



## A love story for the books

Jeff and Rita Burgess have first anniversary

By DAWN HANKINS

Jeff and Rita Burgess first met in 2018; they both loved the open road and riding motorcycles.

Little did they know as a few years passed that they would be sharing their miracle of a love story.

Through mutual interests, the two formed a friendship. Then, the time would come when Jeff would propose marriage.

They were to be married in April 2023 at the wellhouse in downtown Wartrace. This was a special place for them, so it seemed fitting to repeat their vows there.

In fact, they rode their bikes together to the wellhouse their wedding day. But when she looked back, Rita did not see Jeff behind her.

Panic set in. She called. She texted. She videoed messages.

There was nothing.

Then, she saw the blue lights. She called his phone and discovered he had been in an accident.

A car had stopped in front of Jeff and he was rushed to the hospital. That bike accident only delayed the wedding as Jeff, from his hospital bed, wanted to marry Rita right there.

Jeff asked about the minister that was to marry them. He knew

he wanted to marry Rita, no matter what.

That news literally got around and News Channel 5 in Nashville captured it on TV.

Rita says though, they didn't want to be celebrities. They just want people to understand how much they love one another.

She says with a laugh, "Jeff says 'hang with me and I'll make you famous.'"

See BURGESS, 2A



## Criminal justice students get career-focused

Submitted Photo

Community High School Criminal Justice Student Organization recently traveled to Gatlinburg and participated in several career skilled focus activities, competitions and events. This event was made up of students from across the nation. Senior Elizabeth Beasley learned how to repel. See more photos inside, page 11A.

## NATIVE TREES AVAILABLE IN BEDFORD COUNTY

Bell Buckle Park will again host a Tennessee Tree Day pick-up location on Saturday March 16, 2024, from 9 am -11 am. Since 2019, Bell Buckle Park volunteers have participated in this statewide event, during which Tennessee residents are encouraged to plant native trees at their homes, farms, and in

their communities. "For a tiny town like ours, we are fortunate to have such a valuable community asset as the Bell Buckle

Park and Arboretum," says Janie Becker, Bell Buckle Park Board Vice Chair. "Bell Buckle is also recognized through the Tree City USA program, and it seemed fitting that we would offer a convenient way for our neighbors to add more trees to their properties through participating in Tennessee Tree Day."

Tennessee Tree Day is organized each year by Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC), a nonprofit organization. This year's event will mark the 10th annual Tennessee Tree Day event. The long-term goal of the Tennessee Tree Day effort has been to plant one million trees across the state, which organizers project will happen following the event this spring.

"This year, our goal is to involve the people of Tennessee in planting 125,000 native trees statewide," says Cynthia Hernandez, Tree Program

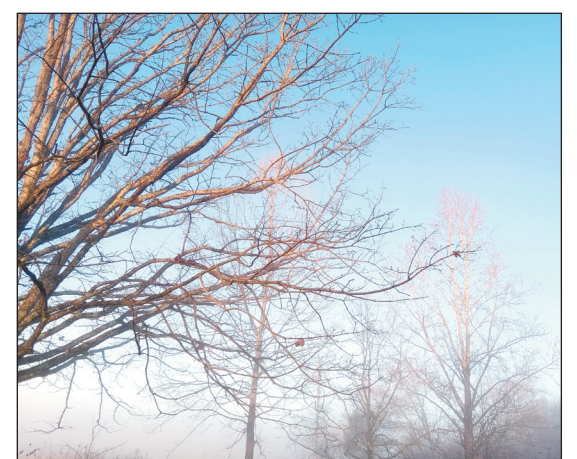
Manager at TEC. "And we can only achieve this goal if people

across our state reserve their trees and plant them on Tree Day, March 16th," says Hernandez.

Online tree reservations are open to the public now through March 4, 2024, and residents are

encouraged to reserve trees as soon as possible to get the best selection. Supplies are limited and trees are available on a first-come, first-

See TREES, 4A



T-G Photo by Dawn Hankins

THE SOURCE OF LIFE - Free native trees are going to be available in Bell Buckle again in March.

# City seeks declaratory judgment on County

## County mayor Graham responds to lawsuit

By DAWN HANKINS

Discussions have been futile recently between the City and County over the termination of the 1974 Local Option Sales Tax Contract. So, the City voted 4:3 Thursday for legal counsel to begin the process of seeking a declaratory judgment.

It's a debate basically over sales tax distribution earmarked for education. The

County says it has used these funds for education only since 1974.

Council members Henry Feldhaus, Gary Haile and Stephanie Isaacs voted no against the lawsuit Thursday night. The other three Council members voted yes, which resulted in a tie vote.

Shelbyville Mayor Randy Carroll was required to cast the deciding vote, which was a yes. So, the motion passed 4:3.

### County responds

After being contacted by the Times-Gazette early Friday morning, Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham issued this statement to the public: "I am disappointed with Shelbyville City Council's decision to take legal action against the County government, and the taxpayers who support it, regarding sales tax distribution for education. Bedford County continues to

meet all the conditions from the 1974 agreement, which directs that 100 percent of those funds are to be used for education purposes only."

Graham added, "Education is a vital function of local government; it's critical for economic development and quality of life. Shelbyville's sales tax base is supported by shoppers from throughout the County, and Bedford County, unlike some of

its neighbors, has one consolidated school system rather than

See LAWSUIT, 2A





## LAWSUIT

From page 1



## IT'S BEEN 50 YEARS

City Council made a bold move Thursday in an effort to get the local option sales tax contract of 1974 with the County, terminated. Council voted 4:3 in favor of a lawsuit.

separate City and County systems.

"Bedford County's population has been growing and continues to grow rapidly, requiring new schools and expansion of

existing schools. We must make sure every student, inside and outside city limits, can get an excellent education in a proper and secure environment." Graham said that in Sep-

tember, Bedford County Board of Commissioners voted to hire the law firm Holland & Knight LLP to represent the County in discussions with the City of Shelbyville over the

distribution of sales tax revenue.

**How it all began**

In 1974, the City and the County signed a contract under which the City voluntarily gave

up its portion of a sales tax increase which was passed that year so that the money could be used for new school construction.

The City is now seeking

to end that agreement, which would return that revenue to the City's budget going forward and force the County to restructure the way it funds school construction.

**Crispy Akara (fritters)***with Savory Smoky Sesame Sauce*

*Yields 4 to 6 appetizer servings*

1 pound dried black-eyed peas, picked through and any pebbles removed

1 1/4 cups minced shallot

1 cup diced "stoplight" bell peppers (red, yellow and green bell peppers)

1/2 cup finely snipped green onion, dark green parts only; save the bulb for another use

2 tablespoons minced garlic

1 teaspoon kosher salt

Freshly ground black pepper

1 1/2 cups rice flour

High-heat threshold oil, such as refined coconut oil or non-hydrogenated organic shortening, for frying

Savory Smoky Sesame Sauce, recipe follows, for serving

**Savory Smoky Sesame Sauce**

1/2 cup organic tahini sauce (made from roasted - not raw - sesame; see Cook's Note)

1 tablespoon smoked paprika

1 1/2 teaspoons blue agave

1 teaspoon dried minced onion flakes, preferably organic

1 teaspoon granulated garlic or garlic powder

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

Zest and juice of 1/2 lemon

2 tablespoons unseasoned rice vinegar

Remove and discard the pea skins in one of two ways: either rub the damp black-eyed peas (about 1/4 cup at a time) between the palms of your hands (the ancient African way); or pulse the beans in a food processor with some of the soaking water for a few minutes, then rinse and strain in batches, picking out and removing/discarding the pea skins in each session.

Transfer the peeled peas to a food processor and process, adding about 1/2 cup fresh water, into a thick paste. Mix in the shallot, bell peppers, green onion, garlic, salt and pepper to taste by pulsing until a smooth paste forms. Transfer the paste to a bowl, add the rice flour and stir until a thick batter forms.

Melt a few inches of coconut oil or shortening in a medium to large cast-iron skillet (within at least an inch from the top rim of the skillet so the oil doesn't spill once hot). Heat over medium-high heat to 375 degrees F.

In batches, gently and carefully place individual scoops (at least 1 tablespoon) of the mixture into the oil using a cooking spoon with a long handle. Deep-fry until golden brown, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Drain on paper towels before relocating to a serving tray. Bring the oil back to temperature between each batch. Serve with the Savory Smoky Sesame Sauce.

To make the Savory Smoky Sesame Sauce:

Pour or spoon the tahini into a measuring cup with at least a 2-cup capacity and a spout (large enough to stir or whisk in the ingredients and later pour from). Add the paprika, agave, onion flakes, granulated garlic, salt and lemon zest and juice and whisk or stir vigorously to combine.

Add the rice vinegar and stir; you'll notice the mixture converts to a paste-like consistency, but don't panic - this is a normal reaction of sorts. Stir in 1/4 cup warm water until the mixture converts back to a creamy consistency.

Stir and pour from the measuring cup into a festive dipping bowl; or perhaps pour into individual tiny condiment dishes used for dips and sauces.

Cook's Note: The peas/beans can soak for up to 24 hours (at room temperature on the counter part of the time, then covered in the refrigerator or a cool room for overnight). The longer the soak, the easier it will be to remove the external bean skins. However, if a few of the black specks or bits of "black eye" from the pea skins stay in, that's fine. Tahini consistencies vary greatly by brand - this one is based on using a creamy, liquid style or version that doesn't easily separate (sesame oil from paste). Don't panic when the creamy texture of the tahini turns into a dense, almost flaky paste after the vinegar is added; that's what the warm water is for - to loosen it back up!

**Commission announces potential countersuit to City**

By DAWN HANKINS

Bedford County Board of Commission recessed its regular monthly meeting Tuesday night and invoked its right for a private, attorney-client privilege session.

All present were asked to exit the courtroom for a recess with the exception of Mayor Chad Graham, county attorneys and the 18 Commissioners.

Those who have followed City and County government recently likely suspected that the attorney-client session was in regard to the City of Shelbyville voting to file declaratory judgment against the County over local option sales tax.

Those suspicions would be correct.

After a recess, the Commission reconvened its regular meeting and moved to file countersuit against the City of Shelbyville—if Council's legal does follow through with declaratory judgment.

Council voted last Thursday 3:3 for legal to pursue declaratory judgment against the County to regain the tax money.

City Mayor Randy Carroll was required to break that tie vote. With Carroll's yes vote, the decision for the lawsuit passed 4:3.

The entire issue surrounds the City's request for the County to terminate a 1974 contract which allowed transfer from City to County local option sales tax revenue. At this time this contract was drawn up, 50 years ago, there were educational needs from the County.

The County Mayor recently stated that the local option sales tax revenue in conflict has always been earmarked for education and every penny is still needed for school construction.

Graham made a public statement last week at his disappointment over the City's decision for a lawsuit in this matter.

**BURGESS**

From page 1

She just counts her blessings he's still alive; they're together. That's what matters most, she adds.

Still, they do love sharing their love story around Valentine's Day, especially.

They both laugh when talking about how they discovered when they first met that they used the same shampoo. It's just little things like that, they note, that assure them they were meant to be husband and wife.

After all, it's also about sharing the little things in life, together, Rita says. "Thankfully, God spared Jeff's life, for both of us."

Rita notes that hand in hand, hearts wide open, they are still very much in love.

"He's exactly what I've dreamed of my whole life," she says. "He's everything I need and want in a man."

We never forget that God's got to be first in ALL that we do and that's an awesome work in progress."

Despite a small brain bleed, light concussion, a broken bone at one elbow, couple of broken ribs and a fractured thumb bone from the accident, Jeff is now doing well. He's working as a diesel mechanic.

"We've had many challenges but oh so many blessings," Rita says.

The couple are coming up on their first wedding anniversary celebration. They have requested from the Town of Wartrace the use of the downtown well-house, again. It is hoped, they say, that their dream wedding will still take place in this location which has become very special to them.

**COMMISSION BUSINESS**

The owners of Brad's Market on Union Street came out pretty good during this brief, regular, public Commission meeting. Following a public hearing and no public comments, the Commission unanimously approved for a zoning classification change request.

On Nov. 28, 2023, Bedford County Regional Planning Commission unanimously recommended a zoning classification change to a parcel identified as Map 079, Parcel 010.00, from its current classification of A-1 (Agriculture-Forestry) to C-2 (General Commercial) for commercial uses ancillary to the adjoining property known as Brad's Market, Union Street.

