COMMUNITY NEWS

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

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City Council researching a senior property tax freeze

Councilman Josh Blevins requesting a motion in February

By Dawn Hankins
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Just as he promised Bedford County Commissioners last month, City Councilman Josh Blevins presented a proposal for a local property tax freeze for seniors 65 and over to Council during recent study session.

With no dissent from the four Council members present, and Mayor Randy Carroll, the proposal seems to be moving ahead. Absent for the recent study session were Council members Bobby Turnbow and Betsy Noel.

Council meets in its monthly voting session Thursday, Jan. 8, at 6 p.m. However, Blevins moved for the proposal to be added to the February agenda, likely as an ordinance.

The Councilman advised recently that the best case would be for both the City and County to proceed simultaneously on the senior property tax freeze.

Mayor Carroll was interested at the recent study session whether the County is on board. And just recently, vice versa, members of the County Rules Committee were interested in the City's involvement.

Many are asking in the community if this could be potentially one of the most beneficial City and County duo financial moves to come along in a while. That is, one that could potentially benefit aging residents on fixed incomes.

Councilman Blevins believes this tax freeze would

See FREEZE, 5A

'My desire is to help all of the citizens of Shelbyville, especially our senior citizens. We are beginning research on how the tax freeze can be accomplished.'

—City Mayor Randy Carroll



Shelbyville City Councilman Josh Blevins

Trip to paradise for local friends turns into homesickness

Locals return home, finally, from after extended layover

By Dawn Hankins
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Imagine a week-long adventure in the Caribbean to kick off the New Year. That's sure to be on a lot of people's bucket lists. But one group of local residents say the end of their recent trip lacked much to be desired as they were stranded in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

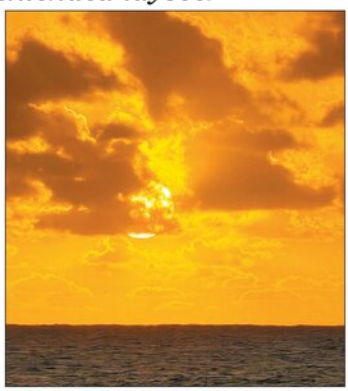
Perhaps no one's fault and truly a precautionary measure by the United States (remember: Puerto Rico is U.S. territory) but it kind of put a damper on this group's vacation. Despite the expense and stress of it all, they say they enjoyed the trip up to the last moments there.

The United States military successfully carried out a large-scale strike against Venezuela early Saturday with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his wife captured. While that is good news, according to President Trump, the aftermath required, as precaution, restricted air space over the Caribbean last week.

San Juan is just over 500 miles from Caracas, Venezuela. So, no flights were allowed out until all security was cleared after Saturday's event in South America.

Sadly, that left thousands stranded in San Juan, including from Shelbyville, Tra-

See PARADISE, 5A



THE LAST 2025 SUNSET

Tracie Brandon DeLucia of Shelbyville captured this last sunset of 2025, while recently vacationing in the Caribbean.



FUN THOUGH STRANDED

The group traveling from Shelbyville said they truly enjoyed Puerto Rico, despite having their flight delayed for several days, due to Saturday's U.S. event in Venezuela. Mike Shouse, Misty Pendergrast and Tracie Brandon DeLucia (left to right) remained safe and were flown home on Tuesday. All said it was good to drive on U.S. soil.

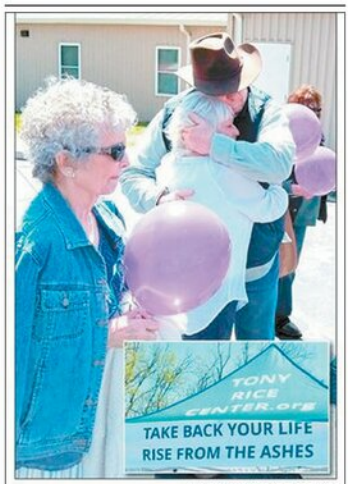




CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT, SGT. LOGUE!

T-G Photos by Marilyn Ewing

After 37 years of service to the community, Sgt. Bill Logue has officially retired from the Shelbyville Police Department. Logue was praised for a career which has been defined by professionalism, commitment, and dedication to public service. City Mayor Randy Carroll made a special presentation at a recent congratulatory party held in Logue's honor by the City. See more photos on page 11.



T-G Photos by Dawn Hankins

Tony Rice Center Volunteer Chris Clay hugs Marie Lokey, the widow of Tim Lokey. TRC's new dormitory is named Lokey House in memory of Tim who served for 20 years as TRC substance abuse counselor. He served as Clay's mentor when he was in recovery years ago. (See more TRC photos inside today.)

TOP T-G PICK FOR NEWS PHOTO OF 2025

This is our pick for the best news photo of 2025. This one photo by Dawn Hankins uniquely captured so much meaning for the Tony Rice Recovery Center. From the purple balloons released which signify recovery to the embrace of those who've walked the trail of addiction and beyond, it's a keeper. See our Year in Review on page 2 today.

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TACN Integration

On Jan. 6, a celebration was held for Bedford County's integration into the statewide Tennessee Advanced Communications Network.

See Page 5A

BCAT Midseason Player of the Year Watchlist

Cascade's Young and Community's White named to Basketball Coaches Association of Tennessee Watchlist.

See Page 10A

T-G news in review-2025



By Dawn Hankins
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This is the time of the year we usually begin reflecting on T-G stories from the previous years. As I thought about the news/features year in 2025, I prayed there was balance and objectivity.

Joseph Pulitzer, politician and publisher, once said, and I agree: "Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it and, above all, accurately so they will be guided by its light."

I appreciate those government officials who have complimented the T-G this year on being accurate, consistent and informative in local news coverage.

This week, I started looking at 2025 issues available on our website at t-g.com. You really don't remember right off all the news that is encompassed into one year in a growing community. For certain I remember the folks who gave away 400 shoes at East Side and the three sisters who stood up for their property rights.

In 2025, there were features about teachers, students/scholarships, other accolades, sports successes and disappointments. Even the school superintendent announced her retirement right before the end of the year. (It was a good year in education with the district doing well at the state level last year.)

The sheriff and mayor announced they're hanging up their respective hats. But with their years of community service experience, it likely wasn't a big surprise to most of the community. Thank you both for your service!

It's hard to pick a top news story. I suppose my favorite this year, as far as news features, had to be the three-part series of the three women, previously in BC Corrections, who've replaced memories of crime and childhood trauma for more productive lives. One is now working on a degree, which we featured in another story.

They're all three considered charter members of the MRT (corrections therapy program) here. What a 2025 summer garden at the jail, with produce being allowed for inmate consumption.

To boot, MRT's fearless leader, Chris Cook, received some great accolades from the state.

A more in-depth interview and touching one was when I had the privilege of interviewing a father who has started a nonprofit to help combat Fentanyl abuse. I believe such stories need to be at the top of our list even in 2026 and beyond.

As far as grand events, TCAT held its grand opening of its new facility and the Tony Rice Center opened a new 20 plus bed facility. Did you stop by their food booth at the Celebration? Celebration 2025 was celebrated for its attendance numbers!

A drawn-out murder investigation finally came to an end. The family and friends of Ms. Smotherman, the victim, sighed relief as the sentence was life.

Another murder case closed. What caused a mother to kill her child? That was battled out in court this year as well with the mother receiving what most believe to be a just punishment by the court/jury trial.

Political issues went well until the last of 2025. Topics included: wastewater, City-County lawsuit verdict and appeal; septic systems; a quarry; BCUD being called on carpet by TN Downs; Duck River health; a potential senior tax freeze; election announcements; accused grandstanding; City grants for improvement; and the Riverview district phase work.

We had more public comments made on issues this year in County and City meetings than I can remember in a great while! Who could forget that County/state issue with the accused, animal slaughterhouse off Highway 41 A?

Sadly, we said goodbye to some very special people/community leaders in 2025.

New businesses opened in the City with grand celebrations.

Growth is said to be inevitable and some still debate areas of development in the City and County. All of this, folks, is about the health and welfare of our future generations.

What sweethearts won our T-G senior contest and our Halloween coloring contest. And wow, what sweet "Letters to Santa." We truly appreciate those advertisers who placed their faith and business opportunities into our hands. We look forward to working with you this year as well.

In closing this year-in-review, I will say that at the end of 2025, there were things left open ended. Let's seal the deals and move on to a prosperous and healthy 2026.

TCAT's new home officially opens with ribbon cutting

Several local officials, friends, administrators and students were in attendance Tuesday morning as Bedford County Higher Education Center, the new home of Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Shelbyville, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its new location off Highway 231 North.

Speakers at the event included TCAT-S President Jimmy L. Wright; Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham; Shelbyville Mayor Randy Carroll; Chancellor of Tennessee Board of Regents Flora Tydings; State Sen. Shane Reeves; and State Rep. / Speaker Pro Tem Pat Marsh. All stressed the importance of the facility to the community's economic growth and the lives that will be changed by post-secondary vocational education.

Marsh and Reeves were praised for their support of the project in the General Assembly. Mayors Graham and Carroll said this education center is going to change the face of education in this area.Shelbyville and Bedford County cooperated to make land available and their jointly-owned industrial park.

Wright and Tydings surprised State Rep. Marsh with the news that the facility's community room will be named in his honor.

The previous TCAT-S location will be the new administrative offices for the Bedford County Board of Education. No word has been released on what will occupy the Board of Education's current Madison Street Central Office.

See photos on page 5.



Bedford County Government Photo

From left, Chamber of Commerce Director Gena Rodriguez;TCAT-S President Jimmy Wright; State Rep. Pat Marsh; Chancellor of Tennessee Board of Regents Flora Tydings; State Sen. Shane Reeves; BC Mayor Chad Graham; and City Mayor Randy Carroll. See more photos on pg. 3.



Three sisters oppose potential Highway 231 land rezoning to commercial
Council to vote Thursday on the ordinance on first reading

By Dawn Hankins
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Over 400 pairs of new shoes given to local students
ShoeSTAGES event deemed a great success

By Dawn Hankins

BREAKING NEWS

BEDFORD BRIEFS



County considers naming overpass in honor of former senator Jim Tracy

Will the public square become an outdoor entertainment district with open container drinking?
Council discusses the possibility within Riverview District planning

By Dawn Hankins

BEDFORD BRIEFS



Property & Courthouse Committee digs into wastewater
Solutions best clarified by locals at Friday night meeting

By Dawn Hankins

Talking wastewater with Williamson County

By Dawn Hankins

Council is taking closer scrutiny of which industries receive PILOT incentives
Council discusses industry in need but City interests also important

By Dawn Hankins

MEEKS RETIRES FROM HIGHWAY DEPT.

