COMMUNITY NEWS

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

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MTSU breaks ground on $73 million aerospace complex in Shelbyville

By MTSU News and
By Dawn Hankins
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During the groundbreaking ceremony on Dec. 3 for the new MTSU aerospace facility, State Rep. Pat Marsh noted the positive impact the facility will have on the local economy and generations of students and community members.

Marsh told the crowd of hundreds, nestled within the heated tent, that the new facility will be about as well creating jobs and new business opportunities.

About 15 planes and 85 to 100 aerospace professional pilot students are already utilizing the temporary facility for flight training.

Completion of the new facilities is expected to occur following a 24-month construction period. Until that eventual completion date, Aerospace Department officials anticipate that most of MTSU's flight training and other educational programs will continue to be based in Murfreesboro and Shelbyville, with the aviation maintenance program to remain at Murfreesboro Airport.

'We are excited to support MTSU, and the City's airport, in their commitment to next generation aviation and aerospace advancements. The leadership and vision of these programs will make Shelbyville and Bedford County an attractive place for investment.'

Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham

Shelbyville Mayor Randy Carroll said during his presentation, "The City of Shelbyville is excited and honored to be the new home for the MTSU aerospace facility. Our City Council, legal department and staff worked many hours to make this move a reality."

Carroll personally thanked MTSU President Dr. Sydney McPhee and the MTSU Board of Trustees for their leadership. "Together, we have developed lasting relationships and memories. As the construction phase begins, we will see the vision become a reality."

President McPhee addressed the crowd: "For Shelbyville and Bedford County, relocating our aviation fleet and academic programs to this great community will help transform the area into a true 'university town' and help bring all the benefits of our campus to the area."

MTSU and the Aerospace Department have partnerships with Delta Airlines, Southwest Airlines and Diamond and Piper aircraft, the makers of MTSU's fleet of planes.

Alumnus Eric Wesley, pilot and Delta Propel lead mentor, praised "the hard work of everyone in the Aerospace Department" and described Delta's partnership with MTSU as "strong."

"MTSU's name is highly regarded within the aviation community," continued Wesley, who serves on the MTSU Aerospace Advisory Board, which he said

See MTSU, 2A



AN AVIATOR'S DREAM COME TRUE

T-G Photo by Marilyn Ewing

Paul Perry, director of Shelbyville Municipal Airport, must have had a proud moment last week during the ground breaking of the new Middle Tennessee State University aerospace facility/school off Highway 231 North. He's worked for a while, from an aviation standpoint, helping the school put down future roots in this community. With a 30-plus year career in aviation, Perry formerly worked with the TN Dept. of Transportation's aeronautics division. Please see more MTSU aviation groundbreaking pictures on page 2.

Light Commission meeting ends with a major political announcement

By Dawn Hankins
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

There was minor business conducted at Tuesday night's County Commission meeting. In fact, only 13 of the 18 commissioners were present. But a major announcement, likely unexpected for most, was made by County Property Assessor Ronda Clanton that made the night a little more interesting.

After several years as leader of the local property assessor's office, Clanton informed Commissioners she's retiring at February end.

Clanton said that the Commission will appoint someone for only 6 months until someone wins the upcoming election.

Mayor Chad Graham said Tuesday night that at least 10 votes have to be cast by the Commission for a person to be appointed interim property assessor.

Anyone interested in Clanton's seat beyond the six months will have to pick up qualifying papers March 2-11 at 12 noon. If they declare a

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ANNUAL JAYCEES PARADE BRINGS 'HAPPY TIMES'

T-G Photo by Meridith Miller

Shelbyville Jaycees sponsored its 52nd annual Christmas parade last Saturday. The entry placing first was Eakin Elementary Cheer and Basketball. Second place went to Bedford County Fair and third to Better Homes and Garden Real Estate. As for The Ginch, . . . Well, in Shelbyville, they say, that the Grinch's small heart grew three sizes on Saturday.

Bedford Briefs

15th ANNUAL WINE WALK

The annual Shelbyville Square Wine Walk will be held Friday, Dec. 12, from 4 to 8 p.m. Sip some wine and stroll the local shops for your Christmas gifts.

COUNTY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Dec. 16: Financial Management Committee, 4:15 p.m., historic Bedford County Courthouse. (Meeting one week early and at alternate location due to holiday)

Dec. 16: Rules and Legislative Committee, Public Safety Committee, and Courthouse and County Property Committee, 5 p.m., historic Bedford County Courthouse.

Dec. 18: Board of Zoning Appeals, 5:30 p.m., historic Bedford County Courthouse

Dec. 23: Planning Commission, 7 p.m., historic Bedford County Courthouse

Dec. 24-26: Convenience centers closed for Christmas holiday

Dec. 24-27: Non-emergency county offices closed for Christmas holiday

Dec. 31-Jan. 1: Convenience centers, non-emergency county offices closed for New Year's holiday

CITY COUNCIL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Due to some City Council schedule conflicts, this month's regular City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 6 p.m. at the Codes building at 100 North Cannon Blvd.

Winners for the 2nd Annual Downtown Merchants' Window Decorating Contest will be announced at the City Council Meeting on December 16th. Voting for the People's Choice will end at noon on Monday, December 15th.

City Hall will be Closed on Wednesday, December 24th, and Thursday, December 25th, in observation of the Christmas holidays.

Public Works will be closed Wednesday, December 24th. Wednesday's trash will be picked up on Tuesday, December 23rd, with Tuesday's regular route. Public Works will be closed on December 25th for Christmas Day and Thursday's trash will be picked up on Monday, December 29th, with Monday's regular route.



Local Birthdays Celebrated

REUNION OF NURSE AND BABY BORN 31 YEARS AGO

Family Photo

Shirley Capley recently enjoyed her 90th birthday lunch with Jeb House at Glass Hollow restaurant. Restaurant owner Jeb was celebrating his birthday and the fact that Shirley delivered him into the world 31 years ago, when she was a nurse at Bedford County Hospital. She worked a total 46 years at BCH and had also worked in Fayetteville a number of years prior to that. Celebrating along with them is Rene' Capley.

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Supervisor of the Year

Lori Sexton was recognized with top honors at the Tennessee Department of Education's Excellence in Education celebration.

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Lady Champs make statement

The Cascade Lady Champions win at The Stable against previously unbeaten Richland.

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MTSU

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"cares deeply about the success of the program and the continuation of its rich, long history."

Delta Propel and Southwest Destination 225° are special programs designed to steer future pilots toward meeting the airlines' growing workforce needs. Wesley noted that there are 92 MTSU students or graduates actively participating in the Delta Propel program, and 21 have fully completed the program and are flying for Delta.

Also speaking were Middle Tennessee State University Provost Mark Byrnes; Shelbyville Municipal Airport Director Paul Perry; Board of Trustees Chair Steve Smith; and Ty Welk, a senior aerospace major at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro and current MTSU flight instructor.

To learn more about the Aerospace Department, visit https://aerospace.mtsu.edu or call 615-898-2788. — Randy Weiler (Randy.Weiler@mtsu.edu), Nancy DeGennaro (Nancy.DeGennaro@mtsu.edu)



MTSU PRESIDENT IN A HAPPY MOMENT

T-G Photo by Marilyn Ewing

Despite being a chilly day on Dec. 3, nothing but warmth shone in the face of MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee (center) as he assisted in the groundbreaking ceremony for the university's new aerospace facility, which will be opened in a few years off Highway 231 North near the airport.



PARTNERSHIP WITH DELTA PROPEL PROGRAM

MTSU alumnus and Delta Airlines pilot Eric Wesley talks about the Delta Propel program partnership with MTSU during the groundbreaking ceremony for the new $73.4 million MTSU Aerospace facility. (MTSU photo by Andy Heidt.)



PROUD CITY MAYOR

Shelbyville Mayor Randy Carroll speaks to a crowd of more than 100 on Wednesday, Dec. 3, during the groundbreaking ceremony for the new $73.4 million, state-of-the-art Middle Tennessee State University Aerospace facility that will be located at the Shelbyville Municipal Airport in Shelbyville. He said the project will be a "beautiful addition" to the growing community of Shelbyville. (MTSU photo by Andy Heidt.)



