COMMUNITY NEWS

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

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County moves one step further toward senior property tax freeze

Subcommittee to study nuts and bolts associated with the program

By Dawn Hankins
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

Not to pull the rug from under the proposed senior property tax freeze, but some County officials said Tuesday night that there are several unknowns to consider before such a plan is ever approved by the Commission.

Those unknowns would be the upcoming property tax reappraisal and its overall effect on revenue. As well, a looming property tax increase-potentially necessary to balance upcoming budgets-must be part of the mix.

At Tuesday's Rules and Legislative Committee meeting, much was discussed and put on the table, including everything from the urgent need of helping the least of these seniors to understanding that more local school now (eventually, immediately, sooner, rather than later) based on what she's hearing.

'Growth requires growing. We have a plan. And we are stepping into an unknown plan.'

—Trustee Tonya Davis

Vick also asked Garrett what types of new schools will be needed to accommodate future student growth.

Garrett said, "I think in education, it is a time that there are a lot of considerations, besides growth. There are a lot of choices that Tennesseans have right now in education."

The superintendent added, "We are down about 230 students from last year. We saw a steady increase of about 2% until Vouchers took place . . . lack of accountability measures for some home school students."

She said while some homeschoolers are accountable and do what is expected, others in society do not. These are not being held accountable, advised the school superintendent.

As for a new school, she said the Bedford County Board of Education is currently not in administration will be needed to

See FREEZE, 3A

School Superintendent Garrett gives State of Schools at Commission meeting

By Dawn Hankins

Bedford County School Superintendent Tammy Garrett shared with County Commissioners last Tuesday that the system continues to remain in the "advancing" status within the state report card.

Please see page 3 more information about student progress, etc.

After delivering a lot of good testing news, Garrett was asked a lot of questions from the Commission floor about the financial and physical state of the school system.

Commissioner Greg Vick first thanked Garrett for an "excellent" report card. He asked her if she foresees the need for a new



Bedford County native climbs Scottish mountain to pay homage to family serviceman

Soldier Brad Jones takes trip of a lifetime

By Dawn Hankins

National Guard Captain Brad Jones recently made a physical trek to a famous mountain in Scotland-an event which will likely go down in his family history.

The Bedford County native says he remembers when he was a little boy listening to his grandfather, the late Wallace H. Jones, talk about serving in WWII. His stories were even more meaningful as his "Papa Jones" talked about how his younger brother (Brad's great uncle) had died in a military plane crash over Scotland after the war.

Papa Jones passed in 2014. He served his country during World War II in the United States Army from 1944-1946 in the South Pacific and was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant.

Since, Brad and his mom, Jane Jones Martin, have continued to research the Scotland crash site; they have discovered for their family some historic information.

Jane, a retired school teacher, had kind of given up on the hopes of seeing the wreckage site after several years of being told it was a treacherous journey up that European mountain.

As fate would have it, Brad would follow in the footsteps of his Papa Jones and Uncle Cecil, serving his country. Brad is currently a serviceman of 12 years and hopeful to be in for 20.

Currently stationed in Germany, he had some time off during the recent Christmas holiday and decided to travel to Europe.

He had added the climb up this Scottish mountainside to his bucket list.

Brad notes, "This is my 3rd

See HOMAGE, 2A



EVENTFUL TUESDAY MORNING IN WARTRACE

CSX TRAIN CARRYING ETHANOL DERAILS

Photo by Zach Sanders

The community of Wartrace, near downtown, was rocked Tuesday morning as four railcars from a CSX train moving through in the early hours derailed. While about 50 residents in the area from McKinley Street to Haley Road on Highway 64 East were evacuated as a precaution, most were able to return home later on Tuesday. The Wartrace Gym was open as a shelter. The train was reported to be enroute to Atlanta, Ga., and was hauling ethanol (denatured alcohol that is unfit for human consumption.) The road was still closed to through traffic as of Tuesday afternoon, due to clean up. Residents near Bugscuffle were redirected by official personnel. Bedford County Emergency Management teams and Wartrace Fire Department firefighters were on the scene. See more pictures and a Wartrace resident's reaction on page 2.

Teacher misconduct



The community was once again rocked this week as a local teacher is under fire for apparent misconduct.

This bio was uploaded 5 months ago to the Shelbyville Central High School website by history teacher Bryan Whittinghill, who is now on administrative leave due to a sexual battery complaint.

Hello!

My name is Bryan Whittinghill - nice to meet you!

I am one of the History teachers here at Shelbyville Central, and I am so glad to be here! I am going into my 3rd year in the classroom!

I am very passionate about history, and it is my goal to create an atmosphere of desire to learn! History is such an important aspect of who we are - not only does it build a better understanding of who we are as a people, but it also helps us learn from the past, and guides us to move forward learning from it.

Even though History may seem like a dull subject to some, I absolutely love it, and it is my goal to spark an interest for it in the life of our students.

Here are a few of my favorite things!

- *Spending time with my wife and SIX wonderful children!*
- *the Chicago Bears.*
- *Indiana University athletics (Yes, I am a "Hoosier!")*
- *Anything Harry Potter*
- *Anything Star Wars*
- *Playing music*
- *Coffee*
- *Woodworking*
- *Landscaping*

On Jan. 15, Whittinghill was charged by Shelbyville Police Department with 7 counts of sexual battery by an authority figure. SPD stated last week that this investigation is on-going, with potential of more charges being brought forward.

The inappropriate contact was apparently made between 2023 and January 2026, and is not believed, at this time, to be school-related. He has been an SCHS teacher and Student Council leader for this last 3 years.

School policy is zero tolerance in the school system for these types of charges/crimes by its educators. The school system has released the following report after Whittinghill was charged.

School officials have received information regarding allegations involving youth against a member of our teaching staff. The allegations were reported to local law enforcement, which is conducting a full and active investigation. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tammy Garrett stated that to school officials' knowledge, this is not an on-campus or school-related incident.

To protect the integrity of the investigation and the privacy of those involved, we cannot provide further details at this time. As of January 15th, the staff member was arrested and will be placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation. The individual will have no contact with students.

The safety and well-being of our students are our top priorities. We are cooperating fully with law enforcement and will take all appropriate actions to ensure a safe learning environment. Resources and support services are available to students and families through the school counseling office.

We understand this news may cause concern and ask the community to respect the privacy of those affected while the investigation is ongoing. We will provide updates as allowed by law and in consideration of the investigative process.

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People Around Town

Gilliland Resource Center held its annual Martin Luther King(MLK)Jr.,Daylunchoonon Monday at the Fly Arts Center.

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Fourth Quarter comeback completes season sweep

The Shelbyville Central Golden Eagles completed the season sweep over the Summit Spartans on Tuesday.

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HOMAGE

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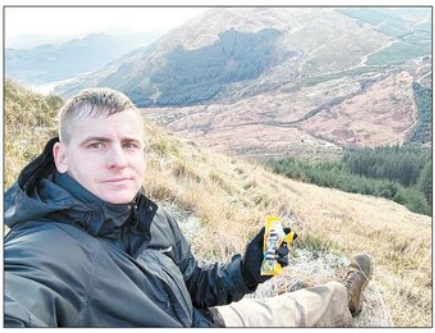
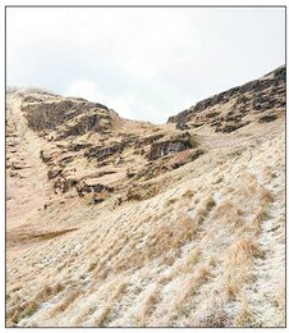
deployment and I was given the opportunity to travel Europe in my off time. My mom asked about flying from the US and meeting in Scotland and Ireland and we brought up the idea of going to the crash site. She tried to get a tour company to take us but they said with the remote location and in December in the Highlands they weren't willing to attempt it."

They believe "Papa Jones" was smiling down upon them as Brad made this memorable journey during Christmas 2025.





While they were in Scotland, Brad hiked the Stob na Boine Druimfhinn mountain near Lochgoilhead, Scotland, where Great Uncle Cecil died. Upon that historic mountain still lies the wreckage of that U.S. Army Air Forces Boeing-B29 Superfortress Brad's great uncle aboard that took off from RAF Scampton, England on Jan. 17, 1949.

The crew was involved in the Berlin Airlift, dropping supplies into the city blockaded by Soviet forces. The crash occurred due to adverse weather, the military reported, and heavy icing, which led to the aircraft's inability to maintain control.

This crash sadly resulted in the tragic loss of all 20 passengers and crew. The crash site, as Brad discovered, remains a vivid reminder of the impact of war and the loss of life during that time in U.S. history.

Brad said he was proud to represent his family by being the first to stand on that mountain where they lost their beloved family member. Of course, Brad thought of the other fellow servicemen who died there as well and he paid homage to them.

His heart pounded when he saw the marker in person with all the names of the servicemen lost. But there was little time to hang around.

Brad notes there were around 30 mph winds and it was 30 degrees at the top; his boots, feet and pants were soaked from wet ground and snow, so he moved pretty fast to get pictures before heading back down the mountain.

If he had been on the mountain longer, Brad says, given his family connection, he would have likely been a lot more emotional. But this experienced guardsman knew time was of the essence and had planned his trip back down accordingly.

Jane notes that even though Brad is in good physical shape, it took all of his strength to hike the mountain. Brad says he had researched the location, using satellite imagery and topographic maps to plan a hiking route.

After that, this soldier felt confident he could make it as long as the weather was ok.

His mother commented that Ireland and Scotland are beautiful but she wouldn't recommend visiting during December. And Brad's mission is not a trip for the faint of heart.

"We made the 2 ½ hour drive to the highlands to the base of the mountain and I started my hike when it was daylight around 8 a.m., knowing the sun sets at 3:30 pm. Took about an hour and a half to hike 2 miles up the mountain and through a valley. It was a very difficult, but not a technical hike. Once I made it to the crash site, I took several pictures and cleaned off the memorial plaque where I could see my great uncle's name (SGT Cecil G. Jones) and then made the 2-mile hike back down the mountain."







Brad said he knew the chances of him ever being in Scotland again were very slim. As well, the chances that he'd ever hike to the crash site were even less likely to ever happen again in his lifetime.

"So, I felt compelled to at least try. My great uncle was just 21, when he was killed in 1949. He he had no wife or kids and with it being in such a remote location in Europe, no way for any of the family to ever come visit where he was killed or see the memorial."

"My grandfather and great uncle both served in the Army and with me being in the Army, then being the first in the family to visit the memorial in over 75 years, it was a proud moment for myself and for his memory."

Sgt. Cecil's remains, as well as some of the other soldiers, are buried in Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. There is a memorial grave marker that was placed in the family Westbrooks Cemetery in Midland in 1949, for the Tennessee soldier.

The Jones brothers, truly two WWII heroes, were born in Rutherford County and were two of the 13 children born to Houston Horton Jones and Nora Westbrooks Jones.



IN THEIR FRONT YARD!

Photos by Zach Sanders

Zach Sanders and wife who live right behind where the CSX train derailed in Wartrace early Tuesday morning said they heard the spill. "It was a slow-moving train and it looks like it just laid over into the field next to my house. I don't know what caused it other than the tracks gave way or a coupler on one of those other cars came loose."

