

Historic Bell Buckle School abandoned not forgotten



Photos by Friends of the Historic BB School

The Old Bell Buckle School on Peacock Lane is about to undergo restoration. This photo of students at the school was taken prior to the fire in 1972.

"Friends" and alumni press on with restoration

By DAWN HANKINS

Art can come in many forms in a community, including landscapes and mosaics. The Friends of the Historic Bell Buckle School (FHBS) continue to move forward with an artful project of a different nature.

Originally from Lawrenceburg, and now a very involved resident of the Town of Bell Buckle, Janie J. Becker, along with the board, saw a potential beautification project in the making within the historic halls a few years ago.

A biologist by profession, Becker has volunteered with the Bell Buckle Park Board. She volunteers for the Nature Conservancy and is currently working on the state wildlife action plan for Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA).

"This is what I do with my spare time," the mom of two Thomas Magnet students says.

She serves as outreach coordinator for the Bell Buckle School restoration project. She is also working with the Bell Buckle Tree project which is this weekend during Daffodil Day (See adjacent story.) The pre-ordered trees will be located at Bell Buckle Park.

"The town will be marketed for the general public, as a tourist destination," says Becker. "But we are lacking facilities for the community. The park is a star feature of Bell Buckle. How many towns with under 500 have a park like ours?"

She notes the Town of Bell Buckle Park features bronze and mosaic sculptures by well-known artists. She says it really is beautiful and it only seems right to connect a restored landmark with those 14 acres of green space.

She says with a seamless connection, one can complement the other. She can envision bird box building events or even community theater at the re-

stored facility.

First things first

To make all those dreams come true, there must be fundraisers. A "Friend-raising ice cream social will be held at the historic Bell Buckle School site on May 4 from 2 to 4 p.m.

"We've raised over \$20,000, but we have a long way to go," advises Becker.

She said the project will also have to be approved by the Town of Bell Buckle since it is a town property. Becker said there is a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Town of Bell Buckle, only for fundraising and management of the restoration.

"We would like to raise enough for an endowment of some sort, so we can have some operational funds."

Becker says a couple of years ago, it was realized how there's a building-one with potential for lots of community activity-sitting right in front of the beautified park. That building of course is the old Bell Buckle School.

"As I learned more about the history of it and how dear it was to people, because it was the last thing remaining from the original school, it just seemed like a potential way for it to happen."

The school's history

The history of the Bell Buckle High School, as recorded by the Heritage Development Report Project at Middle Tennessee State University, notes the Bell Buckle High School officially opened on Sept. 9, 1927. Bell Buckle High School was a great success for the town of Bell Buckle and enrollment continued to increase throughout the years, making additions to the school necessary.

"The Center for Historic Preservation in Murfreesboro created a historic development for us in 2022," says Becker, noting they worked hard on research she didn't even have at the time.



"See that wall over there, if only it could talk. It did one day back then, with an old piece of chalk." (Margaret Britton Vaughn, poet laureate of Tennessee.)

A tragic day

According to the Center for Historic Preservation, Bell Buckle School's trajectory changed in 1972. Tragedy struck in the early hours of the morning on April 18. A fire broke out in what is thought to be the gymnasium of the historic school around midnight.

It was reported that the fire alarm sounded at 12:30 a.m., following the conclusion of a PTA meeting at 9:30 p.m., the night before. Billy Crosslin, a resident of Bell Buckle, was returning home from work when he observed the smoke from the burning school.

Crosslin had stated that "the gym was already on fire and going fast. Flames were already coming from the roof." After the fire was extinguished, only the elementary classrooms survived, leaving the 350 students who attended grades first through 12 without a school.

Jack Montgomery, then chairman of Bedford County Board of Education, quickly responded with a temporary solution to run two shifts at the nearby Wartrace school.

BB School closed

On April 25, 1972, members



Janie J. Becker, member of Friends of the Historic Bell Buckle School

of the Bedford County School Board of Education unanimously voted to build a new school but not in Bell Buckle. They located Cascade School between Bell Buckle and Wartrace to accommodate grades kindergarten through 8 and a high school for grades 9 through 12 with the new addition of a county-wide

See BB SCHOOL, 2A



Submitted Photo

SHE'S READY TO RIDE

Mackenzie Davis-Waddell is all excited that she'll be riding in a few weeks in the first horse show of the season. Mackenzie's horse is 18-year-old Jose Today.

47th Bell Buckle Daffodil Day, Saturday

This Saturday is the prime opportunity to enjoy everything daffodil-related in northeastern Bedford County as Bell Buckle celebrates its 47th Annual Daffodil Day.

Drive down Highway 231 North, take a right at Highway 82 and head toward Bell Buckle. The town guarantees tranquil time within the yellow beauty that borders the road to the historic railroad town.

You know that old saying "Smile and the World smiles with you?" Well, it started with a daffodil! And it's reported in the town that no one could ever look at those bright little, yellow, spring beauties and not smile back!

And Bell Buckle is all about smiles AND daffodils this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bell Buckle residents note they go together like, well, an RC and a MoonPie!

There is the ever-popular Daffodil Day Flower Show, the tree seedling give-away, spring plantings for sale, new spring merchandise at the stores, and so much more to do and smile about, according to Bell Buckle Chamber of Commerce.

The Daffodil Flower Show, according to the BB Chamber, has really become quite the competition. Ribbons are awarded for each category in first, second, and third place. Go to <http://bell-bucklechamber.com/daffodil-days-2/daffodil-day-flower-show-rules/> for more information on entering including

See DAFFODIL DAY, 2A



BB Chamber Photo

A big Daffodil flower show will be held Saturday in Bell Buckle during Daffodil Days. Ribbons will be presented.

SPD needs to grow with City

Chief Jan Phillips presents data

By Dawn Hankins

This is the first in a series of articles from topics discussed during a Community Development Workshop held last month by the City of Shelbyville. Next week, we'll feature the City Public Works Department.

As Shelbyville continues to grow, so does the local police department and all that comes with it. Basically, the more people who move

in, the more officers that have to be hired.

During a community development workshop in February, Chief Jan Phillips of the Shelbyville Police Department shared with a room full of stakeholders, planning commission members and City officials how continued City growth will affect law enforcement services.

"In regards to growth in our department,

'Before the state came down and mandated SROs in all the schools, we did a school walkthrough every day and in every school inside the City. We still do walkthroughs in all those schools, every day.'

- Shelbyville Police Chief Jan Phillips

for years, we've had 49 sworn officers but in the last 2 to 3 years, we've increased our officers up to 52, allotted, now. At the present time, we have 50. So, we are looking to hire two more to get our 52."

He said with the growth trends for Shelbyville, additional hiring is not far away. The normal ratio for officer departments, Phillips advised, is 2 officers per 1,000 people.

He said currently, Shelbyville's population is around 25,000, which means Shelbyville must hire a minimum of 50 sworn officers to adequately support the community.

Phillips said what's recommended by Ten-

See SPD, 3A



ON THE INSIDE

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Spring has arrived

Spring is finally here in Bedford County, see some local pictures welcoming spring.

See Page 12A



County vs City

A legal battle over who receives local sales tax revenue begins. See both city and county's side of the story.

See Page 5A



BB SCHOOL

From page 1

vocational program. With the building of Cascade school, the remaining parts of the Bell Buckle School were abandoned.

The on-going project
Time has withered the panes and hallways. And Becker notes how the Town of Bell Buckle does not need to lose this historic building. "The plan is to make it a complement to the park so that it is a community center."

FHBBS board members recently met with John Davis and Lyndon Brown of Davis Stokes Architectural Firm to discuss its wants and needs for the renovation. The meeting included a tour of the building, and followed up at the home of Katie Banks, where plans and sketches were shared.

For several years, John Davis, a Bedford County native with a heart for the school, was architect for Bedford County school projects.

"Anything great that's done, starts bit by bit," says Becker. "Just because we're a small town doesn't mean we don't have a lot of talents and skills and ideas. You just have to have a plan and the motivation and see it through."

Becker says the historic building can house everything from wellness events to workshop space for a pottery class in the historic space. With Bell Buckle's artistic ties, she says it's just logical to pursue this project.

Becker, who lives on Peacock Street where the historic school and park are located, says her career to date has been spent in one aspect or another of natural resources, agriculture, or research.

"My idea of a good time is to spend time outside with my two children, working to conserve and improve natural spaces . . . championing community potential."

As for the school restoration project, she says the primary focus would be just a recreational space for the community, game nights and senior events. "Recreation is a key part . . . encompasses so many things, not all tennis courts and

swimming pools." Becker explains that once the project is complete, which will likely be a while, areas of memorabilia will be set up to honor those who studied and taught within the halls and also those who supported the historic school all those years.

"We have other big things that will come soon," she notes. "We are still in this middle point right now. We have retained an architect and they're working on the first draft plans."

She advised that part of the restoration is to repair the industrial-type windows of the school which have been bricked up over the years. She notes the idea is for a "modern green space" but one that maintains the historic tie backs.

"We are lucky to have so many things that we have," says Becker. "I did not want to see it go to waste."

She said plans are to also have an area in the school dedicated to Bell Buckle's own Maggie Vaughn, poet laureate of Tennessee. (The photos on page 2 today have cutlines from a poem, "When An Old School House Talks" Maggie wrote back in 2022.)

Becker advises the board is really anxious to see this project more forward. She adds each member of FHBBS is very important to this restoration project. The board includes, in addition to Becker, Mark King, who attended Bell Buckle School as a child, Sara Nell Lee Fox, Nita Featherstone Carroll, Katie Banks, Edwina Chilton, Andrew McRady and Amy Strobel.

Becker says everyone remembers their schools growing up. But because Bell Buckle was such a small community and many cried as the flames took their beloved school down, they still have a deep, abiding love for the facility.

It was almost like the grief of the town was never repaired after that tragic loss. But Becker is confident all that is about to change.

"We truly have something special in Bell Buckle. Our assortment of backgrounds and professions, of talents and know-how are trea-

sures of our community. Yet, with so many events and celebrations open to visitors throughout the year, we have long needed a place for our residents to gather."

Becker says the restored school building is anticipated to be a space designed to bring Bell Buckle together for both the everyday activities and the one-of-a-kind experiences unique to the town.

"We just don't want it to deteriorate anymore," says Becker. "We'd like to give something that alums could see . . . give them something they can cherish again and be proud of again."

The mission of FHBBS is to provide a community center but is also an effort to honor the past and connect current and future residents with what has come before to strengthen their sense of belonging.

"In this building I see birthday parties and plays, game nights and art exhibits, scout meetings and cooking classes--generations making new memories that will only reinforce the ties to our community. There is so much potential within these walls, and I am grateful to participate in this effort."

Becker says she's written grants and managed small events. This restoration is by far the largest project.

Becker says the board has a positive attitude and wants to see this restoration to fruition. She admits the process can be tough.

She says how it has been mentioned that the school will need an elevator so people can reach the second floor. Becker says that the second floor simply won't be open to the general public. Problem solved.

