COMMUNITY NEWS

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BC student numbers drop but school board members not panicking

Other models of learning, homeschooling, seem to be contributing

By Dawn Hankins

Bedford County School System is down 240 students compared to this time last year, due in part apparently to several kids enrolling in other models of education like homeschooling.

Terise Rhodes, school system attendance supervisor, gave a report during Thursday's school board meeting about the number of students fleeing the public school system to study in private or homeschool education groups.

The meeting was held in Liberty's gym on the heels of the ribbon cutting for the school's new educational addition. Several public officials, students and parents attended the event.

School Board Chair Michael Cook said from what he's learned from some recent meetings, Bedford County isn't in as crucial state as some counties when it comes to loss of students fleeing toward homeschooling.

Rhodes said some systems are experiencing a 20% drop in student population due to homeschools.

Cook said Bedford's low percentage is a testament to the BC teachers, administrators and staff and the great job they do every day.

Rhodes said the number of applications for homeschool or private school has increased by several hundred since last year. She continues to receive applications during the year; she will turn in all her documentation to the state Dec. 15.



Terise Rhodes, attendance supervisor for Bedford County Schools, addressed the school board last Thursday about a student population decrease and homeschool and private school numbers.

Cook said the trend is not so much due to state vouchers but due to choices by parents for homeschool settings. He said perhaps there is a time when homeschooling is the best option.

School Board member David Brown said while it doesn't seem time to panic, the numbers do indicate a possible trend. He suggested the board continue to discuss this topic at future meetings.

Superintendent Tammy Garrett said state-wide, since

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Criminal Justice-still a chosen career path for many

The young to recovered are finding work in the field

By Dawn Hankins
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

Facebook posts and other press releases talk about the jobs of the future being cybernetics and AI. Still, it's pretty certain that some local folks still have lots of interest in the field of criminal justice.

Criminal Justice-II students at Community High School recently competed in a local C.T.E. competition-one focused on conducting traffic stops.

Students competed in mock traffic stops where they were required to correctly communicate radio traffic while simultaneously processing and administering correct protocol and procedures.

The CJO students also learned how to maintain officer safety with the finished product resulting in a warning, citation and/or arrest.

While some might think a person arrested 39 times couldn't even go into criminal justice-think again! Amy Merlo, one of the first MRT graduates at the local jail, recently talked a bit more about her new life and career.

Merlo, known as an MRT charter member these days, said this week that she's currently in Jackson State Community College-a new venture she began in Sept of 2024. She's studying criminal justice and says she "loves" everything that she's learning.

She works at West Tennessee Healthcare as a recovery navigator and at Scarlet Rope part-time as a PRN.

"As a recovery navigator, I walk alongside others on their journey toward healing, offering guidance, support, and lived experience. In doing so, I've learned the value of selflessness – sacrificing time, comfort, and sometimes even emotional energy – not because I have to, but because I've gained something greater: purpose, connection, and the chance to help someone else find their way."

Merlo adds, "Here is something that I also carry that many people shy away from. I am a survivor of sex trafficking. At first, I began exchanging sex to support my addiction. It felt like a choice at the time, a means of survival. But over time, that choice was taken from me. Others saw my vulnerability and used it for their own gain, exploiting my addiction to control me."

She explains that what started as a way to feed her habit became a trap – one where she was being used by

See CAREER, 2A



Amy Merlo



Submitted Photo

Community High School Criminal Justice II students recently competed in a local C.T.E. competition-one focused on conducting traffic stops. Ethan Rowlett earned second place and Austin Brown earned first place. From left, CJ instructor Chris Hobbs, students Rowlett and Brown and Community Principal Robert Ralston.



A NIGHT FOR PATRIOTS TO CELEBRATE!

BC Schools Communications Photo

Liberty School held its ribbon cutting last Thursday evening for its new addition. Several parents and students attended to mark the historic occasion. See more photos and a comment from the principal on page 2.



PRETTY FALL SKY, LOTS OF RAIN

T-G Photo by Dawn Hankins

Fall officially began this week with a lot of rain in the area. But in between the storms, life is beautiful in the evening skies. Another 1–2+ inches of rain is possible through Thursday, according to weather forecasts.

County financials good

Positive numbers and lots of grants

By Dawn Hankins

From grants to state severance tax dollars, the County is moving along with funding for several projects, County financial management reports indicated Tuesday.

As many people have requested, the state mineral severance tax is now bringing a few extra dollars into County coffers.

In Tennessee, mineral severance tax is levied by counties on minerals severed from the ground. The tax rates are as follows:

For tax periods beginning prior to July 1, 2025: 15 cents per ton.

For tax periods beginning on or after July 1, 2025, and prior to July 1, 2030: 20 cents per ton.

For tax periods beginning on or after July 1, 2030, and prior to July 1, 2035: 25 cents per ton.

For tax periods beginning on or after July 1, 2035: 30 cents per ton.

One hundred percent of the revenue from this tax must be deposited into the county road fund and used for county road purposes.

Bedford County, like Knox County, is opting for a higher mineral severance tax at 20 cents per ton. Mark Clanton, road superintendent, made that report Tuesday during the financial management committee meeting.

County Finance Director Robert Daniel said during this meeting that even though there isn't a lot of revenue to show this time of year, sales tax was up $37,000 in August over the prior year.

EMS reports indicate grant dollars are coming up for that department.

Interest from the Opioid settlement is now coming in and will be placed in a separate account. The national opioid settlement is the result of some major pharmacies being sued for over prescribing opioids. Bedford County was announced as a recipient of settlement funding about 2 years

See FINANCIALS, 2A

Some able-bodied adults on SNAP may get the fiscal axe

New federal law updates SNAP work requirements

NASHVILLE – Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS) announced Monday updates to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) work requirements for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) following the passage of HR 1 in July 2025.

Upon implementation, the work requirements for the SNAP Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) will require customers to follow certain work rules to maintain SNAP eligibility. The updated ABAWD work rules will apply if adults:

- Are between 18 and under 65 years old
- Do not have a disability
- Do not live with children under 14

ABAWD customers may only receive SNAP benefits for three months in a three-year period unless they: Work, volunteer, or participate in a job training program at least 20 hours a week (80 hours a month).

ABAWD customers may

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The Fly Art Center

The Fly will be holding many art classes from Sept. 27 until the end of October. A class for all skill levels will be available.

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'Battle of Bedford'

The Cascade Lady Champions complete 'Battle of Bedford' regular season sweep against Viqueens.

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STUDENTS

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COVID-19, there's been an "erosion in traditional public-school education." She recently attended an educational conference on chronic absenteeism.

Garrett said TCA only allows the school system to intervene in the educations of those students enrolled in the independent education settings, that is, those curriculums being administered by parents or guardians or private organizations.

The system by law can have these independent learners tested and possibly require them to return to public school. Currently, that only includes 90 kids which fall under that model. The rest are enrolled with accredited education systems.

"I do think there's value in us talking to legislators about accountability in some of the models," Garrett told board members.

"Absolutely," agreed Chairman Cook.

Superintendent Garrett further shared she recently talked with local law enforcement; they have concerns that when they go on calls, they see students who they believe are not getting an education at all.

Garrett said many times when the school system holds someone accountable for their behavior, that's when they go to a non-traditional school setting. But that's not fail proof.

"I will say this . . . those who leave us because they don't want to follow the rules, we will hold you accountable," said Garrett.

She went on to talk about her mission to make the schools safe. She said safety in turn dictates whether the school system can retain the best educators.

Rhodes said reports show that children K-5, when homeschooled without a good curriculum, have difficulties in their continued education.

The total student population in Bedford County public schools is 8,866, as of Thursday evening. The school system has overall had 1,089 students submit applications to study outside the system.

Board member Glenn Forsee asked at the end of Rhodes' report if all of those previous 1,089 local students now studying elsewhere were to re-enroll in BC schools, wouldn't there be a space issue?

Rhodes said, "Absolutely."

That is certainly something to think about within a growing community like Bedford County. Still, she said applications still come in every day.

Rhodes said currently the majority of those having left public school here are enrolled with HomeLife private school, accredited Acellus Academy, Penn Foster, Chestnut Ridge Homeschool Academy and local private school Cooper Christian Academy, which is close to having its new school built on Madison Street.

Rhodes said her department tracks students that go off the BC grid. Sadly, she said the department has to contact the Department of Children's Services (DCS) if they cannot locate children who are supposed to be enrolled in a non-traditional model.

Those who cannot be accounted for are considered missing children, she advised. She filed two reports on Thursday to DCS.

Rhodes said Penn Foster allows students to "work at their own pace." "Many go that route because they cannot graduate with us in 4 years," Rhodes advised.

She said many students who are not meeting the graduation credit requirements, which is now 28 credits in Bedford County, choose Penn Foster because they only require 21 credits to get a high school diploma.

If you are homeschooling or have your child enrolled in a private academy, please email us for a possible story. Email: dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net.

State announces successful go of Education Freedom Scholarship Program

More than 42,000 applications received from TN families

Nashville, TN—The Tennessee Department of Education announced last week what it's deeming "remarkable results" from the Education Freedom Scholarship (EFS) Program's inaugural year. Tennessee's first-ever universal school choice program has experienced tremendous interest from families across the state, empowering parents with the ability to choose the school that best fits their child's needs, regardless of income level or zip code.

In the 2025-26 school year, all 20,000 available scholarships were reserved, with 10,000 scholarships reserved for eligible students in a household with a qualified income, and 10,000 universal scholarships available to eligible students regardless of income. Scholarships may be used at more than 240 participating Category I, II, and III non-public schools across the state.

"Thank you to all the families, schools, and partners who engaged throughout the launch and implementation of the program," said Commissioner of Education Lizzette Reynolds. "The Education Freedom Scholarship Program provides Tennessee families with additional options to find a learning environment that best fits their student's unique needs. I am thrilled with the success and demand demonstrated in the first year."

The high demand for the program was apparent within hours of the launch and continued to increase in the following days, resulting in a total of 42,827 applications submitted. Key highlights of program implementation include:

Families applied for the Qualified and Universal scholarships at a nearly equal rate, demonstrating broad demand for school choice, regardless of income level and demographics.

The state reports that 21,164 applications applied for qualified scholarships. There were 21,663 applications applied for universal scholarships.

Applications were received from families in 94 of 95 counties, highlighting strong interest across the state.

In accordance with Tennessee law, the department reviewed applications in the order in which they were received. The 20,000 scholarships represent students from 86 counties, with enrollments at 220 out of 241 participating schools, spanning all grade levels.

