COMMUNITY NEWS

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

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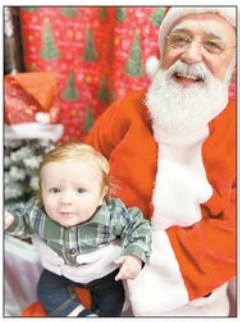





MAKING CHRISTMAS MEMORIES *Submitted Photos*

During a Christmas shopping weekend at Dixie Doodle Boutique in Unionville, little Archer Allen Scott Dunn was introduced by his folks to Santa Claus. As we all know, in time, these can become some of the most cherished photos of one's childhood.

Superintendent Garrett announces to school board her plans to retire in June

By Dawn Hankins
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net



Bedford County Schools (BCS) Superintendent Tammy Garrett made the official announcement Thursday during the Bedford County Board of Education meeting that upon the completion of her contract in June, she will retire.

Garrett was initially appointed under a 3-year contract in March 2021, which was later extended by the school board for an additional 2 years.

After more than three decades of service to public education, and 5 years leading Bedford County schools, she said Thursday the decision comes after "careful reflection" and with deep pride in the work accomplished alongside the district's educators, staff and community.

"It has been the honor of my career to serve the students, families, staff and community of Bedford County Schools," she said. "Over the last 30 years, as a teacher, principal, supervisor and superintendent, I have been privileged to work alongside dedicated educators and leaders who care deeply about the success of every child. Serving as superintendent has truly been the highlight of my professional life."

During the school board meeting, chair Michael Cook said Garrett has had "5 years of excellence." He asked all in the room, including the board, to stand in appreciation. A nice round of applause was given, with Garrett seeming to be greatly moved.

With the help of a great team of community leaders and educators, BCS experienced significant growth, improvement and investment in both student achievement and school facilities over the last 5 years.

Under Garrett's leadership, the district earned its first-ever federal designation of "advancing district," an accomplishment maintained for 2 consecutive years. In prior years, the system had experienced "needs improvement" status.

According to Bedford County communications, academic progress also strengthened substantially under Garrett's tenure, with districtwide success rates improving across all grade bands from 2021 to 2025:

- ✓ Grades 3–5: 30.5% → 41.2%
- ✓ Grades 6–8: 19.5% → 27.7%
- ✓ Grades 9–12: 18.7% → 33.1%

Major capital and operational accomplishments since 2021 include:

- ✓ Opening Cartwright Elementary School
- ✓ Construction of new wings at Community High School, Liberty and Thomas
- ✓ Strategic increases to both certified and classified pay scales

"I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together: strengthening instruction, expanding opportunities for students, supporting our staff and working collectively to build a school system that reflects the values, hopes and future of this community," Garrett said. "Our district is strong because of the commitment and heart of the people who serve in it each day."

As the district prepares for this leadership transition, she emphasized her continued support for Bedford County Schools.

"Although I am stepping into a new chapter, my dedication to public education and to Bedford County will remain. In the months ahead, I will work closely with the Board and district leadership to ensure a smooth and steady transition."

She extended heartfelt thanks to educators, staff, families, community partners and students for their trust and partnership throughout her tenure. "It has been a true privilege to lead Bedford County Schools, and I will forever be grateful to have been part of this remarkable district."

Bedford County Board of Education will share information about next steps in the transition process as plans develop. Chairman Cook said more acknowledgments of the superintendent's achievements will be highlighted soon.

During the school board meeting Thursday, Garrett hinted that her suggested predecessor was sitting right in the very room with them. She

See GARRETT, 3A



A 'TRUE TESTAMENT' TO A LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SAFETY

BCSO Photo

Deputy Ray Templeton (left) was recently recognized on his well-earned retirement from Bedford County Sheriff's Department. Deputy Templeton began his career here in 2015, within the judicial services division. He previously served 21 years with the U.S. Air Force as a security police, followed by 18 years with the Nashville Airport Police. Sheriff Austin Swing said Templeton's lifetime of service is a true testament to his commitment to public safety and protecting others.

People Around Town

It truly has been 'a wonderful life' for Shelbyville's own Walter Taylor

Celebrating Christmas at 91 is a great gift

By Dawn Hankins
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

Celebrating Christmas at age 91 is a God gift, according to Walter Taylor of Shelbyville.

If you sit down in a rocker beside Walter, see him at the Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen or talk to him at a local parade, he will likely tell you that God has given him ample strength to do many things throughout his life.

God certainly has a purpose for his life, he says, otherwise he wouldn't still be here.

He knows he's had hardships-some more difficult than others. He lost his first wife, Louise, in the 1990s, at age 50, to cancer.

Louise was really the reason he moved to Tennessee. They met while he was stationed at Smyrna Air Force Base.

Walter later remarried and had over 20 more years of happiness with his second wife, Charlene.

Sadly, Charlene passed last February as a result of a serious car accident.

While observing the recent

See TAYLOR, 2A

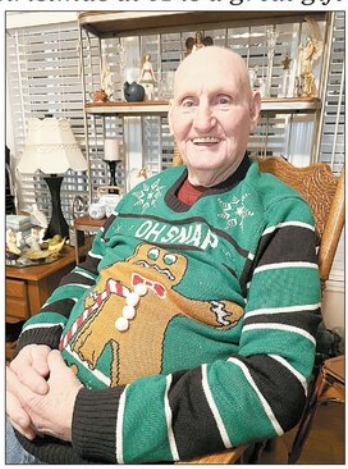

Photo by Meridith Taylor

He's always spreading Christmas cheer. And life just keeps getting better for Walter Taylor. See more photos on page 2 today.

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Advancing School District

Bedford County Schools is an Advancing District for the second year in a row.

See Page 5A



Vikings led by Haskin's 31 point game

Community Vikings overcome slow start to win against Murfreesboro Thursday.

See Page 10A

TAYLOR

From page 1A

Veteran's parade, Walter said it certainly has been a tough year, given it all. But while standing in front of First United Methodist Church-Shelbyville, where he attended with Charlene, Walter says he still has a great faith.

The Veterans parade means a lot to him, personally. Walter was in the Air Force from 1956 to 1960, completing his basic training in Lakeland AFB in San Antonio, Texas.

As a flight engineer on a C1-30, he served most of his years at Clark AFB, located in Luzon, Philippines and/or Howard Air Force Base in Panama.

He says he was never too far away to receive presents and letters for Christmas from the family in Jerseyville, Illinois. He said he was too busy on base to be too sad at Christmas.

He toured Columbia and Belgium. He roughed out one cold season at Sondrestrom AFB in Greenland. (Sondrestrom Air Force Base was a U.S. Air Force Base in central Greenland. The site is now Kangerlussuaq Airport and is located 60 miles north of the Artic.)

Walter ended his career at Stewart AFB in Smyrna.

When asked about his greatest blessing, he quickly says there are multiples; his health; his family; his life experiences. He has an extended family, two grown daughters he dearly loves, Sandra and Meridith, as well as grandchildren.

As a long-time volunteer of the Soup Kitchen, he sees a great need for families here. Walter actually worked at the first SCSK when it was in the old Save-A-Lot building on Cannon Boulevard. He went on to be the traffic controller, standing near the street and directing traffic in properly for pickups.

"There will always be a need to help and to volunteer. I am blessed to be able to continue helping at the Soup Kitchen since 2016."

Walter had a full-time job also, working at Jostens for 39 years.

He also volunteered at the Unionville Volunteer Fire Department as a chief at Station 2 from the outset in 1983 to 1993.

"I also acquired my pilot's license and flew for several years," he proudly notes. But a heart attack, he says, put a stop to that.

Still, there are many other things on his bucket list.

"I'd love to live to 100, although I might not realize I'm 100," he says with his usual smile. "I would like to go back to Hawaii one last time, if I was able to."

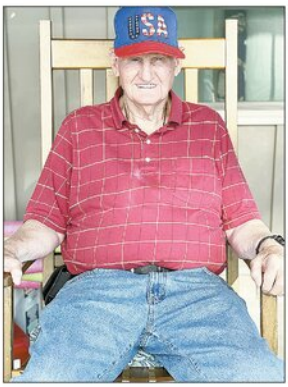
He added, "Luckily, I have been to several places in my lifetime. I've been to the Grand Tetons, seen Mount Rushmore, the Grand Canyon and have been to Hawaii several times."

But his heart rests deeply these days with his work at the Soup Kitchen, which is now in a new building on South Cannon Boulevard. "It gives me a purpose in life. I try to help everyone, no matter who it is."









Inspired Holiday Entertaining

Have a holly, jolly Christmas and a tasty one too!

(Family Features) The holiday season is a time for creating meals and memories that last a lifetime, but it's also one of the busiest times of the year. In the blur of commitments, crowded schedules and endless prep, the tension between a desire to create magical meals and wanting to actually enjoy them is real.

The right cookware can help shift that balance. Inspired by the calming essence of the outdoors, the KitchenAid Evergreen Design Series brings a breath of fresh air into the kitchen, blending expressive design with performance that simplifies the season. From durable stockpots to versatile nonstick pans, these tools elevate both prep and presentation.