The board believes though the building right now is a mere shell of its former state, through active measures it can become something that can be transformed into a multi-purpose, community-driven recreation center-one lasting for many years to come.

"It's been an uphill climb to get here . . . just glad we're here," says Becker. "I

just know we're going to see it through. We're a can-do crew."

Find out more about the Bell Buckle school project and Friends of Historic Bell

Buckle School at bellbuckleschool.org and FHBBS on Facebook.



The Times-Gazette covered the Bell Buckle School fire in 1972 and its aftermath. Bell Buckle school burned in 1972. This would close the school permanently and students would eventually move to the new Cascade School between Wartrace and Bell Buckle.



STOPPED IT HERE--Firemen and volunteers stopped the progress of blaze at this point and saved four elementary classrooms.

DAFFODIL DAY

From page 1

times and instructions on the different daffodil classes. It's free to enter.

The show will be held at the Bell Buckle Mini-Banquet Hall 2 next to The Farm Girlz Finery. There will be over 18 categories, ranging from a youth division to a spirited hometown competition category. The schedule is as follows: 10:00-11:30 p.m. entries accepted; 11:30-12:30 show closed for judging; 12:30 Daffodil Show winners announced.

To welcome spring, Buckle will also be giving out FREE tree seedlings for the 24th year in a row as part of its Tree City USA status. This year's seedlings to be given away are Mockernut Oak, Shellbark Hickory, and Persimmon trees. They will be available on the quilt square downtown in front of the stores. There is a limited amount and first come, first served.

Bell Buckle started planting the smiling little yellow faces over 100 years ago and oh how they have multiplied! Now over a century later, they are still "smiling and warming the souls of everyone" on



The area is filled with sweet daffodils- a nice start to the spring season.

their way to Bell Buckle. For more information on Daffodil Day and other upcoming events in Bell Buckle, contact: www.bellbuckleschool.org



The old Bell Buckle school as it is today.

One step at a time

Thanks to the diligence and hard work of Mark King, the Friends of the Historic Bell Buckle School has 501(c)3 nonprofit status with the state and the federal governments. This will help tremendously in Friends' efforts to raise funds and find external grant funding.

Located in Bell Buckle, the Historic Bell Buckle School has been vacant for years, yet still holds a special place in the hearts and minds of those many who once walked its halls. Despite its current state as a mere shell of its former self, the former students and local community are determined to prevent it from further disrepair and to bring life back to the building. The "Friends" are taking active measures to restore the school and transform it into a multi-purpose community-driven recreation center.

The FHBBS is mandated to restore and renovate the former school structure



Bell Buckle Mayor Ronnie Lokey, a graduate of BB High School and Mark King, who attended Bell Buckle School as a child and is now chair of Friends of Historic BB School, signed a memo of understanding for the restoration project of the historic education facility. The Town of Bell Buckle is managing the funds for the restoration project.

for use as a community facility with an emphasis on recreation. Special attention will be paid to the history of the existing structure as a school and the ambience of the original school will be conserved as carefully as possible. The facility will provide space for indoor recreational activities, community activities, classes and

workshops. Photographs and historic memorabilia will be integrated into the interior design to remind visitors of the former function and its link to both school attendees and our Bell Buckle history. This renovation will provide a much-needed facility for the town while preserving an important piece of Bell Buckle history.

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T-G Photos by Dawn Hankins
Bedford County Commissioner Greg Vick (center) gave a state of education address to the County Commission on Tuesday night. At left is Commissioner Drew Hooker and at right is Commissioner Janice Brothers.

Commissioner Vick talks state of education
Another attorney-client meeting held

By Dawn Hankins

Prior to the County Commission's recess for a private, attorney-client meeting on Tuesday night, Commissioner Greg Vick gave a state of Bedford County education address.

He told Commissioners and those in attendance for the regular monthly meeting that 32% of the student population lives in poverty. Vick said the entire school system is on the federal free lunch program as a result.

"That means that one-third of our kids live in poverty, one-third," stated Vick. "Only Perry County is higher at 42%."

Many parts of this talk were not pleasant, in the sense that Bedford County education is at the bottom in the region in many areas. Backing up his talk, Vick shared lots of data provided by fellow Commissioner John Boutwell, who has researched per pupil spending for several years.

The Commissioners received a letter in their packets from Commissioner Boutwell on how education dollars are being spent. Commissioner Vick took that letter and ran with it.

Commissioner Vick said there's been an additional \$1 billion added to the Tenn Investment Student Achievement (TISA) funds (old BEP program.) Federal dollars are allocated and distributed from a second account.

The student population only keeps growing too. There is an increase of over 200 students in Bedford County this year. "That means our school system is one of the fastest growing systems in our region," advised Vick.

He said Bedford County received \$18.5 million more under TISA than the former BEP program. Of that, \$4.7 million was applied to vocational training. "That means we have \$13.7 million injected into our system. Remember, the state does not pay for bricks and mortar, only for students."

He added, "So within the fast-growing system, we have to look at how our demographic make-up is affected, because we all know that is a real challenge in our school system. We have these pockets of intense poverty and then we have rural poverty."

Other data provided was that the student Hispanic population in Bedford County is at 28%-the highest in this region. He said that's a local challenge. "We also have intense pockets of non-English speaking students and the overall non-English-speaking student population is 14%. "Again, that's the highest in our



Prior to an attorney-client meeting Tuesday night, County Commissioner Drew Hooker requested the Bedford County Commission meeting be recessed, not adjourned. No further action was taken after the Commission returned to the court room.

region. Maury County is 6%; we're double that. Everybody else is in single digits."

Vick said this year, Bedford County will spend per pupil \$9,114.98 on each student. "Again, guess what? It's the lowest spending per pupil among our cohorts."

He said Perry and Franklin Counties spend over \$10,000 per student. "We're at the very bottom in student funding in our region. For the past 6 years, this Commission has been trying to dig out of this deep hole that was given to us, and let me tell you, it's a deep hole."

He said the County's "saving grace" has been school superintendent Tammy Garrett, who has accepted the challenges and is making great strides in improvements. He mentioned how Cascade High School is now a 5-Star School, based on state accountability standards.

He credited Bedford County teachers and principals with being the best and making students their priority. "God bless each one of them," Vick shared.

He questioned fellow Commissioners on how the County can help make all schools 5-Star. "First we want to do it . . . back up our want to with our funding."

He said Band-Aid solutions are no longer the answer. He said every dollar and revenue source has to be protected and analyzed.

"We have to decide if we want our families and kids to have top-rated schools. Or do we want to continue drowning at the bottom? Mr. Chairman we have to accept the challenges that we have. We have to make Bedford County a better place. We cannot continue leaving our education system underfunded and at the bottom."

He urged the public to call, after the meeting,

their Commissioners, the City Mayor and Council and tell them to fund local schools-give local kids the opportunity to live and grow in a "prosperous community."

Following its approximate 40-minute recess, the Commission returned to the court room and reopened the meeting. There was no further discussion so the meeting was adjourned close to 8:30 p.m.

In other business, the Commission:

Moved to allow the County to apply for a "small cities" Community Development Block Grant on behalf of the Town of Normandy. Mayor Chad Graham said this has been done for other communities. He said Normandy would absorb the cost for matching dollars (18% or \$50,488) of the \$280,000 grant-one which the Town of Normandy states would be earmarked for street repair work.

Deferred any action on a Board of Education budget amendment until the April meeting. The motion to defer was made by Commissioner Drew Hooker. He stated because Robert Daniel, financial director, and schools superintendent Tammy Garrett were neither at the meeting, he had rather wait until next month so that more information could be gathered from BOE regarding what Hooker deemed a fairly large amendment to the general-purpose budget.

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SPD

From page 1

Tennessee Law Enforcement is 2.4 officers for a 25,000 population. The chief estimates that Shelbyville really needs to be thinking soon about a 60 sworn officer department, based on its current growth trends.

Trends show Shelbyville growth at an annual rate of 1.76 percent. "With growth coming in and subdivisions building, 600-700 houses, that's going to increase our call volume. Call to services is the main thing we have to deal with."

Phillips told the audience that when subdivisions are close in proximity, there will be traffic issues and other types of problems like domestic problems and theft, barking dogs-all issues under the authority of SPD as part of its community service.

In 2022, SPD answered 22,344 service calls. In 2023, SPD answered 25,232-an increase of 2,888 service calls from one year to next.

The chief discussed the SPD employees-those which he praised. SPD currently consists of 64 full-time employees and two part-time. The largest division is the uniformed patrol division which consists of 39 sworn patrol officers.

The department has seven full-time and one part-time communication employees. Eight employees are assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division. This includes 5 detectives, one certified crime scene officer, one K9 officer (plans are to add one more), and one civilian employee who manages property and evidence.

The division also supplies one officer to the 17th Judicial Drug Task Force.

The Administration and Records division consists of seven employees. This accounts for the Office of Chiefs, Major of Patrol, Professional Standards and Training, and the Records Division.

The Animal Control Division has three full-time employees and one part-time employee.

The chief, who has served Shelbyville for over 40 years, said there are now around 70 calls dispatched to SPD each day.

There were 1,994 arrests in 2023 and the SPD issued over 4,000 citations.

Phillips said there were two homicides and one fatality in 2023, which he considers very good statistics for the City. He said compared to some years past, this is good.

Phillips said there is one police department which has a response time to a violent crime of 45 minutes. He said that's not acceptable and SPD's current response time is 6 minutes within the City limits.

A question was asked

about the dire need for an expanded police department or additional precincts. Phillips said SPD is working with the City Council in hopes of getting another SPD facility and possibly another precinct on the north side of town.

City Mayor Randy Carroll asked Phillips to explain about the role of School Resource Officers (SROs) as it applies to the police department.

"Before the state came down and mandated SROs in all the schools, we did a school walkthrough every day and in every school inside the City," shared Chief Phillips. "We still do walkthroughs in all those schools, every day."

He said he and Deputy Chief Brian Crews have worked with school superintendent Tammy Garrett on making sure there is sufficient law enforcement at the schools. In the past, when there was an absence of SROs, he said his officers worked on their days off to keep the schools safe.

He said City elementary schools did not have SROs last year. But since then, the school system has increased its number to meet the requirements.

2023 SPD data

According to SPD's annual report for 2023, a review of crime data from the Tennessee Incident-Based Reporting System (TIBRS), the SPD recorded 2,370 offenses in 2023.

This represents a 27% increase from the 1,869 offenses recorded in 2022. The increase can be attributed to various factors, the most significant being the rise in population and increase in high visibility patrols and proactive policing.

SPD, according to the 2023 report, utilizes grant funding through the Tennessee Highway Safety Office to concentrate specifically on DUI enforcement. Officers conducted numerous saturation patrols, explicitly focusing on impaired driving. Their efforts resulted in 162 motorists arrested for suspicion of driving under the influence in 2023.

The SPD responded to 85 calls for service regarding overdose just last year. The misuse and abuse of prescription and illicit drugs continue to be the primary cause of overdose in Shelbyville, reports note.

