COMMUNITY NEWS

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

$1.00 | Thursday, February 19, 2026 | www.t-g.com

# Committee studying senior property tax freeze gets into nitty gritty of proposal

By Dawn Hankins
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The subcommittee for the Senior Property Tax Relief proposal held its first meeting recently, diving into a lot of demographics and Census numbers-all a part of setting a platform for additional tax relief for potentially thousands of Bedford County seniors over the age of 65.

Anita Epperson, a member of the County Rules Committee, which approved the subcommittee, opened the meeting. Commissioner Eric Maddox led the prayer, asking for "wisdom" as the City and County talk over this business.

The City of Shelbyville moved recently to also participate in this subcommittee, which is expected to meet through early spring. It is at that time the committee will submit a report and recommendation to the County Commission for approval as well as the City Council.

Blevins sent out a quick message this week to thank everyone that attended the first meeting of the Senior Property Tax Freeze Study Committee last Tuesday. He attached all the handouts that were discussed during the meeting.. See some of the charts on page 2.

The second meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 10, at 5:30 p.m. in the courthouse. Blevins said they're expecting to have a representative of the state department that handles the Senior Property Tax Freeze Program with them that evening to answer questions and provide additional information on the program.

Members of the Senior Tax Freeze subcommittee include: Ronda Clanton, property assessor; Tonya Davis, County Trustee; Epperson, County Commissioner; Henry Feldhaus, City Councilman; City Mayor Randy Carroll; Eric Maddox, County Commissioner and Josh Blevins, City Councilman.

"The reason we're looking at this, is obviously to protect our seniors," advised Councilman Blevins. "We have vulnerable seniors . . . this particularly impacts low-income seniors. It has income limits."

Blevins said the committee will look at the two available income limits for starters.

"That is all we, as the City and County, have the ability to do. All we can do is what the state allows us, which is this particular program that we're presenting here tonight."

See FREEZE, 2A



The new subcommittee for the proposed senior tax freeze proposal opened its first meeting with prayer and then Councilman Josh Blevins (far right) got into the numbers (demographics, etc.) of how this senior tax freeze could affect the County as a whole. From left, Property Assessor Ronda Clanton, Trustee Tonya Davis, Commissioner Anita Epperson, Councilman Henry Feldhaus, City Mayor Randy Carroll, Commissioner Eric Maddox and Blevins.

| 7,458 Seniors in County | 14.5% of Population | 24% Live Alone | ~4,600 Senior Households | 2,760 Seniors in City |
|---|---|---|---|---|

**CURRENT PROGRAM: PROPERTY TAX RELIEF**

| $37,530 2025 Max Income | $118 State Portion | $118 County Match | $75 State Portion | $75 City Match |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 517 Seniors Helped | 43 Disabled Helped | 179 Disabled Veterans Helped | 34 Disabled Veteran Widow(er)s Helped | 773 Total on Tax Relief |

*Veterans provided no county match (city does match) but receive higher property tax relief amount from state.*

**PROPOSED ADDITIONAL PROGRAM: SENIOR PROPERTY TAX FREEZE**

| OPTION 1 – 19 COUNTIES CURRENTLY | | OPTION 2 – 8 COUNTIES CURRENTLY | |
|---|---|---|---|
| $42,710 2025 Max Income | ~720 Seniors Helped | $61,920 2025 Max Income | ~1,800 Seniors Helped |
| *Income limit adjusts annually* | | *Income limit adjusts annually* | |

# Shelbyville Housing Authority saving money for future construction, with new plan

## *Director explains RAD program during Council meeting*

By Dawn Hankins

During the City Council meeting last week, Mayor Randy Carroll was approved to sign a letter of support for Shelbyville Housing Authority in its effort to make the conversion to a more efficient HUD-approved operation-one that should create more longevity in rentals and more cash flow.

The Mayor, Council and legal had asked Shelbyville Housing Authority representatives to speak on the program for clarity. The mayor asked about a contract and a 20-year plan.

Shelbyville Public Housing Director Ron Tillman told Council the 20-year plan is actually the contract signed when going to RAD (Rental Assistance Demonstration.) He said this contract means that every month, he has to put into escrow a certain amount of money and that's where future construction will come from.

RAD is a federal housing program administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD.) It was enacted as a part of the consolidated and further continuing appropriations act in 2012.

The purpose of RAD is to provide tools to address unmet capital needs of deeply affordable, federally assisted, rental properties. RAD is set to address the short-term capital needs of public housing properties and long-term revitalization.

According to HUD, RAD public housing contracts are designed to provide long-term rental assistance to public housing properties. Public housing authorities can convert public housing subsidy into a Section

See RAD, 2A



Ron Tillman, Shelbyville Housing Authority Director

# Commissioner says Bedford setting the bar high in Tennessee for rural broadband

By Dawn Hankins

During the Rules and Legislative Committee meeting Tuesday, Commissioner Greg Vick said the County is on its last federal round with its broadband program.

To date, the County, he said, has committed $4.3 million in grants during round 1; $5.1 million in round 2; and the County put in $700,000 about 3 years ago. So, there's almost 11 million that's been invested locally into rural broadband.

"The first round, we served 970 people, the second round, 2,245 people. We are 85% of the way . . . probably the most advanced rural community with Broadband in the state. We are the showplace. In fact, we have something that other counties don't have- Rutherford doesn't have it, Davidson doesn't have it-we have I think 8GB right here. We're excited about that."

United Communications is a broadband service provider in middle Tennessee, offering high-speed internet with speeds up to 8 GIGABITS over their fiber network.

Vick said there's a huge finish line that will come through from Rutherford County to Normandy on its way to Franklin. He said in this last federal round, United Communications believes the eligible people remaining will be serviced.

"There's a couple of pockets that we don't have adequate coverage yet. Looks like there's about 3,100 people remaining, that are eligible, that don't have it."

Commissioner Yockey, who was in the audience, said she'd like to see a presentation/update at County Commission meeting on the Broadband progress.

Vick said there should be a presentation in July. Vick thanked Mayor Chad Graham for his commitment to making sure that happens.

"This has really been beneficial for our schools, our seniors, our farmers, for everybody. Everybody in this room has been a part of the process," said Vick, who announced recently this will be his last term as County Commissioner.



County Commissioner Greg Vick




## SCHS STUDENTS MAKE THEIR FEELINGS KNOWN ABOUT ICE

*Submitted Photo*

Students at Shelbyville Central High School exercised their rights to a peaceable protest against ICE on Tuesday morning. The students used their free time. It was student-led action conducted within the perimeters of state and school policy. School officials said this was "not a school-affiliated event." The media was not allowed by the school system to be on the site, but an anonymous source sent these pictures to the T-G. ICE, or Immigration and Customs Enforcement, is a federal law enforcement agency under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security responsible for enforcing immigration laws and investigating customs violations.

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**Dog returned home, via Facebook**

After nearly three years, a Bell Buckle family shares a story about the power of social media.

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**Cascade's Kaegan Young**

Young is a finalist for the Class 2A Miss Basketball Award and became the new Lady Champions' all-time career-leading scorer.

See Page 9A

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## FREEZE

From page 1A

Blevins said the state already allows for the "tax relief" program which is in the County budget each year. The City matches all tax relief coming from the state (including veterans) at 100%.

Blevins said he and Trustee Davis compared figures this week and it appears that over 700 seniors would qualify for the lower income cap of $42,000 plus and at the higher $61,000. It is possible as many as 1,800 here could qualify for the senior tax freeze.

So what does that mean in the bigger picture, locally?

Blevins said 67% of state residents are already covered by the senior property tax freeze. A lot of the smaller counties, like Bedford, are either in the process of implementing or have declined to do so.

During the meeting, it was emphasized how the average senior in Bedford County, needing this assistance, is currently paying $865 in County property tax and paying to the City about $555. After tax relief, they average a little over $1,000 on their tax bill.

"Part of the reason we're looking at this freeze, in addition to the tax relief, is if, God forbid, we had to raise property taxes in 2 years; those tax relief people are not protected from a tax increase, right now," Blevins explained.

Those tax relief recipients, he added, would still have to pay any property tax increase, with just the tax relief program, alone. He said an average senior could save hundreds more on their tax bills by just adding the "freeze" program.

Again, this "freeze" doesn't mean a senior will not pay any property taxes. This just means the tax rate (in the year the program is approved) would stay the same for those 65 and over, qualifying for the freeze, as long as they keep the same residence, meet income levels and remain in the same home.

Some social media comments of late from the community indicate they think seniors over 65, if homes are paid for, should not have to pay any property taxes. But that has not been discussed at the government level at this time in Bedford County.

Property Assessor Ronda Clanton, who is retiring next week, said she talked to several other county property assessors across the state and learned of some of their problems with their senior tax freeze. She said as far as property assessors, they have to determine where people live and if there's multiple dwellings on one property.

Greenbelt properties and improvements also figure into the mix, she said.

And, she said if the resident adds on a structure to their property, it's not a dollar per dollar tax increase but a percentage on the frozen rate.

Clanton commented, "The first year, all of them said, was 'heck' as you're going to be spending a lot of time to put a dollar amount on it."

She mentioned that most had more administrative costs such as a new employee and benefits.

"I think as you go on each year, [there's] not as much work. You've got your baseline. You still have to review it. They would be reviewing it once every 5 years, anyway . . . ."

Clanton asked Blevins about assets of seniors over 65. Example: when it comes to income, if only social security is counted as income, but there's half a million dollars in the bank, do they still qualify if their income levels are within the approved cap?

Blevins said there's no asset test with the senior tax freeze. "You are kind of relying on someone who is well off not to take advantage," he advised.

Trustee Davis said there's no asset test on the tax relief program as well. So, people with millions in the bank could still qualify for the tax freeze and relief, if they hit the required income caps each year.

Trustee Davis gave an example of a couple that has millions in the bank, so they do not take their social security payments, but live off the keen interest of their money in the bank. By doing that, counting just the interest as income, she said they qualify for the tax relief if it comes within the cap.

Clanton said that's not illegal; it's just the way it is.

Mayor Carroll clarified that the income guidelines for the tax relief are based off what's listed on a residents' tax form, as income, for that year.

Commissioner Maddox said call it a "knee jerk reaction" but he questioned how many local residents actually fall into that "millions in the bank, living only off interest" category here.

Commissioner Linda Yockey asked from the floor a question about Greenbelt and how that is affected by the senior property tax freeze.

Clanton explained that this frozen property tax freeze applies to the primary residence and any current supporting structure that is with home, garage, etc. (This does include up to 5 acres.)

"Now with the Greenbelt, if they want to put 5 acres in there, with a house, they've got to take 4 acres out of Greenbelt . . . . dwelling would be the 5th over. They're not going to want to do that."

