COMMUNITY NEWS

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

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Outgoing County Property Assessor Clanton tells Commission like it is, one last time in report



By Dawn Hankins
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It was her last official quarterly report to the County Commission before she retires as Property Assessor at February end. And on Tuesday night, Ronda Clanton made sure Commissioners knew exactly what was about to happen in the coming year for the person taking over her job.

"We're very busy. We're working all those deeds Johnny [Register of Deeds] has over there," said Clanton. "The prices are going up still, not drastically, but they are still climbing."

Regarding County growth, she said her office has picked up a little over $132 million worth of new construction this year. That puts a lot of work on her staff, she said.

Clanton said with that growth, the total tax dollar amount is $787,000-dollars coming in and not on the tax roll last year.

"And as much as I would love to be able to keep that, because of this [state] ratio, it's going out the window, plus some." (Clanton confirmed that with County Financial Director Robert Daniel who was present.)

She advised, "We are in reappraisal. You all will be voting on a reappraisal plan next month. We've got a couple of options. We can stay with the 5-year. We can go to a 4-year reappraisal and have to look at all the property in 3 years, which is not going to be doable with the amount of people that I have. Or, we can go to the new AE option that the comptroller has been talking about that decouples the inspections with the reappraisal cycle."

The AE cycle in property assessors in Tennessee refers to the Annual Evaluation Cycle, or the process by which property values are assessed and updated annually. This cycle is part of a broader property assessment process, which includes reappraisal cycles that occur every four, five, or six years, depending on the local government's determination. The AE cycle ensures that property values are current and that property owners are informed of their property's assessed value.

She said the AE is a 4-year reappraisal cycle and 4-year inspection cycle, without having the 5th year of working on reappraisals. The office would go right back into a 4-year cycle.

"We're busting at the seams. My office has taken up everything they can do and more. I actually do not know how my field people are doing it but they're doing it. The girls in the office are busy, constantly."

Clanton said she will assist with the new fiscal year budget, which will include a request for two new field people. (Only one would be a liability for the County she stated.)

Clanton said she'll also ask for a new vehicle for the Assessor's office.

"I am leaving, so I feel like we should stay with the 5-year," said Clanton. "We will have to endure two of the ratios. I don't know what those will be. I don't know if they'll be as large as we've seen. This has been a historical thing across the state to have this large of ratios coming out."

Mayor Chad Graham explained ratios can be confusing. But the main thing to consider is the growth rate.

Clanton said one other part of the AE cycle is called a current value index or a mini re-appraisal in between the 4-year cycle.

"I think eventually, you're going to see yearly reappraisals, down the road. It's coming."

She said Knox and Sullivan Counties, which are larger, have gone to 2-year reappraisals. But for Bedford County, she said it's different, given all the visual inspections, i.e., mobile home parks and campers that have to now be valued.

Clanton said considering all that's been added, her office is now at a "breaking point."

It was stated that personal property and utility are state-mandated. So, Commissioner Greg Vick said the County therefore has few options. "They're betting on the house money and we're having to foot the bill on it."

"When we raise, by our property taxes, because of the value increases, we raise that money; it's offset. It's wiped completely out. And every single year . . . as long as growth continues, we can play a little bit. But when growth takes a hiccup, like it did in '08 and like it did in '02, then all of a sudden, boom, we're in a tight spot there."

During a year of grief, Shelbyville's own dancing queen, Yvonne McChristian, publishes first book

Eighty-year-old Yvonne McChristian has written a lot of poems and plays over the years. But her recently published book, "Storms of Life: A Journey of Perseverance, Love, Hope & Healing" was likely the hardest to pen, considering she is now in her own time of grief.

See how this 40-page book of prose led her through a dark time in her life. See page 2 for complete story.



'And when you get that chance, you're the dancing queen' Abba

Harris Middle teacher accused of assaulting a student scheduled to appear in court next month

By Dawn Hankins
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Bedford County School system has informed the T-G that the teacher involved in the incident with a student on Dec. 18 at Harris Middle School has a February court date and the teacher will remain on leave until then.

Information obtained by the T-G reveals that the teacher's photo has apparently been removed from the online HMS directory.

The following is a statement released by the school system last week.

Harris Middle School administration and Bedford County Schools (BCS) officials are aware of an incident that occurred December 18, 2025, involving an interaction between a teacher and a student. An allegation of assault committed by the teacher was reported to school leadership and local law enforcement. The teacher has been placed on administrative leave pending a full and impartial investigation.

The safety and well-being of our students are our highest priorities. We are cooperating fully with law enforcement and will continue to work closely with the student's family and all appropriate agencies throughout the investigative process. Out of respect for the privacy of the student and to preserve the integrity of the investigation, we cannot provide additional details at this time," school officials reported.

We are committed to supporting the student, the family, staff, and the school community.

Counseling and support services are available to students and staff; families who would like assistance should contact the school office or the BCS Central Office.

Harris Middle School and all Bedford County Schools remain dedicated to maintaining a safe learning environment for every student.

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Tax Season
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MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Jan. 19 is a Federal Holiday
Government offices will be closed. Check ahead for business schedules.

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Now a widow after 62 years of marriage, Yvonne McChristian has poured her feelings into a 40-page poetry book-one designed to help others along the same journey of life

Yvonne's husband, William, passed Jan. 23, 2025, after a brief illness. She admits that at times, it's proven to be difficult to move on without him.

Writing the poems, she says, helped her through the grief stages. Her "Storms of Life" poetry is on the back of her husband's printed obituary.

But as many people in Shelbyville know, Yvonne is by nature a spirit-filled lady. In addition to writing, she leads a dance class at the Shelbyville Rec Center and was featured in a story a few years ago in the T-G about an exercise class she held in the front yard of her home.

Making people smile is Yvonne's mantra in life.

To help others, via such a book, makes it all worthwhile, she says.

Yvonne's daughter, Sherry Leetham, of Texas, encouraged her to write the book; she became her mom's editor.

And so, at the end of 2025, Yvonne became a published author. She held a book signing at Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library right after Christmas.

She is working to get more books ordered but the public can also go online through Amazon.

The book will explain through prose this Bedford County woman's personal story of survival. She was raised in Wartrace and is the 6th child from a family of 14. She said she sadly learned the hardships of death early in life after losing her mother at age 9.

She and her beloved William were actually together for 65 years. Yes, he was her high school sweetheart.

Even throughout the days of diapers and school homework, this mom and grandmother says writing has continued to be a life-long passion. Along with writing poems, she's also been a local playwright and has enjoyed writing fun stories for social gatherings.

An athletic person to boot, she's also taught senior line dancing, participated with a local bowling league, and played Senior Olympics basketball.

She spent many years in the red clay dirt, she notes, playing shortstop and batting clean-up. It was only a few years ago that she hung up her All-Star softball cleats.

She comes from a singing family too. For all such gifts, she gives all her glory to God.

While she can be the life of the party, this season of her life brought her to many quiet moments, she shares.

The book idea started not long ago when she was at the horse show and working with Debra Nelson of Black & Blue. Debra impressed her, she says, having written a book about her school teacher mom.

Debra told Yvonne she'd handle getting the book published. She just had to sit down and write it.

While sitting and dealing with her grief, the words started pouring out of her heart, she says.

Daughter Sherry really wanted to do all the editing. She said she had the time to devote to the book and it would mean a lot to her to do so.

So back and forth they went, mother and daughter, sharing the poetry, laughing and sometimes crying when reading, re-writing and deciding on the 16 poems. Yvonne did have one instruction and that was that they put the poems in her requested order.

"It got done really fast. I wrote them in about a week's time-about 10 days."

Some of her poems are titled:

- "When the Storm is Over"
- "Today, Yesterday..."
- "The Empty Chair"
- "Me and God"

She dedicated the book to God for His strength and to her husband, who suffered valiantly with his pancreatic cancer. She said William was a very talented man and she wanted to honor him for the life they shared together.

Yvonne and William have four daughters, Dr. Valencia May, Gwendolyn McChristian, Tina Jackson, and Sherry Leetham; one son, William "Samson" McChristian, Jr.; 8 grandchildren, T.J. Adams, Cameron Leetham, Alex and Darragh May, Dallas and Donovan Jackson, Chameca and William Shamari McChristian.

She explains that the poetry book took on a different kind of writing style, given the serious subject matter.

"It's very personal and emotional. A lot of times you don't let people see that side of you."

Yvonne believes grief is private. While some people want others around them as they grieve, she isn't that way.

"Everybody wants to help you. But there's a time when you and God can only figure this out-where do I go from here."

She said one of her poems is called, "There Comes a Time." For her, that is reflective of her time walking through life's valleys with just God.

One of her poems reflects on that "quiet place." Yvonne believes time alone is necessary to heal after loss.

"It's not really people that really help you. It's you and God."

She says the verse in Psalms: "Be still and know that I am God" is really reflected in this book. (Psalm 46:10.)

Walking a mile in someone's shoes is important, she explains. She tried to create a book that can be used by people from all walks of life.

As for the book cover, she told her daughter that she wanted two people in a boat. Of course, the two people are symbolic of she and William.

She was inspired by the scripture that speaks about Jesus on the boat during the storm and how the disciples woke him up out of fear. (Can be found in the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke.)

So, on the cover, Jesus is behind a symbolic Yvonne and William, steering the boat in the storm.

Yvonne admits that if she'd known years ago how some parts of her life would turn out, it probably would have been devastating. But she says Jesus was always "steering the boat" during those storms over the years. That's why she asked the artist to draw him in the background.

"God gave me strength to walk through it . . . not break down."

She talks about her husband being such a strong person and how he defied age. She said he gardened and took care of cars, among many things. But it was likely his pride for self-sufficiency that she admired the most.

"I think we were a good balance for each other. We worked our way through the storms and raised these [5] kids."

She said family photos added in the book came as a surprise to her. The photos, she believes, reflect love, laughter, hard times and good times.

Where does her inspiration for writing come from? She said it's just a flow of things in her mind and perhaps a God-given gift.

"I have bad days. But that's a part of it. I'm better than I was, of course. I still have stormy weather."

