COMMUNITY NEWS

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

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Crime data highlights need for state-level action on illegal immigration

Report details 21,000+ criminal charges involving illegals in 2025

New data released in the 2025 Immigration Enforcement Report underscores the need for strong state-level action on illegal immigration, Republican House leaders said on Saturday.

The report, prepared by the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference, documented 21,648 criminal charges involving individuals confirmed to be unlawfully present in the United States or whose citizenship status could not be verified.

The data was compiled from 11,344 reports submitted by local law enforcement agencies in 94 of 95 Tennessee counties between Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2025.

In all, 2,183 crimes were classified as the most serious of violent offenses, including 41 homicides, 145 sexual offenses and 40 cases of aggravated kidnapping. The most common violent crimes were domestic and aggravated assaults with 1,418 total reports.

The most non-violent offenses reported were driving-related, with 12,193 violations listed including 2,920 cases of driving under the influence (DUI).

"This report confirms the negative impact that illegal immigration has within Tennessee. More than 20,000 criminal charges, more than 2,000 violent offenses and more than 40 homicides as the result of illegal immigration in Tennessee, in 2025 alone. I believe one victim is one too many," said House Speaker Cameron Sexton, R-Crossville. "While Democrats support fostering a system where our families and communities are harmed, our 2025 illegal immigration package will ensure Tennesseans are safe and our tax dollars are well-managed by working to put a stop to these crimes, provide transparency at all levels of government as well as the rooting out waste, fraud and abuse. Tennessee will not become a sanctuary state for illegal immigrants nor for criminal actions."

House and Senate Republican leaders on Jan. 15 unveiled nine key pieces of legislation as part of their Immigration 2026 package.

The initiative aims to reduce illegal immigration in Tennessee by closing loopholes in current law, criminalizing un-

See ILLEGALS, 3A

Bedford County's in the Mix

Total Reports Submitted by County			
County	Total Reports	County	Total Reports
Anderson	94	Lauderdale	12
Bedford	161	Lawrence	21
Benton	4	Lewis	5
Bledsoe	*No Reports Received*	Lincoln	47
Blount	257	Loudon	131
Bradley	111	Macon	107
Campbell	20	Madison	127
Cannon	20	Marion	76
Carroll	14	Marshall	16
Carter	24	Maury	454
Cheatham	41	McMinn	38
Chester	10	McNairy	9
Claiborne	11	Meigs	1
Clay	11	Monroe	28
Cocke	17	Montgomery	121
Coffee	83	Moore	22

This is a partial listing of the 95 counties.

The community 'walks the walk' with Tony Rice Center residents

Bibles available for those who want, thanks to volunteers

The Tony Rice Center welcomes individuals from all walks of life—spiritual, non-spiritual, and everything in between.

The mission is simple: to help people heal, grow, and rediscover hope. Recovery is not one-size-fits-all, and at TRC, it's believed that growth should always be offered, never forced.

"For those who desire spiritual growth, we are committed to providing meaningful opportunities to explore faith as part of the recovery journey. One of the most powerful tools we have seen individuals grow with is the Life Recovery Bible. Not only does it contain the full Word of God, but it also offers thoughtful reflection on the 12 Steps, revealing how recovery principles have always been woven throughout Scripture in life-changing ways," said Chris Clay, TRC volunteer.

"Because of the generosity and continued commitment of Fairlane Church of Christ / Several Tony Rice Center Board Members, every client of Christian faith who comes through our doors will now have the opportunity to receive one of these Bibles—a personal source of encouragement, reflection, and strength. Tony Rice Center is deeply grateful for Fairlane's ongoing partnership with the TRC program, including their faithful bi-annual donation drives—one meeting essential physical needs and another supporting classroom and study resources. These Bibles,



and the heart behind them, are more than gifts; they are tangible reminders that our clients are seen, supported, and not walking this journey alone."

If your church, organization, family, or business feels called to be part of this life-changing work, you're invited to partner with Tony Rice Center. Together, you can continue creating opportunities for growth, restoration, and lasting recovery for those who walk through the TRC doors.

Local couple learning the fine art of property rezoning/denial

Council executes its authority; suggests a new plan

By Dawn Hankins

A young Shelbyville couple, Drew and Courtney Clardy, are no doubt learning a lot about rezoning property. During Tuesday's Shelbyville City Council study session, the young business owners presented their plan to build eight duplexes at 933 West Jackson Street.

As a new business ordinance on first reading, their request is to amend the Shelbyville Zoning Map by approving the rezoning of approximately 10 (+/-) acres known as "Patterson Addition Combination," which they own at 933 West Jackson Street from industrial 1 (Light Industrial) to residential-3 (medium density residential.)

The couple advocated for their request during the public comment section during Tuesday's meeting. This is a new process, they admitted, but they assured Council that the duplexes would be an attractive addition to that area.

"We've tried to follow the rules," said Courtney Clardy Tuesday night. "This is all new to us."

She said she believes the neighborhood would be much better off to have beautiful new homes versus more industry.

The Clardys maintain that no more industrial activity could possibly take place on that area near Tyson Foods. In fact, they note the road is so narrow, it would be impossible to add more industrial traffic.

Courtney told Council that she operates a healthcare business and that "her nurses" need affordable homes in Bedford County. She talked about the high price of home ownership here.

Cue the scratching across a beautiful record playing. City Planning Commission has denied the rezoning, based on several factors, even though the property meets zoning map requirements. One of those causes for disapproval is incompatibility with the existing neighborhood.

Also making comments Tuesday night was long-time resident Charles G. Glover who resides at 914 West Jackson St. He stated that his house was the

See REZONING, 2A



Ronda Clanton and Financial Management Committee talk reappraisal schedules

COUNTY FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NEWS

"Special election" set for those running for property assessor

County Financial Management sends recommendation to Commission to continue 5-year reappraisal

By Dawn Hankins

Anyone wanting to run in the 2026 election for Bedford County Property Assessor must pick up their official papers on March 2, and have them turned in March 11 at noon. Miss the March 11th deadline, and you're out, according to outgoing County Property Assessor Ronda Clanton.

Clanton was asked by Commissioner Linda Yockey on Tuesday during the financial management meeting to talk briefly about the electoral process in regard to the upcoming election of a new property assessor.

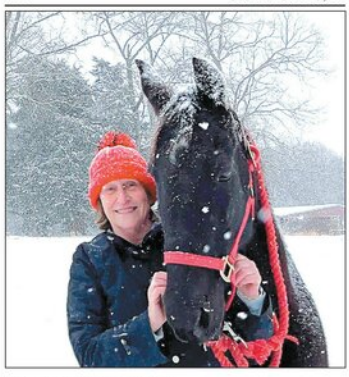
Clanton officially announced in December that she's retiring on Feb. 27, 2026.

So, there's a "special election" for the new property assessor within the upcoming election cycle. The Feb. 19 date for most running for office does not apply to this "special election," specifically set for Clanton's long-held office.

"It's on this ballot, because of the timing of me going out on the 28th," said Clanton. "It allows them time to run it with this election cycle."

As well, if anyone running for property assessor declares a party, they will run in the

See COUNTY, 5A



SNOW BUDDIES

Marcia Murray and her "best friend" Dallas enjoy a little snow time. While last week's snow and ice have melted, there's still time this winter for more. Stay tuned.

ON THE INSIDE

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TUA
TULLAHOMA UTILITIES AUTHORITY

Breaking News

TUA customers and Town of Wartrace is being asked to conserve water.

See Page 11A



Viqueens upset Cascade

The Community Viqueens handed No. 7 Cascade its first home loss of the season on Senior Night.

See Page 9A

REZONING

From page 1A

He stated that his house was the first in that area.

He asked Council to deny the rezoning request due to the development potentially being a disruption to the current neighborhood which is single family homes.

Planning Director Tom Batchelor also discouraged some Council suggestions of some split zoning within the property. This is not an advisable concept from the planning commission, he said.

As well, the flood area in which the property is located as well as potential changes in the longtime existing neighborhood have given the PC pause in this rezoning request and ultimately it denied the Clardy request for rezoning.

The amount of infrastructure repair that would be required was an issue with the PC. Planning Director Batchelor said during the study session that the Planning Commission must look beyond the present and remain conservative when it comes to such rezoning requests.

Council took more of a positive approach with the local business owners' plan and asked several pertinent questions.



Councilman Bobby Turnbow, City Recorder Lisa Smith, Councilmembers, Henry Feldhaus, Marilyn Ewing and Betsy Noel

Council made the recommendation for the couple to basically, regroup. They were encouraged to talk with City planners again and restudy the best approach for their plan.

City Attorney Ginger Shofner reminded Council during the meeting that developers or property owners, once rezoning is approved, can develop whatever business, etc., they please.

While Council could not vote Tuesday night, the item is likely to reappear for first approval on next Thursday's regular Council agenda. Councilman Henry Feldhaus asked for a deferral, so that the couple doesn't have to start their application process all over again.

Tyson Foods has filed an opposition letter. There was some mention Tuesday night that likely, given the nature of their industry, Tyson Foods already has enough neighbors to deal with on West Jackson.



Property owner Courtney Clardy, City Planning Director Tom Batchelor, homeowner Charles Glover and property owner, Drew Clardy

During Tuesday night's City Council study session, City Manager Scott Collins mentioned a BUILD grant that would bring tremendous dollars into the City. The grant is highly competitive. He said the grant could possibly be used for the flume but not sure it will qualify.

Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program

The Department published the FY2026 BUILD NOFO. Applications are due February 24, 2026.

Program Overview

The U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program provides grants for surface transportation infrastructure projects with significant local or regional impact. The eligibility requirements of BUILD allow project sponsors, including state and local governments, counties, Tribal governments, transit agencies, and port authorities, to pursue multi-modal and multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to fund through other grant programs.

The BUILD program, previously known as the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grants, was established under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and operated under annual appropriations acts until authorized in November 2021.

A. REZONING AND CONCEPT_933 W. JACKSON ST.

Planning Staff evaluates rezoning applications summarized as follows:

- Consistency with Adopted Plans (including Maps).[3]
- Whether proposed land use conforms to zoning ordinance for the targeted zoning district.
- Compatibility with underlying zoning district and land use to avoid "Spot Zoning".
- Comparison of the proposed zoning and compatibility with the neighborhood development growth pattern and development policy.
- Whenever a use is not conceptualized, the highest and best use for a targeted zone is used for evaluation.
- Availability and accessibility of Public Services and Infrastructure.
- Compatibility of proposed development and potential adverse impacts.
- Identify conflicts and inconsistencies within adopted plans for future amendment.

TN DHS opens 2026 application cycle for Summer Food Service Program

Target is to expand rural non-congregate feeding options

Tennessee is seeking program sponsors to support their communities by feeding children when school is out.

Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS) announced today that the application for the 2026 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is now open until May 1, 2026 for organizations interested in becoming a SFSP sponsor. The program aims to ensure children 18 and younger, who benefit from school meal programs, continue to have access to nutritious meals during the summer months.

Each year, TDHS partners with food sponsors across the state to provide these meals. The program traditionally runs from the end of May to August when the next school semester begins.

"In 2025, the Summer Food Service Program, provided more than seven million meals to children across Tennessee," commented TDHS Commissioner Clarence H. Carter. "That impact is only possible because of strong community partners who step up to serve. As we open the 2026 application cycle, we encourage organizations across the state to join us in this vital work and help us ensure every child has access to nutritious meals during the summer months."