SHOVELING DIRT IN SHELBYVILLE WITH ANTICIPATION

Those breaking ground on Dec. 3, for the Middle Tennessee State University Aerospace facility Shelbyville were: front row, from left, MTSU Board of Trustees Member J.B. Baker; Shelbyville Airport Director Paul Perry; MTSU Basic and Applied Sciences Dean Greg Van Patten; Shelbyville Mayor Randy Carroll; state Rep. Pat State Rep. Pat Marsh; Board of Trustees Chair Steve Smith; MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee; State Rep. Tim Rudd; Delta Airlines pilot Eric Wesley; and MTSU aerospace pro-pilot student Ty Welk; and back row, from left, MTSU faculty trustee Kari Neely; State Sen. Dawn White; MTSU trustee Pete Delay; MTSU student trustee Michai Mosby; and MTSU trustees Bill Jones, Michael J. Wade, Jimmy Granbery, Tom Boyd, Vice Chair Christine Karbowiak Vanek, and John Floyd. (MTSU photo by Andy Heidt.)



STATE REP GRATEFUL FOR PARTNERSHIPS

State Rep. Pat Marsh was one guest speaker during MTSU's new aerospace facility groundbreaking. Marsh said such partnerships which existed in developing this master plan are truly made in heaven. Background note on such community partnerships: According to Jason Reese, general manager of Shelbyville Power Water and Sewerage System, when MTSU announced its aerospace campus was relocating near the Shelbyville Airport,SPWSS diligently found a way to extend the needed sewer infrastructure to this area without resulting in an immediate rate increase to existing ratepayers. After many meetings and conversations between representatives of SPWS, the City of Shelbyville, TDEC (Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation), and the General Assembly, Gov. Bill Lee awarded SPWSS a direct appropriation of $5 million in the FY '24 budget to fund the project.



NEW AEROSPACE RENDERING

T-G Photo by Marilyn Ewing

Artist renderings show views of Middle Tennessee State University's new aerospace department facilities planned to be built off Highway 231 North in the near future. When completed, MTSU will relocate its flight training program from Murfreesboro Airport to accommodate program growth.

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WHY THE CHANGE?

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COMMISSION

From page 1A

party, they will run in the primary in May and if they run as an independent, they will run in the general election in August.

In Tennessee, an elected property assessor holds office for a term of 4 years and this term is determined by the election process (TCA.)

Clanton has been Bedford County's assessor of property since 1996. Her duties have included such tasks as verifying information on real estate sales and conducting periodic reappraisals of property to ensure accurate assessments.

Clanton received her (TCA) Tennessee Certified Assessor designation and also the Certified Public Administrator designation. She has been appointed by the State Board of Equalization to serve on the Assessment Appeals Commission.

Clanton has represented Bedford County as president of the middle Tennessee Assessors Association and president of the Tennessee Chapter of the International Association of Assessing Officers.

She's served locally in the past as president of the Shelbyville/Bedford County Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber Board, the Leadership Bedford Board and the Legislative Committee for Assessors.

Ronda is married to Randy Clanton, who recently retired himself from Shelbyville Power Water and Sewerage System.

One other interesting twist Tuesday night was that Mayor Chad Graham announced that there would be an attorney client privilege meeting to be held at the end of the session. This meeting is closed to everyone but the legal team, mayor and the Commission and is generally conducted due to lawsuits or other legal, pressing matters.

Ginger Shofner, City attorney, stepped in as parliamentarian/legal counsel in John T. Bobo's absence.



Property Assessor Ronda Clanton

In other business, the County:

- Approved Courthouse and Property Committee Item for UT Artwork and Property Usage Agreement at UT Extension Office
- Financial Management Committee Items: County Budget Amendment No. 2 and School Budget Amendment No. 2
- County Surplus
- Pitney Bowes Contract - Circuit Court
- Clerk & Master Policy Update (no vote required)

The mayor announced that due to holiday, the financial management committee, which generally meets on the 4th Tuesday afternoon, will meet next Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 4:15 p.m. Other committee meetings will follow at 5 p.m. Tuesday.

CHRISTMAS ON THE SQUARE IS NOW A TRADITION

T-G Photos by Marilyn Ewing

Shelbyville and Bedford County celebrated its 2nd annual Christmas spectacular last Friday night-one complete with a live nativity scene, fireworks and yes, photos with Old Saint Nick/Santa. What makes this event so special to you? Is it the colorful lights, the tree lighting, the animals, the community togetherness? What? Send your comments and photos from the event to dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net. We will use them in an upcoming issue. City Hall was busy with Santa's elves providing warm cups of cocoa and cookies.











THE ISSUE
A City that's 'blocked in?'

By Dawn Hankins
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City Councilman Josh Blevins made a good point last week during the Shelbyville City Council study session. Somebody had to say it.

Do we want to be blocked in by more apartment complexes, specially on the nice 437 Bypass? More traffic woes? Do we want to provide more housing- at a greater cost on the area-one that was planned to be a nice break away from the traffic off 231 North?

I agree that there need to be more businesses like grocery stores or department stores or even smaller businesses off that by-pass. But we want to know what you think.

Send your comments to dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net and we'll print those reactions next week.

County Wastewater Committee holds first meeting

The first meeting of the Waste Water Advisory Committee was recently held. Committee members, approved recently by Bedford County Commission, include: Alan Gill, Chairman, John Boutwell, Vice Chairman, and Kasey Kesselring, Secretary. Other members include Lynn Kasicki, Denny Hastings, Keith Davis, Sam Coats III, and Eddie Price as an ex officio member.

At this first meeting the committee members agreed their Statement of Purpose is to develop standards, rules, and regulations for decentralized waste water systems for Bedford County. "We are to create these standards, rules, and regulations and present them to the Bedford County Planning Commission. We intend to have individuals at upcoming meetings that will educate and inform the committee so that we can create standards, rules, and regulations that is fair and good for the citizens of Bedford County."

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FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

More Land for Abram

Genesis 13

Abram and Lot separated because the land would not support both families. Abram permitted Lot to inhabit the more fertile land which Lot chose.

Soon the Lord came to Abram and invited him to look to the north, to the south, to the east and to the west. All the land that Abram could see, the Lord gave to Abram and his descendants. The Lord also promised Abram that his descendants would be as the dust of the earth, too many to count.

Next the Lord invited Abram to walk the land. Abram moved his tent to the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron and there he built an altar to the Lord.



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Advent-A Season of Forgiveness

By Dawn Hankins
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Though most churches typically observe acts of repentance during the season of Lent in the spring, I think Advent is also a good time for acts of forgiveness, along with celebrating joy, peace, etc.

If we observed more moments of forgiveness during Christmas, I think more families would be together and probably have a more joyful time.

Having put Christmas programs together in the church, I think observing acts of forgiveness might even help lessen stress for church members as well. (LOL. You have to have done it before to understand.)

No doubt, the world out there needs love and forgiveness, that's for sure.

I admit I'm what is referred to as a "Hearty," that is, I love to watch "When Calls the Heart" on the Hallmark Channel. The long-running series is based on the book by the same name by Janette Oke.

I was so happy to learn this week that they're bringing back Lori Loughlin (Abigail) in 2027. She's been off the show for several years, following that college scandal; she served time for her offense. But I'm glad Hallmark, generally pretty clean in WCTH story lines and presentations, made its point and is now bringing her back.

In spring 2019, the Operation Varsity Blues investigation revealed that over 30 parents of college applicants, along with multiple coaches and test administrators, allegedly conspired to falsify application details to secure admission spots for their children at prestigious universities.

The Full House actress and her husband were discovered to have paid an admissions consultant millions in bribes to have their daughters admitted to the University of Southern California as crew recruits. Loughlin later pleaded guilty and served two months in prison at the end of 2020.

Here's the thing: Jesus is the Reason for the Season and He forgives. Only He can truly set one's heart free of previous sins and transgressions.