The author wants people to know that storms are a part of life. And she knows some readers will likely have experienced far worse.

"I heard once you play the cards that's dealt you . . . play the cards in your hand."

Looking back on her childhood, she says there was a time when life wasn't so good. Still, she believes all the trauma-that which she's overcome with the Lord's help-has made her a stronger and better person.

"You've got to have the storms, to appreciate the sunshine," she says.

Yvonne shares that now one of her cousins wants her to write a play about "kinfolk." She laughs and says that is a work in progress and might have to be fiction to protect the innocent.

Back in September, some ladies told her they were ready to start "dancing again." She is currently teaching one day a week.

While she only intended to have about 10 participants for a while, she laughs and says 37 people showed up on sign up day. That number has dwindled down to about 20 people or less.

Why does she still do all this dancing at her age? Yvonne says she wants to encourage people to get as much joy as possible from their lives.

One thing to know about Yvonne's class is that she likes to have fun. "I told them if it wasn't fun, I don't want to do it. At my age, I want to laugh."



'Trusting God when He takes the love of your life after 62+ years is hard. But trust we must as we recall yesteryear - for today and tomorrow are still with us. Sometimes words are the only way to express what flows through my heart becoming the only solid thing I can grasp during the dark hours. Like you, I know the sun will rise. My hope is that during your time of sorrow, when you find more comfort in the embrace of grey clouds, you find a kindred spirit in these poems, and know you are not alone.' Yvonne McChristian



T-G Photo by Dawn Hankins

She's got spirit, yes, she does. She's got spirit, how about you? Photo of Yvonne McChristian in dance mode.

IRS sets Jan. 26 as start of 2026 tax filing season

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service announced that the 2026 tax filing season will begin Monday, Jan. 26. Taxpayers will have until Wednesday, April 15, to file their 2025 federal income tax returns and pay any taxes owed.

The IRS expects to receive approximately 164 million individual tax returns this year, with the majority filed electronically. The 2026 season marks the implementation of several new provisions from the One, Big, Beautiful Bill, which may affect taxes, credits and deductions for many filers.

IRS officials emphasized that IRS.gov offers a variety of tools and resources for taxpayers throughout the filing process. The One, Big, Beautiful Provisions section provides guidance on tax law changes that may reduce tax liabilities and increase refund amounts.

"President Trump is committed to the taxpayers of this country and improving upon the successful tax filing season in 2025," said Acting IRS Commissioner Scott Bessent. "Prior to the passage of the One, Big, Beautiful Bill, which delivered working families tax cuts, Treasury and IRS were diligently preparing to update forms and processes for the benefit of hard-working Americans, and I am confident in our ability to deliver results and drive growth for businesses and consumers alike."

"The Internal Revenue Service is ready to help taxpayers meet their tax filing and payment obligations during the 2026 filing season," said IRS Chief Executive Officer Frank Bisignano. "As always, the IRS workforce remains vigilant and dedicated to their mission to serve the American taxpaying public."

Among the new features this season is Schedule 1-A, which taxpayers will use to claim recently enacted deductions, including exemptions from taxes on tips, overtime, and car loan interest, as well as an enhanced deduction for seniors.

Other updates include:

- **IRS Individual Online Account** – Taxpayers can access balance due, payment history, tax records and more.
- **Trump Accounts** – Parents and guardians may now open a specialized retirement account for children. More information is available at trumpaccounts.gov.
- **Direct deposit** – The IRS encourages taxpayers to set up bank accounts to receive refunds electronically, as paper checks are being phased out under the Modernizing Payments executive order.
- **Forms 1099-K and 1099-DA** – Taxpayers who receive these forms should consult IRS.gov for guidance on how to report payments from third-party apps or digital asset transactions.
- **Refund tracking** – Refund status is available within 24 hours of e-filing or four weeks after submitting a paper return through the Where's My Refund? tool.
- **Fraud awareness** – IRS.gov offers resources for identifying and responding to tax-related identity theft and scams.
- **Tax preparer guidance** – The Choosing a Tax Professional page helps taxpayers select reputable tax preparers.
- **Taxpayer Assistance Centers** – Appointments are available for those who need in-person help after using online tools.

The IRS Free File program will begin accepting returns on Jan. 9 for eligible taxpayers. Starting Jan. 26, all taxpayers can use Free File Fillable Forms. Military members and some veterans may also access free services through the Department of Defense's MilTax program. Additionally, IRS-certified volunteers will provide no-cost basic return preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs.

Bedford County Register of Deeds Johnny Reed gave his quarterly report Tuesday to the County Commission

It's been another good quarter, with 310 deeds recorded, Reed advised. There were 135 quick claim deeds filed, 37 new plats, 45 notices of completion and 61 green belts.

"One figure here I don't like to ever see, because we only had one last quarter, but we had six Trustees deeds, that means somebody has lost their house. And you never want to see that."

There were 3,218 recorded documents which is 299 more than recorded in 2025, for the same quarter. His report also indicated revenue was $638,704, which is up $23,540 from the same time last year.

He reminded about the Fraud Alert program available through his office. Residents can sign up to protect their mortgages/homes from scams.

Reed said this can be done through email or by calling his office. He mentioned a lot of children are signing up their elderly parents so they're notified of any illegal activity regarding the home/mortgage.

Commissioner Greg Vick had some questions for Reed, based on his report. He confirmed that 310 deeds quarterly is the equivalent of about 15 a day. "That means people are buying and selling property at the rate -15 to 16 pieces of property every day plus the quick claims . . .?"

He also asked about the number of plats recorded and wanted to know if most of these recorded deeds are City or County.

Reed said most are in the County. He referred to the development off Nashville Dirt Road near the Deery Eakin Farm and one in the works toward Jostens off Highway 41A North.

He said every 6 months you can see new developments. Reeds said some are small developments and some are huge.

Vick asked about the green belts which means people are taking farmland and converting it into more farmland or changing ownership of farmland. Reed said if someone sells farmland, the greenbelt must be redone. This was confirmed by Property Assessor Ronda Clanton.



Register of Deeds Johnny Reed

"Do you see the price on these deeds and farmland increasing in value or is it stable or is there a large increase you're seeing?" Vick asked Reed.

Reed responded quickly, "If you go back when I took office in 2002, the top of the line sell on a house was $125,000, and you had a hard time selling that $125,000 home. Today, that same house is selling for $375 to $400,000. So today, the average home is around $350 and up."

He said some farms are selling in the millions, especially around Normandy Lake. "Even though the assessment is a lot lower than what they're giving, they're selling for more than what they're assessed at."

Commissioner John Boutwell asked Reed if he's seeing in his office an influx of people. Reed said yes, a lot of northerners are moving to the South.

"It's cheaper to live here than it is there," said Reed.

Boutwell asked if this influx of people could influence the school system and require the addition of another school.

Mayor Chad Graham said the school superintendent, Tammy Garrett, who was about to give her report, could answer those types of questions. See the T-G website (t-g.com) on Thursday for this story.

DAVIS IS ONE BUSY TRUSTEE

Provides report to County Commission with all investments and calculations

County Trustee Tonya Davis explained to Commissioners Tuesday night that the new banking software is going well in her office. She is available to answer questions.

As if she doesn't have enough to do, managing the County's dollars (investments, etc.), Davis also mentioned to Commissioners on Tuesday that there's been a case of white washing of a check. The check was used to pay a vendor. A man in Georgia was charged, she said, and then went free. He tried the event again but failed, she said. Davis explains there is good security (Positive Pay) within the new banking system. Fraud is easily tracked. There is no extra charge for this service to the County, she said. Davis thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to use this new banking system.

Editor's Note: Most of the checks used in white washing schemes are



fetched from resident mailboxes. The perpetrators use physical instruments to remove the check from mailboxes in most cases so as to leave no fingerprints.

Dear Editor:

Republicans and Democrats should unite over capture of Venezuelan Dictator Maduro

The recent arrest and arraignment of Venezuelan dictator Nicholas Maduro in New York before 92-year-old judge Alvin Hellerstein (a Bill Clinton appointee) is good news for America.

Maduro is due back in court March 17, 2026, for further hearings. At present, Maduro and his wife are both under lockup without bail. As expected, this arrest of a known foreign dictator, criminal and narcotics terrorist has brought forth from the liberal left wing leading democrats, Senate Minority leader Chuck Schumer and his equally deranged cohort Rep. Bernie Sanders, a violent protest over the arrest of this known murderer, and socialist criminal.

Not to be outdone, a number of the "hate-Trump-and America" democrats have joined in the fray, including a fund-raising effort for the Free Maduro movement-the Democrat National Committee and the darling of the squad and New York Mayor Mamdani, the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). And of course, not to be outdone, the profanity- spouting, vocabulary limited and unintelligent late night show hosts and the equally failing liberal news CNN have joined in the arm waving and profane garbage spouting.

Venezuela's Maduro was handpicked by the equally criminal former ruler Hugo Chavez. Maduro was first elected to office by a very slim margin in 2013, following Chavez's death. However, since 2016, Maduro has ruled Venezuela with an iron hand by decree - not general elections. Government by decree is considered undemocratic in that one person can rule by issuing mandates and rules and by bypassing any legislature procedures to this end. Because of his widespread unpopularity and expected loss in a democracy sanctioned election, Maduro has chosen to remain in power by decree by presenting many claims and fabricated issues for the necessity of this method of government rule; including his handpicked 13 members of the Venezuela Supreme Court that issued decree-after-decree to keep him in power.

During this period political upheaval, mass exodus of citizens, chaos and abject poverty has prevailed and Maduro, by controlling the military, has put down the many protests occurring against his regime by using live ammunition on the protestors, outright murder and by torturing those arrested who were outspoken against him.

In 2024, Maduro issued the ultimate in iron rule, having the Supreme Court uphold a 15-year ban, preventing opposition favorite Maria Machado, stemming from previous administrative disqualifications and allowing him to claim victory.

In addition, Ms. Machado, fearing exile, left Venezuela and relocated in Norway. Then to add the ultimate injustice to the Venezuela voters, he rejected widespread backing for opposition by Machado's chosen successor Gonzalez Urrutia. Thus by outright violence and unlawful coercion, Maduro remained in power until the Trump Administration chose to enter Venezuela and arrest Maduro and his wife and hopefully bring both these hardened criminals and terrorists to justice.

