COMMUNITY NEWS

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

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February is Black History Month

Organ donation needs great within Tennessee's black communities

By Dawn Hankins
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Currently, African Americans make up 8.7 percent of the state registry, according to Tennessee Donor Services. As well, it is reported that 94% of those African Americans on the waitlist in TN need a kidney.

The second most needed organ, per TN Donor Services, is the heart.

"[Disparity in donation] is not an unsolvable problem. I think we have to continue being very direct about our education, one to our community, our education to healthcare systems. I think we need to see these challenges from their perspectives rather than putting the information out there. We have to be putting the information out there in a way that addresses their barriers and tries to remove some of their concerns," says Dr. Beau Kelly, surgical director for Sierra Donor Services in Northern California (sister OPO to TN Donor Services.)

Kelly was featured on the latest episode of TN Donor Services podcast, "Be the Gift Connections." He was also featured on a Black History Month episode.

"What I would want people who are on the fence about organ donation to know is that it comes down to autonomy and realizing the choices that you have to make about your health. We can make choices about our health throughout our lifespan and at the end of life. That is just one more graduated moment where we have the opportunity to choose our healthcare and our wishes."

He added, "So, I would encourage people not to be scared and not to feel alone in making that decision. It's a decision that can be made with family. That's the message that I would want people to understand most: through organ donation, we have an opportunity within the Black community to continue helping the Black community."

Dr. Kelly further notes that the black community today has the opportunity to impact its own health through nutrition, exercise, education, and health literacy.

"And at the end of life, you have the opportunity to make decisions about how you want to have those. You know, it's sort of your end of life to go."

One donor can save up to 8 lives. Please register today. https://bethegifttoday.com/

Learn more about organ and tissue donation: www.sierradonor.org



Was it worth wasting electricity?

February Commission meeting less than 10 minutes

By Dawn Hankins

Bedford County Board of Commission might have set a record Tuesday with its 7-minute meeting.

Rather than postpone the few items on the agenda until next month, the 15 Commissioners present pressed on and were home most likely by 7:30 p.m.

On Tuesday's meeting agenda and approved was Resolution 26:15 for a continuous 5-year property reappraisal cycle. This was placed by the Rules and Legislative Committee.

The Tennessee 5-year reappraisal cycle allows for a continuous 5-year cycle of onsite reviews or photos of each parcel of real property, followed by revaluation in the year following the completion of the review period. This cycle is designed to maintain real property values at full value as defined by law on a schedule at least as frequent as outlined in TN Code 67-5-1601.

During the March Commission meeting, it is expected that current Deputy Property Assessor, Paige Beech, as recommended by the Rules Committee last month, will be appointed interim Bedford County Property Assessor until the full-time person is elected this year.

Current Property Assessor, Ronda Clanton, plans to retire from her post at February end.

Call to order was given by Commissioner Biff Farrar in the absence of Mayor Chad Graham.

There were no public comments.

Other items approved by the 15 Commissioners present were: Notary appointments for the month; Bedford County Quarterly Financial Report; a Canon copier contract for Circuit Court; and Canon copier contracts for the Board of Education. (These contracts are longer than 1 year so they must come before the Commission for approval.)

The Commission had the opportunity at least to recite the "Pledge of Allegiance" and have a heart-felt prayer led by Commissioner Eric Maddox, who had attended a meeting with other government officials an hour prior over the proposed senior property tax freeze. (See page 2.)

Commissioners absent for Tuesday's meeting were: Janice Brothers, Scott Johnson and Adam Thomas.



T-G Photo by Dawn Hankins

Commissioner Biff Farrar presided over the County Commission meeting Tuesday in the absence of Mayor Chad Graham. Farrar seemed surprised at adjournment that it only took 7 minutes to finish the meeting.

City development coming from industrial with residential moving at a slower pace: Planning Commission

By Dawn Hankins
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This is the first installment about continued City growth

During an annual City growth update meeting recently, it was announced that in 2025, there was some growth in the City in terms of annexation-0.06 square miles (36.21 acres.)

City Planning Director Tom Batchelor said during this meeting with City officials, members of the Planning Commission and Shelbyville Water Power Sewerage System representatives, that in terms of City population, the City head count is at 25,498, which amounts to a 1.71% increase in population in 2025.

Batchelor said 2025 residential applications were at 129, which was down. The majority of true growth, he advised, is currently in non-residential which included industrial projects like Walmart DC, airport hangers and MTSU's projected aviation school off Highway 231 North at the airport.

But could that slower trend be taking an upswing in 2026?

Batchelor told the group, which met at the Shelbyville Recreation Center, that about 500 concept level and preliminary plats are expected within the next couple months.

He said there's more development interest and activity around the 437 Bypass, mentioning Greg Curl properties. Batchelor said a meeting was recently held with TDOT and some state regulations must be approved, he advised-those which could take at least a year, or more.

Batchelor mentioned the formerly requested McDale (Lane) Point Concepte, which he said was unusual, with a variance, where the property owner lost vested rights to development for the 150 single family development (SFD) lots. A concept for something similar is incoming, the PC director advised.

Other developments, still under various stages, include: Ascot Park PUD which has a concept and Summit View Townhomes (both impacted by restricted sewer moratoriums and limited numbers of housing developments), and Old Nash Estates (Old Nashville Dirt Road.)

Batchelor said residential development is moving slower, as is the case around the country. Stonewall Run is in various stages of final plat and construction.

One development, previously meeting with neighborhood controversy, is the Remington Farm PUD, off Union Street, which has returned to the PC agenda. It's a development that's been bounced back and forth between City Council and the PC for a while.

The Remington Farm PUD did feature 715 residential units on 158 acres of land on Union Street behind Jostens. Batchelor said there are now 180 less units in the revised

See DEVELOPMENT, 2A



CAREER-READY STUDENTS
Community Criminal Justice students compete in Winterfest

Community High School Criminal Justice Student Organization (C.J.S.O.), under the supervision of instructor Chris Hobbs, recently competed at Winterfest in Gatlinburg. D.J. High climbs the ropes. See more photos on page 2 today.

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New Destiny Dog Rescue celebrates 10 years

NDDR volunteers are celebrating 10 years of success on March 14.

See Page 3A



Cascade Lady Champions

Cascade blows out Eagleville for third 20-win season since 2001.

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DEVELOPMENT

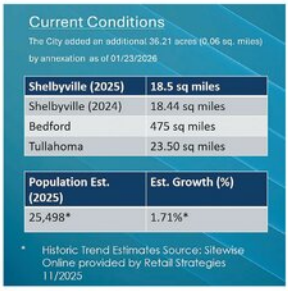
From page 1A

plan.

Residents near the planned development expressed several concerns last year, mainly the potential overcrowding there. The development was expected to bring over with it an estimated 2,000 more people (based on Census projections) on 148 acres, with 34 acres dedicated to multi-family townhomes.

Residents had also commented, regarding Remington, during Council meetings about everything from water issues to massive traffic increases off Union Street, which they say is already full of traffic woes. Many said it would change the entire neighborhood.

Batchelor told Council members they will be seeing this Remington Farm PUD request, again.





412 Tennessee Volunteer Fire Departments share $20 million in funding

Bedford County, Town of Wartrace, get a piece of the pie

NASHVILLE – The Tennessee Department of Commerce & Insurance (TDCI) and the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) recently announced that 412 Tennessee volunteer fire departments will receive grants totaling $20 million in 2026 through the Volunteer Firefighter Equipment and Training Grant Program.

Bedford County Government and the Town of Wartrace are on the state list.

Created through legislation overseen by Gov. Bill Lee and approved by the Tennessee General Assembly, the Volunteer Firefighter Equipment and Training Grant Program provides grant monies to volunteer fire departments.

The grants are used by volunteer departments to purchase firefighting equipment (i.e. helmets, turnout gear, thermal-imaging cameras and other necessary items) or help meet local matching requirements for federal equipment grants.

Since the program's launch in 2020, grants totaling $46.5 million have been provided to Tennessee volunteer fire departments serving communities in all three of Tennessee's three Grand Divisions. The $20 million allocation for 2026 was the largest single amount allocated for VFEAT in its history.

"Governor Lee and the Tennessee General Assembly are committed to helping departments receive the funding they need to help keep their firefighters safe, while they protect their communities" said TDCI Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Carter Lawrence. "It is my honor to help serve the Tennessee fire service so that they can save lives and protect property across Tennessee."

The grant program helps support the work of the majority of Tennessee's firefighters. A recent survey found that 71% of Tennessee's fire departments are staffed entirely by volunteers. Out of Tennessee's 21,075 total active firefighters, an estimated 12,460 are volunteers, which accounts for over 59%.

