COMMUNITY NEWS

SHELBYVILLE
TIMES-GAZETTE

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Commissioners quiet, sparse crowd, brief meeting

Mayor makes big announcement at bottom of the hour

By Dawn Hankins

At about 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Mayor Chad Graham made an announcement during the County Commission meeting that he will not seek a third term of office in May.

Graham, who has traditionally run on the Republican ticket, has about 14 more months in office. When asked by the T-G about his reasons for leaving office next year, Graham deferred to a press release which he placed on Bedford County Government's Facebook page following the meeting.

Graham stated: *"After 35 years of service in both public safety and public service, it is the right time for me to step away from my political life. Part of my decision is based on the fact we've accomplished the goals that I set out to achieve, as well as some that we developed during my tenure as mayor. We have seen tremendous success in the top three priorities of my administration: Education, Public Safety, and Infrastructure.*

For example, getting kids out of portable classrooms, investments in public safety equipment/operations, as well as promoting next generation connectivity/broadband expansion. Importantly, we have been fiscally responsible as evidenced by our Moody's Aa3 bond rating—the best financial rating in our county's history—as well as multiple "clean audits" by the state comptroller's office.

None of these things could have been accomplished without the dedicated men and women who serve this great county government. Our people are our service!

There is much more work to be done, so I will be preparing my administration to ensure a smooth and successful transition with the "voters' choice" to follow my administration.

This next chapter in my life will allow me to focus even more on my Faith, Family, and Friends!

It has been my great honor to serve as your county mayor. I look forward to what's ahead for myself and our great county!"

Johnny Reed, register of deeds, assured Tuesday night that this County is growing fast with lots of new homes being built. Developers, he said, are building anywhere and everywhere they can as codes will allow.

Reed's report during the County Commission meeting included that recorded for the year have been 363 deeds, 158 quick claim deeds, 6 trustees deeds, 60 notices of completion, 38 in green belts and 56 plats.

Reed said there's been a total of 3,506 documents filed in his office for the quarter.



Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham

For 2025, he advised that over 12,612 documents have been recorded by Register of Deeds staff. That's 579 more documents than filed in 2024.

He said this quarter's revenue in the Register of Deeds office was $233,000. For the year, revenue has come in at $2.5 million.

"That's $77,648 more than last year," Reed told the Commission.

Reed thanked the citizens and said if they go to the Welcome to Bedford County, TN website, look under the government tab and then click on Register of Deeds, they'll find a free property fraud alert available. He said this is free, unlike many offerings out in the public.

City has chance to do professional assessments on old buildings

And it's being offered free!

By Dawn Hankins
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

City Council members were informed during study session last week how grant dollars available through the EPA (administered through South Central Tennessee Development District) can be used by the City to do assessments on old, rundown factories and other structures-at no cost.

It's all due to a $1.5 million grant.

It's possible such an opportunity won't come around again soon. In addition, it's a first come, first serve, gift, of sorts, according to SCTDD representatives who spoke to Council last week.

There are no required matching funds of the City or property owners. That's certainly good news to Council, going into a new fiscal year.

Terry Lee and Misty Baker gave the SCTDD presentation during the study session. Lee talked about the grant's potential to transform brownfield sites—properties previously developed but potentially hindered by environmental contamination.

The grant will fund both Phase 1 and Phase 2 environ-

See COUNCIL, 2A



From left, Council members Henry Feldhaus, Marilyn Ewing and Betsy Noel. Terry Lee of SCTDD gave a presentation on an EPA grant available to the City at last week's study session.

It's finally here: The signal at Hwy 231 North and Bell Buckle Lane



T-G Photo by Renee Brown

The signal light is now active at Bell Buckle Lane and Highway 231 North. Road superintendent Mark Clanton told Commissioners Tuesday night that some more work will be done to finish up this project-one which he and many citizens pushed toward for many years.

Road Superintendent Mark Clanton told the County Commission Tuesday night that the traffic signal at the intersection of U.S. 231, Eady Road and Webb Road (State Route 82) would go live, with normal red-green-yellow operation, at 9 a.m. Wednesday.

The County advises drivers to please be cautious in that area as everyone gets used to the presence of the signal (as well as new, lower speed limits in the area near the signal-45 mph.)

Clanton said the new signals are intended to be mounted on metal poles and crossbeams, but those are backordered. The mounting will be updated when the parts become available, in about six months.

He also mentioned that signage has been placed at the intersection but most has been stolen.

Citizens and Clanton have urged the state for some time to get this signal up as there have been numerous deaths there. Also helping with the light has been State Rep. Mathis.

Caregiver Board thanks Tewaan Tucker for years of service

Outgoing Caregiver Relief Program board member Tewaan Tucker knows first-hand that sometimes you have to experience a family member suffering from Alzheimer's Disease to truly appreciate the local Caregiver Relief Program.

Tewaan Tucker joined as a board member in 2013, after being impacted by the program personally. She had been assisting in care for her mother-in-law, who had Alzheimer's.

She soon met Joyce Adams, who was Caregiver Relief Program Director at the time. Adams worked alongside Tewaan and her family to support them in their caregiving journey.

After her mother-in-law passed, Tewaan wanted to give back to the program, so she joined the board of directors. Twelve years later, she's stepping down as a board member but hopes to continue to be involved.

Current Caregiver Program Director Dana Bobo notes that Tewaan has been a dedicated and active board member, serving terms as vice-president, treasurer and secretary and assisting with the nonprofit's yearly chili supper fundraiser.

Tewaan says she knew very little about Alzheimer's when she began taking care of her mother-in-law. "I think when your loved one is first diagnosed you just panic and really don't know where to turn. This program was there for us when we needed them.

She says it was a "great honor" to serve. And, she's thankful to see Caregivers growing.



Submitted Photo

Presenting outgoing Caregiver Relief board member Tewaan Tucker (center) with her certificate of appreciation recently were: Dawn Hobbs, Diana Nevills, Janice Clanton, Joyce Adams, Charlie Williams, Dana Bobo, program director, Rick Stevenson and Stephen Philpott.

BEDFORD BRIEFS

FAITH & PATRIOTIC NIGHT

Faith & Patriotic Night will be held during the Bedford County Fair on Wednesday, July 16, 2119 Midland Road. There is a $1 gate admission. Rob McKamey at North Fork Baptist Church will deliver the message at 6 p.m. The Cavaliers will sing at 6:30. A special military tribute service will be held at 7. "Freedom Sings," featuring Hunter Kirbow & The Dims and Layla Tucker, is at 7:30 p.m. There is a special challenge for all church youth groups from Bedford and Moore Counties. Check in is at 6 p.m. at the main stage. A prize will be given to the group with the most youth.

CAR SHOW AND TENNESSEE'S LARGEST CHILI FESTIVAL COMING BACK TO THE PUBLIC SQUARE JULY 11 AND 12

Believe us, It's worth getting out in the heat, maybe even the rain, for-the 18th, annual First Square Fair and Chili Festival, planned for this weekend, July 11 and 12.

Literally "kicking" off the weekend's festivities will be the International Chili Society Sanctioned Whiskey Trail Regional & TN State Championship Chili Cook Offs.

Whew! That's a mouth full, just like the great chili you're about to sample, beginning Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 3 p.m.

Amateur cooks may win up to $300. This contest is planned for 170 entries and over $6,000 in prizes, according to promoters.

On Saturday, during First Square Fair, Mid State Cloggers will perform at 11 a.m.

Stick around for the presentation of several shiny trophies when the car Show of the South comes back by popular demand.

So come out to the public square Friday and Saturday. You can't say this weekend there's nothing to do here!

See today's ad on page 12 about the Chili Festival.

ON THE INSIDE

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County gets credit rating

Moody's Ratings assigns Aa3 to Bedford County

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Hall of Fame

Middle Tennessee women's basketball Head Coach Rick Insell was named to the Conference USA Hall of Fame Class of 2025.

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COUNCIL

From page 1A

mental site assessments at no cost to property owners or the City. Phase 1 assessments will provide a historical overview of properties to identify potential contamination concerns.

Phase 2 assessments will involve more detailed testing, including soil and groundwater analysis, Lee advised. This initiative is particularly relevant for sites like the former dog food factory and a pencil manufacturing facility, which Lee said he understands have been identified as priorities for redevelopment.

He said this grant can assist the City with assessments of housing developments. Property owners are encouraged, he said, to let the City know of an interest in putting these free dollars to good use.

Lee said Fayetteville is working on the old Kraft Cheese plant. Other counties are apt to take advantage of this offer as well, he said.

Lee said the property owners must buy into this process, along with the City, and give SCTDD permission to do assessments. He said if owners are not interested, well, that's about it.

"We are ready to start work on sites, if you have them," said Lee.

Scott Collins, city manager, was appointed the City liaison for SCTDD on the assessment process.

"I'd like to get some sites for you and help you move things along," said Lee.

From Columbia, Lee said he's not been this way in a couple of years and immediately noticed a lot of changes taking place in Shelbyville, particularly around the public square.

"Keep up the good work," he advised Council.

Council has an opportunity to vote on this issue at the regular monthly meeting Thursday, July 10, at 6 p.m.

UT-Martin increases in-state tuition fees for 2025-2026

Dual Enrollment Program students get reduced rates

MARTIN, Tenn. – A 3% in-state tuition increase for University of Tennessee at Martin students was approved July 1 for the 2025-26 academic year by the UT Board of Trustees during the final day of the board's annual meeting in Chattanooga.