Instead of protesting the arrest of a known enemy of the United States and a narcoterrorism who committed usurpation of a lawfully elected government, the democrats should be united with the republicans in supporting this action instead of moaning about "injustice, and free Maduro."

Now to top off their hatred of Trump and all that is good for America, they will, with the gnashing of teeth and graveyard lamentations, attempt another folly in bringing impeachment charges against Trump. Will this U.S. failing political party never learn that loyal Americans do not intend to let left wing radicals promote and support sworn foreign enemies of the United States walk scot-free from justice?

Charles David Sliger
Shelbyville

WalletHub weighs in on credit care debt and predicts 2026

With financial improvement topping many New Year's resolution lists and credit scores declining in every state over the past year, the personal-finance company WalletHub has released its updated report on the States With the Largest Credit Score Decreases. The findings highlight where consumers may be facing the greatest financial risk.

Largest Decreases

1. Missouri
2. Georgia
3. Delaware
4. Kansas
5. Minnesota
6. Florida
7. Montana
8. West Virginia
9. Texas
10. Arizona

Smallest Decreases

41. Tennessee
42. Vermont
43. Arkansas
44. Wyoming
45. Alaska
46. Maine
47. New Hampshire
48. Iowa
49. North Dakota
50. Utah

WalletHub just analyzed new data released by the Federal Reserve and discovered that U.S. households had $1.35 trillion in credit card debt at the end of November 2025, and this doesn't even include the full holiday shopping season. That is a new record in absolute terms, but it is 8% below the record when adjusted for inflation.

Despite the average credit card APR decreasing due to the Fed's rate cuts, WalletHub projects that consumers will end 2025 with $50 billion more credit card debt than they started the year with. You can find additional tips and takeaways from WalletHub's latest Credit Card Debt Survey below.

- **Drowning in Debt**: Nearly 2 in 5 people say they will have more credit card debt by the end of 2026.
- **A Lifetime of Debt:** 42% of Americans think they will have credit card debt their whole life.
- **Financial Stress Runs Deep:** More than 1 in 5 Americans are very stressed about their credit card debt.
- **Budgeting Our Way Out of Debt:** More than 3 in 5 people say a good budgeting app helps you get out of debt faster.
- **National Debt Raises Alarms**: 67% of people say the country's debt is in worse shape than their personal debt.
- **AI Adds to the Problem**: 53% of people say AI is making things worse rather than helping them get out of credit card debt.

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FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

LAUGHING AT GOD

Genesis 17 and 18

Laughing at God? Some do. Both Sarah and Abraham did it. They did not see how God could fulfill His promise that in their old age they would have many descendants. Abraham even asked if his son by Sarah's handmaiden, Hagar, could live under God's blessing.

Sarah's laughter came when three visitors came to Mamre to visit with Abraham and Sarah. A warm welcome was extended to the visitors and a fine meal was prepared for them. One of the visitors was the Lord. He was the spokesman and told Abraham that the next year he would visit again and that by that time Sarah would have a son. Sarah heard this conversation and laughed. Her thoughts were that she and Abraham were both too old for this to happen.



The Lord heard Sarah laughing and questioned her about it. She tried to deny that she had laughed, but the Lord knew that she had.

The Lord asked Abraham, "Is there anything too hard for the Lord?"

He then stated that he would return at the appointed time next year and Sarah would have a son.

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LUTHERAN

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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
940 Morton St., 931-684-2297

ST. JOHNS AME
1512 Raby Ave., 931-684-9931

WHITESIDE UNITED METHODIST
2400 Midland Rd., 615-828-8292

WOODFORK CHAPEL AME
1011 Lipscomb St., 931-684-4817

NAZARENE

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
834 Union St., 931-684-3664

HILL TOP NAZARENE
1007 Smith Chapel Rd., 931-65-5234

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
1701 Green Lane, 931-685-9731

WHOSOEVER WILL PENTECOSTAL
219 E. Cedar St., 931-684-4384

PRESBYTERIAN

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

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Is God Dead? Hume's Probability



Ty B. Kerley, DMin
Columnist

So upfront, I've got to tell you that the claim that a man was resurrected from the dead is quite extraordinary. In fact, the mid-18 th century philosopher David Hume put forward the extraordinary nature of the Christian resurrection claim as a question. Hume asked: "Is it more probable that a person is deceived, deceiving, or that the dead man actually rose from the dead?"

In fact, it is so improbable that anyone claiming that a dead man rose from the dead is assumed to be lying. Hume put it this way: saying it is a strange thing that such miraculous events don't take place in our day. "But," Hume said, "it is nothing strange that men should lie in all ages."

You see, experience and probability tell us that the dead stay dead, that men lie, and that any story of the dead coming to life is probably just that: a lie. However, for the Christian, the narrative of Jesus' resurrection from the dead is not a lie. Christians hold that Christ died, was buried, was raised on the third day, appeared to Cephas, and then to the twelve. Then, he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles and last, he appeared to Paul (cf 1 Cor. 15-3-8.)

So, we face an apparent difficulty, a conundrum of sorts: we have two divergent truth claims, ultimately asking the question: what is the most plausible explanation for what happened to Jesus after his death? But before we attempt to answer that, it's important to determine the best approach to investigate the resurrection claims. Since the resurrection is an irretrievable event in time past, I think you will agree is considered a historical event.

Consequently, we are warranted in approaching the resurrection investigation as historians. However, in approaching the resurrection investigation as historians, another question immediately presents itself: since it is the Christian claim that Jesus was miraculously raised from the dead by His supernatural Father, can historians legitimately investigate miracle claims? Resurrection historian Michael Licona says no, explaining, "As historians, we are limited to asking whether Jesus rose bodily from the dead. Historians cannot answer whether it was God who raised Jesus..."

Likewise, the popular atheist and critic of Christianity Bart Ehrman agrees with Licona, adding that the historian can neither confirm nor deny that miracles have occurred in the past.

So, suppose we follow the consensus of Licona and Ehrman, and limit our scope to the historical evidence alone. In that case, we also gain the additional benefit of limiting bias's role in our investigation. This also helps establish a mutual, common ground among all competing hypotheses from which to begin a historical inquiry. In other words, in order to judge one theory more plausible than all other competing theories, there must be some minimal baseline facts that most scholars agree with. The superior hypothesis among all competing hypotheses is the one that best explains these baseline facts.

Scholar Gary Habermas refers to these facts as the "minimal bedrock facts." While Habermas lists a dozen or more "minimal facts," resurrection scholar Michael Licona reduces Habermas's list to the bare minimum of three. These three minimal bedrock facts for any historical investigation are defined as those facts that "are strongly evidenced, and that contemporary scholars nearly unanimously regard as historical facts." In that sense, the minimal bedrock facts present us an opportunity to continue to engage the Bible skeptic Michael from common ground. Again, it is reasonable to consider the minimal bedrock facts as common ground because an overwhelming majority of resurrection scholars (both Christian and atheistic) agree with these minimal facts. That makes for solid, historical, common ground to stand upon with the Michaels of the world.

When we look at the historical resurrection event, the agreed-upon bedrock facts pertaining to the fate of Jesus are these:

1. Jesus died by crucifixion.

2. Very shortly after Jesus' death, the disciples had experiences that led them to believe and proclaim that Jesus had been resurrected and had appeared to them.

3. Within a few years after Jesus' death, Paul converted after experiencing what he interpreted as a post-resurrection appearance of Jesus to him.

These three facts represent the minimal historical facts that enjoy a near-unanimous consensus among an extremely diverse group of scholars. Even Fredrich Nietzsche, the hardcore atheist, agrees that there was a man named Jesus of Nazareth, and He was crucified on a Roman cross.

Join us next week as we continue to look at the historical resurrection of Jesus. Until then, is God dead?

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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



HOLIDAY DONATION BY SCHS RENAISSANCE

BC Schools Communications Photo

During the holidays, Shelbyville Central High School Renaissance program students and staff raised over $200 for Child Development Center. This effort was part of the group's Christmas tree decorating contest.

What do you think Shelbyville will be like in 50 years?

Local nonprofit looking for suggestions and ideas

The local nonprofit Bridge Bedford is inviting families with students to help the community look ahead and imagine what Shelbyville could become by 2075.

Bridge Bedford has developed a survey which gives students a voice in imagining what Shelbyville would become in the next 50 years. Parents are encouraged to participate with students.

The survey is anonymous and focused only on sharing positive ideas and suggestions. No personal information is collected. Go to the Bridge Bedford Facebook page. www.cognitoforms.com/CooperSteel

The second annual Connected Community 5K is coming back on May 9, 2026. This event, more than about running, is about showing up and being a part of the growing community. Some ran, others walked, including Mayor Randy Carroll.

Last year, more than a thousand people participated in the Connected Community 5K. More about this spring's event coming soon in the T-G.

Kind notes from readers mean a lot

By Dawn Hankins
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And there was great joy in that city. Acts 8: v. 5&8

It's always nice when you get kind notes from "avid T-G readers." Just recently I received one from a man who is looking for an April 1989 T-G Cookbook for his wife.

If anyone out there has some extra copies of this edition and are willing to give this family one, please call our office at 931-684-1200. Or, email me at dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net.

Sadly, that cookbook is out of print and we no longer have copies at our office. So, this would be a great thing.

I can see why this was a favorite cookbook of many as it features some fantastic recipes by many, many great local cooks.

Just as American Chef Thomas Keller says, "A recipe has no soul. You, as the cook, must bring soul to the recipe."

The cooks in this 1989 edition certainly "brought the soul" in everything from pasta to household hints.

I brought my own soul back then as a newbie reporter with my "Double Pineapple Upside Down Cake." (I always thought as a kid this traditional recipe needed more pineapple!)

Here are a few recipes you might enjoy from 1989 in 2026.

