student-athletes and to enhancing the fan experience across all programs.

"We're excited to install one of the most innovative and sustainable turf systems available, while also celebrating the growing partnership with Murfreesboro Medical Clinic," said Director of Athletics Chris Massaro. "MMC is deeply rooted in our community and has been an incredible supporter of Blue Raider Athletics. Expanding their visibility to Floyd Stadium reflects that shared commitment to excellence – not just in athletics, but in service to our region."

The new Shaw Sports Turf system installed by Warner Athletic includes:

Shaw NXTPlay Pad – a shock-absorbing performance pad made from recycled turf, designed to reduce impact injuries and enhance athlete safety.

Shaw GameOn Legion 2.0 (2") – a hybrid turf with patented manufacturing technology that tufts all lines, logos, and hash marks directly into the surface. This minimizes seams, maximizes durability, and allows for elite-level design precision.

Natural Play System Infill – a 100% organic infill blend of Silica Sand, Saf Shell, and Geo Fill, eliminating SBR crumb rubber. This system enhances playability and significantly reduces on-field temperatures, contributing to both performance and environmental responsibility.

For MMC, the new field presence is a strategic and symbolic move. Their logos will be featured prominently on both the north and south ends of the field, offering consistent brand exposure to thousands of fans in attendance, as well as through national television broadcasts and social media platforms throughout the season.

"At Murfreesboro Medical Clinic, our mission is centered on care – care for our patients, our community, and our future," said Joey Peay, CEO of Murfreesboro Medical Clinic. "Supporting MTSU and its student-athletes is a natural extension of that mission. We're proud to have our logo on the field at Floyd Stadium, just as we are on the court at Murphy Center. This partnership reflects our pride in Murfreesboro and our continued investment in the health, success, and visibility of our hometown university."



Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

I thought we built some credit with each other this summer" – Champs HC Doug Worsley On First Summer Stint

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

BELL BUCKLE, Tenn. – When Doug Worsley was announced as Cascade's newest Boys' Basketball Head Coach on May 16th to replace the departing of now-MTCS HC, Chris Lawson, following a 16-13 season, the longtime Murfreesboro Central Magnet coach knew he was walking into a completely new situation with summer ball right around the corner. Even so, now that the TSSAA-mandated "dead period" is in effect as of July 1st, Worsley was able to reflect on his first summer at the helm of the Cascade Champions.

"I thought we surprised some people," he said, "In between game days we were working hard, developing the kids, basically just practicing and working on a lot of defensive stuff. This summer, the goal offensively was to get our pace-of-play up; we want to go fast, we want to go up-tempo, and get guys to buy into roles. Defensively, it was just getting the guys to learn a different scheme and system. Learning how to play man-to-man the way I want to play it, being relentless, and not taking any plays off on defense. Also, of course, developing the young kids. We have a nice freshman class and a pretty good returning sophomore class."

Cascade went 8-4 over the three camps in June with two days at Coffee County, two days in Gallatin, two days at Van Buren, and then concluding with BCAT (Basketball Coaches Association of Tennessee) held in Williamson County this year.

Some of the wins came against an athletic Creekwood team, former district foes Cannon County and Grundy County, Davidson Academy, and Macon County. Worsley believes this solid start is just that – the start.

"The kids are learning…I call it the honeymoon phase right now," he explained, "Everything is fun, it may not necessarily be what they enjoy all the time, but everybody is all riled up. The honeymoon phase ends when June ends, but we had a good reception. Kids were figuring roles out, and when they weren't sure, I was there to let them know that for this summer, this is your role. I use summer for evaluation; it's not just to find out where we are as a team, it's more about individual skills, and since with these kids I didn't have a whole lot of information about their individual skills, I used a lot of this to do it. Sitting down with them when we come back from the dead period and actually evaluating them one-on-one in the office and saying, 'here's your strengths, here are your weaknesses, this is the role you were in this summer, but it doesn't mean you have to stay in that role.' Your role grows as you go; the empowerment is with the kids."

Worsley wants to play an up-tempo style on offense, but his calling card is his defensive prowess. He expects a tough, hounding, and energetic man-to-man defense, and implementing that kind of style in your first month or two on the job isn't an easy task, but Worsley believes that this team has the ability to be extremely solid and tenacious on that end of the floor.

"Certainly we are not where we want to be [defensively] yet. The biggest thing was to get the guys to play with energy on the defensive end like we want to, and I thought we did some really good things this summer from a standpoint of us understanding where the help should come from, understanding where we were trying to take the ball and take the offense out of what they wanted to run, and there were some really nice bright spots," he said, "Even so, it's slow learning because it is so new. The senior class did a really good job of being like 'Hey guys, this is how Coach wants to play, let's go do it,' and they kind of set the tone for it early. I think we're capable of being a very, very good defensive team. We had some sparks this summer where I thought we did a really good job with just the disruption and constant havoc we caused. We don't have the size, but we were able to speed teams up and make teams rush some shots which allowed us to rebound and get out and go. I thought we were really disruptive, and then we ran into some teams where you couldn't speed 'em up and they didn't get rattled. There's still a lot to work on…we're seeing the rotations, we're just not quite there yet, and I don't expect to be in the summer. If we had peaked in the summer then we're done. We have a goal, we have a mountain to climb, and I'm very positive that we're going to get there by the end of the year."

