COMMUNITY NEWS

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

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# It is said that all good things come to those who wait

## *School board hires Tim Harwell as next superintendent*



Tim Harwell

**By Dawn Hankins**

By unanimous vote (9-0) on Jan. 22, during a special called meeting, Bedford County Board of Education moved to hire Tim Harwell as new school superintendent, effective June 2, 2026.

Current superintendent Tammy Garrett has announced that after 5 years of service to BC School System, she will retire on June 1, 2026, when her contract expires.

During the hiring process 5 years ago, Harwell was the board's second place choice for superintendent. Harwell was hired as assistant superintendent.

***When asked if he was surprised by the recent appointment, Harwell told the T-G:***

"I wasn't surprised by the timeline. The board's attorney was present to outline all the legal hiring options and appointing someone immediately was one of those options. It was noted at the meeting that this wasn't a new precedent for our board as they followed a similar process when Mr. [Ed] Gray was appointed. I'm grateful for their trust and excited to continue serving our **schools and community."**

***What does this mean to him, as an educator? He told the T-G:***

"I am honored and excited to lead Bedford County Schools. When I began my career as a social studies teacher at Harris Middle School in 1999, I could not have imagined the journey that would lead me to this role. I knew God had a purpose for me in Bedford County, and I am grateful for the many opportunities He has provided for me to serve our students, families, and educators across this great county. I appreciate Dr. Garrett's leadership and the many accomplishments she has achieved for our BCS community, and I look forward to building on that foundation as we continue to create a culture of learning, support, and excellence."

Tennessee School Board Association (TSBA) Attorney Chuck Cagle, who joined the meeting via Zoom last week, told the board that state statute does not require that they do any kind of hiring search for a new superintendent. However, if they do decide to conduct a search, then local school board policy would apply.

As well, degrees and experience requirements are also left up to the local school board policy.

There must be a written contract for employment, for terms over a year in length, which Cagle said satisfies fraud statutes.

Harwell is a long-time local educator, having taught history at Harris Middle School and eventually becoming assistant principal there. Later, he worked as principal at Liberty School, Cascade High School, and Shelbyville Central High.

**See HARWELL, 2A**

# Local government officials tasked to help vulnerable seniors while weighing future County fiscal needs

***With election time around the corner, the Times-Gazette will begin explaining how County offices operate. Laws change from year to year regarding local operations, so we'll delve into what some new candidates and those incumbents will be facing in the next few years regarding County management.***

**Any candidate running for office, wishing to discuss issues, etc., is welcome to contact dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net.**



**By Dawn Hankins**

The job of a County Trustee in the State of Tennessee is to collect property taxes, account for and invest county funds and maintain a cash management system. The Trustee also administers the current senior property tax relief program.

And, if approved by the County Commission in the near future, the newly proposed senior property tax freeze for qualifying seniors over the age of 65 would also be under the management of the Trustee office.

It's a busy office, with lots of responsibilities at the local and state level, already. This could be monumental for a new Trustee office candidate as well as challenging for even an experienced one.

Having officially announced their candidacy as Bedford County Trustee (as of press time) in the May 5 Republican Primary are incumbent Tonya Davis and Samantha Mallard.

During the recent Rules and Legislative Committee meeting, current Trustee Davis was asked to speak about the proposed senior property tax freeze. She was also recommended to be on a committee which would further study the senior tax freeze over the next 90 days.

The senior property tax freeze proposal has been presented to the County by Commissioner Eric Maddox and City Councilman Josh Blevins. While Blevins was at the Rules Committee meeting, the City is still studying the proposal.

Trustee Davis told the Rules Committee members that while she feels "passionate" about such senior programs, it's her job, as Trustee, to give them all the necessary information they need.

"I will do anything asked of

**See NEEDS, 2A**

## Multi-Agency drug investigation results in 22 defendants and major Fentanyl seizure in Bedford County

Twenty-two people face hundreds of charges after agents with the 17th Judicial District Drug Task Force identified an increase in fentanyl overdoses which eventually led to seized fentanyl, cocaine and more as part of a multi-agency investigation.

According to Shelbyville Police Department, the fentanyl overdoses were connected with pills that were circulating in Bedford County. The pills were reportedly designed to look like prescription Percocet as they were blue tablets with "M" on one side and "30" on the other.

Throughout 2023, agents with the 17th Judicial District Drug Task Force (JDDTF) identified a significant increase in overdoses linked to clandestinely manufactured fentanyl pills circulating within the community. These pills were designed to resemble prescription Percocet tablets, blue in color and marked with the imprint "M" on one side and "30" on the other.

In response, agents with the 17th JDDTF, in partnership with Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Special Agent Timothy Miller, launched an extensive investigation in late 2023. The investigation focused on identifying and dismantling fentanyl distribution networks operating within the 17th Judicial District, with particular emphasis on Bedford County.

During the summer of 2024, the investigation expanded to include Deputy Tylar Prosser and K-9 Ranger of the Bedford County Sheriff's Department, and detectives from the Shelbyville Police Department, including Lieutenant Cody Swift, Sergeant Nathan Everhart, and Detective Brandy Merlo.

This multi-agency collaboration significantly strengthened investigative efforts and enforcement actions.

The operation culminated in the arrest of 22 defendants and the filing of 130 criminal charges.

As part of the investigation, agents, deputies, and detectives conducted:

- 23 controlled purchases
- 8 traffic stops
- 4 fugitive arrests
- 2 search warrants
- 1 parole/probation search

These enforcement actions resulted in the seizure of:

- 2,366 counterfeit "M30" fentanyl pills
- 14.5 grams of fentanyl powder
- 10 grams of cocaine
- 7 grams of MDMA
- 3 grams of crystal methamphetamine
- 4 psilocybin-infused candy bars
- 180 grams of marijuana
- 9 firearms, including 3 stolen firearms

Authorities emphasize that this operation reflects the continued commitment of local, state, and federal partners to combat the distribution of illicit fentanyl and protect the safety of the community.



## K9 JERRY GETS A SNOW DAY

*SPD Photo*

K9 Jerry of Shelbyville Police Department took a snow day this week, along with BC school kids and many others here.



## BEAUTIFUL BUT BRIEFLY PARALYZED

*Photo submitted by Ryan Fults*

Ryan Fults took some awesome Drone shots this week of Shelbyville during the inclement weather. The icy weather shut down schools, cancelled church services and forced several businesses to operate with limited hours. Schools remained closed Thursday, noting continued poor road conditions. See more snow photos on page 12.

## Correction:

In the Times-Gazette story last week about a soldier making the trek to the Scottish mountain to pay homage to his great-uncle who was killed in 1949, in a military plane crash, the writer inadvertently referred to Brad Martin as Brad Jones in the headline and lead paragraph. We regret the error. Please see the corrected copy of the entire story at t-g.com.

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**February is Black History Month**

Fly Arts Center has announced its upcoming Black History Celebration.

**See Page 7A**



**Shelbyville Central moves into First Place**

The Shelbyville Central Golden Eagles saw 11 players register at least one point in a dominant team win over Warren County.

**See Page 9A**

## HARWELL

From page 1A

Hiring of Harwell was pretty expedient. Glenn Forsee made with enthusiasm the original motion to hire the long-time educator with board members. Board member Bart Williams seconded that motion.

The board plans to have a meeting in February to go over Harwell's contract. While the salary amount was not mentioned during this called meeting, the superintendent generally ranks as one of the highest paid salaries in the County, next to the mayor and sheriff.

While she did vote yes to hire Harwell, and said she was not discrediting any credentials or experience, board member Shanna Boyette said she was having some pause about how the board was proceeding with the hiring process.

"My only concern . . . is in the court of public opinion, we require hosting of principal positions and teacher positions. And, I'm just struggling with process. I understand that state statute allows it but when we have those expectations on the word chart for other positions, I think all we've ever talked about is consistency with advertising."

She added, "I think AT THE LEAST we need to do an internal opportunity-not pay all TSBA and whatever-but give everybody a fair opportunity . . . talk about what their vision is and what their position is. I haven't had an opportunity to do that. Please don't take that as a knock."

Wearing her HR hat, she said this hiring expediency has caused her some concern.

Board Chair Michael Cook said, "I will tell you that we don't post every position in Bedford County School System. Maybe we should."

Cook then deferred to Attorney Cagle who explained the law is written very specifically regarding such jobs as the superintendent position. They're appointed and therefore an employee of the school system.

Now, as far as teachers go, he said that's a little different in way of hire. Those positions, for many reasons, have to be greatly vetted, concerning credentials, etc.

"My concern was the public tax money. It's the salary," said Boyette. "And so, I've always been on the other side of it-if it's tax money. That's why I'm trying to wrap my mind around that process."

Boyette said her first thought was that the statute hasn't been updated since the superintendent position went from elected to appointed by school boards in TN back in the 1990s. She said she just needed to understand that. As well, she looked at Harwell and said the caution was to protect him.

"Thank ya'll for your patience, I just needed to understand," said Boyette, who admitted she's new to this process.

Board members discussed that TSBA searches for applicants, as was done 5 years ago. They were leery of conducting those again through TSBA as they can now cost taxpayers an upward of $15,000.

According to the TSBA website, their fee schedule for superintendent searches is as follows:

*Superintendent Search Service Plan I: $3,000*

*Superintendent Search Service Plan II: $7,500*

*Superintendent Search Service Plan III: $15,000*

Cagle said this whole process is comparable to whether to call a snow day or not. Some people will question, others will not.

Given his experience, he said he believes the general public respects such transparency in the hiring process as presented that day.

The board agreed they don't believe they could find anyone with Harwell's experience, integrity and dedication to Bedford County education. He was credited for having served this community faithfully for 26 years.

When the T-G broke with the Harwell hiring on Facebook last Thursday afternoon, hundreds of members of the community, including a lot of fellow educators, said congratulations and commented that the honor was well-deserved.

Board member Brian Crews said they will need the person who is going to be superintendent next year involved in upcoming budget talks. So expedient hiring is necessary.

Most of all, Harwell was given a lot of praise and thanked for having stayed with the school system, especially after placing second in 2021. Chairman Cook said he could have easily left at that point.

Chairman Cook said at the end of the meeting that the board knows that the transition is going to be smooth and seamless. He said the board will make sure that happens.

"We just look forward to great things- continued great things-building off our successes from the last 5 years . . . continue to grow in Bedford County. I think that our kids deserve that and our employees deserve that. That's what we're going to do."

## NEEDS

From page 1A

me, in this job, so you will be able to have all information-everything you need-any number you need-to make the best decision you need to move forward with this tax relief/freeze plan."

The decision has pretty much been made that both the tax relief program currently administered and the newly proposed senior property tax rate freeze would both be on the books.

It's estimated that final approval on a senior property tax freeze might be months away. The subcommittee is scheduled to meet in February.

Davis requested, if the senior tax freeze proposal moves forward, that the Rules Committee read some of the recommendations which she believes needs to be discussed.

Those bullet points are:

• Implore everyone to identify unknown revenue loss impact and where does the burden fall?

• Speak of concerns of other citizens that are in a fixed income and how will those people be impacted? Share their same concerns.

• What is the impact to County revenue?

• Present a chart of all 95 Counties. How many participate? What has been their experience?

"There are so many questions to where we're headed in our budget time," advised the Trustee.

Davis said there are also people with children in this community who work but are still on fixed incomes. She said the impact on the most vulnerable throughout the community must be greatly studied.