So, this Christmas, say a silent prayer of forgiveness. The Lord, I believe, appreciates those prayers any time of the year but especially during the most glorious time when we honor Christ's birth.

CHURCHES SHINE DURING 2025 CHRISTMAS PARADE







Photo by Meridith Miller

Several churches represented the Light-the Son of God and the Reason for the Season-during the 52nd annual Shelbyville Christmas Parade.



Church Photo

Mt. Lebanon Church members in Shelbyville paused for a group photo prior to the Christmas Parade.

Live nativity scene presented by FUMC





Photos by Ethan Clifford

Back by popular demand this year during Bedford County Christmas on the square was the live nativity scene presented by First United Methodist Church.

CHURCH NEWS

FUMC CELEBRATES ADVENT WITH MUSIC PROGRAM

First United Methodist Church of Shelbyville's Chancel Choir will present a Christmas Cantata, A Song, A Son, A Savior and it will serve as this Sunday morning's message-one purposed to lift hearts toward the peace, hope, joy, and love found in Jesus Christ. The Handbell Choir will also share a selection.

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.

Is God Dead? Evolution's Morality



Ty B. Kerley, DMin
Columnist

On more than one occasion, I have made the passing comment that "the Darwinist has no answer to . . ." this or that phenomenon. For instance, we have said that the Darwinist has no answer for the irreducible complexity of particular biological systems in nature. Recall that an irreducibly complex system could not have come into existence through the slow step-by-step process of evolution because the system is not functional until all the components are in place.

More recently, we have said that Darwinists seem to have no answer to how humans "evolved" self-consciousness from simple atoms found in the human brain. But these are rather general statements to provide evidence that "the Darwinist has no answer for . . ." We could say the same when it comes to morality and the universal moral obligations pending upon all human beings. The same statement could be recycled: The Darwinist has no answer for how morality evolved in human beings. However, the statement demands a better answer than that because the Darwinist does put forward an answer to the morality question that deserves consideration.

Darwinists and evolutionary theorists in general suggest that man can know what is "good" and can be "good" without grounding it in God. Reproductive success, it is claimed, depends upon more than one individual dominating another for survival, but "group selection" requires individuals to work together for the good of the entire group. Throughout millions of years of human evolution, moral norms have been selected for the good of the group, they say. The poet Alfred Lord Tennyson, however, coined the phrase that nature is "red in tooth and claw," meaning that the nature of nature is at its core self-serving and singularly focused upon survival. Writer Doug Groothius points out that one need not look very far to see the fallen and brokenness in humanity that cannot help but continually kill one another, be it through "war, racism, slavery, female subordination, planned famine (Stalin), genocide, and lots more nastiness and cruelty." Not only nature but mankind itself is "red in tooth and claw." It would seem that nature, including human nature, is a poor candidate as the source of a universal moral standard. In short, people are not objectively good enough to set their own moral standards. Groothius writes, "Nature cannot yield a moral standard because nature is nothing more than "the collection of physical things and processes" and has no "normative properties" regarding vice, virtue, and moral obligation.

Atheist Richard Dawkins is direct and honest in his assessment: "In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you will not find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. Dawkins, a Darwinist, freely admits that evolution has no answer to where universal moral obligations come from. And yet, a universal moral standard does exist. In truth, the evolutionists have a threefold problem. First, nature displays a vast array of biologically derived possibilities, making no ultimate standard for deciding what behaviors and values ought to be preserved and handed down. In historical evolutionary processes, who got to decide what was a moral good? What moral traits are worth keeping? According to whom?

Second, if nature sets moral standards, then moral standards would be contingent upon the culture or the environment. Darwin himself recognized this writing: "If . . . men were reared under precisely the same conditions as bee-hives, there can hardly be a doubt that our unmarried females would, like the worker bees, think it a sacred duty to kill their brothers, and mothers would strive to kill their daughters: and no one would think of interfering." But once again, moral obligations are standard across cultures and environments because they are based upon a universal moral standard: there are absolute truths that are true for all people in all places in all times. Third, evolutionists suggest that moral obligations are evolutionary by-products that reside as "instincts" within human beings. But this cannot be true either because, as Groothius writes, "if we make moral decisions based upon instinct, we are left with an unreliable faculty of moral judgments, since our instincts are in conflict." This takes us back to Tennyson and nature (and mankind), "red in tooth and claw." Christians understand this state of the world to be Fallen in that things are not as they ought to be, nor as they were in the original perfection of Paradise. Since the Fall of nature and mankind, no element or aspect of creation (or man himself) can bear the burden of producing moral standards to which man is instinctively and universally bound. Therefore, it seems to me that the common moral obligations pending upon all human beings have a Higher source, a Divine source. Perhaps the same source who created everything that exists. Perhaps the same source that has written the moral law on each man's heart. Join us again next week as we look with "Expectancy" to the return to the original perfection. Until then, step outside on a clear night and look up; *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.

Crossword

FreeDailyCrosswords.com

A QUESTIONABLE PUZZLE

By Timothy E. Parker



CLUES ACROSS

1) ___ mater
5) Operates a crowbar
10) "Song" or "slug" attachment
14) TV fixture of old
15) Cocoon constructor
16) Hourly wage, e.g.
17) Procrastinator's response to a question
20) Assume for argument's sake
21) "Twelve Days of Christmas" bounders
22) Vein glory
25) Buying binge, e.g.
26) Long-billed shorebird
30) Crate eggs, e.g.
33) Palomino, e.g.
34) Type of lily
35) Lion offspring
38) Hitting up the boss
42) "Indubitably!"
43) Lucy Van___ of "Peanuts"
44) Demagnetize
45) Fingerprint features
47) It falls in the fall
48) "Li'l Abner" character Hawkins
51) Lip-___ (fake sing)
53) Most suitable for Sprat
56) Bewhiskered animal
60) Sought consent
64) Animal that killed Adonis
65) Alternate identity
66) Solo at the opera
67) Agile
68) Thing to ski down
69) Put faith in (with "on")

CLUES DOWN

1) Decay-fighting org.
2) It makes a sinner thinner?
3) Kind of shark
4) Poor-box contents
5) Aristotle's instructor
6) Car-washer's need
7) Nest-egg initials
8) Wicked as sin
9) Rational
10) Frozen, fruity dessert
11) "Peter, Peter, Pumpkin___"
12) Cubic meter
13) Brief in speech
18) Brennan of film
19) Girl of Aberdeen
23) Less willing to listen
24) Signs up, as for the military
26) Horse cart
27) Scent detector
28) Gets one's goat
29) Letters on an air pump
31) Girl's bow
32) Doc bloc, for short
35) Overseas greeting or farewell
36) Lenin's land, for short
37) "How have you ___?"
39) Local mail HQ
40) Responds to a stimulus
41) Line made with a compass
45) Place with vats
46) Act on, as advice
48) Big, thick slices
49) Famous writer of fables
50) Senegal's capital
52) Disturber of the peace
54) Aquatic resorts
55) Spill the beans
57) "Arts" anagram
58) Emerald Isle
59) Churn up
61) Copacabana setting, briefly
62) GPS offering
63) Voiced turndown



Town and Country Garden Club celebrates Christmas

Town and Country Garden Club met on Friday, Dec. 3, at Glass Hollow on the historic square for their Christmas meeting.

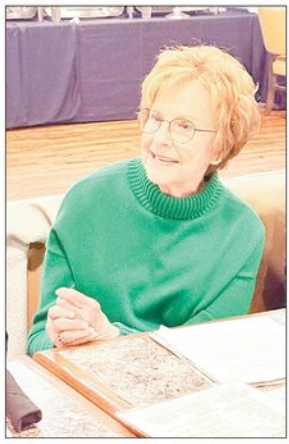
While there was no speaker, the program consisted of the members sharing a special Christmas memory and item that went along with the memory.

Charlene Nelson presented the educational trivia. She informed members of the history behind some of the flowers and greenery frequently decorating homes during the Christmas season. She told club members that many had a religious beginning.