The Tennessee General Assembly passed the Tennessee Education Freedom Scholarship Act, Chapter 7 of the Public Acts of 2025, 1st Extraordinary Session, and Governor Bill Lee signed the landmark legislation on February 12, 2025, to establish Tennessee's universal school choice program into law. The Tennessee EFS Program is also guided by the State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-24.

To learn more about the EFS Program and access additional resources, visit the EFS webpage.

For Tennessee Department of Education media inquiries, contact Edu.Medialnquiries@tn.gov.

FINANCIALS

From page 1A

ago.

While everything was on the upswing as far as finances, the cost per corrections inmate (an item discussed last month) came up for discussion. The state is going up in its contribution to the County from $44 a prisoner to $46.

But Mayor Chad Graham said $46 is only 61% of the actual cost for housing non required prisoners, basically those taken to help out other neighboring counties.

Taking in everything expense related from cost of deputies to building depreciation, the County will soon increase its non-local per prisoner boarding cost to $75.03. Financial Director Robert Daniel completed the analysis.

Lori Schuler, deputy director of finance, was mentioned for writing $70,000 worth of grants for local building projects. Jeff Sweeney gave that report for the County.

Archives even got in on the grant opportunities. Carol Roberts, director of archives, said a $3,000 grant received through State Libraries and Archives will be used to purchase folders and boxes-an effort to improve storage of historic records.

CAREER

From page 1A

men who provided drugs just to keep her dependent and available. It stopped being survival and eventually became exploitation.

Merlo advises that The Scarlet Rope Project became the turning point in her healing journey. She says it became more than just a safe place but where she began to truly heal.

"Through trauma – informed care, EMDR therapy, and faith – based support like Bible studies, I was able to confront my pain and start rebuilding my life. Today, I'm proud to say I work for Scarlet Rope, giving back to the same program that helped restore my hope and identity."

She says her days start early – with CrossFit at 4 a.m. – because I believe in pushing myself physically, mentally, and spiritually. By 8, I'm in school, focused on my education and growth. At 11, I head to work. On some weekends, she takes a second job. "It's a full schedule but I put God first in everything I do. He gives me strength, discipline, and purpose to keep going. Without Him, none of this would be possible. Even with everything I've overcome, I still have moments of doubt. I'm still hard on myself sometimes, and I'm still learning who I am and where I'm going. I don't have all the answers, but I've learned not to walk this journey alone. I choose to lean on the community and the resources God has placed in my life – because I believe He gave them to me for a reason."

Merlo is a firm believer that a person doesn't have to be perfect to keep moving forward. Through this journey, people like Chris Cook and programs like MRT have played a powerful role in shaping the person she's become.

She says MRT helped her take accountability and rebuild her way of thinking. She credits Lt. Chris Cook, MRT director, for consistently reminding her of her worth and potential.

She says one Bible verse that stays close to her heart is Ezekiel 36:26: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you".

"That's exactly what God has done in my life; He's replaced my brokenness with purpose, and every day I wake up walking in that promise. My goal is simple, yet deep – I want to be a good person, a strong woman of God. I dream of becoming a TBI agent so I can help rescue and support women who are still trapped in sex trafficking, just like I once was. I want to be a good mother, a loving grandmother someday, and someone my family can be proud of. But I know that starts with continuing to work hard on myself – spiritually, mentally, and emotionally – so I can fully step into the calling God has placed on my life."

Amy believes that God has brought her thus far. With a smile, she professes her love of Jesus.

"Jesus is who truly changed me. I don't just believe I was to follow him. My deepest desire is my heart reflects His-The one who saved me. My heart overflows with love for Jesus. I am nothing without God. I pray that I may never lose sight of my past cause it's the greatest gift that GOD has given to me. It's my tool box!"

According to a Forbes report, many people are still seeking jobs in the criminal justice field, albeit many look for those cities and counties paying higher wages.

Based on information from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the top jobs in the field of criminal justice, in most cities, include: bailiffs, correctional officers, educators in the field, detectives or criminal investigators, fish and game wardens, police and sheriff's patrol officers, security guards, transient patrol and probation officers.



LIBERTY PRINCIPAL SAYS NEW ADDITION MAKES BIG IMPACT

Photos by Marilyn Ewing

Bedford County Board of Education members were among those in attendance Tuesday during Liberty School's ribbon cutting for its new addition. Principal Daniella H. Beckman said this week, "The new addition to our school has made a tremendous impact on our students. From expanded learning spaces to updated resources, it's more than just bricks and mortar — it's a sign that our students' matter. They walk into these new classrooms with a sense of pride and possibility, knowing that their education is supported and valued. It's exciting to see how this environment inspires learning every day."



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

CAREGIVER RELIEF FUNDRAISER

The annual Caregiver Relief Fundraiser (to support families of Alzheimer's) will be held Tuesday from 5 to 7 p.m. at Fair Haven Baptist Church, 2726 Highway 231 North. Tickets are $10 at the door or by calling 685-9039. Purchase a solar light to place on display at Christ Lutheran, 500 Elm Street (Caregiver office) in memory of a loved one. (See video on T-G Facebook page.) There will be items available for bid during the silent auction. Anyone interested in sponsoring or donating can call Dana Bobo, Caregiver program director, at 931-685-9039.

FLAT CREEK VFD BARBECUE

The 39th annual Flat Creek Volunteer Fire Department Barbecue is planned for Saturday, Oct. 4 from 4 to 7 p.m. Want to donate a dessert? Drop by the fire hall by noon that day. $10 a plate.

NORMANDY VFD CHILI SUPPER

The annual Normandy VFD chili supper will be held Saturday, Oct. 11, from 4 to 7 p.m.

ANNUAL LIBRARY LUNCHEON

Friends of Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library will host its annual author luncheon on Oct. 14 at noon at the Blue Ribbon Circle on the Celebration grounds. Guest author will be Erica Wright. Tickets are available at the SBCPL for $20 each. A table can be reserved for $160. Sponsorships for the library are also available for $300 and that includes eight tickets!

NORMANDY FALL FESTIVAL

Normandy Fall Festival will be held Saturday, Oct. 25 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Music, vendors and food. The Town of Normandy is sponsoring a time capsule, which will be buried at the base of the flag pole on Oct. 25 during the fall festival. Time TBD. Memory cards are being sold for $10 each. Photo prints in black and white can be included. Stop by Town Hall. Various local items will be added. The time capsule is to be exhumed in 2052.

THE ISSUE

A word of caution to library directors receiving grant monies

A letter sent to a library in the state from Secretary of State Hargett

"As you know, I, as well as the staff I work with at the Tennessee State Library & Archives, are believers that strong libraries are essential to strong communities. This fundamental belief is one of the reasons we are proud to provide grants for libraries to fund the purchase of new books, technology improvements, general operations, and construction, to name a few. And these grants help maintain local libraries as beacons in their communities.

As the agency that administers grants, it is incumbent on the Tennessee State Library & Archives to remind grant recipients that grant funds must be used consistent with the grant contract as well as federal, state, and local law. In fact, each grant contract from the Tennessee State Library & Archives contains a provision where the party receiving funds acknowledges that "The Grantee shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations in the performance of this Grant Contract." Each grant recipient must be mindful of the requirements of state and federal law, which can change.

For example, on January 20, 2025, President Trump signed an Executive Order entitled "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government." This Executive Order prevents federal funds (which are often present in grants from the Tennessee State Library & Archives) from being used to promote gender ideology, which the Executive Order defines as:

"Gender ideology" replaces the biological category of sex with an ever-shifting concept of self-assessed gender identity, permitting the false claim that males can identify as and thus become women and vice versa, and requiring all institutions of society to regard this false claim as true. Gender ideology includes the idea that there is a vast spectrum of genders that are disconnected from one's sex. Gender ideology is internally inconsistent, in that it diminishes sex as an identifiable or useful category but nevertheless maintains that it is possible for a person to be born in the wrong sexed body.

New laws also emerge at the state level. For example, Public Chapter 458, known as the Dismantling DEI Departments Act, was passed earlier this year. It prevents governmental entities from using discriminatory preferences to promote diversity, equity, or inclusion.

Libraries receiving grant funds must comply with laws or regulations, whether they have been in place for years or have recently become effective.

If you have questions about compliance with grant contracts or federal or state law, I encourage you to contact your county attorney.

Thank you for the many ways that you are serving your community. I look forward to future visits, and I am rooting for your success."

Letter to the Editor

I want to commend you on the excellent and factual coverage you provide on the County and City business, especially the water problems. It's good to be able to read factual editorials and opinions rather than listening to some inane ramblings from a news/tv media. Dave Sliger, Shelbyville

The recent democrat choice of radical socialist liberal democrat Zohran Mamdani as potential New York City mayor is no surprise if one examines the past history of the city. His platform of free giveaway programs, and support of illegal aliens, is also no surprise.

Likewise, his proposal of city-owned grocery stores and liberal ramblings and hatred is unsurprisingly supported by the 'Chicken Little' ultra left wing of the democratic party. The leading radical democrats such as Bernie Sanders and the 'squad' are quick to endorse a political liberal, especially one who continuously espouses a "I-Hate-Trump" platform.

Although Mamdani has no platform of past accomplishments this one sterling asset will serve to enlighten and inflame his democrat base. It is obvious that the one and only asset and platform the liberal democrats and supporting media have been the old tried and tiresome scenario uttered in shrill and loud voices "We- Hate-Trump"!

And true to form chances are he will succeed in his bid for mayor. NYC deserves him, and will wallow in their self-induced stupidity, violent paid protestors and rampant crime in democrat hog heaven. The city may fall into financial ruin, beset with endless crime and mass exodus of the lawful tax paying citizens and major businesses but the ones that remain can still chant from the decaying ruins of their once proud city, that come hell or high water, they still "Hate Trump."

However, this is not a new course for the masses of New York. In fact, in 1860 then Copperhead Democrat (northern democrat supporting the Confederacy) mayor Fernando Wood proposed that New York secede from the Union and join their Southern brothers in treason and rebellion, and remain a "free city" with no alliance to either the Union or the Confederacy and maintain the strong financial ties and booming cotton trade with the Southern states.

His treasonous and illegal scheme (supported wholeheartedly by NYC merchants) faded away when the South fired on Fort Sumter and the vast majority of loyal New York Unionists supported the Union and Lincoln.

In regards to the current influx of outside violent protestors, murderous illegal alien gangs and drug cartels in NYC, this also is not a new negative for the city as the following reveals.