While the SFSP has historically operated in most areas of the state, the program is focused on serving rural counties that have little to no SFSP meal sites including Benton, Carroll, Carter, Cocke, Fayette, Grainger, Houston, Humphreys, Johnson, Lauderdale, Marshall, Moore, Rhea, and Sequatchie. TDHS is actively recruiting sponsors to serve these counties and welcomes additional sponsors for every county across Tennessee.

If your organization is interested in becoming a SFSP sponsor or becoming a meal site under an existing sponsor, please contact the Tennessee Department of Human Services by e-mail at TNSFSP.DHS@tn.gov<mailto:TNSFSP.DHS@tn.gov>. For more information on the Summer Food Service Program, please visit the TDHS website.

In addition to children of school age, adults 19 and older with a mental or physical disability are eligible to receive free meals if they participate in a school program established for individuals with disabilities during the prior school year.



SHELBYVILLE MAN STILL MISSING

Bedford County Sheriff's Office is asking for the public's help in locating a missing person, Zachary Parker, age 34. He is 6-foot and weighs 230 lbs. Zachary has brown hair and green eyes. He was last seen on Jan. 23, 2026, traveling on Highway 231 North in a tan Chevrolet Malibu. He was last seen wearing a long Carhart jacket, tan pants and sandals with socks.

Detective Chris Brown said Wednesday that the department knows that his vehicle was spotted on the Flock camera system entering Shelbyville from the Flat Creek area in the morning hours of 1/23/26. Around 11:00 a.m., on the same date, BCSO has him making a purchase in Tractor Supply in Shelbyville. After he exits the store, he gets into his vehicle and exits the parking lot, turning northbound. His cell phone signal drops shortly after that and so far BCSO doesn't have any new positive leads.

Look at these photos closely and please call Bedford County Sheriff's Department if you have any information.

COMMUNITY IS OUR MIDDLE NAME

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

FIRST COMMUNITY BANK
FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS FIRST

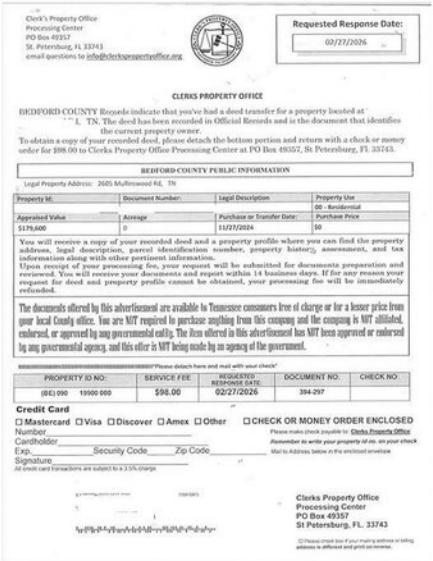
FIRSTCOMMUNITYBANKER.COM MEMBER FDIC

THERE'S A NEW SCAM IN TOWN . . .

Bedford County Register of Deeds office wants local residents to be aware of a new local scam. These folks are out to get your money and or banking credentials, any way they can.

See below what to look out for.

Johnny Reed and the staff at the Register of Deed's Office offer a free fraud alert system that they're happy to help people sign up for. To sign up, call the office at 931-684-5719, stop in, or visit the County/Register of Deeds website.



Clerk's Property Office
Processing Center
PO Box 49357
St. Petersburg, FL 33743
email questions to info@clerkspropertyoffice.org

Requested Response Date:
02/27/2026

CLERKS PROPERTY OFFICE

BEDFORD COUNTY Records indicate that you've had a deed transfer for a property located at [illegible] TN. The deed has been recorded in Official Records and is the document that identifies the current property owner.

To obtain a copy of your recorded deed, please detach the bottom portion and return with a check or money order for $98.00 to Clerks Property Office Processing Center at PO Box 49357, St Petersburg, FL 33743.

BEDFORD COUNTY PUBLIC INFORMATION

Legal Property Address: 2605 Multinwood Rd, TN

Property Id:	Document Number:	Legal Description	Property Use
			00 - Residential
Appraised Value	Acreage	Purchase or Transfer Date:	Purchase Price
$179,600	0	11/27/2024	$0

You will receive a copy of your recorded deed and a property profile where you can find the property address, legal description, parcel identification number, property history, assessment, and tax information along with other pertinent information.
Upon receipt of your processing fee, your request will be submitted for documents preparation and reviewed. You will receive your documents and report within 14 business days. If for any reason your request for deed and property profile cannot be obtained, your processing fee will be immediately refunded.

The documents offered by this advertisement are available to Tennessee consumers free of charge or for a lesser price from your local County office. You are NOT required to purchase anything from this company and the company is NOT affiliated, endorsed, or approved by any governmental entity. The item offered in this advertisement has NOT been approved or endorsed by any governmental agency, and this offer is NOT being made by an agency of the government.

Please detach here and mail with your check*

PROPERTY ID NO:	SERVICE FEE	REQUESTED RESPONSE DATE:	DOCUMENT NO:	CHECK NO:
(BE) 090 19900 000	$98.00	02/27/2026	394-297	

Credit Card
☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ Amex ☐ Other ☐ CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED
Number_____
Cardholder_____
Exp._____Security Code_____Zip Code_____
Signature_____
All credit card transactions are subject to a 3.5% charge.

Please make check payable to: Clerks Property Office
Remember to write your property id no. on your check
Mail to Address below in the enclosed envelope

Clerks Property Office
Processing Center
PO Box 49357
St Petersburg, FL. 33743

☐ Please check box if your mailing address or billing address is different and print on reverse.

2026 Opioid grant applications available

If your organization is about trying to help the Opioid addiction problem, know there is help available. Applications are required.

The FY26 Bedford Opioid applications are available by emailing bedfordopioid@shelbyvilleclinic.org.

The applications include:

1. A letter about Opioid Abatement Funding
2. Bedford Opioid Application
3. Bedford Opioid Budget Template
4. Bedford Opioid Work Plan Template
5. Exhibit "E"

The deadline for application submission is April 15, 2026, 11:59 p.m.

Individuals may contact Fredia Lusk or Shanna Gaither at bedfordopioid@shelbyvilleclinic.org. about the application process and/or to schedule an appointment for assistance.

ILLEGALS

From page 1A

lawful presence as a state offense and requiring E-Verify for public employment.

It also enhances road safety and professional licensing, ensures lawful status for public benefits and school enrollment, and strengthens accountability and cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

"This data supports what we already know: when federal immigration laws are not enforced, Tennesseans are left dealing with the consequences," said House Majority Leader William Lamberth, R-Portland. "Republicans will continue to honor the trust Tennesseans place in their elected officials to prioritize laws that protect public safety, minimize the cost burden on taxpayers and address the devastating effects of these crimes on families and communities."

Law enforcement agencies reported individuals from 119 unique countries of origin and documented 169 different offenses.

Approximately 186,000 illegal immigrants are believed to reside in Tennessee, according to a 2023 data analysis published by the Migration Policy Institute.

While the report outlines data limitations due to reporting inconsistencies and delayed submissions, it represents the most comprehensive statewide snapshot to date of criminal activity involving individuals not lawfully present in the United States.

Top 10 Reported Countries of Origin	
Reported Country of Origin	Total Reports
Mexico	3970
Guatemala	2325
Honduras	1479
Not Reported	888
Venezuela	494
El Salvador	294
Nicaragua	168
Colombia	142
Cuba	110
Jamaica	74

Figure 2: Top 10 Reported Countries of Origin for January 1 to December 31, 2025

Below is a table that highlights violent crimes reported from January 1 to December 31, 2025. These offenses are listed in order of their severity, typical penalties associated with each crime, and harm caused to victims.

Count of Violent Offenses	
Offense	Total Reports
First Degree Murder	9
Unclassified Homicide	19
Second Degree Murder	4
Rape of a Child	11
Aggravated Rape	7
Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child	3
Aggravated Child Abuse - Under 8	9
Aggravated Kidnapping	40
Especially Aggravated Sexual Exploitation of a Minor	1
Vehicular Homicide	10
Statutory Rape	27
Aggravated Sexual Battery - Minor	10
Aggravated Sexual Battery	18
Aggravated Robbery	5
Carjacking	2
Domestic Assault	966
Aggravated Assault	452
Child Abuse and Neglect or Endangerment	112
Aggravated Stalking	4
Sexual Contact w/ Minor - Authority Figure	10
Sexual Exploitation of a Minor	9
Robbery	8
Dangerous Felony - Firearm w/ Intent	23
Possession of a Firearm - Felon	13
Assault on Law Enforcement Officer	33
Assault on First Responder	33
Assault on Healthcare Provider	2
Reckless Endangerment	138
Solicitation of a Minor	8
Sexual Battery	41
Simple Assault	106
Stalking	23
Harassment	22

Figure 6: Reported Violent Offenses for January 1 to December 31, 2025

Joint Bedford County/ City of Shelbyville Senior Property Tax Freeze Study Committee
February 10, 2026
5:30 p.m.
Historic Bedford County Courthouse
1 Public Square E
Second Floor
Shelbyville, TN 37160

SECTION 00 11 16 - INVITATION TO BID

PROJECT: PAVILION FOR SHELBYVILLE - BEDFORD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
220 S. JEFFERSON STREET
SHELBYVILLE, TN 37160
DESIGNER: Kline Swinney Associates
48 Lindsley Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37210

The Work includes the construction of a pavilion structure, inclusive of retaining walls and permanently integrated architectural elements such as built-in benches and desktop surfaces. The Scope further includes all associated site work required for complete installation, including furnishing and installing electrical lighting systems and power distribution infrastructure with integrated charging ports suitable for mobile phones and laptop computers.

The electrical Work shall include the design, furnishing, and installation of a photovoltaic power generation system and all equipment necessary for its interconnection and coordination with the adjacent Library's electrical power system, complete and operational.

Bids are invited for a General Contract for the Work of the above Project.
Bids will be received by the Owner (Attn: Jeff Sweeney, Owner's Representative)
at: 220 S. Jefferson Street, Shelbyville, TN 37160
until: 2:00 p.m. C.S.T., February 26, 2026.
at which time and place bids will be publicly opened.

A pre-bid meeting will be conducted on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. The meeting will start at 220 S. Jefferson Street, Shelbyville, TN 37160. Although attendance at the pre-bid meeting is not mandatory it is highly encouraged as important information concerning the bid project will be discussed.

Interested Contractors must include inside the sealed bid envelope the following list of completed documents:

- Contractor's Qualification Statement (AIA Form A305, 1986 Edition)
- Signed & Completed Bid form
- Certification of Compliance with Tennessee Licensing Law
- Certification of Compliance with the Iran Divestment Act
- Drug Free Workplace Program Certification
- Criminal Background Check Affidavit
- Bid bond in the amount of 5% of the total bid. The bond is required as a guarantee that if the bid is accepted, a contract will be entered into. Refer to bid documents for complete bidding instructions.

The following information must be listed on the outside of the sealed bid envelopes: • Utilize the Bid Envelope cover page in the specifications

- Company Name
- Date and Time of Bid opening.
- Tennessee Contractor License #, Expiration, Date & Limitations.
- List of Subcontractors and their Tennessee Contractor License #, Classification, Expiration, Date & License Limitations for the following trades, Electrical, Masonry.

Digital copies of Plans, specifications, and other documents shall be obtained by Prime Bidders only from the office of Kline Swinney Associates, 48 Lindsley Avenue, Nashville, TN 37210, Attn: Mark Hawley or April Miller (615) 255-1854.