PASTA PARTY SALAD
Katherine Arnold
Shelbyville

1-12 oz. box shells and cheese dinner
1/2 C. salad dressing
1/2 C. chopped red pepper
1/2 C. celery slices
1/4 C. green onions, sliced
3 bacon slices, cooked crisp & crumbled

Prepare dinner as directed on package. Add salad dressing, peppers, celery, onions. Mix lightly; chill. Add additional salad dressing before serving if desired. Top with bacon.

SQUASH CASSEROLE
Naomi Sorrells

1-lb. squash, cooked and mashed
1 tsp. sugar
1/2 C. mayonnaise
1/4 C. chopped onions
1/4 C. chopped green pepper
1 egg
1/2 C. chopped nuts, pecans or walnuts
1/2 C. grated Parmesan cheese
chopped pimento
1/2 stick of oleo
bread crumbs

Mix all together and put in buttered casserole. Put bread crumbs on top. Dot with cheese and mayonnaise. Bake at 350 degrees 45 minutes or until light brown on top.

ENERGY SQUARES
Alta Prince
Shelbyville

1/2 C. butter
1 egg
1 T. brown sugar
1 1/2 C. raisins
1/2 C. chopped nuts
1/2 C. chocolate chips
1/2 C. flour
1 C. oats
2 T. all bran (crumbled)

Combine butter, egg and vanilla; blend well. Add oats and flour, stirring to mix well. Stir in nuts and raisins. Bake 25 minutes at 350 degrees in well greased 8-in. square pan. Cool in pan, then cut into squares.

JOHN'S FAJITAS
John Carney
Wartrace

1 pkg. (about 1 lb.) stew meat
7 limes
1/2 tsp. cilantro
1/2 tsp. crushed oregano (not powdered)
2 tomatoes
1 large red onion
1 green onion
1 bell pepper
1 fresh jalapeno pepper
1 clove garlic (or garlic powder)
1/2 tsp. salt
4-8" soft flour tortillas
Toppings:
grated cheddar cheese; sour cream, guacamole

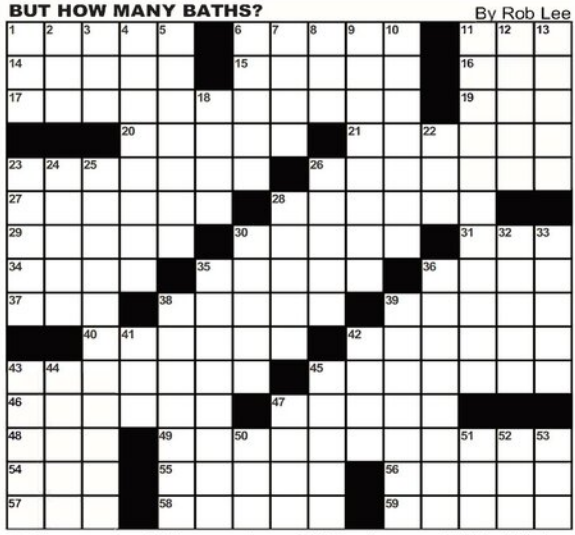
The stew meat is available in most grocery meat sections, already cut into large chunks. The traditional Mexican dish is made with skirt steak. Because the beef will be marinated in lime juice, almost any cut could be used -- simply cut it into chunks or the traditional strips. Using a grater, scrape the green zest from the limes and set aside. Place stew meat into a bowl and add the juice of four of the limes. Refrigerate 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Combine the lime zest, the juice of the other limes, cilantro and oregano. Cilantro is available in spice sections of the larger grocery stores, and it's worth it. Dice tomatoes, red onion and bell pepper, chop green onion and finely chop the jalapeno pepper. (Always wash your hands after handling jalapeno peppers!) Add the vegetables to the juice. Add garlic, pressed or finely chopped, and salt. Stir well and refrigerate until serving time. On a hot barbecue grill, cook the chunks of meat 20 minutes. Warm the tortillas according to package directions; on each one, let guests place a few chunks of meat and (using a slotted spoon) some of the tomato-pepper salsa. Grated cheese, sour cream or guacamole can be added if desired. Fold the tortilla over the filling and enjoy! Leftover salsa (and there will be some) can be used as a dip with tortilla chips. Makes 4 servings.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

This Sunday at First United Methodist Church Shelbyville, Pastor Abe Zimmerman will preach, "New Year, Same God" from Philippians 3:7-14. The church will be reminded of Paul's words . . . forgetting what is behind and pressing forward in Christ. 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.

Crossword

BUT HOW MANY BATHS? By Rob Lee



CLUES ACROSS

1) Karate blows
6) Column type
11) Bug spray no more
14) City in Morocco
15) Cause of employee elation
16) "Yay!"
17) Washer's site
19) Sailor's "si"
20) Some precious stones
21) Space to maneuver
23) Feisty
26) The human race
27) Spanish restaurant staple
28) Obviously decayed
29) Ticked off
30) Screen personas
31) "Golly!"
34) List-heading
35) Nutritionist's topics
36) Refrain syllables
37) Inventor Whitney
38) Some mediums read them
39) Entranceways
40) With precision
42) Channel surfer's need
43) Some cats
45) Wise king ofIsrael
46) Wilde of old Hollywood
47) Step in a flight
48) As well
49) Place to talk and relax
54) A Beatie wife
55) "Love Boat" bartender
56) Mobile mob
57) Sleep lab study
58) "I told you so!" smile
59) Use Twitter

CLUES DOWN

1) French wine classification
2) Head topper
3) Japanese waist-cincher
4) City near San Francisco
5) Dot painting
6) Without any pizazz
7) Dinghy directors
8) ___ de Janeiro
9) Sets aside from the others
10) Makes sidewalks
11) Formal reception area
12) Onetime Israeli leader Moshe
13) "Holy cow!___ never believe it ... "
18) ___ keg (get the beer flowin')
22) Just manage (with "out")
23) "Cut off your nose to___ your face"
24) Christmas tune
25) Library area
26) Jell-O formers
28) Like this puzzle's theme?
30) Restaurant freebies
32) Keep your___ the ground
33) German industrial center of the Ruhr
35) Submissive mental attitude
36) "Annie" showstopper
38) Slight paralysis
39) Thrill to pieces
41) One billion years, in geology
42) Sorrel-colored horse
43) Thespian
44) Nary a soul
45) Cinnamon unit
47) Night sight in the sky
50) ___-chi
51) Smelter input
52) Emotion-filled poem
53) One who once played at Shea

FreeDailyCrosswords.com

Kid Scoop .com

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at www.kidscoop.com

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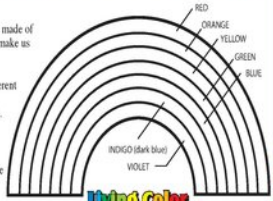
RAINBOW POWER

Rainbows are beautiful to look at because they are made of many different colors. They have the power to make us feel happy, just by looking at them.

Martin Luther King, Jr. saw that there were many different colors of people in the world. He believed that these differences could make the world a better place to live. He spent his life helping people live together in peace and equality.

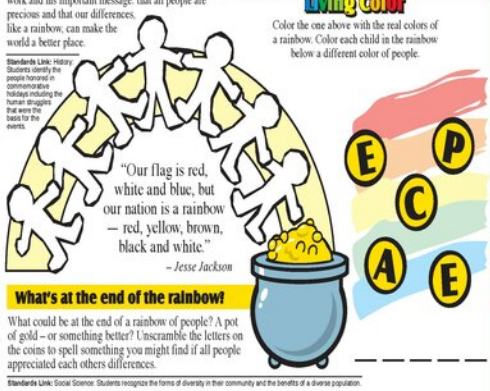
Each year on the third Monday in January we celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday because of his great work and his important message: that all people are precious and that our differences, like a rainbow, can make the world a better place.

Standards Link: History: Students identify the people honored in commemorative holidays including the human struggles that were the basis for the events.



Living Color

Color the one above with the real colors of a rainbow. Color each child in the rainbow below a different color of people.



What's at the end of the rainbow?

What could be at the end of a rainbow of people? A pot of gold – or something better? Unscramble the letters on the coins to spell something you might find if all people appreciated each others differences.

_ _ _ _ _ _

Standards Link: Social Science: Students recognize the forms of diversity in their community and the benefits of a diverse population.

Extra! Extra!

Together at Last

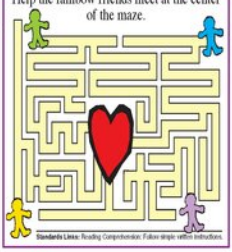
Look through the newspaper and find an article and/or picture that shows people of different races working together. Glue the picture or the article in the first box. In the second box, write what you think Martin Luther King, Jr. would have said about these people.



Standards Link: Social Science: Students recognize the ways in which they are all part of the same community, sharing principles, goals and traditions despite their varied ancestry; understand ways in which groups interact with one another to try to resolve problems.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Help the rainbow friends meet at the center of the maze.



Standards Links: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written instructions.

Double Double Word Search

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

RAINBOW
PEACE
EQUALITY
MARTIN
LUTHER
KING
COLORS
GOLD
NATION
PEOPLE
HELPING
TOGETHER
LIVE
PLACE
JESSE

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

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

From the Kid Scoop Lesson Library

Compound Word Fish

Look through the newspaper for words that can make compound words. For example: rain and bow; sun and light; etc. Cut out each word and glue it to a small card. Use the cards to make a card deck for a game of GO FISH. A match is two words that make a compound word.

Standards Link: Vocabulary Development: Use knowledge of individual words in compound words to understand their meaning.

Write On!

I Have a Dream

What is a dream you have? It can be a dream about something for yourself, for your community, for your school or the world?

Putting Dreams Into Words

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had dreams. He dreamed about changing the world for the better.

Martin Luther King Jr. skipped two grades and started college at age 15. He went on to earn two bachelors degrees and a Ph.D. His strong education and love of reading helped him to write powerful sermons and speeches.

He shared his dreams in his speeches. He inspired others to share his dreams.

Below are two of his famous quotes. Replace the missing words and read them.

DREAM · CHILDREN · DAY · NATION · LITTLE · COLOR · CONTENT · HOLDING

"I have a _____ that one _____ little black boys and girls will be _____ hands with little white boys and girls."

"I have a dream that my four little _____ will one day live in a _____ where they will not be judged but the ___ of their skin, but by the _____ of their character."