The owner, Mukesh Chaudhary, wishes to update and remodel the existing market and add new fuel islands to the business which would be located on this parcel on the north side of the market. This parcel is a one (1) acre parcel that abuts the municipal city boundary of Shelbyville.

This item was placed on the agenda by the Rules & Legislative Committee (4-0.)

Mark Thomas asked about this property and wanted to clarify if it was a City parcel. Mayor Graham said it is.

County Planning Director Chris White said an annexation request has not come through, yet. He said with the property being in the "growth boundary," potential annexation by the City is possible.

White stated the County is attempting to assist this local business which wants to expand and put a fuel island on that adjacent property.

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# February is Black History Month

Local Fredia Lusk discusses her book at library

Fredia Lusk recently talked to patrons at Shelbyville-Bedford County Library about her book, "African Americans living in Bedford County from 1820 to 2020."

"There were slaves in Bedford County in the 1820s; I've documented that during my research that began in 2019. In 1819, there were 125 slaves in our county and only a few landowners. There were 83 free black people living in our county, and this is from the Bedford County Archives. The more I researched, the sadder I became, and the more determined I became to tell our story," Lusk said from her book reading.

The 3-year research project has been chal-

lenging but interesting, she advised. She conducted oral interviews with Marilyn Massengale, J.V. Abernathy, and her mother, Gladys Flack.

Proceeds from the book benefit the Community Clinic of Shelbyville & Bedford County, where Lusk serves as executive director and The Rosenswald Center, which has been a great part of her life.

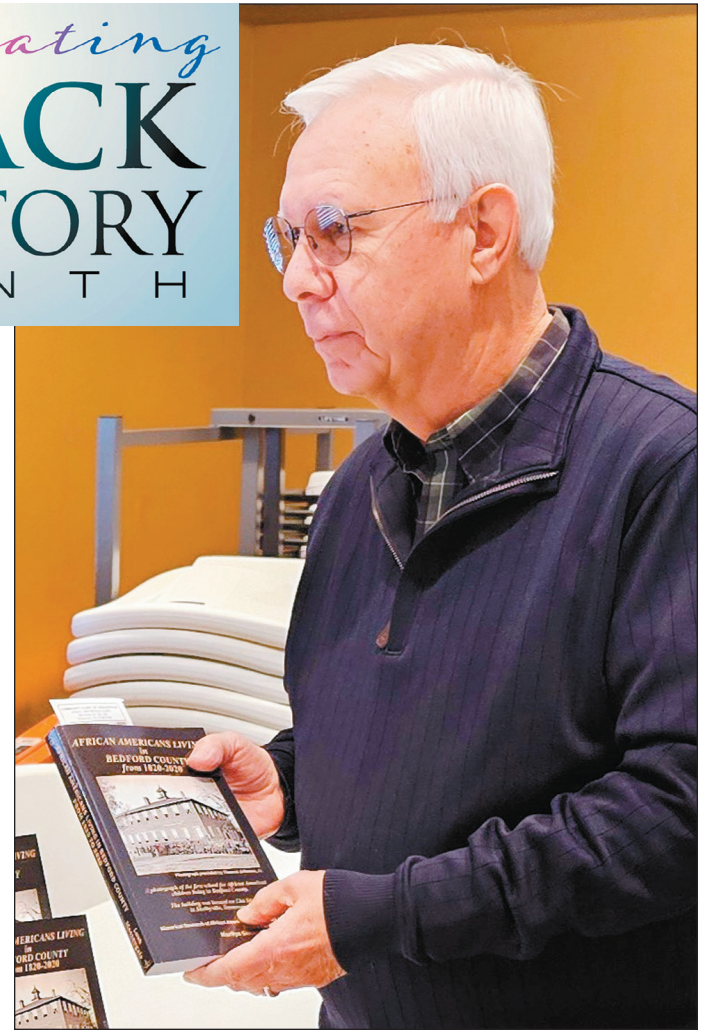
Lusk states in her book, which is available through Amazon, that parents and grandparents leave us their oral histories. Her book she hopes will become a part of lasting, local history.

"Our children and grandchildren deserve to know all the facts of American history."



Fredia Lusk greets local library patrons during a special reading from her book, African Americans living in Bedford County from 1820 to 2020.

Celebrating  
**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**



Tom Clifford was one of the first to purchase one of Fredia Lusk's black history books at a recent library reading.



On Thursday night, Shelbyville City Council heard park representatives speak about a potential soccer field at H.V. Griffin Park.

# LOCAL SOCCER: GOAL!

## Parks department seeks grant

By DAWN HANKINS

Shelbyville City Council voted Thursday to allow Shelbyville Parks and Recreation to apply for a TDEC grant which could potentially fund a new soccer complex.

Mike Alsup, parks director, was asked to speak on the fiscal aspects of this grant through Tennessee Department of Energy and Conservation.

He said this grant came up very fast on the radar and has a deadline of Feb. 22. That is why it was on the Council agenda but hasn't made it to the parks board yet.

Council approved the resolution, which only required one reading, authorizing a grant application to the Division of Recreation Educational Services of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation for the Local Parks and Recreation Fund Grant.

Council approved finally with an amended motion. After some discussion, Bedford County Government will be requested to share in the matching dollar amounts, along with the City. (This preceded the action of the City to seek declaratory judgement against the County for its local option sales tax revenue.)

Council member Bobby Turnbow stated that ev-

eryone in the County uses the H.V. Griffin Park. So it seemed fitting that the County would help with funding this new soccer complex.

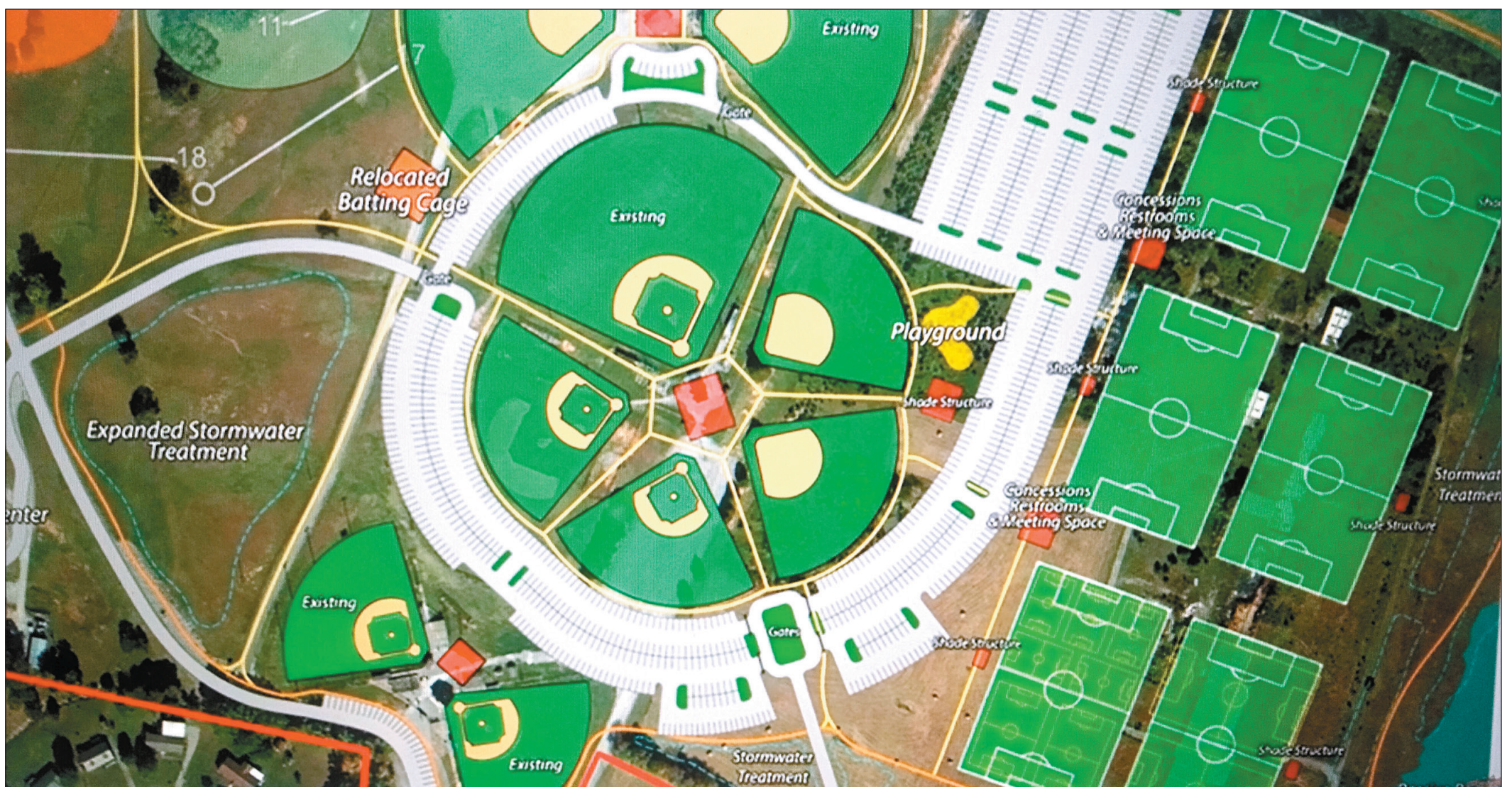
The estimated cost of such a soccer complex would be around \$14 million and, if the grant is received, the state would pay half and the City of Shelbyville (and potentially the County) would be responsible for the other 50 percent.

Alsup said it is hoped that in-kind donations would be made for such a project-one that could really enhance local tourism. He said this type of facility could really put Shelbyville on the map.

Charlie Rose commented during the earlier public comment portion of the Shelbyville City Council meeting. He said he was representing family and others interested in and vested in local soccer in Bedford County.

Rose requested that Council allow Shelbyville Parks and Recreation to apply for the TDEC grant which could potentially fund a new soccer complex at H.V. Griffin Park. (Part of a long-delayed Shelbyville Parks and Recreation Master Plan.)

The meeting room was full and about 40 plus people were outside in the lobby. When Council moved to allow Parks and Recreation to apply for the grant, several people in the audience applauded.



This is part of the Master Plan which Shelbyville Parks and Recreation has worked on for several years. The soccer complex, if funded through this TDEC grant, would be part of the larger park development plan.

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## Cartwright Elementary has new assistant principal

### Malcolm Martin selected by school system

Bedford County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tammy Garrett announced Wednesday that Malcolm Martin has been named assistant principal of Cartwright Elementary School, the newest pre-k – 5th grade elementary school currently under construction and scheduled to open in fall 2024.

“Mr. Martin has done an incredible job as a math teacher, an instructional coach and a leader at Harris Middle School for 5 years and in Rutherford County Schools before that,” said Garrett. “Opening a new school comes with many challenges, but I know that Mr. Martin, teamed up with Principal Whitney Yoes, will yield great results for the future students of Cartwright Elementary.”

Prior to his 10 years of experience in education, Martin spent 10 years in the military where he also earned an Army Tactical Leadership



MALCOLM MARTIN

degree from Ft. Lee, Virginia, and minored in Military Science. He earned his Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction and a Bachelor of Science in Community and Public Health from MTSU.

Martin is transparent about his background stating that he faced many challenges as a child and a young man. “I did not grow up in the best environment and would be considered by societal norms a walking statistic,” said Martin. “However,

I did not let the challenges I faced define the outcome of my life. It has instead helped shape my perspective on how to best help the boys and girls of Bedford County, no matter the outside circumstances they face in life.”

Martin states that he believes students should be able to walk into a safe environment and receive a high-quality education where he says the teachers have the greatest impact on student growth and achievement. Being innovative and proactive in approaches to finding equitable solutions are vital, according to Martin.

“Malcolm has a heart for kids and genuinely wants to make a difference in students’ lives,” said Principal Yoes. “Malcolm realizes that the earlier in life you can impact a child in a positive way, before he or she gets to the upper grades, the better off a child is.”

Yoes stated another reason

that Martin was selected for the job is his strength in analyzing and using data to assist learning outcomes. “This will be very impactful for our teachers and our Cartwright students,” said Yoes.