In March, 1863, Congress passed the Enrollment Act mandating draft of eligible American citizen males for army service during the Civil War. The corrupt democrat political machine in NYC headed by corrupt scheming democrat partly boss William "Boss "Tweed and the Tammany Hall clique had been advertising and soliciting foreigners for American citizenship for the intent of having numerous voters added to the democrat party roles. In that era all that was required for American citizenship was outlined by the Naturalization Act of 1802, that required naturalization be restricted to "free white persons" of "good moral character"; to be a resident of the United States for 5 years and in the state where they filed for at least one year, pledge allegiance to the U.S. constitution and that was it.

You were an American citizen with all rights and privileges. Speaking or writing the English language was not required. There were no restraints on Americas borders or restrictions on foreign entrees. No tests or criteria was required for citizenship and the admission of new citizens was controlled and influenced by local courts and state politicians.

The vast majority of the newly admitted American citizens were non-English speaking of Irish descent who had migrated from Ireland during the potato famine that had killed via starvation and disease millions of Irish citizens from 1840 to 1855. However, the draft act was something the newly made American citizens had not anticipated and their fears were escalated in 1863, when Lincoln issued the Proclamation of Emancipation.

Now the low paid unskilled laborers- of mostly Irish descent- feared that there would be an influx of freed Blacks migrating into the city in competition for common unskilled labor jobs and thus lowering the pay scale even more, and worse was the fact the Blacks were not American citizens at this time and thus not eligible for the draft law.

So, when the draft was initiated on Monday, July 13, 1863, armed mobs began to congregate around the draft offices and were soon rampaging out of control wreaking havoc and mayhem throughout inner NYC. The mob increased in numbers until 500 or more was participating; armed with firearms and various other weapons. The now berserk mob went on a murderous and burning rampage through the city and the NYC metro police force was greatly outnumbered, and since the New York national militia and other troops had been deployed for the Gettysburg battle the mob had token opposition.

As the riot continued into the next day the fury and numbers increased. One of the worst atrocities was when the mob attacked the Colored Orphan Home and a mob of more than 2,000, including women and children, ransacked the home looting food and supplies. The orphanage was sat on fire and burned to the ground but luckily the police evacuated the children and none were injured.

The riot continued into Thursday, July 15, but by this time the troops Lincoln had ordered into the city had arrive from Gettysburg and soon with lethal action the riot was suppressed but not before 120 people had lost their lives. After order was restored, the city commenced in on rebuilding their city and restoring order. The draft act did continue and New York had a sterling record of her men who bravely fought and died in the war.

Fast forward to present day NYC and we see a similar situation, but so far not with the outright mass destruction and killings of innocent citizens of 1863.

However, if the lawless conditions prevail in the city, and if Mamdani is elected mayor and his policies do in fact become the law of the land, then one can expect the crime to increase, and the lawless mobs and gangs' influence grow as it did under the Tammany Hall rein in the mid-19th century.

The only hope of salvation is for Trump to follow Lincoln's course and send in federal troops and state militia to assist the NYC police and put down the mob's drug cartels, and illegal gangs controlling the city under Mamdani in the footprints of former "Boss" Tweed and his Tammany Hall corrupt NYC democrat political machine.

I am positive the mainstay of the democrats is law abiding, patriotic Americans but it is time they step forward and take back control of the party and oust the rabble- rousing, unconscionable crime promoting, ultra-liberal America hating minority portions of their party. Any despotic political party whose sole purpose and platform is based entirely on hatred and profanity rantings to all who do not agree with them is bound for failure.

America deserves better and will overcome and persevere as she has for the past 250 years.

Charles David Sliger

Struggling with job loss? Legal Aid can help

By Patty Sellars, Legal Aid Society

Losing a job can feel like a gut punch. Along with losing a steady paycheck, being laid off can mean losing health insurance and the stability of one's daily routine. These sudden changes can push families to their financial and emotional limits.

With layoffs rising nationally — U.S.-based employers announced 85,979 job cuts in August, a 39% increase from July — many Tennesseans now find themselves unemployed and navigating new challenges.

As an attorney at Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee, I help low-income clients face these challenges head-on. Employment-related cases are just one part of the broad scope of civil legal services our organization provides across 48 counties in Middle Tennessee.

Our services aren't only for people who have lost their jobs. We also work with clients who need protection of their rights at work or help keeping the jobs they already have.

Here are a few of the ways we can help.

Discrimination

Tennessee is an "at-will" employment state, making it more friendly to employers than workers. Non-union employees can be hired or fired for almost any reason at all — as long as it isn't discriminatory.

Workers who are terminated often assume their employer acted unlawfully, but some firings don't meet the requirements of discrimination laws. We help clients sort out whether a case involves discrimination and provide realistic guidance on the chances for success. Discrimination can be difficult to prove and requires substantial evidence.

If someone has been treated unfairly because of race, nationality, gender, religion, age or disability, we can explain their rights and advise them on how to file a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Wage and Hour Claims

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) requires employers to pay at least minimum wage ($7.25 federally, though some states set higher rates) and time-and-a-half for more than 40 hours in a workweek.

Unfortunately, some employers try to avoid paying overtime or underpay wages by convincing employees to accept a lower amount. When that happens, we help clients file wage claims with the Tennessee Department of Labor, though sometimes we can resolve issues before a formal complaint is necessary.

Unemployment Benefits

Tennessee, like other states, offers unemployment compensation for eligible workers. To be eligible, you have to have a base period of earnings that is eligible, you have to be terminated at no fault of your own, and you have to remain able and available to work. People can be denied for a multitude of reasons, and sometimes those reasons are not clear. At Legal Aid Society, we will evaluate your case and advise you on your options.

When clients have been unfairly denied unemployment benefits, Legal Aid Society can assist with gathering paperwork (such as correspondence with employers and official letters) and meeting any necessary submission deadlines.

Access to Public Benefits

For people already living on a low income, even a short period of unemployment can quickly lead to food or housing insecurity. When clients come to us, we determine their eligibility for public benefits like SNAP and guide them through the application process. When necessary, we also refer clients to our housing attorneys for assistance with eviction prevention or other housing issues.

How to Get Help

If you've lost your job, had benefits denied or believe your rights are being violated at work, Legal Aid Society may be able to help. For more information, visit our website at https://las.org or call 1-800-238-1443.

About Legal Aid Society

Patty Sellars is an attorney at Legal Aid Society, Tennessee's largest nonprofit law firm. Legal Aid Society offers free civil legal representation and educational programs to help people across Middle Tennessee receive justice, protect their well-being and support opportunities to overcome poverty. The firm serves 48 counties from offices in Clarksville, Columbia, Cookeville, Gallatin, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Oak Ridge and Tullahoma. Legal Aid Society is funded in part by United Way. Learn more at www.las.org or by following the firm on Facebook.

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FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE



Satan

A discussion of bible characters must include a word about Satan.

Satan is first mentioned in Genesis, Chapter 3 where he took the form of a serpent or snake and enticed Eve to believe him instead of believing God. Eve, in turn, enticed Adam to do as she had done. Through their disobedience, all of mankind became alienated from God.

Satan, (the devil, Lucifer) was evidently an angel who desired to be equal to the one who had created him (Isaiah 14:12-14) and was cast out of heaven (Luke 10:18).

Satan tried to use the Apostle Peter (Matthew 16:23) and did enter Judas Iscariot (Luke 22:3) and moved Judas to betray Jesus.

The last book of the bible speaks of Satan being loose on the earth, but it also tells of his ultimate defeat (Revelation 20:7-10).

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Is God Dead: The Golden Ratio

Last time, we mentioned "beauty" as soul food. It seems to me that since we have established that human beings are made up of both a physical body and an immaterial soul, then just as the body needs hamburgers, the soul needs its nourishment as well.

For the Christian soul, food comes in two forms: from the Word of God in Scripture and from the study of the things that have been created (Rom 1:19ff). After all, the apostle Paul encourages us to think on things that are lovely, excellent, and beautiful (Phil 4:8). In a very real sense, beauty is essential to a fulfilled life because it is soul food.

Christian author John-Mark Miravalle says, "The beholding of beauty can direct our passions, which, in turn, provide powerful motivators for action toward spiritual goodness and truth. . . . We can recognize why we have a moral obligation to pursue beauty." Miravalle argues that truth, goodness, and beauty are all intrinsically related: where you find one, you find the other two as well. That is why beauty is such a potent food for the soul and why ugliness and evil are such soul-killers.

Sure enough, Christians are called to, as Paul said, "dwell on these things," like goodness, pureness, and beauty (Phil 4:8).

However, since we are still engaged with the Bible skeptic, Michael, let's continue to focus on those things "that can be clearly seen" in the created world around us.

So, where do we find evidence of soul food in the natural world around us? Where are those things in nature that have little other purpose than to feed our souls? Much is found in what is generally termed the elegance of mathematics. I know, I know; 8 th -grade math was far from "elegant." But I ask you to consider this!

The Fibonacci Sequence is often called the Golden Ratio, and it is a mathematical relationship that is widely considered "beautiful." The sequences proceed this way: 0,1,1,2,3,5,8, 13,21,34,55,89,144 . . .. The numbers result from adding the two previous numbers together: 13 + 21 = 34, etc. Dividing each number by its previous number yields a number very close to 1.618, which is the Golden Ratio. The further along the line one moves, the more precise the Ratio becomes, reaching 1.618033988 and beyond.

The Golden Ratio is most elegant and beautiful, and it is all around us, speaking to the design found in nature on a couple of broad levels: mathematics and aesthetics. Turns out, the Golden Ratio is a ratio that human beings have been hardwired to perceive as beautiful. As one would expect, we find the Golden Ratio over and again in architecture and the fine arts, including music.

The Golden Ratio is seen in the facial features of people that society generally deems "attractive." And it is not just facial features.

The Golden Ratio is also present in the measurement from the human navel to the floor and the top of the head to the navel. The ratio of the top half of your body to the lower half of your body is 1:1.618. The ratio also appears in the distance from the fingertips to the wrist and the length from the wrist to the elbow.

The Golden Ratio is present in a rose as well as many flower petals and leaf configurations, and it is present in all sorts of seashells such as this Nautilus.

Animal bodies exhibit similar tendencies, including the eyes and fins of dolphins, starfish, sand dollars, sea urchins, ants, and honey bees. Even the design of the cochlea of your inner ear satisfies the Golden Ratio. And the configuration of the galaxy satisfies the Golden Ratio.

NOW, pray tell, how did all this design randomly appear through Darwinian random chaos? Maybe that is why the Golden Ratio is also known as the Divine Portion!