Naloxone, often known by its nasal spray application brand name Narcan, is a proven tool in the battle against overdose death. In 2023, in a continued effort to limit the number of deaths resulting from an overdose, the Shelbyville Police Department held a recertification class on the administration of Narcan.

All Shelbyville patrol officers are issued Narcan and are trained in medical first aid response to persons experiencing the effects of the abuse of opioids. Officers administered approximately 20 doses of Narcan in 2023.

The annual report notes that many lives were saved because of SPD's response. Officers who saved the life of another were awarded the Lifesaving Award at the annual Back the Blue awards dinner in September. Those awarded were: David Dye, Andrew Le Roy, Bryan Lashwood, Dylan Farrar, Laterra Holt, Brock Horner, Aaron Tankersley, Josh Graves, TJ Teal, Jeremiah Guinn, Letisia Diaz, Jerry Lawrence.

In 2023, animal control officers responded to 1,135 calls for service, which is an increase from the 1,070 calls received in 2022. It should be noted that some calls may be initially reported as one type but later changed to another. For example, a call for an aggressive dog at large may be reported, but after investigation, the animal control officers may determine that the dog is not aggressive and change the call type to an animal at large. The majority of calls, 70%, were related to animals at large.

In 2023, the Criminal Investigations Division was assigned a total of 1,959 cases, resulting in 199 arrests.

- Detective Nathan Everhart filed charges on 14 individuals out of compliance with Tennessee Sex Offender registration laws.

- 172 Cell Phones were submitted for a forensic extraction of data.

- 1,118 items of evidence were processed, and 229 were submitted to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation for forensic analysis.

- 51 items of property that were found, recovered from being stolen, or evidence from adjudicated cases were returned to their rightful owner.

- Criminal Investigations collected a total of 157 interview videos.

- A total of 133 video requests for case files were received from Patrol Officers.

- Per Tennessee Law Enforcement Accreditation standards, evidence destruction occurred in October 2023. Sgt. Bill Logue and Sheri Rhodes delivered the items to PSC Metals in Nashville, where the items were crushed.

- On July 17th, 2023, 96 guns were removed from evidence and sold.

- Sergeants Cody Swift and Bill Logue, Detective Everhart, and Property and Evidence Technician Sheri Rhodes participated in NIBIN training.

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SHELBYVILLE
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Submitted Photo

Student members of Community High School's Criminal Justice program perform many valuable services for the community such as the toy drive for needy children as well as administering child ident-a-kits. These students also compete in criminal justice focused competitions throughout the year. These student members worked hard this year through fund raising efforts to purchase their uniforms and gear! With this being the first year of the program, these students have set the bar high! None of this would have been possible without the guidance and support of Principal, Dr. Robert Ralston (left in group picture) whom the students requested to dedicated this year's student organization to!

Community's Criminal Justice Student Organization

Criminal Justice Instructor:
Mr. Chris Hobbs

2023-2024

1. President: Madison Lohn
2. Vice-President: Riley Wesbrooks
3. Secretary: Brailey Whitehead
4. Treasurer: Isabella Schlatter
5. Captain: Lucas Pendergrast Jr.
6. Lieutenant: Owen Conner
7. Lieutenant: Marissa Hill
8. Sergeant: Maleeah Martin
9. Sergeant: Ethan Eynon
10. Sergeant: Kiera Milewski
11. Lizzy Beasley
12. Jayse Monroe
13. Evan Roberts
14. Landon Hill
15. Keriah Reccord
16. Diana Flores
17. Ariel Stout
18. Brayden McClimtock
19. Charlee Karssen
20. Marely Luciano
21. Abagale Martinez
22. Kasey Garcia
23. Kaylee Collins
24. Allison Stanley
25. Hayden Craig

26. Paola Rivera-Vicente
27. Ricardo Quintana-Mtz.
28. Wilson Richmond
29. Jack Bacus
30. Jescee McKin
31. Briana Molder
32. Emma Ralston
33. Kealey Smith
34. Kendal Harris
35. Mariah Hammermeister
36. Maggie Moreno
37. Hunter Hill
38. Annie Prince
39. Cayden Morris
40. Kaylee Moore
41. Cora Benjamin
42. Lilly Haynes
43. Alicia Russell
44. Tony Reyna
45. M.J. Stem
46. Clara Sandoval
47. Aralyn Hanson
48. Amellia Smith
49. Brailee Jacobs
50. Andrea Morales
51. Cristian Cervantes
52. D.J. High
53. Matthew Boyce

EXPERIENCING THE WORD

An act of obedience

By DAWN HANKINS

Sunday, March 24, marks the observance of Palm Sunday. I have always loved this Christian celebration.

It has always been a joy to see the children walking with the palm branches to the altar.

I also have donkeys in my neighborhood. Believe me, it's hard to forget this time of the Christian year with them around.

There is great significance in Jesus' riding into Jerusalem thousands of years ago. More than even a message of hope and inspiration, it is a call to a nation to trust and believe.

That means no matter how dark the world may be, find those opportunities to shout "Hosanna. Hosanna in the Highest!"

6 So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, [c]and set Him on them. 8 And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!"

10 And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" (Matthew 21.)

Jesus recognized those who asked. Jesus knew His earthly destiny but yet he let many of the same people

who would later crucify Him honor him that glorious day. He was actually warned not to go into the City.

Even the Apostle Paul was warned of his potential fate for visiting Jerusalem.

"Then Paul answered us, "What do you mean by unnerving me with all your tears? I am perfectly prepared not only to be bound but to die in Jerusalem for the sake of the name of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 21.)

Have you been blind-sided? Hurt?

Imagine knowing for certain your destiny before the hurt even starts. That is what Jesus did for us. He took away our pain and guilt. We are free through faith in Him.

Do you feel burdened? Are you scarred from trauma? Do you feel like you can't trust anyone anymore?

During those times, think about how great a sacrifice Jesus made with that donkey ride and then later to Golgotha.

Zechariah had prophesied way back in the Old Testament that this coming king shall "speak peace to the nations" (Zch 9:10). The Lord of hosts says He Himself will "set your prisoners free" (Zch 9:11), "protect them" (Zch 9:15), and "save them" (Zch 9:16.)

In the New Testament, we learn the people began to "spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields" (v. 8). Mark writes, "And those who went before and those who followed were shouting,



"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!" (9-10).

The people understood that Jesus was claiming to be the coming king, the Messiah. After all, He's the one who raised Lazarus from the dead. (John 11.)

When they spread their cloaks and leafy branches on the road before Him, they were acknowledging His kingdom and submitting themselves to His rule. When they shouted "Hosanna" they were literally saying, "Save us please!"

Jesus asked forgiveness for those who did not know what they were doing.

During that Triumphal Entry, their blessing was recognition of who He was and what He is doing.

We have the same opportunities to praise The Lord Jesus Christ this Palm Sunday and all the days of our lives. Just ask Him in prayer to oversee the hurt that might be within you.

No matter what you may have done in your life, He's riding high about all the guilt with arms outstretched.

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! God bless the king of Israel!"



Student Event

Community High theater students will present, "Proposals" this weekend, beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 each at the door.

Airport News

Aviation Day is Saturday, April 27, at Shelbyville Municipal Airport. More info to come.

Church News

Pastor Abe Zimmerman's sermon at Shelbyville First United Methodist Church will be "Lent: The Power of the Gospel" from Matthew 17:14-20. In the quiet corners of our hearts, the song of the gospel continues to play - it's a symphony of hope, redemption, and unyielding power. Join us as we delve into the power of the gospel by examining pivotal moments in Jesus' ministry. Sunday School begins at 9 a.m. Worship service is at 10 a.m. The FUMC service is also lives-

treamed on Facebook and broadcast on WLJ 1580 AM.

School Event

Eakin Elementary will present "Aladdin Kids: The Musical" on March 14 and 15 at 6 p.m. and at 2 p.m. March 16. \$10 reserved seating. \$5 at the door.

Half marathon

Lynchburg will host its 15th annual half-marathon, the Oak Barrel, on Saturday, April 6, at 8 a.m.

Horse Shows

The Walking Horse Trainers' Association will have its national show March 13-16 at Cooper Steel Arena.

The FAST Spring Showcase is March 28-30 at Cooper Steel Arena.

Bedford County Government

March 19: Rules and Legislative Committee (5 p.m.), followed by Law En-

forcement Committee, then Courthouse and County Property Committee, historic Bedford County Courthouse

March 26: Financial Management Committee, 4:15 p.m., 200 Dover Street, Suite 110.

March 29: County offices and Convenience Centers closed for Good Friday.

FCB Easter Egg Hunt

First Community Bank will host its annual community Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 23, beginning at 2 p.m. Main Office at 207 Elm St. Children should bring their own basket.

Crime and Time

Warren Campbell and Alice Kline, verbal domestic incident

Kevin James Ortiz-Noriega, liquor law violation (contributing to minor), failure to appear

German Martinez-Lopez, liquor law violation

Sarabeth and William Stepp, verbal domestic incident

Luis Gonzalez, DUI

Joseph Dee Ferrell, driver to exercise due care, driving on suspended, financial responsibility

Samuel Galvan, DUI, failure to maintain lane, improper passing, open container law

Tammy Tracy Johnson, violation of probation

Chad Roland Jordan, driving on revoked, seat belt law

Trenton Alexander McClain, homeless, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of schedule II drug

Sean Michael Ryan, to

serve time, General Sessions Court

Frank Anthony Watts, simple possession

Jimmy Lynn Alsmar, hold for another agency

Daniel Scott Brewington, to serve time, General Sessions Court

Zaccheus Carson, homeless, indecent exposure

Austin B. Clanton, violation of order of protection

Carney Lashon Evans, Truancy

Luis Alberto Gonzales-Jimenez, DUI, following too close, no driver's license exhibited on demand

Christopher Levon Gross, assault, attachment, theft of property

Jordan Douglas Hite, driving on revoked, speeding

Roger Wayne Howell, driving on suspended

David Julajuj-Chicoj, child restraint law, light law, no driver's license exhibited on demand

driving on suspended, speeding

Sebastian Mesa-Lopez, driver to exercise due care, no driver's license

Robert Austin Mohrmann, aggravated assault, aggravated statutory rape, driving on revoked, evading arrest

Neftali Vazquez Paiz, no driver's license exhibited on demand, speeding

Yorsy Misael Perez Godinez, no driver's license exhibited on demand, financial responsibility, light law

Eduardo Ramirez, driving on suspended, financial responsibility, speeding

Timothy Keith Rawlins, DUI, open container

Sean Michael Ryan, to serve time, General Sessions Court

Alaina Rose Thompson, truancy

Dustin L. Tomlin, flagrant non-support of family

Joshua Craig Ward, leaving the scene of an accident

Keenan Terrell Whitaker, driving on suspended license

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THE ISSUE: County vs City, City vs County, round one ~ Who should receive local sales tax revenue?