A $183 million UT Martin operating budget was also approved during the meeting held at the UT Chattanooga campus.

UT Martin undergraduate students will pay an additional $264 per year starting this fall for a total tuition payment of $9,066 for the academic year. Tuition and existing mandatory fees for full-time, in-state undergraduate students enrolled for 12 or more hours per semester will bring the total cost to $10,824 per academic year. Tuition and current mandatory fees for full-time graduate students will be $11,688 per academic year for an in-state student enrolled for nine or more credit hours.

The proposed increases will cover growth in the costs of providing and maintaining the quality and effectiveness of academic programs, student services and campus infrastructure. The revenue increase will be used primarily for instructional support, student services, scholarships, faculty and staff promotions, fixed-cost increases, and the portion of the 2.6% salary pool not fully funded by state appropriations.

No increases in mandatory fees means a net cost increase for undergraduate students of 2.5% and 2.6% for graduate students. The proposed increases are within the 6.5% maximum recommended by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

Although no mandatory fee increases were requested, veterinary technology students will pay $1,400 and $350 respectively to cover the Veterinary Technology National Exam cost with financial aid and the rabies vaccination protocol for students in the program.

Students who take dual enrollment courses through the university's Dual Enrollment Program will be assessed at a reduced, estimated rate of $600.25 per three-credit hour course, which will be fully covered by the Tennessee Dual Enrollment Grant and UT Martin Dual Advantage Scholarship. The Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation will approve the Tennessee Dual Enrollment grant amount this summer. Dual enrollment courses allow high school students to earn college-level coursework credit as they complete high school graduation requirements.

Find complete UT Martin tuition and fee information on the web at www.utm.edu/tuition.

Judges announced for 87th TWHNC

Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (TWHNC) has selected Chris Bobo, Ross Campbell, Robert Cortner, Brent Grider and David Sisk to judge the 87th Annual Celebration, coming up Aug. 20–30, 2025.

The event will span five-day sessions and 11 nightly sessions. Day sessions will be held in Cooper Steel Arena, while all night sessions will take place in the historic Celebration Arena.

"We are pleased to have such an experienced panel that has judged all across the Walking Horse industry over their careers," said Celebration Chief Executive Officer Warren Wells. "To be able to combine such experience with a judge that will be making his Celebration debut continues The Celebration's focus on having the best judges in the industry while also committing to bringing in new judges to expand the overall judging pool."

This year's judging panel was selected from a group of 27 SHOW HIO-licensed judges who submitted their names for consideration. All judges selected are required to hold at least a AAA license with the certified Horse Industry Organization.

David Sisk of Columbia, Tennessee, will make his sixth appearance, while Chris Bobo of Shelbyville will judge for the fifth time. Brent Grider of Columbia, Kentucky, and Ross Campbell of Cullman, Alabama, will each make their third appearance. Robert Cortner of Winchester will make his Celebration debut.

Sisk previously judged The Celebration in 2014, 2015, 2018, 2021 and 2023. He judged Walking in the Smokies earlier this year and has worked at major venues including the National Trainers' Show(twice), Fun Show, Celebration Fall Classic, North Carolina Championships, Mississippi Charity, Alabama Jubilee and the Marshall County Horsemen's Association.

Bobo has judged more than 50 shows since 2005, including The Celebration in 2012, 2016, 2017 and 2021. He has judged the Fun Show four times and major events such as the International, Gulf Coast Charity, Mississippi Charity, Alabama Jubilee and Columbia Spring Jubilee. He judged the Christmas in July show earlier this year.

Campbell, returning for the first time since 2020, previously judged The Celebration in 2018 and 2020. In 2025, he judged The Money Tree Classic, FAST Spring Showcase and West Tennessee Strawberry Festival. He has also judged at the Columbia Spring Jubilee, Pulaski, Marshall County Horsemen's Association and Woodbury Lions Club, totaling more than 30 shows since 2009.

Grider judged The Celebration in 2012and 2021 and the Fun Show twice, most recently this year. He has judged over 50 venues since 2004, including the National Trainers' Show and Columbia Spring Jubilee five times each. His experience spans the North Carolina Championships, Gulf Coast Charity, Kentucky Celebration, Alabama Jubilee and numerous Fourth of July weekend shows.

Cortner, the only first-time Celebration judge, has previously worked three Celebration-managed events. He judged the Fun Show in 2021 and 2025, and the Celebration Fall Classic in 2022. His résumé also includes the Columbia Spring Jubilee, National Trainers' Show, FAST Spring Showcase, Money Tree and Alabama Jubilee.

For more information on the 87thAnnual Celebration, visit www.TWHNC.com.





MAKING THE MOST OF A VERY HOT DAY

SACP Photos

The school system's Summer School Age Care Program (SACP) kids discovered a great way to cool off last week. Go to: www.bedfordk12tn.com/SACPSummerProgram for more information.







TWHNC ENTRY OFFICE HAS NEW SMILING FACE

Sara Smith has joined The TWHNC team as entry office manager. Sara can be reached at ssmith@twhnc.com or call (931) 684-5915 ext. 133.



DO YOU HAVE YOUR TWHNC BOX SEATS?

TWHNC officials note there are still some great box seats and reserved seats available. TWHNC has also announced that Shelbyville's own Missy Eakin is the new ticket office manager. She can be reached at missyeakin@twhnc.com or call the office at 931-684-5915 ext. 104.

THE ISSUE

Moody's Ratings assigns Aa3 to Bedford County

TN's General Obligation Bonds, Series 2025

County Commissioner Greg Vick spoke of the County's Moody Ratings during some discussions this year at Commission meetings. He talked about the conservative and prudent management of the financial management department and committee.

Well, here's the latest report and it looks pretty good, just as Commissioner Vick predicted. In fact, it is better than many counties.

But there are still some areas to take into consideration when it comes to spending and going further in debt-hence the conservative approach is recommended, all things considered, unless revenues really take an upswing here.

Moody's Ratings (Moody's) has assigned a Aa3 rating to Bedford County's proposed $5.0 million General Obligation Bonds, Series 2025.

Recently the County approved a bond issuance to assist E-911 with needed improvements.

Overall, it's a good credit rating report. But let's not forget the outstanding debt mentioned and that resident income is below average (compared to state and national) here, according to Moody's ratings. That's always something to keep in mind.

A shift up or down in employment and revenue can quickly make a significant difference to the ratings.

Basically, to stay in good credit standing, the County needs to improve its per capita income and keep its fund balance (savings) at a healthy level. It's sort of like the average citizen must do but on a larger scale.

Ratings agencies like Moody's take into account all of the economic characteristics of the issuer and the bond issue to assign a rating. They evaluate the economic well-being of the area: what is the median income, how concentrated is community's dependence on certain employers or industries, what is the diversity of the tax base, what is the rate of population growth, is the population younger or older, are tax revenues going up or down, why are revenues going up or down, what are the tax rates and can they be increased without decreasing revenues, is the economic area undergoing challenges, how affluent is the community, city, or state, etc.?

But don't fret taxpayers, borrowers and stakeholders. Moody's, one of the best, still believes Bedford County remains in "healthy condition."

Incidentally, you might ask what is an Aa3 rating exactly? It is a medium investment grade credit rating. It is a good quality rating.

We don't want to get categorized with "junk bonds" or those with a high risk of default.

Still, all is fair in the investment game. The Moody's rating signifies that the issuer, this being the County, has financial backing and some cash reserves, signifying a low risk of default for its recent bond issuance.

Recently the County approved a bond issuance to assist E-911 with needed improvements.

See the Moody's story below.

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New York -- We maintain the county's Aa3 issuer and general obligation unlimited tax (GOULT) ratings. Post issuance, the County will have approximately $120 million in debt outstanding.

RATINGS RATIONALE

The Aa3 issuer rating reflects a healthy financial position, a result of conservative budgeting and prudent fiscal management. As of fiscal 2024, the county's available fund balance ratio was 57.6% of annual revenues and their liquidity ratio was 120.9% of annual revenues. The primary reason for the sizeable difference between fund balance and liquidity is a substantial amount of restricted monies within the operating funds.

Management projects fiscal 2025 will end with a modest decline in total General Fund balance but unassigned General Fund reserves will remain similar to the previous year.

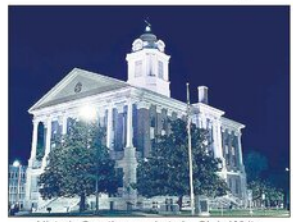
The rating also takes into consideration a growing economic base in central Tennessee.

Resident income is below average for the rating category at 93% of the nation and the county's full value per capita is $103,167. Taxpayer concentration is moderate at approximately 8% of total assessed value.

Unemployment is roughly level with state averages at 2.6% as of April 2024.

The rating further reflects the county's moderately elevated long-term liabilities, which as of fiscal 2024, were 211% of annual revenues. When taking into consideration the current debt issuance, long-term liabilities increase to approximately 219% of annual revenues which is above-average for the Aa rating category.

Regardless, county liabilities should remain manageable given the fact that the economic base continues to experience growth.



Historic Courthouse photo by Chris White

The absence of distinction between the Aa3 issuer rating and GOULT rating reflects the county's general obligation, full faith and credit pledge.

RATING OUTLOOK

We [Moody's] do not assign outlooks to local government credits with this amount of debt outstanding.