"Volunteer fire departments are the backbone of fire protection in our communities, and it is crucial that they have the equipment they need to safely complete their mission," said Assistant Commissioner for Fire Prevention Mike Bell. "I encourage Tennessee's volunteer fire departments to remember they can always reach out to our team should they ever have any questions about the grant program or our mission."

During the application period (Nov. 3 – Dec. 4, 2025), applications were reviewed, scored, and submitted to a seven-member committee for the final award selection.

Fire departments who have questions about the program should contact Grants Director Loren Haynes by phone at (615) 806-3725 or by email at loren.haynes@tn.gov.

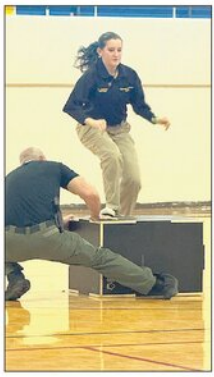


C.J.S.O. group

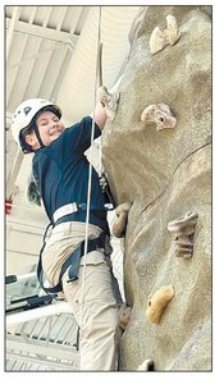
VIKINGS-VIQUEENS, CAREER-READY!

Submitted Photos

Community High School Criminal Justice Student Organization (C.J.S.O.) under the supervision of instructor, Chris Hobbs, recently competed at During the recent Winterfest in Gatlinburg. Community High School Criminal Justice Student Organization (C.J.S.O) students competed in various competitions geared towards a career in criminal justice.



Aralyn Hanson



Josephine Brown

FIRST SENIOR PROPERTY TAX MEETING HELD TUESDAY

The first meeting of the subcommittee for the proposed senior property tax freeze was held Tuesday at the courthouse. Commissioner Eric Maddox, front, said in a video, post meeting, that he's "extremely optimistic" and the group brought a "good spirit" to the table. He said there was a lot of comradery and cooperation. A state representative is expected to meet with the group next month. The committee, made up of Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham (absent Tuesday), City Mayor Randy Carroll, Trustee Tonya Davis, Property Assessor Ronda Clanton, Councilmen Josh Blevins and Henry Feldhaus and County Commissioners Anita Epperson and Maddox make up the subcommittee as proposed by the Rules and Legislative Committee. See more at t-g.com and in next week's T-G.







New Destiny Dog Rescue celebrates 10 years of service

March event for NDDR planned for the community

By Dawn Hankins
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No doubt if there was a spot on count for all the dogs which have come through Bedford County New Destiny Dog Rescue over the last 10 years, the number would likely be staggering.

But that's not what's most important, according to those who've worked with NDDR over the last decade. It's that dogs, many that were frail and near death, were able to be saved and later adopted by generous members of this community and beyond.

So NDDR volunteers are celebrating 10 years of success on March 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the new Upscale Yard Sale site, which supports NDDR, at 912 North Main Street.

During this celebration, there will be food trucks and more!

The main event for the day is the Clues for Canines Sticker Race. The main goal for this is to of course celebrate but to also educate the community about rescue. Volunteers note NDDR gets, on a daily basis, questions from people who are always asking why NDDR can't just take their dog.

Printed tickets can be purchased for $10 a person (Venmo or cash.) You can play single or play as a team (1-6 players per team, 7 and under is free). The ticket has a given time and that is when that ticket holder will check in at the Upscale Yard Sale store.

NDDR is only selling 108 tickets and each time frame is 18 tickets starting at 10:30 a.m. and ending at 1:00 p.m. The player has 2 hours to finish from their start time after the tour. After they check in, they will go first to the rescue (on Highland) and take a tour. (This is not part of the 2 hours). After the tour, the racer will be given their official start time and a form that has 7 questions on one side and a business name with an answer on the other. They will have to decide which answer goes with the question and drive to that business.

There will be "deputy dogs" at each business and if they are correct, they will get a sticker. The answers will be in the tour so they will need to pay attention, representatives note. The winner isn't based on who gets back to the store first but their time.

Local businesses participating are New Covenant Christian Book Store, Tropical Island, Talk of the Town (Merle Norman), the Airport, French's Boot Barn, Liberty Tax and possibly one other potential business.

There will be two food trucks (Justa Smokin and Sir Pizza) there and NDDR will be giving away gift baskets.

NDDR appreciates everyone who has volunteered, fostered or prayed for little animals over the last 10 years. Go to newdestinydogrescue.org and on the NDDR Facebook page for more information.

Melanie Lambert shares personal testimony on New Destiny Dog Rescue

By Dawn Hankins

Melanie Lambert fostered a dog through New Destiny Dog Rescue that came from a hoarding case here in Shelbyville a few years ago.

"The picture of when we got her, and the day she left, is just remarkable. I wasn't new to fostering but I had never fostered a dog in that condition," said Lambert.

"I called her Little Girl. She was so petite and had an infected eye because of no vet care. What she went through just broke my heart. Here's the part people don't see. I didn't realize it myself. When I got her, she had been fed junk (when she got fed. No clean water, no vet care."

She had "Little Girl" vetted and she was given good food. She of course had to go through learning to trust, to be house trained, etc. but what really got Smith was the transformation in her body.

"She didn't smell great and that took time. But what I realized is that her little body had to detox all the 'junk' that was in her. Like, I noticed about a month or so after I had her that her hair felt oily and it was like that for a week or so and then she had this beautiful coat. Her little body was detoxing. She was a trooper! But every week I noticed something new for the better."

Lambert said she will stay in touch with Little Girl's adopter.

"She was one that I didn't want to let go but she's in such a great home now. She's happy."

See before and after photos of "Little Girl" below.



ONE OF THE BLESSED ONES

Photos by Melanie Lambert

These are before and after photos of "Little Girl" who was blessed to be fostered by Melanie Lambert. She was from a hoarding case in Shelbyville. She's been adopted and Melanie says seems happy.

More people, more garbage

County Financial Management hears community growth is contributing to more trash costs

By Dawn Hankins

Diane Forbes, coordinator for Bedford County Solid Waste Department, said during her report last Tuesday before the financial management committee that community growth has certainly increased trash tonnage over the last 3 years.

For all of 2025, the County was up 251.50 tons over the previous year. "That was a really hefty increase in garbage."

Forbes said in 2022-2023 there were 101 tons and 2023-2024 it was 131. In 2024-2025, tonnage jumped to 251. Forbes said that price increase equated to $142,000.

"So, it's costing us a lot for garbage."

Mayor Chad Graham asked her if that tonnage is associated with local growth. Forbes said yes, and in addition, the price increased when the contract had to be re-negotiated with ISWA (Interlocal Solid Waste Authority which manages solid waste contracts for the region.)

"But the tonnage itself?" repeated Graham.

"Oh yes, the tonnage itself is due to the increase of people in the County."

Forbes said construction debris continues to be a problem in that there's so much construction going on around that everybody's wanting to bring it to the center to get rid of it.

For her quarterly recycling report, Forbes said total revenue was $40,201.80 at 291.80 tons.

Landfill expenses for the quarter came to $151,493.07. Tonnage was over 3,000.

Savings, she explained, for not using the landfill for local commodities, came to $13,399.41.

January's landfill disposal cost and tonnage was down quite a bit, she said.





LOCAL TRASH TALK AT COMMITTEE MEETING

Diane Forbes, coordinator for the County Solid Waste Department, gave a detailed report at the recent Financial Management Committee meeting.

Former employment security building turned into new records room

What used to be the building where many locals sought employment needs has been turned into a newly refurbished records room for Bedford County.

Carol Roberts, Bedford County Archives director, told the County Financial Management Committee on Tuesday that her department continues to work on the new records building.

"The ramp is done, the awning over it is complete. I watched it very carefully with all this ice and snow-how it was going to survive. It did a great job of draining off without any stress on the awning itself."

She said window treatments are finished for the new records building, which is the former state employment security building off the public square. Roberts shared with the Times-Gazette that Archives plans to keep its office and research rooms in the Courthouse main floor.

"We keep the largest vault for the oldest original historic books and documents. The records building will be for modern records and research to benefit the other County offices, with more current permanent and long-term records.

Mayor Chad Graham asked on Tuesday if this work on the new records building is funded through grants. He also mentioned if archive fees are backfilling as well.

"All of the updates and upgrades to the building are on our budget . . . fiscal budget," said Roberts. "The grant I do get is going into archival supplies, folders, boxes that are preservation quality. We use those to help with the more historic records-the 1890s, the 1900s-those records."