Martin shared that he embraces the diversity present in society and in schools. “It is our responsibility to provide

the necessary resources and support structures to ensure all students thrive in a supportive, positive and engaging learning environment.”

“I am excited to work alongside Mrs. Yoes to do what it takes to help both students and teachers succeed in the classroom. I fully understand and appreciate that all stakeholders – students, teachers, parents, family and community members – must feel valued, involved and will-

ing to partner to achieve the goals of our school and school district. I’m blessed to be given this opportunity as BCS is a great place to work with great leadership. I’m ready to lead and inspire the next leaders of America!”

Cartwright Elementary School, located at 1753 Fairfield Pike in Shelbyville, will house 800 students and have 40 classrooms. The mascot will be the colts and school colors will be navy and teal.

## February is HEART Month

### What to know about AFib

The heart has been characterized as the engine that makes the human body run. If that metaphor is not exactly spot-on, it still serves as a good indicator as to just how vital a healthy heart is to the human body.

Despite the importance of a healthy heart, diseases that affect the heart remain the single greatest cause of death across the globe. According to the World Health Organization, cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are the leading cause of death globally, claiming roughly 18 million lives each year. Various factors can adversely affect how well the heart functions, and that includes irregular heart beat, also known as arrhythmia. Atrial fibrillation (AFib) is the most common form of arrhythmia, and it behooves anyone to gain a greater understanding of this condition.

#### What is AFib?

The Cleveland Clinic notes that AFib is an arrhythmia that begins in the upper chambers of the heart known as the atria. When a person has AFib, these chambers beat irregularly, and the American Heart Association reports that, when this occurs, blood pools in the area because not enough

blood is being pumped out of the atria. That pooled blood can clot and pose a serious threat.

#### What happens if a blood clot forms?

The AHA notes that, if a clot forms, the blood can be pumped out of the heart to the brain, which blocks the blood supply to the brain and ultimately results in stroke. In fact, AHA data indicates between 15 and 20 percent of people who have strokes have AFib. In addition, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada reports that one-fourth of all strokes affecting people 40 and older are caused by AFib.

#### Does AFib produce symptoms?

The Cleveland Clinic notes that some people with AFib experience no symptoms. Such is the case in people whose ventricles are beating at a normal or slightly elevated pace. When ventricles begin to beat faster, then individuals may experience symptoms that can include:

- Extreme fatigue
- Irregular heartbeat
- Heart palpitations
- Feeling of butterflies or fish flopping in the chest
- Dizziness or lightheadedness
- Fainting



- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain

#### Can I lower my risk for AFib?

The AHA notes that adopting and maintaining a heart-healthy lifestyle is the best way to control AFib risk. Such a lifestyle includes:

- Regular physical activity
- Adherence to a heart-healthy diet that is low in salt, saturated fats, trans fats, and cholesterol
- Controlling blood pressure, including management of high blood pressure
- Avoid excessive consumption of alcohol and caffeine
- Avoid smoking
- Maintain healthy cholesterol levels
- Maintain a healthy weight

Researchers behind a 2021 study published in the journal Progress in Cardiovascular Diseases note that AFib has sometimes been characterized as the cardiovascular epidemic of the twenty-first century. Such a characterization underscores how significant a global health threat AFib can be. More information about AFib can be found at heart.org.

## TREES

served basis, while supplies last. Participants may choose from

among 150 locations across Tennessee to pick up their trees on the weekend of March 16th.

In addition to the location in Bell Buckle, Bedford County will have a second option to reserve trees

for pick-up, by selecting the UT Extension office at 2105 Midland Road in Shelbyville. This location will

have reserved trees available from 8 am - 4:30 pm, on Friday, March 15.

Participants must register online to reserve trees and will choose their pick-up location, dates, and

times when they register. A small donation is requested for every tree reserved. There are more than

a dozen native trees available, including flowering dogwood, eastern redbud, wild plum, black cherry, persimmon, pecan,

white oak, and more. All trees must be reserved online, and must be picked up on

the dates published on the website. Note that pick-up times are specific to each site, and organizers

recommend double-checking and marking your calendar after reserving your trees.

“Planting trees is one of the best activities Tennesseans can do to conserve, protect, and enhance our natural resources,” said Tennessee State Forester David Arnold. “The Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry is pleased to be part of this event that has become an annual tradition statewide, and to provide thousands of high-quality native seedlings from our East Tennessee Nursery.”

Every year, this event involves thousands of volunteers who plant their trees at their homes, farms, businesses, neigh-

borhoods, and other locations. Since 2007, more than 100,000 volunteers have planted over 922,000 trees across Tennessee through TEC events, fulfilling the non-profit’s mission to help people and communities improve our environment.

The statewide tree-planting event is made possible by support from numerous partners and sponsors, including Tennessee Division of Forestry, Atmos Energy, National Wildlife Federation, UT Extension, Tractor Supply Company Foundation, LKQ Foundation, Nissan, Bridgestone Americas, and many others.

Visit the event website for more information and to reserve trees:

[tectn.org/TennesseeTreeDay](http://tectn.org/TennesseeTreeDay).

From page 1

### NOTICE TONDALY KARISSA WALKER:

The State of Tennessee, Department of Children’s Services, has filed a petition against you seeking to terminate forever your parental rights to Magnum Leon Walker, DOB: 10/06/2021. It appears that ordinary process of law cannot be served upon you because your whereabouts are unknown. You are hereby ORDERED to serve upon Elizabeth Spurbeck, Associate Counsel, State of Tennessee, Department of Children’s Services, 1400 College Park Drive, Columbia, TN 38401, an Answer to the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights filed by the Tennessee Department of Children Services, within thirty (30) days of the last day of publication of this notice. If you fail to do so, a default judgment will be taken against you pursuant to Rule 55 of the Tenn. R. of Civ. P. for the relief demanded in the Petition. You may view and obtain a copy of the Petition and any other subsequently filed legal documents at the Clerk and Master’s Office, Shelbyville, Tennessee. ENTER this the 11th day of December, 2023.

HONORABLE  
CHARLES RICH

BEDFORD COUNTY JUVENILE  
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# OPIOID GRANT APPLICATION

OPEN: FEBRUARY 15, 2024

DEADLINE: APRIL 15, 2024

## INFORMATION MEETING ABOUT THE OPIOID GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

MARCH 11, 2024 - 10:00 AM  
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To request an application or ask any questions, Contact the Opioid Contract Administrator at the email address: [bedford-opioid@shelbyvilleclinic.org](mailto:bedford-opioid@shelbyvilleclinic.org).



# Ascend appoints Josh Sudbury chief legal officer

TULLAHOMA, Tenn. Ascend Federal Credit Union has announced today that it has appointed Josh Sudbury as Chief Legal Officer (CLO). Sudbury is responsible for providing strategic legal and risk management advice to Ascend senior management on corporate, regulatory, and compliance matters. He will also lead, direct, and control the activities of the legal department, compliance, asset recovery department, and security department.

"We are pleased with the addition of Josh to our senior leadership team as Chief Legal Officer," said Matt Jernigan Ascend President and CEO. "He brings extensive experience to the position, and his guidance on legal issues involving Ascend will be essential. In addition, he will be able to contribute significantly to our policies and procedures as a trusted advisor." "Ascend has a reputation as one of Tennessee's top credit unions," said

Sudbury. "As a native of Middle Tennessee, I'm honored and excited to partner with leadership to provide strategies that will continue to deliver the best financial experience to our members. I look forward to leading the legal department of this amazing organization as we continue to grow the Ascend community."

A veteran attorney, Sudbury has worked in various industries with both established and high-growth companies. Before joining Ascend, he was Senior Associate General Counsel for Smile Direct Club. Previously, he was an attorney at Nashville law firms Ford Harrison, LLP, and King & Ballou.



JOSH SUDBURY

## Community Calendar February

### Church Announcements

Pastor Abe Zimmerman will be starting a sermon series for the season of Lent at Shelbyville First United Methodist Church. It's entitled "Lent: Power of the Gospel" and will go through Palm Sunday. Worship services broadcast in person at 10 am Sunday morning or by livestream on Facebook. Services also broadcast on

WLLJ 98.7 FM and 1580 AM. The Women's Ministry of Sevier Street First Baptist Church will sponsor a Fish Dinner of Feb. 17, at 11 am until everything is sold out. Hamburgers and Fries on the menu. To pre-order/pick-up please call 931-735-6568. Sister Peggy White is president. Minister is Patricia Simmons.

### Community meetings and events

Bedford County Board of Education meets 6 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 15, at Cascade High School for its regular monthly board meeting.

### Early Voting

Early voting began Wednesday, Feb. 14, and will end Tuesday, Feb. 27. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-noon on Saturday in the basement of Bedford County Courthouse Annex on the Shelbyville square. Go to Bedford County Election Office sites for qualification information.

## Shelbyville-Bedford County Library Events for February

**Morning Storytime** (Ages 0 to 6) - Wednesday, February 21st at 10:30 AM: Interactive story times introduce young children to reading, music, and language with stories, songs, and activities.

**Afternoon Storytime** (All Ages) - Thursday, February 22nd at 3 PM: After-School Storytime is open to school-age and younger children alike! Interactive story times introduce young children to reading, music, STEAM, and language with stories, songs, and activities. Parents learn fun ways to build the early literacy skills their children need to learn to read.

**Blackout Bingo** (All Ages) - Thursday, February 29th from 4:30 to 6 PM: Celebrate Leap Day at the Library with Glow-in-the-Dark Bingo! All ages are welcome, and the event is free & open to the public!

**Read Across America Storytime** (All Ages) - Saturday, March 2nd at 10 AM: Celebrate Read Across America Day with a story time covering some of our favorite recent reads along with songs and a craft! All ages are welcome, and the event is free and open to the public!

**Crochet Club** (All Ages) - Thursdays at 5 PM: Whether you are a beginner or an expert at crochet, everyone is welcome to join and learn from experienced instructor Becky Gibbons! Absolute beginners can work with some supplies provided, and Intermediate/Experts can bring in their projects from home or work on a pattern provided by the instructor!

# SEWANEE

## THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

### Madelyn Elizabeth Smythia: Order of Gown Sewanee ceremony held

Sewanee, TN (Grassroots Newswire) February 12, 2024 - Madelyn Elizabeth Smythia of Bell Buckle (37020) was inducted into the Order of the Gown at the University of the South during a ceremony held on Jan. 19, 2024. Madelyn is the daughter of Sherry & Emmett H. Smythia, Jr. The Order of the Gown is an academic honor society and a unique student government body among U.S. colleges and universities. Since 1875, the Order of the Gown has remained the body responsible for maintaining the spirit, traditions, and ideals of the University of the South. The wearing of the gown is both a sign of academic achievement and a promise to continue the ideals and traditions of the University. The University of the South is a nationally recognized university comprising a College of Arts and Sciences and a distinguished School of Theology. Located on 13,000 acres in Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau, Sewanee enrolls 1,750 undergraduates and approximately 85 seminarians. For more information about the University, visit [www.sewanee.edu](http://www.sewanee.edu).

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\*\*Wells Fargo Home Projects credit card is issued by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., an Equal Housing Lender. Special terms for 24 mo. apply to qualifying purchases of \$1,000 or more with approved credit. Minimum monthly payments will not pay off balance before end of promotional period. APR for new purchases is 28.99%. Effective - 01/01/2023 - subject to change. Call 1-800-431-5921 for complete details. The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." \*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. Offer valid at time of estimate only. See Representative for full warranty details. Manufactured in Plainwell, Michigan and processed at LMTMercer Group in Ohio. AR #0366920922, CA #1035795, CT #HIC0649905, FL #CBC056678, IA #C127230, ID #RCE-51604, LA #559544, MA #176447, MD #MHIC148329, MI #2102212986, #262000022, #262000403, #2106212946, MN #IR731804, MT #226192, ND 47304, NE #50145-22, NJ #13VH09953900, NM #408693, NY #0086990, NY #H-19114, H-52229, OR #218294, PA #PA069383, RI #GC-41354, TN #7656, UT #10783658-5501, VA #2705169445, WA #LEAFNFNB22JZ, WV #WV056912.