By **DAWN HANKINS**

Bedford County Commission recessed Tuesday night for yet another attorney-client privilege meeting. While no business action can be taken by commissioners during that meeting, it is certain last night that there was a lot said with the attorney about what is going on between the City of Shelbyville and Bedford County concerning the local sales tax option revenue.

Basically, the City turned over the percentage of funds to the County 50 years ago, because the County was apparently needing funds for projects. Now, the City of Shelbyville is asking that its portion be returned.

While we're not talking huge percentages here, when it comes to dollar amounts, but given over time, and depending on local spending, it could be nice chunk change to have during a rainy season.

Bedford County stands by the fact that local education needs that incentive.

The City, however, notes it has waited long enough. Now, it wants to make improvements using the sales tax revenue.

Before we get into who said what this last week, let's examine what we're actually talking about when we say local option sales tax.

According to a state report, the local option sales tax is second only to the property tax as a source of local government tax revenue.

- The local option sales tax generates about half as much as the local property tax.

- The maximum local option sales tax is 2.75%. The distribution of the local option sales tax base among Tennessee counties is extremely uneven. County per capita amounts differ.

- As a result of the combination of a fixed maximum local option sales tax rate and relatively low per capita taxable sales in many counties, the local option sales tax no longer provides a viable alternative to higher local property tax rates. The state said that a few years ago, not I.

- The local option sales tax is subject to the same long run problems facing the state sales tax: lower growth in collections.

The state further reports that the statewide local option sales tax base is more inelastic than the state sales tax base—meaning that revenue from the local option sales tax grows slower than personal income and slower than the state sales tax.

The lower elasticity for the local sales tax likely stems from the single article limitation provisions in the local option sales tax law. In addition to the inelasticity of the statewide local option sales tax base, county level local option sales taxes are inelastic in many Tennessee counties.

Here's a little history about what we're feuding about. The local option sales tax was authorized in 1963 following years of pressure by local governments who sought additional local home rule taxing authority that would provide them with an additional source of revenue and some relief from what many believed to be relatively high property tax burdens.

Both the Tennessee Municipal League and the Tennessee County Services Association sponsored the original bill authorizing a local option sales tax. A local option sales tax was also a recommendation by the Legislature's own Legislative Council Committee in its 1962 study on the tax structure of state and local governments.

The bill passed allowed local governments, through the referendum process, to impose a local option sales tax of up to one percent (actually the law allowed a local rate of up to 1/3 the state sales tax rate, which at the time was three percent). The tax base was the same as for state sales tax purposes with the following exceptions: (1) energy sales were exempt (gas, electricity, coal, fuel oil, etc.), and the maximum local sales tax on a single article was limited to \$5 (known as the single arti-

cle cap or limitation).

Here might be the best kicker in the whole thing . . . The law required that revenue raised from local option sales taxes be distributed 50 percent for local education and shared among local government school systems on the same basis as county property taxes are distributed for school purposes; and 50 percent on the basis of the situs of tax collections. The law allowed local governments to share, by contract with their county government, if desired, the second 50 percent of the revenue.

So here we are. To be fair, I flipped a coin to see who goes first in this column. With the City of Shelbyville selected as "heads," the toss went to Bedford County.

Perhaps that is the answer—a coin toss. After all, we all know

that both City and County need the revenue but to be fair, it really should probably be with one or the other.

So who's really entitled to the local option sales tax revenue? Both governments make a good case. The City has a lot of projects to get off its plate. On the other hand, the County has all the schools to fund and their projects.

Based on this, declaratory judgements and counter suits could drag out in court for a long time.

Perhaps the people of Bedford County and Shelbyville should have their own coin toss, as it seems the tax is equally important to both City and County.

After all, it is tax payers' money you will be spending to haul each other to court. Just a thought.

The City's stand on its declaratory judgment

"The City of Shelbyville takes pride in serving its community and bettering the lives of its citizens. However, Shelbyville has been limited in providing improved or needed services due to an almost 50-year agreement with Bedford County in which the City relinquished a portion of the local option sales tax to the County to retire bonds incurred by the School Building Program in 1974. The City has continued to relinquish its portion of that tax long after the bonds were retired.

On May 12, 2023, the City of Shelbyville sent the Bedford County Mayor and County Commission a letter that was signed by the Mayor and all City Councilmembers notifying the County of the City's need to use the revenue for other purposes and offering a reasonable proposal to amend the 1974 Sales Tax Agreement that would allow all parties to benefit from the local option sales tax dollars that are generated within the City of Shelbyville. Specifically, the letter proposed an amendment that would allow the County School System to continue to receive a portion of the proceeds while also allowing the City of Shelbyville to keep some of the local option sales tax dollars generated within the City for its much-needed other purposes. That same letter included a request to meet and talk about the proposal in hopes of a negotiated agreement that would be mutually beneficial for all parties involved.

The City's good faith efforts to meet with the County to discuss this issue went unheeded and no information was received from the Bedford County government until the City received a September 27, 2023 letter from the County's outside counsel. Excerpts from the letter include language such as "your proposal to 'amend' the Contract is entirely unacceptable," and a heading that reads "The City's proposed amendment to the contract is unacceptable and irresponsible."

The letter concluded with the implied threat of actions against the City if the City pursues efforts to regain a portion of the local option sales tax generated within the City of Shelbyville.

The County's response was puzzling, not only because of the harsh and vitriolic tone, but also because it came after the Tennessee General Assembly approved the Governor's budget that took effect July 1, 2023. In the approved State budget, the Bedford County School System will receive a significant increase of State funds for education in reoccurring allocations. Based on information on the Bedford County Government website, the increase in State funding for the

Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, is \$18,459,084.

Based on Bedford County's refusal to even discuss the issue, the City's legal team submitted a letter on October 23, 2023, to provide notice that the City of Shelbyville is terminating the 1974 contract. The letter further explained the City takes serious issue with any suggestion that the City does not have the best interests of local families and children at heart, as well as the accusation that by reclaiming revenue the City has voluntarily relinquished for nearly 50 years, the City is callous to the needs of children. Nothing could be further from the truth. For decades, the City has supplemented funding Bedford County already receives from the state by relinquishing tax revenue that, under Tennessee law, otherwise belongs to the City. The City's letter once again asked Bedford County gov-

ernment officials to have discussions with the City about a new agreement that benefits both parties.

Despite this plea to meet at the negotiating table, it once again appears that the City's request was ignored. A response from the Bedford County government was not received until the City of Shelbyville pressed forward with an affirmative action during the February 8, 2024, meeting of the Mayor & City Council. Only after this action did the legal counsel for Bedford County issue a new letter, dated February 14, 2024. The letter simply restated the County's position from September 27, 2023, and did not acknowledge the City of Shelbyville's request to meet in an effort to reconcile the issue.

The City of Shelbyville's Mayor and City Council were elected and sworn to represent the taxpayers of the City of Shelbyville to the best of their ability. Although City taxpayers also pay property taxes to Bedford County, this seems to be disregarded by Bedford County government officials. When news of the City's intent to negotiate the 1974 Local Option Sales Tax Agreement reached the Courthouse, the response from Bedford County officials was not to agree to a meeting, but to punish the City and its citizens by initiating a fee to the City's Public Works Department for taking tires to the County's tire disposal center. In addition, City residents were informed that they could not take their trash to a Bedford County convenience center if they took it there in a City issued trash container, despite the fact that the City residents pay taxes for that very service. Lastly, Bedford County officials notified the City that they could no longer acquire topsoil from the County's "dirt pit" to be used by the City's Parks and Recreation Department, the same City Department that maintains and provides tennis courts, sports fields, and an indoor pool for use by County school athletic teams and individuals from numerous Bedford County schools, not just those located within the municipal limits.

The City of Shelbyville and Bedford County have been good partners, and the City is eager to continue the partnership. We applaud the efforts and vision of Bedford County officials with the recent construction of the new Bedford County Justice Center, the renovations of the Historic Courthouse, the new Cartwright Elementary School, and most recently, working on constructing a new juvenile center. The City of Shelbyville and all the other Bedford County residents benefit from these progressive actions and accomplishments. However, the City has infrastructure needs as well as the County.

Just as Bedford County needed to renovate or build new facilities, the City is in the same dire situation. The 1960's era buildings that house the Police Department, Fire Department, City Hall, and others are no longer adequate to meet the demands of a rapidly growing city. Furthermore, the City is understaffed in several key departments, notably Police and Fire. In order to be effective in serving the needs of its citizens, discussions need to be held. The City would rather have productive discussions with the County about changes to the 1974 Sales Tax Agreement, rather than litigate it in court.

To Bedford County officials, the City of Shelbyville says: Let's talk."

Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham releases a statement

"I, and the commissioners with whom I've spoken, are disappointed with the city's latest public statements. They say, 'let's talk,' and yet they're the ones who have initiated legal action.

"As I said in a statement last month, the current structure is both fair and legally binding. Shelbyville's sales tax base is supported by shoppers from throughout the county; those shoppers, who include both rural and city residents, make the city's commercial property more valuable and so they indirectly support the city's property tax base as well. The sales tax is also paid by tourists. Tourism has been an important part of the local economy and will only increase in importance with some of the projects now in development.

"If that sales tax revenue were not available to schools, the county would have to get the money from a property tax increase – one which would penalize both rural and urban residents and which would not be felt by tourists at all.

"The current sales tax structure is essential for the day-to-day operation of our schools and the ability of our schools to respond to the growth that is taking place throughout the county.

"The city's statement mentions changes in state funding for schools, but those changes are completely irrelevant to this discussion. The state changed its funding formula for all school systems. That money is not intended to replace any local funding, and in fact it can't replace any local funding -- the state has 'maintenance of effort' laws that prohibit any local government from cutting local school operational funding. Bedford County, as a whole, must still contribute as much or more money to school operations under the state's new formula as it did under the old formula. Even if we could reduce local funding, that would only put our children at a disadvantage compared to children in other, surrounding communities.

"A strong, high-quality school system benefits all of us, no matter whether we live inside or outside the city limits. It's essential for attracting high-quality jobs to Shelbyville and for retaining our current employers. We want to make sure that every student, inside and outside city limits, has access to a good education. The current tax structure is what makes that possible.

"We remain open to constructive conversations with the city about taxes, education, economic development, and other issues facing the future of Bedford County. Working together, we've been able to make great progress in economic and community development in the past few years. We need to continue that united front rather than starting a court case that benefits no one.

"We in county government aren't the ones trying to take this to court, although we've had to prepare to defend the current system against the city's lawsuit."

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 to fund public education. 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 education.

In September 2023, 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."