An apparent low Bidder will be established from this bid process. Contracts for this project will be awarded to the lowest, best, and most responsive bid that reasonably meet specifications and qualifications. Immediately after bid opening, Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library will prepare a bid tabulation. The Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library along with Kline Swinney Associates will review the bid tabulations. An apparent low bidder will be chosen, the Kline Swinney Associates will provide to Bedford County a written (documented) recommendation of who the winning bid should be awarded to. Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library will release the bid tabulations noting the apparent low bidder to all participants of the bid. Approximately ten (10) consecutive days after the tabulations are released, Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library will issue a fully funded award PO to the low bidder.

After the successful bidder has received the Award Notice / Purchase Order, said bidder must provide Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library the following items within five (5) consecutive calendar days from the date of Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library award notice:

• Fully executed AIA contract (facilitated through Kline Swinney Associates) • A Payment, Performance, Labor and Materials (PPLM) Bond in the amount of 100% of the contract sum, issued by a bonding company licensed to do business in the State of Tennessee and acceptable to the Owner. Bond is required of the successful bidder to guarantee faithful performance of work under the contract.

• In the event the successful Bidder to whom the contract is awarded fails to execute a satisfactory contract and PPLM bond ad proof of insurance – then said bidder shall be eliminated and shall forfeit his 5% bid bond and be liable for any loss occasioned to the Owner because of such failure.

• INSURANCE: Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library and it's Board of Directors and Director must be named as an additional insured on Contractor's policy.

A. Contractor will obtain and maintain insurance to protect Contractor and Owner from claims which may arise out of or result from Contractor's operations under the contract. Certificate of Liability with a minimum of $2,000,000 listing

Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library and it's Board of Directors and Director as additional insured must be provided.

NOTE: All Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library bids are ultimately subject to funding. Furthermore, Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library reserves the right to waive any informality or to reject any or all bids that are not in the best interest of Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library.

Bidding Timeline:

• Advertised in the Shelbyville Times-Gazette.....February 4, February 7, and 11, 2026 • Documents available from Kline Swinney .....Wednesday, February 4, 2026 • Pre-Bid at Site .....Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. • Bid Opening at 220 S Jefferson Street (Library)..Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. • Bid tabs released with intent to award.....approximately Thursday, March 5, 2026 • Award PO released to winning bidder.....approximately 7 consecutive calendar days after name of apparent low bidder and bid tabulation is released.

• No bidder may withdraw his bid within 60 consecutive calendar days after the actual day of the public bid opening Sunday, February 26, 2026

• Bidders are to include all sales and use tax, payroll tax, insurance, bonds, etc. as applicable by State of TN procurement laws.

• Nothing contained in the commissioned Designer's/Engineer's documents or amendments thereto shall eliminate or reduce the requirements contained in the legal advertisement or this invitation to bid.

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NEWSROOM
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ADVERTISING DEPT.
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Shelbyville Times-Gazette Subscription Rates

Print (In County) - Includes online	Print & Online - OTHER LOCATIONS
1 Year – $74.06	1 Year – $136.84
6 Months – $43.88	6 Months – $68.78
3 Months – $21.56	3 Months – $34.73

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

Abraham and Abimelech
From Genesis 20 and 21

Abraham was living in Gerar where he claimed that Sarah was his sister, fearing that one of the inhabitants would want her for himself and would kill Abraham. Abimelech did just as Abraham had thought and sent for Sarah to live with him.

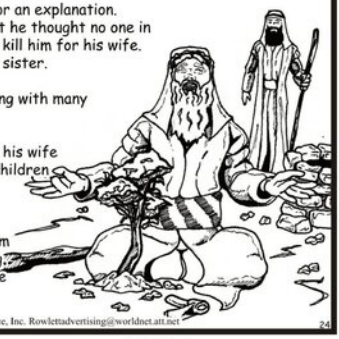
God came to Abimelech in a dream told him that Sarah was a married woman. Abimelech pleaded his innocence explaining that Abraham had claimed Sarah was his sister. Abimelech had not yet gone near Sarah.

Abimelech approaches Abraham and asks for an explanation. Abraham defended his action by saying that he thought no one in that region would fear God and would likely kill him for his wife. He explained that Sarah was really his half sister.

Abimelech sent Sarah back to Abraham along with many head of cattle and sheep and much silver.

Peace was made and God healed Abimelech, his wife and his slave girls so that they could have children again, for he had closed up their wombs because of Abraham's wife Sarah.

Later there was a conflict between Abraham and Abimelech over a well Abraham had dug. Peace was made and Abraham planted a tree and called upon the name of the Lord.



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LUTHERAN
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
500 Elm Street, 931-684-0202

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CANNON UNITED METHODIST
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CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LDS
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EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
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EAST PARK EVANGELICAL
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HOUSE OF PRAYER MINISTRY OF FAITH
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SOUTHERN REALTY
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Joel Landers

Is God Dead? Horror of the Cross



Ty B. Kerley, DMin
Columnist

Horror of the Cross

Last week, we began to look at what Jesus endured before being nailed to the Cross; yes, nailed. We pick up the story by noting that evidence of nailing the feet on either side of the stipes comes from a fortuitous 1968 archeological excavation of a burial cave in Giv'at ha-Mivtar. The discovery yielded the remains of an individual crucified by the Romans, including the right calcaneum (heel bone) through which the crucifixion nail was driven, complete with the nail (still present, piercing the bone) through and through. It is important to note that these were no small nails. The dimensions of the nail that penetrated the heel bone measured 11.5 cm (4.53") long with a square diameter of 1 cm (3/8"). Dr. William Edwards and colleagues said the likely "damage to the peroneal nerve and its branches of the medial and lateral plantar would have been substantial by the nails." Likewise, nails driven through the wrist "would crush or sever the sensorimotor median nerve in the wrist, resulting in paralysis of the hand."

Once hanging upon the Cross, the victim would immediately be faced with the inability to exhale air from the lungs due to the natural slumping weight of the body pulling down on the arms, placing the respiratory muscles in the abdomen in a fixed inhalation state. To overcome this state and allow for exhalation, the victim would begin a cycle of pulling up by his nailed wrist and pushing up with the feet (also nail-pierced) in order to bring the arms down enough to regain momentary control of the intercostal respiratory muscles and the diaphragm needed to exhale. The difficulty and pain associated with this position only allowed the victim to remain in the exhale position for a brief moment before he slumped back down, arms fully extended. For a victim on the Cross, there is either this cycle of rising to exhale and slumping back to inhale, or the victim quickly dies from asphyxiation. There is no static resting period; the victim is in constant motion to remain alive; that's part of the torture. When apparent death did come upon Jesus, critic David Mirsch claims that the Roman soldiers merely pierced His side to ascertain if he was alive or dead. At this point, Jesus was not cycling up and down; he was motionless. The Gospel accounts indicate that the centurion standing before Jesus "saw" that he had died, indicating a motionless state. Even had Jesus been rendered to a comatose state by drugs, as Mirsch contends, death by asphyxiation from this motionless state would have overtaken Him in a very short time.

Under the swoon hypothesis of Mirsch, Jesus was removed from the Cross after six hours of this asphyxiant cycling, unconscious and near death. Even if Jesus had been removed from the Cross very soon after having been nailed to it, He would still have an enormous amount of bodily trauma to recover from in just three short days. It's important to realize that the paralytic damage to the hands and feet of Jesus due to the nails would be magnified by the removal of Jesus from the Cross. A non-traumatic, non-damaging method of removing a body nailed to a cross is not forthcoming. Additionally, had Jesus presented himself to the disciples in this manner, he would likely have had no use of his paralytic hands. However, more physiological trauma was to begin as the pulmonary system of Jesus would begin to respond. Dr. Davis writes, "Then another agony began: a deep crushing pain in the chest as the pericardium, the sac surrounding the heart, slowly filled with serum and began to compress the heart."

As evening approached, the Roman soldiers broke the legs of the two thieves being crucified with Jesus to hasten their deaths, but when they came to Jesus, they found him already dead. As a measure of assurance, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus's side and released blood and water. (John 18:34) The water is considered by medical experts to be evidence of "hypovolemia (decreased blood volume), as well as pleural and pericardial effusions (fluid accumulation around the heart) associated with impending acute heart failure. The blood, in contrast, may have originated from the right atrium, ventricle, or a hemopericardium (blood leaking into the pericardial sac)."

The surprise of Pilate at the quick death of Jesus on the Cross is not surprising to physicians. Considering the evidence, many physicians suggest Jesus died suddenly of cardiac rupture brought on by the trauma of scourging and the crucifixion associated with hypovolemia (low blood volume), hypoxemia (low blood oxygen), and an altered coagulable state (clot forming) that could have produced a cardiac blockage and caused cardiac rupture. Such were the horrors of a Roman cross.

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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

The Beatitudes: A way to balance life

By Dawn Hankins
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

Most people receiving emails from me know that I usually close my information with "Have a blessed day." I began doing this, well, I just don't remember when.

It makes me feel good to wish someone a blessed day. I feel it ends the message, whatever context it might be, with something positive. You never know what someone is experiencing at the moment.

Jesus used the word "blessed" in The Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount.

Evangelist and author, Charles "Chuck" Swindoll, has given insights on the Beatitudes, emphasizing the importance of character traits that lead to a different lifestyle that pleases God. Balance emerges, he explains, when these character traits are mixed together in life.

This week, let's refresh ourselves with this wonderful passage of scripture from Matthew 5.

Oh, and have a blessed day!

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them.
The Beatitudes
He said:
3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
5 Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
7 Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
8 Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
9 Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



By Dawn Hankins from the "Peace on the Island" photo collection 2026

COUNTY

From page 1A

primary in May and if they run as an independent, they will run in the general election in August.

The County Commission will vote on its interim property assessor, as recommended by the Rules and Legislative Committee, in March. At its recent meeting, the Rules committee recommended Paige Beech, current deputy in the property assessor's office, to serve as interim.

Beech has said she will serve as interim but does not intend to run for election for the full-time position. She's worked side-by-side with Clanton for many years and therefore knows a lot of the state schedules, etc., which are crucial.

This will be a tough transition, no doubt.

Clanton told the T-G on Tuesday, "I have been assessor for 29 ½ years. I devoted my life to my work, and many times put it before my family. Within my tenure of this position, which I have been very thankful for, I lost my child to cancer. It was at that time I scaled back on how much of my job came before my family. My mother was diagnosed with lung cancer this past year, so I have had to help with getting her back and forth to treatments (which are done) and I am thankful she is doing well. I am blessed to still have her. Since I have 37 ½ years in the State retirement system, 8 years with the school system & county hospital and 29 ½ years as assessor, when we put the pencil to it, it was a no brainer to retire. My husband [Randy Clanton] retired a year ago and we have a lot of living we want to do but most of all we want to enjoy our family and spend more time with them. The old saying goes "life is too short."

Clanton added, "I am very thankful for the wonderful support I have had from all the people over the years. I have several people who I met through the office and have since became very good friends. I have truly been blessed with a wonderful career, and I owe all of it to God who amazingly orchestrated my steps to where I am today. Thank you again to the people of Bedford County for your unwavering support."

What exactly does a property assessor do?

In Tennessee, a property assessor is responsible for valuing and classifying all real and personal property for tax purposes, ensuring fair and equitable assessments across the county.

The primary duty of a property assessor is to determine the value of all properties within their jurisdiction. This includes both real property (land and buildings) and personal property (moveable assets used by businesses) The assessor uses various methods, including market analysis to establish market values.

Assessors create and maintain an assessment roll, which is a list of all properties and their assessed values.