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# Crossword

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Golf scores
- 5. Shock therapy
- 8. Ballplayer's tool
- 11. Quench one's thirst
- 13. Female relatives of American war vets (abbr.)
- 14. Every one of two or more things
- 15. Member of Muslim people
- 16. Play
- 17. Type of cheese
- 18. Type of lounge chair
- 20. \_\_\_ King Cole, musician
- 21. Fellows
- 22. North, Central and South
- 25. In an early way
- 30. Foes
- 31. Georgia rockers
- 32. Cryptocurrency
- 33. Narrow path along a slope
- 38. Disallow
- 41. Joyousness
- 43. Inaccessible
- 45. Evoke emotions
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. Boston Celtic punk rockers (abbr.)
- 50. Sword
- 55. Actor Idris
- 56. Affirmative (slang)

- 57. Afflicted
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 60. Born of
- 61. Arabic name
- 62. Traumatic brain injury (abbr.)
- 63. Extremity
- 64. Post

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Pacific Standard Time
- 2. Protruding ridge on nematodes
- 3. Indian king
- 4. Type of milk
- 5. One who brings home the bacon
- 6. More comprehensible
- 7. Connected with sense of touch
- 8. Red mineral
- 9. Breezed through
- 10. Therefore
- 12. Supplement with difficulty
- 14. Early kingdom of Syria
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. They confuse doctors (abbr.)
- 24. Brass instrument
- 25. Domesticated animal
- 26. Ribonucleic acid
- 27. Snakelike fish
- 28. Woman (French)

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |    |    | 5  | 6  | 7  |    | 8  | 9  | 10 |    |    |
| 11 |    |    |    | 12 |    | 13 |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |    |    |
| 15 |    |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    | 17 |    |    |    |    |
|    | 18 |    |    |    | 19 | 20 |    |    |    | 21 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    |    | 22 | 23 |    |    |    | 24 |    |    |    |    |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 30 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 32 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 |    |
|    |    |    |    |    | 38 | 39 | 40 |    | 41 | 42 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    |    | 43 |    |    | 44 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|    |    | 45 | 46 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 47 | 48 |    |    |    |    | 49 |    |    |    | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 |
| 55 |    |    |    |    |    | 56 |    |    |    | 57 |    |    |    | 58 |
| 59 |    |    |    |    |    | 60 |    |    |    | 61 |    |    |    |    |
| 62 |    |    |    |    |    | 63 |    |    |    | 64 |    |    |    |    |

- 29. Economically-minded aircraft
- 34. When you hope to get somewhere
- 35. Tease
- 36. Actress Gretchen
- 37. Midway between northeast and east
- 39. Inoffensive
- 40. Yellowish cotton cloth
- 41. Consume
- 42. Does not tell the truth
- 44. Improved something
- 45. Spiritual leader
- 46. Abba \_\_\_, Israeli politician
- 47. Fix
- 48. Evergreen tree genus
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Major C. European river
- 54. Long, narrow strap
- 58. Male parent

## Horoscopes

**ARIES** - Mar 21/Apr 20  
Aries, a measure of controversy has found its way into your life, but you may want to avoid letting others know your feelings. Keep conversations to trivial topics this week.

**TAURUS** - Apr 21/May 21  
Advice about how to handle a confusing financial matter may not be resonating right now, Taurus. You may need to review the data a few different times.

**GEMINI** - May 22/Jun 21  
Gemini, consider another's perspective more closely in the days to come. A different point of view may help you to more clearly define your own outlook.

**CANCER** - Jun 22/Jul 22  
Setting boundaries right now could be difficult for you, Cancer. You are always caring for others and that may affect how involved you get in another person's issues.

**LEO** - Jul 23/Aug 23  
Share your light and vitality with another person this week, Leo. You can boost this person's mood or even change his or her perspective dramatically if you so desire.

**VIRGO** - Aug 24/Sept 22  
Virgo, heated emotions between you and a family member could drive a wedge in your relationship for some time. It is best to carefully weigh your words before speaking.

**LIBRA** - Sept 23/Oct 23  
Libra, pursuing the truth about a situation may seem very important to you and even urgent. But will having all of the answers really change much right now?

**SCORPIO** - Oct 24/Nov 22  
Scorpio, be careful not to take everything that people say to you at face value right now. You need to vet all information for yourself before you make decisions about anything.

**SAGITTARIUS** - Nov 23/Dec 21  
You may be feeling sorry for someone even if they didn't ask you to weigh in on a situation, Sagittarius. You simply can't help getting involved, but remember to listen.

**CAPRICORN** - Dec 22/Jan 20  
Capricorn, a quiet and practical approach is the way to sort through a confusing situation that arises this week. Your detailed-oriented nature will help you go through all the facts.

**AQUARIUS** - Jan 21/Feb 18  
You may not be happy with the direction a family member, friend or even your larger community is moving at the current moment, Aquarius. Consider ways you can help.

**PISCES** - Feb 19/Mar 20  
You may be feeling pulled by the demands of a few different people in your life right now, Pisces. It's probably best to give things more thought before making any decisions.

**FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**  
**FEBRUARY 18**  
John Travolta, Actor (70)  
**FEBRUARY 19**  
Millie Bobby Brown, Actress (20)  
**FEBRUARY 20**  
Rihanna, Singer (36)  
**FEBRUARY 21**  
Sophie Turner, Actress (28)  
**FEBRUARY 22**  
Julie Walters, Actress (74)  
**FEBRUARY 23**  
Dakota Fanning, Actress (30)  
**FEBRUARY 24**  
Floyd Mayweather, Jr., Boxer (47)

## TIE THE KNOT WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

### WORDS

- BAND
- BETROTHED
- BOUQUET
- BRIDESMAID
- BUFFET
- CELEBRATION
- CENTERPIECES
- CEREMONY
- CHURCH
- COUPLE
- DANCING
- DINNER
- FESTIVITIES
- GUESTS
- HAPPINESS
- INVITATION
- LIMOUSINE
- MARRIAGE
- OFFICIANT
- RECEPTION
- RINGS
- SEATING
- VOW
- WEDDING

## SUDOKU

**Here is how it works:** Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 4 | 8 |   |   |   |   |   | 9 |
| 5 |   |   | 9 |   | 1 |   |   | 2 |
|   |   |   | 6 |   |   |   |   | 3 |
|   | 7 |   |   | 4 | 8 | 6 | 5 |   |
|   | 5 |   | 9 | 8 |   |   |   | 4 |
|   |   |   |   | 1 | 2 | 9 | 7 |   |
| 9 | 5 | 3 |   |   | 7 |   |   |   |
|   |   | 6 | 7 | 4 |   |   |   |   |
| 4 |   |   |   | 6 | 9 |   |   | 3 |

Level: Beginner

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
|   | 8 | 1 |   |   |   |   |  |   |
|   |   | 6 | 5 |   |   |   |  | 8 |
| 3 |   |   |   | 7 |   | 9 |  |   |
|   |   | 5 | 1 |   |   |   |  |   |
|   | 9 |   |   | 2 | 5 | 6 |  |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  | 9 |
|   |   |   |   | 6 | 7 | 4 |  |   |
| 1 | 4 | 2 |   | 5 |   |   |  |   |
| 2 | 9 | 7 |   | 3 |   |   |  |   |

Level: Intermediate

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   | 4 | 6 |   | 2 |   |
|   |   | 6 |   | 5 |   | 7 |   |   |
| 8 |   | 3 |   |   |   |   |   | 6 |
|   |   | 5 |   |   |   |   | 7 |   |
|   | 1 |   | 2 |   |   | 9 |   |   |
|   |   | 8 |   | 6 | 4 |   |   | 2 |
|   |   | 1 |   |   | 8 |   |   |   |
| 9 |   |   | 7 | 3 | 5 |   |   | 4 |
| 4 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

Level: Advanced



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## Tennessee Higher Education Commission Announces Delay in Release of FAFSA Records by U.S. Department of Education

Nashville, TN – February 12, 2024 – The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) reports that students considering college can expect a delay in FAFSA processing. The U.S. Department of Education has informed stakeholders that records for the 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will not be released to institutions until mid-March.

While the FAFSA typically launches in October on StudentAid.gov, this year the launch was delayed due to program updates to improve online functionality and became operational in January. Typically, FAFSA records

as they are filed starting in October; however, this months-long delay in opening has resulted in postponement of students' information delivery to institutions.

For Tennessee students, this means you may receive any financial aid offers from your colleges of interest later than expected. While there will be delays, rest assured that this will not impact the availability of funds for students enrolled in any state program, including Tennessee HOPE Scholarship, Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect.

While delays are expected in processing FAFSA records, THEC wants to assure students and their families that this will not hinder their ability to access the support needed for their education. Students' FAFSA information is expected to be sent to their selected colleges in mid-March. Once processed, colleges will assess financial aid eligibility, ensuring students receive the financial aid for which they qualify.

Last month, THEC announced that the Tennessee Promise FAFSA deadline has officially moved to May 15, 2024, to accommodate the late opening and to allow students extra time to complete the form.

As a reminder to students planning to enroll in

the fall 2024 semester, the following are the most urgent deadlines:

April 15, 2024: Priority FAFSA Deadline for Tennessee Student Assistance Award (TSAA)

May 15, 2024: FAFSA Deadline for Tennessee Promise Scholarship

September 1, 2024: FAFSA Deadline for Tennessee HOPE Scholarship

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission recognizes the impact that this delay may have on students and families who rely on FAFSA records to make informed decisions about their education financing. We encourage students to stay updated and to reach out to their respective financial aid offices for guidance and support during this time.

THEC remains committed to supporting students in their pursuit of higher education and will continue to advocate for resources and opportunities that facilitate access to affordable and quality education for all Tennesseans. THEC encourages students to keep their college planning options open and remain optimistic about the financial aid offers that await them.

For more information and updates regarding the release of FAFSA records, please visit CollegeForTN.org or contact Tennessee's FAFSA Hotline at 1-800-342-1663.

### COUNTY OFFICIAL VISITS RAUS



Submitted Photo

Bedford County Property Assessor Ronda Clanton was recent guest speaker at the Raus Community Club. She explained her role as tax assessor, how properties are assessed and answered questions from the members.

## Answers from last week

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

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

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q | C | H | O | C | O | L | A | T | E | S | T | V | L | C | C | O | M | S | S |
| E | T | H | P | T | N | L | S | R | V | B | Y | A | B | Q | Q | N | V | S | N |
| T | W | U | D | N | E | I | R | F | L | R | I | G | I | U | Y | G | R | R | C |
| A | R | E | U | D | N | E | I | R | F | Y | O | B | S | B | F | P | E | R | L |
| R | O | N | T | B | T | V | D | G | R | D | I | O | B | W | F | H | P | B | T |
| B | G | A | C | L | B | H | S | L | N | D | R | B | G | E | L | I | P | F | R |
| E | M | M | I | P | P | E | J | I | I | I | Y | B | I | H | O | P | I | N |   |
| L | Y | O | T | A | Q | W | R | N | F | F | V | R | N | S | F | A | V | D | F |
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ANSWER: Level: Intermediate

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ANSWER: Level: Advanced

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**Margaret Feck**

Margaret 'Peggy' Maurer Feck, 76, of Wartrace, passed away February 11, 2024. A Celebration of Life Service will be 2 PM Sunday, February 18, 2024, at First United Methodist Church. Reverend Abe Zimmerman will officiate. The family will receive visitors one hour prior to service Sunday at the church. She was born May 26, 1947, in Cincinnati, Ohio, to the late Omage Allen Hammon and Bessie Evelyn Blair Hammond. She was retired from Calsonic, and a faithful member of Allen First United Methodist Church. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Sonny Feck; partner of 20 years, Mark Hawkins, sister Martha Cash, and her husband, Eugene, and a brother, Allen Hammond. Survivors include three daughters, Sherry Macht, and her husband Dean; Donna Mosley, and her husband Wayne, and Stephanie Howell, and her husband Chris; sisters, Darlene Arlinghaus, and her husband Jim, Charlene Taylor, and her husband Walter, Sue Marshall, and her husband Rob, the father of her children and her first husband, Dave Scherle; grandchildren, Brett (Crystal) Macht, Zach (Kayla) Macht, Evan (Ally) Macht, Erik (Jennifer) Mosley, Alex (Cami) Mosley; great grandchildren, Liam Macht, Evelyn Mae Macht, Margaret Ann Macht, Carson Macht, Chase Macht, Jude Mosley, Dom Mosley, Trace Mosley, Mick Mosley, Bryson Mosley; step sons, Shane Feck, and his wife Natalie, and Stephen Feck, and his wife Miriam; step great grandchildren, William Feck, Nicholas Feck, Cara Feck, Kelsey Feck, and Eli Feck. Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

**Samuel Allen Mayes Jr.**

Samuel Allen Mayes, Jr., 70, of Shelbyville, passed away February 7, 2024, at his home, under the loving care and comfort of his family and Aveanna Hospice. Funeral services will be 12 noon Saturday, February 17, 2024, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. Burial will follow in Egypt Cemetery in Chapel Hill. The family will receive visitors one hour prior to service Saturday at the funeral home. He was born June 25, 1953, in Commerce, Georgia, to the late Samuel Allen Mayes, Sr. and Jennie Mae Hardin Mayes. He was a brick mason by trade. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Floyd Mays, and a sister, Regina Mays. Survivors include brothers and sisters, Mary Regynski, Linda Mays, Virginia Batts, Theresa Searcy, Flora Mays, Wanda Sales, Quincy Mays, Sherry Sanders, Lee Harper, and Lovell Roger. Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

**Nancy Louise George**

Nancy Louise George, 81, of Shelbyville, passed from this life Thursday, February 8, 2024, at NHC of Tullahoma after an extended illness.