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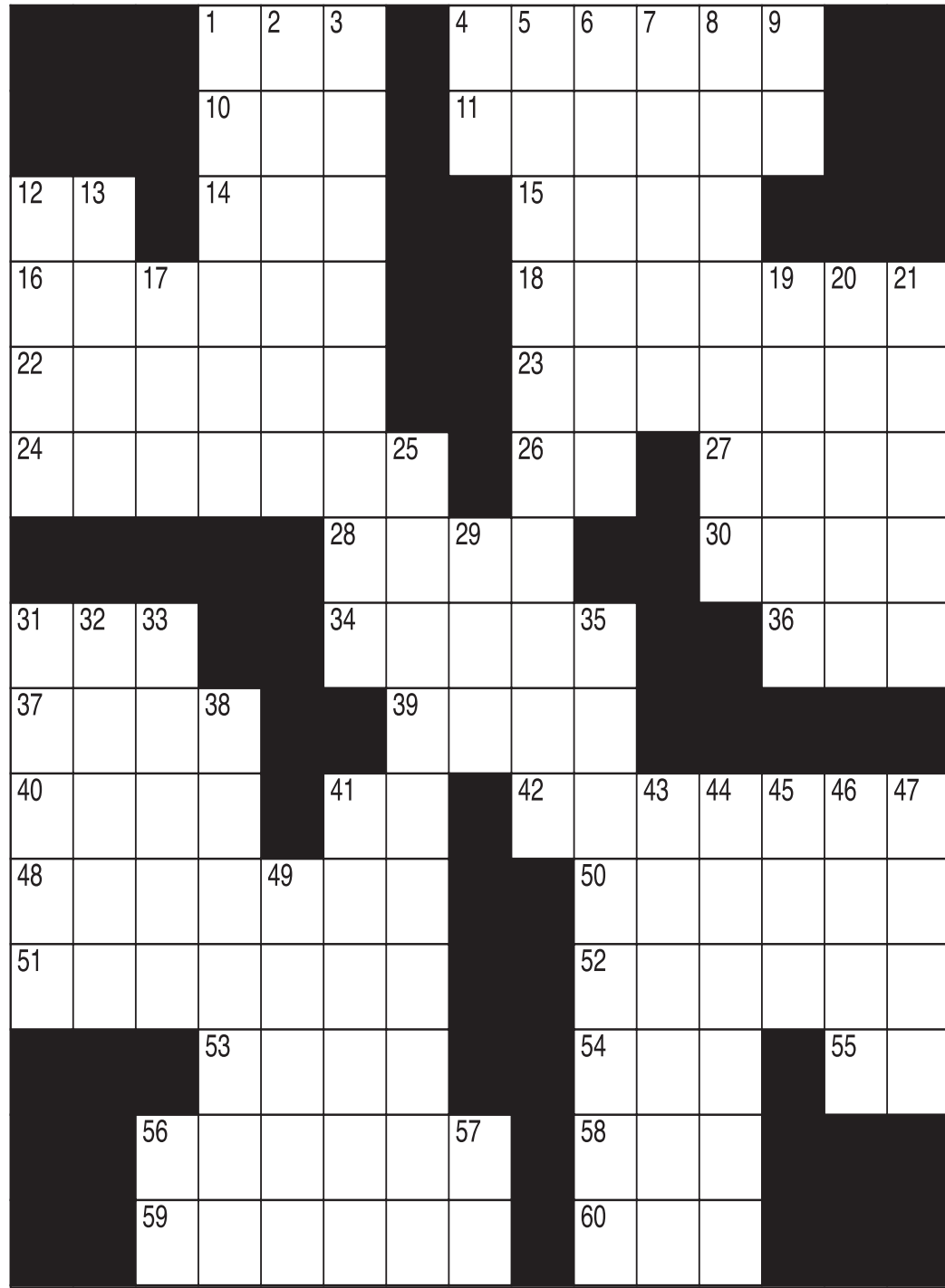
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Small Eurasian deer
- 4. Irish county
- 10. A major division of geological time
- 11. Broadway actor Lane
- 12. Canadian province (abbr.)
- 14. Human gene
- 15. Two
- 16. A famous one is blue
- 18. Utter repeatedly
- 22. Ring-shaped objects
- 23. Spoils
- 24. Occurs
- 26. Commercial
- 27. Near
- 28. Products you may need
- 30. Pledge thrown down as a challenge
- 31. TV network
- 34. Silk or cotton garments
- 36. Soviet Socialist Republics
- 37. Retired American football coach Dean
- 39. Hot dish
- 40. A type of gin
- 41. Atomic #84
- 42. Sawhorse
- 48. About ground
- 50. Medicine man
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. Capital of Albania
- 53. Appendage
- 54. OJ trial judge

55. By the way (abbr.)

- 56. Bicycle parts
 - 58. Barbie's friend
 - 59. Moved one's neck to see
 - 60. Commercials
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Make up for
 - 2. Baltimore ballplayer
 - 3. Salary
 - 4. Influential world body
 - 5. Engravers
 - 6. Declared as fact
 - 7. One who steals
 - 8. Jewelry
 - 9. Hospital employee (abbr.)
 - 12. Nonsense (slang)
 - 13. Town in Galilee
 - 17. Value
 - 19. A fake name
 - 20. Sheep in their second year
 - 21. Town in Surrey, England
 - 25. Appropriate for a particular time of year
 - 29. Creative works
 - 31. Recesses
 - 32. W. Pacific island group
 - 33. Tolkien character
 - 35. Ancient symbol co-opted by the Nazi party
 - 38. Pioneer
 - 41. Scribe
 - 43. Painted a bright color
 - 44. Lowest members of British nobility
 - 45. Actress Thurman
 - 46. Type of sugar
 - 47. Crest of a hill
 - 49. N. American people of British Columbia
 - 56. Device
 - 57. The Mount Rushmore State



Horoscopes

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, this week you need to get back to business, especially if hobbies or other interests have been taking up much of your time lately. Avoid distractions at all costs.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
You may be excited about new prospects that are on the horizon, Taurus. With so much change coming, it can be exciting to see what lies in wait.

GEMINI - May 22/June 21
Gemini, you may discover that you are devoting a lot of attention to others of late, sometimes cutting into your own needs. Be attentive and caring, but pay attention to your own needs as well.

CANCER - June 22/July 22
Cancer, if you check the calendar lately you are bound to find a number of dates are filled. You may want to consider slowing down; otherwise, you may prematurely burnout.

LEO - July 23/Aug 23
Leo, if expenses and finances have been troubling you of late, you can breathe a sigh of relief when things lighten up this week. Right now you are in a good spot financially.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you will need to uphold your end of the bargain for the time being as others are counting on you delivering. You cannot dodge any responsibilities right now.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, over the next few days you may receive some offers from employers or entrepreneurs that seem very appealing. Before you jump into something new, do your homework.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, it will become obvious how others rely on you for advice and to get jobs done correctly. All of that responsibility can put extra pressure on you, so take it all in stride.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
This week you may discover that people are flocking to you left and right, Sagittarius. You will not have trouble making new friends if you so desire.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, take ownership of any actions that may have put you into a strained relationship with those close to you. Admitting mistakes is the first step in mending fences.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, you may only now be getting to those resolutions you made a few months ago, but better late than never. Focus on projects around the home that will revitalize your spaces.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
Physical activity can do wonders for you, Pisces. If you are feeling stressed, overwhelmed or even tired, take a walk or hit the gym for some exercise that can alleviate many symptoms.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
MARCH 17
Rob Lowe, Actor (60)
MARCH 18
Adam Levine, Singer (45)
MARCH 19
Clayton Kershaw, Athlete (36)
MARCH 20
Ruby Rose, Model (38)
MARCH 21
Gary Oldman, Actor (66)
MARCH 22
J.J. Watt, TV personality (35)
MARCH 23
Kyrie Irving, Athlete (32)

FLOWER POWER WORD SEARCH

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

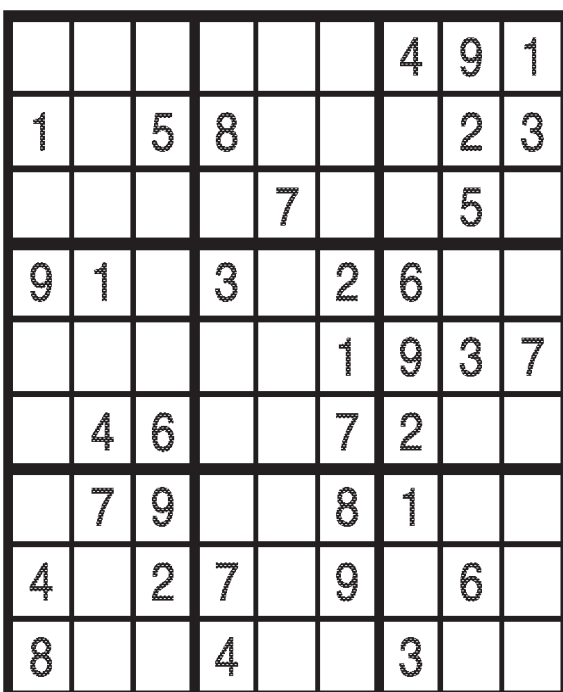
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

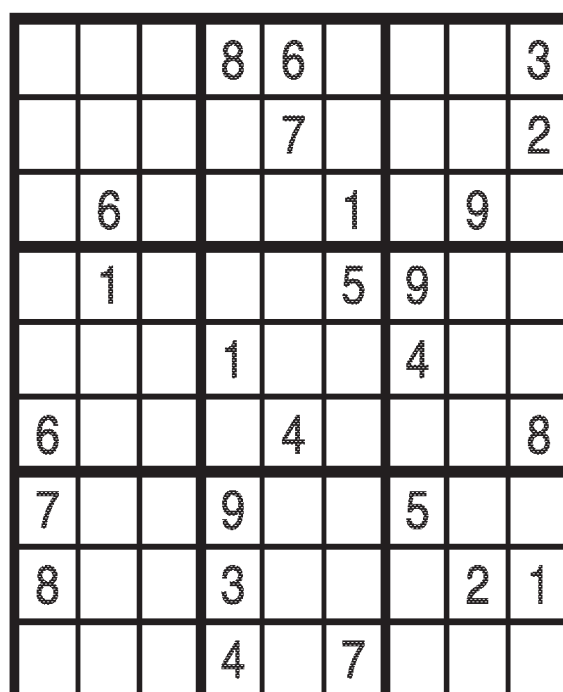
- ALYSSUM
- ASTER
- AZALEA
- BEGONIA
- CARNATION
- DAFFODIL
- DAHLIA
- DAISY
- DANDELION
- FLOWER
- IRIS
- LEAVES
- LILY
- MARIGOLD
- ORCHID
- PEONY
- PETALS
- POLLINATE
- ROSE
- SNAPDRAGON
- STEM
- TULIP
- ZINNIA

SUDOKU

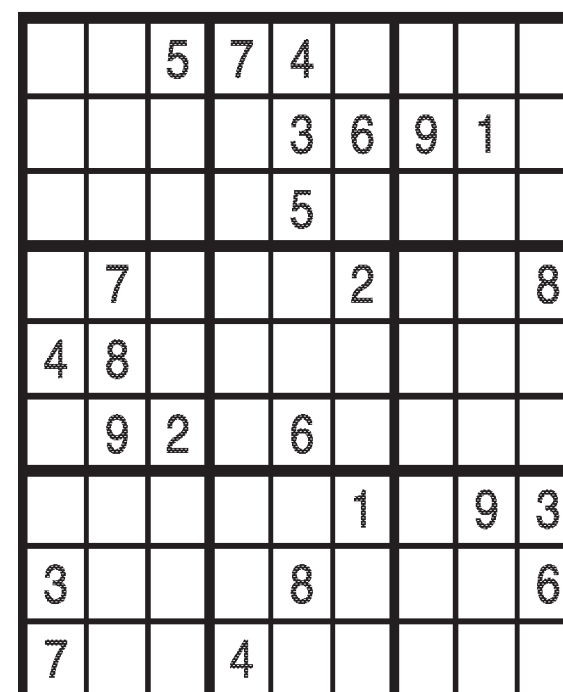
Here is how it works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear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



Level: Beginner



Level: Intermediate



Level: Advanced

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PREPARE FOR power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options Request a FREE Quote

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Are you interested in this abandoned vehicle: 1999 Honda Civic vin # 2HGEJ6618XH519018 Contact: Leo Solis LP Automotive, LLC

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Parental involvement: a key factor in student success



Success in school can carry over to successful experiences later in life. That underscores the benefits of developing skills in the classroom.