Tennessee law mandates that property assessors conduct county-wide appraisals every 4, 5 or 6 years. This process ensures that property values are kept current and equitable, reflecting the real estate market fluctuations.

In addition, the assessor is the greenbelt administrator, oversees the appeals process and is involved in community engagement.

Under "other business," during Tuesday's financial management meeting was a resolution, presented by Finance Director Robert Daniel, which would authorize a continuous 5-year reappraisal cycle in the property assessor's office.

This is staying with the current structure for reappraisals, according to Mayor Chad Graham. He said it would be his opinion that the County should stay with the current 5-year reappraisal structure until a new assessor is in office.

Clanton also discussed the reappraisal process which is coming up and said she agrees with the mayor on the 5-year appraisal. "I don't think we're going to see the growth we've seen in the last 5 years.

"And that kind of shows with our ratio between-the one at 2 years-and the one at 4 years- it went from .6556 to .6222. So, there wasn't a huge movement there . . . of course property values were still going up. They're hit and miss now. I feel like it's leveling a little bit, I don't think it's going to drop . . . . I think the 5 years is the way to go."

She said once someone is elected as property assessor, they can opt to shorten or adjust the reappraisal cycle and approach the County Commission with changing that schedule.

The mayor asked if the state is trying to decide what those options might be for reappraisal.

"The comptroller has seen that the ratio is a problem and counties lose a lot of money from that ratio. So, they offered this option of doing a 4-year-an index every year- (a new certified rate each year because it's a mini reappraisal, factor everything back up to 100%.)

Clanton said some counties like Knox and Sullivan Counties have opted for the 2-year reappraisal structure and some have opted for a 3-year.

"This does put more demand and labor intensive within your current office when you do that. But you can appreciate a more accurate penny value, you might say, when you're setting your tax rate by doing that?"

"Absolutely, so, if the manpower is there, I think it can be done. But you've got to have the manpower to be able to do it."

The mayor asked if the 5-year cycle would mean the County would live with the property value for the next 5 years. "If they were in the future to go to this other model, they would potentially get some relief on true values . . . the opportunity to make the tax rate reflect accordingly."

Clanton said the reappraisals will be finished by the end of the February. She said there are opportunities, along with state folks, to answer property owner questions and possibly appeal.

That doesn't change, no matter which cycle the property assessor's office uses, according to Clanton.

Look for these County stories Thursday @ t-g.com. Need a subscription, call 931-684-1200.



LOCAL TRASH TALK AT COMMITTEE MEETING

Diane Forbes, coordinator for the County Solid Waste Department, gave a detailed report at Tuesday's Financial Management Committee Meeting.



TREASURED HISTORY ARCHIVED WITH LOVING CARE

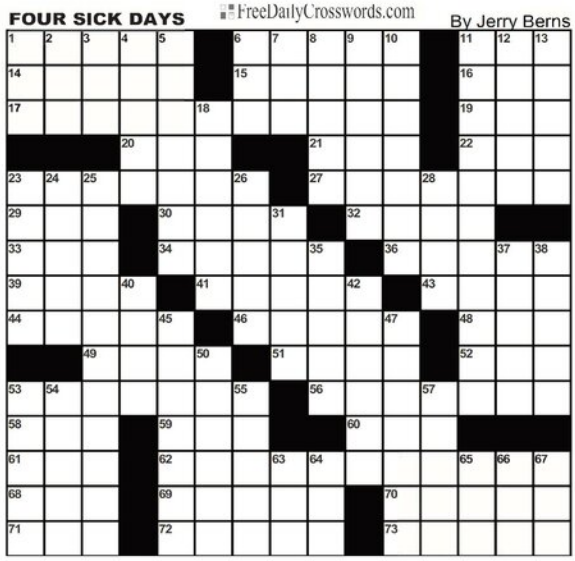
The new BC Archives Center (former Social Security building off square) is looking really great, according to Carol Roberts. She gave her monthly report to the Financial Management Committee on Tuesday.

Crossword

FOUR SICK DAYS

FreeDailyCrosswords.com

By Jerry Berns

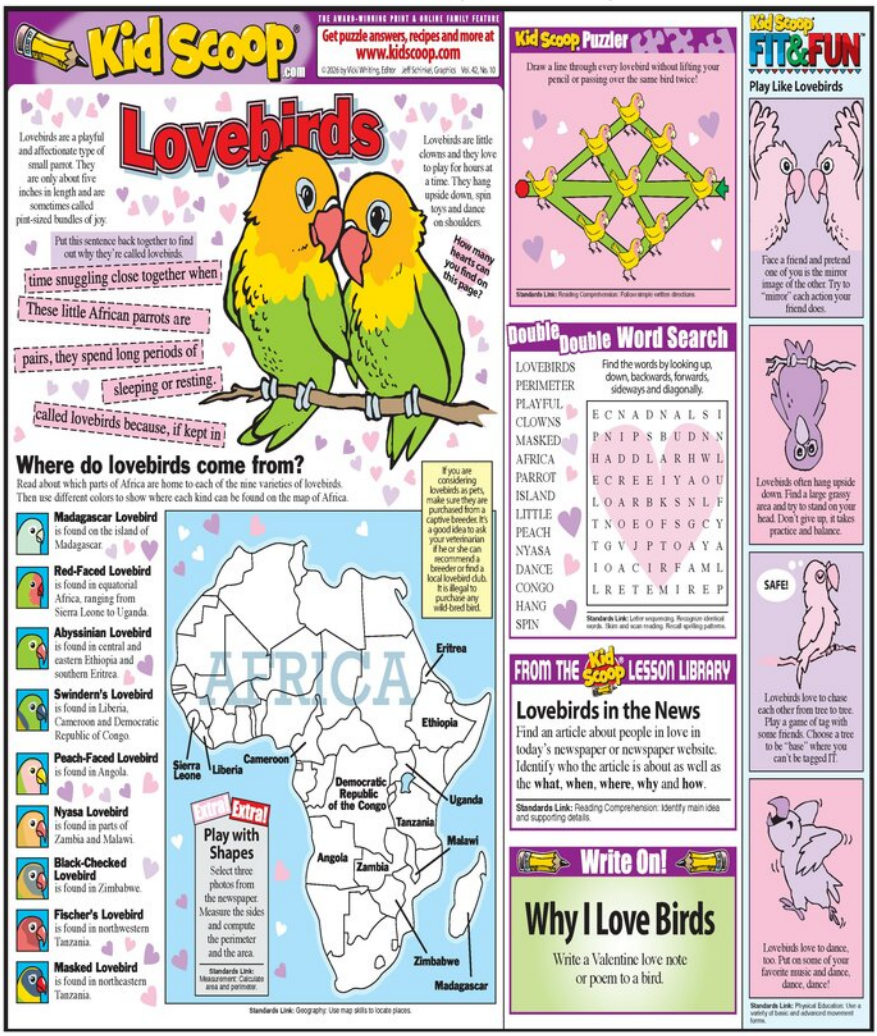


CLUES ACROSS

1) "___ like old times"
6) "Fear of Fifty" author Jong
11) Endorsing
14) Like draft beer
15) Union group
16) "Anytown, ___"
17) Hold grudges
19) Blazing
20) French wine classification
21) Australian with three toes
22) Doctor's due
23) Pathetically inept person
27) Cardinal
29) Japanese tie
30) Focal device
32) One-eighth of a piece of eight
33) Faux___ (blunder)
34) Moved stealthily
36) Latin music type
39) Chancellor von Bismarck
41) Three-tone chord
43) Holier-than-thou
44) Jockey's controls
46) Like brains and ears
48) Alter ___
49) The moon in Paris
51) Double negative?
52) One of the Bobbsey Twins
53) Some wrestling holds
56) Prejudice
58) Historic time
59) Alternative to NC, once
60) Cleo's killer
61) Butter unit
62) Reason for many surgeries
68) Brunched
69) Disease of cereals
70) Establish as law
71) ___ Altos, Calif.
72) Does a casino job
73) Disney duck

CLUES DOWN

1) Weep
2) Memphis-to-Nashville dir.
3) Heathrow airport listing (Abbr.)
4) Chagall and Antony
5) DNA shapes
6) Architectural annex
7) Propel a boat
8) More frigid and slippery
9) Less agitated
10) Hints at (with "to")
11) Feeling of satisfaction
12) Basket weaver's material
13) Appraised
18) Giving off light
23) Deep sleep
24) Diminish in intensity
25) Some purified liquids
26) Small projecting ridge
28) Cotswold cries
31) Descendant or heir
35) Skewered fare
37) Common sweetener
38) Opposite of ecstasy
40) Unwelcome obligation
42) Rejection of a request
45) Emulated a bull
47) Iditarod vehicle
50) Curtain call
53) Country in the Himalayas
54) A Muse
55) ___ different tune (changed one's mind)
57) State one's views
63) Costa del ___
64) "___ a deal!"
65) Shooter's marble
66) Bar rocks
67) Where bacon is stored?



Bedford County property transfers

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

File date: January 27

Seller, Haynes Service Company LLCC; Buyer, Shaun Grant, Anna Beth Grant; Price, $125,000 (Deed).

Location: 3 Rippy Ridge Rd; Seller, EEE Inc, Systems Engineering; Buyer, David T Thomas, Kimberly Thomas; Price, $60,000 (Deed).

Location: 103 Rosewood Dr; Seller, Patrick A French, Taylor L French; Buyer, Matthew Durant, Micaela Durant, Susan M Brinkman; Price, $355,000 (Deed).

Location: Pickle Rd; Seller, Johnny Glenn Wilhelm; Buyer, Richard M Wilhelm, Kristin Wilhelm; Price, $32,300 (Deed).

Seller, Richard M Wilhelm, Kristin B Wilhelm; Buyer, Johnny Glen Wilhelm; Price, $32,150 (Deed).

Location: 1080 Frank Martin Rd; Seller, Carol Green; Buyer, William Lee Peoples, Carol Green; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 1076 Frank Martin Rd; Seller, Carol Green; Buyer, Gary Peoples, Carol Green; Price, $0 (QD).

File date: January 28

Location: Rays Chapel; Seller, Benjamin Gallahaire; Buyer, Robert Gallahaire, Teri Gallahaire; Price, $0 (QD).

File date: January 29

Location: 703 Union Ridge Rd; Seller, Rebecca Nelson Larson, Rebecca Lauren Nelson; Buyer, Justin Michael Mote; Price, $244,900 (Deed).

Seller, GHP Investments, Joseph Forsee, Adam Forsee; Buyer, Charles Sims; Price, $127,500 (Deed).

Seller, Charles Sims; Buyer, Brian Keith Collins; Price, $200,000 (Deed).

Location: 101 Willow Way; Seller, SDH Nashville LLC; Buyer, Kolisha Denise Cox; Price, $325,000 (Deed).

Location: 152 Demonbreum Circle; Seller, Curl Properties LLC; Buyer, Andrea Portillo Amaro, Adelaido Olea Guevara; Price, $299,900 (Deed).

Location: 417 Belmont Ave; Seller, Built and Blessed LLC; Buyer, Haley Martin, Sarah Hensley; Price, $550,000 (Deed).

File date: January 30

Location: 140 Mount Olivet Rd; Seller, Tod B Tanner, Deborah Tanner; Buyer, Chad Matthew Longshore, Sarah Elizabeth Longshore, Tina Longshore; Price, $460,000 (Deed).

Location: 464 Whitthorne St; Seller, Kelsey H Warren, Jeremiah G Brewer; Buyer, Melanie J Qattea, Samir Yaman Qattea; Price, $180,000 (Deed).