Clanton, who will be retired by next month's meeting, said she really wants people to know who qualify for the tax relief, and possibly the tax freeze program, that they MUST fill out the forms every year to qualify. That's a state law.

If residents skip a year of filling out the necessary paperwork in the Trustee's office, their tax rate, as far as the tax freeze, will then move up to the current year rate. So, if you forget to fill out the paperwork before taxes are due, you might be doling out more money on your tax bill.

"It's not a one and done and stays there," explained Clanton.

Looking at Maddox and Blevins, who started the tax freeze proposal about a month ago, Clanton said, "I appreciate, so much, you all doing this, because I think it needs to be studied, and it needs to be looked at to see if we can help, if we can. I appreciate . . . we've never had this before."

Kay Parker, City treasurer, asked how this freeze, if approved, would affect this tax year. Basically, it will not apply to the 2025 tax year. Reappraisals coming soon will take place before this is ever approved, it was explained during the meeting.

Here is a summary provided during the meeting about the benefits of implementing a Senior Property Tax Freeze

• Protects seniors on fixed incomes from tax hikes. Property tax increases of 10 to 20% translate into $87 to $236+ per year in savings per household — real money for retirees living on Social Security or pensions.

• Protects seniors currently on tax relief program from tax hikes. Without the freeze in place, seniors on tax relief program continue to receive tax relief, but would still have their taxes increase.

• Helps hundreds of local seniors currently ineligible for the tax relief program. Depending on the income option, an estimated 720 to 1,800 seniors could benefit from the tax freeze, more than the 517 currently benefiting from the tax relief (the tax relief program would stay in place).

• Targets those who need it most. Income limits ($42,710 or $61,920) focus the program on middle- and lower-income seniors.

• Minimal impact on government revenue. Even under higher participation and tax-increase scenarios, the cost is under 1% of property tax revenue — a small trade-off for a significant benefit to our most vulnerable.

• Most costs occur only when taxes increase. If taxes stay flat, there is no restricted revenue impact, making it fiscally low-risk.

• Aligns Bedford County and Shelbyville residents with the majority of Tennessee residents. 27 counties and dozens of cities already offer this program, covering 67% of the state's population — it's a proven, mainstream policy.

• Predictable and easy to budget. Because benefits are tied to tax increases and capped by eligibility, the financial exposure is stable and can be forecast each year.

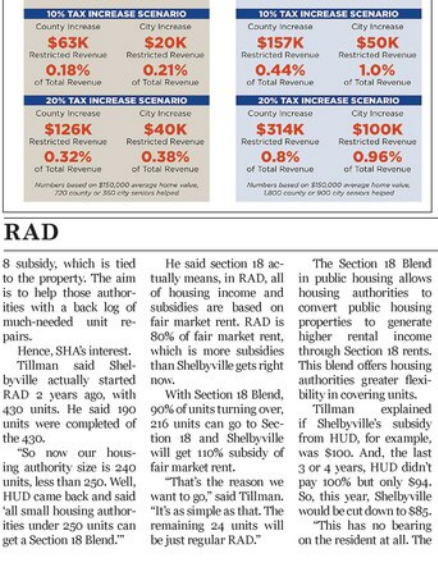
• Strengthens the local economy and community stability. Seniors who aren't squeezed by rising property taxes have more disposable income to spend locally.

Trustee Davis told the Times-Gazette this week she was thankful for Councilman Blevins for all his time and effort to bring forth informative information along with the committee that actively participated.

"Given all information needed, I think this study has been productive. There's been helpful specific points made with data to back up the information and how it impacts our community," said Davis.

Davis said this Tax Relief/ Tax Freeze study is comparing the immediate financial relief of credit to the long-term predictability of frozen assessments. She said this decision is not an easy task to the fiscal responsibility and the financial difficulties of County Government.

"Ultimately the County Commissioners will make the informed decision. The Trustee's Office only administers the Tax Relief Program, the same as it would be with the Tax Freeze under the State Comptroller's Office outlined in state law."




### Tennessee Tax Freeze Jurisdictions & Income Limits

The following counties and cities in Tennessee have adopted the local option Property Tax Freeze program. In order to qualify, an applicant's principal residence must be located within one of these jurisdictions and the applicant must meet age and income limit requirements.

**County Tax Freeze**

| County | Year Adopted | 2025 Income Limit |
|---|---|---|
| Anderson | 2007 | $52,590 |
| Bledsoe | 2011 | $37,530 |
| Blount | 2007 | $61,920 [*1] |
| Bradley | 2007 | $41,310 |
| Campbell | 2008 | $37,530 |
| Coffee | 2008 | $45,590 |
| Davidson | 2007 | $61,920 [*1] |
| DeKalb | 2023 | $37,530 |
| Franklin | 2008 | $45,900 |
| Hamblen | 2007 | $38,100 |
| Hancock | 2010 | $37,530 |
| Haywood | 2022 | $37,530 |
| Hickman | 2008 | $37,530 |
| Knox | 2007 | $61,920 [*1] |
| Madison | 2012 | $50,360 |
| Montgomery | 2008 | $61,920 [*1] |
| Putnam | 2024 | $61,920 [*1] |
| Roane | 2007 | $42,400 |
| Robertson | 2008 | $61,920 [*1] |
| Rutherford | 2008 | $61,920 [*1] |
| Sevier | 2008 | $47,990 |
| Shelby | 2008 | $61,920 [*1] |
| Smith | 2008 | $39,950 |
| Sumner | 2008 | $47,370 |
| Union | 2023 | $37,530 |
| Williamson | 2008 | $67,460 |
| Wilson | 2007 | $50,530 |

27 Counties Total

**City Tax Freeze**

| City | Year Adopted | County | 2025 Income Limit |
|---|---|---|---|
| Arlington | 2012 | Shelby | $61,920 [*1] |
| Bartlett | 2008 | Shelby | $61,920 [*1] |
| Brownsville | 2022 | Haywood | $37,530 |
| Chattanooga | 2017 | Hamilton | $49,790 |
| Clarksville | 2008 | Montgomery | $61,920 [*1] |
| Clinton | 2008 | Anderson | $52,590 |
| Collierville | 2008 | Shelby | $61,920 [*1] |
| Crossville | 2017 | Cumberland | $49,170 |
| Dyersburg | 2008 | Dyer | $37,910 |
| Fairview | 2008 | Williamson | $67,460 |
| Gallatin | 2008 | Sumner | $47,370 |
| Goodlettsville | 2008 | Davidson | $53,560 |
| | | Sumner | $47,370 |
| Gordonsville | 2008 | Smith | $39,950 |
| Greenbrier | 2008 | Robertson | $61,920 [*1] |
| Hendersonville | 2008 | Sumner | $47,370 |
| Jackson | 2009 | Madison | $50,360 |
| LaVergne | 2019 | Rutherford | $61,920 [*1] |
| Lakeland | 2012 | Shelby | $61,920 [*1] |
| Lebanon | 2013 | Wilson | $50,530 |
| Manchester | 2007 | Coffee | $45,590 |
| Memphis | 2008 | Shelby | $61,920 [*1] |
| Mt. Juliet | 2025 | Wilson | $50,530 |
| Millington | 2008 | Shelby | $61,920 [*1] |
| Murfreesboro | 2015 | Rutherford | $61,920 [*1] |
| Oak Ridge | 2010 | Anderson | $52,590 |
| | | Roane | $42,400 |
| Piperton | 2008 | Fayette | $47,320 |
| Portland | 2008 | Robertson | $45,460 |
| | | Sumner | $47,370 |
| Smyrna | 2009 | Rutherford | $61,920 [*1] |
| South Carthage | 2008 | Smith | $39,950 |
| Spring Hill | 2009 | Maury | $46,130 |
| | | Williamson | $67,460 |
| Springfield | 2008 | Robertson | $61,920 [*1] |
| Tullahoma | 2009 | Coffee | $45,590 |
| | | Franklin | $45,900 |
| Westmoreland | 2008 | Sumner | $47,370 |
| White House | 2011 | Robertson | $61,920 [*1] |
| | | Sumner | $47,370 |
| Whitwell | 2016 | Marion | $37,530 |

35 Cities Total

[*1] Local option income limit reported to the Division of Property Assessments.

Source: State of Tennessee, Comptroller of the Treasury, Division of Property Assessments

## RAD

From page 1A

8 subsidy, which is tied to the property. The aim is to help those authorities with a back log of much-needed unit repairs.

Hence, SHA's interest.

Tillman said Shelbyville actually started RAD 2 years ago, with 430 units. He said 190 units were completed of the 430.

"So now our housing authority size is 240 units, less than 250. Well, HUD came back and said 'all small housing authorities under 250 units can get a Section 18 Blend.'"

He said section 18 actually means, in RAD, all of housing income and subsidies are based on fair market rent. RAD is 80% of fair market rent, which is more subsidies than Shelbyville gets right now.

With Section 18 Blend, 90% of units turning over, 216 units can go to Section 18 and Shelbyville will get 110% subsidy of fair market rent.

"That's the reason we want to go," said Tillman. "It's as simple as that. The remaining 24 units will be just regular RAD."

The Section 18 Blend in public housing allows housing authorities to convert public housing properties to generate higher rental income through Section 18 rents. This blend offers housing authorities greater flexibility in covering units.

Tillman explained if Shelbyville's subsidy from HUD, for example, was $100. And, the last 3 or 4 years, HUD didn't pay 100% but only $94. So, this year, Shelbyville would be cut down to $85.

"This has no bearing on the resident at all. The resident pays the same amount of money for rent- 30% of their income goes toward the rent. This is on the financing side that we're looking at. This is separate. This is the money we get."

Tillman said after the escrow amount, there will be extra money in the cash flow, and the housing authority will operate regularly, without any outside help.

He said then the housing authority continues on with necessary business. Though a part of Section 18, the director's choice is not to continue repairing old units.

Tillman said the Shelbyville units are at least 75 years old. He added that 12,000 people, over the decades, have lived in the current rental units.

"We average about 200 people a year, rotating in and rotating out. So, think about it. The house is worn. You keep tearing it down and rebuilding the inside. Well, you take care of some of it. But now you've got your piping, utilities, everything. It really needs to be redone."

With money set aside, the housing authority, Tillman said, will be able to tear down units in certain areas and rebuild.

"We're not displacing any residents," Tillman assured.

The housing director said the housing authority will take a unit, when one becomes vacant; they won't rent it. Instead, they'll take the opportunity to tear it down, then rebuild. It's a rotating process, with no one being left out in the cold.

"That's why it's such a good program," Tillman advised.