FACTORS THAT COULD LEAD TO AN UPGRADE OF THE RATING

- Decrease in long-term liabilities to around 150% of annual revenues
- Increases in resident income and full value per capita
- Maintenance of available fund balance and liquidity ratios above 35% of annual revenues

FACTORS THAT COULD LEAD TO A DOWNGRADE OF THE RATING

- Increase in long-term liabilities approaching 300% of annual revenues
- Deterioration of available fund to below 25% of annual revenues

METHODOLOGY

The principal methodology used in this rating was US Cities and Counties published in July 2024 and available at https://ratings.moodys.com/rmc-documents/425429. Alternatively, please see the Rating Methodologies page on https://ratings.moodys.com for a copy of this methodology.

REGULATORY DISCLOSURES

For further specification of Moody's key rating assumptions and sensitivity analysis, see the sections Methodology Assumptions and Sensitivity to Assumptions in the disclosure form. Moody's Rating symbols and definitions can be found on https://ratings.moodys.com/rating-definitions.

Christopher Coviello is lead analyst.

IBRA Youth Barrel Race brings 800 plus horses to TWHNC grounds

TWHNC recently announced that the IBRA's All American Youth Barrel Race was a great success last month at the Cooper Steel Arena.

Over 800 horses walked onto the property, and every RV spot and horse stall, including the historic white barns, were completely filled, according to TWHNC CEO Warren Wells. The arena was packed with talented young riders from all over the country, and the concourse was buzzing with fantastic vendors.

According to the American Quarter Horse Association's Economic Impact Estimator, this event is projected to bring between $800,000 and $960,000 in direct local economic impact.

"It's a powerful reminder of the value and potential of equine events here in Shelbyville," said Wells in his recent TWHNC newsletter.

Wells added, "This moment represents a significant milestone for us. Almost exactly 4 years ago, we set a bold vision to become one of the top equine facilities in the country. It started with a full replacement of the arena footing, followed quickly by a major structural and aesthetic transformation of the Cooper Steel Arena, made possible through our partnership with Cooper Steel Fabricators. We're incredibly proud of how far we've come.

Wells advised that none of this would be possible without the foundation.

"The Walking Horse industry built this facility, and it shaped Shelbyville into one the horse capitals it is today. That history matters to us. Events like this one don't just bring new energy and opportunity, they allow us to reinvest in our property and continue strengthening our Tennessee Walking Horse industry for the future."







DUKSAN MAKES PUBLIC SAFETY DONATION

Photos by Marilyn Ewing

Duksan Electera, a local secondary battery electrolyte manufacturer, recently made a donation of $2,000 each to Shelbyville Fire Department Foundation and Shelbyville Benevolent Association. Shelbyville Mayor Randy Carroll, City Council and City Staff attended the presentation at Duksan. City Attorney Ginger Shofner talks with SPD Deputy Chief Pat Mathis and Mayor Carroll. Accepting the checks respectively on behalf of the fire and police departments were SFD Chief Matt Doak and SPD Chief Jan Phillips.



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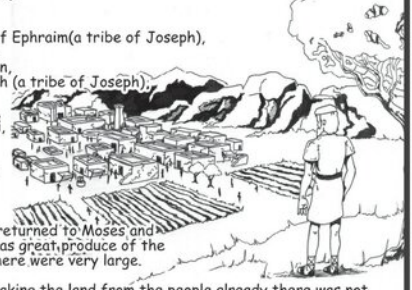
FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

SPIES TO the Promised Land
Numbers 13 and Deuteronomy 1

Moses sent 12 spies to check out the land of Canaan, the land to which they were going. One was selected from each tribe:
Shammua from the tribe of Reuben
Shaphat from the tribe of Simeon,
Caleb from the tribe of Judah,
Igal from the tribe of Issachar,
Hoshea(Joshua) from the tribe of Ephraim(a tribe of Joseph),
Palti from the tribe of Benjamin,
Gaddiel from the tribe of Zebulun,
Gaddi from the tribe of Manasseh (a tribe of Joseph),
Ammiel from the tribe of Dan,
Sethur from the tribe of Asher,
Nahbi from the tribe of Naphtali,
Geuel from the tribe of Gad.



After searching out the land the spies were to report to Moses what they had found.

At the end of 40 days the spies returned to Moses and Aaron and reported that there was great produce of the land, but that the people living there were very large.

10 of the spies said the task of taking the land from the people already there was not possible.

Joshua and Caleb said that the land was exceedingly good. They said that if the Lord was pleased with the Israelites He would lead them into the land and give it to them. "...do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them," they plead before the entire assembly of the Israelites. Numbers 14: 9.

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

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

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
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Joel Landers

Is God Dead? Teleology's True Tale

By Ty B. Kerley, DMin.

Over the last few weeks, we concluded that based on scientific observation and evidence from the cosmos, and evidence that there was a First Cause that caused the universe to begin to exist. From there, we were able to make some general conclusions about the nature of this First Cause. Based upon the preliminary evidence, we offered a summary stating, "There exists an uncaused, personal Creator of the universe, who in relation to the universe is beginningless, changeless, immaterial, timeless, spaceless, and enormously powerful." However, rather than answer our question about the existence of God, these attributes of the First Cause that we deduced from the evidence just seem to generate more questions. Questions such as; "If a Supreme Being possessed these attributes, why would He choose to create a universe? What could be His purpose? What could He have had in mind for planet Earth? Since the act of creation was an act of the First Cause's will, then maybe we can get a better idea of the First Cause's purpose for creating by looking at how He created . . . exactly. What I mean is this: looking at how things are made can give us great insight into the One who made them.

Teleology is "the study of understanding something by looking at its results." Or, we can say it is looking at "effects" to learn more about their "cause." We naturally deduce these things all the time. If you look at an Andy Warhol painting, well, frankly, you see Andy Warhol. And that is exactly what I am suggesting here: that we take a closer look at the universe that the First Cause caused so that we might determine more about the nature of the First Cause that caused it. Simply, if you want to learn about Vincent Van Gogh, then you need to study Van Gogh's Starry Night. If you want to introduce the Bible skeptic, Michael, to the First Cause, then you need to study what it was that He caused to come into being, namely the cosmos. In other words, it is possible that the teleological argument (also called the fine-tuning argument) can help us answer the question: is God dead?

In studying the universe, one of the first things that is noticed is the apparent precision by which it operates. So much precision, in fact, that it boggles the mind. Even at a very young age, we begin to recognize the precision and design of the sun rising and setting each day. Or how Christmas is always cold, and the fourth of July is always hot . . . in Oklahoma, always. But the precision of the operation and design of the universe that is observed on a much smaller scale is really impressive. By that, I mean it truly is "fine-tuned."

We have all heard of the Big Bang. It is a theory initially proposed by astronomers to explain how the universe began. Most of these astronomers were atheists, and little did they know that scientific advances would someday essentially prove that the universe actually did begin from a tiny, singular point. Christian scientists agree that there was a Big Bang and add that there was a First Cause, uncaused, that caused it. Over the last 30 years, scientific discovery has produced an enormous amount of data, and much of that data indicates that the universe in which we live is highly fine-tuned. The fine-tuning characteristics of the universe all begin with what is known as the four primary force constants: the strong nuclear force constant, the weak nuclear force constant, the gravitational force constant, and the electromagnetic force constant.

The first force constant, the strong nuclear force constant, governs how tightly the protons and the neutrons inside each atom hold on to each other. If the strong nuclear force is too weak, protons and neutrons will not "stick together." If that were the case, the only element in the entire universe would be hydrogen. Nothing else could be formed, not even oxygen, much less human beings. If the strong nuclear force were even slightly stronger than it is, then the protons and neutrons would have too much attraction, and there would be no hydrogen. That may sound complicated, but this is the important part: just as there can be no life with too much hydrogen, there can be no life with no hydrogen either. It is a delicate balance. In fact, it is a fine-tuned balance. If the strong nuclear force constant were only 2% weaker or 0.3% stronger, life would be impossible. This is an excellent example of what is meant, in part, when scientists and Christian apologists talk of the fine-tuning of the universe. Just as each brushstroke of The Mona Lisa shows the intent of Leonardo da Vinci, the strong nuclear force constant reflects the intentionality of the First Cause in the design of the cosmos. Random chaos cannot bring about this type of fine-tuning and order. Rather, it seems to be a consequence of the creative will of the First Cause. And this is but one of many fine-tuning aspects observed in the universe.

Join us again next week as we continue to examine cosmic fine-tuning to uncover Teleology's True Tale. Inevitably, all humans ponder a big question: Is God dead?

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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

City Council receives 'Impact of the Creative Economy in Tennessee' handout



Shelbyville City Manager Scott Collins distributed copies of "Impact of the Creative Economy in Tennessee" to City Council members last week during study session.

Council meets this Thursday, July 10, at 6 p.m. for its regular monthly meeting. A brief agenda is expected.

The "Creative Economy in Tennessee," put out by Tennessee Entertainment Commission and the Department of Economic & Community Development, emphasizes how Tennessee's entertainment industry plays an important part of the state's economy, with an economic impact that touches many sectors and provides thousands of Tennesseans with high-quality jobs. Investment from this industry, the handout notes, creates new incomes, increases infrastructure growth, and generates additional tax revenues for state and local governments.

In 2024, the entertainment production and music industry clusters generated an estimated $8.2 billion in gross state product and over $3.7 billion in new earnings for Tennessee workers. These span a broad range of sectors, including motion picture and sound recording, broadcasting, interactive digital media, and music publishing.