For example, early pagans cut and carried greenery to the temples in hopes of having a hearty, cold winter. Holly dates back to the Romans when they would take boughs of Holly to wish friends a happy Yuletide season.

She also told the story of how the poinsettia came to the United States. It was known by the common name "poinsettia" as early as 1836, derived from Joel Roberts Poinsett, a botanist and the first US Minister to Mexico. Possibly as early as 1826, Poinsett began sending "poinsettias" from Mexico back to the United States. Its earlier name was "Mexican flame flower" or "painted leaf."

Dr. Poinsetta, who was an envoy to Mexico, used to roam the hills of Mexico and noticed a beautiful bright red plant called then Fire Plant. He thought it so beautiful that he wanted to bring it to the United States. With the help of his good friend and florist, they experimented until they perfected a specimen to grow in the United States. Thus, becoming known as the poinsettia, rightfully named after Dr. Poinsett.



Photos By Kim Allison
Charlene Nelson



Town and Country Garden Club

Save the Date Community Clinic requests community support for spring Gala fundraiser

Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry celebrates 140 years-An Anniversary Gala- in 2026. The annual spring event will be held from 6 to 10 p.m., at the Humble Baron Restaurant, 3125 Highway 231 North.

Meharry's teaching site partnership with the Community Clinic provides dental care for ages 4-90+ for Bedford County. The City of Shelbyville and the Bedford County Government have supported this partnership since 2019.

These are some important facts about MMCSoD, according to Community Clinic Director Fredia Flack:

• Meharry Medical College was organized in June 1876.

• Dean William Henry Morgan, MD, DDS, Vanderbilt Dental Department served as a consultant to establish the MMCSoD. Dr. Morgan taught operative dentistry, clinical dentistry and pathology.

• Three Meharry medical students were the first to graduate in 1887.

• Significant contributors: Robert Boyd, MD,DDS; Henry T. Noel, MD, DDS; and John W. Anderson, MD, DDS.

Financial support from Bedford County is essential for the success of the fundraiser/spring gala, Flack advised. CCsBc and MMCSoD will receive 50% of the event's proceeds.

Since 2019, MMCSoD has provided 3,266 patient encounters to Bedford County residents.

As well, the partnership provides MMCSoD a critical teaching site for its fourth-year dental/medical students. Patients receive cleanings, fillings, extractions, x-rays, FREE partials and dentures from a Smile 180 Foundation grant.

"Your years of financial support [have] provided critical dental and medical services to the Bedford County community. Please celebrate this historical event with us," encouraged Flack.

The price per ticket is $250. The purchase of eight or more tickets requires a sponsorship level selection.

LEGACY
$10,000+
(Table of 8 & Gala marketing)

PLATINUM
$5,000
(Table of 8)

GOLD
$2,500
(Table of 8)

For more information, email Shelbyvilleclinic@att.net. To make an online payment visit Paypal.me/CCSBC.

Arnold Community Council holds annual induction ceremony

Arnold Community Council (ACC) recently held its annual banquet and AEDC Fellows induction ceremony at the Manchester Events Center.

Daniel Bratcher, director of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) – Coffee County, was keynote speaker. Bratcher communicated the purpose of the planned TCAT – Coffee County, namely, to create a skilled workforce for area industries which would benefit AEDC well into the future.

The AEDC Fellows Program, chaired by Gen. Mike Wiedemer (Ret.), recognizes individuals whose specific outstanding accomplishments and contributions to aerospace ground testing at AEDC disproportionately and positively affected customers, suppliers, stakeholders, and employees of AEDC; sister government organizations, industry partners; and state of the art.

The AEDC Fellows Program added three new members in 2025: Dr. Bill Phillips, John Hopf and David Duesterhaus. Dr. Phillips was selected as AEDC Technical Fellows, while Hopf and Duesterhaus were selected as AEDC Lifetime Achievement Fellows.

Dr. Phillips was selected for his design, development, and implementation of spectral models and codes, advancing the state-of-the-art in signature modeling for both AEDC and the nation. Hopf was selected for his work in improving the productivity, efficiency, and safety of nearly every wind tunnel at AEDC, with an emphasis on captive trajectory systems. Duesterhaus was selected for his efforts in leading the Technology Division, director of the AEDC National Full Scale Aerodynamics Complex, and Ground Test Representative for the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation.

Outgoing ACC President Mayor Lynn Seaborn highlighted the work accomplished by ACC during his one-year term. He described the impact of the successful trip to Washington, DC, to meet with Congressional and Pentagon representatives. He also emphasized the importance of capturing the needs of the base community to ensure that local leaders include them in economic and infrastructure planning. He thanked ACC for the opportunity to serve.

Incoming President Dr. Mark Mehalic emphasized the need for our surrounding communities to provide the housing, education, and quality of life that the AEDC workforce requires, especially considering the significant increase in AEDC infrastructure and the subsequent need for increased workforce in the coming years.

The ACC was established in 2000 to promote, protect, and preserve AEDC and to facilitate interaction and cooperation between AEDC and the surrounding communities. The ACC represents thirteen southern Middle Tennessee and Alabama counties. Members of the Council visit the Tennessee Congressional delegation and other key members of the U.S. Congress each year and keep open communications with members of the Tennessee Legislature and local governments. The Council sponsors awards to honor AEDC quarterly and annual military award winners. ACC also supports the annual AEDC veteran's picnic, the AEDC children's Christmas party, the Honor Flight of Middle Tennessee, and Wreaths Across America. The Council leadership plans to continue working to protect and support AEDC and to continue strengthening relationships with community councils at our sister bases in the test enterprise.

ACC is a Tennessee nonprofit corporation and an IRS 501(c)(6) nonprofit.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
STATE OF TENNESSEE, BEDFORD COUNTY

WHEREAS, Tammie Hollis and Michael Hollis executed a Deed of Trust to Fifth Third Bank, N.A. (Tennessee), Lender and Todd Clossin, Trustee(s), which was dated May 17, 2005, and recorded on June 3, 2005, in Book TD586, at Page 594 in Bedford County, Tennessee Register of Deeds.

WHEREAS, default having been made in the payment of the debt(s) and obligation(s) thereby secured by the said Deed of Trust and the current holder of said Deed of Trust, Fifth Third Bank, National Association, (the "Holder"), appointed the undersigned, Brock & Scott, PLLC, as Substitute Trustee, with all the rights, powers and privileges of the original Trustee named in said Deed of Trust; and

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable as provided in said Deed of Trust by the Holder, and that as agent for the undersigned, Brock & Scott, PLLC, Substitute Trustee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in it, will on January 20, 2026, at 10:00 AM at the usual and customary location at the Bedford County Courthouse, Shelbyville, Tennessee, proceed to sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following described property situated in Bedford County, Tennessee, to wit:

Land in Bedford County, Tennessee, being all of Lot No. 2, South Wood Estates Subdivision, of record in Plat Cabinet B, Envelope 186, Register's Office for said County, to which reference is made for a more complete and accurate description and said lot.

Being the same property conveyed to Tammy Hollis by deed from American Valve Homes, Inc. of record in Book D270, Page 36, Register's Office for said County

Parcel ID Number:
096H-J-002.00-000
Address/Description:
102 Southwood Lane, Shelbyville, TN 37160
Current Owner(s):
Tammy Hollis (now) Baker et ux Estate of Michael J. Baker
Other Interested Party(ies):
Estate of Michael J. Baker

The sale of the property described above shall be subject to all matters shown on any recorded plat; any and all liens against said property for unpaid property taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements or set-back lines that may be applicable; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; a deed of trust; and any matter than an accurate survey of the premises might disclose; and

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 right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day, time, and place certain without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place for the sale set forth above.

The website of the third-party internet posting company that is posting this advertisement pursuant to §35-5-101(a)(2) is: WWW.BetterChoiceNotices.com

This office is attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Brock & Scott, PLLC, Substitute Trustee
c/o Tennessee Foreclosure Department
4360 Chamblee Dunwoody Road, Suite 310
Atlanta, GA 30341
PH: 404-789-2661 FX: 404-294-0919
File No.: 25-27566 FC01 (266517) (12113tc)

The path to college and technical training just got easier in Tennessee

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Wednesday, December 10, 2025 – The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) marks a pivotal next step in the state's TN Direct Admissions pilot by sending more than 45,000 personalized college admission letters—signed by Governor Bill Lee—to eligible Tennessee high school seniors in the Class of 2026.