# Council doesn't overstep Planning Commission's denial of Clardy rezoning request off West Jackson Street

## *Yet, still sent the request back to the PC for further study*

**By Dawn Hankins**

Following a lengthy discussion at last Thursday's monthly meeting, Council stalled a request for rezoning a portion of West Jackson and deferred it back to the Planning Commission.

This received an unfavorable vote by City Planning Commission. In most of these cases, Council hardly ever overrides the PC decision to deny rezoning.

The resolution was for the rezoning of 11 acres off West Jackson St., owned by Drew and Courtney Clardy. The Clardys have requested that their property near Tyson Foods be rezoned from light industrial to residential 3. The Clardys told Council they plan to put 8 duplexes on their property there.

With everything from mixed up legal advice to not understanding the requests of the PC, the owners tossed everything on the table before Council. The couple, and the engineer, were even allowed to speak prior to Council's vote.

Involved in the discussion on this rezoning request was the flood area which lies behind the Clardy property.

With directness, Mayor Randy Carroll told the couple that the City of Shelbyville would be the responsible party if the area in consideration was to flood and people had to be evacuated.



## Bedford Briefs

**FLY POTLUCK AND PROGRAM**

The regular potluck gathering will be held at the Fly on March 9, beginning at 6 p.m. Rod Cleveland, wire sculpture artist, will be guest speaker.

The meal is free. Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to share.




Rod is a 1986 Shelbyville Central High School graduate, where he played football and baseball. He grew up watching his grandfather, the late Vannoy "Wireman" Streeter, create works of art with clothes hangers.

Don't miss this great story to be shared by Cleveland.

**CLOTHING GIVE-A-WAY**

Believers Faith Fellowship, 2011 S. Cannon Blvd., March 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

Bedford County Board of Education meets 6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 19, at the Central Office building on Madison Street.

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Bedford County Financial Management Committee will meet at 4:15 Tuesday, Feb. 24, at the Dover Street building.

**WEBB HOSTS SPRING FOLIN SERIES: SCREEN VACATION**

On Monday, March 2, The Webb School will host its Spring 2026 Follin Speaker Series, featuring bestselling author, podcaster, and storyteller Carlos Whittaker, who will discuss the impact of a technology-free life. (Two sessions: 9:30 a.m. and 11:35 a.m.) During his presentation—both free and open to the public—Whittaker will share insights from his book, "Reconnected", which chronicles his choice to step away from screens for nearly two months, and how this decision healed his brain, relationships, and spiritual life.

The presentation will also accompany the launch of Webb's 2nd annual "Screen Vacation Week."



Markesiah Jackson, guest speaker



Commissioner Sylvia Pinson

## REENTRY SIMULATION EVENT HELD

*Bedford County Government photos*

Bedford County Sheriff's Office hosted a Reentry Simulation event last Thursday morning at The Fly Arts Center in Shelbyville. A wide variety of community leaders and volunteers attended the event, a role-playing exercise designed to help people understand the problems faced by jail or prison inmates attempting to return to society.

Each participant was issued a data sheet with information about their character -- their life situation, resources and challenges. Some people already had several forms of ID; some did not, and learned that they would have to obtain ID before visiting any of the other stations.

Various stations represented things like social services, banking, the court system, probation, and employment. The participants had to deal with the various stations as required by their data sheet. Participants learned about the challenges an inmate can face in trying to turn their life around and start anew.

Markesiah Jackson of the State of Tennessee's Human Resources department conducted the simulation. She warned participants that at past events, people can become invested in their characters and become quite frustrated and agitated at their inability to get the documents, resources or assistance they need.

Sponsors of the event were Cedar Recovery; Drug Rescue; State Rep. Pat Marsh; and the Center for Family Development. The organizing committee included Benita Caldwell, Aaron White, Sylvia Pinson, Lt. Chris Cook of Bedford County Jail, and Chief Deputy Nikia Elliott of BCSO.

Jackson said she hopes to have another event in Bedford County in the future for those who could not participate in his one.

## STATE OF TN SOBRIETY CHECKPOINT ANNOUNCED

In compliance with a Tennessee Supreme Court ruling for all law enforcement to notify the public of when and where roadblocks are to be held, Tennessee Highway Patrol is advising all motorists of the following upcoming checkpoint:

• March 6, 2026, at 8 p.m.-Sobriety Checkpoint- on State Route 82 South at the 6.5 MM in Bedford County

• March 27, 2026, at 8 p.m.-Sobriety Checkpoint-U.S. 41A North/S.R. 16-9 miles south of the 3 MM in Bedford County.

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES

On this first Sunday of Lent, Pastor Abe Zimmerman of First United Methodist Church Shelbyville will preach "Lent with Imperfect People: Part 1" from Luke 5:1-11. The pastor said, "We are looking at people in the Gospels whose lives were far from perfect. Each week we will recognize pieces of our own story in theirs, and discover how an encounter with Jesus reshaped their lives."

Sunday School for all ages begins at 9 am, followed by the worship service at 10 am. 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.







## FIRE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES TO FULL-TIME

*SFD Photo*

Shelbyville Fire Department Firefighters Cale Swing, Jax Reed and John Better were recently promoted to full-time firefighters.



## Office of the Sheriff Bedford County Tennessee

### Activity Report for the month of January, 2026

Total Miles: 75,958
Total Citations: 10
Total Warrants Served: 761
Total Arrests Made: 228
Total Inmates Currently in Holding: Jail: 352
Total Persons Processed Through: Jail 375
10-27 (Burglary): 2
10-42 (Alarms): 4
10-43 (Investigations, etc): 308
10-44 (Stolen Vehicle): 2
10-45 (Auto Acc. No Injury): 57
10-46 (Auto Acc. W/Injury): 14
10-49 (Drunk Driver): 2
10-56 (Prowler): 4
(Child Abuse): 2
(Assault/Agg. Assault): 16
10-64 (Motorist Assist): 66
10-72 (Fire): 2
10-86 (Domestic): 5
10-14 (Escort - No Arrest): 21
10-15 (Transport In Custody): 21
10-81 (Traffic Stop): 184
911 (Hang-up & Other): 50
Other: 77
Total: 611

Tennessee Press Association
Shelbyville Times-Gazette
USPS PE 492660
Richardson Media Group, Inc
411 Elm St. • Shelbyville, Tenn. 37162
Copyright 2025. Shelbyville Times-Gazette (USPS 492-660) is published weekly on Thursday by Richardson Media Group, Inc., 411 Elm St., Shelbyville, TN 37162.
Periodical postage paid at Shelbyville, TN 37162. POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to Shelbyville Time-Gazette, P.O. Box 380, 37162.

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| 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

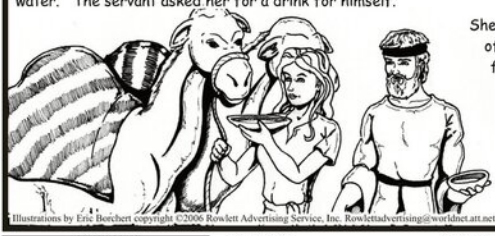
**A Wife for Isaac**
Genesis 24

Abraham sent his chief servant to the land from which Abraham and Sarah had come to find a wife for Isaac.

He journeyed to Nahor and was at the town well watering his camels at the time the women of the town came out to get water for home. He prayed that he would have success in finding a wife for Isaac.

He determined that he would know which girl was right for Isaac if, when he asked for a drink from a girl, she would give a drink to him and also give a drink to his camels.

While this servant was still praying the beautiful Rebekah came and filled her jar with water. The servant asked her for a drink for himself.



She gave him a drink and offered to draw water for his camels. Bingo. Success.

Isaac's servant had found Isaac a wife.

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# Bedford County property transfers

The following property sales were recently recorded in the Bedford County Register of Deeds office.
File date: February 3

Location: 723 Hoover St; Seller, Nicole Sirote; Buyer, Nicole Sirote Trust, Nicole Sirote; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Union Ridge Rd; Seller, Regina Darlean Davis, Roy Russell Wix Estate, Russell Dean Wix; Buyer, Lloyd Davis, Regina Davis; Price, $14,500 (Deed).

Seller, David Lee Parker, Angela Paige Parker; Buyer, Cody Lynch, Lauren Lynch; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 330 John Shaw Rd; Seller, Jeffrey Drake Duncan, Savannah Duncan; Buyer, Michael J Gammill, Dawn M Gammill; Price, $599,900 (Deed).

Location: 221 High Meadows Lane; Seller, Pamela Holbrook; Buyer, John Stephen Aymett Jr, Regan Jana Aymett; Price, $10 (QD).

Seller, Shelby Jean Bueka; Buyer, Maison McClain Backa; Price, $1 (QD).

Location: 109 Audubon Rd; Seller, Frederick King, Melissa King; Buyer, Brian Clouse, Taylor Davis, Tamera Pacino; Price, $330,000 (Deed).

Location: Sinking Creek Rd; Seller, Susan Renee Riner; Buyer, Timothy Claxton; Price, $20,000 (Deed).

Location: 128 Riverlake Dr; Seller, Michael Shortridge; Buyer, Ann Claire Mckeehan, Joseph D Mckeehan Sr; Price, $386,000 (Deed).

Location: 416 Sims St; Seller, Zachery Adams King, Amie Marie Anthony King; Buyer, Joey Curl, Maria Curl; Price, $169,000 (Deed).

Location: 430 Anthony Rd; Seller, Emily K Tidwell, Caleb R Tidwell; Buyer, Howard Hawkins, Rebu Hawkins, Matthew Allen, Ashley Allen; Price, $277,000 (Deed).

Location: 104 Northwood Ave; Seller, Gregory M Flint; Buyer, Sarah Potts, Andrew Potts; Price, $399,900 (Deed).
File date: February 4

Location: 140 Glider Loop Rd; Seller, Dara F Fulton, Jeffery M Fulton; Buyer, Melanie M Malone, Howard L Malone; Price, $579,900 (Deed).

Location: 138 Butler Ave; Seller, William C Kramer; Buyer, Music City Holdings LLC; Price, $100,000 (Deed).

Location: 500 Pencil Mill Rd; Seller, Robert K Savage, Michelle T Savage; Buyer, Robert J Leonard Trust, Michelle L Dennis; Price, $1,800,000 (Deed).

Location: 138 Butler Ave; Seller, Music City Holdings LLC; Buyer, JC Compton Properties LLC; Price, $145,000 (Deed).

Location: Smith Rd; Seller, Angela Wortham Gambill; Buyer, Angela Wortham Gambill, Allen J Gambill III; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 200 Sunset Blvd; Seller, Greg Curl; Buyer, Austin Mitchell Powell; Price, $311,000 (Deed).