When you'll be spending many special evenings around the table during the holiday season, invaluable tools can help streamline the cooking process whether you need a dish that can be made in advance and frozen for easy entertaining like this Homemade Pumpkin Ravioli with White Wine and Herb Butter Sauce or one that lets you focus on the fun and celebrations even with guests in town such as Butternut Squash Mac and Cheese with Bacon.

Homemade Pumpkin Ravioli with White Wine and Herb Butter Sauce

Family Features
Servings: 4

Ravioli:

- 1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin puree
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1/3 cup grated Pecorino Romano cheese, plus additional for serving (optional)
- 2 tablespoons plain dried breadcrumbs
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 pinch ground nutmeg
- 48 round dumpling wrappers
- water

Sauce:

- 6 tablespoons cold unsalted butter, divided
- 1/3 cup chopped shallots
- 2/3 cup dry white wine
- 3 tablespoons heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh sage
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh chives



- 1/4 teaspoon salt

1. To make ravioli: Line fine mesh sieve with dampened cheesecloth. Add pumpkin puree and strain 1 hour. Transfer to bowl and stir in egg, cheese, breadcrumbs, sugar, salt and nutmeg.

2. Arrange six dumpling wrappers on work surface in single layer. Place 1 tablespoon pumpkin mixture in center of each and brush edges with water. Place second wrapper over filling, carefully pushing out any air bubbles then pressing edges to seal.

3. Transfer ravioli to baking sheet covered with parchment paper. Place sheet of plastic wrap over ravioli. Repeat with remaining wrappers and filling.

4. In KitchenAid Evergreen Design Series 6-Quart Ceramic Stockpot over medium heat, bring salted water to a gentle simmer

5. To make sauce: In KitchenAid Evergreen Design Series 3-Quart Ceramic Saucepan over medium-high heat, melt 1 tablespoon butter. Add shallots and cook, stirring occasionally, 1 minute. Add wine, bring to boil and cook until mixture resembles wet sand, 8-9 minutes.

6. Reduce heat to medium-low and whisk in remaining butter and heavy cream until melted. Stir in sage, chives and salt; keep warm, stirring occasionally.

7. To cook ravioli, add half to simmering water and cook, stirring gently once or twice, 3 minutes. Remove with slotted spoon and divide between two plates. Add remaining ravioli to pot and repeat dividing between remaining plates. Spoon sauce over ravioli and serve with additional grated cheese, if desired.

Butternut Squash Mac and Cheese with Bacon



- 8 ounces elbow macaroni
- 6 slices center-cut bacon
- 1 onion, chopped
- 5 cups butternut squash, cubed
- 3 1/2 cups chicken broth, divided
- 3/4 cup low-fat milk
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 pinch nutmeg
- 1 pinch salt, plus additional, to taste, divided
- 1 pinch pepper, plus additional, to taste, divided
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, shredded, divided
- chopped parsley (optional)

1. In KitchenAid Evergreen Design Series 6-Quart Ceramic Stockpot, cook macaroni noodles according to package instructions. Set aside.

2. In KitchenAid Evergreen Design Series 5-Quart Ceramic Saute Pan, cook bacon until crisp. Chop and set aside.

3. In same pan, add chopped onion and cook over low heat, stirring occasionally, until pieces are soft and lightly caramelized.

4. Add butternut squash cubes to onions along with 2 cups chicken broth. Cover and bring to boil. Reduce heat and cook until squash is soft and most liquid is reduced.

5. Pour squash and onions into bowl and add milk, remaining chicken broth, dry mustard, nutmeg and pinch of salt and pepper. Using KitchenAid Evergreen Design Series Tilt-Head Stand Mixer, puree mixture until smooth and creamy.

6. Pour pureed sauce into saute pan. Over low heat, add Parmesan cheese and 3/4 cup sharp cheddar cheese a little at a time, stirring constantly. Add noodles and stir well.

7. Add salt and pepper, to taste. Top with chopped bacon, remaining cheese and chopped parsley, if desired.

THE ISSUE

Bedford Manor residents form tenant union

Union Calls on Landlord to Address Rampant Pest and Maintenance Problems

As people across Tennessee reportedly struggle to find affordable housing and to pay for basic goods, residents of one apartment complex are banding together to demand safe housing conditions from one of the richest landlords in the country. Last week, residents of Bedford Manor Apartments at 400 Barksdale Lane in Shelbyville announced the formation of the Bedford Manor Tenant Union, the first apartment complex tenant union in the history of the county.

BMTU, with 53 members and more signing up each day, sent a formal letter last Tuesday to the landlord, requesting a meeting to discuss its top-priority issues: the neglect of legally required pest control and urgent repairs. The tenants are asking Cooper to follow the terms of his Section 8 contract with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and to respond to their letter within 10 days (Friday, Dec. 19, 2025). The tenant union's demands include:

1. Major priority repairs to apartments, including holes in seriously dilapidated apartment floors.

2. A comprehensive pest control plan, including full building treatment of all 10 buildings to target roaches, rodents, and bedbugs.

3. Transparent and regularly scheduled follow-up treatment by a licensed and reputable pest control company.

One Bedford Manor resident says: "I've been talking to my neighbors and listening to them talk about all sorts of problems in their apartments: holes in their floors, rodents, bedbugs, water leaks, and mold. I joined this union because we shouldn't have to put up with mice, unsafe electrical wiring, and bugs."

Another who has lived in the apartment complex since 2019, describes her daily problems with pests: "Getting up at 4:30 or 5 in the morning to get your kid ready for school, and having to fight the cockroaches to get to the coffee pot. Washing dishes constantly because you're worried about what's been on them. I joined this union in order to make a change and so all the things I've lived through don't happen to someone else. There's a lot of people scared to speak up so we're going to speak up together."



Photo 2 of a seriously dilapidated bathroom floor provided by Jennifer, a mother of young children at Bedford Manor who says water sometimes streams from her ceiling when her upstairs neighbors are showering and that she has been waiting for the floor to be repaired for months.

Is God Dead? The Story of Everything



Ty B. Kerley, DMin
Columnist

Last week, we began to scratch the surface of a story that goes back to the very basement of time: the story of the Jewish people. Since the idea of "history" is defined by Oxford as "the whole series of past events connected with someone or something," then the Jewish story is not merely a story but is a "history" told by the Jewish people of their past, their relationship with Yahweh, and their prophetic expectations for the future. In short, it is what the Christian theologian Kavin Rowe calls the story of everything.

You see, whether we realize it or not, we all have a story in our own minds, our own understanding of the story of everything. Even the Bible skeptic, Michael, has his own story of everything. The story of everything is a story about all that there is. It is a story about God and all that God created because that is all that exists. All other stories are told from inside the story of everything. There is no wider story; no broader story encompasses that story. It is the one story from inside of which all other stories can be told. And because it is the story of everything, it gives us answers to the most fundamental and foundational questions in life: Where did I come from? What does it mean to be human? What is my purpose in life? What will happen to me when I die? Ultimately, these questions can only be answered by and through our story of everything. It is a story that begins and ends in a state of absolute perfection. But there is a great and horrible fall between original perfection and that magnificent future return to perfection. In the Christian motif, we identify these movements of life that occur within the story of everything as Creation, Fall, and redemption through Christ. In that way, the event that consummates the perfect ending to the story is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Even so, for many Jews, Jesus of Nazareth was not the long-awaited Messiah. In fact, for the orthodox Jew, the Messiah has not yet come.

Nonetheless, this is the story of everything. It is a story that is as old as time itself. It is a progressive historical story that moves forward over centuries through dozens of messengers and prophetic writers. Interestingly, biblical scholars have suggested hundreds of Old Testament prophesies of the coming Messiah. However, many early prophies foretelling the coming Messiah are repeated in later prophesies. Therefore, and more accurately, biblical scholar Barton Payne lists some 127 unique Messiah predictions involving 3,348 Old Testament verses. No doubt, the Jewish story of everything that foretells the coming King and Messiah is well documented throughout Jewish history.

This climactic unfolding history of the world, according to both Jews and Christians, was first recorded by Moses in a group of writings collectively called the Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). The Jewish and Christian claim of a promised Messiah is first revealed from the historical writings in the Pentateuch (2nd millennia BC). The first and foundational promise to mankind occurs in the Garden of Eden, with God cursing mankind on the one hand for rank disobedience and providing redemption on the other. It is here God promises for the first time that a descendant of the woman (Messiah) will someday crush the serpent's (Satan's) head (Gen 3:15). In Jewish history, this is the promise that rings out through the generations. Sure enough, the messianic prophesies of the Pentateuch build a story envisioning, as Walter Kaiser summarizes, "the Messiah as coming from the seed of the woman (Gen 3:15), from the race of Shem (Gen 9:25-27), from the seed of Abraham (Gen 12:1-3) , from the tribe of Judah (Gen 49:8-12), from the sons of Jacob."