Eligible students can expect to receive their TN Direct Admissions letters this week in mailboxes across the state, giving them a clear picture of where they have automatically been admitted to college — with no traditional college application required.

Announced earlier this year, Tennessee's Direct Admissions pilot is partnering with randomly selected Tennessee high schools to connect eligible students directly to immediate enrollment opportunities at participating in-state colleges and universities.

Research shows that the complexity of college applications and financial aid often causes students to give up before finishing the process, with first-generation college applicants particularly at risk of falling through the cracks. The state's Direct Admissions pilot explores whether direct admissions can help more students confidently continue their education after high school.

"Roughly 45,000 Tennessee families will be receiving TN Direct Admissions letters this week, and we encourage students and families to check their mailboxes," said Dr. Steven Gentile, Executive Director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. "These notifications give students an early look at their college options to help them plan their next steps with confidence, making the path to higher education in Tennessee clearer and easier than ever."

Each of the 45,000 letters will include an individual and personalized QR code linking eligible seniors graduating in 2026 to a secure portal where they can review their TN Direct Admission college offers, select their preferred institutions, and immediately claim admission.

Once claimed, THEC will send the student's information directly to the college or TCAT, who will then follow up with the student to provide an official admission packet and guidance on next steps such as completing the FAFSA, campus orientation, and other enrollment requirements.

"The state with the workforce will win the future, and Tennessee is committed to ensuring every student can thrive no matter the path they choose," said Tennessee Governor Bill Lee. "I'm grateful to THEC for their partnership in making higher education more accessible and easier for students to navigate, and I look forward to equipping our next generation of Tennesseans with the skills, training, and education that will create greater opportunity for them to succeed."

Tennessee's Direct Admissions is designed to make college-planning and college-going more accessible, efficient, and affordable for Tennessee students and their families by eliminating application fees and providing a centralized menu of in-state college opportunities.

Tennessee families can expect to save time and steps in the admissions process, as students receive automatic college acceptance letters without the need to submit multiple applications or conduct college research.

The long-term goal is to expand TN Direct Admissions beyond the pilot year and ultimately offer direct admission to every high school senior statewide, creating a clearer, simpler path to college for all Tennessee students.

By removing traditional barriers, simplifying application steps, and providing upfront financial aid information, the pilot aims to make the transition from high school to college or technical training easier than ever.

General information about TN Direct Admissions is provided to participating high schools and made available through school counselors.

Additional resources, including webinars, videos, flyers, and posters, will also be provided and made accessible on CollegeForTN.org to support schools, students, and families.

More information is available on the TN Direct Admissions FAQ page.

WANTED
Paying cash for older sports card collections. Unopened sports card cases and boxes. Comic books and antique sports related items. Shelbyville
931-492-4304

Q&A with Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital's newest orthopaedic provider, Michael Eric Barlow, DO



Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital is pleased to welcome its newest orthopaedic provider, Michael Eric Barlow, DO. Barlow is a Murfreesboro native who was eager to return home to Tennessee after spending the last several years treating patients in Kentucky.

Barlow is dedicated to serving the community and will be spending time with three of Bedford County's high schools and athletic departments focused on sports medicine, while also supporting Vanderbilt Orthopaedic Injury Clinic Franklin.

Barlow enjoys getting to know his patients one-on-one and educating the community on the importance of orthopaedic care. Barlow answered some common questions about orthopaedics.

What is orthopaedic surgery?

Barlow: Orthopaedic surgery focuses on the musculoskeletal system, which is all the parts of your body that help you move. This includes bones, joints, muscles, ligaments and tendons. If nonsurgical treatments such as physical therapy or medication are unsuccessful, surgery is sometimes necessary when injuries, arthritis or other musculoskeletal conditions are preventing your body from functioning properly.

What is sports medicine?

Barlow: Sports medicine is a subspecialty within orthopaedic care that focuses on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of sports-related injuries and physical activity.

What are some common injuries or conditions treated by orthopaedic surgeons?

Barlow: We often treat a wide range of injuries, including fractures, dislocations, and ligament or tendon tears. Chronic conditions such as osteoarthritis, carpal tunnel syndrome, and rotator cuff injuries are also common. Many of these issues stem from sports activities, workplace strain or falls.

How can I prevent orthopaedic injuries?

Barlow: Many musculoskeletal injuries can be prevented by adopting healthy lifestyle habits and prioritizing safety. Maintaining a healthy weight reduces stress on joints, especially in the knees and hips. Regular exercise that incorporates strength training and flexibility can help support your bones and muscles. Taking simple measures that are often overlooked, such as wearing proper footwear, using protective gear during sports, and practicing safe lifting techniques also play a large role in keeping you healthy and preventing injury. For older adults, removing tripping hazards around the home and using handrails can make a big difference in preventing falls and fractures.

What should I expect if I need orthopaedic surgery?

Barlow: Every patient's situation is unique, but the process usually starts with a detailed evaluation, including imaging like X-rays or MRIs. If surgery is recommended, your doctor will discuss the procedure, risks and recovery plan with you. Physical therapy is often required after surgery to help rebuild your strength and mobility. Our goal is always to help you return to your daily activities safely and effectively.

When should I see an orthopaedic surgeon?

Barlow: You should consider consulting an orthopaedic surgeon if you experience persistent pain, swelling or stiffness in your joints or muscles, or if you have an injury that isn't improving with rest and conservative care. Early intervention can prevent further damage and speed up recovery.

Orthopaedic injuries and conditions can significantly affect daily activities, but with the right treatment plan many patients can return to the activities they love.

Obituaries

Jewell Katherine Phelps



Jewell Katherine Phelps, 89, of Shelbyville, died December 2, 2025, at Lynchburg Nursing Center. She was a native of Bedford County, retired employee of Eureka Corporation and a member of Emanuel Church Pentecostal.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Coy D. Powell and Mary Katherine Warren Powell; her husband, Noel Lee Phelps; grandson, Christopher Rollins Phelps; brothers, William Powell and Phillip Powell; sisters, Wanda Fanning and Carolyn Armstrong.

Jewell is survived by her children, Darlene (Eric) Grisham of Lebanon, TN., Michael Phelps of Bell Buckle, Patrick (Beverly) Phelps of Shelbyville, Kevin (Francine) Phelps of Tullahoma; sisters, Viola Powell Sons, Bonnie (Harold) Davis, brothers, Harvey Powell, Steve (Flo) Powell; 7 grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral Services will be held 1:00 P.M. Saturday, December 6th, at Hillcrest Funeral Home with the Revs. Ronnie Adams, Tommy Stiltner and Chris Harris officiating. Burial will follow at Hickory Hill Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 10:00 A.M. prior to service.

Hillcrest Funeral Home in Shelbyville is assisting the family.

James Greely Smotherman



James Greely Smotherman, age 87, of Shelbyville, passed peacefully from this life early Thursday morning, December 4, 2025, at home after an extended illness.

Greely was born on June 21, 1938, in Christiana, Tennessee, to the late Jesse B. and Lula Iris Sanders Smotherman. He was also preceded in death by his daughter, Vicky Lynn Rivait; and siblings Grady B. Smotherman, Russell Earl Smotherman, Joseph Curtis Smotherman, Alta Ruth, Alice Josephine, twin infant brothers Ralph and Randolf Smotherman; and grandson, Jay Dalton.

He is survived by his children: Kimberly Elaine Smotherman, Melissa Diane Gongola, and James Timothy (Brenda) Smotherman; siblings Betty Linda (Howard) and Carey Wayne (Debbie); along with 9 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Greely was born a sharecropper's son in the Midland community of Rutherford County, TN, and later graduated from Christiana School. He began his career at Fly Manufacturing Company, where he worked for five years, followed by more than a decade at Samsonite. He later joined the City of Shelbyville Fire Department, dedicating thirty years of service, including two years as Assistant Fire Chief.