What do you think he meant by these statements?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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)

Bedford County property transfers

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

File date: January 6

Location: 304 Grand View Circle; Seller, Steven Lancaster, Deana Lancaster; Buyer, Lancaster Family Trust; Price, $0 (QD).

File date: January 7

Location: 302 Hickory Dr; Seller, Foundation Legal Group LLP, Lucille Lourdes Delgado, Jose N Rivadeneira; Buyer, Liberty Federal Credit Union; Price, $281,781 (TRD).

Location: 3391 Midland Rd; Seller, John Fusco, Wendy Fusco, Jessica Black, Torey Fusco; Buyer, Fusco Joint Revocable Trust, John Fusco, Wendy Fusco; Price, $10 (QD).

Location: 1095 Cherokee Dr; Seller, Kary G Collier, Helen S Collier; Buyer, Kary G Collier Irrevocable Trust; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 220 Temple Ford Lane; Seller, William C Reider, Frank Fisher, Carolyn Fisher; Buyer, Joseph Townsend; Price, $47,000 (TRD).

File date: January 8

Location: Dye Rd; Seller, Kidd Real Estate Partners LP; Buyer, Angela M Kidd; Price, $105,000 (Deed).

Location: 349 Naron Rd; Seller, Jeffery R Pope, Dana B Pope; Buyer, James R Stepien, Therese Stepien; Price, $775,000 (Deed).

Location: 1723 Hwy 64 West; Seller, Michael S West, Tamara West; Buyer, Joshua Charles Hendon, Linda Hendon; Price, $489,999 (Deed).

Location: Deer Point Rd; Seller, Aubrey Molder, Tanya Renee Pollock Estate, William Daugherty, Casey McCullough, Lynsey Smith, Tanya Coleman Pollock; Buyer, William Daugherty; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Hopkins Bridge Rd; Seller, Cherie Antoinette Beatty, Timothy A Beatty, Timothy Allen Beatty, Cherie A Beatty; Buyer, Cherie A Beatty; Price, $0 (Deed).

File date: January 9

Location: Wartrace Manchester Rd; Seller, Bobby Smith; Buyer, DCC Strategic Realty Partners LLC, Greg T Curl, Joseph H Curl; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, May Tory Homes LLC; Buyer, Billy F Brown Jr; Price, $689,900 (Deed).

Seller, Jeffrey Alan Reed; Buyer, Global Homes Inc; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 636 Deery St; Seller, Edith Fay Lovvorn, Cathryn Armistead; Buyer, Tonya Granger; Price, $115,000 (Deed).

Location: 295 Barber Rd; Seller, Kirk D Bowker; Buyer, Lisa R Bowker, Joshua R Leonard; Price, $0 (QD).

File date: January 12

Location: Montgomery Rd; Seller, Ronald Sanderson; Buyer, Ronald Lira Sanderson Living Trust; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Davis Lane; Seller, Caleb Arnold, Colton Arnold, Travis Arnold, Trevor Arnold; Buyer, Saeid Hamidy, Mozhgan Karshenas Najaf Abadi; Price, $610,000 (Deed).

Location: 112 Hazelnut Lane; Seller, Ashlee Cates, Seth Cates; Buyer, Ashlee Cates, Seth Cates; Price, $0 (Deed).

Location: 2242 Unionville Deason Rd; Seller, KOE Construction LLC; Buyer, James T Oatsvall, Nancy E Oatsvall; Price, $659,900 (Deed).

UTIA field days for farmers and homeowners in 2026

UT AgResearch and Education Centers hosting over 20 events

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – The new year brings a full slate of University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture field days for 2026. The calendar includes the 34th Milan No-Till in July, two days in September dedicated to precision livestock farming and many favorite events that cover advanced research, traditional livestock and crop methods. Several events feature horticulture topics for homeowners.

Most field days will be hosted at UT AgResearch and Education Centers throughout the state, and UTIA researchers and UT Extension specialists will speak about their areas of expertise.

Field days begin in February with horse management events in East, Middle and West Tennessee, and the Woods and Wildlife event on April 30. Hort, Hops, and Crops, which was new last year, returns to the East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center in Knoxville on August 13.

The UT AgResearch system, a unit within the UT Institute of Agriculture, supports the land-grant mission and includes 10 UT AgResearch and Education Centers that manage more than 34,000 acres across Tennessee. Faculty and students conduct more than 1,000 field trials each year, and thousands of farmers, ranchers, researchers and members of the public attend the events to learn more about agricultural production and landscape and natural resource management. Topics range from livestock management to precision farming research and techniques, commercial horticulture, home gardening and more.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend! The 2026 schedule and locations include (all times local):

• Horse Management – February 5, 5 p.m. EST, Brehm Animal Science Arena, UTIA Campus at Knoxville

• Horse Management – February 9, 5 p.m. CST, UT-TSU Extension Rutherford County, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

• Horse Management – February 10, 5 p.m. CST, First Farmer's Co-Op, Lexington, Tennessee

• Tennessee Turf Tuesdays – April 7, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT. Event is online on Tuesdays during lunch with seven topics scheduled over several months. Turf Tuesdays is a monthly webinar series designed to provide individuals managing golf courses, sports fields, residential/commercial lawns, and sod farms with the latest research on optimizing turfgrass aesthetic and functional quality via sustainable cultural and pest management practices. Visit tiny.utk.edu/TurfTuesday for more information.

• Woods and Wildlife – April 30, 8 a.m. CDT, Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center – UT Highland Rim Forest in Tullahoma

• Beef Heifer Development School – May 21, 8:30 a.m. CDT, Middle Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center at Lewisburg

• Fruits of the Backyard – June 9, 8 a.m. CDT, Middle Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center at Spring Hill

• Green Industry Day – June 11, 8 a.m. EDT, UT Gardens and Brehm Animal Science Arena at Knoxville

• Weed Tour – June 17, 8:30 a.m. CDT, West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center at Jackson

• Tobacco, Beef, and More – June 25, 8 a.m. CDT, Highland Rim AgResearch and Education Center at Springfield

• Milan No-Till – July 23, 8 a.m. CDT, AgResearch and Education Center at Milan

• Hort, Hops, and Crops Field Day – August 13, 8 a.m. EDT, East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center – Plant Sciences/Organic Crops Units at Knoxville

• Steak and Potatoes – August 20, 8 a.m. CDT, Plateau AgResearch and Education Center at Crossville

• Fall Gardeners' Festival – August 25, 8 a.m. CDT, Plateau AgResearch and Education Center at Crossville

• UT Arboretum Butterfly Festival – August 29, 9 a.m. EDT, Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center – UT Arboretum Auditorium at Oak Ridge

• Soybean Insect and Disease – September 8, 8:30 a.m., AgResearch and Education Center at Milan

• Cotton Tour – September 9, 8:30 a.m. CDT, West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center at Jackson

• Precision Livestock Technologies: Beef and Forage Systems – September 22 and 23, 8 a.m. CDT, Middle Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center at Spring Hill

• Fall in the Gardens (Plant Sale and Garden Talks) – October 1 and 2, 9 a.m. CDT, West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center at Jackson

• Northeast Tennessee Youth Career Day – October 14, time TBA, Northeast Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center at Greeneville

• Northeast Tennessee Beef Expo – October 15, time TBA, Clyde Austin 4-H Camp in Greeneville

• Woods and Wildlife – October 22, 8 a.m. EDT, Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center – UT Arboretum Auditorium at Oak Ridge

• Fall in the Foothills – October 25, 2 p.m. EDT, East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center – Little River Dairy, Walland

For more information, visit agresearch.tennessee.edu/field-days.

BUT HOW MANY BATHS? By Rob Lee

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

Classifieds

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Please send resume to:
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Obituaries

Terry Lynn Helton



Terry Lynn Helton 69, of Shelbyville, died January 10, 2026, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville.

He was born December 29, 1956, in Davidson County, TN., and was an employee of Jostens of Shelbyville. He was preceded in death by his mother, Ruby Faye Helton.

Terry is survived by his wife, Marilyn Helton of Shelbyville; a son, Jeremy Helton of New York; stepdaughter, Jullijay Sabal; step-grandchildren, Amberliegh, Benedict and Benson of the Philippines; cousins, Deborah "Debi" Brown of Wartrace, Tammy Holman and Webb Bell of Shelbyville.

Per his wishes, he will be cremated. A private family Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Hillcrest Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Patsy Morton Throneberry



Patsy Morton Throneberry, 87, of Wartrace, died January 8, 2026.

Funeral Services will be held 11:00 A.M. Monday, January 12th, at Hillcrest Funeral Home with Don Gallagher and Jim Pruitt officiating. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be Sunday, January 11th, from 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Patsy was born November 5, 1938 in Wartrace, TN., and spent the majority of her life as a Wartrace resident. She graduated from Wartrace high School in 1956, where she exceled academically and was a member of the girls' basketball team.

She married her high school sweetheart, Guy Elam Throneberry, in 1957; and they shared 36 years together before his death in 1993.

She spent 39+ years working for the State Farm South Central Office in Murfreesboro. She was a member of Wartrace Church of Christ, and served as an alderwoman for the town of Wartrace.

After retirement, she enjoyed traveling with friends and family along with loving and supporting her grandchildren in their activities. She had a generous nature and a servant attitude always willing to help others. She spent the last few years enjoying the family and community of Celebration Way Assisted Living. Special thanks to the loving staff and caregivers at Celebration Way for their loving care.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, Glenn Curtis and Gracie Frances Word Morton; siblings, Robert (Bobby) Morton, Frances Walker, Margaret Nowlin, Betty Porterfield and Wayne Morton.

Patsy is survived by her daughter, Laura (Jim) Pruitt, grandchildren, Nicholas (Shelby) Pruitt, Jacob (Kristen) Pruitt; great grandchildren, Kinsley, Madison, Grayson and Teddy Pruitt; sisters, Nancy Lovvorn, Wanda (Jim) Csuy, and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial Contributions may be made to Wartrace Church of Christ, P.O. Box 279, Wartrace, TN., 37183; American Diabetes Association or St. Judes.