Seller, Charles Rodney Bowling, Chanel Donegan, Rodney Bowling; Buyer, Jonathan Mullins, Morgan B Mullins; Price, $634,000 (Deed).

Location: 229 Brown Lane; Seller, Mark A Chicoine, Barbara Chicone; Buyer, Mark Alan Chicoine, Babe Rowley Chicoine, Mark and Babs Chicoine Revocable Living Trust; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Westbrook Rd; Seller, Tanna Rae Richards, Heather Ann Richards; Buyer, Tanna Rae Richards, Heather Ann Richards; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, New Urban Development Shelbyville TN; Buyer, Realty Income U S Core Plus 3 LP; Price, $5,648,803 (Deed).

File date: February 2

Location: 1176 Corder Lane; Seller, Lois Ann Stephenson; Buyer, William Neal Bauer, Mary Helen Bauer; Price, $800,500 (Deed).

Location: 264 Puncheon Camp Rd; Seller, Gregg Allan Garner, Susan G Garner, Susan G Spears; Buyer, Matthew Billington; Price, $900,000 (Deed).

Location: 1038 Unionville Deason Rd; Seller, Kendall Young; Buyer, Benjamin Spurlock, Marynn Spurlock; Price, $280,000 (Deed).

Location: 104 Hillview Ave; Seller, SDH Nashville LLC; Buyer, Lesia Ann Bowers; Price, $329,990 (Deed).

Location: Lazy Branch Rd; Seller, Elizabeth Ann Floyd, Robert Allen Gordon, Billy Mark Gordon, Ida Belle Gordon Estate; Buyer, Matthew Reed, Kendalkl Cook; Price, $160,000 (Deed).

Location: 209 Gladys Dr; Seller, Jeff Ross, Shelia Ross; Buyer, Lois Ann Stephenson; Price, $407,000 (Deed).

TN commerce and insurance departments issue Winter storm insurance claims statement

NASHVILLE – The Tennessee Department of Commerce & Insurance (TDCI) Commissioner Carter Lawrence and Tennessee Attorney General Jonathan Skrmetti issued the following joint statement regarding insurance claims following the recent winter storm that caused significant damage across Middle Tennessee:

"The recent storm has caused substantial hardship for families and businesses throughout Middle Tennessee, particularly in Davidson County and surrounding areas. Our thoughts and prayers are with every Tennessean affected by this disaster. Some are without homes, many are without power, and the focus needs to be on keeping them safe and getting utilities, roads, and structures fixed as quickly as possible.

As the ice thaws and repairs proceed, Tennesseans will rebuild. During that process, those affected Tennesseans will deserve fair and prompt handling of their insurance claims.

The Department of Commerce & Insurance and the Office of the Attorney General are committed to working together to ensure insurance companies fulfill their contractual and legal obligations. We have every expectation that insurance companies will satisfy their obligations and treat policyholders properly. If any company should fail to do right by its customers, if it wrongfully denies claims or otherwise engages in unfair practices, we will not hesitate to act."

TDCI has published important tips and information for Tennesseans navigating insurance claims, hiring contractors, and protecting themselves from storm-chasing scammers in the aftermath of Winter Storm Fern.

Tennessee consumers who believe their winter storm-related insurance claim has been wrongfully denied or who have concerns about their insurance company or agent can file a complaint online or by mail.

For more information, call (615) 741-2218 or 1-800-342-4029.

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

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

NOTICES

BEDFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monthly Commissioner Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 10, 2026 @ 7:00 P.M.
Bedford County Historic Courthouse
1 Public Square, 2nd Floor Courtroom
Shelbyville, TN 37160

Meeting agenda can be found at www.bedfordcountytn.gov.

Public Comment Procedure: State law provides for a period of public comment at local government meetings to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on matters that are germane to items on the agenda. Any person interested to speak should:

1. Record name and address on a sign-up sheet that will be provided, prior to the meeting being called to order.
2. When called upon, address comments to the Chairperson in a respectful manner.
3. Limit remarks to three minutes for items(s) germane to the agenda.

Persons with a disability who wish to request special accommodation to participate in the public meeting should notify April Steadman one business day prior to the meeting by calling (931) 684-7944 or email your request to april.steadman@bedfordcountytn.gov to discuss accommodations. Every reasonable effort will be made to meet your need.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

This Sunday at First United Methodist Church in Shelbyville, Pastor Abe Zimmerman will preach: "God's Love Pursues Us" from Romans 5:6-11. As Valentine's Day approaches, the congregation will look at the amazing love God has for all. At the end of service, communion will be offered. 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 livestream on Facebook and YouTube and a broadcast on WLIJ 98.7 FM and AM 1580.

Sweet Deal Time

Candidates running for public office . . . We have a sweet deal for you. Editorial content, nice color ads with photos and your platforms. It's a sweet package deal this election year. Thanks for wanting to serve the community. Email dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net for more information.



TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR RADIUM GIRLS

Powerful and compelling production of Radium Girls on Feb. 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, and March 1. This production is presented by Emerge, teen actors' group.

Radium Girls is a 2000 play by D.W. Gregory based on the true story of young women who painted glow-in-the-dark watch dials in the 1920s, then suffered a mysterious, fatal illness due to radium poisoning. The play follows dial painter Grace Fryer as she fights her former employer, the U.S. Radium Corporation, and her own family to seek justice and establish workplace safety regulations, a case that became a landmark victory for labor rights and workers' compensation.

PUBLIC NOTICE INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Wartrace will receive sealed bids for Pest Control for Town of Wartrace Buildings.

Bids will be accepted until 1pm on March 10,2026, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud at Townhall.

Bid specifications and proposal documents may be obtained from Town of Wartrace Townhall, located at 29 Main St E Wartrace TN 37183, during normal business hours, or by contacting Tyra Haught at 931-389-6144 or admin@townonfwartrace.com.

The Town of Wartrace reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding process, and to accept the bid deemed to be in the best interest of the municipality.

This notice is published by authority of the Board of Mayor and Alderman of the Town of Wartrace.

Tyra Haught
Town Recorder
Town of Wartrace

PUBLIC NOTICE INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Wartrace will receive sealed bids for Lawn Care Services for Town of Wartrace.

Bids will be accepted until 12pm on March 10,2026, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud at Townhall.

Bid specifications and proposal documents may be obtained from Town of Wartrace Townhall, located at 29 Main St E Wartrace TN 37183, during normal business hours, or by contacting Tyra Haught at 931-389-6144 or admin@townonfwartrace.com.

The Town of Wartrace reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding process, and to accept the bid deemed to be in the best interest of the municipality.

This notice is published by authority of the Board of Mayor and Alderman of the Town of Wartrace.

Tyra Haught
Town Recorder
Town of Wartrace

PUBLIC NOTICE INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Wartrace will receive sealed bids for cleaning of town buildings.

Bids will be accepted until 2 p.m. on March 10, 2026, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud at Townhall.

Bid specifications and proposal documents may be obtained from Town of Wartrace Townhall, located at 29 Main St., E Wartrace, TN 37183, during normal business hours, or by contacting Tyra Haught at 931-389-6144 or admin@townonfwartrace.com.

The Town of Wartrace reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding process, and to accept the bid deemed to be in the best interest of the municipality.

This notice is published by authority of the Board of Mayor and Alderman of the Town of Wartrace.

Tyra Haught
Town Recorder
Town of Wartrace

Obituaries

Barbara Jean Enochs Farrar



Barbara Jean Enochs Farrar, of Tullahoma, passed away on Wednesday, January 28th, 2026 at Highpoint Health-Winchester at the age of 88. Mrs. Farrar was born in Shelbyville to the late David Reagor Enochs and Jean Reagor Enochs. During her life she worked as the bookkeeper for her husband's business, Jimmy Farrar Flowers and Gifts, and was an avid and dedicated Vanderbilt sports fan.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Farrar was preceded in death by her husband of 51 years, James "Jimmy" Farrar. She is survived by three daughters, Jean Marie (Joe) Ford, Ginny (Pat) Pack and Elizabeth (Dan) Szalkowski; 7 grandchildren, J. (Ashley) Ford, David (Sara) Ford, Dr. Farrar Jean Ford (Sam Scurlock), Brittany (Philip) Mook, Will (Julie) Pack, Kristen (Josh) Chan, and Jackson Szalkowski; 9 great-grandchildren, Clark and Owen Ford, Atticus, Teagan, and McKenna Scurlock, Kennedy and Henry Mook, and Wilson and June Pack; and one sister, Gloria (Ted) LaRoche.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, February 7th, 2026, at Kilgore Funeral Home from 1:00-3:00 p.m. with a memorial service to immediately follow at 3:00 p.m. with Ashley LaRoche Heeren officiating. Entombment will follow at Rose Hill Memorial Gardens.

For those who wish, donations may be made to the National Commodore Club or Vandy United. Mailing address of both organizations is 2601 Jess Neely Drive, Nashville, TN 37212.

Kilgore Funeral Home in Tullahoma is in charge of arrangements.

Jim Bradley Finch



Jim Bradley Finch, 69, of Shelbyville, died February 1, 2026.

Funeral Services will be held 1:00 P.M. Friday, February 6, 2026, at Hillcrest Funeral Home with brother Tom Orman officiating. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be held Thursday evening from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

He was born April 16, 1956 in Lebanon, TN., a 48 year retired Owner/Operator of Bradley's Body Shop of Shelbyville.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Ernest C. Finch and Nannie Wilson Proctor Finch. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Sue Williams Finch; his children, Christopher "Brad" Finch (Christine), Jonathan W. Finch (Kimberly) of Shelbyville, April Suzanne Finch Chambers (Brian) of Tullahoma; sisters,

Paulette Barrett, Faye Underwood, Tillie Hall, Rebecca Hartgrove; brothers, Leroy Finch, Nelson Finch (Donna) and Howard Finch (Sharon); four grandchildren, Destinee Finch Carlton (Tristan), Lecia Porter (Austin), Andrew Finch (Gabrielle), Landon Finch and 10 great grandchildren.

Hillcrest Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Thomas Thompson



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Thomas Thompson, who departed this life on January 24, 2026, at the age of 55.

Born on July 4, 1970, Thomas was a beloved son, brother, and friend who touched the lives of many with his infectious spirit and unwavering kindness. Thomas was raised in Shelbyville, Tennessee, where he attended Central High School. He had a passion for mechanics, working primarily on Kubotas, but his expertise extended to anything that had wheels. His dedication to his craft and his generous nature endeared him to colleagues and friends alike.

Thomas was known for his infectious laughter, always smiling, joking, and ready to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. An avid outdoorsman, Thomas cherished the moments he spent outdoors and found joy in working on racecars for Duck River. His enthusiasm for life and deep love for his family was evident in everything he did. Family gatherings were often filled with his laughter and energy, creating cherished memories for all who knew him. Thomas is survived by his devoted mother, Marcia Perry of Shelbyville, Tennessee; his brother, Hamilton Arndt; his sisters, Crystal Thompson and Teresa Thompson Merlo, also of Shelbyville; his step-brother, Bradley Perry of Unionville; along with several nieces, nephews, and extended family members, including an aunt and uncles. He was preceded in death by his father, Gail Thompson; his grandparents, Cecil and Pearl Thompson, Geneva R. Williams, and Aubrey Williams; as well as his brother Robert Lee Thompson.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, February 8, at the New Bethel Baptist Church in Shelbyville, Tennessee. Visitation with family will commence at 1:00 PM and will be followed by a service at 2:00 PM, officiated by Brother Jonathan Curry.