Location: 1015 Old Columbia Rd; Seller, Colleen Mckeon; Buyer, Mckeon Living Trust; Price, $0 (QD).
File date: February 5

Location: Faye Creek Rd; Seller, Darlene Woods; Buyer, Karen J Stewart, Larry L Stewart; Price, $100,000 (Deed).

Seller, Raymond Brooks Goodson, Julia Rose Goodson; Buyer, Briana Michele Morris, Trent Hayden Morris; Price, $321,490 (Deed).

Location: 301 Idle Dr; Seller, DFH Crescent LLC; Buyer, Beili Johnson, Scotty Lee Johnson Jr; Price, $379,990 (Deed).

Location: 100 Lorien Cir; Seller, Jason Hollick; Buyer, Jason Hollick, Cora Hollick; Price, $1 (QD).

Seller, Bedford Development LLC; Buyer, Ole South Properties Inc; Price, $0 (QD).
File date: February 6

Location: 708 Mapleview Dr; Seller, Teri Arnold; Buyer, Jason Arnold, Teri Arnold; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 3544 Hwy 231 S; Seller, Mel Lee Causey Bullock; Buyer, Causey Family Trust, Mel Lee Causey Bullock; Price, $0 (QD).
File date: February 9

Location: Old Wartrace Pike; Seller, Jordan Garnes; Buyer, Darrell Neal, Lisa Neal; Price, $776,019.49 (Deed).

Location: 113 Matt Dr; Seller, David F Mason Jr, Kimberly D Mason; Buyer, Deborah L Beu; Price, $515,000 (Deed).

Location: Rabbit Branch Rd; Seller, Jane Lane Crowell; Buyer, Robert Wayne Carter; Price, $0 (QD).
File date: February 10

Location: 110 East Cedar St; Seller, Clinton Blatter; Buyer, Charles Tubberville, Kai Tubberville; Price, $145,000 (Deed).

Location: Highway 64 W; Seller, Carolyn S Glover; Buyer, William E Foyil, Florence A Foyil; Price, $200,000 (Deed).

Location: Gant Rd; Seller, Catherine M Ibis; Buyer, The Ibis Family Trust; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: Gant Rd; Seller, Catherine M Ibis; Buyer, The Ibis Family Trust; Price, $0 (QD).
File date: February 11

Location: 221 Edgemont Dr; Seller, Wayne Neese; Buyer, Giselle Kathleen Roche; Price, $194,950 (Deed).

Location: 175 Wild Creek Rd; Seller, James Timothy Smotherman; Buyer, James Timothy Smotherman, Brenda Smotherman; Price, $0 (QD).
File date: February 12

Location: 504 Dow Dr; Seller, Robinson Home Buyers LLC; Buyer, Brenda Tate Davidson, Mark W Davidson; Price, $419,000 (Deed).

Seller, Ivan Garcia Morales; Buyer, MG Solution LLC; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 417 Belmont Ave; Seller, Haley Martin, Sarah Hensley; Buyer, Haley Martin, Henry Martin, Sarah Hensley, Ethan Dolan; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, Daniel Standiford Moody, Henry Laird Moody Estate, Henry L Moody; Buyer, Daniel S Moody, Daniel Standiford Moody; Price, $0 (Deed).

Seller, Renee Wood, Chris Wood; Buyer, Christopher Ashton Wood, Dawn Renee Wood, Harpeth Headwaters Trust; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, Ron D McDaniel, Deborah K McDaniel, Ronald D McDaniel; Buyer, Ronald and Deborah McDaniel Family Trust, Ronald D McDaniel, Deborah K McDaniel; Price, $0 (Deed).

Location: 834 Longview Rd; Seller, P Ivan Moore, Rozanne B Moore; Buyer, Samuel Boyd, Vickie Boyd; Price, $522,500 (Deed).
File date: February 13

Seller, Charles E Gavin III, Marjorie F Gavin; Buyer, Darrell Oliver, Tracy Oliver, Price, $75,000 (Deed).

Location: 130 Horseshoe Dr; Seller, Opendoor Property Trust 1, Opendoor Labs Inc; Buyer, Magen Williams, Andrew York; Price, $265,000 (Deed).

Location: Horse Mountain Road; Seller, Eddie Moore Walker, Christine Moore Walker, E B Walker; Buyer, Eddie Moore Walker; Price, $0 (Deed).

Location: Wartrace Pike; Seller, Eddie Moore Walker, Christine Moore Walker, E B Walker; Buyer, Eddie Moore Walker, Renee S Gordon, Donna S Shortridge; Price, $0 (Deed).

Location: 900 New Herman Road; Seller, S Kathleen K Moselley, Leigh A McGuire; Buyer, Christopher Michael Kalinowski, Daawn Elizabeth Kalinowski; Price, $360,000 (Deed).

Location: Halls Mill Road; Seller, Arpie Faye C Grohowski, James T Cobb, Faye C Cobb, Jerry H Grohowski, Arpie Faye C Grohowski; Buyer, Arpie Faye C Grohowski; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: East Cedar St; Seller, Layne C Draper Talbott, J Kasey Talbott, Layne C Talbott Draper, Talbott Revocable Trust Agreement, L & T Living Trust; Buyer, Sufreesboro LLC; Price, $0 (QD).

Seller, Vivian Harris; Buyer, Albert Leon McClaran, Leon McClaran; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 107 Hilly Court; Seller, Terrence Owen Morrison, Jill Melissa Morrison; Buyer, Morrison Family Trust, Terrence O Morrison Family Trust, Jill M Morrison Family Trust; Price, $0 (QD).

Location: 213 Edgemont Drive; Seller, Wayne Neese, Jessica White; Buyer, Corrie E Mcanally; Price, $193,600 (Deed).

Location: 122 Elijah Parker Rd; Seller, Brian Biggs, Sharon Biggs; Buyer, Lynda Brogdon; Price, $1,250,000 (Deed).

# Obituaries

**Charlotte Gail Williams Dixon**



Charlotte Gail Williams Dixon, age 80, of Hendersonville, Tennessee, formerly of Shelbyville, Tennessee, passed away peacefully on February 16, 2026, surrounded by her loving family. She was of the Church of Christ faith.

Charlotte was born April 3, 1945, in Rutherford County, Tennessee, to the late Annie Mai Edwards Williams and Jesse Sewell Williams. She graduated from nursing school in 1963, and devoted more than 45 years to a career as an LPN, working in med/surg, home health, and rehabilitation centers.

Charlotte truly had the heart of a caregiver, faithfully tending to those in need throughout her life, including caring for her daughter while bedridden in the final years of her life.

Charlotte loved her family deeply, and she was happiest when everyone was together- especially her grandchildren. She cherished time spent visiting, laughing, and making memories with them. She also enjoyed cooking for her family, particularly during the holidays and everyone looked forward to gathering around her table for her cornbread dressing.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 40 years, Charles Ray Dixon; her daughter, Kimberly Dawn Dixon; her son-in-law, Sam Body; her sisters, Dessie Jordan, Evelyn Hall, Effie Brinkley, Ann Williams, and Peggy Wilson; and her brothers, Jesse Williams Jr., Howard Williams, and James "Jim" Williams.

She is survived by her brothers, John (Brenda) Williams of Washington State and Hank Williams of Murfreesboro, Tennessee; and her children: daughters Gina (David) Brandon of Tullahoma, Tennessee, Pam (Nick) Paul of Nashville, Tennessee, and Rhonda Body of Ringgold, Georgia; and son Charles (Chuck) Dixon of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Brittany Gail Snively, Justin Brandon, Josh Brandon, Hayden Body, Rachel Body, Colby Dixon, Lydia Dixon, Madelyn Paul, and Teddy Paul, as well as countless nieces and nephews.

Visitation with the family will be held Thursday, February 19, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Jennings and Ayers Funeral Home in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Funeral services will be held Friday, February 20, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Jennings and Ayers Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Roselawn Memorial Gardens with family and friends serving as pallbearers.

The family would like to extend sincere gratitude to the nurses and staff at Red Cedar Glen and Aveanna Hospice for the loving care provided during Charlotte's final years and days.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

Please leave online condolences for the family at www.jenningsandayers.com Jennings and Ayers Funeral Home, 820 South Church Street, Murfreesboro, TN.

# Death Notices

**Fagan Raymond**

Fagan Raymond, age 81, of Murfreesboro, died Monday, February 16, 2026. He was son of the late Jesse Guy and Clemmie Rozelle Lucurs Liles. Formerly of Chapel Hill, he was a U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran. Survivors include wife, Libby Raymond, and son, Jeff Raymond, both of Murfreesboro.

Lawrence Funeral Home, Chapel Hill, is in charge of arrangements.

**Helen Calhoun**

Helen Calhoun, age 79, of Unionville, passed away on Thursday, February 12, 2026. She was daughter of the late Dale Berry and Gladys Adams Berry.

Survivors include children, James Calhoun of Unionville, Wayne Calhoun of Clarksville, Ricky Calhoun of Forney, Texas.

Lawrence Funeral Home, Chapel Hill, is in charge of arrangements.

**Billy Edward Morris, Sr.**

Billy Edward Morris, Sr., age 77, former professional wrestler, passed away on February 10, 2026. He was born on April 13, 1948, in Eagleville.

He is survived by wife, Beverly Morris; children, Paula Morris, Sherry Morris, and Billy E. Morris, Jr.

Lawrence Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

**Timmy Woodall**, Unionville, January 4, 1964 — February 15, 2026. Lawrence Funeral Home

**Steve Leverette**, Chapel Hill, September 20, 1955 — February 13, 2026. Lawrence Funeral Home

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

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

**February 24, 2026, AT 5:00 PM**
AT THE SHELBYVILLE POWER
SYSTEM OFFICE,
308 SOUTH MAIN STREET.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO
ATTEND ANY AND ALL MEETINGS.