Sanders told the T-G, "I'm just glad God protected our neighborhood and didn't allow one to rupture and take us all out."



ATTENTION:
2024 CITY OF SHELBYVILLE DELINQUENT TAXPAYERS

You are advised that after February 1, additional penalties and costs will be imposed in consequence of suits to be filed for enforcement of the lien for property taxes for prior tax years; until the filing of such suits, taxes may be paid in my office.
(Notice required per T.C.A. 67-5-2401)

Kay Parker, City Treasurer
201 N. Spring Street, Shelbyville, TN 37160
City Hall on Public Square

FREEZE

From page 1A

oversee the change.

One thing, almost in jest, that was made abundantly clear is that even if someone qualifies for the senior property tax freeze, they will still pay annual property taxes. Apparently, there have been some misconceptions in the community with some seniors believing they will no longer have to pay any property taxes with a senior freeze program.

With a senior tax freeze, as presented to the Rules Committee by City Councilman Josh Blevins and Eric Maddox, senior homeowners qualifying for the program (age 65 and over) will have the property taxes on their principal residence frozen at a base tax amount, which is the amount of taxes owed in the year they first qualify for the program.

Thereafter, as long as the homeowner continues to qualify for the program, the amount of property taxes owed for that property generally will not change, even if there is a property tax rate increase or county-wide reappraisal. (Tennessee Comptroller.)

So, if a qualifying senior's last tax bill was for $1,000, then that's what they will pay every year from then on as long as their circumstances do not change. (See more comptroller notes at the bottom of this story.)

This is where, from a revenue standpoint, it could get sticky for future government leaders trying to balance the general budget.

This senior tax freeze proposal will not replace the current tax relief program that is already in place through the Trustee's office and serving over 700 elderly residents. The governments will continue to match their respective relief program for their constituents and basically just add the senior property tax freeze on top of that assistance for those who qualify.

Blevins and Maddox were at the podium again Tuesday to present their proposal. This time around, they invited some of the big guns of local government to discuss their perspectives.

Maddox told Rules Committee members and those in attendance at the standing committee meeting that he's "optimistic."

"It seems it's overwhelming to me that the people of the County would be in support of this," said Maddox, explaining Shelbyville Now and the Times-Gazette have helped with surveys and positive stories. "Even the calls I've received, they've been extremely positive."

"I believe . . . the ultimate ask is that we put together a committee-subcommittee to study this for 90 days. And then that committee would come back to you all with recommendation, based off the feedback we have from the subject matter experts."

The Rules Committee approved for that subcommittee to be made up of Councilman Blevins and another City councilperson; Commissioner Maddox and another County official (Anita Epperson volunteered Tuesday); Mayors Randy Carroll and Chad Graham; Trustee Tonya Davis; and Property Assessor Ronda Clanton.

A meeting of this subcommittee was scheduled on the floor by Blevins for Feb. 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Trustee Davis had quite a bit to say Tuesday about the proposed senior tax freeze. While she said she's in full favor of helping local seniors, she said there are points to remember about how such a program could affect the community as a whole.

Davis said the senior tax freeze proposal is dear to her heart. In fact, she's spent 16 years supporting seniors at the state level, urging legislators to continue the senior property tax relief program that is still operating through her office.

She thanked Blevins and Maddox for their work.

"Now, as your Trustee, I have the obligation to stand here before you and give you all the information. That is my job. And I'm very willing to support this and work along with this. I am very supportive of the seniors," said Davis, who serves on the Shelbyville Bedford County Senior Citizens Center Board.

She told Rules Committee members that she can pull any number for reference they may need.

Davis said she has made bullet points-those which she believes the committee needs to really discuss before moving forward. (See more of Davis's report at t-g.com.)

"Growth requires growing. We have a plan. And we are stepping into an unknown plan."

Davis added, "We do reach out to the elderly. We do know where the need is."

She said as the County heads into the new budget year, the local property reappraisal impact and the need for a potential property tax increase are things to be considered, first.

"My question . . . basically the unknown-revenue lost and found. Where does that burden fall? Where is that made up?"

Lost revenue, also known as "foregone revenue" can refer to an estimate of the difference between the revenue an agency, like County Government, is expected to receive and the revenue the agency actually receives.

Commissioner Maddox told the Times-Gazette Tuesday night, following the Rules meeting, "I feel optimistic that we can get this through, for a positive vote from the Commission, regarding the tax freeze, for our seniors that qualify. There were several things that we could have debated or discussed tonight, but this was not the time. The committee will be the place for that, and I feel the data that we have will show an overwhelmingly positive story and the benefits of this, with no large impact to others in the County."

According to the state Comptroller's office, with the senior tax freeze, **in order to qualify, the homeowner must file an application annually and must:**

- Own their principal place of residence in a participating county and/or city
- Be 65 years of age or older by the end of the year in which the application is filed
- Have an income from all sources that does not exceed the county income limit established for that tax year

In counties or municipalities participating in the Tax Freeze Program, an application may be made annually to the County Trustee or City collecting official. The state Comptroller's Office will calculate the income limit for each County annually using a formula outlined in state law.

Situations, where the base tax amount would change for a homeowner, are:

- When improvements are made to the property resulting in an increase in its value
- When the homeowner sells their home and purchases another residence



SENIOR TAX FREEZE PROPOSAL TO RULES COMMITTEE

Councilman Josh Blevins, left, and Commissioner Eric Maddox, at the podium, presented their senior property tax freeze proposal to the Rules Committee Tuesday. The committee moved to form a subcommittee to further research the impact of such a program on the County as a whole. The group will meet at 5:30 p.m., Feb. 17, at the courthouse.

SCHOOLS

From page 1A

schools, virtual schools and that kind of thing."

Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham asked Garrett about a potential growth stall in student population. He asked the superintendent if she believes a local student population drop and other factors might affect future budgets.

"Absolutely, if you remember, this is the last year that we have coming up in our next budget year . . . hit the salary minimum of 50,000. So, we know going into that, we will have a 4.12 minimum increase in order to meet that new state law that we have to hit 50,000 by next year."

Tennessee counties are required to increase teacher salaries to a minimum of $50,000 by the 2026-2027 school year. It's known as HB 0329, signed into law by Gov. Bill Lee on May 18, 2023. This increase was anticipated as placing TN schools in the top 10 rung across the state, regarding teacher pay.

"As we know, we had a huge increase in our insurance and for our property and those kinds of things-about 16%-if I remember that correctly. But we do have an impact of those 230 students, because as you know, we're paid on a per student basis, and as needed basis, based on what the student needs."

She added, "What we do know is that for one year, they will hold harmless. We will not get any extra money, if we go down. But we wouldn't have any less than what we have this year."

She said no doubt it will be a tight budget year.

"We've got to look at ways to increase the funding of education," said Garrett.

She deferred to Robert Daniel, County financial director, when she talked about how the local portion of student funding has not increased in several years. She said without TISA (state funding), the school system would be in "really bad shape."

"Mr. [John] Boutwell has told us many times, we're one of two counties in the state of Tennessee that puts in the minimum . . . . [per pupil funding.]"

As a member of the County Financial Management Committee, Garrett said it is her hope a plan of good stewardship can be developed that helps the County maintain future growth and build good school facilities in the future.

Commissioner John Boutwell asked her about federal funding.

Garrett said over the last 5 years, federal funding has continued to decrease.

"One of the challenges that we've [had] over the last few years is that we haven't met the federal mandate for English as a Second Language (ESL.) We've had to hire 41 teachers to meet that mandate over the last couple of years. If you think about 41 teachers, salary of a teacher and benefits, that's a great increase. That has had a significant impact on our budget. But our funding, federally, has continued to decrease."

Mayor Graham talked about thousands in public funding being lost to other sources due to the voucher program. The mayor said it's a lot of money lost that has to be absorbed in other ways.

Garrett said last count; there were 139 voucher applications from Bedford County.

"Again, those funds will be directed to another source rather than coming into our school system?" the mayor asked.

"That's correct," replied Garrett.

Parents in Tennessee can utilize tax dollars to fund their voucher program through the Education Freedom Scholarship (EFS) program. The parents must meet eligibility and fill out an application.

"We definitely have challenges ahead," advised Graham.

The mayor and school superintendent have previously announced they are not running for re-election.

Several Bedford County Schools Earn A or B Ratings on 2024–2025 Tennessee State Report Card

Bedford County Schools (BCS) is proud to announce that several district schools earned

an overall A or B rating on the 2024–2025 Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) State Report Card, reflecting strong academic performance and continued growth across the district.

The following schools received A or B overall letter grades:

Cascade High School – A
Cascade Middle School – A
Cascade Elementary School – B
Community Elementary School – B
Community High School – B
East Side Elementary School – B
Shelbyville Central High School – B
Thomas Magnet School – B

In addition to strong overall ratings, several schools earned top marks across individual state accountability sub-indicators, which measure student achievement, academic growth and readiness for future success.

"This recognition places Cascade High School among an elite group of schools across the state," said Superintendent of Schools Tammy Garrett. "Only 27 high schools statewide—approximately 6 percent of Tennessee public high schools — earned a Level 5 designation in all four accountability categories. This achievement speaks volumes about the dedication of Cascade's students, teachers, administrators, and families, and reflects a sustained commitment to academic excellence and student success."

Cascade High School also achieved a score of 5 in all four applicable sub-indicators, the highest possible rating in each area: Achievement, Growth, Growth of Highest Need Students and College and Career Readiness. Cascade Middle School earned a score of 5 in all three applicable sub-indicators, the maximum available for a middle school: Achievement, Growth and Growth of Highest Need Students. (College and Career Readiness is not applicable to middle or elementary schools.)

Several additional schools also demonstrated notable performance at the sub-indicator level:

Shelbyville Central High School earned top scores in two sub-indicators: Growth & Growth for Highest Need Students;

Cartwright Elementary School earned a top score in one sub-indicator: Growth

Cascade Elementary School earned a top score in one sub-indicator: Achievement

Community High School earned a top score in one sub-indicator: Growth

East Side Elementary School earned a top score in one sub-indicator: Growth

Thomas Magnet School earned a top score in one sub-indicator: Achievement

These sub-indicators are individual performance measures that help families better understand how schools are supporting student learning. Achievement reflects how well students performed on state assessments, while Growth shows how much progress students made over the year, regardless of where they started. Growth of Highest Need Students highlights how effectively schools are supporting students who may need additional academic support. For high schools, College and Career Readiness measures how well students are being prepared for life after graduation through coursework, industry certifications and postsecondary opportunities.

The Tennessee State Report Card provides families and communities with a comprehensive look at school performance, including achievement, growth and readiness for postsecondary success.

Garrett commented further saying, "Congratulations to all students, teachers, staff and families who contributed to these accomplishments and remain committed to continuous improvement across Bedford County Schools."

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FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

A Son Named Laughter (Isaac)

Genesis 21

God fulfilled his promise to Sarah and Abraham.



"The Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised." Genesis 21:1

Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time he had promised him. Abraham gave his son the name Isaac, which means "he laughs". When Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him as God commanded him to do.