The job of education does not fully fall on educators and administrators. Education begins at home. Research has found that kids benefit significantly when parents and other caregivers are strongly involved in a child's education.

A 2005 study from researchers at the Johns Hopkins University Center of School, Family and Community Partnerships showed that school practices that encourage families to support their student's math learning at home led to higher percentages of students scoring at or above proficiency on standardized math tests.

other subjects and areas of learning, including language comprehension and expressive language skills.

With so much to gain from parental involvement in students' educations, parents can embrace these strategies to get more involved.

Develop a partnership with the teacher. Open communication with the teacher(s) can help parents stay up-to-date on what is going on in the classroom and learn early on where a student may need extra support.

performed tutor.

Be firm but supportive. Too much academic pressure may cause a child to pull back or even test boundaries, and that can lead to students falling behind in school.

Attend school functions. Parents can go to open houses, back-to-school nights, conferences, and other events held at school to show support and interest in their children's education.

Involved parents also build school-based networks this way, which can be called upon if their student needs additional support in the future.

Establish a schedule at home. Students can benefit from a schedule, with regular bedtime, homework time and opportunities to relax.

Parents working in concert with schools and their children can lead to better academic outcomes.

Laurel Cox receives state FFA scholarship

Bell Buckle, TN - Laurel Cox of the Cascade FFA Chapter has received the Waymon Hickman Scholarship from the Tennessee Future Farmers of America (FFA) Foundation.

Cox was chosen from 95 applicants across the state and will receive \$500 toward her postsecondary education.

Tennessee FFA Foundation Scholarships are awarded to students who have exhibited academic prowess, served their communities, and invested time into FFA and other leadership activities over the course of their high school careers.

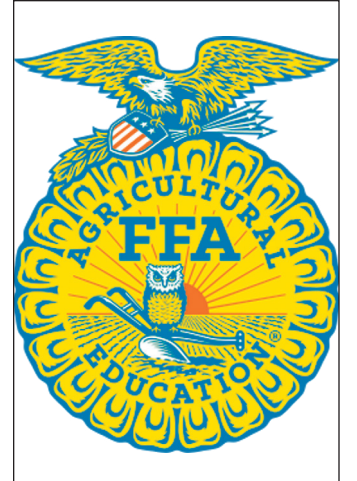
These scholarships have been established by local and state organizations wishing to honor men and women who had a vested interest in agriculture throughout their lifetime.

Laurel will be recognized on stage at the 96th Annual Tennessee FFA State Convention, held March 24-27 in Gatlinburg.

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

Nationally, there are 945,988 FFA members in grades 5-12 and college. The Tennessee FFA Association is comprised of more than 32,000 members from 248 high school, middle school, and collegiate chapters.

To learn more about FFA, visit www.tnffa.org.



Answers from last week

PUZZLE SOLUTION

Word search grid with solutions: PERMISSIBLE, QUEEN OF ENGLAND, UNCLOSURE, AD, PET, MO, GOAT, ABC, TESTED, SERE, DRAT, DAH, SOL, CABAL, MAC, MED, BELLA, ANAS, PRAXIS, YAM, SANNA, AI, GOA, CP, ROSTRUM, SAMURAI, TREASURES, ISLAND, IMPERMANENT, PHD, UCA

Large word search grid with solutions: TOAD, EAB, EUE, IOK, BJH, IJP, DNFI, SSV, MR, OHB, MS, HK, JC, JLR, RL, AE, AO, NR, AS

Three small word search grids with solutions: ANSWER: Level: Beginner, ANSWER: Level: Intermediate, ANSWER: Level: Advanced



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William Andy Cobb

William Andy Cobb, 61, of Manchester died March 9, 2024. Service will be held 3:00 P.M. Saturday, March 23rd at Hillcrest Funeral Home. Visitation will begin at 1:00 P.M.

He was a former truck driver for Southern Carriers of Lewisburg and former employee of Quality Industries of Rutherford County. Andy was a big Alabama Fan. He loved watching Westerns, traveling, visiting antique stores and checking out new restaurants.

He was preceded in death by his parents, J.T. Cobb and Margaret E. Reed Morton; a daughter, Pamela Cobb, a sister, Mary Hancock and a brother, Thomas Cobb.

He is survived by his wife, Carol Marie Hansen Cobb; a daughter, Crystal (Chris) Tilley; son, B.J. (Serena) Dodson; sisters, Debra Cobb Ragsdale, Dottie (Dwight) Moshier, Louise McGrew, Jeannie (Scott) Comstock; brothers, Joe (Carolyn) Cobb, Paul "Buddah" Morton; three grandchildren; twenty-one nieces and nephews and several great nieces and nephews.

Our brother is truly loved and missed by several.



Annie Catherine (Kate) Garner

Annie Catherine (Kate) Garner, age 102, transitioned from this earthly life to eternal life on Sunday, March 3, 2024. She leaves to cherish her memories, children, Marie Smith, Margaret Ervin, Annie Bailey, Glenola Bowen, Gail Francis, Karl Marlin and Donel Garner; grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

Services for Mrs. Garner were held Saturday, March 9, at Green Meadow Church of Christ 348 Squire Hall Road, Shelbyville. Visitation began at 10:00 am with the funeral following at 11:00 am. Burial was at Willow Mount Cemetery.

Services were in the care of Nelson & Sons Memorial Chapel.



Mary Edna Daig Hardy

Mary Edna Daig Hardy passed from this life on March 9, 2024, peacefully surrounded by her loved ones at home on her family farm.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland September 12, 1961. She was the daughter of the late Frank Joseph and Dorothy Sue Galloway Daig.

She is survived by her husband, Norman Leon Hardy, Jr.; step-children, Lashaunda Martin, Trevor Lilley, Robert Hardy, Lashar Williams and Olivia Hardy; sister, Loretta Ann (Otto) Bach; brother, Frank James (Julia) Daig; niece, Brandy Marie Daig, niece/God-daughter, Nicole Marie (Bach) Price (Crystal Gail Carpenter); nephew, Frank James (Ashley) Daig Jr., nephew, Tyler Russell (Nina) Daig; great niece, Gabnella Michelle Price; great nephew, Banks James Daig; cousins, Natasha Filatow, Christopher Filatow; mother and father in law, Norman Leon Hardy Sr. and Alice Elaine Hardy; sixteen grandchildren; one great granddaughter; one great great grandson; lifelong best friend, Tammy Jennings McClure; her beloved dog, George T. Kohler; her beloved POA pony, KS's Bubblicious Dash.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank Joseph Daig and Dorothy Sue Galloway Daig; paternal grandparents, Frank Andrew Daig and Anna Ella (Kohler) Daig; maternal grandparents, Clyde James and Edna Galloway; aunt, Wanda Louise Filatow; uncle, John Joseph Kohler; several great aunts and great uncles.

She was an exceptional pool player and an avid APA member for 20+ years receiving numerous awards shooting in team tournaments. She was a lifelong member of the Pony of the Americas Club. Showing her ponies growing up and later in life became Horse Show Secretary and Show Announcer, receiving multiple appreciation awards for her devoted dedication to the Maryland POAC for years. She loved baking/cooking, fishing, trips to Atlantic City and Delaware Park Casinos; playing card games and board games. She attended the University of Phoenix for Graphic Design.

But mostly, she loved and was dedicated to her family and their family

farm, Rocking D Farm, previously of Forest Hill, Maryland until moving to Shelbyville in 2004. She shared her love alongside her father helping him with his small animal breeding program as well as sharing her love alongside her mother with their POA ponies breeding and showing program. Her family meant everything to her and she was dedicated to taking care of them by any means necessary.

Per her wishes she will be cremated. At her request, there will be no services.



Alberta

Josephine Johnson

Alberta Josephine Johnson, age 76, of Shelbyville, passed away March 7, 2024, at her home, under the loving care and comfort of her family and Aveanna Hospice.

Funeral services will be 1 PM Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. Elder Greg Wilhoite will be eulogist, with burial to follow in Willow Mount Cemetery.

The family will receive visitors 12 noon until service time Tuesday at the funeral home.

Alberta Josephine Johnson, affectionately called "Phine", was born November 27, 1947, to the late Alford and Audrey Johnson, in Shelbyville, Tennessee. She came from a very large family, one of sixteen children. She attended Harris High School. As a young child growing up, she attended Bright Temple Church of God in Christ. Her journey in the workplace was with the Gragg and Daniel family. They called her "Momma Bert".

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death three brothers, Alfred, Harold, and George Johnson; five sisters, Margaret Johnson, Cora Stewart, Annette Johnson, Charlotte Johnson, and Wanda Johnson.

She leaves to mourn her passing, two daughters, Fredia Johnson and Melissa Johnson; four grandchildren, Danica Johnson, Brandy Johnson, Brittney Johnson, and Breeann Johnson; three great grandchildren, Kayleigh, Kenzleigh, and Carter; two brothers, James Johnson and Jerry Johnson; five sisters, Louise Bonner, Lucille Worthy, Margie Anderson, Janie Johnson, and Sherry Johnson; one special sister in love, Linda Johnson; numerous nieces, nephews, and six bonus children, Daniel Gragg, Matthew Gragg, Nathan Gragg, Jenny Quinn, Sarah Gragg, and Julie Levic.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Disaster assistance resources for farmers



Natural disasters are often devastating, resulting in losses of life, livelihood and homes, among other effects. If it seems as though weather-related disasters have risen in frequency in recent decades, that's because they have. In fact, a 2021 report from the World Meteorological Organization indicated that the number of disasters has increased by a factor of five over the last half-century.