A TIME TO CELEBRATE

ENGINE HAS A NEW HOME



TN Downs files state complaint against BCUD
Water utility states complaint is without merit

By Dawn Hankins

Hundreds of vehicles to join 29th Highway 41 Toy Convoy on Sunday, Nov. 2

By Dawn Hankins

FARMER FAMILY FOR TRUNK OR TREAT

ROCKIN' HALLOWEEN IN STYLE

AND THE HALLOWEEN COLORING CONTEST WINNERS!

LEAVING BEHIND A LIFE OF FIGHTING WITH POLICE, DRUG ABUSE
MRT graduate Renea Brittain believes all things are possible with God

This is the final installment in this series of articles about the MRT program, featuring three of the graduates.

By Dawn Hankins
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SHE'S COME A LONG WAY, BABY

North Bedford County residents demand 'illegal slaughterhouse' investigation
Packed house at Rules & Legislative Committee meeting

By Dawn Hankins
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GREAT DAY FOR CASCADE FFA

By Dawn Hankins

LOCAL HAS STUNNING PHOTO COLLECTION

GET YOUR FARMERS MARKET ON
Normandy hosts every Saturday

By Dawn Hankins



"In addiction recovery, it only takes one who cares"
Ribbon cutting held to dedicate TBIC's Lehey House

By Dawn Hankins

State circles essay contest winner list includes local student

By Dawn Hankins

BEDFORD BRIEFS

HAPPY EASTER!



Sheriff Austin Swing stepping down

By Dawn Hankins

Beddingfield receives life sentence for Smotherman murder

By Dawn Hankins

Laurel Cox of Bell Buckle selected as Durango Boots $30,000 scholarship winner

By Dawn Hankins

LOCAL FIRE CAUSES LOT OF DAMAGE



THE ISSUE-IN THE COUNTY
CONCERNED CITIZEN COMMENTS ON QUARRY CONCERNS

By Dawn Hankins
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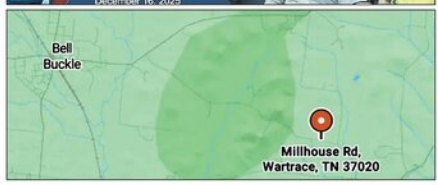
Photo by Dawn Hankins

During the Dec. 16 County Rules and Legislative Committee meeting, Wartrace resident Jewel Fields of Millhouse Road spoke during the public comments time. His concern was over a potential rock quarry operating near his home. He said one quarry is off Highway 64 near Wartrace and another is located off Fairfield Pike. He mentioned the owners initially intended to "build a pond." He said this is "smoke and mirrors for mining a quarry for personal gain" and said it's also a way to get exemptions to do so. Fields gave background of how the Hawkins family in that area has tried over the years to go into the quarry business. "My home shakes anytime Mr. Hawkins blasts . . ." He said his foundation has had cracks and is uncertain if it has to do with the blasting but he has his suspicions. Fields said dump trucks owned by the Hawkins group are destroying Fairfield Pike. He explained how dangerous large, speeding trucks are in that area. "It appears the County does not have the will or desire to fight this." He advised if County Planning Director Chris White is correct regarding the pushback from the community, then the law for such ventures needs to be changed to protect all citizens, not just the wealthy. Fields advised that if this pond/quarry is closed, Hawkins and partner will keep trying to open a quarry until they're successful. "The next one may be in your backdoor," he told those in the courtroom-many who live in the Bell Buckle and Wartrace area. Fields said he always thought that the County Government was supposed to work to protect the community.


December 16, 2025



Hot topic going into 2026
County Commissioners share comments on proposed property tax freeze for seniors

By Dawn Hankins
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While the City may be pressing onward and researching the senior tax freeze, the County seems to be nowhere close. But Commissioner Eric Maddox who originated the idea with his friend and City Councilman Josh Blevins is hopeful the Commission will make a motion soon on this proposal.

Maddox told the T-G this week, "I can remember many times my grandmother, before she passed away, stretching a penny as far as it would go; simply to survive. I can recall her physically having to count out coins to buy things. I would stay with her for a while when I was a kid; and I saw first-hand how someone like her, on a fixed income, had to live. I know that there are many people just like my grandmother, still living like this today, in our county."

The Commissioner said these are folks that were raised to work hard – and did – and some still do; and have contributed more than their fair share to society.

"I feel that it's past time that we acknowledge that – and help them more. It is not only about respect; but a genuine obligation. It is no secret that all around us, the prices of things are going up (and they have for years now); and it is hard for many folks to simply get by."

Maddox said when a county has senior citizens that are either on a fixed income and/or they fall within the guidelines set by the state for this tax freeze; it just makes sense to help them.

"Why would we not? This needs to become a priority for us. Eventually these people could be taxed out of their own homes. That saddens me to even think about."

Commissioner Maddox said the state has fortunately paved the way through legislation for this initiative to take place; and laid the foundation for us to follow. Also, 27 other counties have already created processes to operationalize it.

"We need to just follow suit and join the other counties that made this a priority for the citizens that I hope other people would agree are some of our most vulnerable."

"Last year I mentioned this idea to a close friend of mine; Councilman Josh Blevins; and asked him if he thought that we could work together on something that would benefit our county overall. I told him about the idea and he immediately agreed; and adamantly also said that we should do something."

"I'm thankful for Josh; and I have known him since we were both teenagers. He has always had a big heart, and desire to do what is right. He has been a blessing to me (and many others) for as long as I have known him. Working on this with him is special, and knowing that we are working on something that I believe will make life better for some of our seniors is even more special to me. These people (senior citizens) are the folks that helped make our county what it is; and we should take care of them as they took care of us."

Maddox said he wishes the County could simply erase property taxes for these folks; but that would require state level legislation first. The next best thing, he said and what he and Blevins are proposing is a tax freeze for property owners 65 and older, that fall below the state specified income limit for the program.

For 2025, it could either have been $42,710 or $61,920. The county would have to agree on that number. After looking more at the data; his vote would be for the higher amount.

Maddox said he will be bringing this proposal officially to the Rules and Legislative Committee this month, in order to officially start the process.

"This initiative will also not have an impact on others in the county, as the program would have a minimal impact on the budget overall; and something that should easily be able to be managed – from a budgeting perspective."

"My hope is that we can get this to a vote before our June special session; where we will finalize the budget for the county. I look forward to other commissioners supporting this, allowing us (Bedford County) to follow suit with many other counties, who have done the right thing here; and that's create a property tax freeze for tax payers sixty-five and older, that would fall into the guidelines set by the state for such a program."

Maddox advised, "It is way past time that we did this."

County Commissioner Greg Vick told the T-G this week, "I think it is a novel and great concept. I am of the opinion we should always provide a hand up to those who need help.

At this point, however, it is simply a concept. To date, we have not received a fiscal note on the cost of this concept. Nor do we know how many people qualify for a tax freeze. Additionally, we have not set the tax rate so we don't know how to compare the amount of revenue required by the tax freeze as an off-set to meet our statutory requirement for our maintenance of effort commitment."

Vick said as of right now, the Commission does not have enough information so as to make a proper determination of the impact this program will actually cost the taxpayers.

"I hope the sponsors of the proposal can and will provide the above information. It is a critical component for making a fully transparent decision."

He added, "In Bedford County, we are soon to face a budget cycle where there is an abundance of needs and only a finite amount of revenue. The Commission will have to decide in the upcoming budget, which funding allocations will bring the most impactful purpose that helps everyone."

Vick said he is not planning to run for re-election in 2026.

However, Commissioner Linda Yockey said this week that she is running for re-election. She has some thoughts about the proposal for senior tax freeze going into 2026.

"The Tax Relief passed by the County Commission has been one of the most beneficial and well received legislative acts that we have done recently. Those individuals who qualified for the relief have been most appreciative of the relief. Any of the Commissioners are always open to any new concept or idea that would help the citizens of Bedford County, but how this new concept would affect the budget, the impact on the other citizens who would make up the difference, and which is best for those individuals who qualify should not be rushed into. I certainly wouldn't want to jeopardize the Tax Relief already in place."

Yockey advised that keeping the Tax Relief in the new budget is a must as the County moves through the already started budgetary process for 26-27.

Mayor Chad Graham, who has announced he is not running for re-election this year, said Tuesday, "All of us in County Government are sympathetic to the plight of senior citizens living on fixed incomes, which is why, in 2023, we implemented a tax relief program for low-income seniors. I encourage anyone who might qualify for that program to apply for it. It can provide valuable assistance to elderly seniors, the disabled, disable veterans, and widows or widowers of disabled veterans."

The mayor shared that more information on the program is available from the Trustee's office in the Courthouse Annex on the west side of the square.

The mayor said he's always willing to talk about whether the County should be doing more, and what form that should take. But he advised that there are things to remember as important discussions are held.

"A property tax freeze, the remedy being proposed by some Commissioners, is a broad-based program which would lock the County in. I have strived, along with the Commission, to hold the line on County spending as much as possible, whenever possible. That will continue, and I'm sure that a year from now, a new County mayor and a new County Commission will continue to try to hold the line on costs."

"But we never know what the future will bring, and this has been an age of inflation and rising costs. The money to run county government has to come from somewhere, and freezing the tax rate of one group means that other groups have to pick up the slack to pay for those increasing costs, including young families and other groups that may be just as vulnerable as the people we're trying to help."

The mayor explained further, "There are also practical considerations; I'm told that implementing a freeze like this will create more hours of workload for the departments that will have to implement it."

Mayor Graham said these considerations may be why fewer than a third of the state's 95 counties have chosen to implement such a freeze.

"A property tax freeze is a big step, and while it sounds appealing, it needs to be carefully looked at, perhaps by the Commissioners and officials who will have to oversee the budget going forward. Bringing it up right before election time attracts a lot of attention but this isn't a decision that should be rushed into or made too lightly, lest we risk putting the County into a financial bind that could mean bad news for all taxpayers in the future."

Rules of the Board of State Equalization

0600-9-.03. ADOPTION AND TERMINATION OF PROGRAM BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(1) Adoption of Tax Freeze Program. The legislative body of any county or municipality adopting the property tax freeze program provided in Tenn. Code Ann. § 67-5-705 must do so by either resolution or ordinance. Upon adoption of such a resolution or ordinance, the clerk of the legislative body shall me a copy of the resolution or ordinance with the Division of Property Assessments within 45 days of adoption.

(2) Termination of Tax Freeze Program. The legislative body of any county or municipality which has adopted the property tax freeze program provided in Tenn. Code Ann. § 67-5-705 may terminate the program by adopting a resolution or ordinance terminating the program. The clerk of the legislative body must file a copy of the resolution or ordinance terminating the program with the Division of Property Assessments within 45 days of adoption. The collecting official shall remove all taxpayers under the tax freeze program for the tax year subsequent to the year in which the resolution or ordinance terminating the program is adopted.