Sarah responded to the birth of Isaac by saying, God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." She continued, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children, yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

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LUTHERAN

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METHODIST

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

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

SCOTT UNITED METHODIST
940 Morton St., 931-684-2297

ST. JOHNS AME
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WHITESIDE UNITED METHODIST
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NAZARENE

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HIMESVILLE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
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PENTECOSTAL

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IGLESIA APOSTOLIC PENTECOSTAL
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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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

HASKINS CHAPEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD
425 Haskins Chapel Rd., Lewisburg
931-388-7191

BAPTIST

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

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

EDGEMONT BAPTIST
150 Fairfield Pike, 931-684-7676

EL BETHEL BAPTIST
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FAIR HAVEN BAPTIST
2725 Hwy. 231 N., 931-680-9803

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

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

FIRST BAPTIST
101 Webb Rd. E., Bell Buckle
931-389-9580

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST
2027 Madison St., 931-703-9972

NEW BETHEL BAPTIST
1832 Hwy. 64 W., 615-584-5536

NORMANDY FIRST BAPTIST
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2966 Sims Rd., 931-685-0025

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1331 Horse Mountain Rd., 931-492-5480

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2200 N. Main St., 931-684-8114

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

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WARTRACE CHURCH OF CHRIST
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FIRST CHURCH OF GOD
278 Anthony Lane, 931-684-4645

NEW HALEY CHURCH OF GOD
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CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LDS
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510 Thompson Rd., 931-581-4777

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142 Richdale Lane, 931-684-0649

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1250 Madison St., 931-684-2794

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865 Union St., 931-607-8465

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304 Old Nashville Dirt Rd., 931-684-6883

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Is God Dead? Did Jesus Swoon?



Ty B. Kerley, DMin
Columnist

We began last week by setting the foundation for our historical study of the resurrection of Jesus using Michael Licona's "minimal facts" approach. When we look at the historical resurrection event, the agreed-upon bedrock facts about the fate of Jesus are these:

1. Jesus died by crucifixion.

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

In fact, the contemporary and prolific Bible scholar Bart Ehrman grants all three of our bedrock facts as historical. An additional benefit of establishing these three minimal bedrock facts is that several marginal theories are disqualified. These include the wrong tomb theory, whereby the women went out on Sunday morning and found the wrong tomb empty; the Muslim substitution theory, whereby Allah saved his servant Jesus and sent a substitute to the Cross in his place; and the so-called swoon theory whereby Jesus and his accomplices faked his death, and Jesus was later resuscitated and made His post-resurrection appearances.

Going back as far as the late 18th century, several resurrection critics have forwarded. One of the first to put forth this "swoon" hypothesis was the unorthodox German biblical scholar Karl Friedrich Bahrdt (1741-1792). Bahrdt, in 1780, theorized that Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea were actually influential Essenes who helped orchestrate the hoax. According to Bahrdt, the centurion was bribed not to break Jesus's bones at his supposed death, and Joseph and Nicodemus removed the body to a tomb, where they immediately began resuscitation measures. Bahrdt states, "In the cave, the most strengthening nutriment was supplied to him since the humors of the body were in thoroughly healthy condition, his wounds healed rapidly, and by the third day he was able to walk, even though the wounds made by the nails were still open."

Examples of closely related variations of the swoon hypothesis from the past centuries are far too numerous to document here; these are but a sampling to give some background as to the frequency and commonality of the claim. Many of the claims made by these critics are sharply disputed as inconsistent with modern medical knowledge and seem preposterous today. Bible scholar George Hanson writes, "it is hard to believe that this [Swoon Theory] was the favorite explanation of eighteenth-century rationalism." Meanwhile, Josh McDowell states, "The evidence speaks so much to the contrary of this hypothesis that it is now obsolete." However, this theory is far from obsolete and is currently being taught extensively in Muslim communities. For that reason, the investigation of swoon theories is still very much relevant to resurrection discourse and study.

One such modern-day proponent of the swoon theory is Muslim missionary, author, and Islamic apologist Ahmed Deedat (1918-2005). Deedat, who debated McDowell in August 1981, maintains a large following and is immensely popular in the Middle East. His anti-Christian and Bible-critical works are still in print and are widely distributed in the Islamic community. In the 2011 edition of his book, Crucifixion or Cruci-Fiction?, Deedat adamantly claims Jesus was not the incarnation of God as a man on earth. What followed, according to Deedat, was the case of a human prophet of God being wrongfully convicted by Pilate and was blessed by God in that the Romans botched his crucifixion. Deedat states that the immobility, fatigue, and unnatural stance of Jesus on the Cross slowed his circulation and that the soldier's spear thrust was a "blood-letting" that was not fatal but, in fact, allowed Jesus to regain circulatory rhythm. The Romans mistook Jesus as dead, and his body was turned over to the "secret disciples", Joseph and Nicodemus, who revived Jesus in the tomb.

It's not just from the Muslim world that swoon theories come. In 2011, David Mirsch published his book, The Open Tomb: Why and How Jesus Faked His Death and Resurrection, as yet another advocate for the swoon theory. In his book, Mirsch lays out a theory predicated on the belief that Jesus was not the incarnation of God but was the literal son of Joseph Caiaphas, a sympathetic Jewish councilman and supporter of Jesus's ministry. Joseph, fellow conspirator and councilman Nicodemus, and Jesus wanted to dispatch the Romans and return the kingdom to Israel. According to Mirsch, they co-conspired with the Essenes to revolt against Rome but needed a catalyst for the Essenean uprising. Jesus's crucifixion was to be that catalyst.

Join us next week as we continue to look at David Mirsch's swoon resurrection theory. It is essential to consider because if Jesus of Nazareth actually lived and was crucified and died on a Roman cross, then that evidence should bring considerable clarity to the larger question: is God dead?

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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

Atmos Energy encourages safety as winter storm Fern approaches

FRANKLIN, Tenn. – January 21, 2026 – The forecast indicates that extreme winter weather will impact this area in the coming days, and Atmos Energy stands ready to deliver safe and reliable natural gas to its customers. As we closely monitor the weather and strategically position technicians across our system, please remember there are important measures that you and your family can take to stay safe and use energy wisely throughout the coming storm. Meanwhile, Atmos Energy will communicate regularly with customers and communities before, during, and after extreme weather events, so please activate text alerts, follow us on Facebook, X, and Instagram, and visit our website at atmosenergy.com for the most up-to-date safety and weather preparedness information.

Always remember that colder weather may increase the amount of natural gas you use. Even though natural gas is one-third of the cost of electricity, increased usage during periods of extreme cold will lead to higher bills. Atmos Energy recommends that you and your family use energy wisely by making a few household changes which may help mitigate how much you spend on natural gas and other energy bills.

Consider these tips to help you stay safe and save energy in the coming days – and all winter long.

• Inspect your natural gas piping and appliances. You are responsible for any natural gas piping on your property from our gas meter to your house or business. As the owner of your home's gas piping and appliances, it's your responsibility to schedule regular inspections and maintenance.

• To help keep your home safe and to improve energy efficiency, always operate and maintain your natural gas appliances according to the manufacturers' instructions.

• Never use an oven or a gas stovetop to heat your home.

• Save money and energy by setting your thermostat to 68 degrees during the day and 58 degrees when you are away from home, where safe to do so.

• Reduce your shower and bath time. Showering and bathing can account for 40 percent of your home's hot water use.

• Keep warm air inside. Unless a fire is burning, close your fireplace damper to prevent warm air from escaping up the chimney.

• Protect natural gas meters. Natural gas meters are weather-proof; however, to help keep the meter working smoothly, remove snow and ice from natural gas meters with a broom or brush. Never kick or chip snow and ice away with a hard object. Call Atmos Energy's Emergency Number at 866.322.8667 if you have concerns about your meter.

• Make sure external vents for dryers and other natural gas equipment are clear. Blocked vents can lead to a dangerous build-up of carbon monoxide gas. If you have questions about proper venting, contact a licensed plumber or qualified contractor.

• Minimize the risk of frozen pipes. Leave faucets running at a trickle, open cabinet doors, and close all exterior doors and windows to keep heat inside.

• These tips and more are available on our Storm Center page at atmosenergy.com.

Although natural gas outages are infrequent, if you experience loss of natural gas service or low gas pressure, contact the Atmos Energy emergency line at 866.322.8667 – agents are ready to assist 24/7.

Smell gas, act fast! If you suspect a natural gas leak, leave the area immediately! From a safe distance call 911 and Atmos Energy's 24-hour toll-free emergency number at 866.322.8667.

About Atmos Energy

Atmos Energy Corporation, a natural gas-only distributor, is an S&P 500 company headquartered in Dallas. We safely deliver reliable, affordable, efficient and abundant natural gas to more than 3 million distribution customers in over 1,400 communities across eight states located primarily in the South. As part of our vision to be the safest provider of natural gas services, we are modernizing our business and infrastructure while continuing to invest in safety, innovation, environmental sustainability and our communities. Atmos Energy manages proprietary pipeline and storage assets, including one of the largest intrastate natural gas pipeline systems in Texas. Find us online at www.atmosenergy.com, Facebook, X, and Instagram.



SHELBY CHAPTER DAR ATTENDS ANNUAL MEETING IN TULLAHOMA

Photo by Maureen Garrett

Members of Shelby Chapter attended a joint DAR meeting at Lakewood Country Club in Tullahoma on January 8. This meeting was hosted by Tullahoma DAR Chapter and was the annual joint gathering of the four Sequoyah District chapters.

In attendance was Tennessee State DAR Regent, Carol Teeters. The TN State Regent delivered a very interesting and informative slide show of each U.S. President and First Lady who had a career in education prior to becoming president.

Shown are Shelby Chapter DAR members with the state regent: Betty Brown, Melissa Edwards, Lee Travis, State Regent Carol Teeters, Sherry Sorrells, Marie Parsons, Ardis Rittenberry and Marilyn Lewis.

READING THE WORDS OF A MINOR PROPHET-HAGGAI

By Dawn Hankins
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

This week, I heard a minister speaking about the Book of Haggai. I haven't really spent much time there over the years, so I decided time was of the essence.

Oddly, as I opened Haggai, some of the pages in my beloved Tyndale Life Application Bible (an oldie but a goodie as far as I'm concerned) were stuck together. I felt a sense of anguish. But, obviously, I had been there at some point with my creamy coffee.

Here's something to remember: Bibles are meant to be used, daily. So don't be so fussy with them.

Was this desecration of my Bible pages the devil trying to keep me out of Haggai? We'll let that notion rest for now.

But the real point here is this, it's a great book to immerse yourself in, particularly if you're trying to improve your obedience. This is where the book greatly applies, I believe, to our stewardship.

What does that mean? It's your obedience to God, which applies greatly to your over and above giving to your church. I also believe that means helping the least of these.

I was so glad to see recently that many of our help groups were greatly blessed with giving during the Christmas season. Let's keep it going throughout the year.

The Book of Haggai is considered a part of the minor prophets. And, its main purpose when it was written was to call the people to the rebuilding of the temple, which had been destroyed in 586 BC by Babylon armies. It's truly a great book that reminds us of our most important priorities in life.

What are your priorities?

Give Haggai some time.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

CARNEY TO SPEAK AT FUMC-S

This Sunday at First United Methodist Church Shelbyville, Lay Leader of the Stones River District, John Carney, will preach "Fish for People" from the lectionary text Matthew 4:12-23. 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.