Weather-related disasters do not discriminate, and people from all walks of life and corners of the globe can be affected by such catastrophes. The agricultural sector is especially vulnerable to natural disasters, as farmers can lose their homes and their livelihoods in what feels like the blink of an eye. But farmers should know that various support programs are in place to provide assistance should they need it in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

Programs in the United States

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP): The Farm Service Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture notes that this program provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover. Assistance also is available when land planted specifically for

grazing has been affected by drought or fire.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP): This provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather or by attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government.

Emergency Loan Program: This program provides loans to producers as they seek to recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters. Loans also may be available after losses due to

quarantine or by animal quarantine laws imposed in accordance with the Plant Protection Act.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP): This program helps farmers and ranchers repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters. The program also helps put in place water conservation methods during severe drought.

Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP): This program pays covered producers of no insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters.

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William Randall Bee

Funeral services for William Randall Bee, age 72, will be held 3:00 p.m. Thursday, March 14, 2024, in the chapel of Doak-Howell Funeral Home with Pastor Jimmy Gray officiating. Burial will follow at Willow Mount Cemetery.

Visitation will be held prior to funeral services beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

William Randall Bee passed from this life Saturday, March 9, 2024.

Doak-Howell Funeral Home is serving the family.

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MTSU Regular Season Hoops Roundup

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

As we flip the calendar into March, the best month of the year is well upon us, at least when it comes to basketball. As conference tournaments all around the country begin and regular seasons end, it's time to take a look at how MTSU fared on the hardwood.

Women's Basketball

The Middle Tennessee State University Lady Blue Raiders have officially clinched back-to-back Conference-USA regular season titles after finishing the regular season undefeated in conference play.

After clinching the title a week ago with two games to go following a 93-62 home win over Sam Houston State, head coach Rick Insell encouraged everyone inside the Murphy Center to come down onto the court to take a picture

margin of 23.3 points per game in conference play. FIU's Jesyca-Burks Wiley received that honor for leading the Lady Panthers

all regular season, culminating in her winning the C-USA Player of the Year award. Wheeler becomes the third Lady Raider to be named C-USA Player of the Year, joining Anastasia Hayes (2019) and Ebony Rowe (2014).

Her teammate, Anastasiia Boldyreva, had an incredible season herself, and in doing so she became the first ever Lady Raider to win the Defensive Player of the Year award. She averaged 14.7 points/game on 59.8% FG, including 11/28 (39.3%) from downtown, 8.5 rebounds/game, 2.93 blocks/game (4th nationally), and 0.8 steals/game. Her presence around the rim altering shots without recording an official block contributed to her winning the award as well, and she was the anchor for a defense that was the best scoring defense in the conference, giving up only 51.8 points/game.

from eighth place a year ago to third in C-USA play this year while also overseeing the program's first 20-win season since 2011-2012.

MTSU's Wheeler averaged 17.5 points/game on 42% FG, including shooting 40% from three and 85% from the free throw line, with 5.0 assists/game and 4.4 rebounds/game while playing a mind-boggling 37.8 minutes/game. Her numbers in conference play were even better, as she led the league in scoring with 18.7 points/game, 5.7 assists/game, and 38.6 minutes/game. As the team's point guard and leader, Insell puts an incredible amount of responsibility on her shoulders, and she delivered at an elite level

with the trophy, punctuating one of the more incredible regular seasons in Lady Raiders' history.

The Lady Raiders also took home the C-USA Player of the Year award as well as the C-USA Defensive Player of the Year award, yet Rick Insell did not win the Coach of the Year, becoming the first coach in conference history to go undefeated in conference play and not win the award. Savannah Wheeler was named as the conference's Player of the Year while Anastasiia Boldyreva was named as her Defensive Player of the Year.

Despite Insell leading MTSU to a 16-0 conference record, and 26-4 overall, with an average win



Savannah Wheeler (4) and Anastasiia Boldyreva (2) were both named to the All-C-USA First Team. Wheeler took home the conference's Player of the Year honors while Boldyreva won the Defensive Player of the Year award. Photo by MTSU Athletics.

the second-seeded Louisiana Tech Bulldogs in the quarterfinal round at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday. At the time of this printing that game has not gone final, but MTSU lost both matchups this season to LA Tech, so it would definitely be an upset if the Blue Raiders were able to pull off a win.

Jestin Porter was named to the All-C-USA Second Team after averaging 17.0 points/game on 43.3% FG, including 39.3% shooting from three and 79.7% shooting at the charity stripe, with 3.8 rebounds/game and 1.9 assists/game. He scored a career-high 41 points on 11-16 shooting, including connecting all eight of his three point attempts, in a 96-90 2OT win against UTEP on February 17th. He also went 11-12 from the free throw line.

Porter's teammate, Jared

Coleman-Jones was also named to the All-C-USA Second Team after averaging 13.8 PPG and 8.7 RPG in conference play.

Photo by MTSU Athletics.



or two.

As of printing, most bracketologists have the Lady Raiders seeded in the 10-11 range. Comparatively last season they were an 11-seed in the Duke pod.

Unfortunately for Middle Tennessee, they ran into a red-hot Colorado team that was vastly underseeded on the six line and made it all the way to the Sweet 16 where they lost to Caitlin Clark and the Iowa Hawkeyes, 87-77.

The Lady Raiders are hoping to get a little more lucky with their first round draw, but they know going into the tournament that they can play and beat just about anyone.

Men's Basketball

On the men's side, MTSU finished 7-9 in conference play and 13-18 overall. They are the 7 seed in the upcoming conference tournament and are scheduled to play

Coleman-Jones, joined him on the All-C-USA Second Team after averaging 13.8 points/game on 46.3% FG, including 13/30 (43.3%) shooting from three and 83.6% shooting at the free throw line, while pulling down 8.7 rebounds/game and even dishing out 2.9 assists/game as well.

Porter and Coleman-Jones will be looking to try and lead MTSU on another Conference-USA Tournament run in March, and to do so they both will have to be at their very best. To even have a chance at qualifying for the NCAA Tournament, the Blue Raiders will have to win three consecutive games, presumably all against opponents that either beat them already this season and/or finished higher than MTSU in the conference standings.



Jestin Porter (3) was named to the All-C-USA Second Team. He had a season-high 41 points against UTEP earlier this year. Photo by MTSU

Golden Eagles Rout Central Magnet on Opening Night

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

The Shelbyville Central Golden Eagles rode some hot bats to an impressive 16-5 win on the road against the Murfreesboro Central Magnet Tigers on Monday.

Stephen Bobo took the win on the mound with a dominant four-inning



Nick Johnson (7) about to step on home plate after hitting a HR. Submitted Photo.

performance, striking out six hitters with zero walks and only two hits. All three runs that scored with him pitching were unearned due to fielding errors; in fact, all five runs that the Tigers scored were unearned. Shelbyville's pitching staff, between Bobo and Carston Williams, combined to strike out 13 batters while only walking two and giving up only four hits across seven innings.

Central Magnet's pitching staff ended up accumulating 13 strikeouts of their own, but they gave up 11 hits. Their fielders also accounted for four errors which led to four unearned runs, but the Golden Eagles still managed 12 earned runs.

The visitors were mostly held in check to start the game until the second inning. They were able to

push across two runs, but the Tigers responded with a run of their own to keep within striking distance.

Shelbyville added two more runs in the fourth inning, but Central Magnet responded once again with a pair of runs themselves. Bobo was able to hold the hosts to just those two runs, putting his offense in a great position for the top of the fifth inning against the Tigers' bullpen.

The Golden Eagles took full advantage of the pitching change. After only being able to muster up three hits through the first four innings, their bats exploded in the final three, accumulating eight hits that resulted in 12 total runs.

Four runs in the fifth inning, five in the sixth, and three in the seventh countered the two unearned runs in the sixth inning

surrendered to the Tigers while Williams was on the mound. In the end, Head Coach Chase Jones, coming off of a substate appearance last season, began his third year at the helm in Shelbyville with a dominant 16-5 win.

Third-baseman Nick Johnson led the Golden Eagles with three hits, including one homer and a triple, two walks, and five RBIs in five plate appearances. He also scored four of the five times he was on base. First-baseman Palmer Edwards and center-fielder William Bobo chipped in with two hits apiece, with Edwards driving in two runs while scoring twice, and Bobo drawing a walk while scoring three times.

Murfreesboro Central Magnet falls to 0-1 while Shelbyville Central improves to 1-0.

Stephen Bobo (12) delivers a pitch during his solid four-inning outing at Central Magnet. Submitted Photo.



Bedford County property transfers

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

File date: March 5
 Location: 1308 Glenoaks Rd. Shelbyville; Seller, Bryan K Rutherford; Buyer, Lee Trevino, Trisha Trevino Parks; Price, \$315,000 (Deed).

Location: 117 Avalon Dr. Shelbyville; Seller, Cheyenne Investments LLC; Buyer, Teddi Allen, Brandon Whitehead; Price, \$355,000 (Deed).

Location: Hwy 41A; Seller, Joel Edwin Blackwell Estate, Diane Elaine Blackwell; Buyer, Diane Elaine Blackwell; Price, \$0 (Deed).

File date: March 6
 Location: 1147 Pickle Rd Shelbyville; Seller, Horace E Ward, Gwen H Ward; Buyer, Sara Kate Martin, Samuel W Dotson; Price, \$289,900 (Deed).

Seller, Global Homes Inc.; Buyer, Richard M Griffin Sr, Rebecca B Griffin; Price, \$299,900 (Deed).

File date: March 7
 Location: 519 Tines Dr Shelbyville; Seller, SDH Nashville; Buyer, Janna White, Patrick White; Price, \$314,360 (Deed).

Location: 320 Durum St Shelbyville; Seller, Ole South Properties Inc; Buyer, Stephen Ellis Ahlstrom, Valerie Susan Ahlstrom; Price, \$329,900 (Deed).

Location: 318 Durum St Shelbyville; Seller, Ole South Properties Inc; Buyer, Eduardo Vincent Munoz, Heather Lindsey Munoz; Price, \$345,990 (Deed).

File date: March 8
 Location: 101 Coney Island Rd; Seller, Steven Rogers King, Anne Ruth King Estate; Buyer, Steven R King, Brenda G Newell, Ricky J King, Terri L King; Price, \$0 (Deed).

Location: 101 Coney Island Rd; Seller, Steven R King, Brenda G Newell, Terri L King; Buyer, Ricky J King; Price, \$0 (QD).

Location: 214 Chevelle Ct Shelbyville; Seller, Ole South Properties; Buyer, Steven M Brown, Holly G Brown; Price, \$309,990 (Deed).

Location: 316 Durum St Shelbyville; Seller, Ole South Properties Inc; Buyer, Sean Patrick Martin, Frances Renee Martin; Price, \$299,990 (Deed).

Location: Depot St; Seller, Judy Plemons; Buyer, NCJ Inc; Price, \$363,000 (Deed).

Seller, Barbie Ann Parker, Barbie A Farrow; Buyer, Robert L Parker; Price, \$0 (QD).

Location: Burns Rd; Seller, Robert F Kilgore; Buyer, Avalon Homes LLC; Price, \$480,000 (Deed).