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

**SHELBYVILLE POWER, WATER & SEWER BOARDS**
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## Public Notice - 2025 City Property Taxes

**The deadline to pay 2025 City Property Taxes without penalty/interest is Saturday, February 28th.**

**City Hall is located on the Public Square at 201 N. Spring Street. We are open M-F, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**The Shelbyville City Hall drive-thru window will be open on Saturday, February 28th from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon in order to accept property tax payments only. The drive-thru is located on the W. Holland side of City Hall.**

**Kay Parker, City Treasurer**

# Crossword

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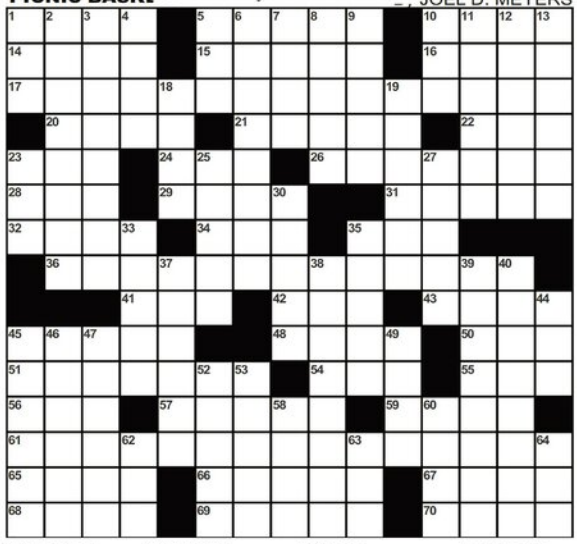

**CLUES ACROSS**

1) Certain term of respect
5) Caliph's faith
10) Dishonestly acquired booty
14) "The Princess Diaries" star Hathaway
15) Diving gear
16) Succulent plant
17) Picnic item, sometimes
20) Wound from a boxer?
21) Elbow conspiratorially
22) Short, straight punch
23) Homer's "Heck!"
24) "Caught in the act!"
26) Ophthalmologist's concern
28) Schooner's cargo, often
29) Shopping outlet
31) Little laugh
32) "Dog Barking at the Moon" painter Joan
34) "Christ the Redeemer" city
35) That lass
36) Picnic items, sometimes
41) Sound of pleasure
42) Big Band or Victorian
43) "Listen!" old-style
45) Hollywood's Eastwood
48) Lancelot and others
50) Wing-tip tip
51) Stumbling blocks
54) Busy pro in Apr.
55) Give a pink slip to
56) Possessive pronoun
57) Satisfy, as a debt
59) Enjoy a mystery
61) Picnic items, sometimes
65) Look___ (explore)
66) Syllables sung while skipping
67) City near Lake Tahoe
68) Too inquisitive
69) Sprinkle all about
70) Former Soviet inits.

**CLUES DOWN**

1) "Gaping" gullet
2) Like some steroids
3) Unlikely protagonist
4) High school sports event
5) Suffix for "Marx" or "capital"
6) Screenwriter's creation
7) Humdinger
8) Home
9) Rundown and filthy
10) Close friend
11) Wood of Hollywood
12) Vicinity
13) Debilitated
18) Photocopier tray filler, perhaps
19) Be hot under the collar
23) Hoover construction
25) Draconian
27) Tree with edible nuts
30) Firms up, as muscles
33) Ape of Borneo
35) Mentally acute
37) Word with "second" or "laws of"
38) First wheels, for many
39) Scones
40) Widens
44) Baseball's Griffey
45) Pay one's share
46) Spanglish speaker, often
47) Map parts
49) Kolkata dress
52) Creatures with six or more legs, typically
53) Baseball or tennis
58) At some distance
60) Stocking shade
62) Flirtatious
63) Bit of hesitation?
64) Word in the Postal Service creed


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## The Science of the Olympics

**Gold Medal Dictionary**

Fall Line: _____

Friction: _____

Drag: _____

The people who compete in the Winter Olympics are more than great athletes. They are also masters of science. Gold Medal athletes know about the science of a **fall line, drag** and **friction.**

Find the definition of each of these words on the page. Write the definition in the Gold Medal Dictionary.

**Standards Link:** Vocabulary Development: Use a dictionary or context clues to find the meaning of words.

### Fall Line

Competitors in downhill skiing, the luge and bobsled races look for the **fall line.** The fall line is the quickest way down a hill. When a sled moves away from the fall line, the athlete must steer to correct the path, losing energy and speed.

**Add up the numbers following each bobsled track. The animal athlete with the lowest number has found the fall line and wins the gold!**

**Standards Link:** Physical Science: When forces on an object are unbalanced, the object will change its velocity (i.e., it will speed up, slow down or change direction).

ORANGE TRAIL

YELLOW TRAIL

RED TRAIL

### Cutting Down on Drag

While we don't always feel air, we are always moving against it. The faster we move, the more we can feel the air rushing past us. Air is actually slowing down our motion. This is called **drag.**

AIRFLOW

FALL LINE

Downhill skiers crouch with their chests to their knees. They try to be very small, so that only a little of their body is in contact with the air. This lessens the drag. Skiers who have the least amount of drag will ski faster.

### Drag Racers

Look at the three skiers. They are all skiing down the fall line. The one with the least drag will win. Circle the skier you think will win.

**To find out each skier's time, add up the numbers above each skier. The skier with the fastest time wins the gold!**

**Standards Link:** Number Sense: Calculate sums to 30.

### What is Friction?

**Friction** is the rubbing of one object or surface against another.



Place your two palms together with your palms only lightly touching each other. Slide your palms back and forth against each other. There is only a little friction and your hands move easily. Push your palms tightly together and try to move them back and forth. It will be harder to move your palms because there is a lot of friction and that slows the motion.

Now put soap and water on your hands. This will reduce the friction and your hands should move together faster. Athletes wax skis, boards and runners to lower friction and help them go faster.

**Standards Link:** Science: Identify forces that can act on an object, including friction.

### Snowboard Challenge

The athlete who did the best job waxing their board will win this race. (The lowest number is the fastest time.)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 11 | 10 | 12 |
| 6 | 2 | 3 |
| + 5 | + 1 | + 5 |

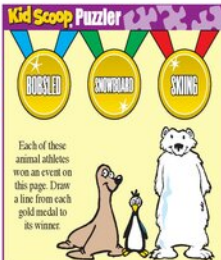
### Extra! Extra!

**Faster, Higher, Stronger**

Look through the newspaper to find pictures and words that represent the above words. Make a Spirit of the Olympics poster with your findings.

**Standards Link:** Visual Arts: Understand and apply media techniques and processes.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler




Each of these animal athletes won an event on this page. Draw a line from each gold medal to its winner.

**Standards Link:** Life Science: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

### Double Double Word Search

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

SCIENCE
MEDAL
ATHLETES
OLYMPICS
BOBSLED
SKIER
SPIRIT
FRICTION
DRAG
FALL
LINE
GOLD
LUGE
KNEES
RACERS

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | O | F | O | D | T | L | B | U | C |
| G | K | T | A | I | G | O | L | D | O |
| A | A | L | R | L | B | L | E | C | S |
| R | E | I | K | S | L | O | N | C | M |
| D | P | O | L | Y | M | P | I | C | S |
| S | R | E | C | A | R | E | L | P | E |
| E | D | S | E | E | N | K | D | T | G |
| N | O | I | T | C | I | R | F | A | U |
| S | E | T | E | L | H | T | A | I | L |

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

### From the Kid Scoop Lesson Library

**Science Behind the Scenes**

The communities that host the Olympic games must respect the environment. Look through the newspaper for ways people protect the environment. Can you find any ideas for protecting the environment during the games?

**Standards Link:** Earth Science: Know ways in which humans can change ecosystems.

### Write On!

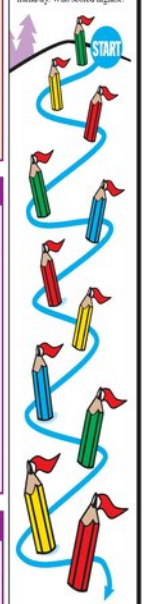
**My Olympic Achievement**

Write about a time you achieved something that made you very proud.

### Kid Scoop Together:

**Slalom Racers**

Place a pencil on START. Close your eyes. Trace the curving path down the slalom run. Score **1 point** for each slalom flag cleared. Now have a friend try. Who scored highest?




**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

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# *Is* God Dead? Were The Disciples Trippin?



Ty B. Kerley, DMin
Columnist

In the last few weeks, we have looked more closely at "swoon theories" that attempt to explain what happened to Jesus of Nazareth after His crucifixion. Specifically, we looked at the recent swoon theory offered by the critic David Mirsch. Like all previous swoon-type theories, Mirsch's theory fails to account for the minimal bedrock facts suggested by Gary Habermas and Michael Licona. These minimal bedrock facts pertain to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, which are 1) broadly evidenced and 2) acknowledged by a consensus of scholars, both believers and skeptics alike. First, Mirsch's theory fails to acknowledge that Jesus did, in fact, die by crucifixion. Further, given the extent of Jesus's injuries, Mirsch fails to provide an adequate explanation of how a severely injured Jesus could have made multiple appearances to His disciples over forty days. Finally, Mirsch fails to acknowledge that Paul had an experience that he interpreted as the risen Jesus's appearance. In conclusion, post haste, we set all swoon-type theories aside as invalid explanations for what happened to Jesus after the crucifixion.

With these fringe hypotheses set aside, the remaining naturalistic explanations are essentially limited to hallucination-type theories. In fact, resurrection critic Bart Ehrman says, "There are basically two options about what happened. Either Jesus really appeared to his disciples after the crucifixion, or they were seeing things." This seems to me to be true; there really are no other viable options that acknowledge the minimal bedrock facts regarding the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus. Either Jesus really appeared, or they were seeing things. In fact, hallucination theories have probably been the most popular alternative position over the last one hundred years. So, it is because of their popularity that I would like to look more closely at the plausibility of hallucination theories to help explain the facts.

Paul lists those people to whom the risen Jesus is reported to have appeared in his first letter to the church at Corinth (1 Cor 15:5-8). Ehrman, by the way, dates the oral creed captured in this passage to within one or two years of the resurrection. This is significant in that Ehrman's own rule of thumb in determining historical truth is that the sources that are closest to the original event are most likely correct.

Paul lists the appearances as 1) Cephas (Peter); 2) "The Twelve;" 3) "more than five hundred;" 4) "James;" 5) "all the apostles;" and 6) Paul. In total, Paul records six post-resurrection appearances. Interestingly, three of the listed appearances are to individuals, and three are to groups of people. So, we must look at hallucination claims occurring in group and individual settings.

Hallucinations are an interesting and much-studied phenomenon. The Johns Hopkins Psychiatry Guide defines hallucinations as "a perception without a stimulus." More precisely, we can say that "hallucinations are private experiences occurring inside the mind of an individual . . . they are mental events with no external reality." As such, hallucinations generally occur in a single sensory mode; that is, visual, auditory, olfactory, tactile, kinesthetic, or gustatory. Multimodal hallucinations are possible but are considered extremely rare. Research notes that females are more likely than males, and the old and the young are more likely to hallucinate than the middle-aged. Even so, and this is important, across all demographics, only 5.2 percent of the general population will experience at least one hallucination in their lifetime. Even so, from a group hallucination perspective, one cannot share in the hallucination of another because they are generated from the individual's own mind. This means that groups cannot collectively hallucinate the same thing.