She told Commissioners that it is also her job to ensure County funds are managed responsibly and that public receives the most services to which they're entitled.

The two go hand in hand in the Trustees office, she advised. "It will be up to 18 votes, to decide, to move forward."

The income cap currently for senior tax relief, she said, is at $37,530. The freeze income cap is $42,710. She said seniors 65 and older by Dec. 31st of the tax year can qualify. She said that means the freeze wouldn't come into play until the next tax year.

She explained how the County pays a match to the state's portion in the amount of $118. The City pays out a match of $75. So currently, for those in financial need, this is a good amount, the County believes, to help the qualifying taxpayer.

But it does not relieve the qualifying senior from paying any property tax. They just pay the rate that's frozen, say $2.32 per $100 assessed value, in the tax year the Commission approves.

"Currently, we have about 773 [seniors over 65] on tax relief. We know that [the] 773 will go to freeze and we will increase by some number. With that $42,710, I have a few elderly that will benefit to that, if we go to the freeze."

She added she realizes this will greatly lessen the burden of property tax on many seniors. "We are talking about the most vulnerable. So, we need to stay focused . . . what is the best plan for the elderly."

Commissioner Bill Anderson questioned how such a freeze could be costly and affect revenue lost.

Davis explained there will be a cost to the County for administration/employees needed to administer the program.

Anderson asked if once the tax rate is "frozen" for those who qualify, then shouldn't that administrative overhead be complete.

Davis said she had used an example of how the County had gone 10 years without a tax increase. "So, once we freeze the tax rate or tax payment/ assessment . . . it does not go into effect, unless there's a tax increase. We went 10 years without a tax increase. So, we've been paying out additional employees for 10 years and it would not have benefitted them at all. That's where I'm speaking of the cost."

Commissioner Greg Vick asked Davis how many of those same seniors who qualify for relief would also qualify for the freeze, with the income cap being $42,710.

Davis estimated that would affect about 200 of those already getting relief.

Commissioner Anita Epperson said she had seen in media that state dollars for the tax relief dollars were running out. She asked if that would affect local residents.

With emotion, Davis said she hopes not considering all the work put in over the years. She advised how veterans and the elderly are the most vulnerable of the community.

The Trustee said the program is growing larger with 100 new veterans on the program just this year.

"The comptroller has assured us that we will move forward this year. It is true there's a lot of growth and we need more money to continue the program."

County Mayor Chad Graham explained when the County originally budgeted for the senior tax relief, the true number was unknown and the County budgeted $100,000 a year. So, the County has only spent on this model about $60,000 annually. He said therefore the County should be able to hold its match of $118 per qualifying senior, regardless of state number fluctuations.

The mayor said the tax relief is a voucher, so to speak, which helps those who qualify get financially ready to pay those annual property tax bills.

"The reason I was thinking we just do a percent, ideally, I asked you for 100%, so they ['Trustee office] didn't have to do additional math. They've all got to do this work for the state's program anyway. Once they know what the state's amount is, then our part, as long as line item doesn't exceed the expenditure, then we are able to satisfy what we budgeted."

Graham said any amount not used at the end of the fiscal year is redistributed into the next year's budget.

Based on the current home price and average annual tax bill, etc., of those currently on the tax relief program, Commissioner Vick said it seems like the tax relief is more advantageous for the 773 most vulnerable. Vick, who is not running for re-election this year, questioned if perhaps then the County should just add more dollars to the current tax relief program rather than implementing a freeze.

Mayor Graham advised, "That would be my opinion, then you know it's immediate. You budget year to year. If we did get in a bind, as a body in the future, although I won't be here with you, you could always lower the amount you're budgeting. You're tying the hands of a future legislative body."

More discussions will take place when this subcommittee studying the tax freeze meets next month.



## FIRE DESTROYS LOCAL AUTO BUSINESS

*Photo by Gene Williams*

A fire destroyed the Quantum Auto Sales building at 116 East Highland Avenue last week. No injuries reported. Shelbyville Fire Department contained the fire which did not spread to any other businesses.

## What to Know Before You Remodel Your Home

(Family Features) Planning a home remodel is as much about your vision as it is your preparation. With a thoughtful plan, you can refresh your living space, stay on budget and enjoy the process without feeling overwhelmed.

Consider these steps to get the process started:

**1. Define your goals**

Decide what you're looking to accomplish with your remodel, whether it's improved functionality, updated style, higher resale value or a combination. Make a simple list of "must-haves" and "nice-to-haves" so you can prioritize upgrades if costs start to climb too high.

**2. Set a realistic budget**

Determine how much you're comfortable spending then add a cushion of 10-20% for additional material costs and any surprises behind walls or under floors. Get rough price ranges for materials and labor, which allows you to adjust the scope of your project before the work begins, if necessary, instead of mid-project.

**3. Gather ideas and inspiration**

Collect photos, paint colors and product ideas in a single place, such as a digital folder or photo album on your smartphone. Pay attention to recurring themes in your inspiration – such as cabinetry, flooring and fixture styles and colors – so it's easier to choose finishes when the time comes.

**4. Lay out the project timeline**

Think about the best time for your household to live through construction, especially if kitchens or bathrooms will be out of commission during the renovation. Talk with potential contractors about timing for each phase so you can plan for temporary living arrangements, if necessary.

**5. Choose the right construction crew**

Interview a variety of potential contractors, being sure to ask for references and verify licenses and insurance. Once you've narrowed your list, request written estimates that include labor and material costs, timelines and payment schedules so expectations are clear before choosing a service provider and signing an agreement.

**6. Finalize design details and materials**

Make as many design decisions as possible before demolition, including choosing fixtures, appliances, flooring, tile, paint, hardware and other details. Ordering key items early can help avoid delays and keep the project on schedule once work begins.

**7. Prep your home and family**

Before construction begins, clear areas where work will be completed of furniture and decor, covering anything that cannot be moved out of the room with plastic sheeting. So everyone knows what to expect while your home is in transition, talk with family members about the impending noise and dust, and make necessary schedule changes to avoid interrupting work.



**Home Improvement Edition**

planned by T-G for March.

For stories and to place ads for your home improvement business (landscape, tools, siding, more) email Dawn at dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

# THE ISSUE: Election day is coming!

## *It's time to get serious about elect/re-elect before we're 'out of glue'*

**By Dawn Hankins**
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net



Later this year, there will be some new and some familiar faces in local government.

(See this page for election dates, etc.)

Lots of election news, names of those pulling papers, and even some fodder, is running throughout the community. You know how it goes, "I'm the best. He/She did that. I won't. I promise."

It will either be an early Christmas or Grinch-like for several more years. It's up to the voters.

I was reminded this week, simply because I can't seem to pack up Christmas yet, that there are a lot of catch phrases used in the beloved movie, "A Christmas Story" that could humorously deliver my points within this column. And as dull as politics can be, I think it will add a little sugar and spice.

I dare say there are few people who've yet to see, "A Christmas Story," a trendy movie still shown that originated from the 1980s. So, let's take some of the famous catch phrases for a spin (no pun intended) and apply them to local politics.

For this column, let's pick on the County. Starting with those who sit in their seats and say absolutely nothing from the floor on behalf of their constituents for years.

And in many cases, they're re-elected. And they sit there and say nothing for another four years or more. This brought to mind "A Christmas Story" catch phrase: "Randy lay there like a slug. It was his only defense."

Or, maybe these commissioners like the movie's character, Ralphie, think: "You'll shoot your eye out. You'll shoot your eye out!"

Still, the commission is no place for the faint of heart or actors. (Covering it weekly isn't easy either.)

I will say the last 4 years or so, we've been truly respective on the floor. And believe me, there are counties where sessions are a free-for-all- with lots of "oh f-u-d-g-e" moments.

While some here have been accused of "grand standing," I think that's pretty minimal with the current Commission. Let's say, their hearts for this community are in the right place, at least.

Kudos to those representing what's right, and in some cases, risking potential social media scrutiny. You know there are many out there in FB land ready to say, "Go ahead dumb . . . and do it!"

To the legal team, God love them; they know the law "to a T." Yet, they have to endure a lot of: "This icicle fell and it hit me . . . ."

And of course there's always the fixer. You know, that person likely to say, "Give me my plumber's helper and I'll shove it in!" They mean well but often come off as the bully.

There are those more subtle with their agendas ("It could be a bowling alley.")

There are many who've accomplished a great deal in the Commission. In the end, they're thinking only of community service and delivering the greatest Christmas gift the people would ever receive.

Let's be honest, for most, lower property taxes are like receiving a 1942 Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. (At least in this County, anyway.)

I do believe, sometimes, one or two are more worried about the Bumpus hounds or having a new coffee shop than the crater pot holes in the road or what's going on with property assessment.

Officials must worry too about the "Schwartz" who's being punished just a few doors away from wastewater issues or development that's neither their fault.

Then there's always that elected official who rides the fence. They respond, usually outside after the meeting on the courthouse steps, "I don't know what happened. I was watering my plants . . . ."

But on the serious side, I do think people need to do a lot more soul-searching this election cycle. There are those who are pushing through the "Emerald City" concept without pause for recourse.

I have a bone to pick with people who pull papers to run for an office-say the commission or other-and haven't attended a live commission meeting. Who are they? Do they even know the heart of many issues on the table?

Think about those already in office and how they've spent the commission's time and taxpayer dollars. Even with their experience, they may or may not be the community's best choice for re-election.

It certainly doesn't behoove the community to simply vote for a good Facebook yapper, either. Today's politics can be quite complicated. So, the commission is bound to know the limits of state law.

Be there! Ask the questions!

Growth is a big topic but as Superintendent Tammy Garrett recently said, rather than simply generalizing "growth" now is more of a time to be more concentrated on the larger picture regarding education-like vouchers, reduced tax dollars and reduced enrollment.

No longer can we say, as 80 years ago, "You can put your arms down when you get to school," and push our kids out the front door to fend for themselves.

State reports show that as of 2024, BC was next to the bottom in local per pupil contribution...Fayette County was lower. (The County did give more under state TISA funding, that is, more than it budgeted per pupil.)

But in local expenditures, BC was next to the bottom of approximately 142 school districts statewide. Out of 95 counties, BC ranked second from the bottom. (2025 figures to be out soon.)

This is why time is of the essence to elect people with good and reasonable financial management skills. Do avoid those on the other end of the spectrum who could potentially plunge the County "into the cornucopia, quivering with desire and the ecstasy of unbridled avarice."

Here is where voters often meet their conundrum.

So ask yourself if that same person-the one you're considering at election time-would actually speak to you-post election-and give you the time of day to state your opinions about a certain topic?

Will they do everything in their ability, under the law, to represent you and the entire community's best interest? We can never be 100% sure of that so do the best you can when voting.

Do your research. Most of all, I believe, now is time for prayer for the County and Country.

If we're not careful, within the next few years, this County, like many others, might find itself all "out of glue!" when something breaks.

# Tonya Davis seeks re-election as Bedford County Trustee



Tonya Davis has officially announced her candidacy for re-election as Bedford County Trustee in the May 5 Republican Primary.

The Trustee office serves as the County's bank and is crucial to the County's fiscal well-being. The office bears the responsibility of collecting all County property taxes. In addition, all revenues and expenditures of the County are handled and accounted for by this office and investing idle County funds.