Commissioner Linda Yockey advised that when Roberts gives the nod, the entire building will be vacuumed and front entrance cleaned well.

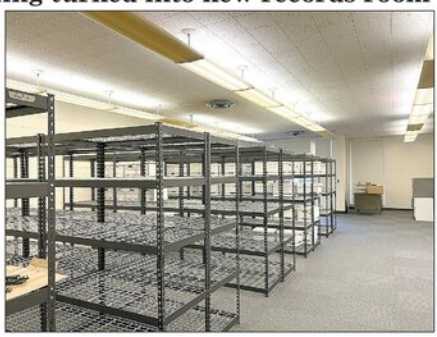
"It's looking a whole lot better, already," said the archives director.

As part of her report, Roberts, who is retired from Tennessee State Library and Archives, shared with the committee that the Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) Center for Historic Preservation will soon do some interpretations/ recommendations on the old Rock Jail as a historic site.

"I'm looking forward to the program and the reports that they pull together. We pull together the history for them."

She said MTSU has previously completed interpretations on three very historic cemeteries in Bedford County as well as a full historic reference and preservation recommendation. They've done the same for the Singleton Chapman Tavern in Fairfield-one of the oldest buildings there-and New Hope Cemetery.

Roberts said Bedford County reports are listed on the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation website.





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FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

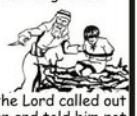
Abraham Tested
From Genesis 22

God: "Abraham!"
Abraham: "Here I am."
God: "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

Abraham traveled for 3 days with Isaac and two servants until he saw the place in the distance. Leaving the servants he took Isaac and continued on to the place he said they would worship and then come back. The wood for the burnt offering was placed on Isaac. Abraham carried the fire and the knife.

When Isaac asked about the lamb for the offering, Abraham told him that the Lord would provide. Reaching the place God told Abraham about, he built an altar and arranged the wood. He bound his son, placed him on the wood and raised his knife to slay Isaac.





Just then an angel of the Lord called out to Abraham from heaven and told him not to slay his son. Abraham had proved that he feared the Lord.

Looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by his horns in a thicket. Abraham sacrificed the ram as a burnt offering instead of his son. Abraham called the place THE LORD WILL PROVIDE.

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BIRD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST
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931-394-4090

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101 Dow Dr., 931-684-1583

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1404 New Center Church Rd.,
931-684-1360

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355 Squire Hall Rd., 615-233-5420

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Smith Chapel Rd. Hwy. 13, 931-857-3382

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278 Anthony Lane, 931-684-4645

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1014 W. Lane St., 931-492-4747

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Joel Landers

'Alternative' Supertazón half-time show not so inspirational

By Dawn Hankins

O.K. Call me old-fashioned. But I think the producers of the "alternative" half-time show, which I watched on TBN during the Super Bowl last Sunday, missed the mark.

Conservative organization Turning Point USA presented its own half-time performance in opposition to what was predicted to happen during the Bad Bunny performance on the West Coast.

And in my opinion, that was a good call.

Was TBN satisfied with presenting this program? We'll update that later.

I'll say how this was such a great opportunity to make a stance for Jesus and Christianity. But those performing, in my opinion, barely made well of the opportunity.

There was a pre-story by TBN about NFL retiree, Christian Ray Lewis, that was great. More of that would have been nice!

Featured in the TBN musical show were country musicians Brantley Gilbert, Gabby Barrett and Lee Brice. Who? Sorry, what happened to Reba?

I was actually embarrassed, for the way it was played up in prior weeks to be a tribute to Charlie Kirk. For their effort, I support them. But I don't agree with the program given, perhaps this line up was better suited for the country music awards next year.

The show started with a guitar solo of the "Star Spangled Banner." Not my personal favorite rendition. But I must say if you look up the "Star Spangled Banner" origins, it was taken from an English-drinking song.

So, perhaps, it was right-on target.

Small wonder some of the people predicted to participate weren't seen on stage Sunday night.

Making big money from songs that promote alcoholism or sexual immorality push the envelope. Some of that was there but not too much.

To me, it seemed like a bunch of new country music stars and Tennessee's Kid Rock who might have been a little ticked off at not being invited to the big Bowl. Join the crowd!!

But would I have watched Bad Bunny? What do you think? No, because I, like many Christians, are tired of the forced propaganda.

Gilbert performed first, playing the songs "Real American" and "Dirt Road Anthem."

O.K.

Kid Rock played last, with a performance that included his 1999 hit "Bawitdaba" and ended with a cover of "'Til You Can't," a song made popular by country musician Cody Johnson.

There was a nice mini classic piece prior to Kid Rock's entrance. People have assumed what this meant in the grand scheme of things.

So why did I keep watching it, you might ask? Here's why.

The jury is still out on Kid Rock's performance. To me, and apparently to a lot of people on social media, the Kid is still on the fence.

Sadly, he's got a pretty rotten past to make up for. I do hope he's on the right track. Pray for him.

Remember: God forgives if you ask him into your heart. But from that point forward, we are to try to live better lives and strive to represent Christ in a pure and holy manner.

Everyone has their own ministry. Perhaps the Kid has his.

But new age fanatics can sometimes cover up the Good News that can truly set people free from violence and anger.

There were also a lot of characters in the Bible characters who didn't quite make it up to snuff. (One of my granny's favorite sayings.)

Let's start in the first book, Genesis, with Adam and Eve. This is not only a story of origins but a profound story of human condition and how sin completely changed everything.

As well, Judas Iscariot, one of the 12 disciples of Jesus, is often looked upon as a tragic figure, due to his betrayal of Jesus. His actions led the soldiers to Jesus.

While God's plan was ultimately carried out, despite Judas' actions, we can learn from this story. It's a cautionary story of human weakness and the consequences of choosing the wrong path- even after living so close to The Truth.

I believe the people who put together that "alternative" half time show had the best intentions. But you know the proverb about "good intentions."

The lesson might be: good intentions have to be accompanied by effective actions to produce beneficial results.

I say, let's remix and try again next year! Call Reba!!

Obituaries

Vicky Lynn Baucom



Vicky Lynn Baucom, 62, of Shelbyville, passed away February 7, 2026. Funeral Services will be held 1:00 P.M. Thursday, February 12th, at Hillcrest Funeral Home with the Rev. Taylor Haley officiating. Burial will follow at Beech Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be Wednesday evening from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

She was born May 21, 196, in Shelbyville; former employee of Aramark and a member of the Baptist Church.

Vicky was a loving mother and grandmother. Her favorite things were being at the beach and watching her grandchildren playing ball. She loved her sisters, her niece and nephews and sharing time with them.

She was the daughter of the late Bobby Gene Hillis and Sharon Ann Gordon Harris.

Vicky is survived by her daughter, Lindsey Marie Baucom (Tristan McMahon); her sisters and brother, Christy Warren (Steve), Patricia Ann Butler (Charlie Hill), Bobby Gene Hillis Jr., Kandi Hillis; three grandchildren, Aaliyah Lynn Brown, Keegan Price Baucom, Elliana McMahon ("Little Vicky"); niece, Crystal Sudberry (James Farrar), nephews, Kip Warren (Angela), Ronnie Joe Sudberry, Benny Warren (Jennifer); former husband, Jeffrey Baucom and companion, Robert Eaton.

Hillcrest Funeral Home is serving the family.

Obituary Policy

The Times-Gazette prints death notices and paid obituaries as a service to the community. Submission deadline each week is 8 a.m. Wednesday. Paid obituaries are posted also at t-g.com. Funeral homes/mortuaries are responsible for emailing them to us. Send them to renee@richardsonmediagroup.net or to dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net. Please call 931-684-1200 for assistance.

Death Notices

Dr. Clifford Louis Garrard, Jr., age 89
June 25, 1936 - February 5, 2026
Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

First Presbyterian Church will hold an Ash Wednesday Service with the Imposition of Ashes on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 7:00 p.m. The church is located behind the U.S. Post Office at 600 N. Brittain St. Sunday morning worship is at 10:00 a.m.

FUMC ON THE SQUARE WORSHIP

This Sunday, at First United Methodist Church Shelbyville, Pastor Abe Zimmerman will preach: "Transfiguration Sunday" from Luke 9:28-36. The church will explore the moment when Jesus' glory shines in a way the disciples never expected, revealing who He truly is and what that means for us today. Sunday School for all ages begins at 9 a.m., followed by the worship service at 10 a.m. Nursery and Children's Church are available during worship. For those unable to attend in person, FUMC-S offers a livestream on Facebook and YouTube and a broadcast on WLIJ 98.7 FM and AM 1580.