Tennessee's pro-business environment and talented workforce have encouraged worldwide entertainment brands including William Morris Endeavor, Sony, Paramount, Warner Bros. Discovery, Inc., Gibson Guitars, and Live Nation to locate significant operations in the state. In recent years, Tennessee has also benefited from the growth of local production entities like Kingdom Story Company, Evolve Studios, Riverside Entertainment, Third Coast Film, Shining Isle Production, Hideout Pictures, and Bentkey, according to the handout.

In addition to content creation, there has been investment in entertainment production infrastructure, providing state-of-the-art production rental services, studio/stages, and post-production facilities. The Tennessee Entertainment Commission (TEC) helps support the economic development and growth of the creative economy through advancing infrastructure, workforce development, and content creation across the state. Beyond its economic and fiscal impact, the entertainment industry remains a strategic asset for marketing Tennessee to national and international audiences. The Center for Economic Research in Tennessee (CERT) analyzed entertainment industry projects that received funding or assistance from the TEC to estimate the economic and fiscal impacts on the state. CERT also conducted an overview of Tennessee's broader entertainment industry, including establishments, employment, and wages.

HIGHLIGHTS

• Since 2007, an estimated $833.9M in new income for Tennessee workers was generated from 133 incentivized production projects.

• The projects created 13,083 new full time equivalent Tennessee jobs while generating $1.2B in economic output for the state.

• Since 2007, TEC-assisted incentivized production projects purchased $287.8M in goods and services from approximately 14,400 Tennessee vendors.

• Since 2014, the TEC has supported over 2,100 production projects with non-incentivized assistance. These production activities have supported the creation of 1,591 Tennessee jobs and $102M+ in new income for Tennessee workers.

• Since 2014, both incentivized and non-incentivized productions supported by the TEC have operated in the state for more than 25,500 production days.

• From 2014 to 2024, Tennessee employment in the entertainment production industry grew 11%.

• Tennessee ranks No. 5 among all states in the nation for employment in the entertainment production industry cluster, and the sector supports increased economic activity in music and other Tennessee industries.

• Tennessee's employment concentration in the music industry cluster ranks No. 1 in the nation and is more than double the national average.

• Tennesseans employed in the music industry cluster have grown 31% over the last five years.





NEW LOCAL DEPUTY

BCSO Photo

Sheriff Austin Swing, left, congratulates new Bedford County Deputy, Hunter Hutson, who will be joining the patrol division. He was recently sworn in by Bedford County Clerk Donna Thomas.

WELCOME TO CHURCH

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Faith Baptist Church (608 Neely Ave. Shelbyville) will hold its 55th church Anniversary Services on Sunday, July 13, starting with Sunday School at 9:45 and morning worship service at 11, with a potluck meal after the morning service. There will be an afternoon service after the meal. For more information or transportation, please call 931-684-3764.

Shelbyville First United Methodist Church has planned for a spiritually enriching worship experience this Sunday. Pastor Abe Zimmerman will preach, "Be the Exception: Part 1" from Titus 2:11-14. This letter of Paul speaks directly into a specific cultural moment for the believers on Crete. 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.

It's time for Vacation Bible School at **First Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville** (located behind the post office.)

Beginning Sunday, July 13, and running through Wednesday, July 16, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m., the church will be "visiting Egypt" and learning about the One True God who gives hope, special abilities, forgiveness and a family....and so much more! Dinner begins each evening at 5:00 p.m.

There are two ways to register so that the First Prez folks know to prepare for your child: call the church office at 931-684-6541 or email first.pres.church600@gmail.com. If you forget to preregister, please sign up at arrival.

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

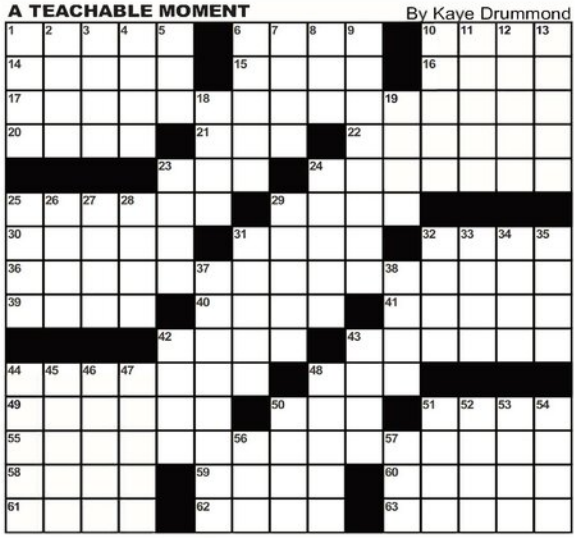
1) Florida metropolis
6) Insanity, at times
10) Sandwich type
14) Full-length
15) Diplomacy breakdown
16) Improve, as a skill
17) Philosophy
20) At a specific prior time
21) Smallest positive integer
22) Roundup rope
23) Piece of work?
24) Notched
25) "What a shame"
29) Scratching post users
30) Blunder
31) Swinging barrier
32) Beginner
36) Place for some seniors
39) Good, long bath
40) Become tiresome
41) Sensational
42) Knight fight
43) Off-peak calls?
44) Alligatorlike reptiles
48) Beldam
49) Agreement
50) Cold and wet
51) First of two choices
55) Lass's infatuation
58) Proceed briskly
59) ____ up (relax)
60) Moscow money
61) Canal sites
62) Main part of a word
63) Obliging replies

CLUES DOWN

1) Requirement
2) Creep
3) Advil target
4) Elementary particle
5) "What was____ think?"
6) Antler point
7) Popular board game
8) Immature newt
9) Bowl figures
10) Insect sound
11) Religious maxims
12) Flip one's lid?
13) Midler or Davis
18) "___ of the Flies"
19) They make a galley go
23) Be worthy of
24) Lecherous demigod
25) "____ of the d'Urbervilles"
26) Popular sandwich cookie
27) Whale type
28) Library unit
29) Diamond unit
31) Highlanders, e.g.
32) More than a plop
33) Days knights flourished
34) Aggravate
35) Auto pioneer
37) Gradually becomes smaller
38) Blockage
42) Hawaiian tuber
43) Sailing vessel
44) Division of Hindu society
45) Capital of Ghana
46) Mythical blood of the gods
47) Makes irrelevant, as a debating point
48) Concubines' confines
50) Stairstep measure
51) Test choice, sometimes
52) Busy airports
53) Maroon's home
54) About half of all babies
56) B-movie gun
57) Bawl

A TEACHABLE MOMENT

By Kaye Drummond



FreeDailyCrosswords.com

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Kitchen Creativity



Learning to make snacks and meals can be lots of fun, but the first step to becoming a master chef is to make safety part of your routine.

- first, wash your hands
- have an adult present
- get measuring and other tools ready
- clean up spills as soon as they happen
- clean up afterwards



Field of Sheep

INGREDIENTS:



1. Cover a plate with lettuce leaves.
2. Break off cauliflower florets to make the sheeps' bodies.
3. Use pretzel sticks for legs and "glue" with cream cheese or peanut butter.
4. To make the head, slice a small section off the back of an olive and "glue" it onto the cauliflower using cream cheese.
5. Cut tiny slices of olive to make ears.
6. Use pine nuts for eyes, attach with cream cheese. Set out your flock for all to enjoy.



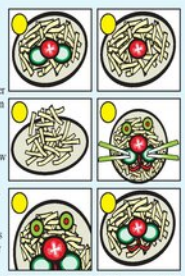
Cat Face Pizza

INGREDIENTS:



Read the instructions. Then, number the pictures in order.

1. Cover a tortilla with shredded mozzarella cheese.
2. Place a slice of tomato in the center for the nose.
3. Tuck a slice of cucumber under each side of the tomato to form cheeks.
4. Cut a slice of red bell pepper into three parts and place below the tomato to form the mouth.
5. Use a slice of stuffed olive for each eye.
6. For whiskers, place two pieces of sliced green onion on either side of the cucumber cheeks.
7. Cut ears out of another tortilla and place them above the eyes.
8. Lightly press down your ingredients so they stay in position. Then eat and enjoy!



Standards Link: Visual Arts: Students understand and apply a variety of media, techniques and processes.

EDIBLE CREATIONS

Simple Caterpillar

Thread green grapes onto a kabob stick. For the head add a large strawberry. Use yogurt as "glue" to add sunflower seeds for eyes.



Flower Garden

Make a variety of flowers by laying out slices of fruit on your plate. Use round slices of fruit for centers such as kiwi, banana or orange. The petals could be slices of strawberries, apples, raspberries, peaches—experiment with what fruit is available. Use a licorice lace as a stem and make leaves from slices of kiwis or melons.



Find the two identical flowers.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

MANNERS MATTER: Following good table manners is something you'll need to do for your whole life. Use the pictures to help you complete this list of important table manners. (Some of these pictures in the wrong place would make for some really silly rules, so be sure to look carefully!)



1. Wash your _____ before each meal.
2. Eat with your _____ and _____, not your fingers.
3. Keep your _____ off the table.
4. Chew with your _____ closed.
5. Never _____ with your mouth full.
6. Don't wear your _____ at the table.

Double Double Word Search

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

BELL
CHEESE
CHEF
EAT
FRUIT
KIWI
NOSE
OLIVE
ONION
PETALS
PRETZEL
SLICE
STEM
STICK
TORTILLA

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Food Math

Use the grocery ads to create real-world math problems. For example: Round prices to the nearest dime or dollar. Select several food items to purchase and add the total cost.

Standards Link: Mathematical Reasoning: Use a variety of strategies in the problem-solving process.