Resurrection scholar Michael Licona writes of what he learned about hallucinations from Navy SEAL's experiences during Hell Week. It so happens that almost all of the SEAL candidates did have hallucinations during the grueling, around-the-clock training exercises. But here is the interesting part: none of the candidates had the same hallucination. Licona writes, "Moreover when one candidate pointed out to others what he believed he was seeing, none of them saw what he did." The explanation is simple enough: hallucinations are private experiences occurring inside the mind of the individual and cannot be shared.

It is not surprising, then, that clinical psychologist Gary Sibcy writes: "I have surveyed the professional literature . . . during the past two decades and have yet to find a single documented case of group hallucination." Now, this is a significant statement when considering that of the post-resurrection appearances listed by Paul, fully half of the appearances are to groups numbering eleven or more. In fact, "simultaneous, identical, collective hallucinations are not found in peer-reviewed medical literature . . . as such, the concept of collective hallucination is not part of current psychiatric understanding or accepted pathognomy." Consequently, there is significant warrant in stating that collective group hallucinations, as an explanation for the group appearances of Jesus, are indefensible. This means that the appearances to "The Twelve," to "more than five hundred," and to "all the apostles" (cf 1 Cor 15:5-8) simply could not have been due to hallucinations.

Join us again next week as we continue to look at hallucination theories to explain what happened to Jesus after He died. All of that and much more on our way to answering the ultimate question: *is God dead?*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

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

# State Rep. Pat Marsh shares first legislative session news



The 2026 Legislative Session is officially underway. The General Assembly convened on Jan. 13, and we expect to adjourn sometime in April, once a balanced Tennessee state budget has been passed. We meet weekly Monday through Thursday with Committee meetings and usually, two floor Sessions each week.

So far this year, 1,183 bills have been filed; about 100 fewer than last year and nearly 300 fewer than two years ago. Last week, we received Governor Lee's proposed budget following his State of the State address. The Governor has proposed a $57.9 billion budget, which represents a 9.6% decrease from last year.

Some key highlights of the proposed budget include:

- A $250 million increase in K–12 formula funding
- Expansion of the Education Freedom Scholarship program to serve an additional 20,000 students
- Funding for 50 new state trooper positions, bringing the total to 1,300
- $425 million in additional funding for the Tennessee Department of Transportation
- $25 million allocated for nuclear power initiatives
- $146 million for Tennessee State Parks
- $20 million added to the state's Rainy-Day Fund

In other news, the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference recently released a report detailing criminal charges involving individuals unlawfully present in the United States during 2025. According to the report, there were 11,344 reported crimes committed by individuals illegally in the country. These offenses included:

- 41 homicides
- 2,183 violent offenses
- 1,592 assaults
- 145 sexual offenses
- 11 child rape cases
- 5,318 cases of driving without a license or while on a suspended or revoked license

The report indicates that these crimes involved suspects from 119 different countries. The four most common countries of origin were Mexico (3,970 suspects), Guatemala (2,325), Honduras (1,479), and individuals of unknown origin (888).

Several bills have been filed this year addressing illegal immigration and its impact on Tennessee communities. Our state, and particularly our local counties, spends significant taxpayer resources responding to these issues. We want to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used to support law-abiding, legal citizens, not criminals. Tennessee is sending a clear message: if you break the law, this state will not subsidize it!

I was fortunate enough to attend an MTSU legislative event, and was updated on them aerospace campus which is being built at the Shelbyville Airport. Phase 1 of the project is fully funded at $62.2m and is currently under construction. This phase will have a 52,000 Sq ft flight operations building. A 30,000 sq ft pilot/FAA hangar that houses their fleet of planes, open space for the fleet, and parking. This should be completed by December of 2027. After this, there will be two more phases to complete their campus, which includes student housing, a large maintenance hangar, and a Main Academic Building, which will serve as the new home for the MTSU Aerospace Department.

I only recently heard about the devastating news of the terrible fire that destroyed several historic buildings and 6 that occupied part of the south side of the Fayetteville square. I am hoping to get folks here with the state and federal level to help rebuild this valuable asset of Lincoln County.

I'm honored to serve as your state representative! Please call or email me if I can ever help. 615-741-6824, rep.pat.marsh@capitol.tn.gov. You are also welcome to come to the Capitol and stop by my office at 610 in the Cordell Hull Building.

## February is Black History Month

### Civil Rights leader and former presidential candidate Jesse Jackson dies



The Rev. Jesse Jackson, a prominent Civil Rights activist, Baptist minister, and two-time Democratic presidential candidate, passed away Tuesday morning, surrounded by his family.

He was 84.

Jackson spent the last decade battling a neurodegenerative condition called Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, after diagnosis of Parkinson's disease nearly 20 years ago.

One of his famous quotes was: "If my mind can conceive it, and my heart can believe it, I know I can achieve it."

A protégé of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and James Bevel during the Civil Rights movement, Jackson became one of the most prominent civil rights leaders of the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

## PICNIC BASKET

By JOEL D. MEYERS

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 M | 2 A | 3 A | 4 M | ■ | 5 I | 6 S | 7 L | 8 A | 9 M | ■ | 10 P | 11 E | 12 L | 13 F |
| 14 A | N | N | E | ■ | 15 S | C | U | B | A | ■ | 16 A | L | O | E |
| 17 W | A | T | E | 18 R | M | E | L | O | N | 19 S | L | I | C | E |
| ■ | 20 B | I | T | E | ■ | 21 N | U | D | G | E | ■ | 22 J | A | B |
| 23 D | O | H | ■ | 24 A | 25 H | A | ■ | 26 E | Y | E | 27 B | A | L | L |
| 28 A | L | E | ■ | 29 M | A | R | T | ■ | 30 ■ | 31 T | E | H | E | E |
| 32 M | I | R | O | ■ | 33 R | I | O | ■ | 34 S | H | E | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | 35 C | O | R | N | S | O | N | T | H | E | C | O | B | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | 36 A | A | H | ■ | ■ | 37 E | R | A | ■ | 38 H | A | R | K | 39 ■ |
| 40 C | L | I | N | T | ■ | ■ | 41 S | I | R | S | ■ | 42 T | O | E | ■ |
| 43 H | A | N | G | U | P | S | ■ | 44 C | P | A | ■ | 45 C | A | N | ■ |
| 46 I | T | S | ■ | 47 R | E | P | A | Y | ■ | 48 R | E | A | D | ■ | ■ |
| 49 P | I | E | 50 C | E | S | O | F | C | H | I | C | K | E | N |
| 51 I | N | T | O | ■ | 52 T | R | A | L | A | ■ | 53 R | E | N | O |
| 54 N | O | S | Y | ■ | 55 S | T | R | E | W | ■ | 56 U | S | S | R |



## City holds annual strategic planning meeting

During a strategic planning session Wednesday, Mayor Randy Carroll asked those in attendance if they thought there was a "good quality of life" here in Shelbyville. City Council person Betsy Noel, third from left, second row, said while she does believe Shelbyville offers families a good quality of life, she often wishes things of convenience were closer to home, rather than having to drive an hour away. She said opportunities and activity-based events for youth are important. See more of this meeting at t-g.com.

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- *Obituaries*
- *Guest Column/Op/Ed*

SHELBYVILLE TIMES-GAZETTE

# Haskins' 37 Points Leads Vikings to District 9-AA Semifinal Berth

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

**UNIONVILLE, Tenn. -**The No. 4 seed Community Vikings (16-10, 3-5) overwhelmed No. 5 seed Chapel Hill (6-21, 0-8) with a barrage of three-pointers to advance to the District 9-AA semifinals and punch their ticket to the Region 5-AA quarterfinals inside The Roger Kent Brothers Gymnasium on Tuesday, 70-43.

"It's not necessarily ideal to be in this position [play-in game], but I thought our guys handled all the outside noise really well and focused on just one day at a time," Community head coach Hunter Ferrell said postgame. "Especially having played them a week ago and knowing you're going to turn around and play the same team at the same place, it can lead to a lot of overconfidence. Our guys did a really good job on focusing on the things that we can control which was our mentality going into it. I don't think our guys overlooked Chapel Hill. When we took the shots we wanted to take, good things happened."

Charlie Haskins spearheaded the relentless attack all night long for the Vikings, finishing with a season-high 37 points, and he knocked down six of his team's 12 total three-pointers in the game.

"If Charlie Haskins is going to hit four threes in the first quarter and six for the game, we're going to be pretty good. He makes it look kind of effortless at times," Ferrell said.

After taking down the Rockets by 32 points on Feb. 10, 63-31, the Vikings came in to the rematch and got the party started early. Haskins connected on four of his treys in the first quarter alone, scoring 15 of Community's 20 points in the opening period as the hosts opened up a 20-11 lead.

In the second stanza, the hosts kept their collective foot on the gas, outscoring Chapel Hill 16-8 to take a 36-19 lead heading into the halftime locker room. Even Jon Hightower's buzzer-beating three for the Rockets could not dampen the mood heading into the break, despite Hightower eventually finishing with a team-high 18 points.

Coming out for the second half, Chapel Hill actually outscored the Vikings, 14-12, to trim the lead to 48-33 heading into the final frame, but Haskins took over in the fourth to end the Rockets' season for good. Community's lead guard scored 12 of his 15 second-half points in the final period as the Vikings outscored the visitors 22-10 to seal their spot in the District 9-AA semifinals against No. 1 seed Loretto.

"Our guys have never lacked confidence. No matter what happens the night before, they come in the next day and they're ready for whatever is ahead of them," Ferrell said. "We know Loretto is a good team and that they're used to having a lot of success. Coach Tipps does a great job over there with adjusting and putting his guys in good spots, but we're going to go in with the confidence that when we take care of the basketball, take the right shots, and defend the way that we're capable of, we can be a tough team to beat. We just have to make sure that we get a good two days of prep going in, and then give the best team in our district a good shot on Friday to hopefully get an opportunity on Saturday night.

The Vikings improve to 16-10 overall on the year. Ferrell's squad takes on No. 1 seed Loretto on Friday night at 7:30 p.m. at Cascade High School in Bell Buckle.

*COMMUNITY: C. Haskins 37 (6), J. Williams 10 (2), A. Tocchio 7 (2), J. Lawell 5, M. Hill 4 (1), L. Reed 3 (1), M. Thompson 2.*

*CHAPEL HILL: J. Hightower 18 (3), J. Willis 9, H. Matlock 6 (1), A. Myers 5, E. Leverette 3 (1), J. Doud 2.*



Community's Charlie Haskins (3) lays in two of his season-high 37 points in Tuesday's win against Chapel Hill. *Photo courtesy of David Smith.*

# Eaglettes Sink Pioneerettes, Clinch Region Berth Behind Leslie's Walk-Off Heave

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

**MCMINNVILLE, Tenn.** – After suffering a pair of close losses at the hands of No. 4 seed Warren County (14-12, 3-5) during the regular season, the No. 5 seed Shelbyville Central Golden Eaglettes (8-19, 0-8) found a way to win in dramatic fashion and keep their season alive on Monday night in the District 6-4A Tournament play-in game, 30-27.