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Nearest Green Distillery downfall

Unlikely the greatest local story-ever

By Dawn Hankins

I heard a media person the other day say they thought the stories which have run for months about the Farm Credit Mid-America vs Nearest Green lawsuit were probably the biggest stories in Shelbyville, maybe ever.

Having covered local news for about 18 years, I have to say, no. I would be deflecting some really great news stories written by my former colleagues, if I agreed with that statement.

Has it been interesting to see it unfold? Certainly.

What I will say about the Nearest Green lawsuit is that I'm not really sure most of Bedford County really cares. It gets kind of uncomfortable when you read so much personal information about a group which has really tried to bring something nice into Bedford County.

Now, playing the evil advocate here, I will say that businesses have to pay their bills. Period.

The lawsuit filed by Farm Credit Mid-America against Uncle Nearest, Inc., and its co-founders Fawn and Keith Weaver, involves allegations of defaulting on over $108 million in loans.

At this point, there have been motions filed by the receiver and the Weavers. But the judge is ultimately tasked with the debts being satisfied. Of course, the Weavers, though they blame a former chief executive officer, are ultimately responsible.

While business continues at the 231 North business, it has been reported that numbers are decreasing there. Potentially some vendors have shared how they've been ripped off. Don't know.

Sadly, it looks like the company is insolvent. That is, what is on paper right now regarding reserves vs debts owed.

It's a great story. Maybe.

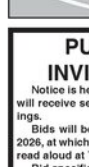
Sad for the company. But if you snooze, often times, you lose. Take care of business.

Sad for the county. How many local vendors are still waiting for pay? How about County business in relation to Nearest Green?

Hopefully the Knoxville judge will get this over with soon and we can move on.

In Loving Memory of my beautiful daughter

Kimberly Loretta Newman Baltimore
Oct. 3, 1968 — Feb. 9, 1995



Here we are again on this dreaded day February 9th. It has been 31 years today that my heart was ripped / shredded into a Million pieces and has never been whole since. I hold every memory and every picture I have of you close...I know you are watching over all of us. Your babies are all grown up with babies of their own, your grandbabies. You would love them and enjoy them a lot. You would be proud of all of them. I miss you so much and carry on conversations with you sometimes and sometimes try to envision what your answer would be. I am so thankful to our God for letting me have you for 26 years and for letting me be your mother. I love you with all my heart and miss you every day. All day and night. Your wings were ready but my heart wasn't and will never be.

Love and miss you always and forever,
Momma (Margaret Polk)

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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@townofwartrace.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@townofwartrace.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@townofwartrace.com.

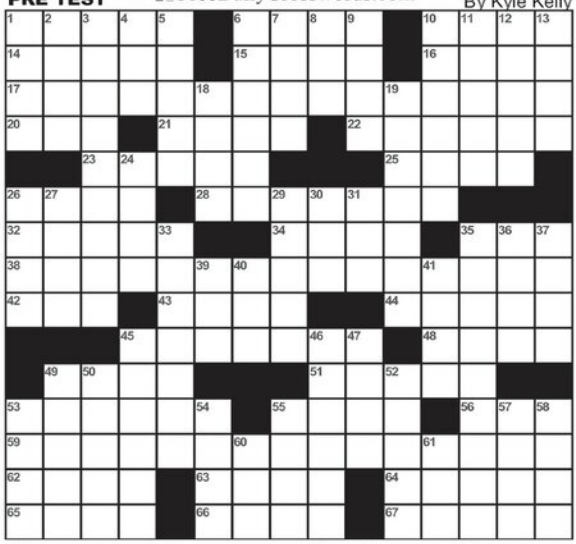
The Town of Wartrace reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding process, and to accept the bid deemed to be in the best interest of the municipality.

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

Crossword

PRE TEST FreeDailyCrosswords.com By Kyle Kelly



CLUES ACROSS

1) Valuable possession
3) Radar image
10) Deep wound
14) Prefix meaning "large"
15) "Peanuts" expletive
16) Bris or confirmation, e.g.
17) Annual Baltimore event
20) Biblical no-no
21) Trees for archers' bows
22) Prosecutors
23) Gnawed to a fare-thee-well
25) Diarist Frank
26) Toxin fighters
28) Hooky-playing
32) Seance board
34) Petty quarrel
35) Poem that honors
38) Emulate T.D. Jakes
42) Coast Guard alert
43) Ancient inscription
44) Drive away
45) Like some air conditioning
48) Provides weaponry
49) Thrown ___ loop
51) "I want it!"
53) Untamed one
55) Game similar to bingo
56) Undercover agent
59) Ignore, in a way
62) Adolescent's facial bane
63) Sword battle
64) Hard to miss
65) Untidy one's creation
66) Garden starter
67) They meet in the middle

CLUES DOWN

1) Current units
2) Dress in India
3) Movie sets
4) It's low for great pitchers
5) City trashed by Godzilla
6) Beer maker
7) Young woman in Scotland
8) "___ not my fault!"
9) Secretive call for attention
10) Like some bad photos
11) "American Idol" contestant Clay
12) Cubic meter
13) Exxon competitor
18) Bird's home
19) Trailer hauler
24) Bangalore bigwig
26) Bribes
27) International money
29) Leading man in the theater?
30) Large primate
31) Carp
33) Land measurement
35) Downtrodden
36) Judge to be
37) Some architectural wings
39) Member of a horde
40) Stick in a Road Runner cartoon
41) Baseball feature
45) Warehouse boxes
46) From way back when
47) Dryer debris
49) Satiric comedy
50) Bake-off appliances
52) Diesel's invention
53) Canned meat brand
54) Drops the curtain on
55) Arthroscopy site
57) Gilpin of TV's "Frasier"
58) Tibetan cryptid
60) Invoice word
61) Eggs in bio labs

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The Winter Olympics are Here!

Replace the missing words.

LITTLE | REPRESENT | HELD | PLACE | FUN | CREATION

People around the world will be watching athletes compete in the 2026 Winter Olympic Games! The Milano Cortina Winter Olympics are taking _____ in locations in northern Italy from February 6 through February 22.



The Opening Ceremonies will take place in Milan, Italy. Can you circle it on this map?

Meet the Mascots

A design competition among students across Italy led to the _____ of **Tina** and **Milo**, the official mascots of the 2026 Winter Olympics and Paralympic Games in Milan and Cortina.



Tina is a white-coated **stoat** (a relative of the weasel). She will _____ the Olympic Games. And Milo is a brown-coated stoat. He will represent the Paralympic Games, which will be _____ in March.

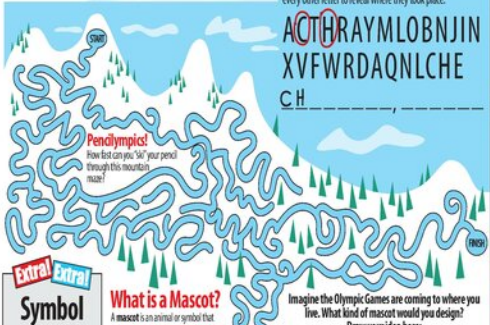
The **Flo** is a team of six _____ snowdrop flower characters that will bring extra _____ and energy to the events.

For more fun and information, visit olympics.com

Winter Olympic History

The first Winter Olympic Games were held in 1924. Circle every other letter to reveal where they took place.

ACTHRAYMLOBNJIN
XVFWRDAQNLCHE
CH_____,_____



Pencilympics!
How fast can you "ski" your pencil through this mountain maze?

Extra! Extra!

Symbol Search

Look for five symbols in today's newspaper. Show them to a friend to see if they can tell what the symbol represents.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

What is a Mascot?

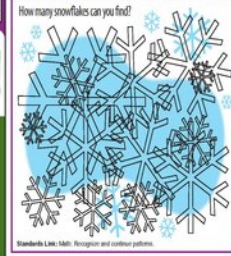
A **mascot** is an animal or symbol that represents your event or team. Your school probably has a mascot.

Hundreds of mascot ideas created by students were presented to the Olympic Committee. Drawings came from children across Italy. Animals, superheroes, and even mountain flowers were among the creative entries.

Imagine the Olympic Games are coming to where you live. What kind of mascot would you design? Draw your idea here:

Kid Scoop Puzzler

How many snowflakes can you find?



Standards Link: Math: Recognize and continue patterns.