Hillcrest Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Death Notices

Magdalena Gonzalez Herrera, age 88, of Shelbyville, TN

May 25, 1937 - January 10, 2026

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

Kimberly Rene Hampton, age 42, of Tullahoma, TN

March 1, 1983 - January 10, 2026

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

Virginia "Ginger" Daley, 73, of Shelbyville, TN

April 3, 1952- January 13, 2026

Hillcrest Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Alzheimer's Tennessee
HELPLINE
1(800) ALZ-GATE
259-4283
NATIONAL
SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK (8255)
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Find comfort this winter in creamy, hearty meals

(Family Features) Simmering soups and comforting rice bowls offer easy, flavorful ways to warm up after a cold day – especially during busy weeknights when time is at a premium. Savor those precious seconds spent around the table rather than watching time escape in the kitchen with comfort food classics that don't waste a moment.

With solutions like Success Boil-in-Bag Pearl Couscous, a Mediterranean-style pasta that cooks in under 7 minutes, you can turn tried-and-true meals into instant favorites. Made with high-quality semolina wheat, it provides a nutty flavor that absorbs the taste of soups and salads while retaining its density and chewy texture.

That firm consistency and flavor absorption makes pearl couscous a perfect base for a slow-simmered weeknight superhero like Creamy Chicken Pearl Couscous Soup. A complete meal in one bowl, it delivers veggies, chicken and bouncy pearl couscous in every warming bite.

Or for an even heartier meal, a simple garlic-spiked marinade turns beef sirloin into a saucy, flavorful family solution. It's a straightforward dish, making it ideal for those hectic evenings after school and work. To save some extra time, let the beef marinate overnight so it's ready to cook when you get home from the office.

It's served over a bowl of aromatic, buttery Success Jasmine Rice, a long-grain rice ready in 10 minutes. It adds subtle yet unique flavor to an assortment of dishes as a certified gluten-free, Non-GMO Project Verified recipe base with no preservatives or additives. Plus, with no measure and no mess, the BPA-free Boil-in-Bag makes cooking easy.



Creamy Chicken Pearl Couscous Soup

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Servings: 4

- 1 bag Success Pearl Couscous
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 carrots, sliced
- 2 celery stalks, sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1/2 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 3 cups cooked, shredded chicken
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon parsley, chopped 1 tablespoon heavy cream (optional)

1. Prepare pearl couscous according to package directions.

2. In large pot, heat butter over medium heat. Add onion, carrots and celery. Cook 5 minutes until softened. Stir in garlic and cook 1 minute.

3. Slowly stir in chicken broth then add Italian seasoning, salt and pepper. Bring to boil then reduce heat to simmer 10 minutes.

4. Stir in chicken, milk and pearl couscous. Simmer 5 minutes until hot. Garnish with parsley.

5. For creamier soup, stir in heavy cream just before serving.



Easy Beef Bulgogi Rice Bowl

Prep time: 10 minutes, plus 30 minutes for marinating
Cook time: 10 minutes
Servings: 2-4

- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 pound beef sirloin, thinly sliced
- 1 bag (14 ounces) Success Jasmine Rice
- 1/4 cup carrots, julienned
- 1/4 cup cucumbers, julienned
- 1/4 cup onions, chopped
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 1 tablespoon sesame seeds

1. In bowl, combine soy sauce, brown sugar, sesame oil and garlic. Add beef and mix well. Refrigerate marinated beef at least 30 minutes, or overnight.

2. Prepare rice according to package directions.

3. Heat skillet over medium-high heat. Cook beef 7 minutes, stirring often, until cooked through and caramelized. In last 3 minutes, add carrots, cucumbers and onions.

4. Divide rice between bowls. Top with beef bulgogi. Garnish with green onions and sesame seeds.

The Weight No One Warned You About: Midlife Weight Gain

Vinaya Gogineni, MD & Anna B. Bradley, MD





Dr. Gogineni is an obesity medicine fellow at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Dr. Bradley is a board certified endocrinologist and obesity medicine specialist at Vanderbilt University and the Nashville VA Medical Center.

Most women expect the weight struggle to begin after menopause. But new research suggests the real metabolic shift happens years earlier – quietly and often without warning.

When most women are in their mid-40s and keeping to the same diet and exercise routine that's worked for years, it is common to see the scale creep up and a bit of belly fat appear seemingly overnight. Realistically, menopause should be years away, so many are left asking what's really going on?

As an Obesity Medicine fellow, I hear this story nearly every day. Women doing everything "right" suddenly feel like their bodies are working against them. And while lifestyle choices still matter, the underlying cause isn't willpower. It's physiology.

Menopause is officially defined as twelve months without a period. But the body's hormonal transition begins years earlier in a stage called perimenopause. This phase, which can last years, happens when estrogen and progesterone hormones start to fluctuate unpredictably.

Those shifts ripple through nearly every metabolic system in the female body. Estrogen helps regulate fat distribution, muscle repair, and insulin sensitivity. When levels swing, the body begins storing fat differently, moving it from the hips and thighs to the abdomen, and slows muscle protein synthesis.

At the same time, these hormonal changes can disrupt sleep, raise cortisol levels, and alter appetite. Combined with stress, fatigue, and often decreased activity, it's a setup for weight gain that begins before menopause, not after.

What can be most striking is the change in body composition. Even if weight stays the same, women often experience a hidden tradeoff: less muscle, more visceral fat (the deeper fat that surrounds vital organs and is linked to inflammation and chronic disease). This metabolic shift increases the risk of type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and worsening insulin resistance over time.

According to the Study of Women's Health Across the Nation (SWAN), fat mass begins increasing and lean muscle declines during perimenopause, long before periods stop. Once this redistribution sets in, reversing it becomes much harder, but not impossible.

That's why this stage should be viewed as a window of metabolic opportunity. The body is still adaptable; it's responsive to strength training, high-quality nutrition, and better sleep routines. With the right strategies, women can offset these hormonal effects and set themselves up for a healthier transition through menopause and beyond.

Unfortunately, most healthcare approaches are reactive. Symptoms like hot flashes or sleep issues are addressed only after they appear. Rarely are women told that metabolic prevention starts years earlier during this hidden but critical phase of life. The usual advice of "eat less, move more" misses the point for women in their 40s. It oversimplifies biology and ignores hormonal context.

How Women Can Take Action Early

- Lift weights. Aim for two to three sessions of resistance or strength training per week to preserve muscle and boost metabolism and work on progressive overload.
- Prioritize protein. Include protein in every meal to support muscle and stabilize blood sugar.
- Sleep smarter. Improve sleep hygiene and stress management to help regulate cortisol and appetite hormones.
- Ask different questions. During annual checkups, talk to your clinician about body composition and metabolic health, not just weight.

Weight gain during menopause isn't an inevitable sign of aging; it's a physiological process that begins long before menopause itself. Recognizing this early window allows women to intervene while their bodies are still adaptable.

The decades between the 30s and 40s should be seen not as a countdown to decline, but as an opportunity to build metabolic resilience. With awareness, evidence-based strategies, and proactive care, women can navigate the transition with confidence and strength.

Let us help you spread the news!

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

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SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

No. 3 Lady Champions Survive Viqueens' Upset Bid in First 'Battle of Bedford'

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

BELL BUCKLE, Tenn. - The No. 3 ranked Cascade Lady Champions (15-3, 2-0) withstood a valiant effort from the Community Viqueens (9-10, 0-2) in the first 'Battle of Bedford' in District 9-AA on Tuesday night with a 51-46 win inside of The Roger Kent Brothers Gymnasium.

Kaegan Young once again showed why she is one of the best players in Class AA, finishing with a game-high 21 points – including 10 in the fourth quarter alone – despite playing the final 7:05 with four personal fouls. Lizzie Keele provided a heroic display of shotmaking in the first half, netting 14 of her 19 points in the first two quarters on four three-pointers.



Anna Haskins (3) scored 19 points for the Viqueens in Tuesday's loss to Cascade. *T-G Staff Photo by Noah Maddox.*

The Viqueens' performed admirably, led by Anna Haskins' 19 points, but she was the only player for Community to finish in double-figures.

"Overall, we didn't look great tonight," Lady Champions' Head Coach Janie Demonbreum said postgame, "We were out of our norm offensively and then defensively we gave up way too many drives. Even so, we told the girls after the game that when we don't play our best and still come away with a win, that's something we can build off of."

Community trailed by nine points, 36-27, with two minutes to go in the third quarter, and it seemed like Cascade was on the brink of blowing the game wide open after a slow start. Instead, the Viqueens got up off the mat, finishing on a 6-0 spurt after Mattie Maxey forced a steal and connected on a buzzer-beating layup to trim the lead to three points, 36-33, heading into the final frame.

Neither team scored for the first two minutes of the quarter until Alyssa White cut the lead to one point on a putback layup. Young, sensing her time coming to close out the game, found a way to the free throw line for just the second time all game, nailing a pair of free throws. White again fought back, once again with a putback layup on the offensive glass to draw the Viqueens within one point, 38-37, with 5:32 remaining.

After Laughlin left a three-pointer short, Haskins split a pair of free throws to tie the game at 38. Both teams traded empty possessions, and then Caroline Parker and Anna Haskins traded three-pointers. Following another empty trip from Cascade, Haskins once again found herself at the free throw line, splitting a pair to put her team in front for the first time since early in the second quarter. Young split a pair on the other end to draw level, and then White scored off of a set play coming out of a Community timeout to re-take the lead, 44-42, with 2:25 left.

Young split a pair at the line to trim the lead to one, and then stepped up with the biggest shot of the night. With the clock running past 1:40, Laughlin came up to set a screen on the left side, giving Young the option to get downhill into the lane with her right hand. Instead, Young crosses over on Savannah Pearson, hesitates, then steps back and creates enough space to launch a go-ahead three-pointer that kisses in off the glass.

On the other end, Haskins was able to tie the game back up momentarily at 46 after she found a loose ball underneath the basket, but then Young connected on three free throws to take a 49-46 lead with 46.0 seconds on the clock.

After Haskins putback attempt fell out of bounds with 8.8 seconds to go, Suzanna Crews – in her first game back from illness after missing the previous five – threw a three-quarters-court pass to Lizzie Keele, beating the press and sealing the win all in one move after Keele converted on the layup.