A native and lifelong resident of Bedford County, Mrs. George was born on September 27, 1942, to the late Albert Guy Prince and Frances Bomar Prince.

She was married to the late W.H. "Pete" George for 55 years. Mrs. George served as a supervisor at Economy Pen & Pencil for 30+ years until her retirement. In her spare time, she enjoyed gardening, reading, spending time with family & friends, and attending street rod shows.

Mrs. George was preceded in death by her sisters, Ruth Hicks and Elaine Cartwright. In addition, her niece, Shelli Pigg Hambrick; brother-in-law, Shirley Joe Groce; and sister-in-law, Linda Lucille Rodgers also preceded her in death.

Survivors include: sisters, Kathryn Pigg (Jerry), and Christine Groce; brother-in-law, Joe Ben Cartwright; sister-in-law Dianna Winfrey (Morris).

She is also survived by numerous loving nieces, nephews, and other extended family.

Graveside services will be held 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at Willow Mount Cemetery with Reverend Ron Dewitt officiating.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital @ [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org) or by mail: 501 St. Jude PL. Memphis, TN 38105.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

**Gladys Brown**

Gladys Brown, 91, of Unionville, passed away with her loving family by her side, February 2, 2024. Gladys was the daughter of the late Robert and Mary Gentry Holton.

Gladys is survived by her loving daughter, Anita (Randy) White; grandchildren, Jim (Amy) White and Cindy White; great grandchildren, Carley, Lilly, Zoey, Zayleigh and Zadi Beth; special niece, Donna Watson; sisters, Katherine Victory, Christine (Clifford) Peach and Faye Jones; brothers, Milton Holton and Thomas (Barbara) Holton. She is preceded in death by her husband, Eris Brown; brothers, John L. Holton, Herbert Holton and Edward Holton; sisters, Anna Alene, Louise Holton, Ella Grayson, Annie Mai Holton and Myrtle Raney.

Funeral services were held 12:00 Noon Monday, February 5, at Lawrence Funeral Home with Sam Bullington officiating. Interment followed in Simpson Cemetery. Jim White, Rickey White, Jordan White, Tony Holton, Mark Holton and Mike Holton served as pallbearers. The family requests memorials may be made to Rover Baptist Church. LAWRENCE FUNERAL HOME and CREMATION SERVICES, Chapel Hill, TN in charge of arrangements.

**Betty Sanders Brown**

Betty Sanders Brown, 86, of Shelbyville, passed away Thursday, February 8, 2024.

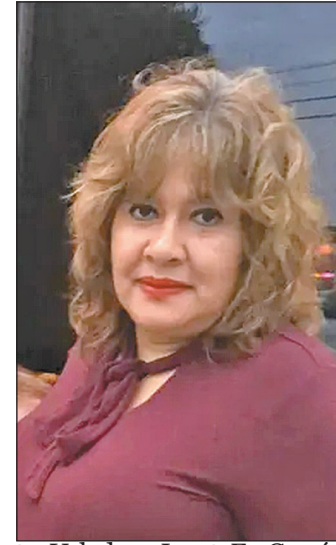
Funeral services will be 1:00 PM Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. Reverend Andy Keffer will officiate, with burial to follow in Simpson Cemetery in the Rover Community. The family will receive visitors two hours prior to service Tuesday at the funeral home. She was born December 28, 1937, in Lewisburg, Tennessee, to the late William Richard and Katherine S. Sanders. She was a devoted wife and mother. Her family was very important to her. She was a faithful member of First Church of the Nazarene. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Marvin Brown; great granddaughter, Tenley Dye; and sisters, Helen Steele and Anita Haislip.

Survivors include a daughter, Teresa (Larry) Curry, and a son, Jeffery Brown, both of Shelbyville; granddaughters, Monica (Jason) Stamer, of Ocala, Florida, and Brandi (Daniel) Dye, of Shelbyville; great-grandchildren Brandon Cook, Kaylee Cook, Jansen Ward, and Dayton Dye; bonus grandchildren, Curt Curry and Eric Curry; bonus great grandchildren, Hannah, Patrick, Mariah, and Sarah. Betty will be honored with memorials to First Church of The Nazarene. Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

**Lois Ann Campbell**

Lois Ann Campbell, 69, of Shelbyville, passed away February 10, 2024, under the loving care and comfort of her family, Aveanna Hospice, and the professional and caring staff of Claiborne and Hughes Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center in Franklin. A Celebration of Life Service will be 11 AM Friday, February 16, 2024, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. She was born July 16, 1954, in Shelbyville to the late James Douglas "Roughhouse" Campbell and Lourina Sutton. She was a homemaker. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Jimmy Campbell.

Survivors include a daughter, Rena Holloway, and her husband Clint, of Shelbyville, and a son, Devron Campbell, and his wife Priscilla, of Smyrna; a sister, Mildred Adams, of Shelbyville; grandchildren, Aishia Renee Campbell and Antionette Smith; a great grandchild, born on February 10, 2024, Jaleea Rose. Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

**Maria Valadez**

Maria Valadez, 51, passed from this life Wednesday, February 7th, 2024, after sustaining injury in an automobile accident.

She leaves behind her beloved husband, Juan Carlos Garcia Marquez. Maria married Carlos Garcia Marquez February 28th, 2015, at St. Williams Catholic Church; children, Luis Roberto Valadez, Janet E. Garcia Valadez, Miguel A. Garcia Valadez, and Sonia Garcia; siblings, Maria was one of 8 her being the eldest; Mario, Carmela, Juan, Beto, Chuy, and twins Lupita and Jose; along with her grandfather, Roberto Valadez.

Maria was born July 27th, 1972, in La Ribera Jalisco, Mexico to Roberto Valadez and late Maria Luisa Cobarruvias (death date 10-31-2015).

She was an angel on earth. She embodied unconditional love, spiritual strength and generosity. She loved perfumes, red lipstick and her red hair. Her kids were her whole life and she would do anything to keep them happy, protected and to live a prosperous life. She lit up every room she went in with her kind spirit and beautiful smile. If there was music she would be dancing and singing. She was always a very happy and helping person never judged anyone and was there for anyone in need.

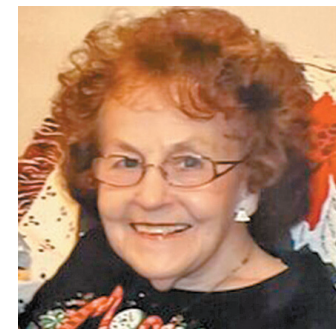
Her professional life, she worked at the factories, Tacos Plus, La Monita and was always out selling her jewelry. In her free time, she loved to go out, loved parties and helping people.

Funeral service will be held 3:00 p.m. Monday, February 12th, 2024, at St. Williams of Montevegine Catholic Church with Father Edwin Cardona officiating. Burial will follow at Willow Mount Cemetery.

Visitation with the family will be held 5-8p.m. Sunday evening, February 11th at Doak-Howell Funeral Home and again on Monday, February 12th from 1p.m. until funeral services at St. Williams of Montevegine Catholic Church.

Doak Howell Funeral Home is serving the family. María Valadez, 51 años, falleció el miércoles 7 de febrero de 2024, luego de sufrir lesiones en un accidente automovilístico.

Deja atrás: amado esposo, Juan Carlos García Márquez, María se casó con Carlos García el 28 de febrero de 2015 en la Iglesia Católica St. Williams; hijos, Luis Rober-

**Lila Cartwright**

Funeral Services for Shelbyville resident, Lila Elaine Reed Cartwright, will be conducted Friday, February 16, 2:00 P.M. at Hillcrest Funeral Home with Rev. Jeff Rasnick officiating. Family will receive friends Thursday 4:00-7:00 P.M. at the funeral home.

Mrs. Cartwright passed peacefully in her home surrounded by her children on February 12, 2024.

Born Lila Elaine Reed November 12, 1926, in Bedford County, to the late Harvey Reed and Aubrey Kate Young Reed, Lila was one of three daughters. Miss Reed, a 1945 graduate of Shelbyville Central High School, was a member of the National Honor Society. A graduate of the Nashville School of Cosmetology, Lila worked 65 years in her beauty shop and enjoyed a loyal and vibrant customer base.

A devoted Christian since age 16, Lila was a member of Raus Baptist Church and later First Baptist Church of Shelbyville where she enjoyed singing in the choir for many years. Lila cared deeply for her family and friends and her life was an example of faith and service to others. Her smile and talent in the kitchen warmed the hearts of all who entered her home. Despite her busy work schedule, she always managed to cook traditional meals to perfection and always had a fresh pie or cake ready to serve.

Mrs. Cartwright is survived by her devoted children; Karen Smotherman

and Kenny Cartwright, both of Shelbyville, and Dr. Kathy Philyaw (Robby) of Signal Mountain. Also surviving are beloved grandsons, Jamie Petty (Margaret) of Shelbyville, Ben Philyaw (Shelby) of South Pittsburg, Jonathan Smotherman (Ellie) of Shelbyville, Jared Smotherman of Shelbyville, Ash Cartwright of

Shelbyville and granddaughter, Katie Philyaw (Rielly) of Birmingham. Mrs. Cartwright is blessed to be survived by two great-grandsons, Woody Petty and

Eli Petty, a host of nieces, nephews, and many friends and neighbors.

In addition to her parents, Lila was predeceased by her husband of 62

years, Benjamin "Ben" Franklin Cartwright, sisters, Doris Nichols and Bobbie Jo Stubblefield and beloved son-in-law Woody Petty.

Pallbearers are to include Jamie Petty, Ben Philyaw, Jonathan Smotherman,

Ash Cartwright, Jared Smotherman and Rielly Grayson. Interment, following

services, will be in the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens.

**Jeremy Warren**

Jeremy Quinton Warren, 52, of Shelbyville, passed away February 12, 2024. Funeral services will be 2 PM Friday, February 16, 2024, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. Burial will be in Willow Mount Cemetery. The family will receive visitors 3-7 PM Thursday, February 15, 2024, at the funeral home. He was born February 12, 1972, in Shelbyville, to Betty Jean Smith and Leslie Warren. Jeremy worked construction and held membership at Victory Baptist Church. Survivors include his mother, Betty Smith, and her husband Wendell, and his father, Leslie Warren, and his wife Natalie; sons, Dustin (Heather) Warren, and Chaz Warren and his wife Melissa; daughter, Kayla Warren; brother, Leslie Elden (Kimberly) Warren; numerous grandchildren. Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

María nació el 27 de julio de 1972 en La Ribera Jalisco, México, hija de Roberto Valadez y María Luisa Cobarruvias (fecha de fallecimiento 31-10-2015).

Ella era un ángel en la tierra. Encarnaba el amor incondicional, la fuerza espiritual y la generosidad. Le encantaban los perfumes, el lápiz labial rojo y su pelo rojo. Sus hijos eran toda su vida y ella haría cualquier cosa para mantenerlos felices, protegidos y vivir una vida próspera. Iluminaba cada habitación en la que entraba con su espíritu amable y su hermosa sonrisa. Si había música, bailaba y cantaba. Siempre fue una persona muy alegre y servicial, nunca juzgó a nadie y estuvo ahí para cualquiera que lo necesitara.