CHURCHES: PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR WORSHIP THEMES AND ACTIVITIES TO DAWN@RICHARDSONMEDIAGROUP.NET OR CALL 931-684-1200.

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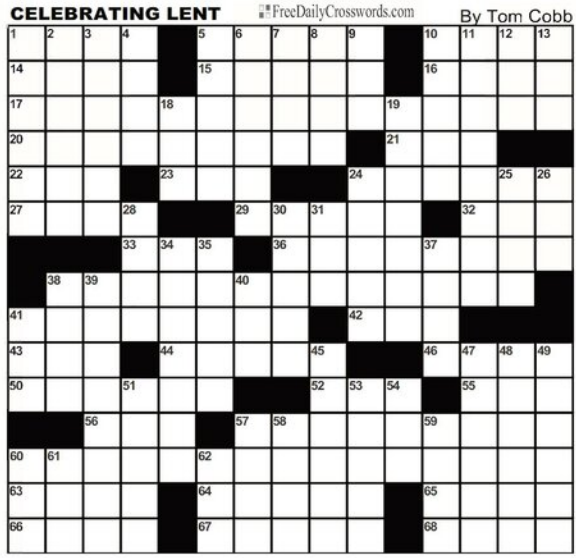
CELEBRATING LENT

FreeDailyCrosswords.com

By Tom Cobb

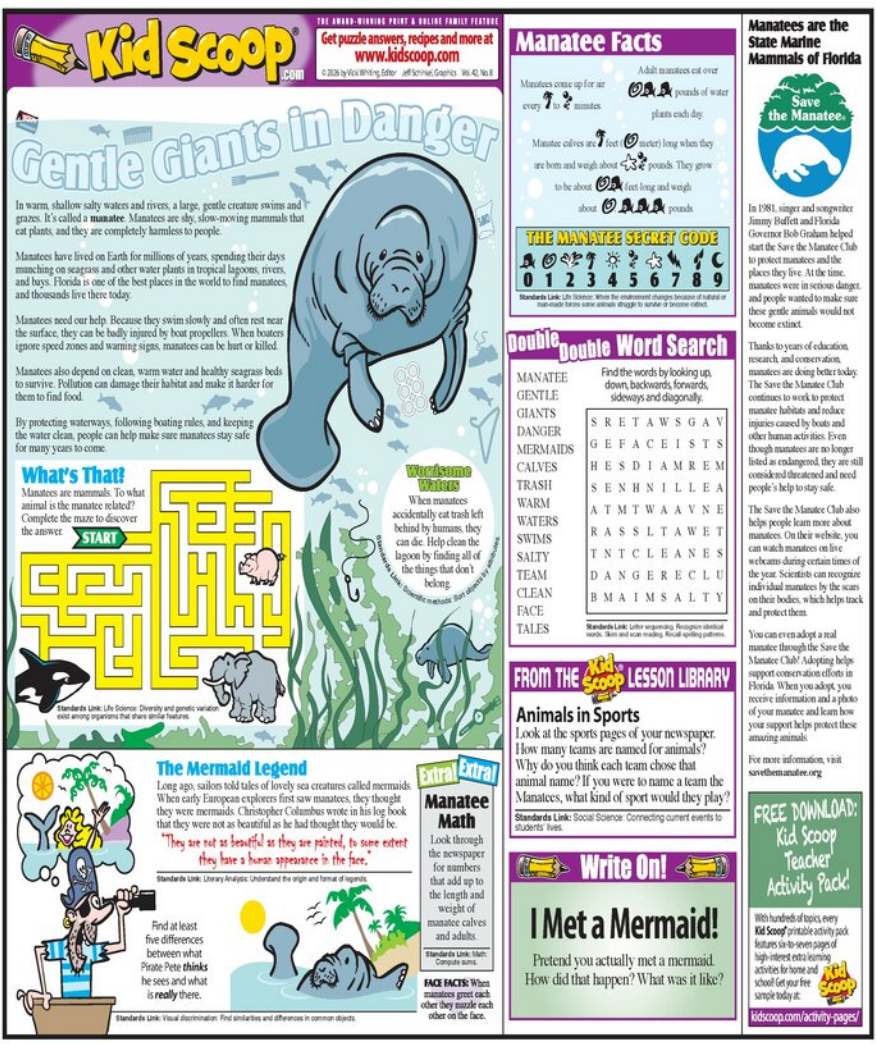


CLUES ACROSS

1) .035 ounces
5) Wish for Earth
10) Crowning point
14) It's made to be broken, proverbially
15) Shady spot
16) Dawdle
17) Camper's need
20) Some screwdrivers
21) Radial filler
22) Private eye, slangily
23) Tiny soldier
24) Dazed in the ring
27) Mushroom part
29) Second of two photos, sometimes
32) Payment promise
33) "___ showtime!"
36) Foyer
38) What all great singers have
41) Like some spiders and snakes
42) Acid for trips
43) Typography measures
44) Hold 'em game
46) Sign of the future
50) Front shoe support
52) "Mission: Impossible" org.
55) Caesar's salutation
56) Geological time unit
57) Off-road vehicles
60) Refusing to speak
63) "___ have to do"
64) Early stages
65) Veto
66) Gulf relatives
67) Give it another go
68) Eyelid problem

CLUES DOWN

1) Plays the con man
2) Small watercourse
3) ___-Lorraine
4) Track event
5) Blessed bread holder
6) Mistakes in printing
7) Resting
8) Police officers
9) Long lead-in of old
10) Dramatic 44-Across bet
11) Arm-twisting
12) Answer to the Sphinx's riddle
13) Immature salamander
18) When doubled, a lively dance
19) One may rest on one's
24) "She loves me" unit
25) Owl cry
26) "That's tasty!"
28) Soybean paste
30) Like incorrect statements
31) You can have a blast with it
34) Kettledrums
35) Ice-cream utensil
37) Take from square one
38) Office note
39) Socially improper
40) Arctic sea bird
41) Old pro
45) Horseshoes score
47) Reach the top
48) In a fair way
49) Be cozy
51) Frosty eyes?
53) Like nostalgic eyes, sometimes
54) DNA tester, at times
57) Not yours
58) Pt. of MIT
59) Classes or types
60) Arched bone
61) LAX datum
62) Negative conjunction



Bedford County property transfers

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

File date: January 13

Location: Gold Rd; Seller, Dallace Philip Brooks, Lisa Margaret Brooks; Buyer, Fausto Rea Gutierrez; Price, $399,000 (Deed).

Location: 1617 Highway 130 W; Seller, JW Properties; Buyer, Brittany Hester Conatser, Brendon Isaac Conatser; Price, $349,900 (Deed).

Location: 757 Thompson Creek Rd; Seller, Allen Rogers, Genie Rogers; Buyer, Jack L Walker, Janet P Walker; Price, $795,000 (Deed).

Location: 110 East Cedar St; Seller, Florine Dangerfield, Florine Morton, Florine Leslie Morton; Buyer, Clinton Blatter; Price, $80,000 (Deed).

Location: 112 E Cedar St; Seller, Pennymac Loan Services LLC; Buyer, Leticia Francisca Gonzalez Martinez, Diego A Albino; Price, $209,000 (Deed).

Location: Martin Rd; Seller, Madalyn Parsons Beech, Jerry H Beech Estate; Buyer, Madalyn Parsons Beech, Mary Clayton and Thomas Beech Trust; Price, $0 (Deed).

Location: 101 Anderson Creek Rd; Seller, Scott F Lambert, Lisa C Lambert, Devin S Holder, Mandie C Holder; Buyer, Scott F Lambert, Lisa C Lambert, Haden Hurst; Price, $0 (QD).

File date: January 14

Location: 303 Scotland Heights; Seller, Music City Holdings LLC; Buyer, Harriswood Investments LLC; Price, $165,000 (Deed).

Location: 117 Millet St; Seller, Curtis E Cox; Buyer, Curtis E Cox, Linda Cottingham; Price, $0 (QD).

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

Location: 1017 Fairfield Pike; Seller, Susan Allison; Buyer, Annemarie M Rainwater; Price, $168,000 (Deed).

Seller, Palmetto Properties LLC; Buyer, Christian Noe Gomez Garcia, Jose De Jesus Gomez Lara, Andryv Emmanuel Gomez Garcia; Price, $135,000 (Deed).

Location: 755 Warners Bridge Rd; Seller, Lacey Anna Wasdyke, William Cody Maynard; Buyer, William Cody Maynard; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Greer Rd; Seller, Roger Richards, Gus Richards Jr Estate; Buyer, Troy Richards, Georgia Richards, Wilhelmina Richards, Joni Ellis Chesire, Roger Richards, Jason Ellis Richards; Price, $0 (Deed).

Location: Greer Rd; Seller, Roger Richards, Gus Richards Jr Estate; Buyer, Troy Richards, Georgia Richards, Wilhelmina Richards, Joni Ellis Chesire, Roger Richards, Jason Ellis Richards; Price, $0 (Deed).

Location: 217 Idle Dr; Seller, DFH Crescent LLC; Buyer, Nancy Judith Gutierrez, David Andrew Bobick; Price, $325,790 (Deed).

File date: January 15

Location: 132 Glider Loop Rd; Seller, Nestor R Rivera, Edith Rivera; Buyer, Madison Schumacher, Geoffrey Quinn Jr; Price, $569,529 (Deed).

Location: 2154 Highway 64 W; Seller, Jeannette Carlisle; Buyer, Devan Marie Reed Hummel, Rachel Ann Hazelwood; Price, $267,500 (Deed).

Seller, Cathey L Lee, Cathey Evans Lee, Cathy Lee; Buyer, Haven Green Trust; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, Melvin L Golden, Glenda C Golden; Buyer, Teresa G Winnette; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 203 Sun Circle; Seller, Melvin L Golden, Glenda C Golden; Buyer, Katherine Elizabeth Golden; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 967 Horse Mountain Rd; Seller, Ole South Properties Inc; Buyer, Jeremy Daniel Bankston; Price, $269,990 (Deed).

Location: 303 Narrows Rd; Seller, Matthew Seth Stovall; Buyer, Matthew Seth Stovall, Alexandria Niomi Stovall; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 967 Horse Mountain Rd; Seller, Ole South Properties Inc; Buyer, Terry Ann Hijar; Price, $284,990 (Deed).

File date: January 16

Location: Bills Road; Seller, Joseph Morris Bills, Jo Ann Bills; Buyer, Trevor Scott Arnold, Travis Noah Arnold; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Old Wartrace Pike; Seller, Jennifer Garnes; Buyer, Jordan Garnes; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 211 South Fairoak St; Seller, Webber Holdings LLC; Buyer, Stephen Hoffman, Alana Hoffman; Price, $249,000 (Deed).

Location: 318 Meadow Dr; Seller, Tyler Dole, Michelle Dole, Gregory Dole; Buyer, Mandie Holder, Devin Holder; Price, $448,000 (Deed).

Location: Kingree Rd; Seller, Vladislav Soudakov; Buyer, Vladislav Soudakov, Soudakov Family Irrevocable Trust; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Highway 41A S; Seller, Douglas Keith Jones, Timothy Martin Jones; Buyer, Joshua Byron Cooke, Ambre Nicole Cooke; Price, $40,000 (Deed).