"Offensively we didn't look great in the first half," said Demonbreum, "We were a little out of control, trying to speed ourselves up, not having the best shot selection, and dribbling around the top of the key, but we did make adjustments. Every time Community went into its diamond-and-1, Lizzie [Keele] stepped up and hit some big shots. On the defensive end, we were just able to get stops."

Early on, Community came out of the gates playing with a sense of desperation, jumping out to an 8-2 lead halfway through the opening period of play. Cascade responded by tying the game up at 10 before Haskins nailed a pair of free throws to take a 12-10 lead at the end of the first quarter.

In the second, Community tacked onto those two free throws, extending to an 8-0 run thanks to a threes from both Sara Flannagan and Savannah Pearson and taking an 18-10 lead in front of a rocking home crowd. Jocelyn Laughlin responded with a three to end the run followed by Keele nailing a triple to trim the lead back down to two points.

Cascade closed the first half on a 16-6 run overall after falling down by eight, taking a two-point lead, 26-24, into the halftime locker room.



Cascade's Kaegan Young (22) drives on Community's Savannah Pearson (2). Young turned it on in the fourth quarter of Tuesday's rivalry contest once again, finishing with 21 points on the night.

Photo courtesy of David Smith.

The Lady Champions ratcheted up the defensive pressure in the third quarter, holding Community to just three points for the first six minutes of the period. The visitors were able to patch together just enough offense, punctuated by a difficult left-handed layup from Young to take their largest lead of the night, 36-27, with 2:30 to go before Community managed to fight back.

The Viqueens fall to 9-10 overall. Community continues its homestand on Friday night against Loretto starting at 6:00 p.m.

The Lady Champions improve to 15-3 overall. Cascade returns home to take on Chapel Hill on Friday night, LIVE on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400 starting at 5:45 p.m.

Blue Raider women cap off first CUSA homestand with 88-51 win over New Mexico State

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Prior to Middle Tennessee's (9-7, 4-0 CUSA) Saturday matinee matchup with New Mexico State (6-10, 2-2 CUSA), guard Alayna Contreras was honored for scoring her 1000th career point on the Blue Raiders last road trip in a game against Kennesaw State. The Minneapolis native, known for her ability to score in bunches, did just that by providing 18 points in the Blue Raiders 88-51 win to move them to 4-0 in Conference play.

Just as it did against UTEP, Middle Tennessee got out to a quick start on both ends of the floor, finishing the first quarter with a 28-9 lead. The Blue Raiders went on a impressive 14-1 run that spanned from just over 7:30 mark to just under the 3:30 mark of the quarter. Contreras' three first quarter three-pointers tied her season-high for threes in a game and she led all scorers with 11. As a team, Middle Tennessee shot 70% from beyond the arc, with Savannah Davis also hitting three of her own to give her nine points to open the game.

The Blue Raiders went on another sustained run in the second quarter, outscoring the Aggies 14-3 from the 8:41 mark down to the 2:43 mark to help take a 49-19 lead at the half. Middle Tennessee held New Mexico State to just 25% from the field and forced seven first half turnovers.

The Blue Raiders shot 10-of-16 from distance and set season-best marks for points scored in a half while tying the mark they set against UTEP on Thursday night with just 19 points allowed in a half. Contreras' 15 points led all scorer's while Davis had 12 points to go with four rebounds and three assists. Macie Phifer led the Blue Raiders with five rebounds, also tallying eight points at the break.

Middle Tennessee did a good job sharing the ball in the second half. The Blue Raiders finished the game with 15 assists on 30 made baskets. The Blue Raiders had two players finish with a team-high four assists, including Blair Baugus and Macie Phifer.

Phifer fished with 15 points and 10 rebounds to give the Albany, Mississippi, native the second double-double of her young career. Contreras finished with 18 points and knocked down a season-high four three-pointers while Savannah Davis also hit a season-high four three-pointers to give her 12 points.

Nicole Dominguez tallied a career-high eight points and grabbed five boards in a season-high 11 minutes. Yu Han Lin scored 15 points with a pair of assists in 18 minutes of action off the bench. Baugus and Verhulst both finished with eight points, while Verhulst pulled down five rebounds and Baugus grabbed four to help the Blue Raiders out-rebound New Mexico State 42-30.



Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

By the Numbers

2: players set their season-best total for three pointers in a game this season, with Contreras and Davis both hitting four to help Middle Tennessee tie a season-high 13 as a team.
8: Career-high in points for Nicole Dominguez.
15: Team high in assists in a game for the Blue Raiders.
88: Highest point total in a game for the Blue Raiders this season.

Cascade Survives Haskins' 33 Points in 'Battle of Bedford Shootout Win

BY NOAH MADDOX
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UNIONVILLE, Tenn. - The Cascade Champions (10-7, 1-1) found a way to overcome 33 points from Charlie Haskins of the Community Vikings' (11-7, 0-2) in a competitive 82-74 District 9-AA win on Tuesday inside The Roger Kent Brothers Gymnasium.

"Haskins is very shifty," Cascade Head Coach Doug Worsley said postgame, "We talked about it, and I thought we let him get into the lane without funneling him to the sideline. We didn't do what we were supposed to do, but part of that is it's the first time we were seeing him. Hopefully the second time we see him, we'll do a better job of it, but tip your hat to him. He did a really good job, and he went 13-for-15 at the free throw line."

Even though Haskins managed to finish with a game-high 33 points, nobody else on the Vikings found a way to reach double-figures. Josh Powers, who scored 13 points against Summertown to open the district slate, was held to just six points all night.

For Cascade, Kaleb Kelso and Cooper McElroy led the way with 23 points apiece. Henry Stone added 14 points while Ryder Pilkington chipped in with an important 13 points down low.

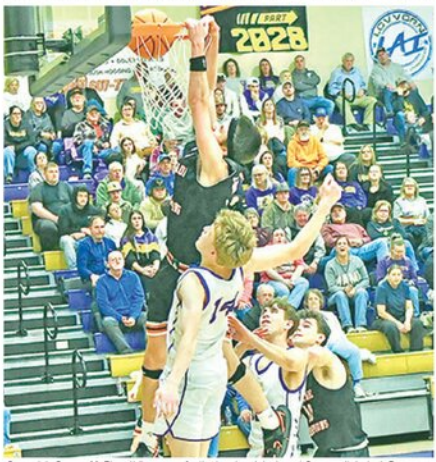
"We felt like coming into tonight we had an advantage down low with Ryder [Pilkington]," Worlsey said, "We've seen him bud and blossom in front of us as a post guy, and he's starting to show what he's capable of. He even left a few short tonight, he could have had 20 easily, and that's what we've been looking for. We have multiple guys that can lead us and that's really nice."

This game was close throughout, and Cascade took a slim 62-60 lead heading into the fourth quarter after Pilkington's go-ahead layup with 2.6 seconds on the clock. Pilkington found the basket again to start the fourth, and then Kelso converted a steal into two more points to grow the visitors' lead to 66-60 less than 60 seconds into the final period of play.

Pilkington tacked on yet another bucket two minutes later, extending the Cascade lead to eight points. Community trimmed the lead back down to 68-63 with 4:30 left before Cooper McElroy sucked the gravity out of the building, driving baseline on Josh Powers and throwing down a thunderous two-handed jam while getting fouled in the process. McElroy missed the ensuing free throw, but Cascade managed to take a 74-67 lead with 2:10 remaining.



Charlie Haskins (3) surpassed the 30-point mark once again this season, finishing with a game-high 33 points for the Vikings in Tuesday's loss to Cascade. *T-G Staff Photo by Noah Maddox.*



Cascade's Cooper McElroy (14) goes up for the two-hand dunk past Community's Josh Powers (14) in the fourth quarter of the Champs win. McElroy tied for a team-high 23 points in Tuesday's rivalry win. *Photo courtesy of David Smith.*

Community continued to fight, but the visitors managed to hold on and close out the eight-point road win.

Early on, the Vikings trailed 18-9 with two minutes to go in the opening period, but the hosts responded with a 10-0 run to close the first quarter with a 19-18 lead.

"What sparked their runs was when we got out of sorts on the defensive end," said Worlsey, "We weren't staying in our lanes, we weren't covering the middle like we were supposed to, and that let them get open looks."

The two teams traded baskets for the vast majority of the second quarter until Cascade strung a couple stops together, entering halftime with a 43-39 lead after outscoring the visitors, 25-20.

Kelso opened the third quarter with a three-pointer, and then Stone beat everyone down the floor for a free two points following a Community turnover to take a 48-39 lead less than a minute into the second half.

After McElroy converted an and-one at the halfway point of the third quarter, Cascade took their largest lead of the night, 58-48. However, the Vikings once again showed their toughness, responding with an 8-0 run sparked by Haskins and Powers to close the quarter before entering the final frame trailing by just two points, 62-60.

The Vikings fall to 11-7 overall. Community continues its District 9-AA homestand against Loretto on Friday night with the opening tipoff scheduled for 6:00 p.m.

The Champions improve to 10-7 overall. Cascade returns home to take on district foe Chapel Hill on Friday night, LIVE on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400 starting at 5:45 p.m.

Middle Tennessee overcomes early deficit, takes down NMSU away from home

MT ATHLETICS

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — Middle Tennessee erased an early 16-point deficit and held on late to defeat New Mexico State, 59-55, on Saturday night in Las Cruces, N.M.

The Blue Raiders struggled out of the gate, falling behind 20-4 in the opening nine minutes before responding with a decisive 20-4 run of their own to pull even at 24-24. Torey Alston led the surge with five points, while Kamari Lands and Jahvin Carter each added four as Middle Tennessee clawed back into the contest.

The teams traded baskets down the stretch of the first half, heading into the break knotted at 29-29.

Middle Tennessee carried its momentum into the second half, building a 13-point advantage with 10 minutes remaining thanks to strong defensive stands and aggressive offense. New Mexico State refused to fade, however, chipping away to cut the deficit to one possession late. The Blue Raiders sealed the win at the free throw line and with timely defensive stops down the stretch to split the road trip out west.