Alongside his career, he was a member of Eastview Baptist Church. He embodied a strong work ethic and commitment to his family and church.

He will be remembered for his unwavering dedication to family, his service to community, and the kindness he showed to all who knew him.

Funeral services will be held 1:00 p.m. Monday, December 8, 2025, in the chapel of Doak-Howell Funeral Home with Brother Bryan Smotherman officiating. Burial will follow at Willow Mount Cemetery.

Visitation with the family will be held Monday, prior to services beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the funeral home.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

www.doakhowellfuneralhome.com

John Isaac Widener Sr.



John Isaac Widener Sr., 51, of Shelbyville, passed away peacefully November 21, 2025, at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville.

Born February 11, 1974, Johnny was the son of the late Myrtle Ellene Garner and James Franklin Widener Jr. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his stepfather, Roy Garner and great-nephew, Thomas Franklin Young IV.

Johnny enjoyed many things, from watching wrestling and Bob Ross, to listening to Ozzy Osbourne. He also had a passion for cooking and was one of the best around. Johnny was known for his sense of humor, always loving to laugh and make others do the same. Most importantly, he loved his wife and children more than anything in this world.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory, his loving wife of more than 25 years, Michelle; children, Lindsey 'Leo' Widener and John 'JJ' Isaac Widener Jr.; brothers, Ronald Widener and Donald Widener; sisters, Angie Widener Crank, Karen Widener, Barbara Widener Curtis and Julie Widener Rosado; several other very loved nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

The family will be privately celebrating the life of Johnny at 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at Shelbyville Recreation Center.

Mary Katharine Greer Young



Mrs. Mary Katharine Greer Young, 74, of Shelbyville, passed from this life at her residence on Saturday, November 29, 2025.

With hearts full of love and gratitude, we invite you to join us in celebrating the beautiful life of Mary Katharine Greer Young — a woman whose light, kindness, and strength touched everyone she met.

Please come together with us as we honor her spirit, her laughter, and the love she poured into her family and community. This will be a joyful celebration of her life, not a day of sorrow.

With love, we celebrate Mary's unforgettable journey.

Visitation, Friday, December 12, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at Galilee Primitive Baptist Church with funeral services to follow at 2:00 pm. at Galilee Primitive Baptist Church. Burial will follow at Mt. Ararat Annex in Shelbyville. Online condolences may be shared at www.weltonfuneralhome.com.

J.A. Welton & Son Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Death Notices

Judith "Judy" Wiser Martin

July 14, 1944 - November 14, 2025

A Celebration of Life service will be held 6:30 p.m. Tues. Dec. 16, 2025, at Blue Ribbon Circle Club for Judith "Judy" Wiser Martin, age 81, of Shelbyville. Visitation will be held prior to the service, starting at 4:00 p.m.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

Margaret Mills Hicks

April 20, 1938 - December 9, 2025

Margaret Mills Hicks, age 87, of Shelbyville, TN., passed away Dec. 9, 2025.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Willie Edward Jones

Willie (Po'Boy) Edward Jones was born in Bedford County on October 26, 1959. He went home to be with The Lord on December 5, 2025, after a short illness.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Mary P. Lentz; father, Willie (Billy Boy) Jones.

Feldhaus Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Barbara Steinke

Barbara Steinke passed away peacefully at her residence in Shelbyville on Monday, November 24, 2025, at the age of 77.

Surviving are her children, Jonathan (Marita) Studer and Michele Steinke; step-children, Rosemary Steinke, Dennis (Tammy) Steinke.

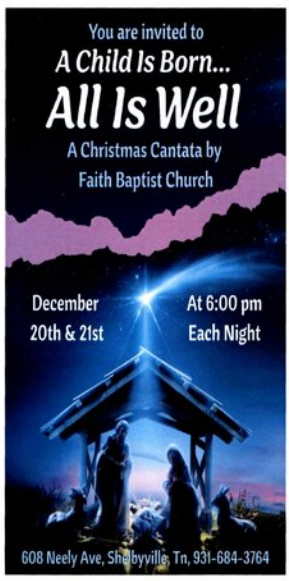
L.C. Foster

L.C. Foster, age 86, of Shelbyville, passed away on December 9, 2025 in Murfreesboro.

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

A QUESTIONABLE PUZZLE By Timothy E. Parker

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



Lady Champs Make Statement in Win Over Richland

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

BELL BUCKLE, Tenn. - The Cascade Lady Champions (6-2) put together a 20-7 run in the second half of Tuesday's win at The Stable, downing the previously unbeaten Richland Lady Raiders (4-1), 53-38.

Last season, led by Bailey Blair, the Lady Raiders finished with a record of 29-5 and made it all the way to the Class A State Semifinals before losing to Greenfield, 47-40. However, in Tuesday's contest, Cascade held Richland to a paltry 28% shooting from the field. Blair finished with 22 points, but she shot an inefficient 7/17 shooting from the floor while hitting just a single field goal – a three-pointer – in the second half after scoring 14 points nearly at will in the first 16 minutes.

For Janie Demonbreum's Lady Champions, Caroline Parker found the range early on with eight first-half points before finishing with a team-high 13 points. Kaegan Young finished with 11 points and five rebounds, and helped put the game away in the fourth quarter by going 5/6 from the free throw line. Meanwhile, Suzanna Crews put forth another double-digit rebounding effort, finishing with 10 rebounds to go along with nine points and two blocked shots.

The Lady Champs jumped out to a 13-0 lead in the first quarter, seemingly taking Richland by surprise in the first part of the opening period. The Lady Raiders were able to close the gap a smidge by forcing a few turnovers to end the quarter, but Cascade still held a 13-3 lead at the end of one.

In the second quarter, Richland switched to a matchup zone, and it seemed to discombobulate the hosts. The Lady Raiders were able to force turnovers that led to some easy buckets in transition, and by the time halftime rolled around the visitors had trimmed the lead to just four points, 21-17.

Coming out of the halftime locker room, Richland continued to chip away. After a Baylee Hollis three-pointer, the Lady Raiders actually took their first lead of the contest, 22-21. However, the Lady Champs would respond in part thanks to Makenzie Fisher, closing the third on a 12-5 spurt to take a 33-27 lead at the end of the quarter before morphing that into an extended 20-7 run that gave Cascade a 41-28 lead with 6:20 to go in the final frame.

Richland Head Coach Chad Hall emptied his bench with about three minutes left to play and his team down by 13 points, and the Lady Champions took advantage by closing out their sixth win of the season.

This is Demonbreum's fourth season at the helm, and it's the most games that the Lady Champs have been over .500 (4) since the 2018-19 season that saw Cascade finish 24-6.

Cascade improves to 6-2 overall and is set to host Cannon County on Friday night, LIVE on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400 starting at 5:45 p.m.



Caroline Parker (5) scored a team-high 13 points on an efficient 4/7 FG shooting in Tuesday's win over Richland. She connected on a pair of three-pointers, and she also dished out three assists. *Photo courtesy of David Smith.*

Golden Eagles Robert Bailey Named Region 6-6A Offensive POTY; Six Others Named to All-Region Team

BY NOAH MADDOX
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NASHVILLE, Tenn. - On Monday, Region 6-6A announced its Region Superlatives as well as the All-Region squads, highlighted by Shelbyville Central's Robert Bailey being named as the 2025 Region 6-6A Offensive Player of the Year.

In nine games this season, the senior tailback ran for 1,227 yards with eight touchdowns, averaging 6.5 yards-per-attempt. He averaged 136.6 yards per game for the Golden Eagles, and he surpassed the 100-yard mark in four of the five region games he participated in.

The other five selections to represent the Golden Eagles on the All-Region 6-6A team were: Tanner Turrentine, Blake Leigh, Jackson Themm, Stephen Bobo, Ellington Scott, and Colton Clardy.