A Bedford County native, Davis brings 16 years of experience as a Certified Public Administrator through the University of Tennessee and has a Certification in the Local Government Leadership Program.

Davis is an active member of the Tennessee Trustee Association, serving as Middle TN president in 2015 and 2019. She served as president in 2020 of the TCTA in all three regions in which she represented Middle, East and West serving all 95 Counties.

Davis, an active member of the County Officials Association of Tennessee, has served 4 years on the board and also serves on the Tennessee Association of Property Tax Professionals.

Davis is a member of the Shelbyville Woman's Club and is currently serving on the Shelbyville-Bedford County Senior Citizens Center Board. She is the past President of Shelbyville-Bedford County Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Bedford. She has also served as chair of the Chamber's Economic Development and Tourism Division and served on the United Way Board.

Davis received the 2019 Trustee of the Year in the Middle TN Division. She was presented in 2020 the State of Tennessee Outstanding Trustee of the Year Award in recognition of exemplary service to the State of Tennessee and to the citizens of Bedford County.

In 2021, Davis was honored with an award from the County Officials Association of Tennessee (COATS) for her exemplary service as president of the Trustee's Association. She is a Paul Harris Fellow award recipient through Rotary International.

Davis received the State Governor's Volunteer Star Award for outstanding Community service and received the Bedford County Good Scout Award from the Middle Tennessee Council of Boy Scouts of America.

Davis and her husband, Michael, a retired Shelbyville Police Department Lieutenant, have 2 children and 8 grandchildren. Davis is a member of Calvary Baptist Church.

"First and upmost the Trustee's office belongs to the people and you are welcome to see how we are conducting County business. My dedicated staff is the face of the Trustee's office and their tremendous experience and knowledge sets the teamwork for customers' needs to better serve them, Davis said,"

Davis said she's fully committed to work with the State Legislature to secure the State Tax Relief Program.

"My Staff and I want to express a sincere thank you for your trust and support. I credit the hard work of the trustee staff for helping the trustee's office keep the pace with demands created by the tremendous growth of Bedford County. The Trustee office will continue to keep the office updated as the technology is ever changing. As your Trustee, I want to continue the traditions of quality customer service and trustworthy management of public funds and the excellent relationships that we currently have with the Mayor, County Commissioners, Finance Department, County departments and the State of Tennessee Audit."

Davis said in the 16 years since serving as Bedford County Trustee, her office has had no audit findings.

"We are deeply committed to the work we do and the citizens we serve. It has been an honor serving you. Voting is one of our greatest privileges. I respectfully ask for your vote on May 5."

## ELECTION NOTICE

**COUNTY REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY MAY 5, 2026**

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

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

County Mayor
County Commission – Districts 1-9
Trustee
Sheriff

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

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

Assessor of Property --- Unexpired term

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

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

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

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Print & Online - ADJACENT County (Coffee, Rutherford, Lincoln)
1 Year – $97.88
6 Months – $49.35
3 Months – $24.98

# FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

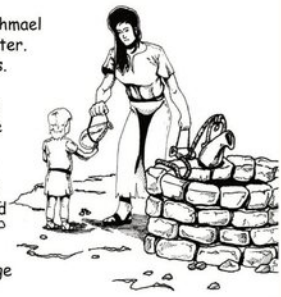
TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

**Hagar and Ishmael Banished**
*Genesis 21*

To celebrate Isaac being weaned, Abraham held a great feast. As Isaac and Ishmael were together, Sarah noticed that Ishmael was mocking Isaac. She demanded that Abraham get rid of Hagar and Ishmael.

Abraham was distressed, but the Lord told him to follow Sarah's demand because He had plans for Isaac. And the Lord promised to make Ishmael into a great nation too.

Early the next day Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael into the desert of Beersheba with food and water. When the water was gone, Hagar came to tears. Ishmael was also crying. God heard Ishmael's crying and called to Hagar to assure her of His intention to care for her and Ishmael and make him into a great nation.



God opened Hagar's eyes and she saw a well of water from which she filled the water skins and gave Ishmael a drink.

Ishmael became an archer and at the proper age Hagar got him a wife from Egypt.

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## *Is* God Dead? Sour Wine



Ty B. Kerley, DMin
Columnist

Last week, we explored a common type of resurrection theory by looking at the offering of the atheist David Mirsch. Picking up the story from last week, the plan, Mirsch explains, was to utilize common herbal drugs of the time (namely Shephard's Purse, Mandrake, Myrrh, and possibly Opium) to aid in Jesus' survivability during the crucifixion. This concoction was then slipped into the "sour wine" container at the crucifixion site. Mirsch argues that Jesus first refused the sour wine offered him on the Cross because enough time had not passed (Matt 27:34). Had he taken the wine at that point, he would have lost consciousness and appeared dead within a few minutes of having been crucified. It was at the second offering of sour wine (Matt 27:48) that Jesus accepted the drink, the drink laced with the conspirator's concoction that "produced a deep, almost comatose state that made Jesus appear dead."

Mirsch maintains that Jesus suffered from a genetic disorder, favism, which manifested itself as hemolytic anemia (premature destruction of red blood cells) and can produce the blood/water mixture observed when the Roman soldiers pierced the side of Jesus. He states, "The Roman soldiers merely pierced the skin of Jesus' side intending to ascertain whether or not the victim died. This piercing of Jesus' side, him being in the state of hemolytic anemia, would produce the flow of water and blood." So, according to Mirsh, the spear thrust was not lethal. This scenario of a reversible, drug-induced coma, followed by a "mere piercing of the skin" of Jesus' side was followed by premature removal of Jesus from the Cross, displacement of his body to the tomb, and the subsequent resuscitation by Joseph and Nicodemus. This all sounds possible until the evidence is more closely evaluated. Mirsch himself first contradicts the notion of a skin piercing; he states that "it was due to the occasional recovery of crucified victims that the Roman soldiers were ordered to mutilate the bodies before they could be removed from the cross." Since Jesus appeared dead to the soldiers (there was no need for breaking his legs), the carrying out of the order to mutilate the bodies was accomplished with a spear thrust through the skin, lungs, pericardial sac, and into the heart itself. Anything short of a lethal spear thrust is incompatible with standing Roman orders and in contrast with the Gospel accounts.

To best answer Mirsch and other proponents of "swoon"-type theories is to ask the singular question; "Is there good reason to believe Jesus survived the crucifixion? What exactly was the human body of Jesus subjected to?" To better understand what Jesus experienced physically and to ponder the possibility that Jesus "swooned" and then was revived in the tomb, perhaps we should consider what facts the medical community can bring to bear. Over the years, several physicians have analyzed and described the process of the crucifixion from a physiological perspective.

In an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association, Drs. William Edwards, Wesley Gabel, and Floyd Hosmer report a medical perspective on the crucifixion, beginning with the sentencing of Jesus by Pilate. Flogging, referred to as scouring, involved using a short whip called a flagrum, consisting of several strands of leather to which small iron balls and sheep bone fragments were attached to the ends. Under Roman law, the man was stripped, and his hands were tied to an upright post. The flogging was applied to the back, buttocks, and legs. As the process proceeded, the initial lashes cut through the skin only then: "The skin of the back was hanging in long ribbons, and the entire area was an unrecognizable mass of bleeding tissue." The scourging produced tremendous blood loss, which initiated circulatory shock. The extent of the blood loss at this stage played a role in determining how long the victim would survive on the Cross.

Medical experts grant Jesus as being in excellent health and adept at traveling long distances by foot. However, the emotional stress and sleep deprivation endured from his arrest the previous evening, his various trials through the night, and the emotional toll "may have rendered Jesus particularly vulnerable to the adverse hemodynamic (blood flow) effects of scouring." This weakening of Jesus is attested to in the Gospels. Although it was customary for the victim to carry the cross beam (patibulum) of the Cross, Simon of Cyrene was called to carry the patibulum for the weakened Jesus. (Mat 27:32, Mak 15:21, Luk 23:26) Once at the crucifixion site, the victim was laid on his back upon the patibulum, his arms outstretched. The hands were then either tied with rope or nailed to the patibulum. The Romans preferred nailing, and the Roman historian Tacitus wrote of Christian victims being " . . . nailed to crosses." Next, the victim, attached to the patibulum, was raised and set in place on the upright (stipes) of the Cross. The feet were then nailed to the stipes either by placing one foot on top of the other and the nail driven between the tarsal bones or the nail was driven through the calcaneum (heel bone) of each foot and nailed to the sides of the stipes.

Join us next week as we continue to look at the likelihood (or rather, unlikelihood) that Jesus could have survived the Cross. Until then, ask yourself a brave 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 Wauri ka church of Christ and live in Ardmore, OK. You can contact him at dr.kerley@isGoddead.com.

# Beech recommended as interim property assessor

**By Dawn Hankins**

Given all of her experience and skills in the County Property Assessor's Office, Chief Deputy Paige Beech would be perfect for the interim job. But she told Rules Committee members on Jan. 20 that she does not plan to run for election this year.

But she is willing to serve as interim until the new assessor is elected. This comes as Property Assessor Ronda Clanton has announced she is retiring February end.

Two candidates Drew Reed and Emily Hodges who are vying for the office of Bedford County Property Assessor in the next election made petitions for the interim job at the recent Rules and Legislative Committee meeting.

Reed works in the area of mapping and Hodges as a field reviewer. Both gave presentations of their backgrounds and how much they want to serve as the next property assessor.

But in the end, it was Clanton's right hand, deputy Beech, who received the Rules Committee recommendation to serve through August. The full Commission has the right by statute to appoint someone to the interim position.



Deputy Property Assessor for Bedford County Paige Beech was recently recommended by Rules Committee to serve as interim property assessor. The full Commission will make the final approval in March.

Deadlines, re-appraisals and many other duties are conducted by Beech and her knowledge and experience with basically, everything, in the assessor's office gave her the shoein.

Commissioner Greg Vick read the state statute. The deputy chief, he read, automatically steps in until a replacement is made.

Anybody who wants to run for the permanent job will have to pick up qualifying papers March 2nd through the 11th by noon. If they declare a party, they will run in the primary in May and if they run as an independent, they will run in the general election in August.

Clanton was present for the meeting, noting though all are highly qualified, she said Beech is currently the one overseeing dates and deadlines that are strictly enforced by the state comptroller.

When asked who she'd like to recommend, Clanton advised, "I think with her [Beech] not running, ethically, and that I took an oath, I can't ask for anybody else."

Vick recommended that the Rules Committee send its nomination for Beech to serve as interim property assessor until the August election to the full Commission.

County Mayor Chad Graham advised that based on statute limitations, the recommendation should be for the March meeting. The full Commission will need 10 votes to approve Beech as interim property assessor.

# Crossing the bridge to safety

**By Dawn Hankins**

One of my favorite books is an "oldie" but "a goodie." It's Charles Allen's 1961 interpretation of Psalm 23. The pastor's interpretation still demonstrates God's power and relevance. While it's been republished over the years, mine is a small, green book of about 60 pages.

Author Charles Livingstone Allen, who passed in 2005, was an American ordained United Methodist minister from Houston, Texas. He offered over 30 books and was a featured columnist with the Atlanta Constitution and Houston Chronicle. (Perhaps that's why I like his writings.)

Amazingly, the book is still out there. Imagine that. I recently saw it on Amazon and eBay. I found my copy of Allen's book at a used book sale many years ago. It's one in my library I keep a close eye on.