Family and friends are invited to gather and share their memories of a cherished soul who will be greatly missed. In Thomas's memory, let us reflect on the joy he brought into our lives and honor his spirit by practicing kindness, generosity, and a love for laughter as he did. He may have left this world, but the legacy he built in the hearts of many lives on eternally.

Larry Ray McClenney



Funeral services for Larry Ray McClenney, age 71, of Flat Creek, will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, February 4, 2025, at Doak Howell Funeral Home with Brother Tyler Shoemaker and Jimmy Gray officiating. Burial will follow at Rosebank Cemetery.

Mr. Larry passed from this life on Saturday, January 31, 2026, surrounded by his family. Visitation will take place prior to the service beginning at 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Larry was the son of the late Frank McClenney and Sue McClenney. He was a devoted husband for 33 years to his beloved wife, Becky McClenney, who survives him. He was a member of Flat Creek Church of Christ and attended Calvary Baptist Church. Larry retired in 2020 after 42 years of service as a production mechanic with Albea (American Can).

An avid outdoorsman, Larry loved hunting, fishing, and working on the farm. After his father's passing in 1988, he faithfully continued raising cattle and caring for the animals with unwavering dedication. He embraced retirement wholeheartedly and enjoyed the peace and simplicity of a slower-paced life.

Above all, Larry's greatest devotion was to his family. He loved being a husband, father, and grandfather, and he rarely missed an opportunity to support his grandchildren. Whether it was a ballgame, school program, or any event they were part of, Larry was always there—smiling, cheering, and proud beyond words. His happiest moments were spent surrounded by the people he loved, often gathered around the table sharing food, laughter, and stories.

In addition to his wife and mother, Larry is survived by his children, Lauren (David) Garland and Lance (Taressa) Wright; grandchildren Kaiden Garland (Cayde Fitzgerald), Mason Wright, Brylee Garland, and Madox Wright; and great-granddaughter Laynie Rae Fitzgerald. He is also survived by his brothers, Jerry (Christie) McClenney and Randy McClenney; nephew Jason (Casey) McClenney and nieces Amanda (Kevin) Brothen and Melissa (Brandon) Harris.

He was preceded in death by his father, Frank McClenney; nephew, Daniel McClenney; and niece, Amy McClenney.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made to the Wounded Warrior Project (https://woundedwarriorproject.org), honoring Larry's generous spirit and his appreciation for those who serve.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

www.doakhowellfuneralhome.com

Delbert Ray Jones



Delbert Ray Jones, age 86, of Moore County, TN., went to be with his Heavenly Father Monday, January 12, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on September 25, 1939, in Owens, Texas, to the late Alvin Richard Jones and Abby Faye Hughes Jones. Besides his parents, Delbert is also preceded in death by his siblings, Ricky Jones, Nancy Harter, Ginger Barber, and Joyce Martin; sons-in-law, Gary Mauney and Wink Dickey; sisters and brothers-in-law, Jeanette and Leonard Montgomery, Carolyn and Buddy Adamson, Novella and Gary Koplan, William C. Warren, Earl Barber, Don Martin, and Jack Campbell.

Delbert attended Charity Baptist Church in Moore County. He loved Jesus and read his Bible every night. He enjoyed playing gospel and country music on his guitar with friends and family and watching Brother Charles Stanley on the television. Delbert proudly served his country in the United States Army, 82nd Airborne Division.

His family lovingly remembers him as a Bonafide Texan that loved his cowboy hats and boots. Delbert also enjoyed riding his tractor with his grandchildren. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend.

In his working years, Delbert was a computer analyst and worked for IBM and Commanche Peak. He was also a business owner and cattle farmer. He will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He is survived by his loving wife, Vonda Warren Jones; daughters, Tina Mauney, Debbie White (Bob), Denell Dickey, and Hillari Walston (Warren); grandchildren, Justin (Teddie), Austin (Brittany), Harlon (Morgan), Carter (Jessica), Travis (Breanna), Wes, Reese, and Devan (Joey); 5 Great-Grandchildren; brother, Tim Jones (Isabel); brothers and sisters-in-law, Jerry and Dora Warren, Dayton and Pollyanna Warren, Annette Warren, Peggy Campbell, Cowan Harter, and Nancy and Ben Royston.

The family will receive friends from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. Thursday, January 15th at Gowen-Smith Chapel. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, January 16th at Charity Baptist Church in Moore County with Brother Michael Pierce and Brother Brian Love officiating. Interment will follow in Raby Cemetery.

Gowen-Smith Chapel is honored to be serving the family of Delbert Ray Jones.

Death Notices

Harry Jay Tift, age 70, of Chapel Hill, passed away on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at his residence. A native of Lansing, Mich., he was the son of the late Harry Samuel Tift and Josena Feikema Tift.

Survivors include sons, Bradly Tift of Chapel Hill and Benjamin Tift, both of Chapel Hill.

LAWRENCE FUNERAL HOME Chapel Hill is in charge of arrangements.

Linda Holt Clark, age 78, of Murfreesboro

August 2, 1947-February 2, 2026

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

Donald "Duck" Cunningham, age 83, of Nunnelly, died on January 28, 2026, at his home in Nunnelly. Mr. Cunningham was a native of Rutherford County and son of the late Clarence Eugene Cunningham and Annie Pauline Smith Cunningham.

Mr. Cunningham is survived by his sister, Georgia Wisdom of LaVergne; brothers, Paul Eugene Cunningham of Shelbyville, Calvin Cunningham of Murfreesboro, Dorris Wayne "Kinky" Cunningham of Shelbyville, Kenneth Cunningham of Atlanta, GA; sister-in-law, Bonnie Cunningham of the Rover community.

Lawrence Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Eula Mai Smith, age 97, of Orange Park, Florida, formerly of Shelbyville, died January 28, 2026, at Palagio Senior Living.

She was born on May 18, 1928, to James Ernest and Georgia Smotherman Sudberry. She graduated from Community High School.

In addition to her parents, Eula Mai was preceded in death by her husband, James; her son, Phil Smith; 3 brothers, Lum Henry Sudberry, Clyde Sudberry, and Heyward Sudberry; 2 sisters, Jo Ann Holland, and Mary Burrow.

She is survived by daughter, Wanda Woods.

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

Denna Marie Blindt, age 45, of Wartrace, passed away January 25, 2026, at Alive Hospice in Murfreesboro. She was born April 2, 1980, in Tullahoma.

Preceding her in death was her husband, Kenny Blindt; father, Tony Scott; mother, Janell Ruffatto; grandfather, Vern Ruffatto; grandparents James and Barbara Scott.

Survivors include sister, Jamie Clay (Lawrence) McKee, of Wartrace; grandmother, Shirley Ruffatto (Bobby) Phillips of Shelbyville.

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

Jerry Lewis "Head" Hampton, 67 was born September 5, 1958, to the late Earnest and Leola Sims Hampton. He entered his heavenly home on January 26, 2026, at the Waters of Shelbyville after a short illness.

Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother Larry Hampton; sisters, Zelma Hampton, Rosie Lee Coope and Margaret Hampton Bean.

Survivors include sister, Arlene (AW) Smith; brothers, Wayne Hampton, Donald (Pam) Hampton and Earnest (Bernice) Hampton.

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

FOUR SICK DAYS — By Jerry Berns

1 S	2 E	3 E	4 M	5 S		6 E	7 R	8 I	9 C	10 A		11 F	12 O	13 R
14 O	15 N	16 T	17 A	18 P		19 L	20 O	21 C	22 A	23 L		24 U	25 S	26 A
27 B	28 E	29 A	30 R	31 I	32 L	33 L	34 W	35 I	36 L	37 L		38 L	39 I	40 T
		41 C	42 R	43 U			44 E	45 M	46 U			47 F	48 E	49 E
50 S	51 A	52 D	53 S	54 A	55 C	56 K		57 R	58 E	59 D	60 B	61 I	62 R	63 D
64 O	65 B	66 I		67 L	68 E	69 N	70 S		71 R	72 E	73 A	74 L		
75 P	76 A	77 S		78 S	79 N	80 U	81 C	82 K		83 S	84 A	85 L	86 S	87 A
88 O	89 T	90 T	91 O		92 T	93 R	94 I	95 A	96 D		97 S	98 M	99 U	100 G
101 R	102 E	103 I	104 N	105 S		106 L	107 O	108 B	109 E	110 D		111 E	112 G	113 O
		114 L	115 U	116 N	117 E		118 N	119 O	120 N	121 O		122 N	123 A	124 N
125 N	126 E	127 L	128 S	129 O	130 N	131 S		132 B	133 I	134 G	135 O	136 T	137 R	138 Y
139 E	140 R	141 A		142 R	143 C	144 A		145 A	146 S	147 P				
148 P	149 A	150 T		151 T	152 O	153 N	154 S	155 I	156 L	157 L	158 I	159 T	160 I	161 S
162 A	163 T	164 E		165 E	166 R	167 G	168 O	169 T		170 E	171 N	172 A	173 C	174 T
175 L	176 O	177 S		178 D	179 E	180 A	181 L	182 S		183 D	184 E	185 W	186 E	187 Y

Viqueens Spoil Senior Night, Spring Major Upset at No. 7 Cascade in 'Battle of Bedford'

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

BELL BUCKLE, Tenn. - For their first game action in 14 days, the Community Viqueens (12-10, 2-3) picked a perfect time to put together one of their best performances of the season on Tuesday, handing No. 7 Cascade (18-6, 5-1) its first home loss of the season on Senior Night, 56-46.

"We hadn't played in 14 days, and I felt like when we walked in here we were all happy that we actually would get to play a game," Viqueens' Head Coach Cody Pierce said postgame, "We hadn't missed too many practices, but it's nice that we're back to playing. We played with a ton of passion early, and it just carried over throughout the game. The girls came ready to play tonight."

After suffering a tough loss against Cascade back on Jan. 13, 51-46, Community took it to the Lady Champions from the jump, taking the early lead by hitting six three-pointers in the first half and never looking back in a wire-to-wire victory.



Cascade's Lizzie Keele (11) uses a Kaegan Young (22) screen to get free of Community's Mattie Maxey (0) in Cascade's loss to Community on Tuesday. Keele finished with nine points. *Photo courtesy of David Smith.*

"We've been eager to find that game to give us a spark – we've played well at times but just didn't make winning plays at the end," Pierce said, "Tonight we did, and we're hoping we can carry it over to Loretto on Friday night."

Community's lead was as big as 12 points early in the second quarter, and despite trimming the lead to two at halftime, Cascade never managed to grab a lead in an uncharacteristic performance from the seventh-ranked team in Class AA.

"We were just unfocused," Lady Champs' Head Coach Janie Demonbreum said postgame, "They just wanted it more, they played harder than we did, they were obviously able to knock down a lot more shots than we did, they got on the floor, they were physical, they just wanted it more, and kudos to them. It's the purple and gold against the orange and black. This is a district rival, this is a county rival, and I've said this every time, it doesn't matter what the records or rankings are, this game is going to be tight every single time."

The Viqueens held one of the best players in the state, Kaegan Young, to just 12 points on 4-of-11 shooting from the floor while Community's Anna Haskins led all scorers with 15 points. Community also received contributions from Brooklyn Yoes and Madisyn Hill with eight and seven points apiece. Neither Yoes nor Hill registered a single point in the first matchup, but they provided a massive spark with 15 points combined.