En su vida profesional, trabajó en las fábricas, Tacos Plus, La Monita y siempre estaba vendiendo sus joyas. En su tiempo libre, le encantaba salir, le encantaban las fiestas y ayudar a la gente.

El servicio fúnebre se llevará a cabo a las 3:00 p.m. del lunes 12 de febrero de 2024 en la Iglesia Católica St. Williams de Montevegine con el Padre Edwin Cardona oficiando. El entierro se llevará a cabo en el cementerio de Willow Mount.

Las visitas con la familia se llevarán a cabo de 5 a 8 p.m. El domingo 11 de febrero por la noche en la funeraria Doak-Howell y nuevamente el lunes 12 de febrero a partir de la 1 p.m. hasta los servicios funerarios en la iglesia católica St. Williams de Montevegine.

La funeraria Doak Howell está sirviendo a la familia.

El domingo 11 de febrero por la noche en la funeraria Doak-Howell y nuevamente el lunes 12 de febrero a partir de la 1 p.m. hasta los servicios funerarios en la iglesia católica St. Williams de Montevegine.

La funeraria Doak Howell está sirviendo a la familia.



## RADIO CLUB TO HOLD "HAMFEST"

MTARS, the Middle Tennessee Amateur Radio Society, will hold its annual "hamfest" on Saturday, March 9th, from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, at the First United Methodist Church, 208 West Lauderdale Street in Tullahoma. A "hamfest" is a gathering of amateur radio enthusiasts (also known as "hams"), and others with an interest in computers, electronics, and technology to buy, sell, and exchange amateur radio equipment, parts, computers, accessories, and information. The hamfest is sanctioned by the American Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur radio and is the club's major fundraiser of the year, which supports their education and emergency communications activities.

The doors will open for vendor setup on Friday, March 8th, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM, and on Saturday at 6:30 AM. Admission to the event is \$10.00. Vendor tables are \$20.00 for each 8-foot table and \$15.00 for a 6-foot table. To reserve a table, please contact Chairperson Sam Crimm, KN4ZLR, by e-mail at [samcrimm@gmail.com](mailto:samcrimm@gmail.com). The kitchen will be open for snacks and beverages.

In addition to the various displays, the hamfest will offer various seminars on amateur radio operation, and an FCC licensing examination session. A number of prizes will be given away throughout the day with the grand prize drawing at 1:00 PM. Winners must be present to win.

The Middle Tennessee Amateur Radio Society is a self-supported non-profit organization. For additional information, visit the club's website at <http://www.qsl.net/mtars> or e-mail club president, Michael Glennon, KB4JHU, by e-mail at [kb4jhu@gmail.com](mailto:kb4jhu@gmail.com), by phone at 931.588.0302 or mail to MTARS, PO Box 932, Tullahoma TN 37388-0932.



## SPORTS

# Noah's Neutral Notations: Appreciate the Greatness of Patrick Mahomes

BY NOAH MADDOX  
noah@t-g.com

Patrick Mahomes is already one of the best quarterbacks we have ever seen in the history of the NFL – if not the absolute best – at only 28 years old.

After the Kansas City Chiefs defeated the San Francisco 49ers, 25-22 in OT, on Sunday to win Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas, Patrick Mahomes improved to 3-1 in Super Bowls. He also won his third Super Bowl MVP award, drawing him level with Joe Montana and trailing only Tom Brady with five.

It was a truly incredible performance against a stellar 49ers pass rush that was giving Kansas City problems all night long, but San Francisco just could not put the Chiefs away. The Niners lost to the only person on the planet who could have beaten them on Sunday, and that is the danger of Patrick Mahomes.

What Mahomes did on Sunday puts him in the rarest of air among the elite quarterbacks throughout NFL history. Sure, you must give credit to the Chiefs defense and special teams. They got the stops and made the plays when it mattered the absolute most, but that is a conversation for another day.

For one, Mahomes became the first player in league history to win two regular season MVP awards and three Super Bowl MVP awards before his 30th birthday. For two, Mahomes now only trails Terry Bradshaw (4), Joe Montana (4), and Tom Brady (7) with his three Su-

per Bowl wins.

Let's start with the career totals, in the playoffs specifically, and see where they rank among the all-time greats. With Sunday's win, Patrick Mahomes improved to 15-3 as the Chiefs' starting quarterback in the playoffs through his first seven seasons with only six of them as the starter. He has thrown for 5,135 yards, 41 touchdowns, and only eight interceptions while completing 67.9% of his passes with a 105.1 passer rating in the first 18 playoff games of his career. Those totals slot him in fifth place for playoff passing yards, eighth in passing touchdowns, and his passer rating is the highest in postseason history.

For comparison, Tom Brady was 14-4 through his first 18 playoff games, but four of those games came after his 30th birthday. Brady threw for 4,108 yards, 28 touchdowns, and 15 interceptions with a 85.5 passer rating in those first 18 games. He also played his 18th game at 32 years old. Mahomes, just as a reminder, is only 28.

Also, after Sunday's win, he already has more career postseason wins than The Sheriff, Peyton Manning.

Mahomes also now has the most postseason game-winning TD passes in the fourth quarter and overtime with six, equaling Brady. Kansas City now improves to 5-1 since 2019 when trailing by double digits at any point in the playoffs. The rest of the league? 6-48. Only six wins, and forty-eight losses.

These are alien numbers.

He also has a very impressive 3.5/1 TD to INT ratio in the regular season. But in the playoffs, he somehow gets exponentially better with roughly a 5/1 TD to INT ratio. 41 touchdowns, to only eight interceptions as a whole. IN 18 PLAYOFF GAMES!

Moreover, Kansas City with Patrick Mahomes is now 8-2 in the postseason when trailing by seven points or more. The only other quarterback near him is Brady at 10-11.

Before this season, the only possible knock on the generational quarterback is that he had not won a road playoff game on the way to the Super Bowl. His teams have been so good in the regular season that they had played all five AFC Championship games at Arrowhead Stadium before 2023/24. This year, they went into Buffalo to continue their postseason success against Josh Allen and the Bills, then they went into Baltimore and took down the best defense in football.

Oh yeah, there's one other thing; in Mahomes' six seasons as the starter, he has made six AFC Championship games. Every single year he's been a starter, his team has made it at least one game away from the biggest game of them all. The two losses? 2018 against Belichick and Brady in overtime when Dee Ford lined up off-sides on what would have been a game-sealing interception, and 2022 against Joe Burrow and the Bengals, also in overtime. That's it.

The Chiefs only other postseason loss in the Mahomes/Andy Reid era was in Super Bowl LIV in Tampa Bay against Brady's Bucs, but even this performance left anyone who watched the entire game in awe of the fact that number 15 for Kansas City was even giving his team a chance with how bad his offensive line was in that game.

Some have already made comparisons between Mahomes and Michael Jordan regarding the fact that Jordan was so great that he kept other superstars of his time from winning a ring. Many feel as if Mahomes is on the same trajectory, and in the AFC, his superstar peers are Lamar Jackson, Josh Allen, and Joe Burrow. Burrow bested him once, but other than that, Mahomes' record is spotless. It might be a smidge early to stake that claim, but it is definitely one that is hard to argue against so far.

Literally the only thing separating Mahomes from being widely considered the GOAT is accomplishments, both team and, to a lesser extent, individual. The counting stats, such as career passing yards and TDs, take time, but the efficiency stats are already elite.

Football is the ultimate team sport which is why what Brady, Belichick, and the Patriots did for 20 years so impressive, and why it is almost impossible to ever see something like that again. Team accomplishments will be tough to match for him, but if there is anyone set up to make a run at Brady, Patrick Mahomes is the one.

# Eaglettes Punch Region Ticket After Dominant Second Half Against Spring Hill

BY NOAH MADDOX  
noah@t-g.com



Sammie Brown (20) led the Eaglettes with a game-high 16 points in Monday's win.

The Shelbyville Central Golden Eaglettes found their offensive groove in the second half of Monday's 58-27 dominating District 9-AAAA play-in game win over Spring Hill inside of Rick Insell Gymnasium.

Sparked by the much-needed return of starting point-guard Jaz Western, the Eaglettes used a 34-point second half to end the Lady Raiders' season.

This win also guarantees the Eaglettes a regional quarterfinal game for next week.

Shelbyville was led by Sammie Brown's 16 points, Jaz Western marked her return with an impres-

sive 15-point outing, and Paige Blackburn hit three triples en route to 13 points of her own.

Spring Hill was led by Alayzia Harrison with nine points and Jz Brashear with eight points. The visitors did not have a scorer reach double-figures.

Brashear was able to keep things close in the first quarter, scoring all eight of both her and her team's eight points in the quarter as the Eaglettes led 12-8 after one.

The hosts began to extend their lead in the second quarter, thanks in large part to Sammie Brown's four first-half three-pointers. Blackburn would add one three of her own, and the Eaglettes took a 24-15 lead into the halftime locker room.

In the third quarter, Shelbyville put the clamps down defensively, holding the visitors to six points as the Eaglettes put in 22 of their own to take a commanding 46-21 lead into the final frame. Western and Blackburn combined for 16 of their team's 22 points, including two threes from Blackburn.

In the fourth quarter, the result was all but in hand, and Shelbyville even outscored Spring Hill 12-6 in the period to secure the 58-27 win.

Spring Hill ends their season at 10-18 (2-8).

The Eaglettes improve to 15-11 (3-7) on the season and move on to take on the district's top seed, Coffee County, on Saturday, LIVE on WLJ 98.7 and AM 1580 starting at 1:45 p.m.

# Lady Champs Rally Past Viqueens Into District 9-AA Championship

BY NOAH MADDOX  
noah@t-g.com

The Cascade Lady Champions beat the Community Viqueens in a thriller, 45-43, in the first District 9-AA semi-final in Bell Buckle on Tuesday night to advance to their first District Championship game since 2013/14.

It was another classic Battle of Bedford, and in its third and presumably final act of the season it delivered a show stopping performance that is worthy of an encore.

A fourth quarter filled with immensely clutch shots, even more missed layups, and timely stops defensively produced a thrilling conclusion to this year's chapter of a historic cross-county rivalry.

Cascade entered the final frame with a 33-25 lead over the two-seeded Viqueens after Sophie Ray connected on a free throw jumper to beat the third quarter buzzer, but the designated home team responded, finding their offensive mojo in the first four minutes of the quarter. Community hit two of their four total three-pointers in that stretch to punctuate a commanding 14-2 run to take a 39-35 lead with just over four minutes to go. The Stable was rocking, except this time it was the fans clad in purple and gold making all the noise.

With the Lady Champs struggling to find even a clean look at the basket because of a stifling triangle-and-two defense designed to focus on Kaegan Young and Sophie Ray,



Cascade's pre-game huddle. Photo by David Smith.

sophomore forward Suzanna Crews sized up Community's Alyssa White, gave her a jab-step, and let loose a deep three on the right wing that rattled home to cut the lead to one 4:10 to go. It was easily the biggest shot of the game, and it was only Cascade's fourth triple of the night. Her second three-pointer of the game brought her up to 10 points total, but more importantly she ended the Community run, sparking a 7-4 Cascade mini-run to close out the game.

The Lady Champs and the Viqueens would trade a couple more baskets as the intensity and crowd noise reached a fever pitch, culminating in Alyssa White putting in her 16th point of the night with 39.1 seconds to go to cut the Cascade lead to 44-43.

Coming out of the timeout, the Lady Champs

advanced the ball into the front court, finding Sophie Ray, but an awkward pass led to an off-balance catch, forcing a jump ball that resulted in Community taking over.

However, the Lady Champs bowed up one final time defensively, sticking to their gameplan of forcing Jayla Mangrum and Brooklyn Yoes to hit outside shots in favor of double-teaming Alyssa White. For the final time of the night, the plan worked as Yoes missed another wide open three-pointer with 9.2 seconds left.

Cascade would secure the rebound, and Kaegan Young got fouled with 7.3 seconds left. After missing the first, she connected on the second for her first and only made free throw of the game to give Cascade the 45-43 lead.