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FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

NAME CHANGE FOR SARAI AND ABRAM

Genesis 17

God Speaks to Abram again, (How many times does this make that God speaks to him.), and reaffirms the promise that Abram would be the father of many nations. No longer will Abram be known as Abram, Exalted Father, but will hereafter be known as Abraham, Father Of A Multitude.

The promise of God to Abraham continues, "I will make you exceedingly fruitful, ...and kings will come from you." Amplified Bible, Genesis 17:5

A sign of Gods covenant with Abraham is introduced here. Abraham and all the males with him were to be circumcised and for the coming generations, every newborn male would be circumcised when eight days old.

And God told Abraham that Sarai's name was changed to Sarah, Princess. God said that Sarah would be the mother of nations and kings would come from her.

And Abraham fell on his face and laughed at the thought of a child being born to a man who was 100 years old and a woman who was 90.



But God said it would happen, and that he would also bless Ishmael.

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500 Elm Street, 931-684-0202

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST
122 Public Square N., 931-684-2535

MULLINS CHAPEL AME
601 Ledbetter Rd., 931-685-4547

PLEASANT GROVE UNITED METHODIST
1567 Hwy. 130 W., 931-294-5477

SCOTT UNITED METHODIST
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HIMESVILLE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1614 Hwy. 82 S., 931-994-6620

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EMMANUEL PENTECOSTAL
1005 Belmont Ave., 931-685-6999

IGLESIA APOSTOLIC PENTECOSTAL
2216 Hwy. 61 W., 931-680-1539

SHELBYVILLE UNITED PENTECOSTAL
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219 E. Cedar St., 931-684-4384

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
600 N. Brittain St., 931-684-6541

GREEN HILL CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN
1900 Unionville Deason Rd., Bell Buckle
931-294-2040

NORMANDY PRESBYTERIAN
108 Center St., Normandy, 931-857-9365

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
101 Church St., 931-685-9588

OTHER

ABUNDANT LIFE
600 Landers St., 931-703-0016

AGAPE WORSHIP CENTER
340 Maplewood Dr., 931-684-1243

BEREAN WAY CHRISITAN FELLOWSHIP
209 Thompson St., 931-703-7076

BLANKENSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH
3602 Midland Rd., 931-437-2599

CHURCH AT ZION HILL
510 Thompson Rd., 931-581-4777

FELLOWSHIP FOR CHRIST
142 Richdale Lane, 931-684-0649

GATEWAY
1250 Madison St., 931-684-2794

HOUSE OF PRAYER
86 Union St., 931-703-5162

HOUSE OF PRAYER MINISTRY OF FAITH
907 W. Lane St., 931-639-1368

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER
865 Union St., 931-607-8465

KING CHAPEL CHURCH AT UNION RIDGE
510 Union Ridge Rd., Wartrace, 931-389-6248

LIGHTHOUSE
111 Church St., 931-684-4900

LIVING STONES COMMUNITY
304 Old Nashville Dirt Rd., 931-684-6883

LIVING WATER
3083 Hwy. 41A N. Unionville, 931-993-2477

MIRACLE TABERNACLE
507 Coble Circle, 931-224-5184

MOUNT VIEW
1331 Horse Mountain Rd., 931-685-0337

MULLIN CHAPEL
601 Ledbetter Rd., 931-685-4547

NUEVA VIDA
1304 Madison St., 931-580-0365

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1890 Madison St., 931-680-4880

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SHILOH OUTREACH CHURCH
2547 Hwy. 64 W., 931-684-0572

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1000 Colloredo Blvd., 931-580-0302

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

HASKINS CHAPEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD
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BETHANY BAPTIST
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150 Fairfield Pike, 931-684-7676

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2725 Hwy. 231 N., 931-680-9803

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

FIRST BAPTIST
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931-389-9580

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

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
1019 Madison St., Shelbyville
931-492-5037

HURRICANE CREEK BAPTIST
689 Elbethel Rd., 931-684-4754

LONDVIEW BAPTIST
101 Cooper Rd., Unionville
931-294-2281

MIDLAND HEIGHTS BAPTIST
2706 Midland Rd., 931-680-0507

MOUNT ZION BAPTIST
101 Dow St., 931-684-1583

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

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2027 Madison St., 931-703-9972

NEW BETHEL BAPTIST
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NORMANDY FIRST BAPTIST
100 Center St., Normandy,
931-857-3800

NORTH FORK BAPTIST
1941 Unionville Deason Rd.,
931-294-5610

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

SEVIER STREET FIRST BAPTIST
921 Sevier St., 931-684-7460

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

SHELBYVILLE MILLS BAPTIST
900 Union St., 931-684-3525

SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST
900 S. Cannon Blvd., 931-684-6138

THOMPSON GROVE BAPTIST
2966 Sims Rd., 931-685-0025

TRINITY BAPTIST
1331 Horse Mountain Rd., 931-492-5480

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

VICTORY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST
2200 N. Main St., 931-684-8114

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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., 931-684-7457

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., 931-684-1583

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, 931-857-3382

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, 931-684-4645

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

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

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

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LDS
2508 Hwy. 231 N., 931-450-8848

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Owner
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Fax: 931-685-0047
raysquintasbody@yahoo.com
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931-684-9000
923 COLUMBIA HWY. SHELBYVILLE, TN
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PARADISE

From page 1A

cie Brandon DeLucia, Misty Pendergrast and Mike Shouse. It was a great cruise, they say, until things went south last weekend at the end of their vacation.

While stranded, Pendergrast posted on social media that a lot of price gouging was going on. While many received gratis hotel stays, they were not informed of such options. So, they paid dearly during their layover.

DeLucia said over the weekend that what began as a great vacation to Puerto Rico wound up being lastly one of drudgery and expensive to boot. Hotel rooms were nearly $1,000.

But they note there was a Walmart in San Juan, which came in handy.

Tracie shared on social media Tuesday, before heading home, that they had the best time there. She was just ready to come home.

Some of their traveling group left a few days ago. They were never in any danger while stuck in San Juan, though they were warned about traveling to certain areas.

The group, after a lot of shared thoughts and prayers from local residents, Tracie, Mike and Misty finally boarded a flight on Tuesday about noon. From Florida, they headed back to Nashville and then Shelbyville.

President Trump said this week that the U.S. will be "running Venezuela" until normalcy is declared for the people there.

FREEZE

From page 1A

help seniors now, and in the future, who've paid their dues into the community over the years.

Blevins apologized to Council that he was unable to secure presentations this month from County Trustee Tonya Davis and outgoing Property Assessor Ronda Clanton. He assured that next month looks more promising, especially given this month's study session was held during a holiday.

Treasurer Kay Parker commented that someone from the state division of property assessment might be willing to make a presentation on the tax freeze program as well.

Blevins explained that he's met personally with Clanton and Davis on the topic. Property Assessor Clanton said during last month's Rules and Legislative Committee meeting that she believes seniors would benefit more from the annual tax relief discount rather than a one-time, property tax freeze.

Blevins told Council that he's had phone conversations with government officials from Putnam County and Dekalb County who've already implemented a senior property tax freeze like he and Maddox are proposing.

"I haven't found anything that's a red flag-a reason we shouldn't do this," said Blevins. "It's a good deal for seniors. It protects our seniors."

Why the sudden interest in a senior property tax freeze?

Blevins told the T-G, "I think the growth we have had in recent years has stretched our services and infrastructure significantly. That is going to put one or both local governments in a position to possibly have to raise property taxes in order to maintain the level of services residents have come to expect."

The Councilman explained to Council that information received from the state comptroller's office shows that 764 seniors are taking advantage of Bedford County's current tax relief discount.

Blevins, who had obviously done a lot of his own research, advised Council how at least one-third of Tennessee trustee offices across the state are now administering the senior property tax freeze option.

Blevins told the T-G that the senior property tax freeze is not a replacement of the current tax relief program. It is in addition to the tax relief. That means anyone on the tax relief would continue to receive their annual tax relief and then the tax freeze would hold their property tax at its current amount.

"Currently, if the County or City raises property taxes, even those on the tax relief would have to pay a higher amount of property tax. With the tax freeze in place, those that qualify for the freeze could have the peace of mind to know their property tax would stay the same for the remainder of their life."

Blevins told Council the relief program has a $32,500 annual income cap. With the freeze, the County/City can pick either a cap of $42,700 or $61,920, the Councilman further explained.

He said no doubt the freeze will benefit a greater number of seniors, given these larger income cap options.

One elderly resident, who wished to remain anonymous, said they're saving just over $100 a year on property taxes through the relief or discount program, based on annual income. The resident has worked right here and paid in taxes in Bedford County "forever."

The Councilman said he'd like to have the senior tax freeze proposal approved as an ordinance by spring. He said for that to happen at the City level, two separate monthly readings will need to follow in February and March.

City Mayor Randy Carroll asked Blevins if the County is still willing to consider the property tax freeze proposal. He said yes and it should be back on next month's Rules Committee meeting for discussion.

Mayor Carroll told the T-G on Monday, "My desire is to help all of the citizens of Shelbyville, especially our senior citizens. We are beginning research on how the tax freeze can be accomplished."

County Commissioner Eric Maddox is working with Blevins on the tax freeze proposal. He and Blevins presented an overview of the proposal to the Rules and Legislative Committee last month.

Maddox, up for re-election this year, has a lot to say about this issue. Maddox told members of the Rules Committee last month a story about his grandmother's struggles and how such a proposal has been on his mind for this community for quite a while. (See more from Maddox on page 3.)

Councilman Blevins feels as strong about this issue.

He said Tuesday, "If we don't have a property tax increase, there's no economic cost to the City at all with this. The only case is if we did have a tax increase."

He added, "I ran a scenario with a 20% tax increase and it was like a .6% hit on the total property tax. It was well within something that could be budgeted for, without having any kind of negative effect on the City or the County."

Mayor Carroll asked Councilman Blevins if he has any numbers available, that is, how many residents in the community this freeze could potentially benefit.

Blevins said the comptroller's office reports that 7,458 seniors (about 15% of the population) are currently living in the County. Of those, 24% are living alone, that's widow or widower, and 39% of those local seniors are considered disabled.

Blevins is aware this property tax freeze probably wouldn't touch all 7,000 + residents 65 and older.

"But I'd love to help as many seniors as we can with this," he advised Council.

Council person Marilyn Ewing asked about the age limit and if it will be a complicated process for the senior community. Blevins said the property tax freeze proposed would be for seniors 65 and older; and that no, it's not complicated.

He said once a senior turns 65, and they stay within the required income cap, they just have to resubmit their form every year. He said seniors must go to the Bedford County Trustee's office where they'll have to provide proper identification and current tax records before filling out the one-page document.