Write On!

Master Chef

It would be so silly if a refrigerator could …

Finish this story.

Kid Scoop Together:

French Bread Shoe



1. Cut a section of French bread about nine inches long.



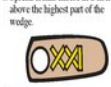
2. Ask an adult to slice it lengthways, leaving an inch at the rounded end.



3. Fill the inside of the sandwich with a wedge of filling, making it higher at the cut end. The rounded section is the front of your shoe.



4. Spread cream cheese in a circle above the highest part of the wedge.



5. Cut sliced cheese into quarter inch strings and place these in a criss-cross pattern on the top of the shoe for laces.



6. Cut slices of cheese an inch wide and run this all the way around your shoe to look like the sole.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step written directions.

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Bedford County property transfers

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

File date: July 1

Location: West Lane St; Seller, Wayne Neese, Jessica White; Buyer, West Lane LLC; Price, $140,000 (Deed).

Location: 967 Horse Mountain Road; Seller, Ole South Properties Inc; Buyer, Dorothy Bates, Kirby Bates; Price, $289,990 (Deed).

Location: 247 Haskins Rd; Seller, Ray Hargrove, Linda Hargrove; Buyer, Deborah Hargrove; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, Kaylin Crafton, John Upchurch Estate; Buyer, Thomas Edward Upchurch Jr; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 967 Horse Mountain Rd; Seller, Ole South Properties Inc; Buyer, Joseph L Rankin, Rankin Family Irrevocable Trust; Price, $278,990 (Deed).

Location: 210 Deer Point Rd; Seller, Brittany N Rice; Buyer, Tyler Talbert, Hannah Holley; Price, $309,000 (Deed).

Location: 504 Hill St; Seller, Terrill S Claybourne; Buyer, Darlene Woods; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 504 Hill St; Seller, Darnell J Coleman; Buyer, Darlene Woods; Price, $0 (QD).

File date: July 2

Location: 455 Himesville Rd; Seller, Lisa Boyle, Robert Boyle; Buyer, Lawrence Harvey Karp, Tammy Karp; Price, $970,000 (Deed).

Location: Old Columbia Rd; Seller, Donna Cantrell, Dustin Cantrell; Buyer, Dustin Cantrell; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, Idle Drive Investments LLC; Buyer, Vera Faye Flippo; Price, $89,825 (Deed).

Location: Hwy 41 A; Seller, Lynda Motes Hill, Wilma Marie Motes Estate; Buyer, Lynda M Hill, Manuel Mack Motes Jr; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Hwy 41 A; Seller, Lynda M Hill, Manuel Mack Motes Jr; Buyer, Tejinder S Judge, Baljinder K Sangha Judge, Judge Baljinder K Sangha; Price, $900,000 (Deed).

Location: 717 S Wall St; Seller, HP Realty Co LLC; Buyer, Clayvon Dwayne Scott Jr; Price, $270,000 (Deed).

Location: Warner Bridge Rd; Seller, Amanda Nowlin; Buyer, Jonatan Herrera Magdaleno; Price, $20,000 (Deed).

Location: 314 Winners Cir; Seller, SDH Nashville LLC; Buyer, Michelle A Bradley, Kevin Dante Bradley; Price, $389,000 (Deed).

Seller, Terry G Theis, Joanne D Theis; Buyer, Karen Steele, Jimmy Steele; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 402 Hurricane Grove Rd; Seller, Kirby W Bates Sr, Dorothy I Bates; Buyer, Alicia England, William Cam England; Price, $374,900 (Deed).

Location: Squire Jones Rd; Seller, Larry L Lynch, Janet Lynch; Buyer, Edgar Cruz Campero; Price, $335,000 (Deed).

Seller, Andrew Isbell; Buyer, Joseph E Meyer; Price, $229,900 (Deed).

Seller, Joe Singleton, Michelle Berry, Kumeka Williams, Whosoever Will Let Him Come Pentecost; Buyer, Joseph Benson; Price, $65,000 (Deed).

Seller, Dolores M Wagner, David V Wagner; Buyer, Amy Todd, Joe B Todd; Price, $400,000 (Deed).

Location: 300 Shelby Circle; Seller, Sarah L Browning; Buyer, Alex Fuller, Chelsie Fuller; Price, $355,000 (Deed).

Location: Fox Lane; Seller, Craig Perry; Buyer, James E Farrar Sr; Price, $50,000 (Deed).

Location: 1650 Warner Bridge Rd; Seller, Raymond Stephens, Summer Stephens; Buyer, Laura Edith Moreno, Waldo Antonio Carrasco; Price, $375,000 (Deed).

Location: 804 Longview Rd; Seller, Gary Boyce Construction LLC; Buyer, John Boyd, Jennifer L Boyd; Price, $765,900 (Deed).

File date: July 3

Location: 110 Fairfield Road East; Seller, Bryce Mathew Way, Tara Boyce; Buyer, Amy Cookson, William Cookson; Price, $235,000 (Deed).

Location: 1705 Valley Rd; Seller, Pamela J Cargill; Buyer, Francis Dewain Craven Jr; Price, $295,000 (Deed).

Location: 185 Big Springs Rd; Seller, Matthew Shawn Jones; Buyer, Tyler Huff, Herbert Thomas V Derickson; Price, $383,000 (Deed).

Location: 207 Fairlane Dr; Seller, Blake L Mendenhall; Buyer, Denis Dickerson Carruthers; Price, $330,900 (Deed).

Location: College St; Seller, David Burns, Margie D Burns; Buyer, Cole Gilbert; Price, $280,000 (Deed).

Location: 307 Brooklyn Circle; Seller, Shafonda McNeal; Buyer, Purchasing Fund 2024 LLC; Price, $365,000 (Deed).

File date: July 7

Location: Kingston Corner Rd; Seller, Nancy Cooper; Buyer, Michelle Harwell; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 112 E Cedar St; Seller, Marinosci Law Group PC, Gabriela Flores; Buyer, Pennymac Loan Services LLC; Price, $197,796.95 (TRD).

Location: New Herman Rd; Seller, James H Stone Jr, James Horace Stone; Buyer, James H Stone Jr, James Horace Stone; Price, $0 (QD).



Summer Skin Essentials: Time to switch up your skin care regimen for summer

(Family Features)

Summer is all about sunshine, vacations and outdoor adventures, but warmer weather and environmental changes can be harsh on your skin. Excessive sun exposure, sweating and dehydration can leave your skin feeling less than its best. Thankfully, with the right skin care essentials, you can maintain glowing, hydrated skin all season long.

Also remember to stay hydrated, which is a key ingredient for healthy skin.

Explore top solutions for summer skin care, like Herbacin's Skin Solutions and Foot Care lines.

Summer heat makes oily, sweaty skin more common, leading to clogged pores and dullness. That's why a gentle yet powerful exfoliation is crucial. Use one formulated with exfoliating jojoba wax particles to remove dead skin cells and cleanse deep into the pores.

Some great ingredients to look for in skin care products include aloe vera, chamomile and marigold.

YARD SALE

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE
119 Idle Drive
July 11th and 12th, 7AM-4PM
Clothes, glassware, bikes, furniture and curtains.

FREE KITTENS

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

FOR SALE

Winnebago ultra mini RV. Like new - $19,000.00

Estate piece - solid oak roll top desk - $600.00

Estate piece - solid cherry display cabinet, rounded front fits in corner, all glass, with light - $300.00

Whirlpool dryer, like new, works perfectly, $250.00

Pictures available Text 931-639-4246

Let us help you spread the news!

We welcome you to submit content for publication in The Times-Gazette and on our website www.t-g.com.

- *Announcements*
- *Obituaries*
- *Letters to the Editor*
- *Guest Column/ Op/Ed*
- *Press Releases*

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411 Elm St. • Shelbyville, Tenn. 37162
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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

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)

John R. Walker
vs
Angelica Walker

Docket No. 14348

In this cause it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that the defendant is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, therefore the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon **ANGELICA WALKER.** It is ordered that said Defendant enter HER appearance herein within thirty (30) days after July 31, 2025, same being the date of the last publication of this notice to be held at Bedford County Circuit Court at 108 North Creek Drive, Shelbyville, TN 37160 and defend or default will be taken on August 31, 2025. It is therefore ordered that a copy of the Order be published for four (4) consecutive weeks succession in the Shelbyville Times-Gazette, a newspaper published in Shelbyville, Tennessee, July 10, 2025; July 17, 2025; July 24, 2025; and July 31, 2025.

Attorney for the Plaintiff:
Jayla Williams, Paralegal
Nashville Law Offices, PLLC
Phone: 615-THE-FIRM (615-834-3476)
Direct Dial: 629-202-6031
Fax: 615-259-0912
www.NashvilleLawOffices.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bedford Railroad Authority will meet on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at the Bedford County Courthouse (1 Public Square, Shelbyville, TN 37160) in the first floor Duck River Room at 11:00AM. An agenda will be available at www.bedfordcountytn.gov.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Project No. 924100413
Date of Ad: 07/10/2025
Owner: The Town Of Wartrace, Tennessee

Separate sealed bids for CDBG Sanitary Sewer System Improvements will be received by the Town of Wartrace, Tennessee at the office of PO Box 158, Wartrace, TN 37183 until 2 PM (CST) on 07/29/2025, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The Information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans, Specifications and Forms of Bid Bond, Performance and Payment Bond, and other contract documents may be examined at the following: Hussey Gay Bell – Nashville, LLC; 4117 Hillsboro Pike, Suite 206; Nashville, Tennessee 37215

Copies may be obtained at the office of Hussey Gay Bell – Nashville, LLC located at 4117 Hillsboro Pike, Suite 206; Nashville, Tennessee 37215, upon payment of $50.00 for each DIGITAL set and $100.00 for each PAPER set (non-refundable).