Double Double Word Search

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

ANIMALS
COMPETE
FIRST
FLO
FUN
GAMES
IDEA
ITALY
MAP
MILAN
MILO
PENCIL
SKI
STOAT
TINA
WINTER

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

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

From the Kid Scoop Lesson Library

Symbols

Sports teams use names and mascots to communicate strength, their location, etc. Look through today's sports section to select one team and make a list of things you think that team wants to communicate with their name or logo.

Standards Link: Use a variety of media to locate information.

Write On!

Sports Story

Write a sports story about something that happened in a game you played or watched.

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

Kid Scoop Together

Pictograms

The Winter Olympics features pictograms (simple pictures) of each event. These are used on banners, signs and TV broadcasts. Do the math to label each of the pictograms below.

11 = SKI JUMPING
30 = LUGE
16 = CURLING
29 = SPEED SKATING
18 = BOBSLEIGH
17 = SNOWBOARD
22 = FIGURE SKATING
13 = ALPINE SKIING
12 = HOCKEY
15 = CROSS COUNTRY SKIING



7+7+3=
9+8+5=



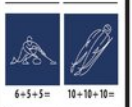
7+4+4=
4+5+3=



7+3+1=
6+6+6=



11+11+7=
6+3+4=



6+5+5=
10+10+10=

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums and differences to 20.

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Is God Dead? Failure to Swoon



Ty B. Kerley, DMin
Columnist

David Mirsch's hypothesis of a clandestine use of drugs to render Jesus comatose on the cross is an ad hoc claim. He offers no supporting data, and the assertion cannot be proven. Beyond that, all swoon theories should address the most critical question: Could He have survived? The evidence seems clear; there is no amount of liniment or spice or, as Brandht suggests, "nutriment from the tomb," that could heal his contusions, mainly the ankle bones of Jesus, in such a time frame (if ever) to allow him to be seen upright and walking a mere few days after the crucifixion. In fact, biblical scholar Michael Licona concludes that even if Jesus had been removed from the cross prematurely and medically assisted, his chances for survival would have been very bleak." David Strauss, the nineteenth-century liberal theologian, presented the unrealistic nature of the swoon claims, stating, "It is impossible that one who had just come forth from the grave half dead, who crept about weak and ill, in need of medical treatment, of bandaging, strengthening, and tender care, and who at last succumbed to suffering, could ever have given to the disciples that impression that he conquered over death and the grave."

No doubt, such a presentation of Christ to the disciples would have weakened the impression of one who had conquered death. Matthew records that Jesus appeared to the eleven disciples at Galilee and that "When they saw Him, they worshiped him; but some were doubtful." (Matthew 28:17). The fact that some were doubtful gives testament that Jesus was fully healed and well. Had He appeared before them in the condition described by Strauss, no one would have doubted; the evidence that He had been so abused by crucifixion would have been overwhelmingly evident.

Due consideration needs also be given to the excruciating, post-crucifixion pain that would have been. Dr. Michael Carnahan, board-certified pain management physician, states, "It is medically impossible, from a pain tolerance perspective alone, to think Jesus could have appeared three days later to the disciples as fully healed." Even had the proper narcotics been available, the dosages needed would have rendered Jesus incoherent, not the glorified presence portrayed to the disciples.

Most convincingly, the spear thrust was not a beneficial "bloodletting" as Deedat proposed, nor was it a superficial flesh wound as proposed by Mirsch. To claim either is to deny the fact that the soldiers of Rome were professional and practiced killers adhering to a duty on which they prided themselves. The embarrassment and corporal punishment of botching a crucifixion in the presence of witnesses was to be avoided with diligence, and to assume otherwise is unrealistic and in opposition to the records of Paul, the Gospels, and Rome. In addition, the spear thrust to the heart was not a Gospel myth; it "has also been verified as a Roman crucifixion technique by the Roman author, Quintilian (A.D. 35-95).

Edwards and Gabel write, "Clearly, the weight of historical and medical evidence indicated Jesus was dead before the wound to his side," Adding that had he not been dead, the spear thrust by the Roman soldier would have ensured death. Considering the overwhelming medical testimony, the fact is, even if Jesus were not dead when removed from the cross, anything short of a modern, fully staffed Intensive Care Unit, a staff of highly skilled surgeons, and at least 6-weeks of immobile recovery, the swoon hypothesis that Jesus did not die on the cross and later walked from the tomb is unfounded and unsupported by modern medical knowledge.

For these reasons and more, we can safely say that David Mirsch's Swoon Theory fails to acknowledge two of the three minimal historical bedrock facts:

Jesus Died by crucifixion;
Recall, a broad consensus of scholars, both Christian and atheistic, believe this fact. Mirsch, however, disagrees.

Very shortly after Jesus' death, the disciples had experiences that led them to believe and proclaim that Jesus had been resurrected and had appeared to them. Mirsch does provide a theory for this appearance fact, but it is implausible.

Within a few years after Jesus' death, Paul converted after experiencing what he interpreted as a post-resurrection appearance of Jesus to him. Mirsch fails to address the minimal bedrock fact of the Pauline appearance of Jesus on the Road to Damascus.

All in all, having failed to address two of these three minimal historical bedrock facts and provide a plausible explanation of what happened to Jesus after His crucifixion, we can set aside David Mirsch's theory and all swoon-type theories. Since it is a historical fact that a man named Jesus of Nazareth lived, was crucified by the Romans, and was buried, what can explain the other two bedrock facts of his appearance to his disciples and to Paul? It has been suggested by critics that the disciples hallucinated a risen Jesus. Join us next week as we begin to investigate; "were the disciples trippin'?" Until then, think about the evidence so far, then ask yourself: is God dead?

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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

BUSINESS NEWS

Tennessee Workers' Comp rates decline for 13th consecutive year

NASHVILLE - The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance (TDCI) announces that workers' compensation insurance premiums will decline for most Tennessee businesses in 2026, for the 13th consecutive year.

"We are proud to announce the latest rate decrease for workers' compensation insurance premiums in Tennessee," said Gov. Bill Lee. "Lower premiums allow business owners to have the flexibility they need to re-invest in their companies and continue to support Tennessee's strong economy. I thank the Department of Commerce and Insurance for its work serving Tennesseans."

On Dec. 23, 2025, TDCI Commissioner Carter Lawrence signed orders approving a 1.1% percent decrease in the assigned risk rate level and approving a 2% percent overall loss cost decrease for the voluntary market beginning March 1, 2026, on new and renewal policies.

This latest rate decrease will likely lead to a decrease in insurance premiums for 2026.

Since Tennessee's workers' compensation system reforms began in 2014, Tennessee employers have seen substantial savings with these loss cost reductions.

"Safer workplaces where Tennessee workers are receiving fewer injuries on the job are helping contribute to the latest loss cost reduction," said Commissioner Lawrence. "These reductions indicate a healthier workplace for Tennesseans as they result from decreases in lost time claim frequency and more stable claims costs."

5 Easy Ways to Say 'I Love You'



(Family Features) If gift-giving isn't your strong suit, occasions like Valentine's Day are likely to bring on stress and worry, but procrastinating will only serve to elevate your unease.

Follow these steps to simplify your shopping, and while you may not come to love the task of finding the perfect gift, your loved one will undoubtedly appreciate your effort.

Browse for ideas online. Many retailers offer special promotions and gift idea sections on their websites, so finding inspiration can be as easy as visiting the sites of your loved one's favorite stores. There are also dozens of articles online to help get the ideas flowing. Searches such as "gifts for horse lovers" or "Valentine's gifts for a new boyfriend" will reveal a long list of ideas to peruse.

Keep it simple. Although the advertising industry works hard to convince consumers otherwise, Valentine's Day isn't really all about the bling. Sure, a pretty bauble is a welcome gift, but there are plenty of ways to show your affection that don't require spending a month's salary. A heartfelt card paired with a memento of a meaningful event or place in your relationship sends the same loving sentiment.

Make it a (different) date. For many couples, navigating the demands of work, kids and life make spending time together a luxury. Instead of fighting crowds at busy restaurants on the official date, celebrate your love on a day of your own choosing, when you can relax and enjoy the time together without the pressure to rush through dessert so your table can be flipped for the next waiting couple.

Give blooms a boost. A dozen long-stem red roses is a beautiful gesture, but unless your intended rose receiver is a strictly traditional type, try adding a little spice to your floral arrangement. Go for a bouquet in her favorite color, or have the flowers arranged in a practical vessel she can reuse to remember the occasion, such as a cocktail shaker or a watering can.