Mayor Carroll asked how the program works if the senior's property is inherited or acquired by someone else, like children. Blevins said in this case, the property would revert back to the current property tax rate.

City treasurer Kay Parker added, "I was just going to mention that the state tax relief amount this year is $75 and the City matches that. So, they get a $75 discount from the state and $75 from the City."

Parker added that this year, the disabled state veteran's tax relief amount is $403.

See The Issue today on page 3 for some comments on the potential property tax freeze for seniors from some County Commissioners.

Bedford County integrates into state communications network

On Jan. 6, Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security joined County Mayor Chad Graham and Bedford County first responders to celebrate Bedford County's integration into the statewide Tennessee Advanced Communications Network (TACN.)

The event, held at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Shelbyville campus-included representatives from the Bedford County E-911 Communications Center, Emergency Management Agency, Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services, and Sheriff's Office who are all now operating on TACN. Bedford County Animal Control and the Highway Department, though not in attendance, have also transitioned to TACN. (See adjacent photos.)

"We are excited to partner with the State of Tennessee to implement this next generation emergency communication system and network in Bedford County," said Mayor Graham. "The TACN system will allow interoperability for daily operations as well as in disasters. Partnering with TACN will allow cost sharing for lang term sustainability of the critical communication infrastructure."

Bedford County's investment in public safety by joining TACN ensures that first responders have reliable communication for everyday operations and the ability to coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies across



Tennessee during emergencies.

Bedford County's transition from its outdated radio system to TACN is the culmination of a decades-long effort. Through a combination of county funds, TACN support and Covid infrastructure funding, all Bedford County first responder agencies now have the portable radios and other equipment needed to access TACN.

"As a former first responder in Bedford County, I know the incredible impact TACN will have for first responders and the community," said TACN Director Jeff Gray. "When seconds matter, TACN ensures first responders can communicate clearly with each other, and as a result, lives will be saved. I applaud Bedford County leaders for investing in critical communication infrastructure."

Currently, TACN supports more than 73,000 local, state, and federal government users statewide. Last year, all state agencies transitioned to TACN to experience the statewide communications interoperability and the cost savings it delivers.



Bedford County Government Photos

For more information about TACN, go to https://tn.gov/safety/tacn

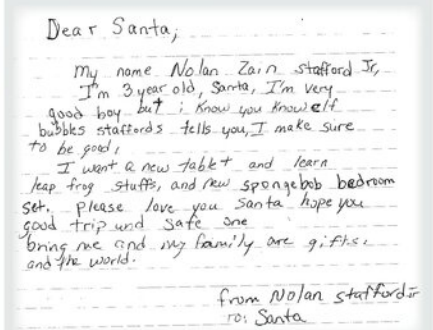


CHURCH NEWS

This Sunday at First United Methodist Church-Shelbyville, Pastor Abe Zimmerman will preach "Baptism of the Lord" from Mark 1:4-13. On this Baptism of the Lord Sunday, the FUMC-S congregation will explore Jesus' baptism and their own. After the message, everyone will be invited to remember and renew their own baptism by receiving the sign of the cross on their forehead or hand, using water from the baptismal font. 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.

A note from the editor:

Occasionally, one of our "Letters to Santa" falls out of the delivery bag. But rest assured that we made extra sure good old Santa received this one from 3-year-old Nolan Zain Stafford Jr.



Dear Santa,

My name Nolan Zain Stafford Jr, I'm 3 year old, Santa, I'm very good boy but i know you know if bubbles staffords tells you, I make sure to be good.

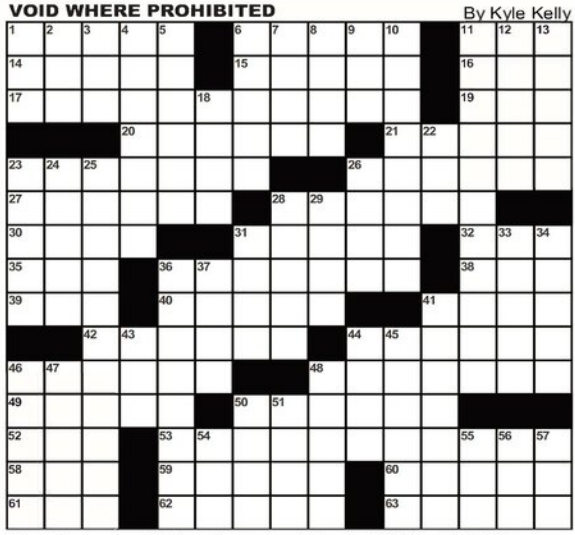
I want a new tablet and learn leap frog stuffs, and new spongebob bedroom set. please love you Santa hope you good trip and safe one bring me and my family are gifts and the world.

from Nolan staffordjr
to: Santa

Crossword

VOID WHERE PROHIBITED

By Kyle Kelly



CLUES ACROSS

1) Groundwork
6) Churchill's symbol of triumph
11) Chesapeake in Maryland
14) Without substance
15) Place for the highborn?
16) Finished food
17) Financing
19) Words starting many park signs
20) Pauline's woes
21) Stew server
23) Like fillets
26) Aquamarines and emeralds
27) Makes joyful
28) Bygone Toyota model
30) Charged atoms
31) Lapwing
32) Mentalist's claim
35) Luxury hotel feature
36) Small upright pianos
38) Sticky stuff
39) Royal flush necessity
40) Elbow to the ribs, perhaps
41) Fever and shivers
42) If everything goes right
44) Most congenial
46) Mix of two songs into one
48) Noisy insects
49) Printing press part
50) Produced, as a play
52) What one dots?
53) Ostracisms
58) "Fat___ and Little Boy" (1989)
59) Not for minors
60) Like some Pennsylvania buggy drivers
61) "no use"
62) To the manor born
63) Maiden of mythology

CLUES DOWN

1) Lobster-house wear
2) Collected sayings
3) Diego's start
4) Calligrapher's containers
5) Composed
6) Sound, as reasoning
7) Successfully pitch
8) Eye part containing the pupil
9) Martini component
10) Overlooks
11) Curving outward at the knees
12) Ring-shaped reef
13) Some invitation replies
18) Smelters' raw materials
22) Art, today
23) Believer of a sort
24) Become one on the run?
25) Slippery peels
26) Londoner
28) Guiding principle
29) Fancy washstand vessel
31) Sloppy critters
33) Big name in marches
34) Erato is their Muse
36) Beyond the city limits
37) Type of school
41) West Point or Annapolis
43) Fill in___ blank
44) Near in time or place
45) Pat of an O'Neill title
46) Florida city
47) Small Highland village
48) Society division
50) Give the cold shoulder
51) Cashier's responsibility
54) Ruckus
55) Matchstick-removing game
56) One-sixth of a fl. oz.
57) Finger-to-lips sound

FreeDailyCrosswords.com

Kid Scoop

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THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE

Here's a Greek fable by a man named **Aesop** about a race between a tortoise and a hare. It may surprise you who wins!

The hare ran so fast some of the words flew out of the story. Can you find where each word belongs?

WATCH, RUN, FINISH, WIN, MORNING, TIRED, BLINKED, CROSSED, SNOOZING, SLOWEST, EASY, SPRANG, FASTEST

There once was a hare who always bragged that he was the _____ animal in the forest.

"Not even the wind is as fast as me!" the hare would boast.

The tortoise got _____ of such bragging.

"We all have heard you talk and talk about how fast you are, but we have never seen you _____. I'll race you," said tortoise.

HAAHAHA HAAAHHAHA

The hare laughed and laughed. "There's no way you can beat me! I am the fastest and you are the _____!"

The hare and the tortoise agreed to race the next _____. They would race to a big tree down the road and around a bend. Many other animals came out to _____.

GO! The hare zipped off the starting line in a blur, leaving the tortoise in a puff of dust.

The tortoise coughed, _____ her eyes, and took the first of her slow, steady steps.

The hare was soon way ahead, far down the road. The tortoise could hardly see the hare in the distance, but she wasn't worried.

As the hare rounded the bend in the road, he laughed and thought, "This is too _____! I'm going to rest. That tortoise is so slow that I'll get up in time and *still* beat her to the finish line!"

The hare laid down on the warm, soft grass and fell asleep! Later, when the tortoise walked right by the _____ hare, he didn't wake up. The tortoise didn't stop. She just kept walking her slow and steady pace.

When the tortoise was nearly to the finish line, the hare woke up. Yawning and rubbing his eyes, he was shocked to see the tortoise nearing the _____ line.

The hare _____ to his feet and ran as fast as he could to try catching up to her to _____ the race.

1ST

But by then it was much too late. The slow little tortoise _____ the finish line first. All of the forest animals cheered loudly for her!

About Aesop

Aesop was a storyteller. He lived about 2,500 years ago in ancient Greece. His favorite story to tell was a **fable**. A fable is a very short story with a **moral**, or a lesson to teach.

Aesop's fable *The Fox and the Grapes* tells about a fox who tries and tries to reach grapes on a high branch. Embarassed by being unable to jump high enough to reach them, the fox walks off angrily, saying loudly that the grapes are sour and not worth the effort anyway.

Use the code to discover the moral of Aesop's fable *The Tortoise and the Hare*.

A=, C=, E=, I=, L=, N=, O=, R=, S=, T=, W=, Y=

_ _ _ _ _ _ and _ _ _ _ _

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. TNFLX27AB527229SR12.

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
rlselaw.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)

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE

Sale at public auction will be on March 31, 2026 on or about 11:00AM local time, At the Main Entrance, Bedford, County Courthouse, 1 Public Square, Shelbyville, TN 37160, conducted by the Co-Substitute Trustees as identified and set forth herein below, pursuant to Deed of Trust executed by ELISSA KATHRYN DANIEL, to Ark Title Group, LLC, Trustee, on June 11, 2021, at Record Book TD1011, Page 737-752 as Instrument No. 21005459 in the real property records of Bedford County Register's Office, Tennessee.

Owner of Debt: NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing

The following real estate located in Bedford County, Tennessee, will be sold to the highest call bidder subject to all unpaid taxes, prior liens and encumbrances of record:

Land in Bedford County, Tennessee, being Lot No. 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 & 36 in Block "B" on the Plan of Cliff Side, a subdivision of town lots of record in Deed Book 52, Page 135, in the Register's Office for Bedford County, Tennessee, to which Plan reference is hereby made for a more complete description of the property.

This transfer and conveyance is made subject to a twelve and one-half foot easement retained by Duck River Electric Membership Corporation along the Northeast boundary for existing power line.