It seems to me to be quite reasonable that if the beauty of the Golden Ratio is soul food, then man would want to harness this soul food source and reproduce it in a lot of different flavors. And that is exactly what mankind does.

As mentioned, the Golden Ratio is found extensively in architecture. Going back to as far as ancient Greece, the remains and ruins of Grecian architecture suggest the Greeks loved both beauty and the Golden Ratio to bring it about. The height of the roof line is related to the length of the building, the colonnade in relation to the frontage, the elegant proportions, architectural wonders, and timeless beauty. Even now, its ruins are breathtaking.

The same holds for the design and proportions of furniture and fine cabinetry. The drawers in a dresser that is related to the whole satisfy the Golden Ratio, as does the placement of hardware and accents. But there is still more.

Join us again next week as we continue to look at the Golden Ratio and beauty as soul food served up in music. Until then, google a photograph of the aurora borealis (the northern lights) and ask a simple 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.)

ALL IN A WEEK'S WORK FOR ARCHIVISTS

Bedford County Government Photos





A collection of family photos, letters and other documents donated to Bedford County Archives turned out recently to primarily relate to a Giles County family. Bedford County Archivist Carol Roberts contacted Giles County Archivist Katie Mays-Smith, who collected the items on Tuesday. According to Roberts, this type of sharing is a common practice among archivists. From left, Bedford County Archives volunteer Savannah Catron; deputy archivist Kathryn Hopkins; Bedford County Archivist Carol Roberts; and Giles County Archivist Katie Mays-Smith.

SNAP

From page 1A

lose SNAP benefits after three months if they do not adhere to the updated ABAWD work requirements.

"We want to ensure Tennesseans who may be impacted by these federal changes are fully informed and prepared to make any necessary adjustments," commented TDHS Commissioner Clarence H. Carter. "Our priority is to support our customers with the resources they need to comply with the updated requirements while maintaining access to vital nutrition assistance."

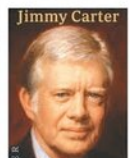
Some customers are excluded from ABAWD work requirements and may still receive SNAP benefits if they are:

- Under the age of 18
- Are 65 years of age or older
- Are pregnant
- Work, volunteer, or participate in a job training program at least 80 hours a month
- Live with a child under 14
- Care for someone who is sick or disabled
- Get disability benefits like Social Security, SSI, or VA
- Have a health problem or temporary disability that keeps them from working
- Enrolled in school at least half-time
- In a drug or alcohol treatment program
- Receive unemployment benefits

Customers who believe they qualify for an exemption are encouraged to upload their verification documents via the One DHS Customer Portal (https://onedhs.tn.gov/csp) no later than October 31, 2025.

For additional details, including exemption criteria and resources, please visit the TDHS ABAWD information page at: https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/for-families/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap/snap-abawd-information.html.

President Jimmy Carter Stamp to Be Issued Oct. 1



The U.S. Postal Service will commemorate the life and legacy of President Jimmy Carter with the issuance of a commemorative stamp at The Carter Center in Atlanta on Oct.1, on what would have been his 101st birthday.

The dedication ceremony for the stamp is free and open to the public.

Postal Products: Customers may purchase stamps and other philatelic products through the Postal Store at usps.com/shopstamps, by calling 844-737-7826.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

FISH FRY SATURDAY

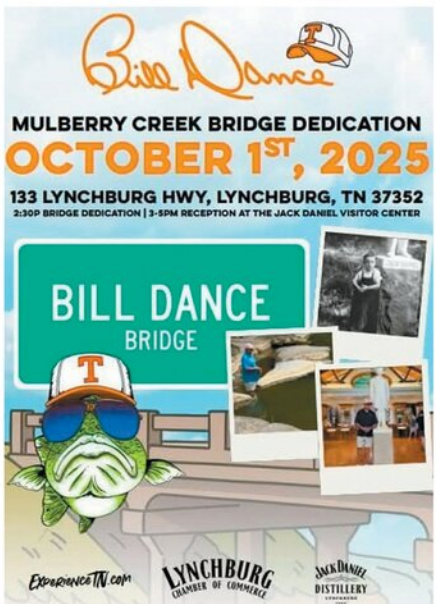
Shiloh Outreach Church, 2547 Highway 64 West in the Wheel community, will be hosting a Community Fish Fry Sept. 27. Serving is from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. There will be games and gospel music for entertainment. Open to the entire community!

FUMC WORSHIP

This Sunday at First United Methodist Church Shelbyville, Pastor Abe Zimmerman will preach "The Ties that Bind: Part 3" from Colossians 3:12-17. As we establish our Fall rhythms, we are reminded of the ways that the people of God are uniquely connected to each other. Come ready to reflect, reconnect, and rediscover the beauty of being part of a people shaped by love, trust, and shared purpose. 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.

CELEBRATING 170 YEARS

New Bethel Baptist Church off Highway 64 West will celebrate its 170th anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 5, beginning at 9:30 a.m. A fellowship meal will follow the service.



Crossword

OVERNIGHT STAY FreeDailyCrosswords.com By Hank Dellman

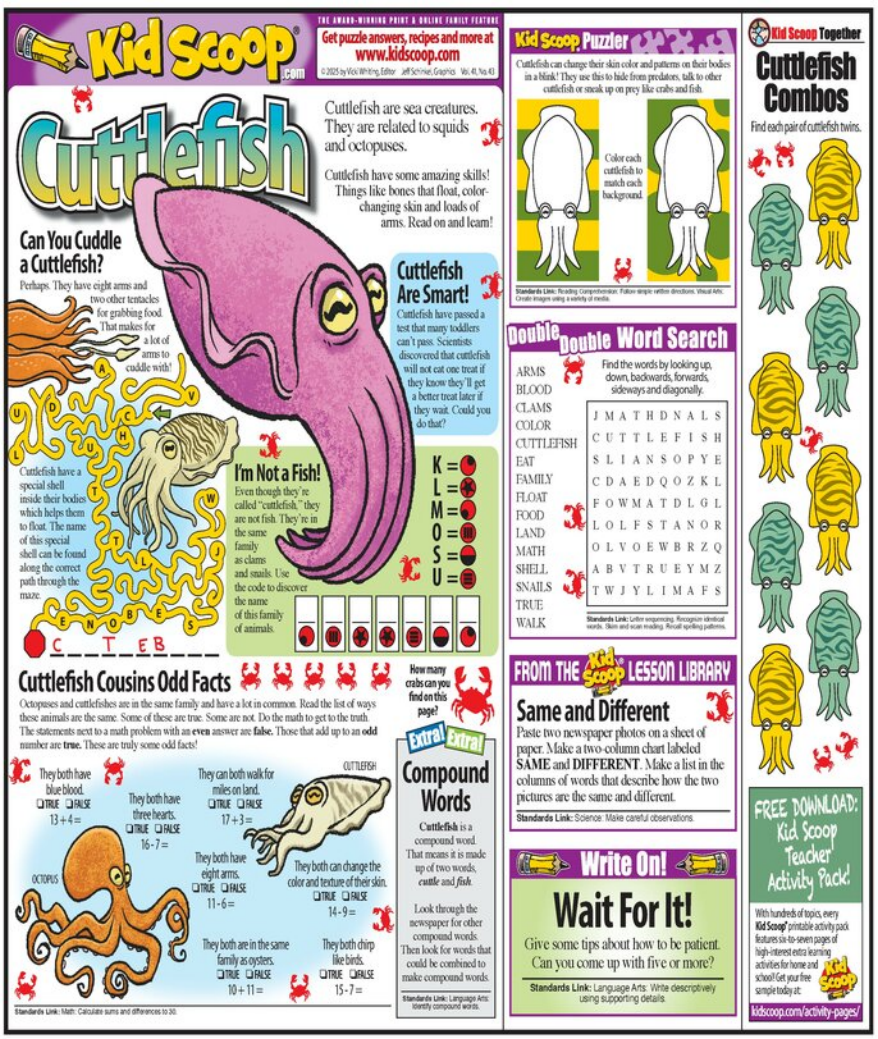


CLUES ACROSS

1) Pupil of Socrates
6) Lean end of the neck
11) Diner sandwich, briefly
14) Fan's opposite
15) Muse of romantic poetry
16) Brazilian port, familiarly
17) They're all over the Web
19) Early night, to a poet
20) Get a sudden inspiration?
21) Bit of horseplay
23) Wallet material
27) Maniacs
29) ___ million (rare)
30) Remove scratchers
31) Publishing IDs
32) Company car and an expense account
33) Neutral possessive
36) Crow's creation
37) Backside
38) Some precipitation
39) "The Racer's Edge"
40) Legendary Bette
41) Pasta type
42) Bibliography word
44) School for training horses
45) Entraps, as an animal
46) It might be covered with cheese
47) Literature classification
48) Super-duper
49) Lividness
50) Cigarettes, slangily
57) Prickly husk (Var.)
58) Courtroom business
59) Base unit
60) Maximum limits?
61) Prognosticators
62) Diving gear, briefly

CLUES DOWN

1) Degree to be proud of
2) "7 Faces of Dr. ___"
3) Bill dispenser
4) Pekoe, for one
5) Starting points
6) Have a feeling
7) Roll a bad seven (with "out")
8) Battering device
9) Enjoyed brunch
10) John and Luke, for two
11) Family supporter
12) Encumbrances, to a Realtor
13) Honky-___ music
18) "Zilch!"
22) Bio class letters
23) Change in a register
24) Beginning phase
25) Spiders
26) "Getting wanner," e.g.
27) Common houseplants
28) Gross
30) Cloth for overalls
32) Covers a lot of ground?
34) Country near Fiji
35) Wield a broom
37) Disappear slowly
38) Mailed
40) Tells how to act
41) Creators' safeguards
43) Limbo need
44) Musician Herbie
45) Watery part of a fluid
46) Churns
47) Brickbat
48) "It's ___ cry from ..."
51) Stuff in a mine
52) Giant syllable?
53) Bow part
54) Note in a poker game
55) Type of tennis shot
56) Destination for the pampered



NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE

WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms and conditions of a Deed of Trust dated May 5, 2021, executed by JOSHUA E STEWART conveying certain real property therein described to MEGAN K. TROTT, as Trustee, as same appears of record in the Register's Office of Bedford County, Tennessee recorded May 5, 2021, in Deed Book TD1005, Page 783; and

WHEREAS, the beneficial interest of said Deed of Trust was last transferred and assigned to PennyMac Loan Services, LLC who is now the owner of said debt; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned, Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, having been appointed as Substitute Trustee by instrument to be filed for record in the Register's Office of Bedford County, Tennessee.