Shelbyville's Janiya Leslie, who finished with a game-high 16 points and was the only player to reach double-figures in the low-scoring defensive affair, rose up from 30 feet and knocked down her second triple of the night to end Warren County's season in walk-off fashion.

The Eaglettes guard atoned for her split pair of free throws the previous possession, as it had allowed Warren County's Trinity Reynolds to tie the game on a desperation corner three-pointer with about 20 seconds to go. Shelbyville's freshman point guard, Dara Frazier, who scored three big points in the fourth quarter, found Leslie on the perimeter just in time for Leslie to launch the game-winner.

This win marks the first time that the Eaglettes have taken down a District 6-4A team this season. The two previous matchups between Shelbyville Central and Warren County ended with the Pioneerettes securing a pair of hotly contested wins, but the third time ended up being the charm for Eaglettes' head coach Keshia Jarrett. Jarrett's team forced 17 Pioneerette turnovers, and only turned the ball over 10 times themselves. Despite finishing just 4-of-18 at the free throw line, the Eaglettes found a way to hold on.

From the jump, this game looked like it would be a low-scoring defensive battle with Warren County taking a 9-7 lead at the end of the opening period behind a pair of triples from Reynolds and Cortlyn Porter. Leslie scored three points in the first, and Jada Berry and Sequoyah Young each added a two-point field goal for the Eaglettes.

In the second stanza, Shelbyville Central held Warren County without a field goal, allowing the Pioneerettes to score just a single free throw as the Eaglettes took a 13-10 lead heading into the halftime locker room. Leslie knocked down her first three-pointer of the night in the second while Berry added three more points to put the Eaglettes in front.

Coming out for the second half, the visitors continued their free throw struggles. In the first half, Shelbyville Central went 2-for-6 at the line, but the misses kept coming in the third quarter, missing two pairs of free throws to allow Warren County tie the game at 17 heading into the final frame. Leslie scored all four points in the third for Shelbyville.

In the fourth quarter, the Eaglettes continued to struggle at the line, going 2-for-8 to allow the Pioneerettes to eventually tie the game at 27 after Reynolds' corner three. Then, Leslie, who scored six of her 16 points in the fourth quarter alone, stepped up at the horn to punch Shelbyville Central's ticket into the District 6-4A semifinals.



Shelbyville Central's Janiya Leslie (2, pictured at Tullahoma) kept the Eaglettes season alive with a 30-foot heave to beat the buzzer in Monday's District 6-4A play-in game. *T-G Staff Photo.*

The Eaglettes improve to 8-19 overall. They are set to take on No. 1 seed and No. 4 ranked Cookeville in the District 6-4A semifinals at Coffee County on Saturday with tip-off scheduled for 2:00 p.m.

*SHELBYVILLE: J. Leslie 16 (2), J. Berry 7, D. Frazier 3, K. Patton 2, S. Young 2.*

*WARREN CO.: B. Chisam 8 (1), T. Reynolds 6 (2), A. Oleksik 3, Cortlyn Porter 3 (1), A. Steakley 3, H. Kennerly 2, K. Simpson 2.*

# Champs Fall at No. 10 Summertown to End Regular Season

**SUMMERTOWN, Tenn.** – The Cascade Champions (15-11, 4-4) came out with a more inspired effort early on, but ultimately succumbed to the No. 10 ranked Summertown Eagles (19-5, 6-2), 67-58, on Friday night.

Cascade was unable to slow down Summertown's Lleyton Sherman as he finished with a game-high 27 points on 9-of-15 shooting from the field and 5-of-9 from downtown. Andrew Mabry added 15 points, and Ryder Blackwood chipped in with 10 points for the Eagles.

Meanwhile, Henry Stone scored a team-high 16 points on the night to go along with six rebounds, Kaleb Kelso added 15 points, and Tyler Rodgers finished with an energetic 14 points with four steals.

Early on, Summertown was hot from the jump, but Cascade managed to stay within four, 18-14, at the end of the opening period. In the second stanza, the Champions still trailed by just five points, 29-24, after Stone's buzzer-beating putback layup heading into the halftime locker room.

Coming out for the second half, Cascade cut the lead to just three points, 44-41, before Lleyton Sherman provided a backbreaking three-pointer from NBA range to beat the buzzer at the end of the third quarter, sending Summertown into the final frame with a 47-41 lead.

In the fourth quarter, Cascade struggled to keep pace offensively, and the Eagles managed to pull away late by outscoring the Champions, 20-17, en route to the nine-point victory.

The Champions fall to 15-11 overall. No. 3 seed Cascade will take on No. 2 seed Summertown in the District 9-AA semifinals on Friday night at 7:30 p.m. in Bell Buckle, LIVE on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400.

*CASCADE: H. Stone 16 (1), K. Kelso 15 (3), T. Rodgers 14 (2), T. Billings 4, R. Pilkington 4, C. McElroy 3, N. Watson 2.*

*SUMMERTOWN: L. Sherman 27 (5), A. Mabry 15, R. Blackwood 10 (2), S. Sherman 9 (1), G. Howell 3, K. Springer 3 (1).*

# No. 9 Cascade Downs Summertown in Overtime on Young's Record-Breaking Night

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

**SUMMERTOWN, Tenn. -** On Thursday, Cascade's Kaegan Young was announced as one of three finalists for the Class 2A Miss Basketball Award for her incredible regular season. On Friday, the UT-Southern commit scored a team-high 19 points to not only help Cascade (21-6, 7-1) fend off District 9-AA foe Summertown (15-10, 3-5) in overtime, 54-47, but to also become the new Lady Champions' all-time career-leading scorer with 1,473 career points, eclipsing the previous mark of 1,464 points set by Heather Walling in 2000.

The record-breaking moment came with 4:46 to go in the third quarter on a pair of free throws for her first points of the second half.

After breaking the record and scoring 13 of Cascade's 40 points in regulation, Young opened the scoring in overtime with a long two from the corner to put the Lady Champions in front, 42-40, with 3:45 remaining. Then, Young and Keele trapped Lady Eagles' star, Ella Busby, and after Young stole the ball, she was fouled by El-Lee Lu Mason. At the free throw line, Young made a pair to give Cascade a 44-40 lead with 3:35 to go in overtime.

"That [traps] is something we can use with her [Kaegan Young]," said Demonbreum postgame, "We can use Lizzie's [Keele] length too, Lexi is great at it as well, it's just something we are able to utilize in the right spots. We're not the biggest, we're not the tallest, but we do a good job with our long arms."

Finally, at the 1:13 mark of the extra session, Young knocked down two more free throws to bring her total to 19 points after she was intentionally fouled, giving her team an insurmountable lead at 52-44 with just over a minute to go.

The Lady Champions led after every period except for the fourth quarter, taking an 11-9 lead at the end of one. In the second quarter, Cascade outscored the hosts, 10-8, to take a 21-17 lead heading into the halftime locker room. Young led the way at the break with nine points while Ella Busby scored seven points to lead Summertown.

Coming out for the second half, the two teams played even in the third quarter, 11-11, to send the Lady Champions into the final frame with a four-point lead, 32-28.

However, in the fourth, after Caroline Parker knocked in three of her 15 total points and Keele's 4-foot jumper put Cascade ahead, 37-31, Summertown would make one final push over the final 5:30. Tess Long knocked down her only three-pointer of the night when she was left open in the corner to trim the lead to three, and then a few minutes later, Long converted on an and-one to tie the game at 37 with 3:46 to go.

After both Jocelyn Laughlin and Mason split a pair of free throws, neither team scored for the next two minutes until Young stole the ball from Busby and went coast-to-coast to go up 40-38 with 44 seconds remaining. However, the Lady Eagles instantly responded, finding Zoei Bonner underneath for the game-tying layup.

Cascade had a chance to win in regulation on the ensuing possession, but Young was called for a charge on a light push-off with 5.6 seconds left to send the game into overtime.

"[This win] was just about maintaining our composure under pressure," Demonbreum said, "Tonight was one of if not the first time we saw a run-and-jump, and Summertown is great at that. Getting our girls to stay under control and flash towards the ball was big, and I thought we defended well overall as well."

With the win, Cascade confirms Summertown as the No. 4 seed in the upcoming District 9-AA tournament, where the Lady Eagles will host Chapel Hill in the play-in game for the right to take on the No. 1 seed, Cascade, on Thursday night.

Both teams struggled at the free throw line with Cascade finishing 12-of-22 while Summertown shot 13-of-22, but the Lady Champions made four more three-pointers and outscored the Lady Eagles in points off turnovers, 19-11.

Young closed out her stellar regular season with a near double-double, finishing with 19 points, eight rebounds, four assists and three steals. Caroline Parker continued her strong run of games with 15 points and three treys while Lizzie Keele reached double-figures with 10 points, four rebounds, three assists, and three steals.

After being held scoreless in the final 27 minutes of the first matchup back on Jan. 23, Ella Busby finished with a game-high 21 points to lead Summertown. She was the only Lady Eagle to reach double-digits.

With the win, No. 9 Cascade improves to 21-6 overall. The Lady Champions will take on Monday's winner between Summertown and Chapel Hill at home on Thursday in the District 9-AA semifinals, LIVE on The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400 at 5:45 p.m.

*CASCADE: K. Young 19 (2), C. Parker 15 (3), L. Keele 10 (2), J. Laughlin 6, S. Crews 3 (1), L. Comstock 1.*

*SUMMERTOWN: E. Busby 21 (1), T. Long 9 (1), E. Mason 6 (1), Z. Bonner 5 (1), G. Long 2, E. Franks 2.*



Cascade's Kaegan Young (22) receives a pass from Jade Tolar (20) in Friday's win at Summertown.. Young finished with 19 points, setting the program's career scoring record in the process. *Photo courtesy of David Smith.*



Cascade's Caroline Parker (5) knocks down one of her three triples in Friday's win at Summertown. Parker finished with 15 points to close out the regular season. *Photo courtesy of David Smith.*

## Cascade's Kaegan Young Named Class AA Miss Basketball Finalist, Becomes Program's All-Time Leading Scorer

BY NOAH MADDOX
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**BELL BUCKLE, Tenn.** — The Cascade Lady Champions' senior superstar Kaegan Young was officially named as one of the three finalists for the TSSAA Class 2A Miss Basketball Award on Thursday before she became the program's all-time career leading scorer on Friday, surpassing 1,464 points set by Heather Walling in 2000.

Young scored 19 points at Summertown, concluding the regular season at 1,473 career points with at least three games remaining.