Location: Old Columbia Rd; Seller, Paul Bates Jr, Deborah Bates; Buyer, Steven J Heslep, Laura K Heslep, Heslep Family Trust; Price, $150,000 (Deed).

Location: 329 Dover St; Seller, DCC Strategic Realty Partners LLC; Buyer, Jenny Tomlin; Price, $299,900 (Deed).

Location: Goose Creek Road; Seller, Jimmy Dwight Womble, Annette P Womble; Buyer, Paul Adam Bates, Paul B Bates Jr; Price, $1,030,000 (Deed).

Location: Goose Creek Road; Seller, Paul B Bates Jr; Buyer, Paul Adam Bates; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Goose Creek Road; Seller, Paul Adam Bates; Buyer, Paul B Bates Jr; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Old Unionville-Shelbyville; Seller, Kenneth Watts, Leann Watts; Buyer, Shane C Smith, Jamie L Smith; Price, $240,000 (Deed).

Location: Goose Creek Road; Seller, Paul B Bates Jr; Buyer, Paul B Bates Jr, Deborah R Bathes; Price, $0 (QD).

Gen Z turns the houseplant craze into lifestyle trend: Nurture the 'Plant Parent'



(Family Features) When Jessica Janik-De Gennaro started seeing her $20 succulents pop up between electronics and yoga pants on a mobile marketplace, she knew she'd found something unexpected.

The entrepreneur had been shipping plants nationwide since 2012, but joining Temu in 2024 opened an entirely new customer base.

"We saw growth right away," said De Gennaro, the 43-year-old founder of Shop Succulents who sold 3,500 items on the platform in just four months.

Her success reflects a broader trend: While many pandemic habits faded, America's houseplant obsession only grew stronger. Spending on gardening-related items jumped 18.7% in 2020 – an $8.5 billion increase from the year before, and that momentum hasn't stopped. The indoor plants market was valued at $20.68 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach $30.25 billion by 2032, according to industry research.

"The potential for scaling is enormous," De Gennaro said. "Seeing our $20 succulents next to Temu's bargain electronics was surreal, but that's the magic – the algorithm doesn't discriminate. Our plants became 'items to explore' for people who never knew they wanted a spiky plant until it popped up between yoga pants and kitchenware."

Following a similar strategy, House Plant Shop's inventory spans more than 500 species, from air plants and succulents to pet-friendly potted plants and rare tropicals.

After joining Temu in December 2024, sales on the platform rocketed. By May, it had become the company's largest online channel, surpassing all other marketplaces.

"Temu quickly became bigger for us than any other marketplace," said Andy Burde, 33, founder of House Plant Shop.

The platform's young customer base has proven ideal for plant sellers. A survey by CraftJack found that 6 in 10 young Americans say "pets are the new kids, and plants are the new pets."

The smaller plants, sold in 2-3-inch pots and priced around $10 by House Plant Shop, have performed especially well.

"They're affordable, easy to ship and our customers love watching them grow," Burde said.

The shift to mobile commerce has been crucial to both companies' success. With 76% of U.S. adults using smartphones to shop online, platforms like Temu have become discovery engines for impulse purchases, including houseplants.

Now, House Plant Shop ranks among the top three live plant sellers on the mobile marketplace.

"Our goal is to become the No. 1 live plant seller on the platform," Burde said. "We've found our second growth wave, and we're excited to keep growing while staying true to our roots."

SIXTY-FIVE BEDFORD AND MARSHALL COUNTY RESIDENTS NAMED TO THE WEBB SCHOOL'S SECOND QUARTER HONOR ROLL

The following Bedford and Marshall County residents earned High Honors status for achieving all A's on their report card:

Bell Buckle – Atticus Loose, Cadence Garcia, Hailey Gay, Charlie McClain, Ruthie McClain, Grace Shibayama, Ava DuPuy, Kaleb King, Eleanor Loose, Charlotte Ring, Luke Gay, Shizuku Yanagida

Chapel Hill – Tula Sublette, Mae Hanemann

Shelbyville – Athena Byrd, Lyla Victory, Addison LaHann, Lily Tennant, Ava Anderson, Corbin Riley, Miles Shafer, Anna Kate Gregory, Ellie Landers, Paizley Hodges, Mary Mosier, Landon O'Neal

Wartrace – Adalynn Simons, Elijah Simons, Grayson Harrell

The following Bedford and Marshall County residents earned Honors status for achieving all A's and B's on their report card:

Bell Buckle – Callie Martin, Easton Gallagher, Addison Gay, Jasper Adams, Camden Collins, Catherine French, Amelie Taucare

Chapel Hill – Miriam Germain, Grady Hedgepath, Amelia Threet, Rosemary Hanemann, Cosette Germain, Danica Crowley

Shelbyville – Deacon Allen, August May, Christian Baker, Isaac Brown, Ximena De La Rosa Botello, Jasmine Judge, Lawson Simons, Haley Helton, Khloe McSwain, Sterling Smith, Drew Baker, Sahara Curtis, Harrold Thomas, Gavyn Anderson, Grayson Anderson, Ryan Edwards, Blake Davis

Unionville – Bentley Stacy

Wartrace – Morgan Ridner, Anne Beard, Emery Potts, Chere' Potts, Kylie Singer

CELEBRATING LENT By Tom Cobb

1 G	2 R	3 A	4 M	■	5 P	6 E	7 A	8 C	9 E	■	10 A	11 C	12 M	13 E
14 R	U	L	E	■	15 A	R	B	O	R	■	16 L	O	A	F
17 I	N	S	E	C	T	18 R	E	P	E	L	L	E	N	T
20 F	L	A	T	H	E	A	D	S	■	21 A	I	R	■	■
22 T	E	C	■	23 A	N	T	■	■	24 P	U	N	C	H	Y
27 S	T	E	M	■	■	29 A	F	T	E	R	■	32 I	O	U
■	■	■	33 I	T	S	■	36 A	N	T	E	R	O	O	M
■	■	38 M	U	S	I	C	A	L	T	A	L	E	N	T
41 V	E	N	O	M	O	U	S	■	42 L	S	D	■	■	■
43 E	M	S	■	44 P	O	K	E	R	■	46 O	M	E	N	■
50 T	O	E	C	A	P	■	■	52 I	M	F	■	55 A	V	E
■	■	56 E	O	N	■	57 M	58 I	N	I	B	59 I	K	E	S
60 R	E	M	A	I	N	I	N	G	S	I	L	E	N	T
63 I	T	L	L	■	64 O	N	S	E	T	■	65 K	I	L	L
66 B	A	Y	S	■	67 R	E	T	R	Y	■	69 S	T	Y	E

Classifieds

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JOB OPENING

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PUBLIC NOTICE

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SHELBYVILLE POWER, WATER, AND SEWER BOARD WILL MEET

January 27, 2026, AT 5:00 PM
AT THE SHELBYVILLE POWER SYSTEM OFFICE,
308 SOUTH MAIN STREET.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND ANY AND ALL MEETINGS.

ANYONE DESIRING TO COMMENT TO THE BOARD ON MATTERS GERMANE TO THE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA SHALL CONTACT JASON REESE BY NOON ON THE DAY BEFORE THE MEETING.

SHELBYVILLE POWER, WATER & SEWER BOARDS
931-684-7171

Obituaries

James Anthony Robison Sr.



James Anthony Robison Sr., passed away on January 15th, surrounded by family.

He was the son of Patricia Blackwell & Bill Robison and Stepfather Terry Blackwell. He is survived by 2 sons, James Robison and Johnathon Robison; 2 daughters, Heaven Collins and Jasmine Robison; 2 brothers, David Robison and William Hickman; 4 sisters, Lisa Johnsey, Julie Martin, Kim Creek and Brenda Hickman; 11 grandchildren, Nate, Gabe, Dawson, Madison, Mason, Isabella, Baylee, Riley, Willow, Oplynn, and Liam.

He was preceded in death by his father, Bill Robison, and his great nephew, Lincoln Martin.

"Peewee" loved the outdoors, fishing and feeding the farm animals.

He will be greatly missed.

Death Notices

Shonda Yuette Hill

December 16, 1989 - January 14, 2026

Feldhaus-Gowen Smith Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

George Rayburn Martin, Jr.

George Rayburn Martin Jr., passed away on January 18, 2026, in Murfreesboro. A lifelong resident of Bedford County, George is survived by his parents, George Rayburn Martin, Sr. and Connie Pendergrast; his longtime partner, Jamie Marie Cooper; his children, Caleb Martin, Colson Martin, and Caitlin Cooper.

Feldhaus-Gowen Smith Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Richard "Rock" Allen Stephens

Rev. Richard Allen "Rock" Stephens, affectionately known to many as "The ROCK," age 70, of Shelbyville, died on January 17, 2026. He was born in Shelbyville to the late Robert Lee Stephens and Eula Mae Sanders Stephens.

Feldhaus-Gowen Smith Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Enhance Your Home with Bold Colors





(Family Features) Homeowners seeking ideas to make a design statement and modernize their home interiors and exteriors can incorporate bold colors to achieve their renovation goals. Neutrals may be versatile, but bold colors introduce a striking way to reflect personality and elevate a home's design.

Learn how to incorporate bold colors into your home with these tips from the design experts at Simonton Windows & Doors, part of Cornerstone Building Brands, a leading manufacturer of windows in North America.

Interior Paint

The wall color sets the tone of a room's overall ambiance, but many homeowners are cautious about incorporating too much color. That's a valid concern, since too many vibrant hues can feel overwhelming or create competing focal points that leave a room feeling cluttered and busy.

The key to bold colors on walls is balance. Bold walls offset by moderate flooring and furnishings create a room that is equally attention-grabbing and tastefully grounding. If you're hesitant about taking bold colors too far, try designing your room with one bold accent wall and complement that color with accessories such as pillows and rugs or even statement furnishings to tie it all together.

Replacement Windows

Windows often fade into a home's design aesthetic, but that doesn't have to be the case. In fact, dark window finishes are becoming one of the season's biggest design statements, offering homeowners a way to refresh their home's curb appeal.

In response to growing consumer demand for sleek, modern window designs, Simonton introduced on-trend black and bronze interior and exterior finishes across its vinyl window collections, including DaylightMax Windows, which feature a unique slim-frame window design offering ample natural light while providing maximum energy efficiency.

For maximum impact, durability and low-maintenance appeal, consider pairing black or bronze window finishes with trending seasonal palettes and decor.

Cabinetry

Architectural elements can also play an important role in establishing a modern design motif for your home. This is especially true when it comes to the cabinetry in your kitchen and bathroom. Stepping away from classic neutral wood stains, white or gray to use bold paint or stain colors instead can completely transform a room.

Some homeowners go all-in and incorporate color across the entire room while others apply different colors for the tops and bottoms to create some variation or avoid overdoing a bold hue. Still others opt for a statement approach, and similar to choosing just one wall, they add a bold color to just one section of cabinetry, such as a coffee station or island base.

Cabinetry hardware adds another dimension of bold design. Stepping away from classic brushed nickel or oil-rubbed bronze and instead installing matte black, brushed brass, bronze or gunmetal brings a contemporary vibe that can accentuate a bold color choice.