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable, and that the undersigned, Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, as Substitute Trustee or his duly appointed agent, by virtue of the power, duty and authority vested and imposed upon said Substitute Trustee will, on October 14, 2025 at or about 11:00 AM at the main entrance to the Bedford County Courthouse, 1 Public Square, Shelbyville, TN 37160, proceed to sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash or certified funds ONLY, the following described property situated in Bedford County, Tennessee, to wit:

BEING ALL OF LOT NO. 2 OF FLOYDS SUNSET BOULEVARD SUBDIVISION NO. 1, AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF RECORD IN PLAT CABINET D, ENVELOPE 78, REGISTER'S OFFICE OF BEDFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE. TO WHICH PLAT REFERENCE IS HEREBY MADE FOR A MORE COMPLETE AND ACCURATE DESCRIPTION.

Parcel ID: 071E-B-013.00

PROPERTY ADDRESS: The street address of the property is believed to be 200 SUNSET BLVD, WARTRACE, TN 37183. In the event of any discrepancy between this street address and the legal description of the property, the legal description shall control.

CURRENT OWNER(S): JOSHUA E STEWART

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:

CROWN ASSET MANAGEMENT LLC

The sale of the above-described property shall be subject to all matters shown on any recorded plat; any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements or set-back lines that may be applicable; any prior liens or encumbranoes as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; and to any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. This property is being sold with the express reservation that it is subject to confirmation by the lender or Substitute Trustee. This sale may be rescinded at any time. The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day, time, and place certain without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place for the sale set forth above. All right and equity of redemption, statutory or otherwise, homestead, and dower are expressly waived in said Deed of Trust, and the title is believed to be good, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Substitute Trustee. The Property is sold as is, where is, without representations or warranties of any kind, including fitness for a particular use or purpose.

THIS LAW FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, Substitute Trustee
3145 Avalon Ridge Place, Suite 100
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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: September 17

Location: 242 Republic St; Seller, Ole South Properties Inc; Buyer, Jeniffer Maldonado Pagesy, Ricardo Luis Flores O Farrill; Price, $349,990 (Deed).

Location: 2835 Midland Rd; Seller, Toni K Melton; Buyer, Daniel Thomas Becker, Toni K Melton, Becker Melton Tennessee Community Property Trust; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, Steven Shawn Fortner, Angela Ann Fortner; Buyer, Michael Hughes, Jessica Gilliam; Price, $336,500 (Deed).

Location: 300 Durum St; Seller, Mackie Wolf Zientz & Mann PC, Alexandra July Lyons, Cynterius Devon Lyons; Buyer, Newrez LLC; Price, $296,400 (TRD).

Location: 2104 Patricia Dr; Seller, Mackie Wolf Zientz & Mann PC, Margie L Jackson, Edward Eugene Jackson, Margie L Boyce, Margie L Rollins; Buyer, US Department of Housing and Urban Development; Price, $0 (Deed).

File date: September 18

Seller, Kelly A Bobier Revocable Living Trust, Kelly A Bobier; Buyer, Bobier Family Community Property Trust, Raymond H Bobier, Kelly A Bobier; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 355 E C Arnold Lane; Seller, Kelly A Bobier Revocable Living Trust, Kelly A Bobier; Buyer, Bobier Family Community Property Trust, Raymond H Bobier, Kelly A Bobier; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 110 Ligon Dr; Seller, Carolyn J Brown; Buyer, Trevor Van Mater, Mater Trevor Van, Andrea J Van Mater, Mater Andrea J Van; Price, $252,500 (Deed).

Location: 402 Cortner Hollow Rd; Seller, Stacey Monique Irons Jernigan; Buyer, Donald Gene Squires; Price, $300,000 (Deed).

Location: 601 Halls Mill Rd; Seller, James Horne, Lisa Horne; Buyer, Breann Georgina Wyatt, Joel Tyler Wyatt; Price, $425,000 (Deed).

Location: Highway 130 East; Seller, Ronald Drum; Buyer, Virginia Hartlein; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, John T bobo, Janice R Bobo, D B Nelson Jr, Charlene J Nelson; Buyer, Bryan Casas, Linda Casas; Price, $215,000 (Deed).

File date: September 19

Location: 526 Carney St; Seller, Hannah Carrick Monilaw, Courtney Andrew Monilaw; Buyer, Diane Stedner, Travis Stedner; Price, $220,000 (Deed).

Seller, George Edward Gray, Joan Mitchell Gray, George Ed Gray, Joan M Gray; Buyer, Gray Revocable Family Trust, George Edward Gray, Joan Mitchell Gray; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 237 Burns Rd; Seller, Pleasant England; Buyer, Joesph Castle, Amanda Castle; Price, $775,000 (Deed).

Seller, Christopher Michael Harden; Buyer, Kristina Diane Harden, Kristina D Skorniak; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 830 Wheel Rd; Seller, Smith Remodeling and Properties LLC; Buyer, WBK Properties LLC; Price, $57,500 (Deed).

Seller, Beatrice Ighalo, Beatrice Ebolum; Buyer, Robert F Kilgore; Price, $200,000 (Deed).

Location: 301 Fairway Green; Seller, Mary Helen Wright, Helen Wright; Buyer, Doyle Anthony Wright; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 120 Townsend Ave; Seller, Elsa Magalis Melo Diaz; Buyer, Dalia Smith Harr DMV LLC; Price, $261,000 (Deed).

Location: 134 Charlie Shaw Rd; Seller, Javier Leyva, Bibiana Leyva; Buyer, Marcelino Carreon Ramirez, Estebon Carreon Ramirez; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 134 Charlie Shaw Rd; Seller, Javier Leyva, Bibiana Leyva; Buyer, Estebon Carreon Ramirez; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 134 Charlie Shaw Rd; Seller, Javier Leyva, Bibiana Leyva; Buyer, Marcelino Carreon Ramirez; Price, $0 (QD).

File date: September 22

Location: 107 Avalon Dr; Seller, Glenda W Griffin; Buyer, Dakota Austin Wittstruck; Price, $294,900 (Deed).

Seller, Michael Allen Leitz, Christina Leitz; Buyer, Collin Gian, Kiersten Elizabeth Gian; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: East Holland St; Seller, Glen Mullins, Regina Mullins; Buyer, Jessica Newsom, Mullins Taxi Service; Price, $109,000 (Deed).

Location: 2683 Sims Rd; Seller, Roelisa Dudang, Christopher Ryan Arceneau; Buyer, Nicholas A Aucoin, Jessica Lynn Aucoin; Price, $360,000 (Deed).

Seller, Larry Robertson; Buyer, Cynthia Cannon; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Rippy Ridge Rd; Seller, Robbie Dale Gregory, Carey N Woods; Buyer, Roger Gregory, Sharon Gregory; Price, $0 (QD).

Zucchini Spice Bundt Cake

For that special fall garden party, you may be searching for a recipe that uses up garden veggies but tastes like autumn. Find comfort in this delicious Zucchini Spice Bundt Cake that features the freshness of warm days combined with the soothing flavors of cooler weather. Discover more tasty desserts by visiting Culinary.net.



Family Features

- 1 box spice cake mix
- 2 cups grated zucchini
- 1/3 cup melted butter
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup chopped walnuts, divided
- 1 cup chopped white chocolate chips, divided
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- milk

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees.

2. In bowl, mix cake mix, zucchini, butter, eggs, 3/4 cup walnuts and 3/4 cup white chocolate chips. Pour into greased bundt pan and bake 40 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

3. Let cool about 10 minutes then remove from pan to finish cooling.

4. Mix powdered sugar and milk, about 1/4 cup, to reach desired consistency of frosting. Pour over cooled cake then sprinkle with remaining walnuts and remaining white chocolate chips. Cut and serve.

OVERNIGHT STAY By Hank Dellman

1 P	2 L	3 A	4 T	5 O		6 S	7 C	8 R	9 A	10 G		11 B	12 L	13 T
14 H	A	T	E	R		15 E	R	A	T	O		16 R	I	O
17 D	O	M	A	I	18 N	N	A	M	E	S		19 E	E	N
				20 G	A	S	P			21 P	22 R	A	N	K
23 C	24 O	25 W	26 H	I	D	E		27 F	28 I	E	N	D	S	
29 O	N	E	I	N	A		30 D	E	C	L	A	W		
31 I	S	B	N	S		32 P	E	R	K	S		33 I	34 T	35 S
36 N	E	S	T		37 F	A	N	N	Y		38 S	N	O	W
39 S	T	P		40 D	A	V	I	S		41 P	E	N	N	E
		42 I	43 B	I	D	E	M		44 M	A	N	E	G	E
	45 S	N	A	R	E	S		46 R	A	T	T	R	A	P
47 G	E	N	R	E			48 A	O	N	E				
49 I	R	E		50 C	O	51 F	F	I	N	N	52 A	53 I	54 L	55 S
56 B	U	R		57 T	R	I	A	L		58 T	R	O	O	P
59 E	M	S		60 S	E	E	R	S		61 S	C	U	B	A



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You are invited to FHU's 61st Benefit Dinner! Join us Friday, December 5, 2025, in the newly-renovated Dryden Auditorium featuring retired Four-Star General Stanley McChrystal and entertainment by the Hardeman Boys.

Because of you, students' lives can be changed. Your generosity, along with others who have supported the FHU Benefit Dinner, can help fund scholarships for thousands of students and add to the millions that have been raised during the past 61 years. Sponsorships are available now, and tickets go on sale October 15.

FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY

Learn more at fhu.edu/benefitdinner, or call 800-FHU-FHU1, ext 6017.
Scan the QR code to learn more!

Death Notices

Albert Aldridge

Albert "PeeWee" Aldridge, age 86, of the Flat Creek community in Williamson County, TN, passed away on September 17, 2025, in Columbia, TN. Born in Williamson County, PeeWee was a son of the late Ray Bailey Aldridge and Alta Bee Henson Aldridge. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Milton and Jimmy (Mavis) Aldridge and a sister, Sue (Bob) Cleveland.

Mr. Aldridge is survived by his sisters, Teresa Ford of the Flat Creek community in Williamson County; Anita (Paul) McPeak of the Bethesda community.

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

Anna Jo McGowan

Anna Jo McGowan, 92, of Shelbyville, died September 22, 2025.

She was born August 20,1933 in Anderson, Ala., and was preceded in death by her parents, William B. and Ethel Mae Nix Harbin; her husband of 47 years, Thomas "Tom" McGowan; sister, Joan Harbin Otis; brother, James Royce Harbin.