Following Moses and the Pentateuch, subsequent Jewish prophets produced a multitude of historical writings between the ninth and fifth centuries BC. Among these writers were David's extensive prophetic predictions in the Psalms, not to mention the offerings of the prophets, Joel, Obediah, Hosea, Micah, Amos, Jonah, Isaiah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Nahum, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. Whether you are a Jew, a Christian, or an unbelieving Bible skeptic like Michael, this is quite an impressive list of ancient prophetic historians. And they all record and foretell the same coming Redeemer and Messiah. And yet, one ancient prophecy stands at the apex of Old Testament messianic literature: the Suffering Servant. Join us next week as we dig deeper into the Jewish and Christian claim that the story of everything includes a suffering servant come from the God of creation to redeem mankind from their sin. It is a story steeped in history that makes historical truth claims, and therefore, it deserves our earnest consideration. All of this and more along the way to answer the fundamental 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.

GARRETT

From page 1A

complimented "him" for his excellence and said working alongside "him" had been a pleasure. [Tim Harwell has served as assistant superintendent under Garrett's tenure and was present for Thursday's meeting.]

Garrett offered no discussion about her future plans. Garrett wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Bedford County schools are on Christmas break Dec. 22 through Jan. 5 (Jan. 5 is a staff development day.) Classes begin on regular schedule Tuesday, Jan. 6.



LEADERSHIP BEDFORD LEARNS ABOUT COUNCIL PROCEDURES

Photo by Marilyn Ewing

Shelbyville City Council is always happy to have the Leadership Bedford class attend Council meetings. Council took time for this photo following last Tuesday's regular monthly meeting.

ELECTION NOTICE

COUNTY REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY MAY 5, 2026

A Republican and Democratic County Primary Election is hereby called for Bedford County, Tennessee for Tuesday, May 5, 2026, between the hours of 9:00 am and 7:00 pm at the various precincts.

QUALIFYING DEADLINE --- February 19, 2026 at 12:00 NOON
P.O.S.T. DEADLINE for Sheriff --- February 5, 2026
WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE --- February 26,2026 at 12:00 NOON
LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE --- April 6, 2026
FIRST DAY TO REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOT --- February 4, 2026
LAST DAY TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT --- April 25, 2026
EARLY VOTE April 15TH through April 30th

County Mayor
County Commission – Districts 1-9
Trustee
Sheriff

County Clerk
Register of Deeds
School Board Districts 2,3,4,7
Circuit Court Clerk

FIRST DAY TO PICK UP A PETITION --- March 2, 2026
QUALIFYING DEADLINE --- March 11, 2026 at 12:00 NOON

Assessor of Property --- Unexpired term

Petitions may be picked up at the Election Commission office located at 100 Public Square West, Shelbyville, TN 37160 between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.

For additional information:
Bedford County Election Commission, 100 Public Square West, Basement, Shelbyville, TN 37160
www.bedfordcountytn.gov Office hours are Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

BEDFORD COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
Danny Robbins, Chairman, Connie Crafton, Secretary, Wayne Tucker, Maleah Claxton, Bob York
Summer Leverette, Administrator of Elections

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FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

Another Promise to Abram

Genesis 15

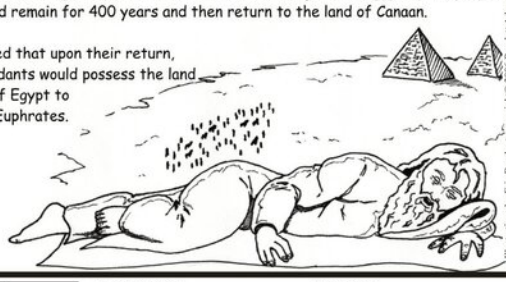
The Lord spoke to Abram in a vision promising him protection and a great reward.

Abram complained that he had no children to inherit the blessing that God would give him. The Lord promised him as many descendants as there were stars in the sky.

Abram believed God and God counted it to him as righteousness. Although He believed, Abram asked for a sign of God fulfilling His promise.

While Abram was in a deep sleep, God told Abram about a sojourn to Egypt by his people where they would remain for 400 years and then return to the land of Canaan.

And God promised that upon their return, Abram's descendants would possess the land from the river of Egypt to the great river Euphrates.



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ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

HASKINS CHAPEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD
425 Haskins Chapel Rd., Lewisburg
931-368-7191

BAPTIST

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

BETHANY BAPTIST
210 Richdale Lane, 931-684-8606

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

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

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

EDGEMONT BAPTIST
150 Fairfield Pike, 931-684-7676

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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689 Ebbethel Rd., 931-684-4754

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

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2027 Madison St., 931-703-9972

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

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100 Center St., Normandy,
931-857-3800

NORTH FORK BAPTIST
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931-294-5610

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

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921 Sevier St., 931-684-7460

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

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

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2202 N. Main St., 931-684-8114

CATHOLIC

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

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

CHRISTIAN

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

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

WHITTAKER CHURCH OF GOD
1200 Bethlehem Church Rd.,
423-618-9920

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

BRIGHT TEMPLE COGIC
516 Elm St., 931-684-7356

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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

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Bedford County earns Advancing District designation for second consecutive year

Three local schools named Reward Schools

On Friday, November 21, Tennessee Department of Education released the 2024–2025 state school and district designations, which recognize schools and districts for performance across key indicators of student success. These measures include student achievement and growth, chronic absenteeism, graduation rate, readiness for postsecondary opportunities, and progress toward English language proficiency.

Bedford County Schools (BCS) was announced as an Advancing District for the second year in a row—one of only 100 districts statewide to earn this distinction. This is the second-highest designation awarded by the state. Only 14 districts achieved the highest designation, Exemplary.

Superintendent of Schools Tammy Garrett celebrated the accomplishment, emphasizing its significance in the district's history. "Last year was the first time Bedford County Schools had ever earned Advancing status, and to receive it again this year is a tremendous honor. This recognition reflects the dedication of our teachers, staff, students and families who work hard every day to ensure high levels of learning for every student. I am incredibly proud of this district and what we continue to accomplish together."

In addition to the district honor, three Bedford County schools were named Reward Schools: Eakin Elementary, East Side Elementary and Cascade High School.

Reward School designations recognize schools that demonstrate high performance and/or significant improvement by meeting objectives across multiple indicators and student groups. This distinction highlights consistent excellence and progress from the previous school year.

Garrett commended the schools for this achievement. "Being named a Reward School is a remarkable accomplishment, and having three schools earn this recognition speaks volumes about the outstanding work happening in our classrooms. These schools exemplify what is possible when educators, students and families stay focused on growth, achievement and opportunity."













CELEBRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Bedford County Communications Photos

On Thursday, Bedford County Board of Education recognized 37 outstanding Bedford County students from across the district for achieving perfect scores on their TCAP or EOC assessments. Three students earned perfect scores on two tests! More in an upcoming issue.







BEST CHRISTMAS DÉCOR IN WARTRACE

Town of Wartrace Photo

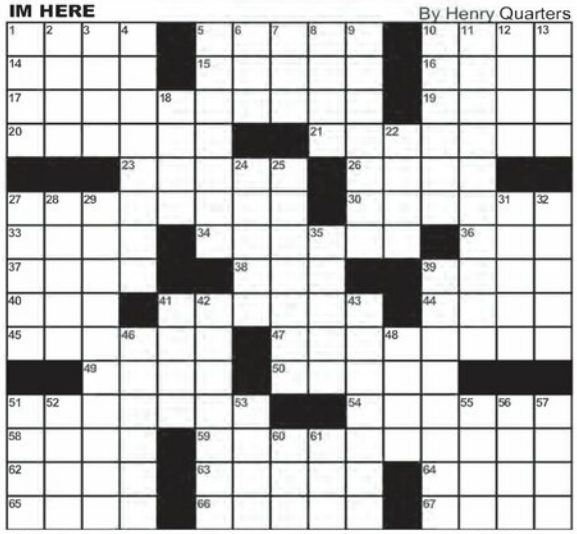
Winning the annual Town of Wartrace holiday decorating contest were Fred and Nichole Reilly, Knob Creek Road. Several local businesses contributed to this contest.