Speaking of books that have endured, I hope many of you had time to read God's Word during the winter snow days. God is the granter of peaceful opportunities and we need to recognize them.

But I'm sure a lot of prayers were lifted when folks had to get out in the country and cross some of our iced over bridges. Be thankful that our community survived another snow/ice week.

Across the country, it became a week of praying for those having to bear the cold and the sick and the hungry. We heard several stories of heroism this week.

My heart felt for the Texas business owner who reportedly saved one of his customers from the cold. He found her (a regular homeless customer) outside his store half frozen. He said she "felt like a rock" when he picked her up. She survived.

There were fires in our area as well. Thank you, Jesus, that those families are safe. A fireman in a nearby county lost his home. Given this is someone who spends his life helping others, maybe this community needs to reach out some way?

I'm certain that sometimes our burdens of helping others feels heavy, like a rock. There are bridges hard to cross. But our Shepherd never falters when it comes to lifting us, and those we try to help.

Our strength certainly does come from The Lord.

As a child, I had hanging on my wall the famous picture of the angel escorting the two children across a sketchy bridge. This gave me comfort when I was alone in my room. I still have that photo.

The print is called Guardian Angel and Children Crossing Bridge or "Heilige Schutzengel" in German by the artist Lindberg. I wonder how many people, other than myself, found solace in this small, framed image?

True 'Peace like a River' comes from God's Word. Our Rescuer intended for us to be comforted.

As well, the Lord has intended for us to be like shepherds, helping the lost sheep get back on the right path.

Kudos to local law enforcement for getting drugs off the street. But please pray for those who are lost and addicted. There is hope.

Reach out to someone today. It doesn't have to be anything more than a pat on the back and these words that can reassure that help is available from God.

***Psalm 121:1-2: "I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.***

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES

This Sunday, at First United Methodist Church in Shelbyville, Pastor Abe Zimmerman will preach "Jacob's Ladder" from Genesis 28:10-17. On this communion Sunday, the church will look at a powerful dream that Jacob has about a ladder that connects heaven and earth. Let's see what this dream from God can still teach us here and now. 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.

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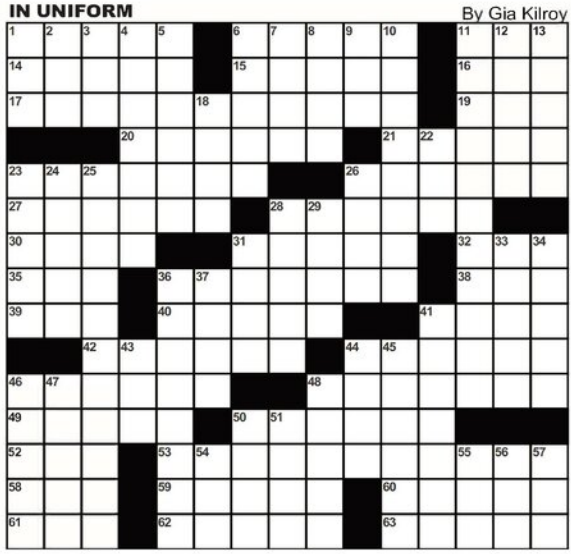
# Crossword

**IN UNIFORM**

By Gia Kilroy



### CLUES ACROSS

1) Adjust pillows
6) Los Alamos project, informally
11) "Turn on, tune in, drop out" drug
14) Supernaturally weird
15) Greta of old films
16) Lamb's mother
17) Gymnastics event
19) Victory sign
20) Quick breads
21) Animal variety
23) Beginning to exist
26) San Andreas and the like
27) Cast members
28) Fireplace floor
30) Competes
31) Enraged
32) "Sixth sense"
35) California Santa
36) People with a sweet tooth, e.g.
38) Snacked
39) Container cover
40) Caravan pit stops
41) Hectic episodes
42) Teenagers
44) Liquefy again
46) Attribute to a cause
48) Hair ointments
49) Part of a river
50) Foul up, as plans
52) Every single one
53) It's formal
58) Certain fuel
59) Soothe, as hurt feelings
60) Ham's device
61) Before, back and forth
62) Low playing cards
63) Make changes to

### CLUES DOWN

1) Yearly calendar abbr.
2) Ewe's milieu
3) Online address, for short
4) Major flops
5) One who parries
6) FBI employee
7) Blue ox of legend
8) Galena and feldspar
9) CEO's degree, sometimes
10) Assails persistently
11) Like Frankenstein's monster?
12) Candied
13) Acts of derring-do
18) Inmates
22) Dead-end job
23) Like some ships at sea
24) Raspberry drupelets, e.g.
25) What an ER doctor hopes to find
26) Like a good judge
28) Bee homes
29) Preceding nights
31) Mascara's target
33) Fur wrap
34) Hecklers, e.g.
36) Most refined, facetiously
37) Assess
41) Dental filling material
43) Unconscious
44) Bay in the stable
45) Political escapee
46) Mirror reflection
47) Bicuspid neighbor
48) Minds someone else's business
50) Editing mark
51) Jealousy
54) Alternate spelling, in crossword abbrs.
55) Lyrical poem form
56) Come in first place
57) Affirmative action

FreeDailyCrosswords.com

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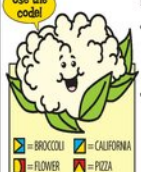

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### Did you know...

- The word "cauliflower" means _____ _____.
- White is the most common form, but at many farmers markets you can get cauliflower that is orange, _____ and _____.
- Cauliflower is a member of the _____ family.
- Many people use cauliflower to make _____ crusts.
- About 90% of the cauliflower grown in the United States comes from _____.

Can you help me bring this box of cauliflower to my farmers market stand?




**Replace the missing words.**

LEAVES HIGH YELLOW TIE ENERGY

Cauliflower can be boiled, fried, roasted, grilled, steamed, pickled or eaten raw. It can even be made into a pizza crust! It packs an _____ punch and is low in calories. It's high in fiber and _____ in vitamin C and other minerals (one cup of cauliflower has more than an orange) and so it's called a **superfood**. That means cauliflower helps keep your body healthy and strong!



Photos: Shutterstock

Large cauliflower _____ grow as the cauliflower grows. When tall enough, a farmer will cover the white growing cauliflower with the leaves and _____ them in place. Why? This keeps the "flower" part white as it grows. If not covered, the florets turn _____. Cauliflower is usually harvested when it's six to eight inches in diameter.

**Have YOU tried cauliflower?**
❑ YES! Yum!
❑ Not yet.

## Roasted Cauliflower



Work with an adult to make this delicious and healthy cauliflower recipe that can crunch a little like popcorn.

1. Preheat the oven to 425°F.
2. Cut the cauliflower into florets all about the same size.
3. Sprinkle with salt and 2 tbsp of olive oil. Toss these together to coat the florets.
4. Spread onto a baking sheet and roast for 10 minutes.
5. Turn each floret over and roast for 5 minutes. Take out of oven and allow to cool. Sprinkle cheese or lemon on top for extra flavor.




Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written instructions.

## Extra! Extra!

### Letter Search

Look through the newspaper to find a word that starts with each letter below:

C _____
A _____
U _____
L _____
I _____
F _____
L _____
O _____
W _____
E _____
R _____

Standards Link: Language Arts: Spell grade-level words correctly

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

Farmers harvest cauliflower before this happens to it and it might surprise you. Hold this page up to a mirror to discover this surprise.

IF NOT HARVESTED, A CAULIFLOWER WILL SPROUT HUNDREDS OF TINY YELLOW FLOWERS. THE FLORETS WE EAT ARE FLOWER BUDS THAT HAVEN'T OPENED YET.

Standards Link: Math: Recognize and continue patterns.

## Double Double Word Search

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

COMMON
CUP
FARMERS
FIBER
FLORETS
FOOD
GREEN
GROWS
HELPS
LEAVES
LOW
ORANGE
RAW
SUPER
TALL
TURN

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

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

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Food Advertisements

Find one or more ads in the newspaper that advertise food or a restaurant or a business that sells food. Circle any facts in the ads in green. Circle any opinions in the ads in red. Are there more facts or opinions?

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify facts and opinions.

## Write On!

### Vegetable Poem

Write a poem or paragraph about your favorite vegetable. Be sure to describe using all five senses.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write descriptively using supporting details.

## Kid Scoop Together

### Field of Sheep

Work with a family member to make this tasty treat.

INGREDIENTS:



pretzel sticks



black olives



lettuce leaves



pine nuts

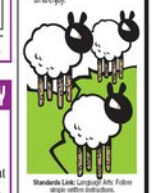


cauliflower florets



cream cheese

1. Cover a plate with lettuce leaves.
2. Break off cauliflower florets to make the sheep's bodies.
3. Use pretzel sticks for legs and "glue" with cream cheese or peanut butter.
4. To make the head, slice a small section off the back of an olive and "glue" it onto the cauliflower using cream cheese.
5. Cut tiny slices of olive to make ears.
6. Use pine nuts for eyes. Attach with cream cheese. Set out your flock for all to enjoy!



Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written instructions.

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With hundreds of topics, every Kid Scoop® printable activity pack features six-to-seven pages of high-interest extra learning activities for home and school! Get your free sample today at:
kidscoop.com/activity-packs/

## Bedford County property transfers

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

**File date: January 20**

Location: 100 Bethany Lane; Seller, Mohammed Nsaif, Omar Nsaif; Buyer, Nsaif Living Trust, Mohammed Nsaif, Omar Nsaif; Price, $0 (Deed).

Location: Clara Drive; Seller, Barry N Childers, Janie J Childers; Buyer, Jaime A Fernandez; Price, $80,500 (Deed).

Seller, Sandra D Graham; Buyer, King Family Partnership; Price, $34,250 (Deed).

**File date: January 21**

Location: 102 Doak St; Seller, Gregory Thomas Curl, Lisa Curl; Buyer, Shane Michael Hanley; Price, $299,900 (Deed).

Location: 113 Elijah Parker Rd; Seller, Randal Carben, Deborah Carben; Buyer, Katelyn Taylor Carben; Price, $197,500 (Deed).

Location: 1327 Hwy 82 A; Seller, George Henry Hulan III, Lynn W Hulan, Isabelle Lynn Woodruff Hulan; Buyer, Hulan Family Trust; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 101 Briar Patch Dr; Seller, Shane Barrett, Michael Shane Barrett, Chelsea Rae Barrett; Buyer, Elizabeth A Plank; Price, $249,900 (Deed).

Location: 107 Holly Ct; Seller, Matthew H McGilliard, Brittany N McGilliard; Buyer, Terrence Owen Morrison, Jill Melissa Morrison; Price, $500,000 (Deed).

**File date: January 22**

Location: 206 Amanda Drive; Seller, Michael Bennett Cope, Donna Christine Cope; Buyer, Emily Jean Little, Tyler Duane Little; Price, $466,900 (Deed).

Location: Mount Lebanon Church Rd; Seller, Russell E Boothe, Angela M Boothe; Buyer, Jason D Wheeler, Christina M Wheeler; Price, $135,000 (Deed).

Location: 915 Normandy Rd; Seller, Sabrina C Heinrich, Joshua N Hennrich, Josh N Henrich; Buyer, David Wagner Jr, Danna Gardner; Price, $670,000 (Deed).