Nick McDevitt



Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

"Both teams played really hard tonight. I love the fact that we won the game of course, but handing them their first loss at home this season too. It's a hard place to win here. I told the team, 'you gotta love winning on the road, especially with how we won.' I was really proud of them."

By the Numbers

16: Middle Tennessee erased a 16-point deficit in a six-minute stretch

55: The Blue Raiders held NMSU to its lowest scoring output of the season

16: Torey Alston led the team with 16 points, eight of which came at the free-throw line

7: Just the seventh Conference USA game this season won by the road team

Golden Eagles Take Down Cavaliers in Road District Win

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

COOKEVILLE, Tenn. – The Shelbyville Central Golden Eagles (13-8, 2-0) picked up their second District 6-AAAA win at Cookeville (11-6, 0-3) on Tuesday night, 67-50.

Bo Maxwell led all scorers for the Cavaliers, netting a game-high 22 points in defeat. Jalen Doak was his only teammate to reach double-figures, finishing with 14 points.

Meanwhile, Jordan Taylor led Shelbyville with a team-high 15 points, all coming in the final three quarters. Jevon Lee finished with 13 points, and Tae'Shawn Shelton added 11 points for the Golden Eagles. Tommie Cannon chipped in with nine second-half points to help the visitors pull away.

Early on, Cookeville came out on fire from downtown. Maxwell connected on a trio of three-pointers in the opening period, leading his Cavaliers to a 17-13 lead at the end of the first quarter. In the second, the hosts managed to maintain their slim lead, although Shelbyville Central did outscore Cookeville, 16-13, in the period, entering halftime trailing by just a single point, 30-29. Taylor got going in the period, leading all scorers with eight points.

Coming out for the second half, Shelbyville turned up the heat on the defensive end, holding Cookeville to just seven points in the third quarter while scoring 16 themselves. Shelton scored a team-high five points in the period while the Golden Eagles held Maxwell to just two points, taking a 45-37 lead entering the final frame.

In the fourth quarter, Shelbyville was finally able to pull away, outscoring the Cavaliers, 22-13, en route to the 17-point margin of victory. Taylor hit a pair of two-point field goals in the period while Cannon, Shelton, and Lee all scored six points to close out Cookeville and improve to 2-0 in D6-4A.

Columbia State pins 41 new Emergency Medical Services Grads

Bedford County is represented with three

Columbia State Community College recently recognized 13 emergency medical technicians and 28 advanced emergency medical technicians upon completion of their programs during the Fall 2025 EMS Pinning ceremony held in the Cherry Theater.

Graduating from Bedford County were: Bedford County emergency medical technician graduate Shelby Flippo and Bedford County advanced emergency medical technician graduates Faith Tucker and Raegan Haley.

"The fall 2025 cohort earned every bit of this milestone," said Greg Johnson, Columbia State EMS Academy program director. "They've trained hard, stayed focused and shown they're ready to serve. We're proud to welcome our new EMTs and AEMTs into the EMS profession."

Fall 2025 EMT completers achieved a 100% first-attempt pass rate for the national registry. Students seeking the accelerated certificate received a 100% first-attempt pass rate on the EMT national registry.

An EMT provides basic life support at the site of illnesses and injuries, assisting with transport to the hospital. The Advanced EMT provides basic and advanced life support at sites of illness and injury through transport to the hospital.

The accelerated AEMT path is an academy-style, technical certificate program designed to educate and train students to serve as vital members of a pre-hospital EMS team in a single semester. Students must complete 144 hours of clinical rotations to earn a technical certificate in AAEMT.

EMT certificate completers also have the option to pursue the General Technology Associate of Applied Science degree by combining coursework from two certificates with general education courses to complete a personalized degree program.

"EMS completers are vital members of the healthcare team who provide essential pre-hospital care to patients and families," said Dr. Kae Fleming, Columbia State dean of the Health Sciences Division. "These new basic and advanced EMTs wisely chose Columbia State to take advantage of the best EMS education available in Tennessee!"

The program provides students with the necessary didactic and practical training to perform life-saving skills. Additionally, students learn to work alone, as well as in a squad-based (team) environment.



Bedford County emergency medical technician graduate Shelby Flippo



Bedford County advanced emergency medical technician graduates, from left, Faith Tucker and Raegan Haley



Office of the Sheriff
Bedford County Tennessee

Activity Report for the month of December, 2025

Total Miles: 63,325
Total Citations: 24
Total Warrants Served: 557
Total Arrests Made: 226
Total Inmates Currently in Holding: Jail: 352
Total Persons Processed Through: Jail 306
10-27 (Burglary): 3
10-42 (Alarms): 34
10-43 (Investigations, etc): 277
10-44 (Stolen Vehicle): 1
10-45 (Auto Acc. No Injury): 84
10-46 (Auto Acc. W/Injury): 9
10-49 (Drunk Driver): 1
10-56 (Prowler): 6
(Child Abuse): 2
(Assault/Agg. Assault): 18
10-64 (Motorist Assist): 73
10-72 (Fire): 4
10-86 (Domestic): 14
10-14 (Escort - No Arrest): 25
10-15 (Transport In Custody): 36
10-81 (Traffic Stop): 174
911 (Hang-up & Other): 56
Other: 71
Total: 653

What's an influencer in 2026?

By Dawn Hankins
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

Based on today's standards, an influencer is someone who has built a following in some area of interest on social media and other platforms. An influencer's success, this day and time, is measured by the number of people who follow on social media-the number of likes, shares and comments. The most successful ones should end up with sponsors for their cause in life.

In earlier days, influencers were people of great character, like many in sports. Say, Tim Tebow, Joe Namath and the late Reggie White and his wife, Sara. There were others like Mother Teresa, Billy Graham and Mahatma Gandhi.

I believe you and I should be just as zealous—more so—in seeking to be an influencer! I want to influence people toward the Gospel and point them to Jesus Christ. The Lord told the prophet Jeremiah, "If you speak good words rather than worthless ones, you will be my spokesman. You must influence them; do not let them influence you!" (Jeremiah 15:19, NLT)

As a newspaper editor/writer, I want to influence people to read the truth. Yes, many journalists like us do still stand on The Truth.

Will you help us influence the community for the better?

Start with a subscription to the T-G. Call us at 931-684-1200.

Let's have a great 2026!

Attendance Progress Update at HMS

Harris Middle School recently implemented a new attendance initiative to address chronic absenteeism. Their current chronic absenteeism rate is 16.26%, reflecting an improvement from 20.02% at this time last year.

That's a 3.76 percentage point decrease!

This progress reflects increased accountability, according to the school system, early intervention and targeted supports.

The improvement represents meaningful forward movement and the continued efforts of students, families and staff to prioritize daily attendance, school officials recently shared.

This work aligns with Bedford County schools' ongoing focus on strengthening attendance practices across all schools.

Create a cozy, inviting living room this winter



(Family Features) Turning your living room – the hub of seasonal entertaining – into a winter retreat can be simple with a few thoughtful updates. From the color palette and textiles to lighting and subtle seasonal accents, these ideas can help you create a space that feels warm and inviting, even on the chilliest of days.

Embrace a Winter Color Scheme

Start with a warm, neutral color palette featuring creams, taupe, ivory, beige and soft grays then layer in deeper greens, muted blues or charcoal for contrast. Accent pieces such as pillows, throws and vases in matching rich tones or muted metallics can help the room feel like a cozy retreat from the cold outside without overwhelming your existing decor. Stick to your chosen color palette but vary texture and mix solids with subtle patterns like stripes or checks.

Layer Cozy Textiles

One of the easiest ways to dial up winter comfort is layering textiles. Drape knit or faux fur throw blankets over sofas and chairs, stack extra blankets in a basket or on a ladder shelf near the seating area and switch out lighter pillow covers for winter-friendly fabrics such as velvet, wool or sweater knit. On the floor, layer a smaller, softer rug over your existing area rug for extra warmth underfoot.

Create a Seasonal Focal Point

Your coffee table is the perfect focal point for winter decor. Start with a tray or shallow bowl then mix in a candle or two and other decorative elements such as books, wooden beads, pinecones or glass jars filled with fairy lights. Keeping the arrangement simple allows the table to remain functional for everyday use while still feeling seasonally intentional.

Set the Mood with Lighting

Shorter winter days mean less natural light floods your living space. Soften the glow with warm white bulbs in floor and table lamps then layer candles – real or flameless – on the mantel, coffee table or console for a cozy atmosphere.

Add a Touch of Nature

Bringing a touch of the outdoors in can give decor a fresh, grounded feel. Consider incorporating evergreen branches, pinecones, bare twigs, eucalyptus and dried stems for an understated nod to the landscape beyond your windows. Pair these natural elements with a grouping of houseplants in woven baskets, wood trays or stone pots to complete the organic, wintery look.

Visit eLivingtoday.com for more seasonal decorating inspiration.



OFFICER CELEBRATES 8 YEARS OF SERVICE

SPD Photo

Shelbyville Police Department recently recognized Officer James Sharp, who has celebrated 8 years of service. Officer Sharp is assigned to A Day Shift.

YOUR BUSINESS CAN BE FEATURED HERE!
Email dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

Business Spotlight





Plenty of coffee in Dolittle! Dolittle Brew drive through now open!

By Dawn Hankins
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Despite being located in "Dolittle" a long-standing nickname for the Unionville community, there's a lot going on, especially at the new Dolittle Brew and Goods store, located at 365 Clardy Road near Community Elementary, according to owner Kim Molder.

Every since our last business [local market], I have always wanted to open a coffee shop in our community," says Molder. "My twin sister Kayla and myself wanted to keep the relationships from our past customers. And being born and raised here in Unionville, it is home!"

Kim says they just had to adopt the name "Dolittle" as part of tradition for the community.

Menu items include energy drinks and specialty coffees. Those heading to and from work will want to try the pick me ups.

"We take pride in most of our items being homemade."

The store is drive through at the moment but Kim says hopefully, in the future, they will have doors open to dine in customers. See the adjacent ad for store hours.

Being a part of the Community-Unionville fabric, according to Kim, is what it's all about.