Community tried a long baseball pass the length of the court, and after Kaydence Miller deflected the Yoes' heave right into the path of Jayla Mangrum on a dead spring to an open basket, this game seemed destined for overtime. That is, until Young did just enough defensively to force Mangrum's layup attempt to roll off the rim, securing the rebound and dribbling out the clock in the process to secure a District Championship berth in Coach Demonbreum's second season at Cascade.

Sophomore sensation Kaegan Young led Cascade with 12 points, but her biggest impact on the game was her suffocating defense for all 32 minutes on Viqueens sharpshooter Anna Haskins. Haskins did not even manage to attempt a three until the fourth quarter, and she finished 3/9 from the field overall for only seven points. Suzanna Crews was the other Lady Champion to finish in double-figures with 10 points, and Sophie Ray chipped in nine points of her own. Anna Clanton and Kaydence Miller both added five points, and Laina Carter sprinkled in four points of her own.

For the Viqueens, freshman phenom Alyssa White finished as the only one in double-digits with a game-high 16 points in the losing effort, and Brooklyn Yoes finished with eight points herself. Mangrum and Haskins both scored seven points, and Taylor Wessner put in five points.

In a stark contrast

to the second Battle of Bedford held at Cascade, it was the Lady Champs that started off with their hair on fire defensively, coming out in a high-intensity man-to-man defense from the opening tip and carrying an 11-6 lead into the second quarter.

Cascade would continue the strong defensive effort, but Community would fight back in the second period. Going into the halftime locker room, the Lady Champs held a 25-19 lead despite going 1/6 from the free throw line and missing at least four wide open layups.

The Viqueens continued to struggle in the third quarter against the

tenacious Cascade defense, and after Sophie Ray hit a 15-foot jumper to beat the horn, the Lady Champs went ahead 33-25.

Community falls to 10-17 (5-3) on the season and will play Grundy County in the District 9-AA third-place game on Thursday night at 6 p.m. in Bell Buckle.

Cascade improves to 12-14 (4-4) on the year and advance to the District 9-AA Championship game to take on the top-seeded Cannon County Lionettes on Thursday night in their home gym, starting at 7:15 p.m. LIVE on WZNG The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400.

Cascade's Kaydence Miller (14) and Community's Taylor Wessner (15). Photo by David Smith.





## Golden Eagles Basketball Player in Stable Condition After Tuesday's Halftime Emergency

BY NOAH MADDOX  
noah@t-g.com

A member of the Shelbyville Central Golden Eagles basketball team that collapsed in the halftime locker room during Tuesday's game at Lincoln County is reportedly now in stable condition, according to a statement released by Bedford County Schools Superintendent Dr. Tammy Garrett on Wednesday.

The game itself was suspended, but is currently planned to be made up on Thursday at 6:00 PM. The official statement in its entirety is included below:

(Shelbyville, TN) A male athlete and member of the Shelbyville Central High School Eagles basketball team collapsed in the locker room during halftime of last night's game against Lincoln County. The game was being played in the Falcon's gymnasium in Fayetteville. The SCHS senior required life-saving measures and was transported to the Lincoln County Hospital and airlifted to Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nash-

ville where he was reported to be in stable condition last night.

"We are so grateful to the folks at Lincoln County who assisted our athlete," said Bedford County

Schools (BCS) Superintendent Dr. Tammy Garrett. "Their director of schools informed me there were four nurse practitioners present at the game who helped our student and utilized an AED device that was readily available. We thank the team at Lincoln County for their quick action that no doubt helped save him."

No diagnosis is available at this time from BCS for what caused the medical emergency.

Garrett reported that the game was suspended. At this time, the plan is for the game to be rescheduled for Thursday night, February 15 at 6:00 PM.

"Extra counselors are on hand this morning at SCHS to support our players and coaches," added Garrett.

"Please keep this student-athlete and his family in your thoughts and prayers for a full and speedy recovery."

## Four Cascade Seniors Sign to Continue Athletic Careers in College

BY NOAH MADDOX  
noah@t-g.com

Cascade seniors Claire Perry, Addison Pope, Ivan Draine, Sawyer Lovvorn, and Lantz Peoples (all pictured) are set to continue their athletic careers past high school.

Perry, a softball

standout who also was the starting goalkeeper on the Lady Champs soccer team, signed with UT Southern on Wednesday, January 31, to continue her softball career.

Pope, surrounded by her family, friends, and teammates inside the Cascade High School Library,

signed with Freed-Hardeman University on Friday, February 2, to continue her volleyball career.

Draine signed with the William Penn Statesmen on Tuesday to continue his soccer career. He is planning to finish out his time at Cascade on the pitch in what promises to

be an exciting senior season.

Sawyer Lovvorn and Lantz Peoples both signed with Middle Tennessee State University and head coach Derek Mason to play football as preferred walk-ons on Wednesday, February 7, after extremely impressive senior seasons.



Claire Perry (center) signs with UTSouthern to play softball. Photo by David Smith.



Cascade Senior Ivan Draine (center) signs with William Penn to play soccer. Photo by David Smith.



Addison Pope (center) with family after signing with Freed-Hardeman to play volleyball. Photo by David Smith.



Cascade's Sawyer Lovvorn and Lantz Peoples with family after signing with MTSU to play football. Photo by David Smith.

## Shorthanded Champs Punch 11th Straight Region Ticket After Grounding Rockets

BY NOAH MADDOX  
noah@t-g.com

The Cascade Champions came into Monday night in unfamiliar territory under fourth-year head coach, Chris Lawson, needing a win to open district tournament play to secure the program's 11th consecutive regional berth. The previous three seasons, the Champions began tournament play in the district semi-finals, already having a regional quarterfinal game secured. This time however, Cascade would have to play their way into the semi-finals of the five-team District 9-AA Tournament as the fourth seed against the fifth seed Forrest Rockets in a rematch from Friday's rescheduled regular season clash despite key freshman big man Wickey Parker unable to play with his foot in a walking boot.

The Champions completed the season sweep, 52-43, over Chapel Hill on Monday in the District 9-AA Play-In game. "It [The 4 seed] isn't exactly where we wanted to be, but the guys have embraced it," Lawson said. After squeaking by with a 52-42 win just three days ago against these same Rockets despite trailing 16-12 to end the first quarter of that game, the Champions started off slow once again. Chapel Hill led 13-7 after the opening frame as they controlled the pace in the first eight minutes. Tucker McGee came off the bench to score five of his 12 points in the quarter, including a three-pointer, but Zach Crosslin was the only other Champion to score in the period as the hosts took over three minutes to score their first basket. Cascade would respond nicely in the second quarter, outscoring the Rockets 13-7 to draw level



Isaac McElroy (14) floats for two of his game-high 20 points in Monday's win. Photo by David Smith.

going into the halftime locker room at 20-20. The final two minutes of the half saw Chris Lawson employ the first bit of full-court pressure, a 2-2-1 zone press, of the evening, and it was the perfect move, sparking a mini-run to end the half with a couple of turnovers forced by Logan Pulley and Tyler Rodgers. That energy and swagger would carry over into the third quarter with Cascade scoring 17 in the period to take a 37-31 lead into the fourth. The fouls began to mount up for both teams, and Isaac McElroy would begin to take full advantage at the free throw line, scoring half of his game-high 20 points from the charity stripe. In Friday's win, McElroy went 10/12 from the line in his 24-point outing, and on Monday he replicated the feat, shooting a near-perfect 10/12 from the line again.

"You're either a one-level, two-level, or three-level scorer where you can score at the rim, knock down mid-range jump shots, and hit some threes (McElroy is 38% from downtown this year)," said Chris Lawson. He's started to do that while also getting to the free throw line which is huge, but we have also been trying to get other guys to understand that as well." McElroy becoming that three-level scorer for Cascade this season is instrumental to their postseason success, especially moving forward. Despite trailing by six entering the final frame, the three-win Chapel Hill team continued to fight, never letting the Champions extend their lead to more than 10 points. Despite this, Cascade's lead was also never really in doubt as they closed the door on Chapel Hill's

season with a 52-43 win. Cascade was led by McElroy's 20-point effort, and he was joined in double-figures by Tucker McGee with 12 points. Senior Saebyn Burris chipped in with eight points of his own. For Chapel Hill, Ben Villazon and Tristan Goad led the Rockets with 15 and 12 points respectively. The Champions move on to take on the number one seed in the district tournament, the Cannon County Lions, on Wednesday.

"Cannon county has a great team, Coach Nave [played at Cannon County] has quite a bit of experience as an Assistant, he has a pretty good team, picked up a transfer in the offseason, and he's managed to put all those pieces together," Lawson said on their next opponent.

"They do a great job, they're tough, they can score, they can get up and down the floor, and all 6 or 7 guys they play are a threat to shoot, drive, and score. It makes it tough defensively, you can't have any weaknesses, but it'll help us playing in our gym even though they'll bring a big crowd," he continued, "so this place should be rocking for that semifinal game. There will be a great environment on Wednesday." Lawson feels like his group of guys are embracing the moment the right way, in part due to some postseason experience from the last couple of years.

"Our guys understand what it takes, and they will be prepared to play." The Cascade Champions improve to 11-15 (4-4) on the season, and play Cannon County on Wednesday in the second game of the night, LIVE on WZNG The Zinger 100.9 and AM 1400 at 7:15 p.m.



Tucker McGee (13) had 12 points off the bench against the Rockets on Monday. Photo by David Smith.

### Bedford County Basketball Roundup

#### Shelbyville Central Girls: 15-11 (3-7)

Upcoming Game(s): 2/17 @ Coffee County in District 9-AAAA semi-final in Manchester, LIVE on WLJ 98.7 and AM 1580.  
Past week Result(s): 2/9 L 38-36 @ Columbia, 2/12 W vs Spring Hill 58-27.

#### Shelbyville Central Boys: 6-20 (2-8)

Upcoming Game(s): 2/17 @ Lincoln County in District 9-AAAA quarterfinal, LIVE on WLJ 98.7 and AM 1580 (postponed from 2/15).  
Past week Result(s): 2/9 L 69-52 @ Columbia.

#### Cascade Girls: 12-14 (4-4)

Upcoming Game(s): 2/15 vs Cannon County in the District 9-AA Championship in Bell Buckle, LIVE on The Zinger 100.9 WZNG and AM 1400.  
Past Week Result(s): 2/9 W 61-37 vs Chapel Hill and 2/13 W 45-43 vs Community in District 9-AA semi-final.

#### Cascade Boys: 11-15 (4-4)

Upcoming Game(s): (at time of print) 2/14 vs Cannon County in District 9-AA semi-final, and 2/16 in either District 9-AA Championship or Third-Place game vs either Community or Grundy County, LIVE on The Zinger 100.9 WZNG and AM 1400.

Past Week Result(s): 2/9 W 52-42 vs Chapel Hill and 2/12 W 52-43 W vs Chapel Hill in District 9-AA play-in game.

#### Community Girls: 10-17 (5-3)

Upcoming Game(s): 2/8 vs Grundy County and 2/9 @ Grundy County.  
Past Week Result(s): 2/8 W 49-45 vs Grundy County, 2/9 W 50-42 @ Grundy County, and 2/13 L 45-43 @ Cascade in District 9-AA semi-final.

#### Community Boys: 12-14 (4-4)

Upcoming Game(s): (at time of print) 2/14 vs Grundy County in District 9-AA semi-final, and 2/16 in either the District 9-AA Championship or Third-Place game vs Cannon County or Cascade.  
Past Week Result(s): 2/8 W 73-49 vs Grundy County, 2/9 L 69-65



# Jimmy Wright forecasts bright TCAT future

*Catching up with the new president*

“When the new campus opens, it will truly be a showcase for Shelbyville, Bedford County and southern middle Tennessee and a jewel among our public technical colleges across the state.”

-Jimmy Wright, new president of Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Shelbyville

By DAWN HANKINS

When the new TCAT-Shelbyville facility opens in 2025, new president Jimmy Wright anticipates an enrollment increase by 15 to 20%. He refers to the new facility as a showcase for this area and middle Tennessee.

“When the new campus opens, it will truly be a showcase for Shelbyville, Bedford County and southern middle Tennessee and a jewel among our public technical colleges across the state.”

In a special called meeting last October, the Tennessee Board of Regents appointed Wright as the next president of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) Shelbyville.

Wright, the chief student affairs officer at Big Sandy Community and Technical College in Kentucky, officially took office Dec. 1, succeeding Dr. Laura Monks, who retired month after 6 years as the college’s chief executive officer and 30 years of service in the TBR system.