Location: 596 Union Ridge Rd; Seller, Edward L Tobin Jr, Peggy Jo Tobin, Tobin Family Farm Trust; Buyer, Charity Snook, Quentin Snook; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 427 Lewis Ave; Seller, Patrick Smotherman; Buyer, Kylee Tess Canon; Price, $167,000 (Deed).

**File date: January 23**

Seller, Emma Alterson, Nicolas Alterson; Buyer, Jose Isidro Cardenas Ramirez, Yadira Molina Castillo; Price, $289,999 (Deed).

Location: 125 Old Rover Rd; Seller, Daniel Murrill, Tina Murrill; Buyer, Keith Wells, Terrie Ann Wells; Price, $280,000 (Deed).

Location: 103 Meadowbrook Dr; Seller, JC Builders LLC; Buyer, Don Ovid Ferguson; Price, $320,000 (Deed).

Location: 865 Haley Rd; Seller, Dennis John Mitchell; Buyer, Teresa Horne; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 135 Triple Crown Court; Seller, Janice Roberts; Buyer, Deborah E Gray, Brett A Gray; Price, $310,000 (Deed).

Location: 113 Elijah Parker Dr; Seller, Katelyn Taylor Carben; Buyer, Katelyn Taylor Carben, Justin Wayne Wiser; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, Bedford Development LLC; Buyer, Ole South Properties Inc; Price, $0 (QD).



## HORNER CELEBRATES 15TH WITH SPD

*SPD Photo*

Shelbyville Police Department recently recognized K9 Officer Brock Horner on his 15th anniversary with the SPD. Officer Horner is assigned to the Directed Patrol Unit and serves as a K9 handler. Although K9 Trigger has not been Officer Horner's partner for his entire career with SPD, the two have quickly become a strong and effective team, working together to help keep our community safe. Trigger's dedication and hard work alongside Officer Horner continue to make a positive impact on our department and the citizens served, according to SPD.

# The Fly Arts Center announces Black History celebration: 'An Evening of Voices, Rhythm, and Impact'

Fly Arts Center has announced its upcoming Black History Celebration, "An Evening of Voices, Rhythm, and Impact," scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, at The Fly Arts Center in Shelbyville.

This special event honors African American heritage, celebrates community legacies, and highlights the cultural contributions that continue to shape Bedford County. Rooted in unity and inclusion, the evening brings together voices from across generations and backgrounds to reflect, celebrate, and inspire.

The celebration will feature two distinct experiences:

**Feature One: Honor and Heritage 5:00–7:30 PM**

The evening will open with a formal ceremony recognizing legacy, culture, and community impact. Opening remarks are anticipated from local and county leadership, followed by reflections from invited VIP community members, artists, storytellers, educators, faith leaders, innovators, first responders, athletes, and legacy families. Dinner, catered by Koffee Beanz, will be served beginning at 6:30 PM, with a brief intermission at 7:30 PM.

**Feature Two: Live Entertainment 8:00–11:00 PM**

The celebration continues with live music by the popular band Entice, delivering an energetic and joyful close to the evening—because there's truly no party like an Entice party.

The event will showcase a distinguished group of community influencers whose stories represent the depth, resilience, and richness of African American history in Bedford County.

Tickets are now available for purchase online at www.flyartscenter.com. Guests may attend individual features or take advantage of a combined early-bird option.

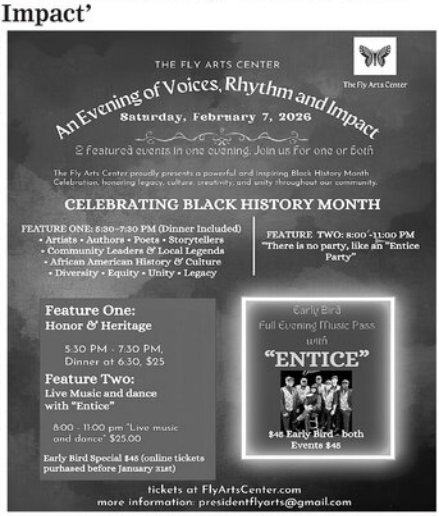
Feature One: $25
Feature Two: $25
Early Bird (both features): $45

The early-bird ticket special ends on Jan. 31, 2026.

All proceeds from this event directly support the production and execution of the Black History Celebration.

"Honoring history strengthens our future," said Jody Barnes-Turner, President of The Fly Arts Center. "This celebration is about unity, remembrance, joy, and the shared stories that connect us all."

For additional information, sponsorship opportunities, or ticket purchases, please visit www.flyartscenter.com or contact presidentflyarts@gmail.com.




**IN UNIFORM** — By Gia Kilroy

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 F | 2 L | 3 U | 4 F | 5 F | ■ | 6 A | 7 B | 8 O | 9 M | 10 B | ■ | 11 L | 12 S | 13 D |
| 14 E | E | R | I | E | ■ | 15 G | A | R | B | O | ■ | 16 E | W | E |
| 17 B | A | L | A | N | 18 C | E | B | E | A | M | ■ | 19 V | E | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | 20 S | C | O | N | E | S | ■ | 21 B | 22 R | E | E | D |
| 23 N | 24 A | 25 S | C | E | N | T | ■ | ■ | 26 F | A | U | L | T | S |
| 27 A | C | T | O | R | S | ■ | 28 H | 29 E | A | R | T | H | ■ | ■ |
| 30 V | I | E | S | ■ | ■ | 31 L | I | V | I | D | ■ | 32 E | 33 S | 34 P |
| 35 A | N | A | ■ | 36 C | 37 R | A | V | E | R | S | ■ | 38 A | T | E |
| 39 L | I | D | ■ | 40 O | A | S | E | S | ■ | ■ | 41 A | D | O | S |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | 42 Y | O | U | T | H | S | ■ | 44 R | 45 E | M | E | L | T |
| 46 I | 47 M | P | U | T | E | ■ | ■ | 48 P | O | M | A | D | E | S |
| 49 M | O | U | T | H | ■ | 50 D | 51 E | R | A | I | L | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| 52 A | L | L | ■ | 53 E | 54 V | E | N | I | N | G | G | 55 O | 56 W | 57 N |
| 58 G | A | S | ■ | 59 S | A | L | V | E | ■ | 60 R | A | D | I | O |
| 61 E | R | E | ■ | 62 T | R | E | Y | S | ■ | 63 E | M | E | N | D |

## Classifieds

**FOR SALE**

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

**WANT TO BUY**

Goats, sheep, chickens, guineas and ducks. Call 256-777-0065

**HELP WANTED**

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

**WANTED**

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

**City of Shelbyville Mayor & City Council Special Called Meeting**
Date: **February 3, 2026**
Time: **5:30 PM**
Place: **Council Chambers, Building Codes & Planning Building**
**100 N. Cannon Blvd.**
**Shelbyville, TN 37160**

**Business Items:**

A. Consideration of a Motion to award the Request for Qualifications for Professional Services on the BRAG Grant based on the evaluation committee's recommendations.
B. Consideration of a Motion to approve a Right of Way Easement for Duck River Electric Membership Corporation for 30.35 Acres at 2764 Highway 231 N. (Airport / MTSU Project Area).
C. Consideration of a Motion to approve joining with Bedford County officials for a Study Committee to study a possible implementation of a Senior Tax Freeze.
D. Consideration of a Motion to approve a Sponsorship in the amount of $1,500 for the Fly Arts Center's Black History Celebration.

**Appointments**:

A. Appointment of Two (2) Shelbyville City Council members to serve on the Senior Tax Freeze Study Committee.

Shelbyville Times-Gazette

# Obituaries

## Obituaries

### Katherine Muriel Moyers Coble



Katherine Muriel Moyers Coble passed away January 20, 2026, at Carriage House Inn in Shelbyville, TN.

She was born to Earl and Janie Moyers on June 9, 1925, in a small house on her maternal grandparents' farm in Delina, TN. Her parents moved to Kerrville, Texas, when she was 3 years old and returned to TN when she was 10 years old.

She met Leonard Dalton Coble in 5th grade at Boonshill school. He became the love of her life and they were married on June 14, 1942. He passed away May 4, 2021 one month short of their 79th wedding anniversary.

She is survived by her two children, Jerry Dalton Coble and Kathy (Jerry) Coble Shearon; her grandchildren, Melinda (Jay) Coble Treu, Amy, Daniel (Shawn) and Michael (Diedre) Shearon, Gerry (Debbie) Kite, Jr and Michael (Ananda) Kite; her great-grandchildren, Katie (Jamie) Shearon Groves, Coble (Kylee) Shearon, Katelen Shearon, Savannah Treu, Sarah Shearon, Cade Livingston, Alicia Thompson, Mikayla and Kirklynn Kite and her great-great granddaughters Luna Joy Groves and Olivia Rose Thompson and beloved nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Leonard; her brothers Ernest and David Moyers; and her sisters, Marie Cooke and Anita Pate.

During Leonard's 39-year career with Western Union, she welcomed many of Leonard's business associates into their home for fellowship and memorable Southern home cooking. She was an expert seamstress, a talented bulletin board creator for her church in Chattanooga, a Sunday school teacher to many children, a woman of great wisdom who often counseled relatives and friends, a devoted friend to many, many people, and most of all, a lifelong helpmate to Leonard and the best mother 2 kids could ever have in this life.

She and Leonard became members of the Church of Christ in the early 1950's and worked tirelessly for many years sharing the Love of Jesus' Kingdom. Her life has been a great example of giving of herself for the benefit of others, as Jesus asked us all to do.

Her family is deeply grateful for the love, compassion and skills from the staff at Carriage House Inn where she spent the last 3 ½ years prior to her passing.

Services will be held January 31, at Doak-Howell Funeral Home in Shelbyville, TN. Visitation will be 10:00-12:00, funeral service from 12:00-1:00, and a brief graveside service at 2:00 pm at Wright's Cemetery in Lincoln County.

Pallbearers will be Jerry Shearon, Daniel Shearon, Coble Shearon, Jamie Groves, Cooper Metier and Jay Treu. Honorary pallbearers are Donald Moyers, Jerry Harmening, Bob Coble, Forrest Pate, Jr. and Bud Young.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

www.doakhowellfuneralhome.com

### James Clyde Peoples



James Clyde Peoples, age 79, of Shelbyville, TN, passed from this life on January 22, 2026, at Alive Hospice in Murfreesboro from an extended illness.

Born September 3, 1946, in Manchester TN, to Ostell Benton "OB" and Winona Harmon Peoples. He was preceded in death by his parents, a daughter Dr. Brenda Lynn Peoples Daniel of Ardmore, TN; brothers Ostell Carl Peoples and Thomas Dewayne "Wayne" Peoples of Shelbyville; sisters Wanda Marie Peoples Hartley of College Grove, and Nancy Diane Peoples Meador of Huntland; grandparents Jim and Anna Hittson Harmon and Benton and Minnie Rowe Peoples, all of Shelbyville.

Clyde met Lizzie Mae West of Lewisburg, in August 1965, at a square dance in Fayetteville and they married on December 11, 1965. They lived and made a life in Shelbyville, with their two daughters Brenda and Tracie. He was member of Victory Baptist Church, a Master Mason and a Scottish Rite with the Shelbyville Benevolent Lodge #122, a member of the Al Menah Shriners, a 30-year member of the Teamster Local Union 480, a former TN Walking Horse Judge, and a former Bedford County Utility District Commissioner.