Being a portion of the same property conveyed to Allan Warren Frick, unmarried, by Executrix Warranty Deed from Cathy Wood, Executrix of the Estate of Katherine Watson Martin, deceased, of record in Book D359, Page 7, Register's Office for Bedford County, Tennessee, dated August 07, 2020 and recorded on August 10, 2020.

Said Katherine Watson Martin became deceased on December 13, 2019, leaving Last Will and Testament filed for Probate in Docket No. 32-846, Chancery Court of Bedford County, Tennessee. In accordance with the terms of the Will, naming Cathy Wood as Executrix of the Estate of Katherine Watson Martin, deceased. Alan Frick is named devisee.

Said Katherine Watson Martin became divorced by Final Decrees of the Coffee County, Tennessee Chancery Court, Case No. 02-455, which divested her spouse and vested solely unto Katherine Watson Martin.

Being a portion of the same property conveyed to Katherine Watson Martin, a married person, by Warranty Deed from Katherine Watson Martin, Susan Kelly Bell and Vernon White Bell, heirs of Helen McAdams Watson, of record in Book D255, Page 297 Register's Office for Bedford County, Tennessee, dated March 16, 1994 and recorded on April 17, 2003.

Being the same property conveyed to Elissa Kathryn Daniel, a single woman by deed from Allan Warren Frick dated 6/10/21 and recorded in Book D365, Page 881 in the office of the Register's Office for Bedford County, Tennessee.

Property Address: 303 Cliffside Avenue, Shelbyville, TN 37160
Parcel ID: 089O-J-017.00
Tax ID: 089O-J-017.00
Current Owner(s) of Property: ELISSA KATHRYN DANIEL
The street address of the above described property is believed to be 303 Cliffside Avenue, Shelbyville, TN 37160, but such address is not part of the legal description of the property sold herein and in the event of any discrepancy, the legal description referenced herein shall control.

SALE IS SUBJECT TO OCCUPANT(S) RIGHTS IN POSSESSION.

THE RIGHT IS RESERVED TO ADJOURN THE DAY OF THE SALE TO ANOTHER DAY, TIME AND PLACE CERTAIN WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION, UPON ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE TIME AND PLACE FOR THE SALE SET FORTH ABOVE. THE TERMS OF SALE ARE CASH. ANY TAXES OR FEES WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PURCHASER. IF THE SALE IS SET ASIDE FOR ANY REASON, THE PURCHASER AT THE SALE SHALL BE ENTITLED ONLY TO A RETURN OF THE PURCHASE PRICE. THE PURCHASER SHALL HAVE NO FURTHER RECOURSE AGAINST THE GRANTOR, THE GRANTEE, OR THE CO-TRUSTEES.

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES: None

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

If applicable, the notice requirements of T.C.A. 35-5-101 have been met.

All right of equity of redemption, statutory and otherwise, and homestead are expressly waived in said Deed of Trust, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Co-Substitute Trustee(s).

If the U.S. Department of Treasury/IRS, the State of Tennessee Department of Revenue, or the State of Tennessee Department of Labor or Workforce Development are listed as Interested Parties in the advertisement, then the Notice of this foreclosure is being given to them and the Sale will be subject to the applicable governmental entities' right to redeem the property as required by 26 U.S.C. 7425 and T.C.A. §67-1-1433.

This property is being sold with the express reservation that the sale is subject to confirmation by the lender or co-trustee(s). If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee or the Trustee's attorney.

MWZM File No. 25-000662-505-1

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

Mackie Wolf Zientz & Mann, P.C., Co-Substitute Trustee
PARK EAST
725 COOL SPRINGS BLVD, SUITE 140
FRANKLIN, TN 37067
AVT Title Services, LLC, Co-Substitute Trustee
PARK EAST
725 COOL SPRINGS BLVD, SUITE 140
FRANKLIN, TN 37067
TN INVESTORS PAGE: HTTP://MWZMLAW.COM/TN_INVESTORS.PHP (182tc #268737)

New TN laws, effective Jan. 1, 2026

Savanna's Law

Passed in April, "Savanna's Law" creates a registry for repeat domestic violence offenders in the state of Tennessee.

The law is named for Savanna Puckett, a 22-year-old Robertson County sheriff's deputy who was murdered in her Springfield home in 2022. While testifying in favor of the law, Puckett's mother said her daughter was stalked and afraid to stay by herself at times.

The registry will include the offender's name, date of birth, conviction date and county, and a current photograph, per the law. It will be maintained by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. People would be added to the registry if they are convicted of an offense against a domestic abuse victim, and they have previous domestic abuse convictions. Registrants will be required to pay a $100 fee that will be put toward grants that fund family violence prevention and intervention services, according to the law.

Offenders on the registry can submit to be removed subject to meeting certain eligibility criteria.

Ink of Hope Act

The "Ink of Hope Act" adds human trafficking intervention training to all tattoo artists in Tennessee.

The legislation aims to train tattoo artists to recognize certain symbols or "brands" and intervene on behalf of human trafficking victims without putting themselves at risk.

Tattoo artists looking to renew their licenses after Jan. 1, 2026, and those receiving their first licenses after that date, will be required to watch a one-hour course offered by an approved nonprofit agency that focuses on human trafficking.

Artists who fail to receive the training by Dec. 31, 2028, would have their licenses invalidated until they comply with the law.

HB0164/SB0128

This law would permit licensed chiropractors in the state of Tennessee to also practice animal chiropractic.

HB1378/SB1420

Signed by the governor in May, this law requires written exams for driver's licenses in the state to include information on changing hand signals used by bicyclists to communicate turning, slowing and stopping.

The state driver manual used to prepare for the exams will be required to "enable a reasonably diligent applicant to correctly answer the additional questions," per state law.

The measure is designed to increase safety for bicyclists in the state.

The 114th Tennessee General Assembly will reconvene at noon Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026.

Bedford County property transfers

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

File date: December 23

Location: Hwy 41A North; Seller, Eddie Wayne Sanders, Joyce Elizabeth Sanders; Buyer, Luis Alberto Aviles Jeronimo; Price, $25,000 (Deed).

Location: 216 Idle Dr; Seller, DFH Crescent LLC; Buyer, Craig Richard Perry, Annalise Perry; Price, $360,000 (Deed).

File date: December 29

Location: 506 Frank Martin Rd; Seller, Sonya Moulder, David T Moulder; Buyer, Brice Cannon Comstock; Price, $280,000 (Deed).

Location: Hwy 64 East; Seller, Edward Michael Pugh, Marcella Mae Pugh; Buyer, Russell Smoak, Cheri D Smoak; Price, $1,500,000 (Deed).

Location: 215 Idle Dr; Seller, DFH Crescent LLC; Buyer, Garrison Benner, Kaitlyn Benner; Price, $358,150 (Deed).

Location: 223 Idle Dr; Seller, DFH Crescent LLC; Buyer, Jonathan Garcia Padilla; Price, $333,990 (Deed).

Location: 125 Church Cross Rd; Seller, Irene M Cantrell; Buyer, Irene M Cantrell; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, Lawrence Aldrich, Nancy Aldrich, Tim Herman, Timothy Herman; Buyer, Nancy Aldrich, Lawrence Aldrich, Tim Herman; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 148 Glider Loop; Seller, Richard Leipzig, Vickie Leipzig, Vickie L Grindstaff; Buyer, Timothy Edward Bonham, Jennifer Kay Bonham; Price, $518,900 (Deed).

Location: 103 Davis St; Seller, Kelcey Jo Jensen, Kelsey Jo Jensen; Buyer, Bobby Jerome Merrell, Riley Jo Pohren; Price, $266,500 (Deed).

File date: December 30

Location: 119 Millet St; Seller, Ole South Properties Inc; Buyer, VASFC Rental Holdings LLC; Price, $339,990 (Deed).

Location: 245 Henslee Road; Seller, Angelia Marie Polasky, Angelia Marie Womble; Matthew E Forman, Suzanne Forman, James; Price, $335,000 (Deed).

Location: 229 Republic St; Seller, Ole South Properties LLC; Buyer, VASFC Rental Holdings LLC; Price, $320,990 (Deed).

Location: 1024 Hwy 64 W; Seller, Jack Roper; Buyer, Sourceosuthern LLC; Price, $450,000 (Deed).

Location: 102 Oakdale St; Seller, Hermilo G Chavarria, Hermillo Grajales Chavarria, Arturo G Chavarria, Antelmo Arturo Grajales Chavarria; Buyer, Antelmo Arturro Grajales Chavarria, Pilar Vasquez Lopez; Price, $0 (QD).

File date: January 2

Seller, SKYE Acquisitions LLC; Buyer, Music City Holdings LLC; Price, $155,000 (Deed).

Location: 1519 Hwy 130 East; Seller, Joseph Anthony Ramirez, Cindy Cuneo; Buyer, Randy Steven Degerman, Stephanie Marie Degerman; Price, $440,000 (Deed).

Location: 725 Madison St; Seller, Primad Properties LLC; Buyer, Charles St Assoc LLC; Price, $1,066,464 (Deed).

Location: Lazy Branch Rd; Seller, Ronnie Sutton, Stephanie Sutton; Buyer, Ronnie Sutton, Stephanie Sutton; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Lazy Branch Rd; Seller, Ronnie Sutton, Stephanie Sutton; Buyer, Samuel Trent Sutton, Cameron N Sutton; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Hwy 231 South; Seller, David D Womack Jr, Lynn Dropa Womack; Buyer, Thom Meek, Christopher R Payne; Price, $6,350 (Deed).

Seller, Kayla Ann Parmer; Buyer, Ivan Garcia Morales; Price, $250,000 (Deed).

Location: Cedar Grove Rd; Seller, Richard Scott Williamson; Buyer, Richard Scott Williamson, Mary Elizabeth Williamson, Richard Allen Richardson; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, DCC Strategic Realty Partners LLC; Buyer, John T Bobo, Janice R Bobo; Price, $1,140,000 (Deed).

Location: Potts Rd; Seller, Roger Dale Smith, Sandra R Smith; Buyer, DCC Strategic Realty Partners LLC, Greg T Curl, Joseph H Curl; Price, $1,200,000 (Deed).

Seller, John T Bobo, Janice R Bobo; Buyer, DCC Strategic Realty Partners LLC; Price, $700,000 (Deed).

Location: 744 Happy Valley Rd; Seller, Charlie Adcock, Charlie Clifford Adcock Jr, Susan Phillips; Buyer, Kelso Construction LLC, Taylor Clark; Price, $169,000 (Deed).

Location: Rippy Ridge Rd; Seller, The Four of Us LLC; Buyer, Just Right Construction LLC; Price, $125,000 (Deed).

Seller, Varina C Cobb; Buyer, Denis Smith; Price, $280,000 (Deed).