Crossword

IM HERE

By Henry Quarters



CLUES ACROSS

1) Highway roller, for short
5) Long-winded sales pitch
10) Leaning Tower place
14) Czech mate, perhaps
15) Half of Hispaniola
16) Visa alternative, informally
17) Like some tributes
19) Gross minus net, in trucking
20) Spenser's "The___ Queene"
21) Dakar's land
23) Spectrum producer
26) " ... in___-horse open sleigh"
27) Ceylon, now
30) Cheerless
33) Caffeinated drink
34) 24 carat compared to 14 carat?
36) D.C.'s Constitution, e.g.
37) In a competent way
38) "___ Baba and the 40 Thieves"
39) Shirt's opponent
40) May's her month
41) Lustrous, poetically
44) Starring role
45) Kind of gun
47) Mythical animals
49) Jessica Rabbit, for one
50) Hindu holy man
51) Chromosome home
54) Abridged version
58) Like some fireplaces
59) Motel convenience
62) Hatchling utterance
63) "Dream on!"
64) Winged god of love
65) Comments further
66) Pitchers in antique stores
67) Credit card balance

CLUES DOWN

1) "Yeah, right!"
2) Arm bone
3) Gentle, as a horse
4) Carry too far, as an actor
5) Smith's chore
6) Golf score standard
7) Three, on some clocks
8) In-flight details, for short
9) Tangy summer drink
10) Altar plates
11) PR person
12) "Buona___" (greeting in Italy)
13) Figure skating jump
18) Actress Sorvino
22) Bleak film genre
24) "Here's mud in your eye!"
25) Hammer-shaped bone
27) Confidence games
28) Automaton
29) Incorrectly paired
31) Birdlike
32) Affords temporarily
35) Beloved princess
39) Molted
41) Bum soother
42) Not ersatz
43) High noons
46) Sea anemones and coral, e.g.
48) Elegantly stylish
51) Sonoma's neighbor
52) Like thrift shop buys
53) Garbage hauler
55) Dublin's land
56) Nose-in-the-air type
57) Kind of pilot or case
60) Fleecy creature
61) Ruin

FreeDailyCrosswords.com

Kid Scoop

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KID SCOOP EXCLUSIVE:

ELF ENTERTAINMENT

The elves up at Santa's Workshop work hard all year making toys for children all around the world. When the work is done, they play! We visited the North Pole to get what for years has been a top-secret selection of Elf puzzles and games!

Find the differences between these ice-skating elves.

Now find the differences between each elf and his own reflection!

Standards Link: Investigation: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Symbol Search

The grid below is filled with pictures of symbols of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. Match each group of symbols on the right with the same four symbols, in the exact same position, on the large grid below.

Standards Link: Visual Arts: Know how symbols are used to communicate meaning.

Festive Flower

A flower from Mexico has become a traditional holiday decoration in the United States. In Mexico it is called the "Flower of the Holy Night." Write the letter that comes BEFORE each of the letters below to find out what it is called north of the Mexican border.

Q	P	J	O	T	F	U	U	J	B

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Oh, Deer!

Can you find the reindeer drawing Ellen Elf created? Her drawing has all of these features:

- round nose
- 7 bells
- full moon
- curvy horns
- big smile
- short tail

How many snowflakes can you find on this page in 60 seconds? Have a friend try. Who found the most?

Maximum Baggage

Santa wants the elves to fill his bag as full as possible. But one silly elf has tinkered with the order sheets, scrambling the digits in the numbers. Help the elves by rearranging the digits in each number to make it as large as possible.

ITEM	QTY.
Teddy Bears	2,329
Candy Canes	7,498
Toy Trains	486
Skateboards	1,325
Fashion Dolls	6,327

Standards Link: Number Sense: Know place value to the 1,000th place.

Extra! Extra!

Front Page Dot-to-Dot

Look at the front page of today's newspaper. Find and circle each letter of the alphabet. Can you find all 26? Connect the letters with lines and color your design.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Which ornament would you get by putting the broken pieces together?

Standards Link: Mathematical Reasoning: Use a variety of strategies to solve problems.

Double Double Word Search

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

FESTIVE
BAGGAGE
FULL
ELF
MEXICO
DIGITS
NOSE
SANTA
NIGHT
SYMBOL
CURVY
KWANZAA
GRID
MOON
MANY

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Naughty and Nice

Look through the newspaper to find a news story about someone being naughty and another news story about someone being nice. Write a letter to each of them.

Standards Link: Writing Applications. Write informal letters using correct format.

Write On!

Holiday Laughs

Share your favorite winter holiday jokes and riddles.

Kid Scoop Together:

Funny Filler

Have a friend give you each type of word to fill in the blanks. Then read the story aloud!

My family celebrates the holidays in a rather unusual way.

We always decorate a _____ (NOUN) with lots of _____ (ADJECTIVE) _____ (PLURAL NOUN). Then we go from door to door, singing songs about _____ (ADJECTIVE) _____ (PLURAL NOUN). Sometimes, the neighbors will _____ (VERB) along with us.

My mom will wrap several _____ (PLURAL NOUN) and place them under a _____ (NOUN). My sister and I bake some tasty _____ (ADJECTIVE) _____ (PLURAL NOUN) and sprinkle _____ (PLURAL NOUN) on them.

The day ends with everyone opening their _____ (ADJECTIVE) _____ (NOUN). Then we _____ (VERB) upstairs to bed, thinking back on what a _____ (ADJECTIVE) day we had and looking forward to New Year's Eve, when our celebration gets *really* _____ (ADJECTIVE)!

Standards Link: Grammar: Understand and use nouns, adjectives and verbs correctly.

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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 July 22, 2022, executed by SHARIFF S BUREN and REBECCA BUREN conveying certain real property therein described to CLOSED NASHVILLE, as Trustee, as same appears of record in the Register' s Office of Bedford County, Tennessee recorded July 22, 2022, in Deed Book TD1060, Page 631; and

WHEREAS, the beneficial interest of said Deed of Trust was last transferred and assigned to FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION 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 February 3, 2026 at or about 12:00 PM At the main entrance to the Bedford County Courthouse, 1 Public Square, Shelbyville, TN37160, 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. 14, ORCHARD ACRES, ACCORDING TO PLAT AND SURVEY OF SAME APPEARING OF RECORD IN PLAT CABINET "A", ENVELOPE 275, IN THE REGISTER'S OFFICE OF BEDFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE, TO WHICH PLAT REFERENCE IS HEREBY MADE FOR A MORE COMPLETE DETAILS AS TO LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF SAID LOT. BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO SHARIFF S. BUREN AND REBECCA BUREN, HUSBAND AND WIFE BY VIRTUE OF A WARRANTY DEED FROM MIKE PEDONE, AND WIFE KATHY PEDONE, DATED ON JULY 22, 2022, RECORDED ON JULY 22, 2022, OF RECORD IN BOOK D375, PAGE 470, IN THE REGISTER'S OFFICE FOR BEDFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE. ATTACHED HERETO AND CONVEYED HEREWITH IS A 1999 FLEETWOOD MANUFACTURED HOME BEARING SERIAL/VIN NOS. TNFLX27AB52729SR12.

Parcel ID: 031J-A-014.00

PROPERTY ADDRESS: The street address of the property is believed to be 208 ORCHARD LN, BELL BUCKLE, TN 37020. 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): SHARIFF S BUREN, REBECCA BUREN

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:

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 encumbrances 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
Peachtree Corners, GA 30071
rlsale.com/property-listing
Tel: (877) 813-0992
Fax: (470) 508-9401
A copy of this notice is being published at www.BetterChoiceNotices.com (12253tc #267431)

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 Closelin, 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 198, 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:
099H-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)

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Set on Stone: An on-trend guide to regional aesthetics and durable design



(Family Features) Manufactured stone veneer (MSV) brings timeless design to any space, but it's far from "one size fits all." Styles, colors and texture preferences often vary by geography, climate and architectural tradition.

Today, homeowners, builders and designers alike are increasingly drawn to regionally inspired looks that complement local landscapes and home styles. As trends evolve, MSV has risen in popularity for its versatility and ability to reliably embody authentic regional materials. The styles that dominated a few years ago have shifted, giving way to fresh combinations of palettes and textures.

Selecting the right stone allows projects to blend seamlessly with their surroundings, enhancing both curb appeal and resale value. Regional architecture can serve as a helpful guide, whether your inspiration comes from coastal cottages, Southwestern adobes, New England farmhouses or Midwest craftsman homes.

While some homeowners use quarried natural stone to achieve the look they desire, MSV offers a cost-effective alternative with serious durability and minimal maintenance.

With consistent quality, easy installation and a wide range of options, Westlake Royal Stone Solutions' multiple product lines make it simple to achieve authentic, regionally inspired designs. The Eldorado Stone collection, for instance, features everything from coral stone and rustic fieldstone to meticulously handcrafted brick, wood-look textures and more.

Whether you're looking to embrace styles from your own region or draw inspiration from another part of the country, these insights can help you craft a design aesthetic that feels both current and connected.

Northeast: Aesthetics tend toward warmth with neutral colors and natural materials that reflect the coastal geography and design elements that echo the local environment. Natural materials like wood and stone are common, as are distressed or weathered looks that lend an antique or vintage feel. When it comes to stonework, in this region you can expect to find an array of cool grays, ledgestone profiles and rugged textures echoing historic masonry.

Southeast: The timeless charm of a Southern home blends numerous elements to create a look that is inviting but still traditional. Symmetrical facades, architectural details like porches or columns and rich wood accents are popular choices, as are earthy tones, brick and wood accents. Stone aesthetics lean toward warmer earth tones and tumbled looks that complement brick blends and traditional styles.

Midwest: Look for simple designs with clean edges, neutral tones and natural materials. Decor leans toward rustic or country with touches that elicit a feeling of comfort and relaxation. Neutral or mixed-tone fieldstones and contemporary stacked stone profiles are particularly popular for both interior and exterior elements of craftsman or transitional homes.