Anna is survived by her children, Rick (Kathy) Bennett of Murfreesboro, Dianne B. Cook of Shelbyville and Cheryl Colvin of Peoria, Illinois.

Hillcrest Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Larry Wayne Greer

Larry Wayne Greer, formerly of Shelbyville, a dedicated public servant, veteran, and beloved member of the community, passed away on Monday, September 8, 2025, at the age of 72.

He was born September 28, 1952, in Shelbyville, to the late Henry Clay Greer and Katherine King Greer. In addition to his parents, Larry is also preceded in death by brother, Joe Frank Greer.

A veteran of the United States Air Force, he served honorably as a military police officer and following his military service, he worked as a City of Murfreesboro police officer and later as an MTSU police officer.

Larry is survived by his children, Helen Keegan, Katherine Rose Brown, Larry Wayne Alvin Greer Jr. (Hannah) and Henry Clay Greer.

Gowen-Smith Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Tony Wayne Philpott

Tony Wayne Philpott, 74, passed away Sunday, September 14, 2025, at his residence with his family by his side. Mr. Philpott grew up in the Greenhill community. He was preceded in death by his parents James and Evelyn Pinkston Philpott and his brothers, Ernest Philpott, Larry Philpott and Randy Philpott.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Donna Philpott; children, Santha L. Koonce (Douglas A.), Eric Wayne Philpott and Sabrina D. Philpott.

Gowen-Smith Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

The following obituaries were unavailable at press time and will be uploaded by Feldhaus Funeral Home soon.

Ronald Thomas Bowman, Faith Elaine Leek (Clark), Phoumy Oudomsouk

Obituaries

Frank DeWitt Cartwright



Frank DeWitt Cartwright, 88, of Bedford County, Tennessee, passed away peacefully at his home on September 21, 2025, after an extended illness.

Mr. Cartwright was born August 15, 1937, to the late Allen Cartwright Jr. and Bess Williams Cartwright. He was a 1955 graduate of Community High School. In 1959, he married the love of his life, Frances Marie Moulder, beginning a remarkable 66-year marriage defined by faith, devotion, and partnership.

Together they raised three children—Anthony Blake (Marlene) Cartwright, Frank Kimbro (Judi) Cartwright, and Kasey (Fayne) Cartwright Parsons—and found their greatest joy in their grandchildren, Dustin Blake "Bud" Cartwright, Jake Kimbro Cartwright, and Jacey Beth (Zachary) Cartwright Hoover. In addition to his biological grandchildren, he was blessed to have amazing bonus grandchildren - Holt (Sydney) Parsons, David (Olivia) Parsons, Justin (Ashley) Gordon, Jody Gordon and also great grandchildren - Easton Hoover, Everleigh Hoover, Aubrey Gordon, and Gunner Gordon.

DeWitt was the eldest of seven children. Siblings—Alton (Ruth) Cartwright, Barbara Jean Waterson, Faye Grohowski, Elaine (Donald) Milligan, Joe Ben Cartwright, and Grace Jones.

In his early life he worked at Pepsi Bottling Company and then transitioned into the concrete and block business, where he dedicated over 30 years. At the age of 50, he followed his entrepreneurial spirit and went into business for himself, opening Reliable Auto Electric. He ran Reliable with pride and commitment until his partial retirement, at which point he transitioned his business to Cartwright Farms, where he continued to work faithfully in his shop on his farm until his health no longer allowed. He also served as a Bedford County Commissioner from 1998-2002 and served on the Board of Trustees at the Bedford County Hospital from 1999-2004.

DeWitt was a man of simple pleasures and steadfast values. DeWitt enjoyed farming, fishing, gardening, and cheering for the Atlanta Braves. He was known for his tireless work ethic and unwavering devotion to his family. He taught his children and grandchildren the importance of faith, family, honesty, and perseverance, leaving a legacy rooted in love and integrity.

DeWitt will be remembered for the life he built, the lessons he shared, and the unwavering love he gave. His story will live on in the lives he touched, and though he will miss him dearly, his presence will always be felt—in the hay fields, casting a line into the water, and sitting at the dinner table telling stories of old times.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 5 p.m. in the chapel of Doak-Howell Funeral Home with Bud Cartwright officiating. Burial will follow at Crowell's Chapel Cemetery. Visitation with the family will be held prior to the service beginning at 2 p.m.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

www.doakhowellfuneralhome.com

Bobby Richard Locke



Bobby Richard Locke, 89, of the Villages, Florida, died September 1st, 2025 in The Villages with his son at his bedside.

Bobby was born in Shelbyville, Tennessee where he lived with his mother, father and his twin sisters. He worked in his parent's three restaurants, Locke Brothers restaurants, and was a multi-sport athlete in high school and played football in college at Mississippi State and then MTSU. He was a beloved teacher and a 2x State Championship basketball coach in Shelbyville, TN, and then taught at Apopka High School for many years where he retired after 35 years of teaching.

When he retired from teaching, he and his wife, June Locke, moved to The Villages where they enjoyed 22 years being with friends, playing golf and serving at the New Covenant Methodist Church of The Villages, Florida.

Bobby had many friends and never met a stranger. He was known to many as "Luke" as well as "The Bobby Locke" by his golfing buddies and affectionately known as Paw Paw by his many grandchildren.

Bobby lost his wife of 22 years in December 2024, and is survived by his only child, David (Kim) Locke of Ball Ground, Ga. and his 4 step children: Sherri (Roy) Chockley of Nashville, TN; Michelle (Steve) Hindman of Russellville, KY; Juli (Mike) Rice of Milan, TN; Wyatt (Carey) Taylor of Alpharetta, GA; David (Kim) Locke of Ball Ground, GA; 12 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Bobby was preceded in death by his parents, Earl and Blondell Locke; his twin sisters, Geraldine and Earline Locke; his wife, June Locke as well as his 2nd wife, BJ Rice, and 1st wife Judy Locke (mother of David Locke.)

A service will be held to celebrate his life on Friday, October 24th, at 5pm at Freedom Pointe located at 1550 El Camino Real, The Villages Fla. 32159 in the ballroom there.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Creekview Takedown Club via Venmo (@Creekview-Wrestling) or mail a check to 301 Turkey Creek Drive, Ball Ground, Ga. 30107.



SENIOR CENTER GOING STRONG YARD SALE RECENTLY ENJOYED

T-G Photo by Marilyn Ewing

Shelbyville Bedford County Senior Citizens Center, J.G. Helton Drive, held an indoor yard sale last Friday. Lots of good stuff and nice proceeds for the center, which welcomes anyone 50 years and older to join. Lots of activities. If you desire weekly lunch, please contact the center in advance. Call (931) 684-0019. Plans are underway for the annual spaghetti supper and country ham breakfast fundraisers.



Saturday, Sept. 27
10:00am-1:00pm
Instructor: Lora Limbaugh
Fabric Art

In this class you will learn the basics of creating a piece of artwork completely out of fabric. You will be able to choose from two kits that include templates for tracing onto the fabric squares of your choice. Or, you can let your artistic side shine and create your own design using the fabric supplied. All designs will be created on a 12x12 gallery wrapped canvas. Each person will choose 10-12 fabric squares that include both solid and designs. These fabric squares will be pre-treated with a stiffener to assist in the cutting process. At the end of the class you will have a completed piece of art that is ready for your wall.

Cost: $45
Registration is required using this link:
https://www.flyartscenter.com/fabric-art-class-registration

Saturday, Oct. 4
10am-1pm
Instructor: Crystal O'Neal
Give Thanks Acrylic Painting

In this class, you will create a painting to use during the Thanksgiving Holiday and/or year round. You will learn some basic brush strokes to create the foliage and learn how to use a stencil to paint the lettering. We will use craft acrylics on 18" round wood. These can be displayed on the wall or your front/back door.

Class size is limited to 12 people.
Cost: $45
Registration is required using this link: https://bit.ly/October4thGiveThanks

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Saturday, October 25th
10am-12:30pm
Instructor: Pamela Warner
Watercolor Autumn Wreath

Celebrate the beauty of fall with a watercolor workshop focused on painting a stunning autumn wreath. In this class, you'll learn techniques for blending warm seasonal hues, creating delicate leaf shapes and adding details like berries, acorns, and pumpkins. Perfect for beginners and experienced painters alike, this guided session will help you develop your watercolor skills while crafting a unique, nature inspired design.

Cost: $45
Registration is required using this link: https://square.link/u/uOzyc63R

Thursday, October 30th
6:00pm-7:30pm
Instructor: Santha Koonce
Fundamentals of Drawing

Would you like to be able to draw what you see? You can! Fundamentals of Drawing is a great class for you whether you're a beginner or looking to breathe new life into your current art practice. This class will give you the tools you need for a strong foundation in drawing, including:

• Using different tools • Value • Shading • Texture • Mark-making • Space (perspective) • And more!

Drawing is for a large part about observing and this is a practice you will learn. We'll be sketching from life, which on pretty days may include outdoor sketching. Learning how to observe the world around you and develop solid drawing skills is a process that takes time and much practice, so just relax and enjoy the process! This is an ongoing class; participants can sign up anytime a class is scheduled.

Cost: $25
Registration is required using this link:
https://www.novemberroseart.com/book-online



CJ STUDENTS VISIT JUSTICE CENTER

Submitted Photo

Criminal Justice - I students at Community High School were recently allowed a tour of the Bedford County Justice Center. BC Chief Deputy Nikia Elliott and criminal justice instructor Chris Hobbs advised students throughout the tour. Students received instruction on the requirements, training and benefits of serving in these career fields as well as the reality of the potential consequence of violating criminal law.



TUNING IT UP

Bedford County Government Photo

"Tune It Tuesday" was held recently at the local Lowe's. The national event promotes the use of NOAA Weather radios. Free weather radios were given out.

Join BC Sheriff's Office for 'National Coffee with a Cop' Day!

October 1, from 6 a.m.-9 a.m., BC Sheriff's Department is inviting the community to join them at Coffee Break for a morning of good coffee and even better conversation. It's a chance to meet local officers, ask questions, and get to know the people who work to keep the community safe.



Congratulations to all the graduates at the Tennessee fire academy live burns. From left, Firefighter Timothy Bond station 2 Unionville; Firefighter Dakota Phillips station 4 Normandy; Firefighter Cooper Phillips station 7 Bell Buckle; Firefighter Zach Tidwell station 4 Normandy; Firefighter Caleb Redicker station 2 Unionville.

Volunteer firefighters always needed in Bedford County

Ever thought of being a volunteer firefighter? Now's the time.