The UT-Southern commit is averaging just over 18 points per game, 5.5 rebounds per game, 2.8 assists per game, and 2.7 steals per game this season. She has also led Cascade to a 21-6 overall record to conclude the regular season – the program's third 20-win season since 2001 – as well as the No. 1 seed in this week's District 9-AA Tournament.

The other two finalists in Class 2A are Maliyah Glasper at Gatlinburg-Pittman, and Wylie Kee from Huntingdon.

The Class 2A Miss Basketball Award will be presented to the top girls and boys from all six classifications in TSSAA at the Tucker Theater at MTSU on Tuesday, March 10 at 5:30 p.m., and the event will be open to the public.

High school head basketball coaches as well as members of the media nominated the finalists, and the winners will be selected by a statewide committee of sportswriters based on performance during the 2025-26 regular season as well as taking academics and character into consideration.

## Golden Eagles Secure No. 1 Seed in District 6-4A Tourney With Comeback Win at Coffee County

BY NOAH MADDOX
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**MANCHESTER, Tenn.** — Despite coming in on a three-game losing streak in the district, the Shelbyville Central Golden Eagles (17-11, 5-3) managed to dig deep and find a way to eke out a win at Coffee County (14-12, 4-4), 45-43, on Friday night.

With the No. 1 seed in District 6-4A on the line, the Golden Eagles laid an egg early on, getting out of the blocks extremely slow and eventually ending the opening period trailing by 13 points, 18-5. MJ Rollman and Luke Campbell combined for 15 of the 18 points, and the Red Raiders hit on a total of four triples in the first.

Fortunately for the visiting crowd, Shelbyville settled down in the second stanza, outscoring Coffee County, 14-4, behind eight points from All-District performer, Jevon Lee. Tommie Cannon added four points in the period while the Golden Eagles held Rollman to just two points while shutting out Campbell, allowing the Golden Eagles to head to the halftime locker room down by just three points, 22-19.

Coming out for the second half, Jasiah Berry was unstoppable. The Golden Eagles center scored eight of his 10 points in the third quarter alone, leading Shelbyville to outscore the Red Raiders by three, 17-14, and draw level at 36 heading into the final frame. Cannon also connected on Shelbyville's second and final three-pointer of the night in the period.

Finally, in the fourth quarter, the Golden Eagles found a way to win, holding Coffee County to just seven points in the frame. After the strong start from outside, the Red Raiders managed to knock down just three more treys in the final three quarters thanks to a feisty Shelbyville defense. The visitors also finally corrected their season-long struggles at the free throw line, finishing 9-of-10 at the stripe on the night after Cannon split a pair in the fourth. The Golden Eagles point guard finished with five of his 12 points coming in the final frame to lock in the top seed for the district tournament.

Shelbyville's Jevon Lee tied for the game-high with 14 points, Tommie Cannon came up with eight of his 12 points in the second half, and Jasiah Berry scored eight of his 10 points in the third quarter alone to complete the comeback win.

Meanwhile, for Coffee County, Rollman finished with 14 points while Campbell scored eight of his 12 points in the first quarter.

Shelbyville Central improves to 17-11 overall. With the win, the Golden Eagles are the No. 1 seed for the upcoming District 6-4A Tournament following Lincoln County's 63-52 loss at Cookeville. Dates and times will be announced at a later date.

*SHELBYVILLE: J. Lee 14, T. Cannon 12 (1), J. Berry 10, M. Johnson 5 (1), J. Conditt 2, T. Shelton 2.*

*COFFEE CO.: M. Rollman 14 (2), L. Campbell 12 (3), K. Lowery 8 (1), J. Morgan 7 (1), B. Sizemore 2.*

# People and 'Pups' Around Town

## After nearly 3 years, Bell Buckle dog, Shadow, returned home, via Facebook

**By Dawn Hankins**

A Bell Buckle family shared this week their story about the power of social media; the kindness of a local neighbor; and a dog that has truly lived up to her name-Shadow.

For nearly 3 years, Cody Barrett of Bell Buckle had searched everywhere for his black Pitty named Shadow. The trail finally went cold-even though they continued to post on social media. Then, last Thursday, Cody experienced what his family is calling "a miracle."

They note when they tell this story, it sounds like it came right out of a Hollywood script. Ironically, Shadow was named after the dog in the movie, "Homeward Bound," which was popular in the early 1990s.

Ashley Miller, who runs a dog boarding business, just recently replied to a post Shadow's family made in April of 2023.

"I think I have your dog," she commented.

It turns out Ashley boards and trains dogs and has been caring for Shadow this entire time, according to Cody's sister, Holly Finley.

Though Ashley's apparently not very active on Facebook, she posted on one of her group pages that Shadow was missing. Ashley checked for a chip and cared for her until the family's Facebook post was brought to her attention.

Holly, who lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, notes, "The craziest part? She lives just 2 miles away down the road or 1 mile directly through the woods from my brother's house."

Last week, Shadow and Cody were reported to be happily reunited after nearly 3 years apart!

"She slept next to him in bed all night," says Holly. "Love wins!"



# Tennesseans spending a lot in grocery stores: Wallet Hub

According to Wallet Hub's latest research, Tennessee is among the top 10, when it comes to where people are spending most of their paycheck on groceries.

So, then, let's live up to our reputation and put on a spread.

With grocery prices climbing to nearly 30% over the past five years, WalletHub, the personal-finance company, has released its latest report on the States Where People Spend the Most & Least on Groceries. The report sheds light on where Americans are feeling the biggest pinch when it comes to food costs.

WalletHub examined the prices of 26 common grocery items across all 50 states, then compared the total cost to each state's median household income to see where people are spending the largest share of their income on groceries.

**Highest % of Income Spent**

1. Mississippi (2.60%)
2. West Virginia (2.54%)
3. Arkansas (2.44%)
4. Louisiana (2.38%)
5. Kentucky (2.37%)
6. Alabama (2.33%)
7. New Mexico (2.30%)
8. Oklahoma (2.22%)
9. South Carolina (2.21%)
10. Tennessee (2.19%)

**Lowest % of Income Spent**

41. California (1.66%)
42. Washington (1.66%)
43. Virginia (1.63%)
44. Colorado (1.61%)
45. Connecticut (1.61%)
46. Utah (1.58%)
47. New Hampshire (1.56%)
48. Maryland (1.55%)
49. New Jersey (1.51%)
50. Massachusetts (1.51%)



## Rocky Top Tomato-Tortellini Soup

- 2 (14 ounce) cans reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 1 (9 ounce) package of refrigerated tortellini
- 1 (8 ounce) tub cream cheese spread with chive and onion
- 1 can tomato soup
- Fresh chives

1. In a medium sauce pan bring broth to a boil. Add tortellini then reduce heat to simmer uncovered for 5 minutes.
2. In a bowl whisk 1/3 cup of hot broth into the cream cheese spread. Whisk until smooth. Pour contents into sauce pan.
3. Stir in tomato soup and heat through.
4. Serve with fresh chives.

It's almost impossible to beat the combination of sweet fruit and decadent desserts. This delicious recipe for Auntie's Apple Cake highlights the crisp fruit but also the cinnamon sugar-flavored pastry. It's luscious but doesn't overdo it on the sweet meter with just the right mix of flavors.

The cake is baked with the apples inside as the middle layer, which creates a moist, finished product. The apples are gooey, baked in a cinnamon sugar coating, making them a sweet and light complement to the perfectly baked cake.

Start by mixing the apples with cinnamon and, of course, sugar. Set the mixture aside. Now it's time for cake. First, mix all the dry ingredients together then mix in the wet ingredients.

The secret to this cake is creating layers that will hold up. Pour half of the batter into a round springform pan first then add apple mixture and top it all with the rest of the cake batter.

Finally, for a little extra sweetness, sprinkle 1 tablespoon of sugar over the top of the cake before baking.

Once baked, this cake can be drizzled with icing (if you'd like) to make it an even more delightful treat to satisfy any sweet tooth.

This cake is perfect for any get-together, families looking for an after-dinner indulgence or anyone who just loves fruity desserts. It's delectable enough for fancy occasions, but also simple enough to make at home for just a couple.

With fluffy cake layers and a soft apple center, this cake does it all. Not to mention the drip of icing at the end that all but guarantees everyone will be asking for seconds.



## Auntie's Apple Cake

Servings: 8-16

- 3 cups Honeycrisp apples, peeled, cored and diced
- 3 teaspoons cinnamon
- 6 tablespoons, plus 2 cups, sugar, divided
- 3 cups flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup oil
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- icing (optional)

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In medium bowl, mix apples, cinnamon and 5 tablespoons sugar until combined. Set aside.
3. In large bowl, mix flour, 2 cups sugar, baking powder and salt until combined. Form well in middle of mixture. Add oil, eggs, orange juice and vanilla; mix until blended.
4. In springform pan, pour half of batter. Add apple mixture. Pour remaining batter over apple mixture. Sprinkle remaining sugar over batter.
5. Bake 40-50 minutes, or until top is golden brown and tester comes out clean and dry.
6. Drizzle with icing, if desired.

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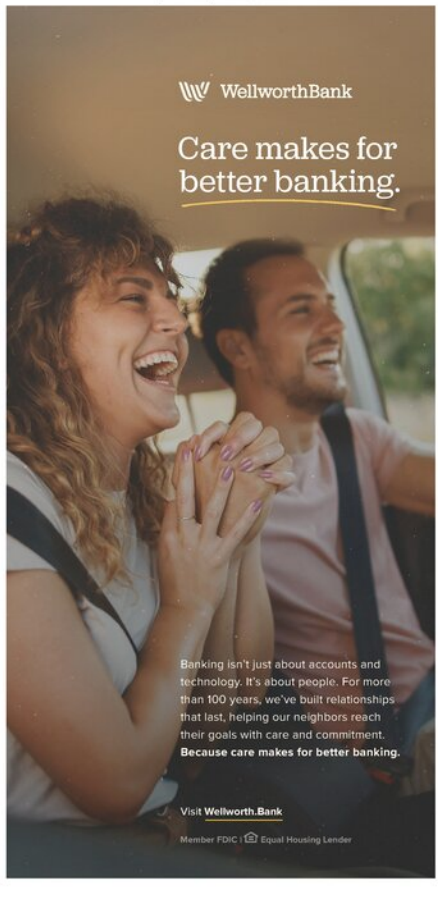
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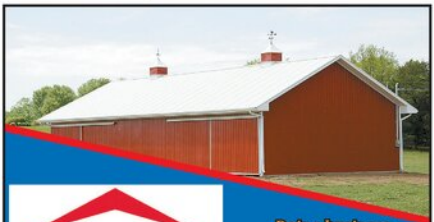
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