Go ahead, gift yourself. It may seem counter-intuitive, but finding a gift you'll enjoy may inspire an idea for your loved one. The trick is finding something you can share together, whether it's tickets to a show or his and hers mugs for enjoying your favorite brew. Just be sure the item is something your intended will share your enthusiasm for, or you may as well go buy a blender.

I SPY VALENTINE'S

There are ten Valentine's icons. Count and color each set of icons as you find them. Write the number in the box beside the icons you counted.



PRE TEST By Kyle Kelly

1 A	2 S	3 S	4 E	5 T	■	6 B	7 L	8 I	9 P	■	10 G	11 A	12 S	13 H
14 M	A	C	R	O	■	15 R	A	T	S	■	16 R	I	T	E
17 P	R	E	A	K	18 N	E	S	S	S	19 T	A	K	E	S
20 S	I	N	■	21 Y	E	W	S	■	22 T	R	I	E	R	S
■	■	23 E	24 R	O	S	E	■	■	25 A	N	N	E	■	■
26 S	27 E	R	A	■	28 T	R	U	29 A	N	C	Y	■	■	■
32 O	U	I	J	33 A	■	■	34 S	P	A	T	■	35 O	36 D	37 E
38 P	R	E	A	C	39 H	T	H	E	G	O	40 S	P	E	L
42 S	O	S	■	43 R	U	N	E	■	■	44 R	E	P	E	L
■	■	■	45 C	E	N	T	R	A	L	■	46 A	R	M	S
■	48 F	O	R	A	■	■	■	51 G	I	M	M	E	■	■
53 S	A	V	A	G	E	■	55 K	E	N	O	■	56 S	P	Y
59 P	R	E	T	E	N	D	N	O	T	T	61 O	S	E	E
62 A	C	N	E	■	63 D	U	E	L	■	64 O	V	E	R	T
65 M	E	S	S	■	66 S	E	E	D	■	67 R	A	D	I	I

Beware of phone scams targeting DREMC members



No. 9 Cascade Blows Out Eagleville for Third 20-Win Season Since 2001

BY NOAH MADDOX
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EAGLEVILLE, Tenn. - For the first time in the Janie Demonbreum era and the first time since the 2018-19 season, the Cascade Lady Champions (20-6, 6-1) have achieved a 20-win season following a 60-35 shellacking of Class A Eagleville (10-14, 7-0) on Tuesday night.

"It means a lot to me as a coach. I brought it up after the game in the locker room, I looked at Kaegan [Young] and I looked at Suzanna [Crews] and said, 'You two were here when it was 3-25 [in 2022-23] and that was a brutal year for us,'" Demonbreum said, "Just to ride through those waves and emotions of the highs and the lows that we've had over these past four years with those two girls in particular, it's just something extremely special. Suzanna sent a message to the girls saying she wants to go far, and she's willing to do whatever it takes, and I think that's big from a senior leader to just reach out and let us know that stuff. It's just special."

Demonbreum inherited a program in 2022-23 that had won just six games total over the previous two seasons, and despite a magical season in 2018-19, the Lady Champions program had been in a steady decline for nearly a full decade. A once-proud program had managed just a single winning season from 2014-2024 after winning 20 games in 2012-13, and Demonbreum has spearheaded the massive turnaround, leading Cascade to secure the No. 1 seed in next week's District 9-AA Tournament with a game to go.

Against Eagleville, it was actually a junior, Caroline Parker, that shined the brightest for the Lady Champs. Cascade's point guard finished with a game-high 20 points on an efficient 7-of-11 shooting from the floor, including a 4-of-6 clip from downtown.

"Kaegan is who everyone focuses on throughout the game, and when we have players like Caroline [Parker], you can label them as a 'supporting cast' but at any point in time they can also be what teams have to focus on. Caroline's shot is just so nice, and when she gets her feet set and she catches it clean, it seems pretty likely to go in."

After downing the Lady Eagles on Nov. 21 in the second game of the season, 55-34, the Lady Champs found themselves in a battle for much of the first half against the No. 1 seed in the upcoming District 10-A Tournament. Cascade led 13-10 after one, then went into the halftime locker room with a 25-22 lead. Parker led all scorers with nine first-half points on three triples while Bayli Sutter and MC Whitt led Eagleville with eight and seven points, respectively. As a team, Cascade shot 6-of-14 from outside the arc in the opening 16 minutes.

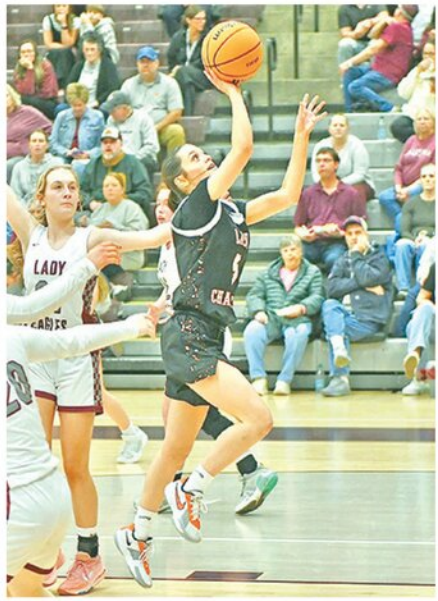
However, coming out for the second half, the Lady Champs flexed their defensive muscles, forcing turnover after turnover leading to easy baskets to outscore the hosts 23-8 in the third quarter and take a commanding 48-30 lead heading into the final frame.

Cascade kept up the pressure, holding Eagleville to just five points in the fourth quarter while scoring 12 themselves as both benches were emptied in the final two minutes. Class AA Miss Basketball contender Kaegan Young finished with a respectable 14 points on the night, Lizzie Keele nailed a couple of triples to add 12 points, and Jade Tolar seemed to find her groove again off the bench with 10 points of her own, including a pair of three-pointers.

The Lady Champions improve to 20-6 overall. Cascade closes out the regular season with a trip to district foe Summertown with massive seeding implications on the line, LIVE on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400 starting at 5:45 p.m.

CASCADE: C. Parker 20 (4), K. Young 14 (1), L. Keele 12 (2), J. Tolar 10 (2), L. Comstock 2, J. Laughlin 2.

EAGLEVILLE: B. Sutter 11 (3), M. Whitt 9, A. Bolden 5 (1), J. McCall 4, A. Armstrong 2, M. Lawyer 2, A. Oliver 2.



Cascade's Caroline Parker (5) lays in two of her game-high 20 points at Eagleville. Parker helped secure the Lady Champions' third 20-win season since 2001, and the first since 2018-19. *Photo courtesy of David Smith.*



Cascade's Kaegan Young (22) drives to the basket during Tuesday's trip to Eagleville. Young finished with 14 points in the non-district win. *Photo courtesy of David Smith.*

Surging Viqueens Pull Away From Chapel Hill on Senior Night

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

UNIONVILLE, Tenn. – The Community Viqueens (13-12, 4-4) wrapped up District 9-AA play on Tuesday with a 47-30 wire-to-wire win over Chapel Hill (15-11, 0-7) inside of The Roger Kent Brothers Gymnasium on senior night.

The Viqueens are suddenly surging at the perfect time, winning four of their last five games with just one game remaining in the regular season. Savannah Pearson continued her strong run of performances with a team-high 12-point outing on four three-pointers while Anna Haskins and Alyssa White each finished with 10 points on the night for Community. As a team, the Viqueens made eight three-pointers while holding Chapel Hill to just one on the night.

For the Lady Rockets, Baeliy Stalnecker matched Pearson with 12 points of her own, but the stifling defense from the Viqueens prevented any of Stalnecker's teammates from reaching double-figures. Sadie Smith was the closest, finishing with seven points for Chapel Hill.

After an extremely slow start in the comeback win at Summertown on Friday, Community made sure that it got off to a strong start this time, jumping out to a 16-4 lead by the end of the opening period. The Viqueens took an early 4-0 lead before Josie Brown connected on her only three-pointer of the night, and then Community responded with a 12-1 run to close the quarter. Haskins hit a three of her own along with Pearson for the hosts in the period.

The purple-and-gold managed to increase its advantage after outscoring the Lady Rockets, 9-6, in the second stanza, taking a 25-10 lead into the halftime locker room. Mattie Maxey scored five of her six points in the quarter to lead Community.

Coming out for the second half, Chapel Hill would finally make a run of its own, spearheaded by Stalnecker's relentless drive to the basket. In all, Stalnecker scored 11 of her 12 points in the third quarter alone, going a perfect 7-for-7 at the free throw line in the process. Sadie Smith tacked on four points for the Lady Rockets. Despite Pearson connecting on a pair of treys, the visitors managed to outscore Community, 17-11, in the third period to trim the lead to 36-27 heading into the final frame.