Patio Doors

Establishing continuity between your indoor and outdoor living spaces means making your patio door part of a cohesive design that flows from the indoors out. An option like the Simonton MaxView Multi-Slide Patio Door Collection does precisely that. With custom sizing up to 10 feet high and 30 feet wide, the collection is available in multiple panel options with bypass, pocket or bi-part configurations. The doors also come in black or bronze exterior finishes, reflecting the trend toward bolder color choices.

"Homeowners want modern design without compromising performance," said Kate Land, vice president of product and innovation at Cornerstone Building Brands. "Incorporating these innovative, durable finishes into our premium vinyl window and door collections delivers exactly that. These bold color options elevate a home's overall design while the advanced glass and functionality of these vinyl windows deliver the highest standards of energy efficiency and durability."

Incorporating bold colors into your design can make the space feel your own while demonstrating personality and modernization. Find more ideas and inspiration to answer the call for bold style at simonton.com.

Digital Therapeutics Offer Hope to Rural Residents

(Family Features) While mental health challenges can affect virtually anyone living anywhere, there are certain populations that are at particular disadvantages for a variety of reasons. Rural areas in the United States have an estimated 17.58 million people in nonmetropolitan areas that experienced depression in 2024, according to microdata from the National Health Interview Survey, but these areas may not have enough support and treatment options.

To learn more about rural residents' experiences with mental health and awareness of additional or alternatives to traditional treatments that may be effective in rural areas, Rural Minds, the only national 501(c)(3) nonprofit focused on advocating for rural mental health, conducted a survey among rural Pennsylvania residents. Nearly 7 in 10 participants (69%) indicated in the past year they have either experienced symptoms of depression themselves or been concerned about someone close to them who is dealing with depression.

"While there are many effective depression treatments in use by mental health professionals, common barriers to mental health treatment for residents of rural areas include the lack of confidentiality in small communities, fewer providers and greater distance to access mental health services," said Jeff Winton, founder and chairman of Rural Minds. "In addition, many rural residents are either uninsured or underinsured."

The poll also showed 3 in 4 rural residents (76%) are aware of talk therapy as a depression treatment or intervention, and more than two-thirds (68%) are aware of pharmacological treatments. However, significantly less are aware of additional therapies. For example, only 17% indicated being aware of digital therapeutics and 11% reported awareness of eye movement desensitization and reprocessing.

"Depression is a significant challenge for people living in rural areas," said Robert E. Nelson, MD, co-owner of DGR Behavioral Health, LLC, and medical director at Caron Counseling Center. "In some parts of the country, mental health services are nonexistent or very limited in rural communities. Additionally, the factors leading to depression can be different for those living outside urban and suburban communities."

In areas where access to traditional services is limited, other options may help fill the gaps for individuals experiencing depression. For example, nearly half of survey participants (47%) would be interested in a digital app for depression as part of their treatment plan.

What are prescription digital therapeutics (PDTs)?

Technology is changing the way patients receive treatment in many aspects of medicine. That is also true when it comes to mental health. PDTs are health softwares, delivered using a device such as a smartphone or computer, to treat or alleviate a condition, disorder, disease or injury. This type of treatment may need to be paired with traditional forms of treatment to help address a variety of conditions, including mental health conditions.

Treatment delivered digitally can include brain-training exercises, cognitive behavioral therapy and behavioral reinforcement exercises. Some PDTs can also adapt based on usage.

To be considered a true prescription digital therapeutic, the software must be authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which gives users greater confidence in its usage and outcomes.

Prescription digital therapeutics offer an additional or alternative treatment.

In addition to the potential positive implications for improving access to mental health treatment options among rural residents, there are some other potential advantages to prescription digital therapeutics:

- **Less likely to cause side effects**. Because there are no additional medications involved, this form of therapy doesn't carry the same risk of medicine-related side effects or drug interactions with other medications that the user may be taking.
- **Studied for safety and effectiveness.** In order to qualify for FDA authorization, they are studied in clinical trials to verify their safety and effectiveness.
- **Convenient**. Since PDTs are provided via a personal device, such as a smartphone or tablet, the patient can access treatment when and where it's most convenient.
- **Private**. The nature of a PDT means it's delivered remotely, and patients can pursue treatment within their own homes or other private locations without the need to make regular visits to a doctor's office.

Learn more about the mental health challenges facing Americans and find a prescription app at ruraldepressionoptions.com.

2026 Cooper Steel Arena/ Champions Arena Calendar of Events

January 2-3
USFA Fast Pitch Softball
January 9-10
USFA Fast Pitch Softball
January 16-17
USFA Fast Pitch Softball
January 23-24
USFA Fast Pitch Softball
February 6-7
Lone Star Rodeo
February 14
Archery
February 19-22
BBR Barrel Race
February 27- 28
Southern Kentucky Arenacross
March 7
Demolition Derby
March 12-15
Tennessee Stock Horse Show
March 20-21
TNT Truck and Tractor Pull
March 26-28
Walking Horse Trainers Show
April 16-18
Racking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Spring show
April 22-25
FAST
May 14-17
Good Times Barrel Racing
May 21-23
Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Spring Fun Show
May 30
Black Rodeo USA
May 28- 31 *Champions arena*
Southern Cowboy Obstacle Challenge Association
June 12 *Champions arena*
TWHBEA Jamboree
June 13 *Champions arena*
Walking for Cancer
June 15-20
All American Youth Barrel Race
June 24-28
State 4-H Horse Show
July 1-2
FAST
July 3
Money Tree Classic
July 14-19
Ranch Horse Summer Sizzler
July 23 *Champions arena*
Heart of Champions Walking Horse Show
July 24-25
Miniature Donkey Extravaganza
August 26-Sept 5
Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration
September 11-19
Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association
Eastern Regional Championship
September 24-27
American Mule and Music Association
October 5-10
Racking Horse World Celebration
October 14-17
Spotted Saddle Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Assoc. Fall Show
October 31
Monster Truck Wars
November 5-7
TWHNC Fall Classic
November 5-9
The MEGA Barrel Race
December 6
USFA Fast Pitch Softball
December 11-12
Cooper Steel (Private Event)
December 18-19
USFA Fast Pitch Softball

Cascade Holds on Late to Upset No. 3 Cannon County in Non-District Contest

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

WOODBURY, Tenn. - T The Cascade Champions (13-7, 2-1) jumped out to a 21-point lead at halftime over the No. 3 ranked Cannon County Lions (15-4, 2-0) before holding off a furious rally down the stretch in a 67-65 wire-to-wire upset win inside of Robert A. Harris Gymnasium on Tuesday night.

For the second consecutive game, Doug Worsley's Champions closed out a one-possession game with a stop on the defensive end after Anderson Lara – who scored 21 of his game-high 24 points in the second half alone – came up short on a 35-foot fadeaway three-pointer at the buzzer.

Kaleb Kelso led the way for Cascade with a team-high 20 points, including 10 in the fourth quarter alone. Henry Stone finished with 19 points, Tyler Rodgers added 12 points in the first half, and Cooper McElroy chipped in with 11 points as the visitors earned a split in the non-district season series.

After torching Cascade for 31 points in the first meeting between these two teams, the Lions' leading scorer, Lukas Phillips, was held to just 15 points on the night. Miles Alexander was forced to navigate early foul trouble yet again, but he still finished with 14 points on the night.

It was all Cascade early on with the visitors jumping out to a 10-2 lead before taking a 21-10 advantage at the end of the first quarter. The Champions played even better in the second, maintaining their frenetic energy on both ends of the floor to outscore the Lions by 10 points, 18-8, to head into the halftime locker room with an emphatic 39-18 lead. Cascade connected on seven three-pointers in the first half alone while holding the Lions to zero.

However, Jared Nave's Lions came out in the second half looking like the No. 3 team in Class AA, led by Anderson Lara opening the third quarter with eight points in the first four minutes of the period to help trim the lead down to 44-30 at the halfway point. As the quarter wound down, Phillips knocked in a pair of free throws to bring the Lions within seven points before Kelso closed out the period with a 15-foot pull-up jumper to give Cascade a 49-41 lead heading into the final frame.

Cannon County kept up their pressure in the fourth, finally drawing within a single possession after Lara's layup made it 56-53 with 3:37 remaining. Stone responded for the Champions with a knifing lefty layup over the outstretched arms of the 6-foot-5 Eli Garrett on the ensuing possession, but then Alexander fought back with a pair of free throws at the 3:04 mark to get it back down to three.

Coming out of a timeout, Cascade went to Kelso on a dribble-handoff, and this time he floated in two points from six feet over Phillips to go back up by five, 60-55. Alexander split a pair of free throws before Kelso once again converted on the other end for the Champions on a strong drive to the hoop. Kelso converted on the three-point play, giving Cascade a 63-56 lead with 2:24 on the clock.

The Lions were able to generate one final push, going on a 7-2 spurt over the next 1:24 to trim the lead back down to three points with a minute to go. As the clock ticked under 60 seconds, Cascade looked content to play keepaway until an expected foul, but Tristin Billings was unable to pass up a wide-open three-point attempt with 45 seconds to go, giving the ball back to the Lions with a chance to tie.

Jared Nave called timeout after Cascade nearly forced a turnover with 32.6 on the timer, but Cooper McElroy jumped the intended pass from Phillips to Garrett, prompting a foul with 19.1 remaining. McElroy split a pair, giving the Champions a 67-63 lead.

Alexander finished a layup in traffic on the other end to trim the lead back down to two points, 67-65, with 10.9 on the clock followed by a quick Lions timeout to stop the clock. Coming out of the timeout, Cascade got the ball into the hands of Henry Stone – an 80% free throw shooter – but despite missing both, Lara's heave at the horn came up well short to secure the upset win for the Champions.

Cascade improves to 12-7 overall. The Champions are scheduled to host No. 5 Summertown in a rescheduled District 9-AA contest on Thursday night for homecoming, LIVE on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400 at 5:45 p.m.

Cascade: Kelso 20 (2), Stone 19 (3), Rodgers 12 (1), McElroy 11 (1), Billings 7 (1), Pilkington 5.

Cannon County: Lara 24 (4), Phillips 15, Alexander 14, Hatfield 4, Garrett 2, Walkup 2, Alford 1.



Cascade's Henry Stone (10) drives to the basket for two of his 19 points in Tuesday's win while Kaleb Kelso (5) looks on. Kelso finished with a team-high 20 points. *Photo courtesy of David Smith.*

No. 4 Lady Champs Come Out Flat in Upset Loss at Cannon County

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

WOODBURY, Tenn. - After seeing a six-game winning streak come to an end at No. 1 Richland on Saturday, many expected the No. 4 ranked Cascade Lady Champions (16-5, 3-0) to come out with an increased level of focus and intensity for Tuesday night's road trip to former district foe, Cannon County (8-7, 1-1). Instead, the Lady Champs came out flat, falling behind by as many as 13 points in the second half before a late rally came up short in a shocking 48-44 upset inside of Robert A. Harris Gymnasium.

Kaegan Young finished with a game-high 25 points for Cascade with 18 coming in the second half alone, but she was the only Lady Champion to finish in double figures. Caroline Parker added nine points while Lizzie Keele chipped in with seven in the second half.