Take it from Bell Buckle Mayor and long-time firefighter Ronnie Lokey. It's quite rewarding.

"I have been with the Bell Buckle Fire Department since 1980. We are always looking for volunteers."

But he admits that there comes a time when many have to retire. So, new recruits are always needed.

"Firefighting is a younger man or woman's game. A lot of the volunteers are older and are getting to retirement age. But still, the older members have things that they can contribute to the job to serve the community. I know I can't do what I did 10 years ago so I do what I can to help my department."

Public Safety Alert:



The TBI, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and Tennessee Department of Health have an important warning to pass along.

In response to a recent spike of overdose incidents in other states around the country, we want to raise awareness about a highly dangerous substance that is now being found in the illicit drug supply: Medetomidine.

Medetomidine is a veterinary anesthetic with powerful sedative properties—far more potent than Xylazine—and it can cause prolonged sedation. It has appeared in our crime labs and, alarmingly, it is often mixed with fentanyl.

We strongly urge everyone to avoid this extremely hazardous and potentially deadly drug.

If you or a loved one is at risk of overdose, keep naloxone on hand. If you can't afford naloxone or you need training on how to use it, locate the Regional Overdose Prevention Specialist who serves your area at this link: TN.gov/behavioral-health/rops

For a free and confidential referral to addiction treatment services 24/7, call or text the Tennessee REDLINE at 1-800-889-9789. Treatment is available even if you have no means to pay for services.

Parent alert: The 'Benadryl Challenge'



We want to make you aware of a dangerous social media trend called the Benadryl Challenge. This challenge encourages young people to take large amounts of Benadryl (diphenhydramine) in order to cause hallucinations. This behavior is extremely unsafe and can be life-threatening. The challenge first came to public attention in 202 after several hospitalizations and deaths were reported across the United States. Unfortunately, this dangerous trend continues to resurface, and it has been reported as on the rise again in Tennessee..

Warning signs of Benadryl overdose

- Extreme drowsiness
- Rapid heartbeat
- Seizures, confusion, or hallucinations
- Blurred vision

What parents or guardians can do

- Talk with your child about the risks of social media challenges
- Remind them that misusing medications is dangerous and potentially life-threatening
- Monitor your child's social media use and online activity
- Seek medical help immediately if you suspect your child has taken too much Benadryl

Together, we can help protect our students and prevent dangerous behaviors. If you have any concerns, please reach out to the school.

Respectfully,
Kymberly N. Bowden, TLPC/MHSP, PC

WANTED

8mm film of Shelbyville area for use in a Free Video Project being produced for The Fly Museum

Please submit to Mr. Lytle Hoover
38 Plymouth Drive
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
or olhoover@gmail.com
856-912-2637

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(931) 857-9395
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Lady Champs Complete 'Battle of Bedford' Regular Season Sweep Against Viqueens

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

BELL BUCKLE, Tenn. – After suffering their first defeat of the 2025 campaign last Thursday against Coffee County, the Cascade Lady Champions (8-1-1, 5-0-0) responded with a gritty 3-1 win against the visiting Community Viqueens (4-0-4, 3-0-3) on Tuesday night in the "Battle of Bedford".

"We expected it to be tougher than the first time," Lady Champs Head Coach Wendy Williams said postgame, "[Coach Alysse & Jesse Cooper] are really good at what they do, and their girls were prepared for us. We never come into a game against Community and think it's going to be easy."

The first meeting between these two teams back on September 4th saw Cascade race out to a relatively simple and easy 5-0 win in Unionville. On Tuesday, despite going up 3-0 early in the second half, it was anything but easy.

Lexi Comstock, who many would claim is currently in the lead in the District 9-A MVP race, nabbed yet another brace, and she opened the scoring in just the third minute of the match. After Kaylee Martin played a ball back across the box from the left wing during a counter-attack, the initial shot from Alayna Ormiston deflected off the crossbar and right into the path of the onrushing Comstock. Comstock was able to get the first touch ahead of Viqueens' goalkeeper, Alana Tate, and poke home the opening goal to give Cascade a 1-0 almost immediately.

However, the Viqueens weren't rattled. After the opening goal, Community began to disrupt some of the Lady Champs' rhythm in attack, shifting to a five-at-the-back system when out of possession. Cascade struggled to adjust at first, but then in the 33rd minute, Comstock struck yet again. After she won a corner, Ella McGeary whipped in an outswinging ball that Comstock attacked ferociously, and despite missing with her head, she didn't miss with her right shoulder as she redirected her team-leading 15th goal of the season past Tate and into the back of the net to double Cascade's lead to 2-0 going into halftime.

Coming out of the break in the 45th minute, Brinlee Collet found herself through on goal after a deflected through ball fell right into her path. Collet calmly passed home her seventh goal on the year to give the Lady Champions a seemingly insurmountable 3-0 lead.

Instead, Community responded just three minutes later via a set piece. In the 48th minute, the Viqueens won a free kick within striking distance, and Sarah Flanagan's delivery fell perfectly into the path of Taylor Finch, who managed to redirect the ball on target and into the back of the net to give the Viqueens a lifeline and trim the lead to 3-1 with more than a half-hour left to play.



Taylor Finch (12) scored the Viqueens only goal of the night against Cascade. *Photo courtesy of David Smith.*



Lexi Comstock (8) continued her fabulous season on Tuesday with yet another brace, bringing her goal-scoring tally up to 15 goals on the year. *Photo courtesy of David Smith.*

Six minutes later, the Viqueens very nearly grabbed a second when another dangerous free kick whizzed just past the post.

Cascade's McGeary was booked for a late challenge in the 55th minute, but then Cascade nearly took back its three-goal advantage in the 58th minute when Comstock's glancing header in the box was spectacularly saved by Tate.

Kenzie Bledsoe was booked in the 66th minute for a late tackle, and then two minutes later Comstock was shown a yellow for standing in front of a Viqueens attempted quick free kick.

Tate capped off a strong showing in goal for the Viqueens in the 73rd minute with an incredible double save against Kaylee Martin. Martin initially won a penalty after her cross struck a Viqueen hand in the box, but Tate produced a wonderful initial save diving to her left before regaining her footing to keep Martin's follow-up out of the net as well. Despite the brilliant effort, Community was unable to find a second goal, and the Lady Champions remained unbeaten in district play.

"We had a lot of opportunities tonight," said Williams, "We have so many girls that are capable of scoring. Of course Lexi [Comstock] just finds a way to finish every time, and Brinlee [Collet] has been a real asset for us this year up top. I think we're still working on those combinations between the runs and the passes [in attack], but I feel like they find a way to make it happen every time."

Blue Raiders Fall to Marshall in Homecoming Battle

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – A two-hour and 12-minute severe weather delay couldn't slow down Middle Tennessee's hot start, as the Blue Raiders struck for two touchdowns in just four plays following the stoppage. But despite the early fireworks, MTSU fell 42-28 to Marshall in its Homecoming game Saturday night at Floyd Stadium.

Nicholas Vattiato threw for 299 yards and two touchdowns, finding Nahzae Cox and Amorion Walker for first-quarter scores as the Blue Raiders quickly erased an early deficit. Jekail Middlebrook added a 72-yard run to set up the first touchdown and finished with 152 all-purpose yards.

Jacob Hathaway booted field goals of 50 and 38 yards to pull MTSU within one at halftime, and Vattiato's 3-yard touchdown run in the third quarter gave the Blue Raiders a 28-21 lead.

Defensively, Parker Hughes led the charge with 14 tackles, while Damonte Smith and Reggie Johnson each recorded sacks.

By the Numbers

50: Hathaway hit a career-long 50-yard field goal in the second quarter – tied for eighth longest in program history. The last time a Blue Raider hit from 50 or more yards was Canon Rooker in 2017 against UTEP.

25: This marks Vattiato's 25th game with 200 or more passing yards – second most in program history.

3: Cox has recorded a touchdown the last three consecutive games.

Blue Raider Notes

Saturday's game featured a two hour and 12-minute severe weather delay.

Last year's homecoming game also featured a severe weather delay, lasting an hour and 41-minutes.

In the previous eight home games, the Blue Raiders have seen three severe weather delays, amassing six hours and 33 minutes.

Up Next

The Blue Raiders (1-3) travel to Kennesaw State next Saturday. Kickoff is set for 5 p.m. CT on ESPN+ and over the air on the Blue Raider Network.



Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

Cascade Shut Out at Sequatchie County

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

DUNLAP, Tenn. – The Cascade Champions (3-2, 0-1) opened Region 4-AAA play at Sequatchie County (3-2, 1-0) on Friday night, but were unable to get on the scoreboard in a 32-0 loss.

The Champions struggled to get anything going offensively, finishing with just 102 total yards of offense, picking up just six first downs total, and finishing 1/8 on third down. They also committed two turnovers in the loss.

Sam Bradley struggled for the first time in a Cascade uniform, finishing 8/14 passing for 44 yards with one interception. As a team, Cascade could muster up just 58 yards rushing on 19 attempts.

Meanwhile, Sequatchie County's Hunter Minton finished with 144 yards passing while the hosts' totaled 115 yards as a team on the ground.

Sequatchie opened the scoring on its first drive of the game after forcing a 3-and-out from Cascade when Hunter Minton punched it in from one yard out to take a 7-0 lead with 3:31 to go in the opening period to cap off a drive that used 6:54 off the clock.

On the Champs' ensuing possession, the visitors managed to pick up a trio of first downs before Gabe Perez-Rubio could not connect on a field goal attempt.

Sequatchie responded with a 56-yard touchdown pass from Minton to Gowan Brown to double the hosts' lead, 14-0, with 7:59 to go in the first half. After forcing another quick punt, Sequatchie County once again found the end zone, this time from 27-yards out after Minton once again found Brown. After the missed extra point, the hosts held a 20-0 lead with 3:25 to go in the second quarter.

Following Cascade's next scoreless possession, the hosts once again found the end zone thanks to a 6-yard touchdown run from Austin Griffith with 1:57 remaining in the half, growing their lead to 26-0 after another missed extra point.

Then, as the Champs were starting to put together a two-minute drive to potentially gain some momentum for the second half, Bradley was strip-sacked at his own 44-yard line. From there, Kason Hicks picked up the football and rumbled into the end zone for a scoop-and-score touchdown to reach the final margin of 32-0.

Injuries, Early Mistakes Cost Golden Eagles at Brentwood

BY NOAH MADDOX
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BRENTWOOD, Tenn. – The Shelbyville Central Golden Eagles (2-3, 2-1) suffered their first loss in Region 6-6A this season at Brentwood (3-2, 2-0), 24-6, on Friday night inside James C. Parker Stadium.