File date: January 5

Seller, Aubrey Molder, Tanya Renee Pollock, William Daughtery, Casey McCullough, Lindsey Smith, Tanya Coleman Pollock; Buyer, Aubrey Molder; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 360 Laws Hill Rd; Seller, Brian Kilgore; Buyer, Albert W Haupt, Sahab Sadieh; Price, $450,000 (Deed).

Location: Bunker Hill Rd; Seller, Aubrey Molder, Tanya Renee Pollock, William Daughtery, Casey McCullough, Linsey Smith, Tanya Coleman Pollock; Buyer, Lynsey Smith; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 112 Hidden Circle; Seller, JC Builders LLC; Buyer, Mary Samantha Amescua; Price, $363,900 (Deed).

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

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Experienced Mechanic Wanted
Full time position
Pay based on experience
Please send resume to: TNR.hiring@gmail.com.

FOR SALE

50 Inch Samsung TV
Never used, still in box
Please call:
931-580-1420

NOTICES

BEDFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monthly Commissioner Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 13, 2026 @ 7:00 P.M.
Bedford County Historic Courthouse
1 Public Square, 2nd Floor Courtroom
Shelbyville, TN 37160
Meeting agenda can be found at www.bedfordcountytn.gov.
Public Comment Procedure: State law provides for a period of public comment at local government meetings to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on matters that are germane to items on the agenda. Any person interested to speak should:
1. Record name and address on a sign-up sheet that will be provided, prior to the meeting being called to order.
2. When called upon, address comments to the Chairperson in a respectful manner.
3. Limit remarks to three minutes for items(s) germane to the agenda.
Persons with a disability who wish to request special accommodation to participate in the public meeting should notify April Steadman one business day prior to the meeting by calling (931) 684-7944 or email your request to april.steadman@bedfordcountytn.gov to discuss accommodations. Every reasonable effort will be made to meet your need.

Obituaries

Terry Wayne King



Terry Wayne King, 69, of Shelbyville, died December 30, 2025.

Funeral Services will be held 2:00 P.M. Sunday, January 4, 2026 at Hillcrest Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens. Visitation will begin at 12:00 P.M.

He was born October 11, 1956 in Shelbyville to his parents, the late James Monroe King and Mozelle Alford King Segroves.

He was a former employee of Sexton Welding Supply and a member of Unity Baptist Church. Terry was a big Sports Fan, former Softball Coach and loved watching the Tennessee Vols.

He had a big heart who never met a stranger. He loved his family and friends.

Terry is survived by a sister, Paula L. Sims (Mitchell) of Unionville, TN, niece, Misty Dawn Cannon (Terry) of Petersburg, TN, nephew, Bradley "Brad" Sims (Lindy) of Chapel Hill, TN and great nieces and nephew, McKenzie Cannon, Hannah Cannon, Garrett Sims and Sydney Sims.

Hillcrest Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Linda Earwood Landers



With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of our beloved, Linda Earwood Landers of Winchester, TN, who went home peacefully on Saturday, December 27, 2025, in her residence, surrounded by the love of her family. After a courageous battle with ALS, her body grew tired, and she found rest.

She was our constant, our comfort, and our greatest supporter. Her strength, grace, and unwavering love shaped the lives of all who knew her. Even in the face of illness, she faced each day with dignity and quiet courage, teaching us what true resilience looks like.

She cherished time with her family, gardening, floral arranging, and bird-watching and identification. She will be remembered for her sense of humor, as well as her giving and loving heart. Her legacy lives on in the countless lives she touched and the love she poured so freely into others.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents, Lloyd Earwood and Dora Webb Earwood, and her siblings, Leonard Earwood, Achey Earwood, Roger Earwood, Mavis Earwood Simon, and Dolores Earwood Morgan.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Phillip Landers; son, Patrick Landers Sr; daughter, Melissa (Missy) Landers James; five grandchildren: Erica James-Hernandez, Patrick Landers II, Peyton Landers, Megan Landers, and Phillip James; and four great-grandchildren, with a fifth on the way, who will forever carry her love in their hearts.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Jessica Stensby and her staff, Ashley Stinnet, Amedisys Hospice, the Crestwood ALS Care Clinic of Huntsville, Leslie Creasman, Dr. Lynn Williams, Mary Smotherman, Janice Roberts, Jordan and Ginger Ennis, Senior Pastor Dr. Micheal Clark of Winchester Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and the community of The Webb School for their compassion and support during her journey.

A celebration of her life will be held at a later date in Asheville, N.C. Watson Funeral Home in Winchester is assisting the family.

Though we grieve her loss deeply, we are comforted knowing she is now at peace.

Christopher Wayne Howell



Christopher Wayne Howell, 52, of Tullahoma, died January 3, 2026.

Funeral Services will be held 12:00 P.M. Thursday, January 8th, at Hillcrest Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Unity Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 11:00 A.M.

He was born March 1, 1973, in Tullahoma; former employee of Sanford Corporation and a member of Fellowship for Christ Church. He had a 25-year battle with brain cancer.

Chris was preceded in death by his mother, Deborah Ann Mills Howell. He is survived by his father, Tony Glenn Howell (Sandra) of Shelbyville; sister, Catina Jean (Joe) Leverette of Unionville; brother, Jason Robert Howell (Glinda) of Ontario, Canada and aunt, Teresa Groce (J.L.) of Shelbyville.

Hillcrest Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mark Anthony Beech



Mark Anthony Beech, a beloved father, grandfather, brother and friend was born on September 3, 1962, in Shelbyville, Tennessee. He peacefully passed away on December 23, after a courageous battle with an extended illness. Mark's life was marked by love and laughter.

Mark was the son of James E. (Fuzz) and Beulah Elmore Beech who instilled in him the values of hard work and dedication. He was preceded in death by his dear brother, David Beech, whose absence will forever be felt by those who knew them both.

Mark is survived by his three loving children, Britany (Timothy) Pittenger of Kelso, TN; Amy (Aaron) Milstone of Franklin, TN; and Joshua Damron of Unionville, TN. His legacy also includes five cherished grandchildren; Daisy and Emma Rae Pittenger; Bradley (Mackenzie) Milstone; Lauren Milstone and Benjamin Milstone, who brought him immense joy and pride.

A graduate of Shelbyville Central High School, Mark had a varied employment history, working for several companies throughout his life until his health no longer allowed him to continue. His resilience was a testament to his character.

Mark was known for his love of sports. He was an avid fan of baseball, football, basketball and racing. He also cherished the time he spent fishing. His passion for sports extended beyond mere observation; he dedicated many years to coaching youth baseball and softball, passionately imparting his knowledge and love of the game to young athletes. Many nights and weekends were spent either on the ball field or in a gym. If you didn't see him there, he was probably in front of a television cheering on his beloved Tennessee Vols. His enthusiasm for the team was contagious.

Mark's personality was larger than life; he was often the life of the party, known for his stubbornness and unique sense of humor. His ability to bring laughter and joy to those around him was one of his most defining traits. He had an outgoing nature that drew people to him and his friendships were meaningful.

Mark's family and friends will gather to celebrate his life on Friday, January 2, 2026, at Doak-Howell Funeral Home, from 4pm to 7pm.

Memorial donations may be made to Breakthrough T1D (formerly the Juvenile Diabetes Association) at https://www2.breakthrought1d.org, or to Alzheimer's Tennessee, Inc., South Central TN office, 309 Jackson St, Suite 1, Tullahoma, TN 37388.

Mark Anthony Beech will be remembered not only just for his love of family and sports, but also for his infectious spirit and the laughter he brought into the lives of everyone he met. He had a profound impact on his family and community that will be cherished forever. His memory will live on in the hearts of those who loved him.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

www.doakhowellfuneralhome.com

Death Notices

Mildred Clarence Sudberry Vincent

October 1, 1929 to December 28, 2025

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

Justin Scott Mailet, age 39, of Lewisburg, TN

September 8, 1986-December 28, 2025

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

Bobby Frank Mulvey, age 88, of Shelbyville, TN,

August 22, 1937 - January 1, 2026

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

Is God Dead? Kingdom Come?



Ty B. Kerley, DMin
Columnist

Last week, we began to look at the historical writings of the prophet Isaiah in the fifty-third chapter. Even so, my feeble description there failed to convey the proper weight due to Isaiah's words written some 700 years before the Servant was born: seven hundred years! Read for yourself:

See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

Just as there were many who were appalled at him—his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness—so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand. Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors (Isaiah 52:13-53:12 NIV).

It seems to me that Isaiah 53 is talking about the crucifixion of a particular man deemed "God's Servant. This historical document is considered to be "the complete gospel in prophetic form," a horrific foretelling of what the Messiah would endure in order to put away "the sins of His people forever." In fact, it so explicitly speaks of the same Messiah that Christians hold has already come (Jesus of Nazareth) that the orthodox Jews refuse to read Isaiah 53 by skipping over it during scheduled public readings from the prophets.

Michael, the Bible skeptic, says, "So what? What does Isaiah have to do with whether God is dead or not?" Actually, quite a lot. The argument we have been presenting to the Michaels of the world has been that the Creator God created human beings with intentionality and purpose. Christians hold that one aspect of that intentionality is relationship. It is the most compelling reason human beings stand alone among the animal kingdom by virtue of possessing an immaterial soul: a spiritual reality that can be tuned to commune directly with God. If all of this is true, then there must be some point where the Creator has utilized these endowments in humans to reach and speak with them. After all, isn't that what we were designed for? The Jews have maintained since time out of mind that God has communicated with man and that He will send a future messiah to save His people from their sins. It turns out that Isaiah prophesied of just such a man to come: the Messiah.

Orthodox Jews convinced the Messiah has not yet come, still await the Suffering Servant of Yahweh to come and fulfill the promise of God. At any rate, there is compelling evidence from history to support the Christian claim that such a man may have lived in the first century AD. A man who claimed to be the Son of God come to redeem fallen mankind and fulfill all that Isaiah had prophesied in the process. And it is the history of this man and the claim that He was raised from the dead that is the topic of the next several weeks.

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 Wauri ka church of Christ and live in Ardmore, OK. You can contact him at dr.kerley@isGoddead.com.

New filing suggests Uncle Nearest is in deeper trouble than publicly known

Reprinted with permission from *Shelbyville Now*

The court-appointed receiver overseeing Uncle Nearest is asking a federal judge to keep his latest quarterly report out of public view — not to dodge scrutiny, but because he believes telling the whole story publicly could do real damage at a critical moment for the company.

In a filing Tuesday evening in the lawsuit brought by Farm Credit Mid-America, Receiver Phillip G. Young Jr. said he is committed to being completely honest with the court about the condition of the company and the progress of the receivership. But that same level of candor, he argues, could expose weaknesses that would make it harder — if not impossible — to refinance Uncle Nearest's debt or find a buyer for its assets.