For Cannon County, Elly Bain scored a team-high 17 points, and Abi Alexander scored 12 of her 14 points in the second half.

Early on, the Lionettes managed to prevent Cascade from getting to the paint, taking a 9-5 lead at the end of the opening period. Cascade shot seven threes in the first and made just one while only getting up four shots inside the arc.

In the second quarter, both teams found some semblance of offense, and the Lady Champions actually outscored the Lionettes, 12-10, to head into the halftime locker room down by just two points, 19-17.

Coming out for the second half, Cannon County ramped the intensity up another level, holding Cascade to just eight points in the third quarter en route to a 34-25 lead for the hosts heading into the final frame.

Young began to assert herself offensively in the fourth quarter – highlighted by her connecting on three triples in a row – and led her squad back to within three points, 46-43, with 13.3 seconds remaining after knocking down a pair of free throws. Cascade had to foul, but Bain missed both free throws to leave the door cracked open for the Lady Champions. With a timeout in Cascade's pocket, Young opted to quickly try and extend the game by going for the layup or getting to the free throw line, but her heavily contested layup attempt would not fall and there was no whistle blown.

Bain split a pair of free throws with five seconds left to seal the upset win for Cannon County.

Cascade suffers back-to-back losses for the first time this season, falling to 16-5 overall. The Lady Champions return home for District 9-AA play against Summertown on Thursday night, LIVE on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400 starting at 5:45 p.m.



Kaegan Young (22) floats in two of her game-high 25 points over Cannon County's Abi Alexander (15) in Tuesday's road upset loss. *Photo courtesy of David Smith.*

Golden Eagles Complete Fourth Quarter Comeback at Summit Behind Cannon's 27 Points

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

SPRING HILL, Tenn. - The Shelbyville Central Golden Eagles (15-8, 3-0) completed the season sweep over the Summit Spartans (13-5, 0-0), 70-65, thanks to a furious fourth quarter rally spearheaded by Tommie Cannon's 27-point outing on Tuesday.

Ford DeShazo led the Spartans with a team-high 25 points of his own, including 14 coming in the second half alone. Summit also got 17 points from Joel Coverston who connected on four three-pointers in the process, but no one else was able to crack double-digits.

Shelbyville was obviously led by Cannon's game-high 27 points, but Tae'Shawn Shelton added 13 points along with Jordan Taylor chipping in with 11 points. Meanwhile, Jevon Lee was held to just six points on the interior. As a team, the Golden Eagles were able to knock down seven three-pointers to counter the nine hits from downtown by the Spartans.

In the early stages, Shelbyville jumped out to a 20-15 lead at the end of the opening period. Cannon and Shelton both scored five points, Lee added four, Taylor scored three, and Ladd Sparrow knocked down a triple. As the second quarter progressed, Cannon took over on the offensive end, opening the period with a three before finishing with 11 points in the second stanza. Meanwhile, Summit was able to get into an offensive rhythm, outscoring the visitors, 22-16, to take a 37-36 lead heading into the halftime locker room.

Coming out for the second half, Summit continued to grow its lead, outscoring Shelbyville, 19-13, to take a 56-49 advantage heading into the final frame. DeShazo and Coverston combined to score 14 points in the third quarter alone for the Spartans.

However, Cannon refused to lose, taking over with nine points in the fourth quarter while Jack Conditt scored all five of his points in the fourth as well. Shelbyville held Summit to just nine points in the period, seven of which came from DeShazo, and the Golden Eagles completed the comeback to win by five, 70-65.

The Golden Eagles improve to 15-8 overall. Shelbyville is scheduled to return home for District 6-AAAA play on Friday, weather permitting, at 7:30 p.m. against Warren County.

SHELBYVILLE: Cannon 27 (2), Shelton 13 (1), Taylor 12 (1), Lee 6, Conditt 5 (1), Johnson 5 (1), Sparrow 3 (1).

SUMMIT: DeShazo 25 (2), Coverston 17 (3), Rose 9 (3), Fell 5, Bourdon 3 (1), Anderson 2, Lavalleur 2.



Tommie Cannon (2), finished with a game-high 27 points in the return game against the Spartans in Spring Hill on Tuesday night. *T-G Staff Photo by Noah Maddox.*

Viqueens Pull Away Late From Chapel Hill For First District 9-AA Win

BY NOAH MADDOX
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CHAPEL HILL, Tenn. — The Community Viqueens (10-11, 1-3) picked up their first District 9-AA win on Tuesday night, taking down Chapel Hill (13-7, 0-3), 50-32 on the road.

The Viqueens were led by Anna Haskins, who finished with a team-high 15 points. Savannah Pearson reached double-figures with 11 points while Mattie Maxey and Alyssa White added eight points apiece.

The Lady Rockets were led by Baeliy Stalnecker's team-high 15 points, but she was the only player for the hosts to crack double-digits.

As a team, Community was able to dominate at the free throw line, shooting 23-for-26 at the line for their best performance of the season. Maxey connected on all six of her attempts in the fourth quarter while Haskins went 9-for-12 on the night.

Early on, both teams struggled to get anything going offensively, but the Viqueens did manage to take an 8-2 lead at the end of the opening period thanks to four free throws from Haskins.

In the second quarter, Pearson helped keep the visitors in front with three connections from downtown while Stalnecker led Chapel Hill with eight points in the period. Community managed to hold onto a five-point lead, 21-16, heading into the halftime locker room.

Coming out for the second half, Haskins began to assert herself, knifing her way to the basket for a couple of layups before nailing all four of her free throw attempts in the third quarter, giving the Viqueens a 33-26 lead heading into the final frame.

In the fourth quarter, the Viqueens managed to flip the narrative on their free throw struggles this season, nailing 13-of-14 free throw attempts in the period to pull away from the hosts. Maxey led the way by knocking down all six of her attempts, and the Community defense held the Lady Rockets to just one field goal in the final period of play and six points in total, running away to win by 18 points, 50-32.

The Viqueens improve to 10-11 overall. Community is tentatively scheduled to host Class A's No. 1 ranked team, Richland, in a non-district affair on Friday, weather permitting, at 6:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY: Haskins 15, Pearson 11 (3), White 8, Maxey 8, Prudmore 4, Moore 2, Yoes 2.

CHAPEL HILL: Stalnecker 15, Borba 6 (2), Dillon 6, S. Smith 3 (1), C. Smith 2.

Eaglettes End Losing Streak, Earn Season Sweep Over Summit

BY NOAH MADDOX
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SPRING HILL, Tenn. – The Shelbyville Central Golden Eaglettes (6-14, 0-3) snapped an eight-game losing streak with a 52-42 non-district road win at Summit (4-11, 0-0) on Tuesday night.

Janiya Leslie led the way for the Eaglettes, scoring a team-high 13 points in the second meeting between these two teams this season. Jada Berry got back on track as well, finishing with 12 points of her own while Dara Frazier chipped in with eight points on the night.

For Summit, Sam Malcolm finished with a team-high 13 points, but the Eaglettes defense prevented any other Lady Spartan from joining in her double-figures. Ava Krohl added nine points for the hosts on a trio of three-pointers.

Early on, both teams struggled to find an offensive rhythm, but Shelbyville did manage to take a 7-6 lead by the end of the opening period. In the second quarter, Summit fought back, outscoring Shelbyville, 14-12, in the frame to take a one-point lead, 20-19, heading into the halftime locker room. Berry led the Eaglettes with eight points in the second quarter alone to keep her team within striking distance.

Coming out for the second half, Shelbyville held the Lady Spartans to just three made field goals in the third quarter, outscoring the hosts, 14-9, to take a 33-29 lead heading into the final frame. Jayda Frazier scored four of her six points in the third while Destiny McCullough and Dara Frazier each knocked in a three-pointer.



Janiya Leslie (2) scored 11 points in the 4th quarter at Summit. *T-G Photo by Noah Maddox.*

In the fourth quarter, Leslie took over, scoring 11 of her 13 points in the final eight minutes alone to put Summit away. First, she knocked down a triple, then she managed to knife her way to the basket for three other two-point field goals before knocking down a pair of free throws. Meanwhile, Summit could not keep up with the offensive burst from the Eaglettes as Shelbyville outscored the Lady Spartans, 19-13, en route to the 52-42 final score.

The Eaglettes improve to 6-14 overall. Shelbyville returns to district play later this week, hosting Warren County on Friday starting at 6:00 p.m. weather permitting.

SHELBYVILLE: Leslie 13 (1), Berry 12, D. Frazier 8 (1), McFarland 7, J. Frazier 6, McCullough 3 (1), Patton 2, Young 1.

SUMMIT: Malcolm 13 (1), Krohl 9 (3), Kofink 6 (2), Allee 6, Garcia 4 (1), French 1.

Vikings Use Massive 22-Point Fourth Quarter to Ground Rockets

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

CHAPEL HILL, Tenn. – It wasn't pretty, but the Community Vikings (13-7, 2-2) managed to overcome a letdown performance against Chapel Hill (5-15, 0-3) behind a 22-point fourth quarter to come away with a 46-37 road win in District 9-AA play on Tuesday night.

Coming off of a big home win over Loretto on Friday night, Community was nearly caught sleeping by the Vikings' longtime former head coach and current Rockets' head man, Robbie Davis.

Andrew Tocchio nailed a clutch three along with all four of his free throw attempts in the fourth to lead the Vikings with a game-high 13 points on the night. Jaxon Williams finished with 11 points while Charlie Haskins was held to his lowest scoring output in district play so far with just four points.

Andrew Myers led the Rockets with 12 points, but he was held scoreless in the fourth quarter. Myers was the only player for Chapel Hill to reach double figures.

To start the game, Chapel Hill jumped out to an early 14-6 lead by the end of the opening period. Myers led the way with seven points while Jon Hightower added three more for the hosts. Tocchio hit a three to go along with Williams scoring a two-pointer along with splitting a pair of free throws.

In the second stanza, neither team found an offensive rhythm in any capacity. Chapel Hill scored just two points in the quarter from Myers, but the Rockets were able to hold Community to just four points themselves, allowing the hosts to take a 16-10 lead heading into the halftime locker room.

Coming out for the second half, then Johnathan Lawwel began to find his scoring touch, leading the Vikings with four points in the third quarter. Community outscored Chapel Hill, 14-8, and managed to tie the game up at 24 heading into the final frame.

Finally, the Vikings began to assert themselves in the fourth quarter, eventually outscoring the Rockets, 22-13, to reach the final score of 46-37. Lawwel scored five more points, Tocchio led the way with seven, and Williams added four points to give the visitors just enough of a push to reach .500 in District 9-AA play at the halfway point.

The Vikings improve to 13-7 overall. Community is tentatively scheduled to host Richland on Friday, weather permitting, with tip-off set for 7:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY: Tocchio 13 (2), Williams 11, Lawwel 9, Powers 5, Reed 4, Haskins 4.

CHAPEL HILL: Myers 12, Hightower 6, Matlock 6, Willis 4, Doud 4, Anderson 3 (1).

ICE IS THE WORD

By Dawn Hankins

Bedford County Public Safety Committee was informed Tuesday night about two different kinds of ice-the ICE dealing with illegal immigration and the weather-related ice that is likely to form around the County within the next few days.