Each bidder must deposit with his bid, security in the amount, form and subject to the conditions provided in the Information for Bidders.

The owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids. Each bidder must deposit his bid security in the amount, form and subject to the conditions provided in the Information for Bidders.

Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment to be observed and minimum wage rates to be paid under the contract. These include Section 3, Segregated Facility, Section 109 and E.O. 11246. Further, Title VI Minority bidders are encouraged to bid.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within 60 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Dated: 07/07/25
/s/ Brian Ross, Mayor

Get Involved in Local News Seeking Community Contributors

Richardson Media Group, Inc.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shelbyville Times-Gazette

Obituaries

Death Notices

Ronnie Lambert

Ronnie Lambert, age 77, of Unionville, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on July 3, 2025. A native of Murfreesboro, he was son of the late Milton Evander Lambert and Mattie Bertha Brannon Lambert.

Mr. Lambert is survived by his wife of 23 years, Peggy Lambert of Unionville; children, Annette (Tim) Compton of Unionville, Lori (David) Boyce, Dawn (Shane) Hobbs, Shawn Rueff, Charles Lambert, all of Shelbyville, Hilary (Steven) Yates, Amanda (Chad) Gilliam, all of Chapel Hill, Kelsey (Levi) Smotherman of Rockvale.

Lawrence Funeral Home, Chapel Hill, is in charge of arrangements.

Edward Kindlick

Edward Kindlick, age 93, of Shelbyville, passed away Friday, July 4, 2025.

Born Aug.1, 1931, in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, to the late Andrew and Eleanor Kindlick, he served in the U.S. Army. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth Kindlick and a daughter, Betty Ellen Kindlick.

Mr. Kindlick is survived by his daughter, Karen (Kenneth) Griffin.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with arrangements.

Hubert Knox Curtis Jr.

Hubert Knox Curtis Jr., 83, of Shelbyville, died July 4, 2025, at Vanderbilt Harton Hospital in Tullahoma.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hubert Knox Curtis Sr., and Vurnia Hamlin Curtis and his wife, Linda Ellen Curtis. Hubert is survived by sons, Mitchell (Millicent) Curtis of Rockvale and Keith (Beverly) Curtis of Tarboro, North Carolina.

Per his request, he will be cremated with no services. Hillcrest Funeral Home is assisting the family.

David Allen Foster

David Allen Foster, 64, of Normandy, died July 7, 2025. He was born May 7, 1961, in Mount Pleasant, Michigan and was a retired technologist for the Nissan Corporation.

He was preceded in death by his father, Ira Russell Foster, and his step-father, Wayne Aumick, and survived by his mother, Leona Brown Aumick of Michigan; his wife, Peggy Ann Haston Elliott; children, Natasha (Andy) Bowers, Nikia (Julie) Elliott, Crystal Edens, Isaac (Courtney) Foster.

Hillcrest Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Transforming your summer meals with perfectly portioned ingredients

(Family Features)

From preparing meals to cleaning and decorating, entertaining can feel like a lot of pressure. Taking the stress out of hosting guests starts with easy, tasty recipes you know everyone can enjoy together, made with convenient ingredients.

Transform your meals in a flash with Minute Sticky Rice Cups, which are perfectly portioned, deliciously sticky and ready in just 1 minute. The short grain sticky rice delivers a pleasing consistency and subtle flavor in a no-hassle, convenient cup.

They're ideal for Avocado Shrimp Sushi Boats, which offer a fresh and flavorful twist on sushi. Packed with tender shrimp, creamy avocado and a tangy barbecue sauce, they're a shareable appetizer or light meal. Combining the indulgent flavors of sushi with a playful, convenient presentation, they take the guesswork out of hosting in a visually stunning and delicious dish.

Presentation is key, starting with sticky rice, diced cucumber and cooked shrimp tossed in Japanese barbecue sauce. Spoon the sticky rice into the hollowed centers of avocado halves then drizzle with a touch of soy sauce, top the rice with shrimp and generously fill each "boat." Be sure to choose ripe avocados and high-quality shrimp to enjoy the balanced flavors of sweet, salty and spicy.

You can also elevate your entertaining with a Sushi Grazing Board packed with fresh salmon, crisp veggies and a medley of bold dipping sauces. Easily shared and customizable, this appetizer transforms sushi night into a fun, interactive experience as guests can mix and match their preferred flavors and sauces. The artistry of sushi and versatility of charcuterie boards allow you to explore creative pairings while the deconstructed version of sushi – rather than rolling individual pieces – means you can enjoy your own perfect bite.

Avocado Shrimp Sushi Boats

Servings: 2-4

- 1 cup Minute Sticky Rice
- 1 pound shrimp, cooked
- 1/4 cup English cucumber, small diced
- 1/4 cup Japanese barbecue sauce
- 2 large avocados, pitted and halved
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- Sriracha sauce (optional)
- 2 tablespoons toasted sesame seeds

1. Heat rice according to package directions.
2. In bowl, mix shrimp, cucumber and barbecue sauce until shrimp and cucumber are fully coated.
3. Spoon rice into each avocado hole. Pour 1/2 tablespoon soy sauce on top of rice.
4. Top each half with shrimp mixture. Drizzle Sriracha sauce on top, if desired. Sprinkle sesame seeds on top



Sushi Board

Servings: 2-4

- 2 Minute Sticky Rice
- 6 ounces fresh salmon, sliced into thin sashimi pieces
- 12 nori squares
- 12 thin slices cucumber
- 6 thin slices radish
- 1/2 avocado, sliced
- 1/4 cup pickled ginger
- 1/2 tablespoon wasabi (optional)
- 3 tablespoons eel sauce
- 3 tablespoons ponzu sauce
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 3 tablespoons spicy mayo
- 2 tablespoons Sriracha sauce
- 1/2 tablespoon toasted sesame seeds (black, white or both)

Crispy Rice Squares:

- 1 Minute Sticky Rice Cup
- 1 tablespoon oil



1. Heat rice according to package directions.
2. On large board, place sticky rice in mound in middle.
3. Neatly arrange salmon; nori; cucumber; radish; avocado; ginger; and wasabi, if desired, around board.
4. Place eel sauce, ponzu sauce, soy sauce, spicy mayo and Sriracha sauce in small ramekins or bowls. Place on board.
5. Sprinkle sesame seeds over rice.
6. To make crispy rice squares: Preheat air fryer to 390 F. Heat rice according to package directions.
7. Flatten rice and divide into small squares. Brush each with oil.
8. Air fry 3 minutes, or until slightly golden. Add to board.

Tip: Other items such as tuna, shrimp, crab, edamame or seaweed salad can be added

In Gratitude

We want to express our deepest gratitude with two heartfelt words: "Thank you."

Thank you for your calls, texts, visits, monetary gifts, food, drinks, water, paper products, and every act of kindness shown during the bereavement of Justin Dyer.

Even writing this feels unreal. Yet, we trust that God makes no mistakes, and we find peace in knowing that Jay is no longer in pain. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Once again, thank you for your love.

Let us always remember—we are all just passing through this earth until God calls us home.

Thank you, and God bless.

—The Stewart, Dyer, Brown Families and Friends





2024-25 TCAP state and district results now available

TDOE announces year-over-year improvement across all subject areas

On Tuesday, Tennessee Department of Education released the 2024-25 Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) state and district-level results, which include both fall 2024 end-of-course (EOC) exams and spring 2025 exams in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies.

The 2024-25 TCAP results demonstrate student performance improvements across tested grades and subjects.

"We are encouraged to see improvements across all subject areas. This year's TCAP results reflect Tennessee's strong commitment to investing in our students' futures and the steady progress we're making statewide," said Commissioner of Education Lizzette Reynolds. "We are grateful to our teachers, schools, and districts whose unwavering dedication has driven significant improvements in student performance and paved the way for lasting success."

Full 2025 TCAP assessment data is available on the department's Data Downloads webpage in the State Assessments section under the Assessment Files tab.

2024-25 TCAP State-Level Highlights:

English Language Arts (ELA): Most tested grades showed gains in proficiency, including a nearly four percentage point increase in both English I and English II.

Math: Proficiency increased in every grade level, including a gain of more than five percentage points for 6th grade students.

Science: Statewide science achievement continues to progress, with student proficiency increasing by nearly two percentage points since 2024.

Social Studies: Results in elementary and middle school show a nearly four percentage point increase in social studies.

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

The Times-Gazette will have more of a local breakdown on the TCAP results in future editions.

Smart Summer Garden Irrigation Tips

(Family Features) Every garden has unique needs based on plant type, soil composition, local climate and more. Understanding these factors is the first step in creating an effective irrigation plan.

For instance, certain plants, like succulents, require less water and thrive in drier conditions while others, like vegetables and flowering plants, may need more frequent watering. By assessing your garden's specific conditions, you can tailor your irrigation practices to keep your garden thriving during the hottest months.

Choose the Right Irrigation System

Selecting an appropriate system is essential for efficient water use and a healthy lawn and garden. Most homeowners choose from one of three simple options. Ideal for gardens with diverse plant types, drip irrigation systems deliver water directly to the roots of plants, minimizing evaporation and runoff.