Southwest: Contrary to the perception of a drab brown desert, local geography lends character to design with vibrant earthy palettes. Natural woodwork textures that contrast with rustic features like metals create a distinctive aesthetic. Lighter, sandy hues of stonework and smooth or elongated profiles that reflect desert landscapes and Spanish-influenced architecture are common among Southwest homes.

West Coast: Further west, you'll see a transition from warm, desert-inspired neutrals to cooler, ocean-like tones. Architecture leans toward modernism with a casual, relaxed vibe. Designs that promote a seamless flow between indoor and outdoor living are common. Complementing organic wood and natural textile selections are often modern, linear styles with cooler neutrals and greige palettes for clean, coastal or urban designs.

Find more inspiration and tips to bring regionally inspired, on-trend MSV into your next home project at westlakeroyalbuildingproducts.com.

Practical Tips for Choosing Stone Veneer

MSV can add eye-catching ambiance to your home, whether you're using it inside or out, for a big statement or subtle accent. It's a popular choice due to its durability and affordability. MSV also comes in a range of options, making it easy to find a match for your home's design.

- Look at nearby historic and new builds to guide your palette and profile selection.
- Consider how your selection will integrate with your home's complementary materials, such as brick, siding, exposed wood or trim, and colors.
- Work with local dealers or design professionals to help you pinpoint region-specific recommendations.

Photos courtesy of Westlake Royal Building Products



Obituaries

Hollice Kenneth Mangrum



Hollice Kenneth Mangrum, 93, of Gallatin, died December 16, 2025.

Graveside Services will be held 3:00 P.M. Friday, December 19th, at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens with Alexander Mangrum officiating.

Visitation will be Friday from 2:00 P.M. to 2:45 P.M. at Hillcrest Funeral Home prior to service.

He was born August 17, 1932, in Bedford County; a retired employee of AT&T; a member of the Church of Christ and a Veteran of the U.S. Navy during the Korean War.

Hollice made the most of his 93 years on earth and lived a rich and full life. After growing up on a farm, Hollice went on to proudly serve in the United States Navy. From there, he enjoyed a career with the telephone company, owned a deli and most importantly to him, raised a family. Known for his charming smile, kind heart, and adventurous spirit, Hollice was well known and loved.

He has now moved on to the next life where he will reunite with his siblings, as well as his love from this life, Jo Rheta.

He was the son of the late Thomas Porter Mangrum and Flossie Irene Bell Mangrum and the husband of the late Jo Rheta Mangrum. He was also preceded in death by his grandson, Brian Dearing.

Hollice is survived by his children, Paul Kenneth Mangrum (Vicki) of Hendersonville, TN., Linda Bradford and Kathie Dearing (Butch) of Shelbyville, TN., Carolyn Hedgepeth (David) of Pensacola, Fla.; eight grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

Hillcrest Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Death Notices

Tammy Maria Nix

Tammy Maria Nix, age 54, of Shelbyville, passed away December 14, 2025, in Murfreesboro.

Tammy was born on February 26, 1971, in Fayetteville. She is preceded in death by her father Thomas "Harold" Nix. She is survived by her daughter Megan Able of Shelbyville; her son Michael Lee Baucom; her mother, Wanda Lee Griffin Nix; her sisters, Janice Prince Pope (Charles), Nicole "Nikki" Chavis (Caleb Sr.); her brothers, Harold "Ray" Nix, Thomas Paul Nix "Tommy"(Lori), Brian Harden (Michelle), Michael Reeves (Annette), and Ronald Christopher Nix.

Feldhaus-Gowen Smith Memorial Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Have a holiday heart healthy meal

(Family Features) The holiday season is about celebrating with friends and family over warm, memorable meals, and few things make those gatherings more special than serving dishes made at home.

To elevate your menu, consider a versatile, beginner-friendly ingredient like Wild Caught Texas Shrimp for your next occasion. For a luxurious Italian dish, try creamy Shrimp Risotto with arborio rice. Or, for a comforting bowl of goodness, serve Shrimp Wonton Soup with tender pork and chopped shrimp.

You can feel good knowing you're serving seafood free from antibiotics and additives while supporting local shrimpers and the Texas shrimping industry. Choosing domestic over imported shrimp ensures your meal is responsibly sourced, meets strict U.S. standards and helps sustain a Texas tradition worth celebrating.

"Asking for Wild Caught Texas Shrimp brings quality to your plate that's delivered with pride and shines a light on the people that make Texas seafood exceptional," Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller said.

For cooking tips and fresh seafood recipes, visit WildCaughtTXShrimp.com.



Shrimp Risotto

Servings: 4

- 1 pound Wild Caught Texas Shrimp
- 2 cups arborio rice
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- salt
- pepper
- 8 cups broth
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 white onion
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1 cup grated Parmesan
- Italian parsley, for garnish

1. Peel and devein shrimp, leaving tails on. Rinse, pat dry and set aside.

2. Heat oven to 375 degrees.

3. Season shrimp with paprika, salt and pepper. Drizzle with olive oil then toss to combine. Lay shrimp in single layer on baking sheet and refrigerate.

4. Heat medium saucepan over medium-low heat and add broth.

5. In separate deep, heavy-bottom pot, melt butter. Chop onion and garlic then add to pot and cook until soft and browning. Add arborio rice and stir to incorporate. Cook until fragrant, 1-2 minutes.

6. Add wine and cook, stirring, until alcohol smell evaporates. Add warm broth one ladle at a time, stirring consistently. Do not add another ladle until liquid from previous ladle is mostly soaked up by rice.

7. Risotto has finished cooking when rice is chewy with consistency of thick oatmeal.

8. Roast shrimp until cooked through.

9. Remove risotto from heat and stir in grated Parmesan and chopped parsley.

10. Scoop into bowls and lay roasted shrimp on top.

11. Season with salt and pepper. Garnish with chopped parsley and serve.



Shrimp Wonton Soup

Wontons:

- 1/2 pound ground pork
- 1/2 pound Wild Caught Texas Shrimp, peeled, deveined, finely chopped
- 4 scallions, thinly sliced
- 2-3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 teaspoon ginger, minced
- 1 teaspoon sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch
- salt
- pepper
- 1 package square wonton wrappers

Soup:

- 48 ounces chicken broth
- 1 piece ginger (2 inches), grated
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon dry white wine
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 1-2 baby bok choy
- 1/2 pound Wild Caught Texas Shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 3 scallions, sliced

1. **To make wontons**: In large bowl, mix ground pork, shrimp, scallions, garlic, ginger, sesame oil, soy sauce, cornstarch, salt and pepper.

2. One wonton wrapper at a time, brush edges of two sides of wrapper with water. Add 1-2 teaspoons filling to center. Fold wrapper corner to corner so two wet edges meet two dry edges, creating triangle shape.

3. Press sides together to seal. Take two corners of triangle and join with water to create purse-like shape. Press to seal. Repeat with remaining wrappers and filling.

4. **To make soup**: In saucepan over high heat, stir broth, ginger, soy sauce, wine and sesame oil. Bring mixture to simmer.

5. Cover pot and turn down heat, simmering 10-12 minutes.

6. Add bok choy leaves, shrimp and scallions. Cook until shrimp are pink and heated through.

7. In separate saucepan, heat water to boil.

8. Drop in wontons in small batches and cook until floating, 5-7 minutes.

9. Transfer cooked wontons to bowls along with shrimp and bok choy from soup pot. Ladle broth, as desired, into bowls.







PRE CHRISTMAS FRONT CAUSES TREE DAMAGE

Photos by Julie Smith

A cold front brought in a potential severe weather threat Thursday evening across the area. Heavy rain and strong wind gusts did lead to scattered tree damage. These photos were taken in Bell Buckle. Reports are that people had Christmas inflatables soaring out with the wind gusts and some not to be found. Sorry folks! Thank you to Kirby at Southern TN Weather for doing such a good job with the local weather forecast. He has received many, many compliments on Facebook. As for Christmas, it's going to be warmer.

IM HERE By Henry Quarters

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BCS Director of Technology Christy Williams appointed to TN Technology Association Board



Bedford County Schools (BCS) recently announced that Director of Technology Christy Williams has been appointed to serve on the Tennessee Educational Technology Association (TETA) Board.

This prestigious appointment recognizes Williams' expertise, leadership and ongoing commitment to advancing educational technology across the state.

TETA's Executive Director Jill Pierce announced the selection, noting the value of having district leaders who bring practical, classroom-focused perspectives to statewide conversations about digital learning and technology integration. Williams's service on the board will help inform policies and initiatives that support educators and students across Tennessee.

"I am honored to be selected to serve on this important board," said Christy Williams. "TETA's mission to empower educators with effective technology aligns closely with my work as director of technology for Bedford County Schools, where I've seen firsthand how strong tech integration can transform learning.

Being chosen by my peers is a true privilege, and I look forward to working with fellow board members to support our schools, enhance digital learning and help every student thrive in the digital age."