For the team as a collective unit, it's obvious that Worsley is extremely optimistic about how far this team can grow and how high their ceiling will be by wintertime. Individually, Worsley saw strides taken by just about everyone that stepped foot on the court, especially guys that you would assume to be team leaders for the upcoming season – seniors like Kaleb Kelso, Henry Stone, and Tyler Rodgers. For Kelso specifically, Cascade fans will probably be seeing him operating and initiating offense with the ball in his hands a lot more following the graduation of Jason Cullum.

"I thought [Kaleb] Kelso did a really good job…I'm kind of making him step out and play a role that he's not, I don't necessarily want to say comfortable with because I told the guys at the beginning that I'm not okay with you being comfortable. You're not pushing yourself unless you're uncomfortable. So I wouldn't call Kelso a point guard, but we've been having him handle the ball a lot more than what he had from what I saw on film," Worsley explained, "He's embraced that and he's worked hard at getting better at it and I think he's pushed himself. It's not learning to score from a new position, but it's different with the ball in your hands versus when he was off the ball. I thought he did a really good job in the summer embracing that. I'd like to see him continue his defensive movement forward – I'm not saying he's a bad defender because he's not – but I like to see him being more aggressive. Scorers usually aren't greedy and great defenders, but watching Kelso through the summer, you can see where he would lock some guys up, he'd get excited about it, and it made him play even harder."



Cascade's new HC, Douglas Worsley (pictured while coaching at Central Magnet) spoke with the Times-Gazette about his first summer with his new team.. *Photo Submitted by BCS.*

"I thought Tyler Rodgers did a really good job just being a terror on the defensive end," he continued, "Turning him loose, allowing him to roam a little bit and go double…he played pretty good help defense all summer too. I think Henry [Stone] did another really good job. I knew he was going to be solid because I remembered him from watching game film, anchoring the middle of that zone while undersized…he's a really, really good help-side defender, and he's a physical guy that's not afraid of contact. I also thought Cooper [McElroy] did a really good job…I mean I can't complain about the summer we had, but I think that group of guys really stood out."

Worsley also expressed satisfaction with some of the juniors and sophomores for stepping up after Noah Watson sustained a relatively minor knee injury following the first set of camp dates, opening up some minutes that other guys on the bench would have to fill.

"We also had some nice surprises. I thought Tyler Barrett and Tristan [Billings] both, for guys who really didn't start much and maybe didn't get as many minutes last year, they gave us a lot of minutes. Noah [Watson] hurt his knee after Coffee County and was out most of the three weeks. It was a minor thing, but it set him back a bit and so we were missing a guy who had eaten some minutes up. I thought Tristan and Tyler both came in and did some really good things offensively, and then defensively they showed us some surprises as well. I thought a couple of the sophomores – Cooper, Ryder [Pilkington], Micah [Jones], and Jackson [Gulick] all got some minutes here and there. Ryder got a bunch of minutes just trying to really accelerate his learning curve because I feel like him and Cooper can be a really nice 1-2 punch in the post."

Worsley also talked about how he was pleased with how quick the team caught on to his offensive "concepts." Up-tempo, yes, but specifically the primary and secondary breaks Worsley wants to constantly run. He wants the primary break to be an eight to nine second window to score following regaining possession of the ball, and if they can't get a good look in that time, a secondary break triggers while the defense is still trying to get matched up cleanly. In all, Worsley's intent is to get both a good look and a basket within 15 seconds of starting a possession, whether it begins with a rebound, a forced turnover, or an inbound off a made basket.

Two specifics that Worsley expressed satisfaction with his team's improvement were both on the offensive end, and he thinks that they both greatly improve their offensive efficiency.

"I thought two of the biggest things we got better at over the summer were playing off two feet because when you drive, the defense is going to collapse, and can you play off two feet. Of course, the ultimate example of that was Villanova, and they don't get sped up. The other concept was shot-selection. We came a long way from Day 1 to whatever the very last workout was. They started recognizing that 'one more pass gets this guy a better shot than what I'm getting right now,' so there were times we could see that shot-selection lightbulb come on."

Finally, the new Champs' leader summed up why he feels this summer was successful as he is set to begin his first season at the helm in 2025-26 – building credit with one another.

"I think this was very successful and positive because the kids recognized – like I gave them a blank slate because I didn't know them, and I'm still getting to know them – that my challenge to them was, you have to put credit in the bank," he concluded, "Your parents let you go do stuff because they trust you, not just because you're their kid. You earned credit in the bank by being responsible. They recognized they had a clean slate and went out and said 'I'm going to show Coach what I can do.' I told them that they have to build credit with me for me to be able to trust you to be able to do things, and then I have to show you that I can give you that credit too. I can show you that I understand what's going on, I can show you that I can coach you to help you get better. I thought we built some credit with each other this summer. I thought that was very empowering."