Sheriff Austin Swing was asked by County Commissioner Eric Maddox, on behalf of some of his constituents, about Bedford County's cooperation with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement.)

Better known as the 287-G program, it has been established there's a jail enforcement model and a task force one.

"I think folks are looking to better understand that," said Commissioner Maddox. "I know other counties have signed up for it. Forty counties?"

"The short answer is yes," said Swing.

"Thank you, sheriff," said Maddox.

The sheriff went on to further explain his department's progress.

He said while about 40 counties have signed up with ICE, Bedford County has not yet signed an agreement. He explained why.

"We have met with ICE on more than one occasion," the sheriff shared, noting BC is in the Chattanooga District. He said it seems the headquarters of some enforcement task force or agency is always located the farthest from BC.

The sheriff said BC and the ICE task force have not reached an agreed upon arrangement. But he did make it clear that the sheriff's office has never failed to cooperate with other agencies.

This one, he notes, has just taken some time. "Some of this didn't line up . . . ." said Swing.

One of those things not meeting local protocol, the sheriff said, was that BC would be responsible for housing all ICE prisoners. That didn't fly.

"We didn't think that was fair because it puts a burden on BC taxpayers."

He said the department is aligned with what's expected and continues to work with the agreement and ICE representatives. He did note some ICE representatives have been removed and sent elsewhere since the negotiations first began.

"Hopefully we will have a good agreement. I'm not sure when it will happen."

Swing said County Attorney John T. Bobo has looked over the latest agreement. While everything seems good, Swing says he's being cautious and awaiting final approval.

He said without such blessings, the department might wind up in "quick sand." He said BCSO takes this ICE issue very serious.

In the latest agreement, some payment was mentioned for housing prisoners and was a pretty good amount. But he said BCSO doesn't intend to house every illegal alien outside the County.

It seemed only right, advised the sheriff, as BC turns out more ICE prisoners than anyone elseeven Chattanooga-in the district. Most ICE arrests are usually made following identification verifications, he said.

Maddox praised the sheriff's office for their hard work. He thanked the sheriff for outlining this process and where it currently stands.

Sheriff Swing said the department isn't leaning to left or right politics but just wants to keep the best interest of the community first and foremost.

"That's just the way it is."

EMA Director David Kitchens explained to the Public Safety Committee what happened with the train car derailment on Tuesday morning in Wartrace. He said there were no leaks from the ethanol aboard and everything was in tack with the train car.

There were a handful of folks who sought shelter at the Wartrace Gym after being evacuated.

CSX representatives, he said, took over the scene from Bedford County later on Tuesday. The cars were expected to be back up soon and CSX will get them safely out of the area. The track also has to be repaired, Kitchens said.

He talked about the weekend weather. "Right now, we're in a battlefield line with ice and snow."

While weather patterns are still being watched, Kitchens said he could say one thing for sure, "It's going to happen."

He said there will likely be a meeting in the next few days with County public safety officials.

Service milestones reached

Bedford County Sheriff's Office/Sheriff Austin Swing, recently congratulated BCSO employees who have reached service milestones. Detective John Lasater, Detective Sgt. Chris Brown, Deputy Maison Bucka, Lt. Josh Tolar, Sgt. Clyde Boyce, Deputy Mitchell Warren, Deputy Brian Farris, and Deputy Chasity Ziegler received years of service commendations from Sheriff Austin Swing.

Detective Lasater received his 10-year service commendation bar. He serves as a detective in the Criminal Investigations Division.

Detective Sgt. Brown received his 10-year service commendation bar. He serves as a detective in the Criminal Investigations Division.

Deputy Bucka received his 5-year service commendation bar. He is currently assigned to the B Day shift in the Patrol Division.

Lt. Tolar received his 20-year service commendation bar. He is currently the Lt. over the Patrol Division.

Sgt. Boyce received his 15-year service commendation. He is currently assigned to the B Day shift in the Patrol Division.

Deputy Warren received his 5-year service commendation bar. He is currently assigned to the Judicial Services Division.

Deputy Farris received his 30-year service commendation bar. He is currently assigned to the Judicial Services Division.

Deputy Ziegler received her 10-year service commendation bar. She is currently assigned to the School Resource Officer Division.












Community criminal justice students step up during Christmas

Helping families and students in need

Community High School Criminal Justice Student Organization under the direction of instructor Chris Hobbs, held its 3rd annual Toy Drive on Dec. 10. These students planned and worked hard providing for 28 families comprised of around 50 children in need.







BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES THROUGH EDUCATION

BCSO Photos

On Tuesday, Lt. Tracey Harvey, Detective Savanah Martin, Detective Sgt. Chris Brown, and Sgt. Cam Farrell spent time with a group of fifth-grade girls and fifth grade boys at Cartwright Elementary. They discussed bullying, cyberbullying, and the lasting impact our words and actions can have on others.

They also discussed cell phone and social media safety, reminding students how important it is to think before they post and to use technology responsibly. They also emphasized the dangers of talking to people online who you don't know.

THP Traffic Notices

In compliance with a Tennessee Supreme Court ruling for all law enforcement to notify the public of when and where a roadblock will be held, the Tennessee Highway Patrol is advising all motorists of the following upcoming checkpoints. The courts require proof roadblocks are conducted In the best Interest of overall public safety and THP's checkpoint times and locations are strategically selected through crash and crime data collection to maximize their overall effectiveness and efficiency.

Driver License Checkpoints:

Recognizing the danger presented to the public by unqualified drivers, Troopers will concentrate their efforts on vehicles being operated by drivers who violate the driver license laws of Tennessee and take corrective actions for other violations observed.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol has found these driver license roadside safety checkpoints to be an effective means of enforcing driver license laws of Tennessee while ensuring the protection of all motorists.

Sobriety Checkpoints:

1. **February 06, 2026**, at 8 pm on State Route 82 South @ 6.5 MM in Bedford County.

2. **February 27, 2026**, at 8 pm on U.S. 41A North / S.R. 16 - .9 miles south of the 3 MM in Bedford County.

Troopers will evaluate drivers for signs of alcohol or drug Impairment and take corrective actions for other violations observed while ensuring the protection of all motorists. The Tennessee Highway Patrol recognizes that sobriety checkpoints are highly visible and an effective tool in the battle against impaired driving.

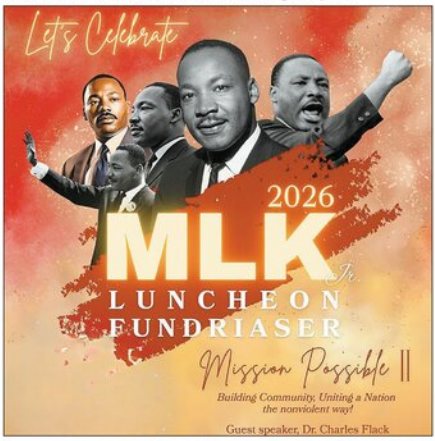
Safety Belt Checkpoints:

Recognizing the danger presented to unbelted vehicle occupants, Troopers will target those who operate a vehicle while unbelted and take corrective actions for other violations observed. The Tennessee Highway Patrol recognizes that safety belt checkpoints are highly visible and effective tools of enforcing the safety belt laws of Tennessee while ensuring the protection of vehicle occupants.

PEOPLE AROUND TOWN
A DAY TO CELEBRATE

T-G Photos by Marilyn Ewing

Gilliland Resource Center held its annual Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr., Day luncheon on Monday at the Fly Arts Center in Shelbyville. Several guests were in attendance for the fundraiser. Charles Flack was guest speaker.



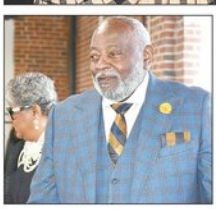














Cascade High Culinary Arts students earn top 8 in the state





Cascade High School Culinary Arts students of Megan Sager-Isabella Highfill and Hannah Nevills- recently competed in the 8th annual Tennessee Department of Education Junior Chef Competition where they placed in the top 8 teams in the state and are moving on to the next portion.

In this competition, students "compete to develop a nutritious, student-friendly recipe that includes local foods and is easily incorporated into the school nutrition program".

The first part of the competition is a recipe contest which determines which teams move on to the culinary competition. A maximum of 8 teams in the state are selected to move on. Cascade High School's team met this rigorous accomplishment and are moving on to the cooking competition in early March.

The submitted recipes had to meet National School Lunch Program requirements including having less than 750 calories, less than 1,000 mg of sodium, containing 2 ounces of meat, 2 ounces of whole grains, and ½ cup of fruit or vegetables. Cascade's team developed a tasty meal of Honey BBQ Chicken on a Bed of Whole Grain Rice, Crinkle Cut Sweet Potato Fries, Smashed Carrots, and a Strawberry Cup.

The next step was to prepare their meal in front of a panel of judges who judged the dishes based on appeal, recipe presentations, school nutrition reproducibility, and a short presentation.

Please enjoy two recipe favorites of the culinary class.

One Pot Teriyaki Chicken, Rice and Vegetables

PREP TIME: 10 minutes
COOK TIME: 20 minutes
TOTAL TIME: 30 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 2 boneless skinless chicken breasts cubed
- Salt and pepper
- Red bell pepper diced
- Green bell pepper diced
- Carrot
- 2 teaspoons fresh minced garlic
- 2½ cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 cup long-grain white rice
- ¼ cup low-sodium soy sauce
- ¼ cup honey
- 1 tablespoon vinegar

Instructions:

1. In a large skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat.
2. Season chicken with salt and pepper.
3. Add chicken to the pan and cook until browned on the outside for about 2-3 minutes.
4. Add vegetables and cook for 4-5 minutes until crisp-tender, stirring continuously.
5. Add broth, rice, soy sauce, honey, and vinegar, and bring to a simmer over medium-high heat.
6. Cover, reduce heat to medium-low, and cook, stirring often, just until rice is al dente (be careful not to overcook). If the liquid is absorbed and the rice is not cooked, simply add additional liquid, ¼ cup at a time.
7. Season to taste and serve.

Chicken Fajitas

PREP TIME: 10 minutes
COOK TIME: 30 minutes
SERVINGS: 2

Ingredients:

- 1 Garlic Clove
- 2 Chicken Breasts
- ½ Medium Onion
- ½ Lime
- 1 Green Bell Pepper
- 1 Red Bell Pepper
- ½ teaspoon Chili Powder
- ¼ teaspoon Paprika
- ¼ teaspoon Onion Powder
- ¼ teaspoon Black Pepper
- ½ teaspoon Cumin
- Salt to Taste
- 2 Tortillas

Directions:

1. Cut onion into slivers & slice peppers
2. In a separate bowl, combine 1 tablespoon olive oil, juice of lime, chili powder, paprika, onion powder, pepper, cumin and salt.
3. Cut chicken into strips and toss with the spice mixture.
4. Preheat 1 tablespoon olive oil over medium high.
5. Add the garlic and cook for 1-2 minutes
6. Add the chicken and cook until just cooked, about 3-5 minutes.
7. Set chicken aside and add 1 tablespoon oil to the pan. Cook onions for 2 minutes.
8. Add in sliced peppers and cook an additional 2 minutes or just until hot.
9. Add chicken back to the pan and stir to combine.
10. Squeeze additional lime overtop and serve over tortillas.

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