Superintendent Tammy Garrett added, "We are exceptionally proud of Christy's appointment to the TETA Board. Her deep knowledge of technology, collaborative leadership and passion for equitable access to digital resources make her an outstanding representative for Bedford County Schools. We know she will bring thoughtful insight and practical solutions to support educators and students statewide."

Williams' new role on the TETA Board will allow her to collaborate with education leaders across Tennessee to promote effective technology practices, professional learning and student-centered digital strategies. BCS looks forward to the benefits her service will bring to the district and to the larger Tennessee education community.

Duksan Electera Donates $6,000 to Support SCHS Student-Led Radio Station

Shelbyville Central High School's audio/visual program received a generous boost this week thanks to a $6,000 donation from Duksan Electera, a Bedford County company investing in student creativity and future careers.

The contribution will help the A/V class and club purchase new equipment for their student-run Golden Eagle internet radio station and build out an enhanced editing bay—key components of the school's growing media production program.

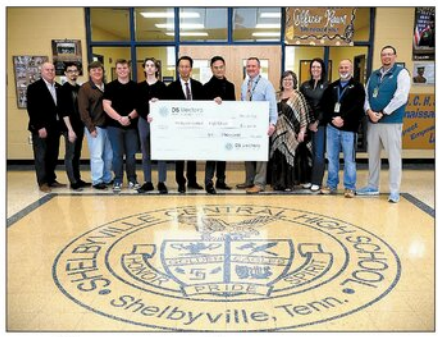
On hand for the check presentation were members of the SCHS administrative team, led by Principal Charlie Pope, media teachers, and audio/visual students. They were joined by Duksan Electera representatives General Manager Killian Yang and CEO Jin Kang Yim, Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham, and Chamber Director Dana Rodriguez.

"We are very happy to have local businesses like Duksan help us with our vision of media production education," said Teacher Neal Gordon who leads the A/V program. "Our internet radio station is an instrumental step in communications with our parents and the community at large."

The Golden Eagle station gives students real-world broadcasting and production experience while expanding the school's ability to share events, celebrations and daily news. Assisting with the program is fellow teacher Alec Kounlavong, who helps guide students through radio operations, editing and on-air communication skills.

"It is our goal to share all the great things happening at Shelbyville Central and our school system in general," Gordon added. "This program will give hands-on experience for our students in all areas of communication."

Shelbyville Central High School expressed sincere thanks to Duksan Electera for its partnership and commitment to supporting student learning. The school noted that the donation will have a lasting impact on both the A/V program and the students who are building skills for the future.



Empowering seniors for safer online experiences

6 practical safety tips for caregivers and families

(Family Features) Today's seniors aren't shying away from a world that has become increasingly reliant on technology. Quite the opposite, in fact, as recent survey findings suggest adults ages 65 and older are more digitally active and self-assured than ever before.

Nearly all seniors surveyed as part of the "Connecting the Digital Dots: Online Habits and Safety Concerns Across Three Generations" survey from Cox Mobile consider themselves digitally literate, using devices for shopping, banking, social media and entertainment. With older adults spending a significant amount of time connected to the digital world – 41% of those surveyed reported spending five or more hours online daily – they're also more at-risk for scams, viruses like malware and data breaches.

Even though 61% of seniors who encountered digital threats were able to mitigate the issues themselves, showing their growing digital capability, increased online engagement brings new challenges and responsibilities for caregivers, who often play a crucial role in supporting seniors' digital journeys.

To help support older loved ones' safety and confidence as they navigate an evolving digital landscape, Cox Mobile, in partnership with Common Sense Media, offers educational materials on digital safety, smart device use and media literacy for all ages. In addition, these practical safety strategies can help empower seniors to make informed, safe choices online.

Encourage Strong Passwords: Simple passwords, like number sequences, keyboard patterns or personal information – such as variations of your name, birthdate, address or names of pets or loved ones – are easily guessable and may lead to issues. While the survey found 70% of seniors already create strong, unique passwords, encourage them to avoid reusing passwords across sites. Recommend a password manager app to safely store passwords and eliminate the need to write them all down, which could lead to a breach if not stored properly.

Promote Security Software: If devices aren't protected, even the most careful users are susceptible to viruses. Though 63% of those surveyed have security software installed, it's important to regularly make sure it's up to date (for that automatic updates are enabled) and covers all devices, including laptops, tablets and smartphones.

Enable Multi-Factor Authentication: A simple and effective way to stop most attempts at unauthorized account access, 60% of seniors are already using multi-factor authentication as an extra layer of protection. Some seniors, however, may need assistance setting up the safeguard, which typically sends a code to a phone number or email address as part of the login process, for online banking, email or social media accounts.

Review Apps and Channels: Over time, it can be easy to accumulate apps on smartphones and tablets. While 51% of surveyed seniors remove unsafe apps, make it a habit to regularly check loved ones' devices for unfamiliar or suspicious applications and delete them. Also keep an eye out for unauthorized charges, data sharing or browser extensions.



Utilize Built-In Safety Features: Explore privacy controls on individual devices (and apps) and check with your loved ones' internet service provider to ensure security features are being utilized like the 43% of those surveyed who are already taking advantage of their devices' safety settings. Included privacy protections may include limiting data sharing, disabling location tracking, blocking pop-ups and restricting other unwanted communication.

Discuss Online Safety Regularly: Because technology is ever-changing, it's important for caregivers to talk with senior loved ones about online safety. Open, ongoing conversations, like those one-third of seniors are already having several times a week or even daily, can help build trust and awareness of current scams, suspicious texts or emails, commonly used apps and more.

By fostering open dialogue, sharing practical safety strategies and leveraging trusted resources, caregivers can help their loved ones thrive and stay safe. Visit your local Cox Mobile store or go to CoxMobileSafety.com to find more tips, guides and full survey results.

SOURCE:
Cox Communications



Transform Your Space with an Accent Wall

Transform Your Space with an Accent Wall

(Family Features) If you're looking to give your home a fresh look without a full-scale remodel, an accent wall might be an ideal solution. Whether you're craving bold color or rich texture, an accent wall can instantly add personality and visual interest with minimal effort.

Consider these ideas to spark your imagination:

Bold Paint Colors

Sometimes the simplest option can be a fresh coat of paint. Whether you choose a deep, dramatic color like burgundy, navy or emerald green or opt for more playful vibes with teal or mustard shades, pair your accent wall with neutral decor for a balanced, stylish look.

Geometric Designs

For a modern architectural look, use wood trim or molding to create a geometric pattern such as chevron or herringbone. Paint the trim the same color as the wall for subtle texture or use contrasting tones for a bolder statement.

Stone or Brick Accents

Exposed brick and stone can bring natural beauty and timeless appeal that pair beautifully with wood beams, modern furniture and industrial lighting. Use real stone for authenticity or opt for veneer panels for quick and easy installation.

Built-In Shelving

Combine function and style with a statement storage area. Built-in shelves filled with books, plants and curated decor can become the heart of a living room or home office.

Wall of Art

Whether you opt for a hand-painted mural or a variety of prints in different shapes, sizes and frames, artwork can tell a story or set the mood for a room. Try a floral motif for softness, a skyline for urban flair or abstract pieces for modern drama.

Find more ideas to personalize your living space at el.ivingtoday.com.



Vikings Shake Off Slow Start Against Central Magnet Behind Haskins' 31 Points

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

UNIONVILLE, Tenn. – The Community Vikings (8-4) overcame an extremely slow start against Murfreesboro Central Magnet (2-8) on Thursday to get back to winning ways before the Christmas Break, 74-59.

Coming off of a rough outing against Eagleville on Tuesday that resulted in some rotation adjustments against the Tigers, the Vikings trailed by as many as 10 points in the first half before Charlie Haskins took over in the second half. The junior guard scored 25 of his 31 total points in the final two quarters, nearly matching Central Magnet's second-half total of 26 points by himself.

"There's some bright spots in there," Vikings' first-year Head Coach Hunter Ferrell said, "I think right now as a program we're currently at a little fork in the road moment for the season where things could turn for the better or for worse. It's been a frustrating week with how things went on Tuesday [against Eagleville], but I'm proud of the fight tonight. It could have been a lot worse in that we could have just never responded and found a way to lose."

After taking a 13-10 lead at the end of the opening period, Central Magnet grew its lead to as much as 33-23 with 2:30 left in the first half. Kason Puffer – who finished with a team-high 17 points – netted his sixth two-point field goal of the opening half, and the Vikings seemed to be on the ropes. Instead, Community was able to tread water for the final 150 seconds, scoring a pair of baskets to trim the lead to 33-27 heading into the break.

In the third quarter, the Vikings turned up the heat with their full court pressure. Still trailing, 38-31, with 5:10 left in the period, Community went on a 9-0 run over the next 1:40 to take a two-point lead.

"You'd like to be able to play good defense and not have to press, but I think it was more of an us than it was an opposing team's thing tonight," Ferrell said, "It was more so about how I can help create some more energy defensively and get some guys flying around. I think it was a way to do that while also understanding that it fits some of the strengths of our guys."