Cascade's season is set to begin sometime in mid-November. At the time of writing, the 2025-26 season schedule has not been released.

MRT garden promotes social skills, future job potential

By Dawn Hankins

For the last 2 weeks, the MRT garden at Bedford County jail has yielded 1,183 pounds of produce-all which is used in the corrections kitchen. Really!

On the menu will be fresh beans, tomatoes, potatoes and greens. And much more, thanks to those who've worked to make this garden possible.

Inmates are now able to receive more nutritious foods, as the jail is allowed by its regulations with the state to use the fresh fruits and vegetables.

Many inmates have health issues and corrections officials say the extra vitamins can only help with medical and dental expenses, etc.

Jail administrator Ronnie Prince said it can only benefit the jail's food costs.

What makes this garden full of flowers and vegetables flourish so?

Lt. Chris Cook, director of the MRT program, said Wednesday, "It's the ladies' dedication to learning everything they can about gardening-not just planting seeds and watering, but everything."

Cook said they've learned what plants work well together and those that don't. The ladies have also learned which plants grow best in this zone.

"They really work hard to be professional gardeners," said Cook.

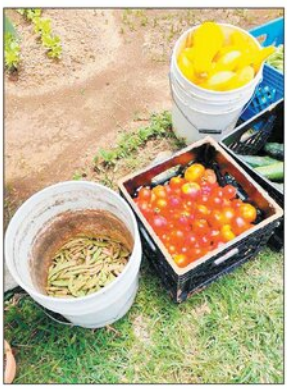
MRT is a therapy group which began for men and women inmates at the Bedford County Jail in 2022-a program which corrections officials say is obviously working. In operation for a couple of years now, Cook said he's beginning to see how the program is reducing the recidivism rate.

To eliminate the revolving door cycle (inmates continuing to return to the jail) is only one aspect of MRT. Inmates engaged in MRT learn how to deal with past traumas and move ahead to more productive lives.

Please send us your summer garden pictures-produce or flowers. Email to: dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net.















Firecracker Smashed Potatoes

The Dairy Alliance

Way better than plain mashed potatoes, this garlicky mix of smashed, roasted potatoes, chipotle peppers and cheese is sure to satisfy.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Put garlic head on large square of aluminum foil and drizzle with oil. Gather foil around garlic, twisting top to close tightly. Bake 60 minutes or until pulp is golden and very soft. When cool enough to handle, break apart cloves and squeeze pulp from each into small bowl; mash to puree with fork.

In large pot of boiling, salted water, cook potatoes until tender, about 20 minutes. Drain well and return to pot. Add cheese, chipotle peppers and garlic puree. Mash to combine, leaving potatoes very chunky. Garnish with jalapeno peppers.



Pork and Bacon Burgers

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Servings: 6

- 2 pounds ground pork
- 1/4 pound ground pork chorizo
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 6 cheese slices (optional)
- 6 hamburger buns
- 6-8 strips hickory smoked uncured bacon, cooked
- tomato slices (optional)
- red onion slices (optional)
- lettuce (optional)
- ketchup (optional)
- mayonnaise (optional)

1. Preheat grill to medium heat.

2. In large mixing bowl, combine ground pork, chorizo, onion, garlic, salt and pepper.

3. Gently mix ingredients, being careful not to overwork meat.

4. Divide meat into six burger patties.

5. Cook burgers 3-4 minutes per side until internal temperature reaches 145 degrees or desired doneness.

6. During last 2-3 minutes of cooking, place cheese slices on top of burgers to melt, if desired.

7. Transfer burgers to platter. Assemble burgers with buns, bacon, tomato slices, red onion slices, lettuce, ketchup and mayonnaise, as desired.

Tip: Burger patties may be frozen up to 1 month. Fully defrost before cooking



HALLS MILL TRACTOR PULL

It's as American as apple pie and happens at least twice a year at the Halls Mill Triangle Club. It's a time for the kids to enjoy some loud noise, smoking engines, hot dogs and hamburgers. It's a Saturday night when tractor pull enthusiasts get to share their 12,500-pound stock tractors, antiques and single engine modifieds.

No doubt, the Tennessee Pullers Association LLC brings out the big boys and girls and their tractors/trucks.

It's clean, family fun, organizers note. No alcohol is allowed.

But most of all, the tractor pull supports the Halls Mill Triangle Club which has been of great value to the community for many years. And if Saturday night's crowd is any indication, it will continue to be a vital part of the northern Bedford County landscape.

Organizers note after the rain; cooler temps became a "bonus" Saturday night.

Coming up Oct. 4 will be The Randall Crowell Memorial Truck and Tractor Pull. This is the make up date for the April pull which was rained out.



Photo submitted by Emily Ferguson



Photo submitted by Renee Sims



Photo submitted by Chase Johnson



Photo submitted by Renee Sims

Free Summer Meals for Kids & Teens in School!

This summer, Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen is offering every Thursday in June and July free meals for kids and teens enrolled in school! Sign-up is required through the Soup Kitchen.

For more details or to register, contact Gloria Johnson at 931-607-5913.





Photo submitted by Lucas Mendl