A reception to introduce Wright was recently held in Shelbyville. Wright recently discussed with the T-G how highly anticipates a very bright future for TCAT-S.

Wright said that he’s really looking forward to the grand opening of the new TCAT-S, which will be located off Highway 231 North. He said all staff is excited to realize the “amazing” educational and workforce opportunities TCAT will offer at its new location.

The new TCAT-Shelbyville center has a construction completion date of late 2025, Wright said. American Constructors Inc. of Brentwood was awarded the construction contract and Bauer Askew Architecture of Nashville is the project’s design firm. The project at 2905 Highway 231 North includes two new state-of-the-art buildings.

A two-story academic building will house general academic classrooms, student services, administrative offices, a student commons and eatery, and a multi-use atrium space on the main floor.

The second floor will include more general classrooms, faculty office suites, labs for the college’s nursing, computer-aided design (CAD) technology, and office technology programs, and related support spaces.

A one-story industrial workshop building that will include eight classroom and skills labs for the college’s automotive technology, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR), industrial electricity, industrial maintenance, machine tool technology, and welding technology programs, and related support spaces.

“One goal is to work alongside faculty and business partners to increase the number of students able to access each program.”

The design enables future expansion of the two initial structures, plus additional buildings as needed on the 20-acre site, as TCAT Shel-



JIMMY L. WRIGHT

byville expands its program offerings and to accommodate classes and programs offered by partnering colleges and universities.

A unanimous decision

The new TCAT president earned a master of arts in higher education from Morehead State University, a bachelor of business administration in management from Sullivan University, an associate in applied science, from Prestonsburg Community College and a diploma in data processing from Mayo Technical School.

Wright is currently working toward a doctor of education in educational leadership at Morehead State University.

He joined the technology support staff of Prestonsburg Community College (which merged with Mayo Technical College in 2003 to become Big Sandy Community and Technical College) in 1996 and was appointed system manager four years later. He subsequently rose in the college’s ranks to associate dean of student affairs, dean of student affairs and registrar, and in 2018, to chief student affairs officer, a member of the college president’s cabinet.

“TCAT Shelbyville already has a strong reputation for the quality of its programs and services and I look forward to working with the faculty and staff to lead the college to even greater levels of success in serving the students and communities of southern Middle Tennessee,” Wright said following his appointment by TBR. “I’m grateful to the Board of Regents for this opportunity to serve and I will work hard every day to live up to its expectations of excellence.”

He was one of the finalists selected by a presidential search advisory committee and who participated in public forums and interviews on the Shelbyville campus Sept. 27. After reviewing feedback and comment from the forums and conducting final interviews, TBR Chancellor Flora W. Tydings recommended Wright’s appointment to the Board of Regents.

Regent MaryLou Apple, former president of Motlow College, who chaired the search committee, supported the chancellor’s recommendation and made the motion for Wright’s appointment.

The board unanimously approved.



## FUN AND EDUCATIONAL

Submitted Photos  
During their recent trip to Gatlinburg, Community High criminal justice students were career-focused through several learning activities. President and senior, Madison Lohn, learned how to ascend a rope and transition in a rescue situation. Kiera Milewski and student partner, Anthony Reyna, competed in an unknown call response as law enforcement officers. Criminal justice instructor Chris Hobbs, shown in the class photo, said he’s very proud of all the students. Chaperone was Melanie Bryant.



Madison Lohn, class president on the ropes



Kiera Milewski, Anthony Reyna

## A little TCAT history

TCAT was authorized by House Bill 633, passed by the Tennessee General Assembly on March 15, 1963, and approved by the governor on March 22, 1963. The college was governed by the Tennessee Department of Education until 1983, when control was transferred to the Tennessee Board of Regents by House Bill 697 and Senate Bill 746.

Located on a 20-acre (81,000 m2) tract of land at 1405 Madison Street (U.S. Highway 41-A) approximately two miles east of downtown Shelbyville, the college serves individuals from a broad geographical area including but not limited to Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Lincoln, Marshall, Moore, and Rutherford counties.

The first of its kind to be constructed, the Tennessee College of Applied Technology - Shelbyville, opened its doors on November 30, 1964, for full-time preparatory programs with 41 students enrolled in six programs (Air Conditioning/Refrigeration, Auto Mechanics, Drafting, Industrial Electricity, Machine Shop and Welding.)

The Tennessee Technology Center at Shelbyville became the Tennessee College of Applied Technology - Shelbyville on July 1, 2013 under Senate Bill No. 643 House Bill No. 236\*. Approval of Public Chapter No. 473.





# WE'RE ON THE GRID!

## TIPS FOR SAVING YOU DOLLARS AT HOME



DREMC will host a free home workshop March 26 at 6 p.m. at the DREMC office at 1411 Madison St. The event includes a light supper, plus each participating household will receive a FREE energy-saving starter kit.

## DREMC to host FREE Home Energy Workshops

Reserve your seat now at Duck River Electric's FREE Home Energy Workshop!

Get valuable advice on how to improve the energy efficiency of your home before summer arrives. The Home Energy Workshop will be held in Shelbyville

on Tuesday, March 26, at 6 p.m. at the DREMC office located at 1411 Madison Street.

Home Energy Workshops are conducted by DREMC's Residential Energy Advisor who helps attendees better understand how energy is

used in the home, what repairs or upgrades will make the biggest impact on your energy bill and more.

Workshop participants will also learn about rebates available through the TVA Energy Right Residential Services Program for

existing homes and new home construction that encourage energy efficiency. The rebates are designed to assist DREMC members in achieving their goals to improve energy efficiency year-round and create a more comfortable home.

The event includes a light supper, plus each participating household will receive a FREE energy-saving starter kit.

For more information about DREMC's Home Energy Workshops or to enroll, visit [www.dremc.com/](http://www.dremc.com/)

workshop or call (931) 680-5880. Due to limited space, please reserve your seat in advance.

Dates and locations of other Home Energy Workshops being offered by DREMC are listed on their website.

## 3 great reasons to replace aging windows

Windows in a home are easy to take for granted. Unless windows are showing signs of wear and tear or so dirty that it's hard to see through them, it's easy for them to go unnoticed. However, replacement windows can add value to a home and even save homeowners a substantial amount of money.

Much of the savings that can be attributed to new windows is related to energy efficiency. The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy estimates that as much as 30 percent of heating and cooling energy can be lost through heat gain or heat loss, and aging, inefficient windows contribute to such losses. Replacing those win-

dows can save homeowners substantial amounts of money, with one expert at Angi estimating that installation of energy efficient windows can help trim energy bills by as much as 12 percent.

Cost savings are often noted when firms promote replacement windows, but homeowners should know that replacement windows also provide numerous additional benefits. In fact, the following are three great reasons for homeowners to consider upgrading their windows today.

1. New windows help reduce carbon footprint. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that replacing single-pane windows

with ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> certified windows can help to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by a significant margin. The EPA reports that such windows can save the equivalent of as much as 6,200 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions thanks to reduced energy consumption associated with the new windows.

2. New windows can brighten a home. Natural light brightens a room and can make it appear larger. Homeowners who have grown accustomed to old windows may not realize how little light such windows let into their homes. Aging windows can become foggy over time and prevent natural light from getting into a home.

That can create a gloomy feel and force homeowners to turn up the thermostat on cold days. New windows brighten the home and the natural light that pours in on a cold day can help heat the home at the same time.

3. New windows cut down on noise. Window manufacturers are always on the lookout for ways to produce windows that make homes more comfortable. Noise reduction is one way to accomplish that goal, and Consumer Reports notes that triple-glazed windows can help to dramatically reduce outside noise. Homeowners who currently have single-pane windows may be astonished by the difference in outside noise levels when



upgrading to triple-glazed windows, which contain a third layer of glass. That third layer of glass significantly reduces noise levels, making triple-glaze windows ideal for homes on busy streets or those in urban areas with lots

of foot traffic. Replacement windows pay numerous dividends. Homeowners can reap these rewards and others by replacing aging windows.

## Tricks to trim your utility bill

A rapid rise in the cost of living will undoubtedly prove to be one of the major stories of 2024. Here are some tips for saving at home. Families need to eat and many professionals now must return to in-person work after years of pandemic-related remote working, which means they must confront higher fuel costs. That leaves little room to save money in those areas. However, there are ways for families to reduce home en-



ergy costs without adversely affecting their quality of life.

• Run appliances during off-peak hours. According

to the United States Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the best time to use appliances in a home is when overall electricity use is low. Though this time changes depending on the season and can vary based on geography, the DOE and the EPA both note that after 9 p.m. and before 9 a.m. are generally the off-peak hours in most areas.

• Strategically use your shades and blinds. The ener-

gy providers at ConEd estimate that about 40 percent of unwanted heat comes through windows. Strategic use of curtains, shades and blinds can keep heat out on hot days, thus allowing homeowners to turn the thermostat up on their air conditioning units in summer. Opening curtains, blinds and shades on winter mornings and afternoons will allow more sunlight in, allowing homeowners to control heating costs more effectively.

• Reorganize your refrigerator. There are plenty of contradictory strategies regarding how best to store foods

in a refrigerator so the unit consumes as little energy as possible while still keeping foods fresh and chilled. But various energy providers, including ConEd, recommend that consumers avoid packing a fridge too tightly. By allowing cold air to circulate within the refrigerator, the refrigerator won't need to work as hard, and thus consume as much energy, to keep foods cool. It's important to note that the opposite should govern how the freezer is packed. Packing frozen items tightly in the freezer will help the refrigerator work a little less hard.

• Turn off the lights. Estimates from the U.S. Energy Information Administration indicate that electricity for lighting accounts for around 10 percent of electricity consumption in homes. A concerted effort to turn off lights in rooms that aren't being used can help consumers save money.

Rising utility bills are compelling millions of people to seek ways to trim their energy consumption. Thankfully, there are many ways to do that without upsetting daily routines.

## Simple ways to save on heating costs

Comfort takes center stage each winter. This season has been no exception.

As people look to stay warm, many may be quick to turn up the thermostat so their entire home is toasty warm. But much like cranking air conditioners during the dog days of summer, turning up the thermostat each time the winter winds begin blowing can prove costly for homeowners.

According to estimates from the National Energy Assistance Directors Association, homeowners spend an average of \$900 on home heating costs in the winter. The winter months to spring could prove even more expensive.

All those hours spent at home figure to increase reliance on heaters this winter, which means heating bills are likely to go up as the temperatures go down.

Finding ways to save on heating costs will no doubt

prove a priority for many homeowners and the following are some ways to do just that.

• Add insulation. Extra insulation throughout the house can dramatically reduce home heating (and cooling) costs. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, adding insulation in attics, crawl spaces and basement rim joists can help homeowners save as much as 15 percent on heating costs.

• Lower the temperature on your water heater. Another way to trim your energy bill this winter is to lower the temperature on your water heater. The U.S. Department of Energy notes that, for every 10 F reduction in temperature on their water heaters, homeowners can save between 3 and 5 percent on their water heating costs.

• Close the flue on your fireplace. Fireplaces can keep a home's inhabitants warm in winter, but only when they're

in use. When they're not being used, fireplaces can allow heat to escape a home. When the fireplace is not being used, close the flue to prevent heat from escaping the house. Keeping all windows and doors closed throughout the day is another way to prevent unnecessary heat loss.

• Have your HVAC system serviced. Inefficient HVAC systems cost homeowners considerable amounts of money each year. Annual maintenance performed by a certified HVAC professional can ensure filters are clean and operating at peak efficiency, saving homeowners the costly trouble of having to turn up the thermostat to overcome dirty systems.

Home heating costs figure to increase this winter as people spend more time at home. Various simple strategies can help homeowners stay warm without overpaying to heat their homes this winter.

**There's no place like**  
*an energy-efficient home.*

Be sure to check out the rebates available from Duck River Electric and TVA EnergyRight as you consider any home energy efficiency improvement projects. From HVAC systems to air sealing and insulation, the home energy rebates increase the affordability of upgrades that can help lower utility bills and boost indoor comfort year-round.

Visit [www.dremc.com/dremc-rebates](http://www.dremc.com/dremc-rebates) for details on how to qualify for a rebate before you begin your energy improvement projects.