"It was just a team effort," Pierce said, "Our guards played well, Alyssa [White] did a heck of a job, when she was doubled she would kick it out and we'd make the extra passes. We've talked a lot about how we have to care about making those extra passes, care about making a big play, care about knocking a big shot down, and we did that tonight."

After a fiery start from outside, Community led by seven, 15-8, at the end of the opening period when Brooklyn Yoes nailed a corner three at the buzzer. The visitors extended that lead to 20-8 early in the second before Cascade closed on a 13-3 run to get to halftime trailing by just two points, 23-21.

In the third quarter, the Viqueens again gave themselves a cushion, growing their lead to 32-24 halfway through the period. Cascade's Lexi Comstock knocked down her first three-pointer of district play from the corner to cut the lead to five, 32-27, with 3:45 to go in the third, but that would be the closest Cascade would come to overtaking Community in the second half. The Viqueens once again responded, pushing their lead back to nine, 39-30, heading into the final frame.

As the fourth quarter wore on, it became abundantly clear that the visitors had the perfect recipe for springing the upset. Cascade struggled immensely at the free throw line, finishing just 14-of-21 on the night, and they only managed to score six two-point field goals in the entire game thanks to the interior presence of Alyssa White. Despite scoring just two points, White was one of the most impactful players on the court as her presence altered a number of Cascade layup attempts.



Community's Anna Haskins (3) fires away from downtown in the first half of Community's wire-to-wire upset win over No. 7 Cascade on Tuesday night. Haskins finished with a game-high 15 points on the night to lead the Viqueens. *Photo courtesy of David Smith.*

The Lady Champions nearly put themselves in a position to steal the game with 2:46 to go when Kaegan Young finished strong at the basket with what looked like an and-one layup that would foul out the shotblocking White in the process. Instead, luck was on the Viqueens' side, as the sliding White was deemed to have established position long enough to draw the charge, keeping her team in front, 48-41. When Haskins immediately converted an and-one on the other end to back up by 10, the upset was effectively complete.

"She [Anna Haskins] did a great job leading in that fourth quarter," Pierce said, "She knocked some free throws down, knocked a couple layups down, converted an and-one that was huge for us. She just led tonight. She played hard on defense, and she made the winning plays she needed to make."

Community would tack on some free throws in the final two minutes to secure the massive district win. The Viqueens improve to 12-10 overall, and are set to travel to district foe Loretto on Friday night followed by a rescheduled trip to Summertown on Saturday.

The Lady Champions fall to 18-6 overall, and suffer their first defeat in district play this season. Cascade continues District 9-AA play with a visit to Chapel Hill on Friday night, LIVE on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400 starting at 5:45 p.m.

CASCADE: K. Young 12, L. Keele 9 (2), J. Laughlin 7 (1), S. Crews 6 (2), C. Parker 5, L. Comstock 5 (1).

COMMUNITY: A. Haskins 15 (2), B. Yoes 8 (2), S. Flannagan 7 (1), M. Hill 7 (1), M. Maxey 6 (1), S. Pearson 4, A. White 2.

Middle Tennessee falls 65-60 to Western Kentucky

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Middle Tennessee (11-10, 5-5 CUSA) couldn't overcome a large scoring drought in the second half in a 65-60 loss to Western Kentucky (12-10, 5-6 CUSA).

Kamari Lands came sizzling out of the gate, hitting his first four shots in a row to help him net 12 of the Blue Raiders first 14 points to get Middle Tennessee to a 14-3 advantage just under five minutes into the game. Western Kentucky fought back, narrowing the gap to 17-11 by the midway point of the first half. Lands had a rebound and assist to go with his 12 points, and Torey Alston had three points, three rebounds and a blocked shot.

Western Kentucky went on a 17-4 run to close half and take a 30-23 lead by halftime. Middle Tennessee had just three players score in the first half, led by Lands 16 points and four rebounds. Chris Loofe also grabbed five rebounds and two points while Alston had five points and four rebounds. Defensively, the Blue Raiders did limit the Hilltoppers to 38 percentfrom the field and were outrebounding them 24-18.

In the second half, Middle Tennessee started to go down low, adding 12 points in the paint to claw into the Hilltopper lead and make it 46-44 with 10 minutes to play. Loofe and Alston were most active, with Loofe adding six points and four rebounds to his totals and Alston pulling down four more rebounds and scoring five more points.

Lands finished with a career-high 25 points and had five rebounds. Alston netted his second double-double in as many games with 13 points and 11 rebounds. The forward also had four assists and a blocked shot. Loofe finished a rebound shy of a double-double with 10 points and nine boards.

Nick McDevitt

"We had a great start, but at the end of the day just stopped scoring even though we defended well," said Middle Tennessee Head Coach Nick McDevitt. "It puts a lot of pressure on you when you score just 60 points to try and win a game. At the end of the day, you just have to score it. When you look at our defense, we're the best defensive team in the league, but we got to find a way to hit some more shots."



Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

By the Numbers

25: Career high in points for Kamari Lands.

5: Double-doubles this year for Torey Alston, giving him a double-double in back-to-back games.

Champs Complete Season Sweep Over Vikings on Senior Night in 'Battle of Bedford'

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

BELL BUCKLE, Tenn. - After the first 'Battle of Bedford' meeting ended with 156 points scored combined on Jan. 13, some fans might have been expecting a similar output on Tuesday night. Instead, they saw Cascade (14-9, 3-3) slowly but surely pull away to complete the season sweep over the Community Vikings (13-8, 2-3), 60-52, on Senior Night.

"I thought our guys did a very good job tonight defensively," Champions' Head Coach Doug Worsley said post-game. "We were a little slow on a couple of hand-offs and we fell asleep in transition after scoring a couple of times from celebrating too much, and credit to them for seeing that on tape and taking advantage of it, but I thought we did a good job keeping them out of the paint. When they did get there, I thought we walled up well, and other than getting a little too enthusiastic about trying to block a shot, we didn't foul them a ton. We did a good job – especially late in the game – being unselfish. We were looking to get the shot, not a shot."

The Vikings had not taken the court for live game action since Jan. 20 against Chapel Hill, but Hunter Ferrell's squad managed to stay within two points heading into halftime before Cascade pulled ahead in the third quarter.

"I think we rushed some decisions, rushed some passes...we did a lot of things really well in the first quarter, and you hope that continues on as they see the success in the things that we planned and practiced for, but we've got to quit beating ourselves," Ferrell said, "In the final three quarters, every time we'd try to get something going we'd turn it over or take a shot we don't want to take or don't execute something you're hoping to execute."

"Cascade is a really good team, and Coach Worsley does a really good job, and they let us beat ourselves. It was kind of like we were walking in a field of rakes where it seems as soon as you find some clear space, you think you're good but instead you step on another one. That's what it felt like tonight."

After scoring 32 points in the first meeting between these two, Community's Charlie Haskins was held to just 15 points for the game as Cascade ramped up the defensive pressure and intensity.

"The message was keep him [Haskins] in front of you, he's going to put his head down and go, we've got to have help, and once we've got him stopped, we have to wall him up because he's extremely crafty," said Worsley, "There were some shots that he made in the first game that he didn't make tonight.

For Cascade, Henry Stone led all scorers with a game-high 18 points, Cooper McElroy bounced back from illness with a 17-point performance, and Kaleb Kelso tacked on 14 points for good measure.

Outside of Haskins, the Vikings got 13 points from Josh Powers as well as 11 points from Johnathan Lawwell. 11 of Powers' 13 points came in the first half.

Early on, both teams managed to generate some sort of flow in the first quarter, resulting in the two teams ending the opening period level at 17-all. Powers scored eight of the Vikings' first 11 points on a pair of triples.

In the second quarter, Cascade tightened the screws a bit defensively, taking a two-point lead into the break, 31-29, after outscoring Community, 14-12, in the period.

Coming out for the second half, Cascade managed to maintain the defensive aggression while ramping up the offensive output, resulting in the hosts outscoring the visitors, 16-10, to take a 47-39 lead heading into the final frame.

As the fourth quarter wound on, Haskins' attempts to give Community hope for a late rally were dashed by Henry Stone's backbreaking drives to the basket. Haskins finished with 10 points in the second half, but Stone countered with nine points of his own after halftime to spur on the Champions.

As a team, Community struggled from the free throw line, finishing 14-of-25 from the stripe for the game. As a result, the two teams finished the fourth quarter even at 13 apiece, resulting in the eight-point victory for Cascade.

"We talked about it in the locker room pre-game, it's a big crowd, it's a rivalry, it's Senior Night, so let's keep our heads and stay focused on what we're doing," concluded Worsley, "I didn't think we did a great job of that at their place, but I thought we took care of the basketball tonight and boxed out well. There was more laser focus on doing the little things."

Community falls to 13-8 overall. The Vikings travel to Loretto on Friday before traveling to Summertown on Saturday. Both tip-offs are scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Cascade snaps a two-game skid, improving to 14-9 overall. The Champions hit the road for a trip to Chapel Hill on Friday night, LIVE on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400 at 5:45 p.m.

CASCADE: H. Stone 18 (1), C. McElroy 17 (3), K. Kelso 14 (1) T. Billings 8, T. Rodgers 4, R. Pilkington 1.

COMMUNITY: C. Haskins 15 (1), J. Powers 13 (3), J. Lawwell 11, M. Hill 5 (1), J. Williams 5, K. Boyce 2.



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



Community's Charlie Haskins (3, black) attempts to lay the ball in with Cascade's Ryder Pilkington (15) on the contest. Haskins finished with 15 points in the losing effort. *Photo courtesy of David Smith.*

Blue Raiders take down Lady Toppers in the Murphy Center

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – A win in CUSA play is always sweet, especially as you draw into the end of January, marking just one month of regular season play left. For Middle Tennessee (12-9, 7-2 CUSA), a dominant 81-58 win over its' biggest rival Western Kentucky (5-15, 1-8 CUSA) could be just what the doctor ordered heading down the stretch toward the post-season. The Blue Raider faithful not only saw a lot of wide margins in intangible stats in favor of the home team, but many of it's players achieve new season and career-high marks.

Alayna Contreras didn't waste any time getting off the starting blocks, scoring 14 points in the opening quarter to help the Blue Raiders to a 26-15 lead after one. The senior guard shot 4-of-7, including three three-pointers and grabbed two rebounds. Middle Tennessee also had a 13-6 in the rebounding margin thanks in large part to Macie Phifer, who pulled down five rebounds, three of them offensive, to help get her five points and the Blue Raiders 10 second-chance points to start the afternoon.

Defensively, Middle Tennessee stifled the Hilltoppers in the second quarter to take a 46-23 lead at halftime. Western Kentucky scored just eight points in the second half and were shooting just 27% from the field as a team. Middle Tennessee held lengthy advantages in several intangible categories, including a +9 rebounding-margin, a +15 margin in second chance points, and +4 advantage in made three's. Contreras finished the half with 19 points, three rebounds and two assists while Kirston Verhulst had 13 points with two rebounds and two assists. Blair Baugus pulled down a team-high seven rebounds and had six points to put her near a double-double in just one half.

Baugus achieved the double-double by the end of the third quarter, finishing the period with 11 points and a career-high 17 rebounds to net her ninth double-double of the year, which leads all Division I freshman. Baugus finished with 15 points to go with her 17 boards. By the end of the game, several other Blue Raiders had garnered both season and career-high accolades.

Contreras' 25 points were a season-high and her five three's tied a career-high. As a team, the Blue Raiders tied the season-high for assists with 16, led by Contreras's season-high six assists. In turn, Middle Tennessee also turned it over a season-low 11 times. Phifer tied a season-high with 20 points and also had seven rebounds. Verhulst finished with 15 points and had three rebounds and two assists in the win.