After Carter Sage knocked in a pair of free throws to cut the lead to 42-40, Charlie Haskins went on a personal 11-0 run to close out the quarter and give the Vikings a 53-42 lead heading into the final frame.

"He [Charlie Haskins] has been a kid that can always get to the rim, it's just been about making the right plays, making good decisions, and playing under control. When he plays with the energy and the intensity and the focus that he should play with like he did in the second half, he's a really special kid. It's just about trying to get him to play that way all the time."

Powers opened up the fourth quarter by nailing his first three-pointer of the night. After he split a pair of free throws later on, the senior forward would finish the night with 14 points, the only other Viking to join Haskins in double-figures.

Community's lead ballooned to as many as 20 points before Central Magnet scored a couple buckets in the final seconds to trim the final margin back down to 15 at the buzzer, 74-59.

"All we can do is continue to try and get our guys to play the way that we need to play by January and February, and sometimes you need games like this to prove a point," Ferrell concluded. "We would have loved to play better heading into the break, but at the end of the day, it's a long season, but you want to be sure that you're still moving in the right direction in preparation for district play."



Charlie Haskins (3) scores two of his game-high 31 points in Thursday's win over Central Magnet.
T-G Staff Photo by Noah Maddox.

Viqueens Drop Final Game Before Christmas Break Against Tigers

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

UNIONVILLE, Tenn. – The Community Viqueens (7-5) were unable to overcome 24 points from Murfreesboro Central Magnet's Madisen Stanley, losing to the Tigers (7-3), 43-39 on Thursday.

Stanley took over in the second half before eventually fouling out with just over two minutes to go in the game, connecting on a trio of three-pointers in the final two quarters and going 5/6 at the free throw line to finish with 14 second and half points. When the Viqueens were finally able to string a couple of buckets together, Stanley responded with a deep three-pointer both times in the fourth quarter to maintain the Tiger's three-point advantage.

"She [Stanley] is a really good player," said Viqueens' Head Coach Cody Pierce, "She's a driver first, and then she hit back-to-back [threes] there. She hit some tough shots, and we just couldn't come down on the other end and match it at the end."

Despite Stanley's phenomenal outing, the Tigers' star guard was disqualified when she was whistled for her fifth personal on an offensive foul with 2:25 to go. Mattie Maxey made a pair of free throws with 1:05 left in the game, Community trimmed the lead to just one point, 40-39. Central Magnet's Clara Johnson was fouled and split a pair at the line, allowing Community to call for time with 25 seconds to play trailing by two. In the huddle, Pierce drew up a play for Anna Haskins, who finished with a team-high 14 points after making a couple of three-pointers earlier in the fourth quarter, but Haskins' contested three-point attempt from the left wing was short, allowing Johnson to sink two free throws to ice the win for the visitors.

"I thought we had some good looks late, but I thought we also had some players kind of pass up some shots. They played hard tonight and they just beat us," Pierce said.

The Viqueens' Alyssa White struggled inside all night long with Central Magnet holding her to just a single made field goal – a layup in the first quarter – and just four points in total. Sara Flannagan finished with nine points all coming in the first three quarters while Maxey finished 4/8 at the line with four points, and Brooklyn Yoes connected on a couple of three-pointers to finish with six points.

"We passed up a couple threes that I feel like we should have knocked down, but when we did get it inside we just didn't finish. We had some looks at the rim, but we have to just execute better and finish inside," Pierce emphasized.

Community held a 10-9 lead after the opening period with Haskins scoring six points on a trio of hard drives to the cup. The Viqueens looked like they were taking control of the game in the second quarter, heading into the halftime locker room with a four-point lead, 20-16, after holding the Tigers to just seven points in the period.

However, Stanley began to put her head down and get to the line in the third quarter, first knocking down her second three-pointer of the night before finishing the quarter shooting 5/6 from the foul line. Meanwhile, Community was struggling to crack the Tigers' zone, knocking down just two three-pointers and shooting 3/6 from the charity stripe in the period as the two sides entered the final frame deadlocked at 29.

Johnson opened the fourth quarter with a three-pointer, taking a 32-31 lead after Haskins nailed a pair at the line. Two possessions later, Stanley knocked down her first three-pointer, growing the visitors' lead to 37-31, before Haskins responded with a three of her own. The two again traded three-pointers on the ensuing possessions, setting up the closing scene in Unionville where the Viqueens ultimately fell, 43-39.



Anna Haskins (3) drives past Central Magnet's Madisen Stanley (30) on Thursday. Haskins finished with a team-high 14 points while Stanley scored a game-high 24 points.
T-G Staff Photo by Noah Maddox.

Derek Mason Names Anthony Scelfo Offensive Coordinator, Christopher Browne Offensive Line Coach

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Middle Tennessee Head Football Coach Derek Mason announced today the hiring of Anthony Scelfo as offensive coordinator and Christopher Browne as offensive line coach. Scelfo takes over for Bodie Reeder, while Browne fills the role vacated by Kendall Simmons.

Scelfo comes to Murfreesboro from Southeastern Louisiana, while Browne joins Mason's staff following one season at Arkansas.

"Anthony and Chris are outstanding additions to our staff, and we're thrilled to have them join our program," Mason said. "They each bring an established identity to our offense, strong recruiting backgrounds, and a clear understanding of what it takes to win at a high level. Most importantly, they are aligned with our vision for the future, and we're excited about the impact they'll have on our players and our culture."

Scelfo spent the last five seasons coaching at Southeastern Louisiana, including the last two as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach under his father, Frank Scelfo. The 2025 campaign saw the Lions finish 9-4 and earn a spot in the FCS playoffs, as the offense ranked 22nd nationally in red zone efficiency, 32nd in scoring, and 38th in rushing. Four offensive players earned all-conference honors.

In 2024, the Lions steadily improved under Scelfo's direction, averaging 29.0 points per game in Southland Conference play. Three of his protégés earned first-team All-Southland honors — running back Antonio Martin (1,228 rushing yards, 11 TD), wide receiver Darius Lewis (82 catches, 806 yards, five TD), and offensive tackle Brockhim Wicks.

From 2022-23, Scelfo coached the wide receivers at SLU and played a key role in the Lions' 2022 Southland Conference championship season, which resulted in a 9-4 record and a second-round appearance in the FCS Playoffs. That season's pass catchers were led by All-Southland selection Gage Larvadain, who totaled 59 receptions for 731 yards.

In 2023, Scelfo's unit was led by Darius Lewis, who earned All-Southland honors after catching 48 passes for 568 yards and four touchdowns.

In his first season at SLU, Scelfo mentored a tight end group led by Nolan Givan, who was named first-team All-Southland and All-Louisiana, as well as Louisiana Newcomer of the Year after finishing with 56 catches for 572 yards and six touchdowns.

Before joining Southeastern, Scelfo spent three seasons at Northwestern State as quarterbacks coach, recruiting coordinator, and passing game coordinator. Under his guidance, quarterback Shelton Eppler set multiple single-season and career school records, including passing yards, touchdowns, and completion percentage.

Scelfo began his coaching career as an offensive graduate assistant at UTSA, where he spent two seasons. A two-sport student-athlete at Tulane, he played both football and baseball for the Green Wave. As a junior, he earned first-team All-Conference USA honors on the diamond and was selected in the eighth round of the MLB Draft by the Tampa Bay Rays. He spent four seasons in the Rays' minor league system.

A 2013 Tulane graduate with a degree in political science, Scelfo and his wife Bailey, Southeastern Louisiana's Assistant Athletic Director for Business Operations, are the parents of three sons: Giovanni, Sal, and Alessi.

"Anthony is a bright, innovative offensive mind who understands how to build an offense around his personnel," Mason said. "He's been heavily involved in quarterback development, game planning, and recruiting, and his track record of production speaks for itself. We're excited to have his energy and leadership guiding our offense."

Browne spent the 2025 season as an offensive line assistant and assistant running game coordinator at Arkansas, where the Razorbacks ranked third in the SEC in rushing and finished in the top 30 nationally.

Before joining Arkansas, Browne served as the offensive line coach at Alabama State during the 2024 season, producing three all-conference selections and an FCS All-American in his lone year with the Hornets.

Before Alabama State, Browne assisted the offensive line at Iowa during the 2023 campaign, helping the Hawkeyes to a 10-win season and the development of six All-Big Ten offensive linemen. He was named the 2024 FCS Offensive Line Rising Star by Our Coaching Network and has participated in the Bill Walsh Diversity Coaching Fellowship with the Houston Texans and Pittsburgh Steelers over the last two years.

Browne has also coached at Southern, Louisiana Tech, and Division II programs Morehouse College and Lincoln University.

A Cleveland, Ohio native, Browne was a standout player at Southern, earning two FCS All-American honors at left tackle. He was a three-year team captain, a three-time All-SWAC selection, and a four-year starter. Browne earned his bachelor's degree from Southern in 2012 and later completed a master's degree in business administration from Lincoln University.