After picking up a first down to start the game, a high snap on the third play of the game ended up in the game's first turnover, gifting Brentwood with excellent field position for its first offensive possession. This seemed to set the tone for a first half filled with ill-timed mistakes that saw Shelbyville commit five uncharacteristic penalties, commit two total turnovers, and enter the halftime locker room trailing 17-0.

"At the end of the day, you have to make fewer mistakes than your opponent to have a chance to have success, you have to get off the field on third down, and you have to be able to convert on third down offensively and we just didn't get it done tonight," said Golden Eagles' Head Coach Jud Dyden. "Hats off to Brentwood, they're well coached, prepared, and we had a tall task ahead of us but fell short. At the same time, it's a great lesson for these guys to understand you can come back from a loss or failure and be better than you were going into it."

Shelbyville came into the game without Stephen Bobo and Robert Bailey due to injury following its home win against Independence a week ago. This forced a freshman, Cyonn Rucker, into the starting role under center for the first time in his young career, and the uber-talented Rucker finished 9/18 passing for 67 yards to go along with nine carries for 55 yards. Torrion Mathis, a sophomore replacing Bailey at tailback, struggled to get going against the Bruins' loaded boxes, finishing with 17 carries for 45 yards and one touchdown. Overall, the Golden Eagles finished with 186 total yards of offense.

"He [Rucker] is very talented, and he's going to be great," Dryden said about his young quarterback, "but, at the end of the day, it's his first start, so there's going to be mistakes and as a team we weren't able to quite overcome that when he did make them, and then he turned some plays where other guys made mistakes and he turned it around into a heck of a play for us. He did some great things ad-libbing. That's the beauty of having a guy with that much talent. As he zeros in and gets better, we're all going to be better."

Brentwood's Gavin Strang went 16/26 for 165 yards and 3 TDs through the air as the Bruins heavily relied on quick screens and slants to get their playmakers out in space. Parker Emerson, Isaac Carano, and Jones Merrill were the three featured skill guys for the hosts on the night. Emerson finished with nine receptions for 59 yards, the tailback Carano tallied 98 total yards and a touchdown on nine touches, and Merrill finished with four catches for 27 yards and a score. Dylan Jackson caught the other touchdown from Strang, finishing with three touches for 20 yards. Overall, Shelbyville held Brentwood to just 198 total yards.

After the two teams traded punts following the visitors' turnover on the opening possession, Brentwood once again had excellent field position at its own 48-yard line. Five plays later, the Bruins were in the end zone following an 8-yard TD pass on a screen to Merrill, taking 2:36 off the clock to travel 52 yards and take a 7-0 lead with 2:21 left in the opening frame.

Shelbyville went three-and-out on its ensuing possession, and once again Brentwood began an offensive possession with wonderful field position. With the ball at their own 45-yard line, the Bruins picked up a first down via a facemask penalty before the Golden Eagles' defense bowed up to force a field goal attempt. Keenan Fisher came on and calmly connected from 52 yards out to give the Bruins a two-score lead, 10-0, with 11:40 remaining in the second quarter.

After three consecutive punts, Shelbyville seemed to have finally flipped the field in its favor with Brentwood starting on its own 26-yard line. However, the Bruins were able to bust a halfback screen wide open with Carano taking his only reception of the night 60 yards to the house down the right sideline to cap a six-play, 74-yard touchdown drive that took 1:38 off the clock to give Brentwood a 17-0 lead with 2:28 left in the first half.

"Stephen going down creates a two-man hole, and it's tough. With where we are in everything, it's hard to lose essentially two [defensive] starters [moving Rucker from CB to QB], but it's just something you have to deal with and move forward. Having Bobo out tonight hurts, but knowing he's going to have a great chance to be back next week is a big deal for us."

Shelbyville was unable to get anything going offensively, and the Bruins took the 17-0 lead into the locker room.

To start the second half, both defenses forced a punt, resulting in Brentwood retaking possession at its own 28-yard line with just under seven minutes left in the period. The Bruins put together a game-clinching, 14-play, 72-yard touchdown drive that took 7:13 off the clock and put the game out of reach at 24-0. By the time Shelbyville got the ball for the second time in the half, there was just 11:50 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Finally, the Golden Eagles were able to put together a coherent offensive possession thanks in large part to Rucker making plays with his legs. However, it was a 19-yard pass to Chandler Jones that got Shelbyville in position to score its only touchdown of the game when Torrion Mathis punched it in from one yard out to get the visitors on the board with 6:28 remaining, 24-6. Shelbyville's scoring drive took nine plays to go 80 yards in 5:22.

Shelbyville did force a quick punt, but after Rucker was hit while trying to throw a pass, the Bruins recovered the fumble and kneeled out the clock to hand the Golden Eagles their first loss in region play.



Freshman Cyonn Rucker (14) and Sophomore Torrion Mathis (16) combined for 167 of the 186 total yards offensively in their first career offensive starts in the loss at Brentwood on Friday night. *Photo courtesy of SCHS Football Facebook.*

Middle Tennessee Opens CUSA Play With 1-0 Win at Home

BY NOAH MADDOX
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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Middle Tennessee women's soccer (6-3-2, 1-0-0 CUSA) opened conference play with a 1-0 victory over Jacksonville State (6-3-2, 0-1-0) Sunday afternoon at Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium.

It marked the Blue Raiders' first win in a conference opener since 2021, when they defeated FIU at Hayes Stadium. The lone goal came in the 55th minute, as senior Yana Yordanova calmly converted a penalty kick to give MTSU the lead.

Goalkeeper Demi Gronauer anchored the back line with five saves to secure her 3rd clean sheet of the season, while the Blue Raiders outshot Jacksonville State 11–5 in the opening half.

Head coach Aston Rhoden on the win:

"I think our defensive unit has been strong all season, and the objective was clear for us to get three points. It didn't really matter what it looked like; we just wanted to find a way to win this game. We had players getting their bodies in front of shots and making key blocks, and that made the difference."

Yordanova on her penalty kick:

"I put the ball on the penalty spot and patiently waited for the signal. I wasn't nervous or stressed. I knew I was confident, and I knew it was going in."

By the numbers:

MTSU finished with 14 shots, including six on frame, while Jacksonville State outshot the Raiders 15-14 but could not break through.

Emma Pettersen paced the Blue Raiders with a team-high five shots, while Taijah Fraser and Alli Craig added two apiece, and Emma Brown and Mya Stenehjem each put an attempt on target.

Up next:

Middle Tennessee will travel to face Western Kentucky on Saturday, Sept. 27, at 6 p.m. CT at the WKU Soccer Complex.



Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

Glorious age and beauty celebrated at the Carriage House

Quote: If you live to be 100, you've got it made. Few people die past that age.

T-G Photos by Marilyn Ewing

Shelbyville Mayor Randy Carroll and other Council members presented keys to the City to the Carriage House's centenarians on Tuesday. Katherine Muriel Coble turned 100 on 6/9/25 and Mary Frances Arnold celebrated 101 years on 9/21/25. See features about these ladies at T-G.com on Thursday.





Frances Arnold and Muriel Coble enjoy their special day of celebration at the Carriage House. Oh to be happy and of such a glorious age.

Town and Country Garden Club







Town & Country Garden Club met on Sept. 17 at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer.

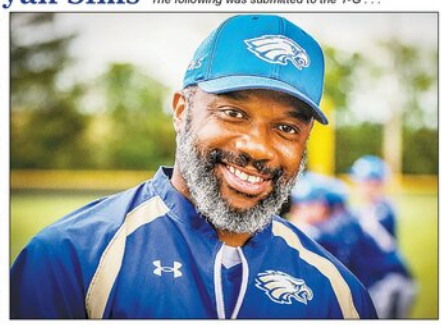
Hostesses were Rene Francis, Muriel Robinson and Rebecca Parker.

The Town and Country Garden Club met on September 17 at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer. The hostesses were Renee Francis, Muriel Robinson and Rebecca Parker. The food was catered by Riverbend Country Club who served a delicious lunch consisting of quiche, fresh fruit and a green salad. Lori Sexton, the CTE Direct of Bedford County Schools, presented a program entitled "Greenhouse Project". She told of how the Innovative School Model Budget money, provided by the state for each school, was used to create A Horticulture Science Curriculum and Culinary Arts Curriculum. The Horticulture Science Curriculum started in 2021 but it was 2023 before the first Green House was constructed by using a temporary portable Green House. However, eventually, after overcoming several challenges, the groundbreaking for the present Green House was in 2024. Now it is a functioning Green House. Students take classes and work in the Green House. The goal is to have the Green House 100% sustainable by students and she feels the goal has been half way met after the last year. In May of 2025 high quality plants were produced in a short time. A sale of those plants to the public was had and run 100% by students. The students are not only learning horticultural skills, but gaining managerial skills and developing a work ethic. One goal of the program is to provide vegetables to the Culinary Arts program for its students to use in the new full commercial kitchen. With the addition of 2 small Hydroponic Green Houses this next year, that goal can be implemented. It should be noted that the Culinary Arts Department does catering. The ultimate goal of the Green House Project is to provide salad kits to take home for students in need of a meal. Within these kits would not only be for the salad but instructions on how to clean and prep the produce. The program presented by Ms. Sexton was informative and heartwarming. It is clear that the Green House Program will benefit all of Bedford County!

People Around Town

Coach Bryan Sims

The following was submitted to the T-G . . .



"Coach Bryan Sims is a lifelong resident of Shelbyville with a deep-rooted passion for the game of baseball and an unwavering commitment to the community. As a proud alumnus and former player for Shelbyville Central High School, he brings both personal experience and local pride to the field.

With over 15 years of experience coaching youth sports, Coach Sims has dedicated much of his life to mentoring young athletes and sharing his love for the game. For the past 2 years, he has served as an assistant coach for Harris Middle School's baseball program, where his impact has paved the way for this next step in his coaching career. His knowledge of the game, combined with his approachable leadership style has made him a key part of the coaching staff.

Whether on the field or in the dugout, Coach Sims leads by example, encouraging discipline, teamwork, and sportsmanship. He has either played or coached baseball for most of his life, and his deep commitment to developing young athletes is evident in everything he does.

Coach Sims is not only a coach but a mentor and role model. His dedication to ensuring that the youth of Shelbyville have a positive and rewarding baseball experience makes him an invaluable asset to the program and a respected figure in the community."



FALL SWEEPS INTO THE AREA

T-G Photo by Dawn Hankins

"And all at once, summer collapsed into fall." –Oscar Wilde

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