Coach's Comments

We started the game off good, and shot the ball well. We shared the basketball, rebounded the ball, ran the floor, and played pretty good defense. We can't really complain about anything, but we got to be careful because we go down there in two weeks. They'll be a different team then.

By the Numbers

25, 20: Season-high in points for Alayna Contreras and Kirston Verhulst

5: Career-high in three-point baskets for Alayna Contreras.

9: Double-double's this year for Blair Baugus, the most among all Division I freshman.

UP NEXT

Middle Tennessee travels to Springfield, Missouri, to take on Missouri State on Thursday with tipoff scheduled for 6:30 p.m. CDT. The game can be seen on ESPN+ and heard on the Blue Raider Network.

Follow the Blue Raiders

Follow Middle Tennessee Women's Basketball on social media on Facebook (/MTSUWBB), X (Formerly known as Twitter) (@MT_WBB) and Instagram (@mt_wbb).



Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.







THAT'S A LAP!

Swim team photos

Bedford County Middle School swimming has wrapped up for its inaugural season. Although the MTHSSA Regional Swim Meet was recently cancelled due to the weather, Sewanee hosted an alternate championship meet, with middle school qualifiers from across the state given the opportunity to compete. Performances were as follows: Leah Landers, Thomas Magnet, fourth place 200 IM and fourth place 100 butterfly; Logan Luna, Thomas Magnet, 5th place 100 butterfly and 7th place 100 freestyle; Juliet Azpeitia, Harris Middle, fifth place 200 IM and fifth place 100 butterfly; Cayden Drawdy, homeschooler, third place 200 freestyle and 16th place 50 freestyle; Piercen McGee, Cascade Middle, fourth place 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle; Sully Brainard, Cascade Middle, 10th place 50 freestyle; Givens Brainard, Cascade Middle, 20th place, 50 freestyle.



FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTERS SWORN IN

Shelbyville Fire Department firefighters, Cole Solis and Isaac Longoria, were recently promoted from part-time to full time firefighters.



IS 'OLD MAN WINTER' FINISHED WITH US FOR 2026?

Photo by Ryan Fults

Will we have more snow, possibly ice, before winter is over? Last month's weather was memorable enough, many have said. Well, the groundhog apparently saw its shadow. Southern Florida was hit so hard with freezing temps (highly unusual this time of year) that iguanas were dropping out of trees. Stay tuned to Shelbyville Weather for local updates. We post those posts periodically on our T-G Facebook page for your convenience.

Breaking News
Wednesday afternoon . . .

TUA customers-Town of Wartrace-asked to conserve water

From Mayor Brian Ross in Wartrace regarding the requested water conservation from TUA.

"Ultimately TUA has found an issue within their system and asked those that get water from them to conserve water.

"We apologize about any confusion during this time. We are going to explain further and share a post from Tullahoma Utility Authority (TUA).

Urgent Notice.

TUA is the source of our water distribution. They provide water to us and then we distribute it to you, our Town, Normandy, and Bell Buckle and county limit customers.

They have asked us and everyone that receives water from them to conserve water usage for the next two weeks. This is due to a mechanical failure that was found within their system and in order for them to repair, we need to conserve water for this duration.

We will provide an update once this has been lifted from TUA and we can then proceed with normal water usage. Thank you for your patience during this time.


TUA LightTube
1h · 🌐

Voluntary Water Conservation Request

Following the recent extreme cold weather, our water system is experiencing higher-than-normal demand. With continued cold temperatures in the forecast, we are asking all customers to voluntarily conserve water over the next two weeks.

Right now, reducing usage where possible will help stabilize the system and allow supply levels to fully recover.

Here's how you can help:

- Reduce non-essential water use
- Check your home and property for leaks
- Report any suspected leaks immediately
- Avoid dripping faucets unless absolutely necessary
- If dripping is required, make sure faucets are lightly dripping — not running

Small actions across thousands of homes make a big difference. Conserving water now not only supports the system during this high-demand period, it can also lower your monthly bill.

We appreciate your cooperation and your willingness to work together. When our community pulls in the same direction, good things happen.

We will continue to provide updates as needed. Thank you for doing your part.



SPD DETECTIVE RECOGNIZED

Brandi Merlo recently celebrated 6 years of service with Shelbyville Police Department. Detective Merlo is assigned to the criminal investigations division.

NEWS AT THE FLY

Youth visual arts program at the Fly to inspire creativity

The Fly Arts Center in Shelbyville has announced it's now getting started on its new Youth Visual Arts Program for the youth of Shelbyville.

The Youth Visual Arts Program engages the creative process through painting, drawing, sculpture, mixed media, photography, and digital art. We plan to offer a blend of traditional and modern approaches.

The program meets on the first Sunday of each month from 2-4 p.m., with the next meeting on March 1. Initial offerings will focus on beginner to intermediate artists, with a track for the Teen Group (ages 13–18).

The Youth Visual Arts Program is designed to give young artists a safe, encouraging space to grow, explore, and develop their creative voice with guidance from professional artists.

Why art matters:

Art education builds creativity, confidence, critical thinking, and emotional well-being. Creative expression has been shown to reduce stress, strengthen connection, and support overall learning.

Planned programs include:

- Skill and technique classes (painting, drawing, mixed media, sculpture)
- Summer Art Camp
- Set design for Emerge and Metamorphosis productions
- Exhibit tours and guided critiques
- Mentorship and apprenticeship opportunities
- Volunteer and community-building events

SUPER BOWL DAY ISN'T JUST ANY OLE SNACK DAY!

Super Bowl LX NFL is scheduled to kick off Sunday, Feb. 8, at 5:30 p.m. The Seahawks take on the Patriots.

Super Bowl LX will feature a showdown between the New England Patriots and Seattle Seahawks- two teams that have memorable Super Bowl histories — and a notable game in common.

In Seattle's previous visit to the NFL championship game on Feb. 1, 2015, the Seahawks lost 28-24 to the New England Patriots, who won Super Bowl XLIX with a last-minute interception at their goal line.

It's going to be another exciting day!

Here are some great game day snacks to enjoy!

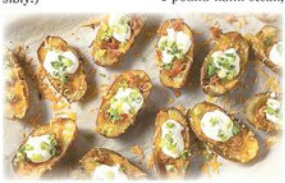
(Family Features)

In the midst of peak home-gating season, with football championships taking center stage and action heating up on the hardwood, a good game day host knows you can never have too many delicious snacks on hand.

Kicking off the madness can be as easy as these Crispy Potato Skins, a hearty watch party classic that keeps fans fueled and engaged with the game on the big screen.

Go for something a bit heartier-KOREAN BARBEQUE-SPICED FLANK STEAK AND GRAPE SKEWERS

Top it all off with your favorite beverage. (Please drink responsibly.)



CRISPY POTATO SKINS

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 1 hour, 40 minutes
Servings: 6

- 6 medium russet potatoes
- extra-virgin olive oil
- 6 slices bacon
- kosher salt, to taste
- freshly ground pepper, to taste
- shredded cheddar cheese
- sour cream (optional)
- thinly sliced green onions (optional)

1. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Clean potatoes then pierce with fork.
2. Rub potatoes with olive oil then bake 1 hour until cooked through.
3. In frying pan over medium heat, cook bacon 10-15 minutes until crisp. Drain on paper towel-lined plate then crumble.
4. Cut cooked potatoes in half then scoop out insides, leaving about 1/4 inch of potato inside skins. Rub with olive oil then season with salt, to taste. Place on roasting pan and cook 10 minutes. Flip and cook 10 minutes.
5. Arrange potatoes skin-sides down and season with pepper, to taste. Sprinkle with cheese and crumbled bacon then broil 2 minutes.
6. Serve with sour cream and sliced green onions, if desired.



KOREAN BARBEQUE-SPICED FLANK STEAK AND GRAPE SKEWERS

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 1 hour, 40 minutes
Servings: 6

Korean Marinade

- ½ cup low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil, toasted
- 2 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- ¼ cup kochi chang (Korean red chili paste)
- 2 tablespoons ginger, minced
- 2 tablespoons shallots, minced
- 2 tablespoons garlic, minced
- 1 red chile, minced fine
- 1 teaspoon fish sauce
- 1 Asian pear, peeled and minced fine
- 1 pound flank steak, trimmed

Skewers

- 3 each scallions, minced
- ½ teaspoon black sesame seeds
- 2 cups red California grapes, stemmed
- 8, 8-inch wooden skewers, soaked in water

DIRECTIONS

For the marinade:

In a small mixing bowl, combine the soy sauce, sesame oil, rice vinegar, brown sugar, kochi chang, ginger, shallots, garlic, red chiles, fish sauce, and chopped Asian pear. Toss to combine and measure out 1 cup to set aside for a dipping sauce later. Trim the flank steak and cut into 1/8-inch thick slices, cutting against the grain of the meat. Add the flank steak slices to the marinade, mix well, and let marinate for 1-2 hours.

For the steak-grape skewers:

Soak the skewers in water overnight. Remove the meat from the marinade and skewer about 1-2 oz. per stick; make sure to leave about 2-inch of space at the front end to skewer grapes after cooking. Set aside until ready to grill.

To cook the skewers and finish the dish:

Preheat a grill to medium-high heat, and brush with oil to season. To the reserved dipping sauce, add the minced scallions and the black sesame seeds. Grill each skewer for about 3-4 minutes per side, marking them with grill marks. Once they are cooked, remove from the grill and spear 3 grapes each onto sharp end of the skewer. Garnish with black sesame seeds. Serves 8 skewers

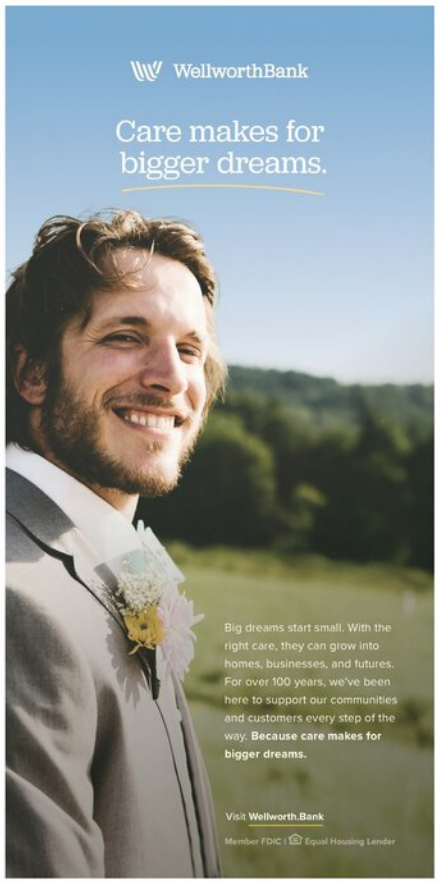
COCONUT CREAM PIE MILKSHAKE

- 3 scoops vanilla ice cream
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/3 cup cream of coconut
- 2 tablespoons sweetened flaked coconut
- 1 whole graham cracker
- whipped cream, for garnish
- graham cracker crumbs for garnish or add a quality Rum

1. In blender mix ice cream, cream of coconut, flaked coconut and graham cracker on high until smooth. Pour into glass. Top with whipped cream and graham cracker crumbs. Or, leave off the graham crackers and add a desired amount of quality Rum for the adults.









Check out the second quarter honor roll for Bedford County schools at t-g.com. https://www.t-g.com/detail.html?sub_id=524f4edd6f