Sprinkler systems, on the other hand, are better suited for larger lawns and can cover extensive areas quickly. For those looking for a balance between efficiency and coverage, soaker hoses offer a slow, steady water supply that reduces water waste.

Schedule Watering for Optimal Results

When it comes to watering your garden, timing is crucial. The best times to water are early in the morning or late in the evening when temperatures are cooler and evaporation rates are lower, ensuring more water reaches the plant roots.

Remember to also consider the frequency and duration of watering sessions. Overwatering can lead to waterlogged soil and root diseases while underwatering can stress plants, making them more susceptible to pests and diseases.

Monitor and Adjust Your Plan

Check for signs of overwatering or underwatering, such as wilting, yellowing leaves or dry soil. Adjust your irrigation schedule and system settings based on these observations and changing weather conditions.

Smart irrigation controllers and soil moisture sensors can automate watering schedules and adjust them based on real-time data, helping conserve water and ensure your garden thrives throughout the summer months.



Maple Pecan Pie Ice Milk

(Dairy Alliance)

Try this Maple Pecan Pie Ice Milk made with lactose-free milk, layered with a crunchy pecan filling, and served with tender shortbread cookies.

PREP TIME: 15 minutes
COOK TIME: 1hour
SERVING: 6
TOTAL TIME: 1 hour 15 minutes

Ice Milk Ingredients

- 4 cups lactose-free milk
- 4 teaspoons vanilla
- 1/4 cup + 2 teaspoons packed brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup

Shortbread Cookies

- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup whole-wheat flour
- 1/3 cup canola oil
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar

Pecan Filling

- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 1/2 cup lactose-free 2% milk
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons canola oil
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2/3 cup pecans, chopped

Notes: Yield may be 6-8 servings.



Ice Milk Instructions

Whisk together all ingredients. Refrigerate 15-20 minutes, then transfer to an ice cream maker follow manufacturer's instructions for ice cream.

For shortbread cookies

Preheat oven to 350°. In a medium bowl, stir together ingredients for shortbread. Gently press into 9-inch loaf pan. Bake 12-15 minutes or until lightly golden brown. Set aside to cool. Slice into 2-x-1/2-inch rectangles, about 18 pieces.

For pecan filling

In a small saucepan over medium heat, whisk together maple syrup, brown sugar, and canola oil. Once sugar has dissolved, whisk in milk, and stir until completely combined.

Bring to a boil, and stir often until the sauce has thickened. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla, then stir in pecans, making sure to completely coat pecans. Pour mixture onto a parchment or waxed paper-lined plate, spreading pecans in a thin layer to cool. Once cool, break up into pieces. Set aside.

Make pecan pie ice milk

Once the ice milk has thickened, which will be less thick than ice cream, stir half of the pecan filling pieces into the ice milk.

Transfer to freezer until frozen.

Serve with shortbread cookies. Reserve remaining shortbread cookies for another use.

NEW COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE DIRECTOR INTRODUCED



Matthew Diest was honored with a meet and greet social Tuesday evening at the UT Extension/Ag Center. Diest, the new county agriculture agent and county director for the UT Extension Office, brings with him over a decade of experience in production and consumer agriculture.

Local teachers selected as state test review experts

Five Bedford County educators have been selected to serve on Pearson's TCAP Item Review Committee.

They are: Jeremy Bryant, US History, Shelbyville Central High School; Debbie Sudduth, Algebra II Cascade High School; Karisa Matusek, geometry, SCHS; David Naylor and Susan Olsen, Thomas Magnet School.

A TEACHABLE MOMENT By Kaye Drummond

1 M	2 I	3 A	4 M	5 I	■	6 P	7 L	8 E	9 A	■	10 C	11 L	12 U	13 B
14 U	N	C	U	T	■	15 R	I	F	T	■	16 H	O	N	E
17 S	C	H	O	O	18 L	O	F	T	H	19 O	U	G	H	T
20 T	H	E	N	■	21 O	N	E	■	22 L	A	R	I	A	T
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25 T	26 O	27 O	28 B	A	D	■	29 C	A	T	S	■	■	■	■
30 E	R	R	O	R	■	31 G	A	T	E	■	32 T	Y	33 R	34 O	35
36 S	E	C	O	N	D	A	R	Y	S	38 C	H	O	O	L
39 S	O	A	K	■	40 W	E	A	R	■	41 L	U	R	I	D
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44 C	45 A	46 I	47 M	A	N	S	■	48 H	A	G	■	■	■	■
49 A	C	C	O	R	D	■	50 R	A	W	■	51 T	52 H	53 I	54 S
55 S	C	H	O	O	L	56 G	I	R	L	57 C	R	U	S	H
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Rick Insell Named to Conference USA Hall of Fame Class of 2025

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Middle Tennessee women's basketball Head Coach Rick Insell was named to the Conference USA Hall of Fame Class of 2025, the league office announced on Wednesday.

Insell becomes the third Blue Raider to be inducted into the CUSA Hall of Fame, which inducted its first class in 2019. He joins former Middle Tennessee football standout and NFL All-Pro safety Kevin Byard and legendary MTSU Track and Field Coach Dean A. Hayes, who both entered the Hall of Fame in 2024.

"Rick Insell has set the standard for excellence in women's basketball, not just at Middle Tennessee, but across Conference USA," Director of Athletics Chris Massaro said. "His accomplishments speak volumes — the championships, the wins, the national recognition — but it's his passion, integrity and relentless commitment to his student-athletes that truly define his legacy. We are incredibly proud to see him take his rightful place in the Conference USA Hall of Fame."

"Rick Insell is the embodiment of excellence, not only in wins and championships, but in how he has represented Middle Tennessee with class, passion and purpose," said MTSU President Dr. Sidney A. McPhee. "His impact on women's basketball is felt across the nation, and his induction into the Conference USA Hall of Fame is a well-deserved recognition of a coach who has elevated our university, inspired generations of student-athletes, and built a program that reflects the very best of who we are."

In 20 seasons at the helm, Coach Insell has guided the Blue Raiders to a 489-165 record, including a 295-54 mark in CUSA play. Since joining the league in 2013-14, Insell has won four regular-season titles and nine tournament championships. A two-time CUSA Coach of the Year, he has coached three CUSA Female Athletes of the Year, a trio of CUSA Players of the Year, four Freshman of the Year, a pair of Defensive Players of the Year, two Sixth Players of the Year and 46 All-CUSA selections.



Shelbyville's own Rick Insell (pictured) was named to the Conference USA Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2025.
Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

The Conference USA Hall of Fame is the ninth hall of fame Insell will be inducted into, joining the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association Hall of Fame (2003), National High School Hall of Fame (2007), Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame's Morgan Wootten Award for Lifetime Achievement for High School Girls Basketball (2010), Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame (2012), Cannon County Sports Hall of Fame (2013), Women's Basketball Hall of Fame (2017), Blue Raiders Sports Hall of Fame (2017) and the Basketball Coaches Association of Tennessee Hall of Fame (2021).

The league's Hall of Fame Committee selects the nominees and the league's Athletics Directors serve as the voting panel for the CUSA Hall of Fame. The inaugural class made its debut in 2019 with 20 student-athletes, three coaches and two administrators. Current and future CUSA Hall of Fame class size will be at least one inductee and a maximum of five per year. Nominees not selected in this class will remain on the ballot for future years.

Middle Tennessee Ink Transfers Eda Numanoglu and Sadbaroy Kholdarova

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Middle Tennessee and head coach Tayo Bailey-Duvall welcome transfers Eda Numanglu and Sadbaroy Kholdarova ahead of the 2025-26 season.

Numanoglu joins the Blue Raiders by way of the University of Tulsa and comes off her freshman season with the Golden Hurricanes. Most of Numanoglu's action came during the fall season, where she played in three events, going 7-3 in singles and 2-4 in doubles. During the spring, Numanoglu saw action in three singles lineups, going 1-0 and picking up her lone win against Oral Roberts.

Kholdarova is transferring from Ouachita Baptist University to Middle Tennessee for her Junior season. The native of Uzbekistan played in all 22 matches for the Tigers during the spring season and anchored court one in both singles and doubles. Finishing the 2025 season with a 17-3 record in singles and a 10-10 record in doubles. To go along with a stellar season for Kholdarova, she finished the season ranked No. 36 in singles at the Division II level. Being named GAC player of the week twice and earning All-GAC First Team Honors.

Coach Tayo on Inking Numanoglu and Kholdarova

"We are happy to welcome Sadbaroy Kholdarova and Ede Numanoglu to our Blue Raider Family. As transfers, they help maintain our experience levels, which will keep us competitive in our conference. In combination with our two freshmen Sthefany Lima and Zora Koenig, I believe we have a strong recruiting class this year, and I am looking forward to working with each of them."





Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

Michael Barnard Named MTSU Assistant Men's Golf Coach

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Former Blue Raider standout Michael Barnard has been named assistant men's golf coach at Middle Tennessee, head coach Mark McEntire announced Tuesday.

"I'm excited to welcome Michael back to the program and have him join our staff," McEntire said. "He was a tremendous player for us and will be an excellent mentor for our student athletes."

A Hendersonville, Tennessee, native and 2023 graduate of MTSU, Barnard returns to his alma mater after a successful collegiate playing career.

He competed in 43 events for the Blue Raiders, earning All-Conference honors three times and helped lead the program to multiple NCAA Regional appearances. Barnard concluded his career with a win at the 2022 CUSA Championship, six top-five finishes, 12 top-10 finishes, and a 72.5 scoring average.