However, in the fourth quarter, Community tightened the screws defensively, holding the Lady Rockets to zero-made field goals in the final eight minutes and just three-made free throws. On the other end, the Viqueens found one triple from Pearson, Haskins, and Brooklyn Yoes, as well as two points from White to outscore Chapel Hill, 11-3, in the final period of play and improve to 4-4 in the district.

The Viqueens now sit in third place, a half-game ahead of Summertown with the Lady Eagles still to play Cascade on Friday. If Summertown wins, that would induce a coin toss between Summertown and Community for the No. 3 seed in the upcoming District 9-AA Tournament due to the fact that the two teams would be level to each other in each of the preceding tiebreakers. If Cascade wins, Community would then be locked in as the No. 3 seed and would take on Loretto in the District 9-AA semifinals at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 19, in Bell Buckle. If Summertown wins against Cascade and also wins the ensuing coin toss, the Viqueens would fall to the No. 4 seed and would host No. 5 seed Chapel Hill again on Monday, Feb. 16 at 6:00 p.m. in a play-in game for the right to take on No. 1 seed Cascade.

The Viqueens improve to 13-12 overall. Community closes out the regular season with a non-district trek to Clay County on Friday night with tip-off scheduled for 6:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY: S. Pearson 12 (4), A. Haskins 10 (2), A. White 10, M. Maxey 6 (1), B. Yoes 5 (1), S. Flannagan 2, M. Hill 2.

CHAPEL HILL: B. Stalnecker 12, S. Smith 7, S. Borba 3, J. Brown 3 (1), A. Duvall 3, A. Dillon 2.

MTSU's Derek Mason Announces Football Staff Changes for 2026

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — Middle Tennessee head football coach Derek Mason announced a series of offseason staff changes aimed at strengthening the Blue Raiders' program heading into the upcoming season.

"These changes were made with one purpose in mind — to make Middle Tennessee football better and get us competing for championships," Mason said. "We evaluated every area of our operation, and I'm confident these adjustments put us in a stronger position moving forward."

The most significant changes came on the offensive side of the ball, where Mason restructured the coaching staff to bring new ideas, energy, and alignment to the unit. Anthony Scelfo was hired as offensive coordinator, with Christopher Browne joining the staff as offensive line coach, Al Poree as running backs coach, and Ross Jenkins as tight ends coach. Calvin Lowry transitions from running backs to outside receivers, while Coley Crowley has been elevated to inside receivers' coach. Joe Ganz moves into the role of quarterbacks coach, Cam Curtis was elevated to Co-Special Teams Coordinator, and Dylan Barnett was made offensive quality control coach.

Mason also announced several support staff updates, including the addition of Mikel Riggs as Director of Football Operations and Cameron O'Neal as Director of Player Personnel and Recruiting. Jack Albertson was elevated to Director of Technology and Internal Operations Coordinator, Will Chapman to Scouting Coordinator, Landon Hannis to Video Coordinator, and Cam Robinson was named Character Coach.

These changes reflect a comprehensive approach by Mason and his staff as the Blue Raiders continue preparing for the 2026 season.

"Thank you to everyone who believed in me and supported me throughout my whole journey" – Eaglettes Soccer Star MG Marshall on Signing With Bryan College

BY NOAH MADDOX
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SHELBYVILLE, Tenn. - Shelbyville Central's star defensive midfielder, Mary Grace Marshall, officially signed with Bryan College on Jan. 20 to continue her soccer career at the collegiate level.

"Obviously, I have to start with thanking my mom [Teresa]," Marshall said, "She's my number one fan. She dealt with all the travel when I played in Murfreesboro and Franklin driving me back and forth so many times, and she loves it. She loves the game – honestly she probably enjoys watching soccer more than I do and that's saying a lot. My family as a whole, as well as all the soccer girls too. They're one of my biggest support systems as well. Also, just about every coach that I've had. Most coaches I've had have played a huge role in my soccer career and showed me what I do and what I don't want. That helped me pick out my next coach."

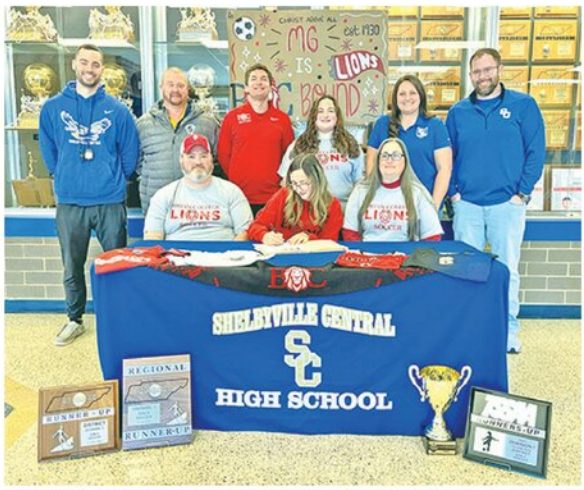
Marshall, who goes by MG, said she was still playing NPL matches even after her high school career came to an end in late-October, and she actually reached out to the head coach, Jake Warren, who had just completed his first season at Bryan College.

"I was very excited to sign with Bryan [College], it was hitting me how real it was," said Marshall, "It kind of came about at the last minute. I reached out a few months ago, we scheduled a tour immediately, he [Jake Warren] came and watched me play, and right when I went to campus and met the coach, I felt that feeling that I know people talk about. I fell in love with the campus and the staff."

"I've known I've wanted to play in college since I was tiny. I reached out to multiple schools and had some offers, but they didn't quite feel right. Getting the one that felt just right for me was my main goal at that point," she said.

Marshall, who helped lead Shelbyville Central to an 11-4-1 record with an appearance in the regional semifinal in 2025, says her recruiting process began after the Eaglettes' season ended on Oct. 21 at Franklin, and her decision ultimately came down to two Tennessee schools: Cumberland University in Lebanon and Bryan College in Dayton, about a 2-and-a-half-hour drive from Shelbyville due east.

"Once I found out about Bryan, my decision was down to between them and Cumberland," said Marshall, "D2 or NAIA was going to be my perfect fit because I want to focus on my studies while playing competitive soccer. I had no idea before I went and toured them, but then I saw that Bryan has an amazing exercise science program. Physical therapy has always been something I was interested in."



MG Marshall (center) signs with Bryan College on Jan. 20 with Shelbyville's Casey Curry (middle, right) and Bryan College's Jake Warren (middle, left) behind her. *Submitted Photo.*

The Eaglettes' star leaves Shelbyville Central with a decorated career. Over her four seasons, Marshall was named to the All-District 5-AAA second team twice, the All-District 5-AAA first team once, the All-District 9-AAA first team once, and she won the District 9-AAA Defensive Player of the Year in her senior season. She was also voted as the team's defensive player of the year in both her junior and senior seasons, and she was voted as the recipient of the Eaglette Award for her sophomore season in 2023.

Marshall also has a special relationship with her now former head coach, Casey Curry. Curry took the job before Marshall's freshman season in 2022, and promptly led the Eaglettes to a magical run to the Class AAA state-sectional round after finishing as both the District and Region runner-up.

"Freshman year, I actually got my starting spot because a girl got a concussion, and she [Coach Curry] threw me on the outside of our backline," Marshall recalled, "I had never touched defense in my life before, and I ended up having a pretty good season despite being terrified almost the entire time. At the end of the season, after trying to do the best that I could and after the championship game, I got announced for second-team All-District and I was shocked. I'm still shaking remembering how I felt about it after that game because I couldn't believe it."

After a two-year hiatus from the region tournament, Curry and Marshall helped lead the Eaglettes to a 14-3-1 record, finishing as the District 9-AAA runner-up to Franklin County before bowing out at the eventual state runners-up, Franklin, in the Region 5-AAA semifinals.

"MG's class was my first class here, and we've learned a lot and grown together throughout the last four years," Curry said, "It's a bittersweet moment. I've known her since she was little, I've worked with her mom, I've done her hair, and just watching her along with her whole class grow up as soccer players and as people...I'm excited to see her do great at Bryan [College]."

To Marshall's credit, she is extremely excited to take on the challenge at the next level, especially if that includes growing her level of comfort in her positioning on the field.

"I've heard everything about it [the jump in skill and speed in college], and I'm looking forward to just seeing how the next level truly is while still growing as a soccer player because I can grow more every day," Marshall said, "I want to reach the highest level I possibly can. That's my goal. I'm one of those people where even when I turn 40, I'm still playing in an adult league. I just want to test myself everyday and I just love the sport and want to keep growing in it. Add on the Christian base, like all the girls were so supportive. I had a handful of them – girls I have never met before – reach out on social media telling me how excited they were to meet me and saying congratulations."