Clyde was working for the Sealtest Milk Company delivering milk to homes while getting his racing career started in 1966 at Winchester. He later became a NASCAR Winston Cup Series driver, winning many races in Talladega, Bristol, Nashville, Huntsville, and Charlotte. He loved to tell stories of racing and working with such greats like Bobby Allison, Donne Allison, Cale Yarborough, Richard Petty, Dale Earnhardt, Jimmy "Smut" Means, Coo Coo Marlin, Harry Gant, Buddy Baker, Junior Johnson, Marty Robbins, and Darrell Waltrip. His success was achieved with the help of his friend and crew chief Bobby Gregory. After retiring from racing, Clyde and Lizzie started Peoples Trucking Company hauling steel for the Mason Dixon Company. In the early 80's Clyde started working for Yellow Freight in Nashville, where he worked up until October 6, 2003. On this day he suffered a massive stroke coming back from Atlanta. If you saw Clyde since his stroke, you knew the stroke took his speech. But he always had a smile on his face, and didn't allow it to take his passion or spitfire for life and could always get his point across.

Clyde, along with being a NACAR fan, was also an avid University of Tennessee Football fan. He could have been heard for miles cheering them on either at home, at Neyland Stadium or in a hospital room, he loved his Vols. He was especially proud of his daughters for graduating college, Brenda from UT Knoxville and Tracie from MTSU.

He also took pride in his grandchildren Kirk and Abby for graduating from MTSU and his grandson Bailey for currently attending Motlow State Community College. Clyde was always a giver and expected nothing in return. His hobbies included restoring his Hit-n-Miss Engines, attending Antique Engines shows, collecting John Deere memorabilia and being anywhere his grandchildren were. The three of them had Poppaw wrapped around their fingers, knowing if their parents said no, that Poppaw would always say Yes.

Clyde is survived by his wife of 60 years, Lizzie Mae West Peoples of Shelbyville; daughter Tracie Anne (Michael Peacock) Peoples of Shelbyville; son-in-law Max Daniel of Ardmore, TN; grandchildren (twins) Kirk Harmon Daniel and Abigail Paige Daniel of Murfreesboro, and Bailey Jackson Peacock of Shelbyville; his grand-dogs Coco, Brady, Chewie, Bruce Wayne and Spock. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews, cousins, and close friends he considered family.

Funeral Services will be held at 12 noon, Saturday, January 31, 2026, at Victory Baptist Church in Shelbyville with Pastor Loyd Warren officiating. Burial will follow at the Wheel Cemetery on Highway 64 West in the Wheel Community.

Visitation with the family will be held from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, January 30, 2026, at Doak-Howell Funeral Home.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society at www.donate.cancer.org in memory of his daughter Dr. Brenda Lynn Peoples Daniel, the American Stroke Association at www.stroke.org or the American Heart Association at www.heart.org.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

www.doakhowellfuneralhome.com

### Paul Richard Stacy



Paul Richard Stacy, 84, of Shelbyville, passed away January 27, 2026.

He was born October 30, 1941, in Bedford County. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, who loved and enjoyed spending time with his family and visiting friends.

Paul was a custom car collector. He enjoyed time spent with other car enthusiasts where he developed close friendships. He was a highly respected as a skilled heavy equipment operator.

Paul was known to be one of the hardest working individuals to all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward Matthew Stacy and Nellie Elizabeth Lytle Stacy; a grandson, Ryan Cook and ten brothers and sisters.

Paul is survived by his wife of 62 years, Elaine Marie Lewis Stacy; his children, Melanie (Dwayne) Cook of Shelbyville, Troy (Shasta) Stacy of Wartrace, Rod (Wendy) Stacy of Shelbyville. Five grandchildren, Meghan Stacy, Cameron (Kassidy) Stacy, Cortney (Blake) Hill, Shelbye (Vince) Hawkins, Rusty (Ashlynn) Stacy; eleven great grandchildren, Alivia and MaKenzie Cook, Nash, Karolyne, Cole and Nola Stacy, Barrett and Bristol Hill, Ansley and Garrison Hawkins and Camdan Stacy.

Funeral Services will be held 2:00 P.M. Thursday, January 29th, at Hillcrest Funeral Home with Daryl Lewis and Jimmy West officiating. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens. Visitation will begin at 11:00 a.m.

Memorial Contributions may be sent to Edgemont Baptist Church in Shelbyville.

Hillcrest Funeral Home is serving the family.

### Mary Catherine Faulkner Talley



Mary Catherine Faulkner Talley, 91, of Shelbyville, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 25, 2026.

She is lovingly remembered by her sons, Robert Talley (Deborah) of Cleveland, Tennessee, James Lee Talley (Carola) of Warner Robins, Georgia and Michael Talley (Jen) of Olathe, Kansas; her sisters, Frances Hayes and Sue Cates; her brother Brooks Faulkner (Vickie), all of Shelbyville; three grandsons, three granddaughters and eight great-great-granddaughters. Her family brought immense joy to her life. Catherine cherished the time she spent with her sons, grandchildren great grandchildren and her large extended family.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, CMSgt. Retired James Donald Talley USAF and her parents, Leonard and Ruth Faulkner.

Born and raised in Bedford County, Catherine and her husband traveled the world for 30 years with the U.S. Air Force. After his retirement they returned to Shelbyville and worked for Hayes Instrument.

Catherine attended First United Methodist Church in Shelbyville before moving to Celebration Way, where she remained active with church services and Bible studies. She was involved with several local clubs, including Square Dancing, Women's Club, FCE, EGA, ANG and several other groups and/or guilds.

Visitation will be from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 31st, at Hillcrest Funeral Home, followed by a graveside service at Three Forks Cemetery in Bedford County with the Rev. Jeff Faulk officiating. A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Alzheimer Association, Dementia Research or the charity of your choice.

Hillcrest Funeral Home is serving the family.

## Death Notices

**Ryan Keith Parsons** 61, of Shelbyville, TN
Ryan Keith Parsons, age December 17, 1964-January 23, 2026

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

www.doakhowellfuneralhome.com



The Vanderbilt Neonatal Outreach Team consists of Mary Lee Lemley, MSN, RNC-NIC, Katie Judd, MSN, RN, CCRN, Meghan Arms, MSN, RN, RNC-NIC, and Jillian Brown, MHA, at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt.

## Vanderbilt Neonatal Outreach Team Honored

### *Daisy Award Winners for Extraordinary Service*

Vanderbilt Neonatal Outreach Team has been recognized as a Daisy Award winner for extraordinary nurses who exemplify compassion toward patients and families.

"To expand access to training statewide, the team worked with the Tennessee Department of Health and TennCare to secure funding for NRP Online Education. These efforts are particularly impactful in Tennessee's 54 Maternal Desert counties. Their work addresses disparities in neonatal health care in our state especially those in rural and underserved areas. The Neonatal Outreach Team has transformed emergency neonatal care systems in Tennessee."

## Criminal News Break

Christian S. Parrish, of Nashville, recently convicted for the 2022 murder of Charles D. Mayes of Shelbyville, was given a life sentence last week in criminal court (100%.)

Note: For first-degree murder offenses in TN, committed on or after July 1, 1995, a life sentence mandates serving 100% of the 60-year baseline.

Parrish was convicted in November in Bedford County Criminal Court on two counts of murder for the killing of Mayes. The event, according to police, happened at Mayes' Chestnut Drive home.

Mayes died of a gunshot wound to the head while being transported to the hospital in October 2022, according to police reports.

Two other people were charged with Mayes' shooting death: 23-year-old Mikayla Bowen and 28-year-old Davontay Holt.

Holt took an amended plea to 2nd Degree Murder with a total effective sentence of 32 years @ 100%. The count 2 of first-degree murder was dismissed.

Mikayala Bowen took a plea to 1st Degree Murder-Facilitation with a total effective sentence of 32 years @ 100%. The count 2 of first-degree murder was dismissed.

Police reports state that Holt and Bowen were attempting to rob Mayes when things escalated. Holt was reportedly injured during the incident and spent two weeks in the hospital before he was properly charged with criminal homicide.

Mayes was reportedly the father of Bowen's children.

Police recovered multiple 9mm shell casings from the scene, but one of the firearms used in the homicide was not recovered in 2022, according to police reports.

Nearly one year later, in July 2023, officers from the Lebanon Police Department stopped a white Nissan Altima with a passenger headlight out, driving in a Lebanon neighborhood.

The driver was identified as 25-year-old Christian Parrish, of Nashville.

During the traffic stop, Parrish reportedly told police he had a firearm next to the driver's seat. That firearm would lead to Parrish's conviction.

# Shelbyville Central Moves Into First Place Atop District 6-AAAA After Blowing Out Warren County

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

**SHELBYVILLE, Tenn.** - The Shelbyville Central Golden Eagles (16-8, 4-0) saw 11 players register at least one point in a dominant team win over Warren County (14-6, 2-2), 60-39, on Friday night.

Maleek Johnson and Jack Conditt led the Golden Eagles in scoring with 11 points apiece off the bench. Jevon Lee also reached double-figures, finishing with 10 points that all came in the second half.

Meanwhile, Shelbyville's defense shut down Warren County for the most part, allowing just one Pioneer to score in double-figures. Devin Fish finished with 10 points, but seven of those came in the first quarter alone. As a team, Warren County finished with 12 turnovers compared to just six for the hosts, and Shelbyville also held the visitors to just one made three-pointer all night compared to five connections for the Golden Eagles.

Shelbyville struggled to get going in the opening stages, quickly falling down by seven points, 8-1, in the first couple minutes. Pair that with early foul trouble, and Shane Young was forced to make a full-on hockey line change, subbing in a new five to try and find a spark.

"That kind of early start can definitely mess up your mind and your mojo, but I thought these guys did a really good job fighting back," Golden Eagles Head Coach Shane Young said postgame, "Getting the early technical and being down 9 to 1 before fighting back, I thought we responded really well to find a formula that worked tonight."

The hosts figured out that formula quickly, closing the opening period on a 10-3 run to tie the game at 11 heading into the second quarter. In that second stanza, Shelbyville outscored the Pioneers, 14-8, to take a 25-19 lead heading into the halftime locker room.



Malek Johnson (5) soars between Warren County's Deashawn Adams (15) and Keyton Reno (23) for two of his 11 points in Shelbyville's District 6-AAAA blowout win over the Pioneers on Friday night. *T-G Staff Photo by Noah Maddox.*



Jack Conditt (10) attempts to slam down two of his 11 points in the fourth quarter of Friday's win over Warren County while teammate Jordan Taylor (1) jumps in unison. *T-G Staff Photo by Noah Maddox.*

"We got the first tech, starting out kind of slow, and we had six guys with two fouls in the first half," said Young, "Shoutout to our bench, because they were ready for this. That's the reason why we have played as many of our guys as we have so far this season to get to this point. We can put in guys that we trust. When we made the hockey line change, that group actually changed the pace of the game where we were able to go into a little press-zone look. They were able to get downhill and play the way we want to play, then we were able to re-incorporate some of our starters back into the flow. Josiah [Berry], Jack [Conditt], Mook [Maleek Johnson], and Braylon [Johnson] gave some valuable minutes. Everybody has had a moment, and most of the guys that we put in have experience and we have trust in them to make big plays."