Ravenwood accounted for four of the nine superlatives, highlighted by Maverick Chance as the Region 6-6A Player of the Year. Matt Anderson took home Defensive Player of the Year, Sam Rohan won Defensive Lineman of the Year, and Ricky Rodriquez won Coach of the Year.

Syler Green from Independence won Offensive Lineman of the Year, Brentwood's Keenan Fisher won Kicker of the Year, and Coffee County's Matthew White won Specialist of the Year.



Robert Bailey (31) in the Wildcat with Torrion Mathis (16). The Austin Peay signee ran for over 1,200 yards on the ground in 2025 despite missing two games. *Photo courtesy of SCHS Football Facebook.*



Shlebyville's Robert Bailey (31) was named as the 2025 Region 6-6A Offensive Player of the Year on Monday. Stephen Bobo (15) was also named to the All-Region Team. *Photo courtesy of SCHS Football Facebook.*

Included below is the list of each school's 2025 All-Region 6-6A performers:

RAVENWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

1. CADEN PACE
2. FEMI BABALOLA
3. CY LONGLEY
4. LUCAS MCCOLLUM
5. DANNY BROWN
6. JAYLEN POLLARD
7. NATHAN MOSER
8. JAMES NELSON

BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

1. JONES MERRILL
2. PARKER EMERSON
3. PHILIP WENK
4. BARRON LANKFORD
5. JACKSON ALLEN
6. WALKER ADCOCK
7. TUNER WEBER

SHELBYVILLE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

1. TANNER TURRENTINE
2. BLAKE LEIGH
3. JACKSON THEMM
4. STEPHEN BOBO
5. ELLINGTON SCOTT
6. COLTON CLARDY

INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL

1. MATTHEW HORNER
2. COLBY BARONE
3. JORDAN GRAY
4. HENRY DEMING
5. BLAZE KATINA

FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

1. TEIGHAN LEE
2. LANE ANDERTON
3. JOSEPH PANAIA
4. CAMERON HIGGIN

SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL

1. ZACH WENTH
2. MICHAEL CRUTCHER
3. RYAN ELLIS

COFFEE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

1. SIMEON APLPHONSE
2. KAYSEN LOWERY
3. KANE DIXON

Golden Eagles Come Up Short Against MBA in OT Despite Shelton's 26 Points

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The Shelbyville Central Golden Eagles (7-4) played their second overtime in three games, falling by four points, 74-70 (OT) at Montgomery Bell Academy (3-1) on Monday night.

Knotted up at 63 at the end of regulation, the Big Red's Loni Pughsley put the finishing touches on a team-high 25-point night by matching the Golden Eagles with seven points in the extra session. Shelbyville's Jordan Taylor, who finished with a 20-point outing, connected on a pair of free throws and a three-pointer to lead his team with five points in overtime. Unfortunately for the visitors, they went 0/4 at the free throw line in overtime and 16/28 overall in the four-point defeat.

Tae'Shawn Shelton, who led all scorers with 26 points on the night, was shut out in the extra period. Shelbyville was also without starting senior point guard Malek Johnson as well as Tommie Cannon, but saw the return of Jack Conditt. Conditt connected on one of Shelbyville's four made three-pointers in the game in the first quarter. Jevon Lee was the other Golden Eagle to finish in double-figures with 13 points.

For MBA, Hart Weatherford and Korako Dickens joined Pushley in double-digits with 14 and 12 points, respectively.

This game was close from the very beginning with Shelbyville holding just a one-point lead, 15-14, at the end of the opening period. The Golden Eagles held onto that lead going into the halftime locker room, 34-33, behind Shelton's explosive 16-point second quarter to bring his scoring total to 22 points in the first 16 minutes.

However, in the third quarter, the lack of their two starting guards began to hurt Shelbyville as MBA took a slim 52-48 lead heading into the final frame. The Golden Eagles would respond by outscoring the hosts, 15-11, to force overtime behind Jevon Lee's seven-point fourth quarter, but ultimately came up just short due in part to their struggles as a team from the foul line.

Shelbyville falls to 7-4, but looks to rebound on Thursday night as they return home to take on Summit at 7:30 p.m.

Middle Tennessee's scorching second half leads to 76-61 win over UAB

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Middle Tennessee (4-5, 0-0 CUSA) played one of its better defensive games to stifle the visiting Memphis Tigers (4-6, 0-0 AAC) in a 60-51 win. The Blue Raiders out-rebounded Memphis 40-26 and held the Tigers to just 33% shooting from the field.

Middle Tennessee went to work down low early on, with Blair Baugus and Macie Phifer combining for 12 points and 11 rebounds to help the Blue Raiders lead 20-11 after one. Baugus grabbed six boards while Phifer had a team-high seven points.

Middle Tennessee held Memphis to just 4-of-14 shooting in the second quarter to maintain a 29-22 advantage going into the locker room. The Blue Raiders were plus-nine in the rebounding margin (25-14) and had 18 points to Memphis' six in the paint in the first half. Kirston Verhulst had four points and five rebounds in the second quarter alone to bring her first half total to six points with seven rebounds. The Blue Raiders once again increased the lead to nine points to end the third quarter with a 45-36 advantage.

Middle Tennessee continued to dominate on the boards, pushing the advantage to plus-12 while holding Memphis to just 32% shooting from the field heading into the final quarter. Baugus' 15 points and 10 rebounds to that point locked up her fourth double-double of the season and Yu Han Lin had 12 points. Memphis went on a 9-0 run just over midway through the fourth quarter but Middle Tennessee showed enough resolve to finish things out late. Lin finished with a career-high 20 points and sank all seven free-throws she took while dishing out two assists. Baugus finished with 19 points and had a season-high 14 rebounds with two steals and an assist while classmate Macie Phifer had nine points with nine rebounds. Emily Monson played a career-high 19 minutes in her second career start, scoring four points and grabbing a rebound.



Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

By the Numbers
20: Season-high in points for Yu Han Lin, surpassing her previous high of 17 that came against Tennessee Tech earlier this season.
14: Season-high in rebounds for Blair Baugus, who recorded her fourth career double-double.
7: Times in a row that Middle Tennessee has won against Memphis.
31: The team high in defensive rebounds in a game for the Blue Raiders.

UP NEXT:
Middle Tennessee hits the road for a 2:00 tipoff next Sunday against the Southern Indiana Screaming Eagles.

Middle Tennessee stumbles 83-62 against Belmont

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — Middle Tennessee (5-4, 0-0 CUSA) was unable to overcome the hot shooting of the Belmont Bruins (9-1, 0-0 MVC) in a 83-62 loss on Sunday afternoon.

Belmont shot the ball well midway through the first half, going 8-for-13 from the field, but Middle Tennessee was able to play the Bruins to a 17-17 stalemate through the first 10 minutes thanks in large part to starting the game 5-of-6 from the free throw line and six points in the paint on dunks from Torey Alston, Sean Smith and a Chris Loofe putback.

The Bruins shooting numbers helped them maintain a slim 35-31 lead at the break. Middle Tennessee's Jahvin Carter nailed three three-pointers in the half to give him nine points and forward Torey Alston had nine points with four rebounds and two steals. Chris Loofe grabbed a team-high five rebounds and had five points. Middle Tennessee swiped five steals and scored nine points off turnovers.

Belmont hit 8-of-10 shots from the 15:00 minute mark down to the 9:29 minute mark of the second half to go on a run that helped them finish it out. The Bruins finished the game shooting 52% from the field as a team as compared to 31% for the Blue Raiders.

Middle Tennessee was led by Alston, who finished with 14 points, four rebounds and two steals. Chris Loofe finished just shy of a double double with eight points and 10 rebounds and Jahvin Carter finished with 11 points. Sean Smith had 10 points and dished out four assists off the bench. Alec Ogelsby hit a pair of threes to give him eight points and Luka Jovanovic pulled down six rebounds in 12 minutes off the bench to tie his season high.

By The Numbers
8: Torey Alston hit a career-high 8 free throws on 10 attempts.
7: Games in which Jahvin Carter has netted double-digit points, a team high.