The receiver described the situation as a "critical juncture," with efforts underway to preserve the brand through refinancing or a potential sale.

Publicly releasing detailed information about the company's finances, operations, or early results of that process could spook lenders, scare off buyers, or give competitors an advantage.

Importantly, the receiver made clear this is not about hiding information from the judge or the parties involved in the case. The court and attorneys on both sides would still receive the full report. His concern is with what happens if the public sees it — particularly investors, competitors, and others who could use that information against the company.

The filing also references possible additional litigation tied to Uncle Nearest, noting that even discussing those issues too early could further reduce the company's value and complicate the receivership's main goal: preserving what value remains.

The receiver is signaling that the reality inside Uncle Nearest is serious enough that full public transparency, at least right now, could actively make things worse.

The judge has not yet ruled on whether the report will remain sealed.

Keele's 29 Points Leads Cascade to 35-Point Win Over Huntland

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

BELL BUCKLE, Tenn. - The Cascade Lady Champions (13-3) concluded the bulk of non-district competition on Tuesday night with a blowout win over the Huntland Lady Hornets (10-5), 68-33.

Lizzie Keele nailed six three-pointers on the night en route to a season-high 29 points for the Lady Champions, tallying more than 20 points for the second-consecutive game. Kaegan Young also surpassed the 20-point mark yet again, finishing with 21 points on an efficient 8/14 shooting in the win.

"What we saw tonight was us running good action that we've been working on ourselves in practice," Lady Champs' Head Coach Janie Demonbreum said, "getting the ball into the high post and attacking the basket instead of just sitting back and only kicking the ball out from the high post. You've got to make a read to attack if they step up on you, and I think Lizzie [Keele] did a great job of that tonight."

In just her fourth season, Demonbreum's squad has had the program's best start to a season since the 2018-19 season when Rece Chumley also led the Lady Champs to a 13-3 start. In that year, Cascade won its next two games before suffering a fourth defeat, eventually finishing with a 24-6 record overall.

Meanwhile, Huntland's Riley Maxwell – who led the Lady Hornets with 15 points in Friday's loss to Community – was held to just four points before fouling out late. Stratton Davis managed to pick up some of the scoring load, finishing with 14 points on the night. Airiana Hill also reached double-figures with 10 points, but ultimately Huntland was unable to generate consistent offensive output against the stifling Cascade defense.

Early on, the Lady Champions took a 16-11 lead after the opening period after turning Huntland turnovers into easy runouts on the offensive end. Cascade started the game shooting just 2/10 from downtown in the first eight minutes, but the hosts began to find their stride in the second quarter.

With Keele getting hot with four made three-pointers in the first two quarters, Demonbreum shifted Keele to the high post against Huntland's 2-3 zone. Keele was able to use her quickness and finishing prowess around the basket to convert easy layups, ultimately finishing with 21 points in the first half alone as Cascade took a 35-21 lead into the halftime locker room.

The hosts finished with nine made three-pointers in total. Five came in the first half and four came in the second, including Jade Tolar continuing her hot shooting off the bench with a trio of treys for the game, including two in the final two periods. Cascade outscored Huntland 21-5 in the third quarter to blow the game open and take a commanding 56-26 lead heading into the final frame.

Despite emptying her bench with more than three minutes remaining, Demonbreum's squad outscored the Lady Hornets by five, 12-7, in the fourth quarter to reach the final score of 68-33.

The Lady Champions improve to 13-3 overall. Cascade begins District 9-AA play on Friday night, welcoming last season's Region 5-AA Champion, the Loretto Lady Mustangs, to The Stable with tip-off set for 6:00 p.m. LIVE on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400.



Lizzie Keele (11) connects on one of her six made three-pointers in Tuesday's win over Huntland. Keele finished with a season-high 29 points. *Photo courtesy of David Smith.*

Cascade Pulls Away From Hornets in Final Tune-Up Before District Play

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

BELL BUCKLE, Tenn. - The Cascade Champions (9-6) won their third-consecutive game on Tuesday night after blowing out the Huntland Hornets (4-11), 78-57.

Henry Stone led all scorers with 18 points for Cascade. Cooper McElroy bounced back after a scoreless outing on Friday with 16 points, Kaleb Kelso added 12 points, Tristin Billings scored nine points, and Tyler Rodgers chipped in with eight points. As a team, the Champions found the range from outside, connecting on 11 three-pointers.

For Huntland, Micah Tipps connected on five triples – with four in the second half – and finished with a team-high 17 points. Caleb Maxwell was the only other Hornet to reach double-figures, tallying 13 points on the night.

Cascade jumped out to an early 11-0 lead by turning Huntland turnovers into easy buckets on the other end. Huntland responded with an 8-0 run of their own to cut the lead down to three points, but then the Champions responded by outscoring the Hornets 10-5 to finish the opening period with a 21-13 lead.

In the second quarter, the Champions stretched out their lead to 15 at the break, punctuated by a Cooper McElroy fast-break dunk following a Huntland turnover to beat the first half buzzer and send the hosts into the halftime locker room with a 40-25 lead.

In the second half, Cascade continued to grow its lead, outscoring Huntland 22-10 in the third quarter to balloon its lead to 62-35 heading into the final frame.

As the fourth quarter progressed, both teams eventually emptied their benches, resulting in Huntland outscoring Cascade by six, 22-16, in the final eight minutes. Despite this, Cascade still managed to win by 21 points thanks to the dynamic trio of Henry Stone, Cooper McElroy, and Kaleb Kelso combining for 23 points in the second half alone.

The Champions improve to 9-6 overall. Cascade opens the District 9-AA slate on Friday night at The Stable against the defending Class AA State Champions, the Loretto Mustangs, at 7:30 p.m. LIVE on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400.



Henry Stone (10) lays in two of his game-high 18 points in Tuesday's win over Huntland. *Photo courtesy of David Smith.*

Blue Raiders' Oglesby tabbed Conference USA Player of the Week

MT ATHLETICS

DALLAS, Tex. – Following a record setting week, Middle Tennessee guard Alec Oglesby was voted Conference USA Player of the Week, as announced by the league office Monday. The graduate averaged 14.3 points while leading MTSU to a 2-1 record on the week. The award is the first weekly honor for Oglesby and the third for a Blue Raider this season.

Oglesby tallied 12 points against the eighth-ranked Houston Cougars on four made threes, adding a rebound as well. In the first game of the new year, the guard scored a career-best 25 points against LA Tech. He knocked down eight three-pointers, tying for the most of a conference player this season and the second-most in single game program history, and was 4-4 from deep to start his run. As the leading scorer against the Bulldogs, Oglesby was instrumental in Middle Tennessee breaking the single game three-pointers made record with 22, which also is the third most in CUSA history.

Against Sam Houston, he tallied six points and grabbed five steals on Sunday. After getting injured on a play and requiring attention from trainers, he returned to the court shortly after and snatched a steal just six seconds after subbing back in, leading to a layup to regain the lead and eventually the win.



Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

Kaegan Young, Alyssa White Named to BCAT Midseason Player of the Year Watchlist

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

TENNESSEE - Cascade's Kaegan Young and Community's Alyssa White were named to the Basketball Coaches Association of Tennessee 2025-26 Class AA Player of the Year midseason watchlist on Monday.

White, who plays Center for the Viqueens, is second on her team with 9.8 points-per-game on 48% shooting, and the Junior led Community with 8.6 rebounds-per-game through their first 16 games. Despite a loss at Moore County on Tuesday, the Viqueens have still started the season with a winning record of 9-8 overall heading into District 9-AA play.

Meanwhile, Kaegan Young has been a dominant force all throughout the non-district portion of the Lady Champions' season, leading her squad in points, rebounds, assists, and steals. Young is averaging 18 points, 6.5 rebounds, 3.3 assists, and 2.8 steals on 48/30/76 shooting splits through the first 15 games this year, and she has led Cascade to a 13-3 record heading into the District 9-AA schedule following a blowout win over Huntland on Tuesday night.

The other 13 players named for Class AA are Cannon County's Abi Alexander, East Nashville's Kennedy Thornton, Gatlinburg-Pittman's Maliyah Glasper, Gibson County's Sania Reeves, Hickman County's Ava Floyd, Huntington's Wiley Kee, Loretto's Sophie Weathers, Memphis Business' Curneisha Taylor, Pearl Cohn's Valencia Bailey, Summertown's Ella Busby, Westview's Ahslee Brent, and York Institute's Raylee Werner.

The rest of the nominees for the Girls as well as the entire list of nominees for the Boys can be found on the official BCAT website at beathoops.com.



Alyssa White (11) was named to the 2025-26 BCAT Class AA Player of the Year Midseason Watchlist on Monday. *T-G Staff Photo by Noah Maddox.*



Kaegan Young (22) was named to the 2025-26 BCAT Class AA Player of the Year Midseason Watchlist on Monday. *Photo courtesy of David Smith.*

Middle Tennessee wins 68-67 nailbiter over Sam Houston

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Trailing by one point with just three seconds on the clock, Middle Tennessee's (9-5, 3-0 CUSA) Sean Smith found himself trapped along the baseline. The veteran calmly retreated to the three-point line where he found a wide-open Torey Alston under the basket and fired a rocket to the forward, who threw down a thunderous, two-handed jam to put Middle Tennessee ahead 68-67 over Sam Houston (8-6, 0-3 CUSA) to help his team win a nail biter by that same score. Middle Tennessee moves to 3-0 in Conference USA, marking the first time in Nick McDevitt's tenure as head coach the Blue Raiders have accomplished that feat.

Just as it did against LA Tech, Middle Tennessee relied once again on the three-ball to take an early 25-14 lead after the game's first 10 minutes. The Blue Raiders were 5-of-10 from deep to that point, led by Tre Green and Jahvin Carter, who each had a pair of threes to their credit. A trio of Blue Raiders, including Green and Carter, had six points along with Kamari Lands, who also grabbed two early rebounds.

Sam Houston tightened things up defensively to close out the half, holding the Blue Raiders to a stretch where they shot just 3-of-17 from the floor to overcome a 17-point deficit and tie the game at 34 going into the locker room. The Blue Raiders were also active defensively, stealing six passes and blocking a shot to force nine Bearkat turnovers in the first half. Green's eight points led the Blue Raiders in scoring while Chris Loofe's five first-half rebounds led the Blue Raiders on the glass.

The second half was tightly contested throughout, with neither team pulling ahead of the other by more than five points in the half. The Blue Raiders got a good injection of energy off the bench from guard Smith, who provided eight points, all coming in the second half. His second of two assists won the game late.