Coming out for the second half, Shelbyville outscored Warren County, 20-11, to take a 45-30 heading into the final frame. In that third quarter, Jordan Taylor nailed a pair of triples, Conditt and Tae'Shawn Shelton each connected on a couple of two-point field goals, and Lee tacked on six points around the basket.

From there, the rout was on as the Golden Eagles held Warren County to just five points in the fourth quarter while Young emptied his bench with a few minutes remaining. Ultimately, the Golden Eagles outscored the Pioneers, 15-5, in the fourth en route to the 21-point victory.

Friday's win moves Shelbyville into sole possession of first place through the first half of the district slate, but Young is ensuring that his team is focused on the rematches with all four district foes. Of the four remaining games on the schedule, three of them are away from home with the lone home game being against Cookeville.

"At the end of the day, everybody still has to play everybody again, and our district is really good as a whole," Young said, "We're in a good spot right now, but we can't stop here. We have to keep moving forward."

The Golden Eagles improve to 16-8 overall. Shelbyville is scheduled to host Cookeville for Homecoming on Friday night. Tip-off is set for 7:30 p.m.

*SHELBYVILLE: Conditt 11 (1), M. Johnson 11 (1), Lee 10, Taylor 7 (2), Berry 6 (1), Shelton 6, Cannon 3, B. Johnson 2, Sparrow 2, Bean 1, Minter 1.*

*WARREN CO: Fish 10, Adams 8, Felton 6 (1), Reno 4, Whitlock 4, Baker 3, Perez 2, Robledo 2.*

## Eaglettes Drop to 0-4 in District Play Against Lady Pioneers

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

**SHELBYVILLE, Tenn.** - The Shelbyville Central Golden Eaglettes (6-15, 0-4) were unable to capitalize at the free throw line against District 6-AAAA foe, Warren County (11-9, 0-4), suffering a 49-45 defeat in overtime at the Eagles' Nest on Friday night.

Jada Berry led the way for Shelbyville in an inspired effort with a team-high 20 points, but she was the only Eaglette to reach double-figures. Janiya Leslie added eight points, but the hosts shot just 9-of-19 at the free throw line as a team and could not connect on a single three-pointer.

Meanwhile, the Pioneers' Trinity Reynolds was borderline unstoppable, finishing with a game-high 26 points and shooting 9-of-11 at the charity stripe. Brynlee Chisam added a pair of three-pointers, including a massive connection in the extra session, chipping in with 11 points for the visitors. Warren County finished 17-of-22 at the line as a team, and they managed to connect on four three-pointers on the night.

The game was extremely competitive from the opening tip, and former Eaglettes' Head Coach Kyle Turnham's squad held a slim 8-7 lead at the end of the opening period. In the second quarter, Berry began to take over for Shelbyville, scoring nine of the Eaglettes' 11 points to give the hosts an 18-16 lead heading into the halftime locker room.

Coming out for the second half, Berry was held to just a single free throw, allowing the Pioneers to outscore Shelbyville, 12-9, and take a 28-27 lead going into the final frame. Reynolds and Chisam combined for all 12 of Warren County's third quarter points, punctuated by a Chisam buzzer-beating triple to end the period. Meanwhile, Leslie led the hosts with four points in the third.

In the fourth quarter, the two teams entered the final two minutes tied up at 34 when Kenley Patton scored her first bucket since the opening quarter on a putback. After the Pioneers re-took a two-point lead, Berry tied the game at 36 with 1:40 remaining before Leslie went coast-to-coast off of a rebound to put Shelbyville in front, 38-36, with 1:20 to go.

On the ensuing Warren County possession, Reynolds managed to find her way to the free throw line to tie things up again at 38 with 1:09 left. Shelbyville was unable to score on its next trip, and then the visitors took a 39-38 lead with 20 seconds remaining when Aubrey Oleksik split a pair of free throws.

Coming out of a Shelbyville timeout, Berry was fouled on a putback attempt of a missed Leslie layup with less than 10 seconds to go. However, Berry only managed to split the pair of free throws, sending the game into overtime tied at 39.

In the extra session, both teams continued to struggle offensively, leading to Berry once again at the free throw line. With 1:29 remaining and her team down by two points, 43-41, Berry calmly sank both free throws to tie the game. However, following a split pair of free throws by the Pioneers, the visitors quickly regained possession with a one-point lead, finding Chisam in the corner for the a dagger three-pointer with 44.8 seconds left on the clock. Chisam's only bucket of the overtime gave Warren County a 47-43 lead, and the Pioneers held on to win by that same margin, 49-45, despite Berry scoring all six points for Shelbyville in the extra period.

The Eaglettes fall to 6-15 overall. Shelbyville's next game is scheduled for Friday against Cookeville for Homecoming. Tip-off is set for 6:00 p.m.

*SHELBYVILLE: Berry 20, Leslie 8, J. Frazier 6, Patton 5, McFarland 4, Young 2.*

*WARREN CO: Reynolds 26 (1), Chisam 11 (2), Steakley 6 (1), Oleksik 3, Porter 3.*



Jada Berry (40) shoots a free throw in the second half of Shelbyville's OT loss against Warren County. Berry scored a team-high 20 points against the Pioneers. *T-G Staff Photo by Noah Maddox.*

# No. 4 Cascade Improves to 4-0 in District 9-AA With Homecoming Win Over Summertown

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

**BELL BUCKLE, Tenn. -** The short-handed Cascade Lady Champions (17-5, 4-0) managed to create just enough second-half separation against Summertown (14-7, 2-2) to come away with a bounce-back win, 44-40, inside The Stable on Thursday night.

Kaegan Young scored 11 of her game-high 18 points in the second half, Lizzie Keele knocked in two massive three-pointers en route to nine points while holding Summertown's Ella Busby scoreless in the second half, and the Lady Champions held on despite a woeful 12-of-26 at the free throw line.

"After Tuesday, all the coaches looked at each other and said that we didn't have any fire," Lady Champions Head Coach Janie Demonbreum said postgame, "There was no intensity in our defense, we weren't getting the deflections – we're averaging 14 deflections per game and we only had seven on Tuesday – and we have to go back to doing the things that have made us successful. We only had six assists at Cannon County while last Friday against Chapel Hill, Lexi [Comstock] had seven assists herself. Our conversation after Tuesday was that we have to go back to us."

The Lady Champions managed to go back just enough following Tuesday's uncharacteristic loss at Cannon County, holding the Lady Eagles to just 13 points in the second and third quarters combined.

Cascade endured their own offensive struggles all night, in part due to the absence of a knockdown shooter off the bench in Jade Tolar, who was experiencing flu-like symptoms after shootaround. Tolar had been coming on recently, ranked third on the team shooting 39% from downtown in Cascade's previous seven games heading into Thursday.

"She came in a little late to school today and thought that she could make it through," Demonbreum said, "She went through our shootaround, and then shortly after she asked me to take her temperature. We missed her for sure."

Cascade finished just 2-for-14 from outside the arc with both threes coming from Keele later in the third quarter. Summertown finished shooting 5-of-23 from downtown for the game.

With the game tied up at 24 apiece, Keele found some room in the corner against Summertown's zone, knocking in her first triple with 2:38 left in the third quarter to give Cascade its first lead of the night, 27-24. A few possessions later following a Summertown backcourt violation, Keele nailed her second triple, this time from the right wing with 1:18 to go to double the Lady Champs' lead.

Tess Long responded with a shooter's roll three-pointer, but Cascade still held a three-point lead, 30-27, heading into the final frame.

The Lady Eagles managed to cut the lead to just a single point in the fourth, but then Kaegan Young drew Ella Busby's fourth foul on an and-one to give Cascade a 34-31 lead with 4:46 to go. Busby would finish with zero points in the second half after scoring eight in the first 16 minutes thanks to the lockdown on-ball defense from Keele.

"It's just understanding your scouting report," said Demonbreum,"We spend a lot of time as a coaching staff dissecting film, and the reports that we give our girls are extremely detailed. Reading those time and time again and understanding what that person does best, and Lizzie [Keele] knew what Busby did best, and that was the drive. We knew we had to keep Busby in front, we couldn't let her get to the elbow, and Lizzie did such a great job. She's done a great job all year long defensively against some of the best in the state, and she's only a sophomore."

Cascade's lead quickly grew to its largest of the night, 38-31, with Busby on the bench at the halfway point of the fourth quarter thanks to a personal 7-0 run from Young. However, the Lady Eagles mounted one final rally, trimming the lead back down to 39-36 with about a minute to play before Caroline Parker all but put the game away with a clutch layup inside to give the hosts a two possession lead.

Parker finished with eight points for the Lady Champions, countering the eight second-half points from Summertown's Gabi Long as well as the team-high 13 points from El-lee-lu Mason.

Early on, Summertown took a 14-11 lead at the end of the first quarter, setting the tone with the Lady Eagles methodical and deliberate style of play. In the second quarter, Cascade trimmed the lead down to two points, 20-18, heading into the halftime locker room.



Kaegan Young (22) lays in two of her game-high 18 points in Thursday's District 9-AA win over Summertown.
*Photo courtesy of David Smith.*

In the third quarter, the Lady Champs maintained their high-octane defense, outscoring Summertown, 12-7, to take the aforementioned three-point lead, 30-27, heading into the fourth.

The Lady Champions improve to 17-5 overall, and move into sole possession of first place in District 9-AA with four games to go. Cascade returns to district play next Friday with a road trip to Loretto, LIVE on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400 at 5:45 p.m.

*CASCADE: Young 18, Keele 9 (2), Parker 8, Laughlin 4, Comstock 4, Crews.*

*SUMMERTOWN: Mason 13 (2), Busby 8 (1), G. Long 8 (1), Bonner 6 (1), T. Long 4, Brown 2.*

# Coach Insell reaches 500th career win as Blue Raiders best Liberty

MT ATHLETICS

**MURFREESBORO, Tenn.** — Middle Tennessee Women's Basketball (11-9, 6-2 CUSA) topped Liberty (9-9, 3-4 CUSA) Friday night in the Murphy Center by a final score of 63-54. The win marked 500 NCAA division one wins for Blue Raider Head Coach Rick Insell.

The Blue Raiders struck first, Blair Baugus scoring the first two points of the game with a jumper in the paint. Middle Tennessee held the lead for the rest of the first quarter, entering the second leading 17-12. Baugus posted double figure scoring for the Blue Raiders just in the first quarter, leading all players in the game with 10 points.

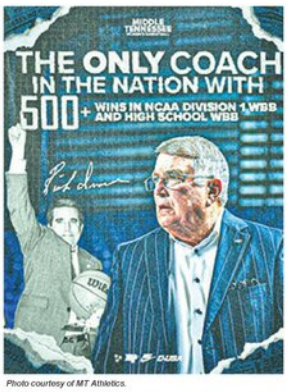



*Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.*

Middle Tennessee caught fire from deep, Savannah Davis and Alayna Contreras combining for nine points to start the second quarter. The Blue Raiders went on a 7-0 scoring run and held the Flames scoreless for over three minutes in that stretch. The teams headed into the locker room at halftime with a score of 29-27 in favor of the Flames, Liberty's first lead in the first 20 minutes of play. Baugus continued to lead all players in scoring at the half with 11 points.

Kirston Verhulst opened the third quarter with a three-pointer, putting the Blue Raiders back in the lead. Middle Tennessee and Liberty traded blows the rest of the third quarter; the Blue Raiders ultimately took a three-point lead into the fourth with a score of 43-40.