"Chris brings a detail driven mentality to our offensive line room that will create an identity of technical mastery and toughness," Mason said. "He's coached and played the position at a high level, understands how to develop linemen, and has experience in both the SEC and the NFL. We're confident he'll make an immediate impact."

Rebounding, Free Throw Struggles Haunt Golden Eagles in Late Loss at Tullahoma

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

TULLAHOMA, Tenn. - After suffering a home overtime defeat in the first iteration of the 2025 'Battle of Highway 41-A' two weeks ago, the Shelbyville Central Golden Eagles (9-5) once again came up short against the Tullahoma Wildcats (6-2), 55-52, last Tuesday night.

Tommie Cannon scored the final bucket of the night for Shelbyville on a nifty up-and-under layup with exactly 60 seconds remaining to put his team back on top, 52-50. However, on a night where the Wildcats routinely kept possessions alive with their tenacity on the offensive glass, Tullahoma managed to come through one more time when a long rebound was hustled down by Jackson Knight, immediately leading to what turned out to be the game-winning three-point play to put the Wildcats on top for good, 53-52, with 34.0 seconds left.

On the ensuing Shelbyville possession, Cannon – who finished with a game-high 16 points and was the best player on the floor for the Golden Eagles for long stretches – drove down the lane, drawing a crowd and kicking to an open and freshly-inserted Jack Conditt for a corner three. Unfortunately for Shelbyville, Conditt's shot was an air-ball, and after Sam Bobo nailed a pair of free throws on the other end to take a three-point lead, Conditt's game-tying three-point attempt from the left wing bounced off the rim before the buzzer sounded, sealing the season sweep for Tullahoma over their rival for the third consecutive season.

Cannon scored a game-high 16 points, Jevon Lee got going for a stretch in the second half to finish with 12 points, and Tae'Shawn Shelton chipped in with 10 points. As a team, Shelbyville went 4/10 from the free throw line and connected on just two three-pointers.

For Tullahoma, Jayden Thompson scored a team-high 15 points, Knight scored seven of his nine points in the fourth quarter alone, and both Sam Bobo and Alex Bobo finished with eight points apiece.

In the opening period, Shelbyville looked like they were starting to find their footing, taking a slim 13-12 lead heading into the second quarter. However, Thompson was a menace in the second, scoring seven of his 15 in the period to lead the Wildcats to a 27-25 lead heading into the halftime locker room.

In the third quarter, Jevon Lee got going for Shelbyville against the Tullahoma zone, scoring eight straight points from the high-post area to give Shelbyville a two-point lead, 41-39, heading into the final frame.



Tommie Cannon (2) drives baseline against Tullahoma's Alex Miller (10). Cannon scored a team-high 16 points in Tuesday's loss to the Wildcats. *T-G Staff Photo by Noah Maddox.*

In the fourth quarter, Shelbyville scored the first basket on a Cannon floater to go up by four points, but the Golden Eagles were never really able to create any more separation. After Jordan Taylor missed a pair of free throws along with Shelton splitting a pair, the door was propped open for the hosts to come running right through at the very end.

Eaglettes Fall at Tullahoma Despite Berry's 19 Points

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

TULLAHOMA, Tenn. - The Shelbyville Central Golden Eaglettes (5-7) were unable to generate any consistent rhythm offensively for most of the night in the second iteration of the 'Battle of Highway 41-A' against the Tullahoma Wildcats (6-3) on Tuesday night, falling 52-36.

Jada Berry scored all nine of her team's points in the third quarter as part of her 19-point performance, and Janiya Leslie chipped in with 13 points.

After the first matchup exactly two weeks prior in which the Wildcats held off a late Eaglettes' rally to win by 12, Tullahoma's Mclayne Bobo – who signed with MTSU in November – dominated from the opening jump, finishing with a game-high 30 points, including 11/15 shooting at the free throw line. She was the only Wildcat to score in double-figures.

Lizzy Sharpton got the scoring started for Tullahoma, scoring four of her six total points to open the game. Bobo added a pair of threes and a pair of made free throws, Zoie Roberts nailed another three, and Kenzie Farrell added a layup. For Shelbyville, Jada Berry led the way with six points while Leslie hit a three and scored the other five as the Eaglettes trailed by six points, 17-11, at the end of the first quarter.

Leslie scored Shelbyville Central's only four points in the second period as Tullahoma outscored the visitors, 10-4, to take a 27-15 lead heading into the halftime locker room. Aubrey North nailed the fourth of five total Tullahoma triples, Gena Hickerson added two points, and Bobo added five points to bring her first-half total to 13.

After dealing with foul trouble in the second quarter, Jada Berry became the sole source of offense for Shelbyville coming out of halftime. She was the only Eaglette to score, putting up nine points in the period. Meanwhile, Bobo scored six more points, Ferrell added two, and Sharpton nailed a pair of free throws to ensure the Wildcats took a 37-24 lead heading into the final frame.

Bobo closed out the Eaglettes in the fourth quarter, converting a pair of old-fashioned three-point plays on top of nailing a three-pointer, rounding out her impressive evening with 11 points in the period. The Tullahoma lead ballooned to more than 20 points before the Eaglettes fought back with a couple of late buckets. Berry added four more in the quarter, Kenley Patton split a pair of free throws, Leslie added four more, and Jayda Frazier scored her only three points of the night in the fourth.



Jada Berry (40) attacks the basket at Tullahoma. Berry led the Eaglettes with a team-high 19 points in Tuesday's loss. *T-G Staff Photo by Noah Maddox.*

Blue Raiders Survive Late Push, Defeat Wichita State 46–45

MT ATHLETICS

WICHITA, Kan. - Middle Tennessee (5-7,0-0 CUSA) concludes non-conference play with a win over Wichita State (3-10, 0-0 AC).

The Blue Raiders began the game with a back-and-forth scoring exchange, with each team holding a maximum lead of two points. MTSU trailed by one point at halftime, with a score of 20-19.

In the third quarter, MTSU's Savannah Davis hit consecutive three-pointers, allowing the team to extend their lead to 25-20 with 8:24 remaining. Freshman Blair Baugus scored a second-chance jumper in the paint following an opponent's turnover at 5:16, bringing the score to 29-22. Baugus then made a turnaround jumper, and at 2:58, guard Yu Han Lin scored a driving layup on a fast break after another turnover by Wichita State, extending the lead to 33-25. Then Davis hit another to extend the lead 45-33 for MTSU, their largest lead of the game but in the 4th quarter the Shockers went on a 12-1 run over 4:21 cuts MTSU's lead 46-45.

With 00:38 remaining in the 4th quarter, freshman Macie Phifer blocked a jumper by Jaida McDonald, which sealed the game. Davis tallied 10 points and 6 rebounds, Baugus recorded 8 points and 12 rebounds, and Phifer recorded 8 pts, 3 assists, and 2 blocks.

Coach's Comments
We outrebounded them 40–33. Again, we won the rebounding battle. We kept their best players from touching the ball, and I'm happier about that than anything. We got points in the paint, and Davis did touch the ball. Every time she got a look, she scored.

By the Numbers

40: Middle Tennessee out-rebounded Wichita State 40 to 33.
10: Middle Tennessee's second game with 10 lead changes, which is the most this season. The last time was at Rice (Nov 15).
12: Baugus led in rebounds with 12, her third game with 12 rebounds this season, her third highest.
3: Davis makes three 3-pointers in the second half.



Photo by MT Athletics

Up Next

The Blue Raiders travel to Kennesaw State on Friday, Jan. 3. Tipoff is set for 6:00 p.m. CT. The game will air on the Blue Raider Network and stream on ESPN+.



REMEMBERING THOSE SERVING, GONE ON BEFORE US WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA PLACES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WREATHS



T-G Photos by Meridith Miller

Christmas wreaths were placed last Saturday on veteran graves at Willow Mount Cemetery as part of the annual Wreaths Across America event.





CELEBRATING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Photos by Donna Brock

One of First United Methodist Church-Shelbyville's most beautiful traditions is when the church is adorned with honor and memorial poinsettias. Dec. 14 was Honor (red) and Sunday, Dec. 21, was Memorial (white.)

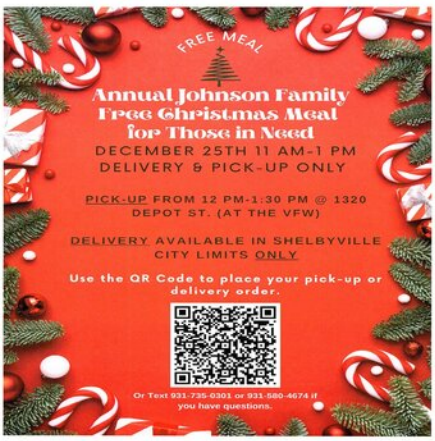
The community is encouraged to find a place of worship on this holiest of holidays-Christmas.



HAVE A VERY JOLLY AND MERRY CHRISTMAS

Photo by Steven Flippo

You never know when Santa might be visiting Shelbyville. He made a trip around the square just the other day. Several kids spotted him and got in their Christmas wishes.



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