McDevitt's Mic "In modern college basketball, you have to be able to score," said Middle Tennessee Head Coach Nick McDevitt. "There are so many other teams that can score the ball and we just couldn't throw it in the ocean. A lot of times when you have rough shooting nights, you can go back and count a dozen or so bad shots. I didn't think we had a ton of bad shots. We had quality looks, we just couldn't make them."

Viqueens Fall at Moore County

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

LYNCHBURG, Tenn. – The Community Viqueens saw their 4-game winning streak come to an end at Moore County on Friday night, 45-40.

The Viqueens were undone by a two-point third quarter that saw a halftime tie at 26 then grow into a 10-point Raiderettes lead, 38-28, that was too much to overcome in the fourth quarter.

Savannah Pearson scored a team-high 18 points for Community, including 16 in the first half on four made three-pointers. Anna Haskins finished with nine points while Alyssa White was held to eight.

For Moore County, Ally Sharp led all scorers with a game-high 19 points, helping ice the game away by going 6/9 from the charity stripe in the second half. Emma Dye chipped in with 15 points, including nine in the second half.

To start, both teams were on fire from outside with Pearson and Sharp each hitting a trio of triples while Ellie Carter tacked on a fourth for the Raiderettes. Despite this, Community held a 19-16 lead at the end of the opening period with Haskins and White each chipping in with four points apiece.

In the second, Moore County's defense began to wear on the Viqueens, outscoring the visitors, 10-7, to draw even and send both teams into the halftime locker room with the score knotted up at 26-26. Pearson scored five of the seven for the visitors while White added the other two.

Coming out of halftime, the Raiderettes completely shut off the Viqueens' water, outscoring Community, 12-2, to take a 38-28 lead heading into the final frame. Sharp and Dye were able to get to the free throw line, combining to go 5/7 from the stripe, while Dye connected on Moore County's seventh three-pointer of the night. White was the only Viqueen to score in the period.

In the fourth, Community forged a late surge after they connected on a pair of threes, but it was ultimately not enough to overcome the 10-point deficit as the Viqueens fell by just five points, 45-40.

Vikings Demolish Moore County by 38 Points

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

LYNCHBURG, Tenn. – The Community Vikings started strong and never looked back in Friday's dominant 80-42 win at Moore County.

Johnathan Lawwel scored 17 of his season-high 19 points in the first half for the Vikings, connecting on three three-pointers in the process. Charlie Haskins added 16 points while Josh Powers and Andrew Tocchio – who hit a trio of three-pointers yet again – chipped in with 11 points.

Colton Morey led Moore County with a team-high 16 points with 14 of them coming in the first half, but he was the only Raider to reach double-figures on the night.

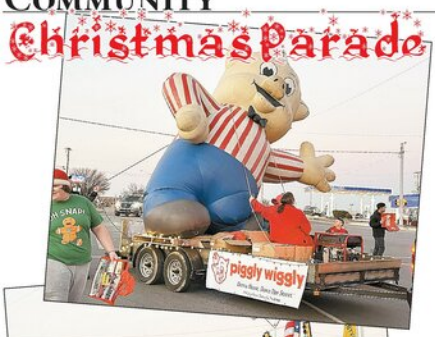
The opening period was a high-scoring affair as Community raced out to a 26-18 lead at the end of the first quarter. Lawwel scored nine in the quarter to pace the Vikings, Haskins added six, and Tocchio chipped in with five. In the second quarter, however, Community tightened the screws a bit defensively, holding the hosts to 12 points as the lead swelled to 50-30 heading into the halftime locker room. The Vikings also connected on five three-pointers in the quarter to buoy the offensive total.

In the third quarter, Community simmered down from outside, but still grew its advantage by outscoring Moore County, 15-10, to take a 65-40 lead into the final frame.

The Vikings held the Raiders to just two points in the fourth quarter – a field goal from little-used Rylan Stovall – while the visitors kept their foot on the gas, scoring 15 more points to reach the final margin of 80-42.

Community hosts Clay County on Friday night at roughly 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Parade











Photos By Meredith Miller

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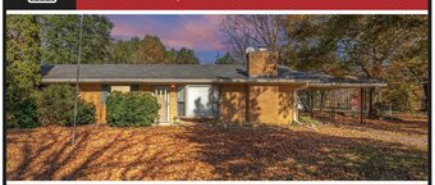

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People Around Town

BEDFORD COUNTY SUPERVISOR IS MIDDLE TN SUPERVISOR OF YEAR

CTE's LORI SEXTON WALKS ACROSS STATE STAGE WITH HONOR

Bedford County School System's supervisor of Career and Technical Education (CTE), Lori Sexton, was recognized with top honors at the Tennessee Department of Education's Excellence in Education celebration on Friday, Dec. 5.

Sexton has been named the Middle Grand Division Supervisor of the Year by the Tennessee Department of Education.

"We are so proud of Lori!" said Superintendent of Schools Tammy Garrett, who attended the celebration with Sexton. "I think this is a representation of BCS, all the hard work we have done and the success we have had in our high schools, especially our CTE programming. Way to go, BCS! Way to shine, Lori!"

Sexton told the T-G this week: "I am honored to receive this award. Career and technical education is my passion, and I am blessed to do what I love. I hope this award serves as a catalyst for awareness, so everyone knows that CTE is a place where all students can showcase their talents and find their place."

During the Dec. 5 ceremony, TDE also announced finalists and grand division winners for principal and supervisor of the year across east, middle, and west Tennessee.

Gingerbread Honey Cupcakes: A Sweet Spin on Tradition

(Family Features) In a holiday season crowded with everything from mouthwatering cakes, cookies and pies to "fa-la-la-la" forgettable fruitcakes, the dessert table can bring you comfort and joy or sweet-tooth dismay.

Here's the secret to spicy, sweet cupcakes that "sleigh" at the dessert table: These gingerbread cupcakes with honey cream cheese frosting swap molasses for raw honey to deliver bold flavor and buzzworthy bragging rights.

To bring the journey to your home this holiday season, visit BusyBeeHoney.com to find more inspiration, information and availability.

Gingerbread Cupcakes with Honey Cream Cheese Frosting

Yield: 12 cupcakes

- 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
- 1/2 cup raw honey
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup buttermilk, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Honey Cream Cheese Frosting:

- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
- 1/4 cup raw honey
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4-6 cups powdered sugar

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Line 12 regular-size muffin cups with paper baking cups.
3. In medium bowl, whisk flour, brown sugar, baking powder, ginger, cinnamon, cloves and salt.
4. In large bowl, using hand or stand mixer, beat softened butter and honey until smooth and slightly fluffy, 1-2 minutes. Beat in egg then mix in buttermilk and vanilla until combined.
5. Add dry ingredients to wet mixture and stir gently until no streaks of flour remain; don't overmix.
6. Divide batter evenly among muffin cups, filling each about two-thirds full.
7. Bake 20-22 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center of cupcake comes out clean.
8. Let cupcakes cool in pan about 5 minutes then transfer to wire rack to cool completely.

To make frosting: Beat cream cheese and butter until smooth and creamy. Add honey and vanilla then gradually beat in powdered sugar until fluffy, spreadable and reaching desired sweetness. Chill for firmer consistency before piping or spreading, if desired.

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Sun. Dec. 14
Third Sunday of Advent
Worship 10 am
"A Song...A Son...A Savior"
featuring the Chancel Choir,
Soloists & Handbell Choir
Wed. Dec. 24
Candlelight Communion
Christmas Eve Services 4 pm & 11 pm
Pastor Abe's message-
"The Cry That Changed Everything"
With Special Music
Sun. Dec. 21
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Worship 10 am
All worship services feature keyboardist Lori Schuler on piano and pipe organ.
Sunday School classes are available for all ages at 9 am.
Children's Moment for all & Children's Church available during morning worship services for age 5 through 5th grade.
Sunday Morning Worship Services are aired on WLIJ 1580 AM and 98.7 FM at 10 am.
Our prayer is that we can be a place for you and your family to connect with the true meaning of this holiday season.
You will be welcome here!