"Off the field, I'm looking to expand my knowledge and love of God because my Christian walk is a big reason why I chose this school. On the field, just continuing to grow as a player, and learning the speed of college soccer. It'll be faster and I won't be used to it at first, so just getting that down, forming bonds with my teammates, just going in and building even more as a person," she said.

Much like her freshman year at Shelbyville Central, Marshall could end up playing a big role for the rebuilding Lions this fall after Bryan College finished 4-12-1 in 2025.

"On this team [Bryan College], transitioning from defense into attack is something that they needed help with so, obviously, as a defensive mid, I love making those connecting passes to help spring the attack," Marshall said, "Coach Warren even said that he might enjoy playing me as an attacking mid as well. I'm hoping just to be able to have a huge impact my Freshman year. Even if it doesn't go exactly how I want it to, I just want to keep getting better."

If her four years in high school says anything, Marshall will likely find her footing sooner than both she and her support system may expect. A good talent with a solid first touch and high levels of composure, the soon-to-be-former Eaglette promises to be a noteworthy contributor in Bryan College's 2026 recruiting class.

"I just have to say a big thank you to everyone who believed in me and supported me throughout my whole journey so far," Marshall concluded, "I'm extremely excited to continue on to the next level."

Bryan College's season begins in late-August, and the schedule typically is released in late-spring.

SCHS Loses Double-Digit Lead to Pioneers

BY NOAH MADDOX
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McMINNVILLE, Tenn. — After blowing out the Pioneers on Jan. 23 by 21 points, the Shelbyville Central Golden Eagles (17-11, 4-3) were upset at Warren County (16-8, 4-4), 48-45, on Tuesday night.

Shelbyville Central, who started out district play a perfect 4-0, have now been held under 52 points in their last three district outings, culminating in a bad loss to the Pioneers on Tuesday. Not a single Golden Eagle scored in double-figures, and the visitors were held to just 17 points in the second half as a team.

Meanwhile, Warren County's Devin Fish scored a game-high 17 points, Deashawn Adams added 13 points, and Keyton Rena chipped in with 10 points on the night.

The Golden Eagles actually jumped out to an early lead, 13-10, by the end of the opening period of play. Jasiah Berry scored four points in the first to lead Shelbyville. In the second, the visitors held the Pioneers to just seven points in the period, and it looked to be a reenactment of the first game with Shelbyville heading into the halftime locker room with a 29-17 lead.

However, the Golden Eagles' defense began to leak in the third quarter, and Fish took advantage. Fish scored 11 of his 17 points in the third quarter, and the Pioneers drew level at 38 by the end of the period after outscoring Shelbyville, 21-9.

The Golden Eagles managed just seven points in the final frame, and despite Fish splitting two pairs of free throws down the stretch, Shelbyville was unable to take advantage on the offensive end, falling by three, 48-45.

The Golden Eagles fall to 17-11 overall. Shelbyville wraps up district play on Friday at Coffee County with tip-off set for 7:30 p.m.

SHELBYVILLE: T. Cannon 9, J. Berry 8, T. Shelton 6, M. Johnson 5 (1), L. Sparrow 3 (1), J. Taylor 3 (1), J. Taylor 2.

Eaglettes Fall at Warren County

BY NOAH MADDOX
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McMINNVILLE, Tenn. — The Shelbyville Central Golden Eaglettes (7-18-0-7) scored just two points in the second quarter at Warren County (13-11, 3-5) on Tuesday night, leading to a 53-45 loss in the second-to-last District 6-4A game of the regular season.

After taking the Pioneerettes to overtime in a 49-45 loss back on Jan. 23, the Eaglettes were unable to match the hosts' scoring prowess. Brynlee Chisom led all scorers with a game-high 18 points while Trinity Reynolds finished 16 points for Warren County.

For Shelbyville, Jada Berry scored a team-high 13 points while Dara Frazier and Janiya Leslie chipped in with 10 points apiece, but the Pioneerettes shot 16 more free throws, 30-16, and made seven more from the line in the eight point win.

Early on, the two teams were basically even at the end of the first quarter with Warren County taking a slim 15-13 lead heading into the second. Berry scored eight of her 13 in the opening period to keep the Eaglettes close while Leslie knocked down her only triple of the night.

However, the Pioneerettes held Shelbyville to zero-made field goals in the second stanza, outscoring the Eaglettes, 11-2, to take a 26-15 lead going into the halftime break. Reynolds led all scorers in the period with six points.

Coming out for the second half, both teams found their offensive groove almost immediately, but Warren County was able to edge out the Eaglettes, 19-17, in the third quarter to take a 43-32 lead heading into the final frame. Yasmine McFarland scored four of her five points in the third while Berry added four points, but Chisam scored seven for Warren County to lead the hosts.

In the fourth quarter, the Pioneerettes went 8-of-14 at the charity stripe, connecting on just enough free throws to hold on off the late rally attempt from the Eaglettes.

Understanding Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors: Numbers to Know in 2026

FeatureImpact

Taking care of your heart with healthy behaviors may be at the top of your wellness priority list already, and there may be good news about the effects of adhering to expert recommendations.

New information from the American Heart Association's 2026 Heart Disease & Stroke Statistics Update shows deaths from heart disease and stroke are on the decline. However, rates continue to climb for high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity – all of which are health risk factors that contribute to cardiovascular disease.

Following expert guidance can be your prescription for better health as 80% of heart disease and stroke is preventable.

To help maintain and improve your cardiovascular health, consider following the American Heart Association's Life's Essential 8, which is a set of four health behaviors (eat better, be more active, quit tobacco and get healthy sleep) and four health factors (manage weight, control cholesterol, manage blood sugar and manage blood pressure).

In the United States, optimal Life's Essential 8 scores could prevent up to 40% of annual all-cause and cardiovascular disease deaths among adults.

Consider these highlights from the statistics update:

- Heart disease remains the leading cause of death in the U.S. and stroke is the No. 4 leading cause of death.
- Together, heart disease and stroke accounted for more than a quarter of all deaths in the U.S. in 2023.
- Cardiovascular diseases, including all types of heart disease and stroke, claim more lives in the U.S. each year than all forms of cancer and accidental deaths — the Nos. 2 and 3 causes of death – combined.
- On average, every 34 seconds, someone died of cardiovascular disease in 2023.
- On average, about two people died of heart disease every 3 minutes in the U.S. in 2023.
- On average in 2023, someone died of stroke every 3 minutes, 14 seconds in the U.S.
- Nearly half of U.S. adults now have high blood pressure.
- Nearly 29.5 million U.S. adults have diagnosed diabetes.
- About 50% of U.S. adults have obesity or severe obesity, and 28.1% of youth ages 2-19 have obesity.
- Only 1 in 4 U.S. adults meets national physical activity guidelines. Only 1 in 5 U.S. youths ages 6-17 are physically active for 60 minutes or more every day of the week.

A Fruity Sprinkle Surprise For Valentine's Day

FeatureImpact

Valentine's Day is a big deal for kids, too. From the decorations to their friends and all the sweet, delicious treats to devour, it can be an overwhelming amount of excitement and awe.

They receive gifts, get to have fun with their friends and family, and get to snack on treats they typically don't have on a regular basis. This is part of what makes Valentine's Day so fun.

At the next party you're hosting, try this delightful Fruity Sprinkles Smoothie that fits the theme for nearly any colorful bash.

It's made with frozen blueberries, frozen strawberries and frozen mango for a healthier alternative to sugar-filled cake. Topped with fluffy, fun whipped cream and mini sprinkles, it still provides a sweet, festive treat. Plus, this smoothie can be made in a matter of minutes using only one kitchen appliance for easy clean up.

To make it, blend frozen blueberries, frozen strawberries, frozen mango, milk and yogurt until well combined.

Pour the mixture into four smoothie glasses and garnish each with whipped cream and sprinkles to add some extra color.

It's that easy to make and even better to enjoy while watching your kid make wonderful memories with friends and family.



Fruity Sprinkles Smoothie

Servings: 4

- 1 cup frozen blueberries
- 2 cups frozen strawberries
- 1 cup frozen mango
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1 carton (6 ounces) vanilla yogurt
- whipped cream
- sprinkles

1. In blender, blend blueberries, strawberries, mango, milk and yogurt until combined.
2. Pour smoothie into four glasses. Garnish with whipped cream and sprinkles.

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