The fourth quarter was all Middle Tennessee, the Blue Raiders scoring 20 points in the last 10 minutes of play. Three Blue Raiders finished the game in double-digit points, Blair Baugus leading the way with 22, Alayna Contreras and Macie Phifer posting 15 and 13. Middle Tennessee had 11 steals and scored 22 points on 19 Liberty turnovers.

**By the Numbers**

500: With tonight's win over Liberty, Head Coach Rick Insell has reached the tremendous milestone of 500 career wins.

6: Insell is now one of just six active women's basketball head coaches in the nation to have amassed 500 wins at one school.

1: Coach Insell is the only coach in women's basketball history with 500 wins at both the high school and NCAA division one levels.




*Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.*

**Up Next**

The Blue Raiders will host rival Western Kentucky on Saturday, Jan. 31. The game is scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. CT and will be broadcast on the Blue Raider Network, as well as streamed on ESPN+.

# Champs' Four-Game Win Streak Comes to an End Against No. 5 Summertown

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

**BELL BUCKLE, Tenn.** – The Cascade Champions (13-8, 2-2) fell to .500 in District 9-AA after a 68-51 loss to No. 5 Summertown (16-4, 3-1) on Thursday night at The Stable.

Tristin Billings led Cascade with a team-high 18 points, Kaleb Kelso finished with 13 points, but the Champions could only muster up 10 points in the fourth quarter as a team as the visitors pulled away.

Summertown was led by a game-high 21 points from Graham Howell, 17 points from Lleyton Sherman, and 14 points from Sawyer Sherman.

After Cascade managed to trim the lead to just three points, 49-46, when Tristin Billings converted on a three-point play with 6:24 remaining, Summertown slammed the door shut by closing on a 19-2 run, sparked by back-to-back and-ones. First, Andrew Mabry converted on an old-fashioned three-point play, then on the following possession, Lleyton Sherman converted on a four-point play to give the visitors a lightning-quick 10-point lead with 5:24 remaining. This sequence seemed to suck out any air Cascade might have had left for another late-game rally, and Doug Worsley eventually emptied his bench with three minutes to go.

Summertown controlled the game from the jump, taking a 15-11 lead at the end of the opening period. In the second, the Eagles outscored Cascade, 16-13, to take a 31-24 lead heading into the halftime locker room despite Billings and Kelso combining for 19 points in the half.

Coming out for the second half, Summertown survived an early Champions' run to trim the lead down to three points, 39-36, closing the final 2:00 of the third quarter on a 10-5 mini-run to take a 49-41 lead heading into the final frame.

In that fourth quarter, the hosts mounted one final push, but ultimately came up well short in the fourth of eight District 9-AA contests during the regular season.

The Champions fall to 13-8 overall, and currently sit in a tie for third place with Community in the District 9-AA standings. Cascade returns to district play next Friday with a road trip to Loretto, LIVE on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400 at 5:45 p.m.

*CASCADE: Billings 18 (3), Kelso 13 (1), Rodgers 7 (1), Stone 3 (1), Gulick 3 (1), Jones 3 (1).*




## COMMUNITY MIDDLE ARTIST PAINTING DISPLAYED AT THE PARTHENON

Community Middle School student, Audrey Notgrass, recently received 3rd place in the Middle TN Regional Art Exhibition for her painting, "New Mexico Morning." Visual arts instructor is Cynthia Donnelly. Audrey's painting will be on display at The Parthenon art museum in Nashville throughout February.




## VOLLEYBALL TEAM SHARES WARMTH

*SCSK Photo*

Community High School Volleyball Team made a significant contribution of handmade blankets to Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen during the holidays.



## CASCADE BAND EARNS TOP SPOTS IN COMPETITION

Cascade High School Band members recently auditioned and earned spots in the Mid-State Honor Bands, with two students selected for All-State. These outstanding musicians had the honor of performing alongside top students from across middle Tennessee, representing Cascade and Bedford County School System with pride.



## ROBOTICS GROUP AT CASCADE MIDDLE TAKES TEAMWORK AWARD

VEX IQ Robotics Competition Team A recently earned the Teamwork Champion Award at the Knox Doss Robotics Roundup in Hendersonville! Competing alongside teams from across Tennessee, these students showed exceptional collaboration, creativity and problem-solving skills. With this achievement, the team has qualified for the 2026 Tennessee Middle VEX IQ Robotics State Championship and will continue working toward a chance to compete at the VEX Robotics World Championship in St. Louis. The VEX IQ Robotics Competition challenges students to design, build and program robots while developing critical STEM, teamwork and communication skills.

# Bedford County Schools Celebrates School Board Appreciation Week, January 25–31, 2026

(Shelbyville, TN) January 25–31, 2026, has been designated School Board Appreciation Week in Tennessee, and Bedford County Schools (BCS) is proud to join school districts across the state in celebrating this occasion and recognizing our local board members for their dedicated service to BCS students and educators.

This year's theme, "Local Leadership, Lasting Impact," highlights the important role school boards play in shaping the future of public education. School board members champion student success, advocate for strong schools and govern with the needs of their communities at heart. As elected leaders, they serve as the local voice in public education, helping guide the direction and long-term vision of our schools.

"It takes strong leaders to build a strong community, and our board members devote countless hours to ensuring our schools help every child learn and achieve at higher levels," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tammy Garrett. "The school board's primary goal is to support student success."

To fulfill that mission, the board focuses on key priorities, including:

- Establishing a clear vision for the district and placing student achievement at the forefront;
- Setting strategic direction to help all students reach their highest potential;
- Monitoring progress to ensure goals are met and learning expectations are achieved;
- Fostering a safe, healthy and positive environment for students and staff;
- Building partnerships throughout the community to address shared challenges; and
- Committing to continuous improvement through reflection, evaluation and refinement of practices that impact student success.

"While we are making a special effort to honor our board members during the last week of January, we appreciate that their dedication extends throughout the entire year," Garrett added.

BCS is proudly served by the following board members: Dr. Andrea Anderson, 6th District; Mrs. Shanna Boyette, 8th District; Mr. David Brown, 1st District; Mr. Michael Cook, Chairman, 5th District; Mrs. Lana Craig, 4th District; Mr. Brian Crews, Vice Chairman, 2nd District; Mr. Glenn Forsee, 9th District; Mr. Dan Reed, 3rd District; Mr. Barton Williams, 7th District.

The district encourages students, families, staff and community members to join in thanking our school board members for their leadership, service and commitment to the success of every student.

Bedford County Schools is a district of sixteen schools committed to the academic and personal success of each child and serving over 8,700 students.




## HONORING SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS THIS WEEK

*BC Communications Photo*

This is School Board Appreciation Week across the state of Tennessee. From left, standing, are Bedford County Board of Education members Barton Williams, Dan Reed, Lana Craig, Dr. Andrea Anderson, Shanna Boyette and David Brown, sitting, from left, Glenn Forsee, Chairman Michael Cook, and Brian Crews.



*Submitted Photo*

From left, Sam Blevins ICON Coordinator; Chief Deputy Nakia Elliott; student Merceydeis McGreck; Jail Administrator Ronnie Prince, SCHS Criminal Justice Instructor Corey Ewing.

## SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT ASSISTS SCHS STUDENT WITH INTERNSHIP

Shelbyville Central High School student, Merceydeis McGreck, will begin an internship this semester with Bedford County Sheriff's Department. Merceydeis is a senior in the criminal justice program at SCHS, which is led by Corey Ewing. Bedford County Sheriff's Department has been a terrific partner to Bedford County Schools and has given multiple students the opportunity to intern through the Work Based Learning program, school officials recently said. During her internship, McGreck will develop the skills needed to prepare for a career in criminal justice, specifically as a corrections officer. Bedford County Schools has expressed its appreciation to Deputy Chief Deputy Nakia Elliott and BC Jail Administrator Ronnie Prince for offering local students these opportunities.

# BEDFORD BRIEFS

**COUNTY MEETING**

**Bedford County Financial Management Committee** will meet Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 4:15 p.m. at the Dover Street building for its monthly meeting which was postponed last week.

**CITY MEETINGS**

**Shelbyville City Council** will have a special called meeting Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 5:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers, 100 N. Cannon Blvd. Agenda items include: corporation for 30.35 Acres at 2764 Highway 231 N. (Airport / MTSU Project Area) and consideration of a motion to approve joining with Bedford County officials for a Study Committee to study a possible implementation of a Senior Tax Freeze. See today's public notice section for more information.

**Shelbyville City Council** will meet in a study session on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026, at 6 p.m., in the Council Chambers at the Building, Codes and Planning Building, 100 N. Cannon Blvd.

**THOMAS MAGNET APPLICATIONS**

Admission applications for the 2026-2027 school year are being accepted for Thomas Magnet School and are due by March 9. Thomas Magnet is a free, K-8, public magnet school, located at 515 Tate Ave.

**FIRST SATURDAY MEAL - FC COMMUNITY CENTER**

Flat Creek Community Center will have its monthly first-Saturday potluck meal at 6:00 p.m. on Feb. 7. For the entertainment at 7:00 p.m., Jon Gray of Tullahoma will bring a mix of original songs and storytelling- both humorous and beyond. He has written songs recorded by major Nashville artists and is the host of the show "Tullahoma Living." Bring a dish or dessert, and join the community at 115 New Herman Road for what is being deemed "a lovely night of family, community, good food, and local performers."

# PEOPLE AROUND TOWN



Juniors Nadiya Locke and Maggie Simon



Freshmen Sandrea Lopez and Sequoyah Young

## SCHS basketball homecoming court attendants



Left to right: Nadiya Locke, Maggie Simon, Kyriana Ward, MG Marshall, Honesty Benson, Madeline Tocchio, Ashlyn Knott, Sequoyah Young, Sandrea Lopez.



Seniors Kyriana Ward, MG Marshall, Honesty Benson



Sophomores Madeline Tocchio and Ashlyn Knott

# Quite the winter wonderland this week!



Backyard Ice Rink by Barbara Waterson



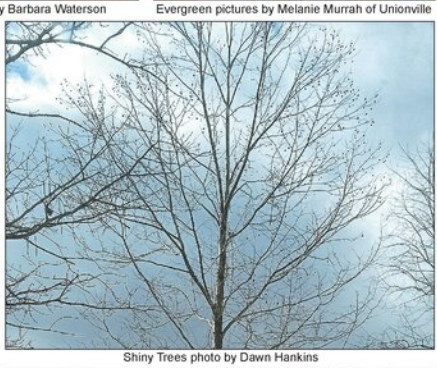
Evergreen pictures by Melanie Murrah of Unionville



Shelbyville City Streets photos by Shelbyville Police Department



Cat Dreams photo by Dawn Hankins

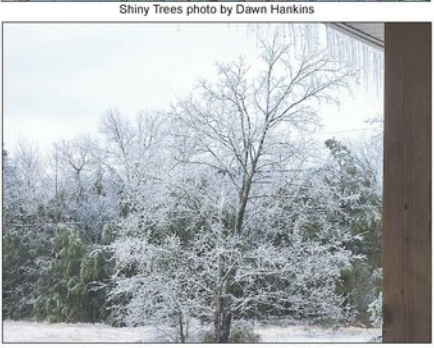


Shiny Trees photo by Dawn Hankins





"Murphy says cheese!" photo by Brooke Adams



Evergreen pictures by Melanie Murrah of Unionville