"I'm really looking forward to being a part of the program again," Barnard said. "I would like to thank Coach McEntire for this opportunity and everyone at MTSU who has helped along the way. Now it's time to get to work and prepare for a great season."



Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

"To know who I have to replace what we lost, I feel good," – Lady Champs' Head Coach Janie Demonbreum wraps up Summer Ball

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

WARTRACE, Tenn. – When Doug Worsley wasAs Janie Demonbreum wrapped up her third season patrolling the Cascade Lady Champions' sideline with a heartbreaking 42-33 home loss to Summertown in the Region 5-AA Semifinal, she knew it was the final time that Sophie Ray, Kaydence Miller, and Laina Carter would be donning a Cascade uniform.

Fast forward nearly three months to May 29th, and Demonbreum was finally able to hold tryouts for the summer preceding the 2025-26 season. Due to school getting out so much later than usual, this meant her Lady Champions would lose an entire week of practice compared to previous summers before they began their camp schedule with a one-day trip to Richland on June 6th. This was followed by a four-day, 14-game (combined varsity and JV) affair in Wayne County on June 8-11, and then concluded with a trip to Ravenwood on June 17th.

"In my first year, I heavily focused on practice," Demonbreum explained. I had to implement so many things, but now that I'm going into Year 4, everybody on this team – with the exception of two – I've coached whether it was in elementary basketball or for the last four years. If I had to go back to Year 1 I'd do the same thing. I think it's so important for first-year coaches to spend more of their summer putting in the things they need to put in in order to get a jumpstart for the fall."

"This year, though, I was more for hey, let's go play, let's see what we have, let's see how everybody reacts because we lost a huge portion of our team."

Coming into June, she knew for sure she had to replace three graduates – career 1,000-point scorer Sophie Ray, fellow starter Kaydence Miller who had become instrumental in playing the five, and another rotational piece in Laina Carter. Of course, Coach JD wishes she had more practice time to implement things with underclassmen, but she feels the 6 sophomores had enough experience from last season to where the lack of summer practice didn't impact them "too much." Lots of her girls play soccer or volleyball, so she holds her own practices at 6:00 a.m. in the summer to enable those girls to also practice with their respective upcoming fall sport.

Following the May tryout, Demonbreum announced the addition of four new players to the squad. Shalen Burt, a senior transfer student who came to Cascade from Rockvale before her junior year, along with three other freshmen.

"[Burt] plays softball; she's a natural athlete, and I felt like she needed to be a part of something besides softball," Demonbreum said. "My senior year, it was big to have an outlet with a sport that I didn't have as much pressure in as basketball, so I played softball. I feel like it's a great opportunity for her to relax going into her senior year. She's a great kid and works hard, and she got a few varsity minutes for us."

Once the camp days began, Demonbreum began to see the growth from her young team. Kaegan Young and Suzanna Crews return to what will be the expected starting lineup along with junior guard Caroline Parker and Lizzie Keele after Crews missed pretty much all of last season recovering from a torn ACL. However, having these four experienced returners did not mean everything went swimmingly on the first day.

"After losing last year's seniors, I didn't really know what the dynamic of our team would look like" Demonbreum said, "I'll tell you, that first day of practice, I walked out of practice and told my husband that it feels like we're back at Year 1 because we are so young, but he quickly reminded me that we are so far ahead of Year 1, and that's the truth. To know what we had to replace, but to know the type of girls that I have with their grit and tenacity and their want-to, they won't want to let the Class of 2025's seniors down. It's going to be hard, we're going to be young and small, but to know what I have to replace what we lost, I feel good. I feel a lot different than after the first day of summer practice, that's for sure."

A major part of why Coach JD feels a lot better about her team is the fact that they did eventually play live-action competition against other teams, starting at Richland on June 6th.

"I think we learned a lot about ourselves from the first day to the last," she said. "When we played Richland – who returns all but two players from a state tournament team last year – on that first camp day, what we saw was that it was great to have Suzanna Crews back. Seeing not just her prowess on the perimeter, but her tenacity inside and being able to go get rebounds for us. Kaegan [Young] is still doing what Kaegan needs to do for our team, and Caroline [Parker] growing in her role...and Lizzie [Keele] I think is picking up exactly where she left off last season. She's had a great, great spring with her travel team and has really focused on what she needs to do better scoring-wise and defensively to help our team continue to grow."

"Another one who really shined was [sophomore guard] Lexi Comstock. It's hard to replace Sophie Ray with her intensity, but then you look at Lexi and it's like a little Sophie in a way. I feel like the twins, [sophomores] Makenzie and Makayla Fisher, had great days and shot the ball and rebounded well, and then [sophomore] Jade Toler...I've given her the green light where if she's open she can go shoot it."



The growth of returning sophomore, Lizzie Keele (11) is one of many positives that Demonbreum points to following summer camps. *Photo by David Smith.*

However, the biggest eye-opener came when the Lady Champs traveled to Wayne County for 14 combined games in four days, all played without Kaegan Young.

"Comparing the first and last days are pretty easy because we had our entire team on both of those days, but in Wayne County, we didn't have Kaegan the entire time," Demonbreum said, "When we were at Wayne County, that was a tough experience for us...we really got to see everybody contribute to team success. At first, I didn't want to go to Wayne Co. without her, but then I thought about it for a little bit and decided that we have to figure out how to play without her. There was a game in the District Tournament last year where we had to figure out how to play without her for almost an entire half of the game, so I was really proud of Caroline Parker stepping up. We finally got her to take control of the point guard spot, and I think that really extends her game a lot because she can score, but she can also facilitate things. I mean, she really blossomed in Wayne Co. And then, just to see Suzanna's leadership come back out because that was a huge piece we were missing last year. I think she learned a lot last year sitting on the bench with the coaching staff, and she was able to offer great wisdom to some of our younger girls. We have six sophomores, and all six potentially can have playing time on varsity. She was able to communicate with them about some of our expectations and the things that she saw that we as a coaching staff might not be able to explain in the best of ways."

Overall, Cascade finished 12-2 at Wayne County, and then Young returned at Ravenwood for the final day of live action to complete the summer.

Even with how great Young has been for Cascade, the return of Suzanna Crews, along with the marked improvement of Lizzie Keele after playing big minutes as a freshman, as well as steps forward taken by players like Jocelyn Laughlin and the aforementioned Fisher twins, have all been exactly what Demonbreum had been looking for from her team coming into the summer.

"[Having Suzanna back] is going to be huge," said Demonbreum, "If we can keep her out of foul trouble and I can keep her on the court, then we're in business. She cleans up the boards really well, she's getting way more comfortable with her shot, and her leadership isn't something you can just replace. We really missed that last year, but I really think we all made the best decision for Suzanna as a whole not to push it because it gave her time to build some more muscle."

"It's also been a privilege to watch Lizzie [Keele] this spring because her and my daughter are playing for the same travel program, so we were at a lot of the same tournaments," she continued, "Getting Lizzie out of her comfort zone, it was the best thing for her. She wasn't always successful, but it pushed her, and it made her learn more about her skills and how she can come back to us and contribute even more. When I think about Lizzie, though, I really think about Kaegan at the same time. When Kaegan came in her freshman year, as the year went on, people were having to adjust how they guarded her. Obviously she could score, but she wasn't consistent enough and wasn't as strong. Then in her sophomore year, she was the focus, and I think when you look at Lizzie you can say the same thing. Lizzie blossomed, I mean the second half of the season, she just took off. People are going to adjust how they guard her, but I don't think Lizzie is going to back down. Those minutes she had last year were huge."

"The Fisher twins kind of shocked us. They played with a lot more confidence this summer. They would step in for two minutes here, two minutes there, but would give us their all for those two minutes. They'd knock down threes, they would grab rebounds, they would make good box-outs...just things that we hadn't seen from them last year, but it looked like their confidence came back this summer. Jocelyn Laughlin too, she gave us a boost inside. She's strong, and she's not afraid to get in there and bump around, but she also has a really good shot on the outside."

Demonbreum will be entering her fourth year as the Lady Champs' Head Coach, and this promises to be the program's best chance to finish with a winning record since the 2018-19 season. She has also been knocking on the door of the state-sectional round for the last two years, nearly kicking down the door entirely before running out of gas down the stretch against Summertown this past season. Despite being moved into a district with Loretto and Summertown both, she is up for the competition.

"When you add Loretto and Summertown to our district, it makes it a gauntlet in 2A. Everybody has talked about it...but I think it prepares you for the later part of the season. We're going to play in some tough environments, but I do think it's an asset to our district. There's no more cakewalks in district play."

For what it's worth, Cascade is set to host this upcoming season's District Tournament, which should prove to be a benefit for the Lady Champs heading into regional play.

"It just so happened that Coach JD drew number one, and nobody was happy about that," Demonbreum concluded with a laugh.

Cascade's schedule has not been released as of this print, but will begin sometime in mid-November.



Kaegan Young (22) is poised to help lead the Lady Champions in her final season at Cascade. *Photo courtesy of David Smith.*

MAKING A SPLASH AT 4H CAMP

Bedford County 4-Hers spent a week at Clyde M. York 4-H Center. It looks like it was a great week at camp! (UT Extension Office Photos)







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A SPECTACULAR GIFT, FROM THE CITY AND COUNTY

T-G Photo by Renee Brown

The community celebrated in a big way last Friday out at H.V. Griffin Park. The annual fireworks show was impressive.