The Blue Raiders had three players finish in double-figures in scoring. Carter led the pack with 16 points, grabbing four rebounds and dishing out a team-high four assists. Loofe grabbed a team-high 10 rebounds, marking the second game in a row a Blue Raider center grabbed at least 10 rebounds after Luka Jovanovic did so against LA Tech. Loofe's final rebound came on a missed free-throw prior to Alston's game-winning dunk. Alston finished with 12 points and had three rebounds and Lands had 14 points with three rebounds and two assists. Middle Tennessee generated 16 points off turnovers and had 11 steals as a team.

Nick McDevitt

"(The final possession) had a great individual play by Sean Smith," said Middle Tennessee Head Coach Nick McDevitt. "He's a winner. He doesn't care whether he starts, comes off the bench, plays point guard, he just wants to win. He had great poise on that play. He looked trapped, got out of it and made a great pass to Torey for that dunk. You have to credit Sam Houston. They're a gritty and tough team. You just never feel comfortable against them. We knew they weren't going to go away."

Jahvin Carter

"Against LA Tech, we shot it really well, and we had a day to prepare for (Sam Houston)," Carter said. "We locked in and bought into the plan and jumped on them early, but I think we got a bit too comfortable and we had to fight it out with them. They do a lot of things really well, but we fought and did what we had to do in the end."

By the Numbers

4: Career-high in three-pointers made in a game by Jahvin Carter.

3: Wins marks the best start in conference play for Nick McDevitt in his MTSU career.

13: Lead changes in the game, with 2:51 of action today with a tied score.



Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

Middle Tennessee tops Jacksonville State 69-52 for 2-0 CUSA start

MT ATHLETICS

JACKSONVILLE, Ala. – Middle Tennessee (7-7, 2-0 CUSA) dominated Jacksonville State (7-7, 1-1 CUSA) on Sunday afternoon, earning a 69-52 win at Pete Mathews Coliseum.

Jax State started the game with a 7-0 advantage until freshman Kirston Verhulst scored a three-pointer, ending the scoring drought for MTSU. The Gamecocks maintained a solid 13-point lead, but then the Blue Raiders charged back with a 7-0 run, bringing the score to 16-10. Freshman guard Macie Phifer then made a three-pointer, reducing the deficit to 2 points at 18-16 with 7:36 remaining in the second quarter. With 2:54 left, freshman Carsyn Swaney also hit a three-pointer, bringing Jax State's lead down to 2 at 25-23. The Blue Raiders kept the momentum going with an 8-0 run over three minutes, ending with a 3-pointer from senior Alayna Contreras, giving them the lead for the first time at 26-25 as they headed into halftime.

The Blue Raiders began the third quarter strong, with Contreras scoring a two-point jumper, Phifer then followed with a second-chance layup and drew a foul for an additional free throw, extending the lead to 6 points at 31-25. With 3:55 remaining in the third quarter, freshman guard Blair Baugus capitalized on a turnover, making a jumper that increased the team's lead to 11 points, bringing the score to 39-28. In the last 2 minutes, the blue raider hit 8 out of their last 9 shots before heading into the 4th quarter.

The Blue Raiders launched an 8-0 scoring run over 2 minutes and 16 seconds, with Phifer sinking a three-pointer following a turnover by the Gamecocks, which pushed their lead to 20 points at 60-40 with 6:39 remaining in the game. At the 5:52 mark, Baugus made a jumper, marking the largest lead of the game for the Blue Raiders at 62-40. Baugus recorded 13 points and 10 rebounds, posted back to back double-doubles on the road. Contreras contributed 21 points and 4 assists, while sophomore guard Savanah Davis added 14 points and 6 rebounds. Phifer finished with 11 points and 4 turnovers, and Verhulst played the full 40 minutes, delivering 6 assists.

Coach's Comments

"I'm really proud of our young ladies. They did a good job. We got down 13 points and we didn't panic. We did a good job executing our offense all night long, from the second quarter on and we did some good things that I really liked on defense, with the way we were adjusting, the way we were cracking down. There's just so many different things that we were able to do that we had been doing, that we did today."

By the Numbers

4: This was the second game of the season where four players scored in double figures, which last happened on December 3, 2025, against Belmont.

22: The Blue Raiders had their largest lead of the season, which was 22 points.

52: Middle Tennessee shot 52 percent from three-point range, while Jax State managed only 28 percent.

15: The Blue Raiders went on a 15-0 run in the third quarter.



Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.











SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR 37 YEARS
SPD'S BILL LOGUE RETIRES

City and T-G Photos by Marilyn Ewing

Congratulations were recently in order for Sgt. Bill Logue of the Shelbyville Police Department upon his retirement. A well-deserved reception was recently given by Police Chief Jan Phillips and the department with numerous colleagues, City and County staff, family and friends, in attendance.

Long-time Register of Deeds Johnny Reed officially announces his candidacy for re-election



Johnny Reed has officially announced his candidacy for re-election as Bedford County Register of Deeds in the May 5 Democratic Primary.

The Register of Deeds is responsible for preserving all instruments required or permitted by law to be filed or recorded. These records provide essential public notice of property ownership, liens, contracts, and other transactions that impact the public's interest.

Reed is a certified public administrator through the University of Tennessee. Under his leadership, the office has received clean audits for all 23 years of his service.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the people of Bedford County for the past 23 years," Reed said. "If re-elected, my staff and I will continue to provide the exceptional service our community deserves while protecting Bedford County's vital land records."

Reed's a lifelong resident of Bedford County and a 1978 graduate of Shelbyville Central High School. Prior to his public service, he worked at Smith's Foodtown and at Bi-Lo grocery, where he served as meat department manager for 17 years.

Reed is married to Kathy Reed, ESL & instructional support coordinator for Bedford County schools. They have two married adult children.

Reed is an elder at First Christian Church and has been actively involved in the community through church league softball, coaching youth baseball and soccer, and participating as a former cast member of the American Cancer Society's Hee Haw & Howdy benefit show.

He currently serves as President of the Shelbyville/Bedford County Community Clinic Board.

Throughout his tenure as Register, Reed has been an active member of both the Tennessee and Middle Tennessee Registers Associations. He was named Register of the Year in 2015, Middle Tennessee Register of the Year in 2024, and currently serves as chaplain for both associations. Reed has worked for this county for decades, diligently safeguarding the county's vital land records-some dating back to 1807.

In 2020, he oversaw the successful relocation of the register's office to its current location, ensuring the secure transport and re-shelving of all record books.

Reed notes how his office maintains a modern, efficient operation. Reed implemented e-filing, enabling documents to be submitted quickly and securely from homes and offices. He also updated the office with printing capabilities that allow plats to be recorded and scanned onsite, eliminating the need for outsourcing.

Reed said recently that his dedicated staff members strive daily to meet the needs of title searchers, attorneys, and others involved in land transfers and property transactions. The office also records military DD214 forms for veterans.

BEDFORD BRIEFS

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS



Shelbyville City Council meets in regular session 6 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 8, at the codes building on Cannon Boulevard.

Bedford County Commission meets 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 13, at the courthouse. Quarterly reports are scheduled to be given by the Trustee; Registrar of Deeds; Property Accessor; Hwy Superintendent; Election Registrar; Director of Schools; County Clerk; Circuit Court Clerk/Driving School Director; Clerk & Master.

Bedford County Committees meet at 5 p.m., Jan. 20, at the courthouse. Bedford County Financial Management meets at 4:15 p.m. on Jan. 27 at the Dover Street building.

Bedford County Board of Education meets 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at the Central Office.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Non-emergency Bedford County Government offices and Shelbyville City Hall will be closed on Monday, Jan. 19, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr., Day. Shelbyville will pick up Monday's trash on Tuesday, Jan. 20, on regular schedule. Bedford County Convenience Centers will be closed on Monday, Jan. 19, due to the holiday observance.

Bedford County schools will be closed on Monday, Jan. 19, for the holiday.

LOCAL AG NEWS

Join the Master Gardener Program!

Are you passionate about gardening and eager to share your knowledge with the community? Bedford County is starting its own Master Gardener program this year and the application period is open! This program offers a fantastic opportunity to enhance your horticultural skills, engage in meaningful community service, and connect with fellow garden enthusiasts. Whether you're an experienced gardener or just starting out, we're happy to have you. **The application deadline is January 20th**. Download the application at https://tiny.utk.edu/BedfordMGApp

For more information, contact Matthew Deist at mdeist@utk.edu or call 931-684-5971. Let's grow together!

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 Clerk
County Commission – Districts 1-9	Register of Deeds
Trustee	School Board Districts 2,3,4,7
Sheriff	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

The family will love this flatbread pizza



(Family Features) It's national pizza week!

But why settle for the ordinary from a box. Make your own!

There are few things better than a tasty dish the whole family can enjoy. This Chipotle Chicken Flatbread makes for a perfect al fresco meal. It's a great stand in for boring pizza.

Prepared along with a fresh salad or simply enjoyed by itself, this flatbread is simple to make and even kids will love adding the toppings and sauce. It's colorful and fresh, making it a perfect addition to get-togethers on the patio.

Plus, the cooking time is only 16 minutes, which makes this a quick and delicious solution to defeat.

Chipotle Chicken Flatbread

Servings: 6

- 2 flatbreads
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 clove garlic, diced
- 4 chicken tenders, cooked and cubed
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, quartered
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 1/2 cup ranch dressing
- 1 1/2 teaspoons chipotle seasoning
- 2 tablespoons cilantro leaves, chopped

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Place parchment paper on baking sheet and add flatbreads. Sprinkle cheese on flatbreads. Top with garlic, chicken and tomatoes. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Bake 16 minutes until cheese is melted.
3. In small bowl, mix ranch and chipotle seasoning.
4. Drizzle ranch dressing on flatbread and sprinkle with cilantro leaves.

THIS AIN'T OUR FIRST RODEO

At First Community Bank, this ain't our *First* rodeo. We've been helping folks find financial success since 1988, and we don't plan on stopping anytime soon. *Community* is our middle name. Our friends and neighbors, they come first. Whatever road you're taking to a good life, we know the way. This *Bank* is no one-trick pony. We've got decades of know-how up our sleeves, and we'll give our all to get you where you want to go.

FIRST COMMUNITY BANK
FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS FIRST

FIRSTCOMMUNITYBANKER.COM MEMBER FDIC

NEW, WELL-MAINTAINED HOMES IN SHELBYVILLE

- Newly constructed homes
- Excellent condition
- Smoke-free units
- $25 non-refundable application fee
- No pets allowed
- Proof of income & references required

Quiet and desirable residential locations, ideal for those who value a nice home and take pride in where they live.













ADDITIONAL RENTAL UNITS AVAILABLE IN OTHER LOCATIONS, WITH SEVERAL OPTIONS TO FIT ANY BUDGET OR NEED.

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513 Madison St., Shelbyville, TN
(931) 684-5803
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