Seller, Global Homes Inc; Buyer, Fredia Renee Smith; Price, \$307,000 (Deed).

Location: Hwy 231; Seller, Judy Keeton Pierce; Buyer, Pierce Family Revocable Trust, Judy Keeton Pierce; Price, \$0 (QD).

File date: March 11
 Location: 205 Eventine Drive; Seller, Adam C Medina, Sara J Medina; Buyer, Donna K Bailey; Price, \$265,000 (Deed).

Location: Barksdale Lane; Seller, Lisa Curl, Emily Curl; Buyer, DCC Strategic Realty Partners LLC; Price, \$0 (QD).

Location: 102 Tanner Circle Shelbyville; Seller, Anner Machuca; Buyer, Jamie W Romero; Price, \$0 (QD).

Location: 110 Buzzard Roost Rd Chap; Seller, Leslie Sewell Griffy Estate, Jeffrey Sewell Griffy; Buyer, Ryan Robbins; Price, \$170,000 (Deed).



T-G Photo

DOWN ON THE FARM
 This charming Bedford County farm on Burns Road sold recently, after being owned for many years by a local family. We thank the register of deeds office for supplying us with that information for readers.



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Beautiful, Southern Middle Tennessee

From creek beds to front yards, spring has arrived in middle Tennessee.

T-G Photos by Dawn Hankins



Salad makes a good starter for Easter Sunday meals

Easter is a religious holiday, but for millions of people it's also synonymous with the start of spring. What better way to celebrate the warmer temperatures and brighter days than with light and tasty foods to serve at Easter brunches or dinners?

Since it is green, this Sunday, St. Patrick's Day, might be a good time to serve this refreshing salad.

For a twist on the traditional lettuce-based salad, opt for greens that have a little bite. Arugula and Artichokes pairs two nutritious and delicious offerings in one salad. Arugula, also called rocket, is a member of the cabbage and mustard green

family. It's known for its tart, peppery flavoring. Although artichokes are considered vegetables, the edible part actually is the bud of the plants flower before it blooms.

When tossed with sweet cherry tomatoes and olives, this recipe, courtesy of The Mediterranean Diet Cookbook (Rockridge Press), is the perfect starter.

Arugula and Artichokes Serves 6

- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 6 cups baby arugula leaves
- 6 oil-packed artichoke hearts, sliced
- 6 low-salt olives, pitted and chopped
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, sliced in half
- 4 fresh basil leaves, thinly sliced

Make the dressing by whisking together the olive oil, vinegar, Dijon mustard, and garlic until you have a smooth emulsion. Set aside. Toss the arugula, artichokes, olives, and tomatoes together.


Drizzle the salad with the dressing, garnish with the fresh basil, and serve.



Submitted Photo

EVERYTHING IS LOVELY

Bell Buckle is ready to host Daffodil Day on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Quilt square downtown sparkles.



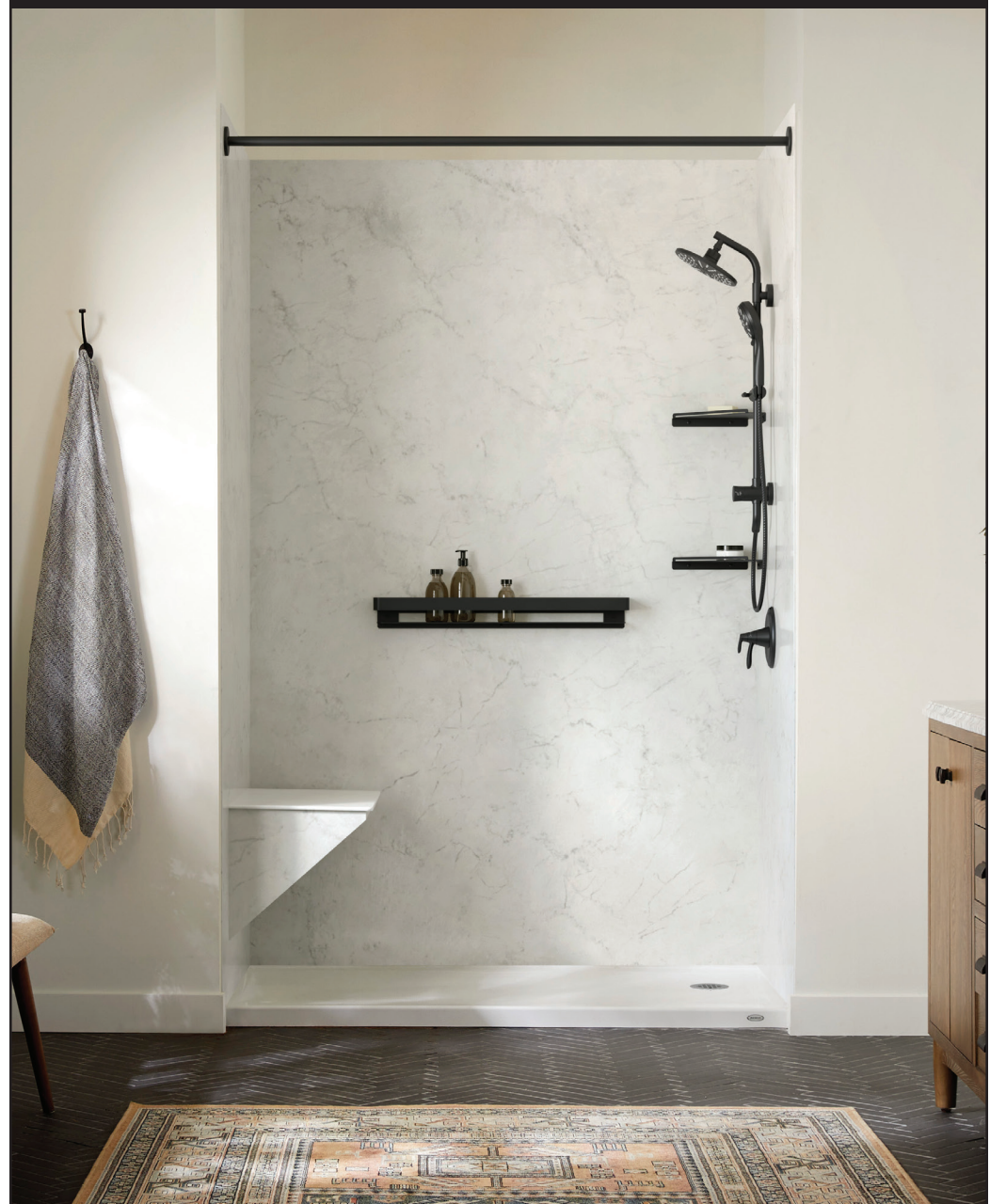
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SPORTS

Cascade Alum Jared Carkuff Officially Returns Home As Champs' New Head Football Coach

BY NOAH MADDOX
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One of Cascade's own is coming home to fill the recently-opened football head coaching position left in the wake of Coach Jake Tyre recently stepping down.

Jared Carkuff, a three-sport athlete himself for the majority of his high school career at Cascade until he signed with Austin Peay before his senior year in 2011/12 to play baseball, is returning to where it all began 12 years ago.

"We always knew we would make it back home eventually, just had no clue it would be this soon," Carkuff says as he prepares to take over a program as a head coach for the first time in his career.

He is not some newbie to coaching football – obviously, he wouldn't get hired for a head coaching job if he was – and the former offensive coordinator at Class 4-A Bluffton High School in Bluffton, South Carolina, brings an explosive offense with him back home to Bell Buckle. For context, it is an offense that averaged 33 PPG while finishing in the top 10 in the state in total offense both seasons that he was there, and he helped spring Bluffton from three wins over five years to back-to-back playoff appearances.

However, his football coaching career didn't begin in the Palmetto State. It actually began right here in Tennessee, about an hour and 40 minutes west of Cascade over in Centerville at Hickman County High School.

"Both my parents attended Hickman County," Carkuff explains, "and so as soon as I retired from baseball after numerous surgeries, I went to Hickman County."

"Football was always the passion, but baseball was always the better path for me," he continues, "I love baseball, but football was always the passion, so I al-

ways knew when I got into coaching it would be for football."

At Hickman, he was hired as the QB and DB Coach in the fall of 2019, and he was given the duty of being the JV Head Coach as well. However, after the season ended, he received a phone call.

"My father-in-law called and told me to come down to Collins Hill [In Swannee, Georgia]," Carkuff remembers.

"We got ranked as high as 3rd in the nation and won a state championship [in 2021]."

Carkuff took the job of being the team's WR Coach, and both seasons he was on staff, the program made it all the way to the state championship game, finishing runners-up in 2020 before winning it all in 2021. He then received another call in the summer of 2022.

"O-line coach got the head coaching job in Bluffton [South Carolina] and told me to come over as his OC," he says. "We turned the program around from three wins in five years to making the playoffs both years while scoring quite a few points."

Carkuff is looking forward to implementing his offensive system at Cascade, but also having an impact on every kid's lives in the smaller, more tight-knit community.

"I knew if I was going to be a head coach, I would step down in classifications more for the community part of it, but also to feel comfortable calling my own offense as the head coach," he says.

Carkuff's system promises to be a major philosophical shift from the previous years as well.

"What I believe in is a spread system, and the thing about it is it's all about numbers," he explains, "You spread the field out and take advantage of sideline to sideline, and if they [the defense] are going to put numbers closer to



Jared Carkuff (pictured above, middle) on the field after a home game for Bluffton High School in South Carolina. Submitted Photo.

the football over the middle you throw to the outside. If they start shifting towards the outside and leave the middle a bit lighter, you run it."

"So it's not a true air raid system, it's more so taking advantage of numbers and leverage."

Carkuff also recognizes the strong culture and roots that have been established and cultivated over the years from Kenny Parker to Jake Tyre.

"Super excited obviously to be home, but also to be taking over a program that already has its roots," he emphasizes.

"It's always hard to come into a place and completely change the culture and everything but walkin into a place that is rooted in the weight room, knows how to work hard, and has been coached well by Coach Tyre and his staff, it just makes the transition so much cleaner and better. So I'm really just thankful for how

they created the relationship with the community and kept it tight knit.

"I'm thankful for Coach Kenny and Tyre in how they have set me up for success here," Carkuff says.

Carkuff is set to begin in about three weeks or so on April 8th, and he is extremely excited about the future while understanding it will take everyone moving forward together to string wins together.

"I'm a coach that wants to win, so if I feel like the system that I use isn't going to work, we'll adjust and change to something that does work," he says.

"As long as everyone is bought in and moving forward together, with anything, it's going to be successful," Carkuff concludes.

Success is exactly what the Cascade faithful are hoping to achieve, and Year One of the Jacob Carkuff Era promises to be an exciting one.

Champs Shutout Richland in Season Opener

BY NOAH MADDOX
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Led by a dominant shutout performance on the mound from Jayden Hathcock, the Cascade Champions picked up a road victory over the Richland Raiders, 8-0, to open the season on Monday night.

The sophomore lefty finished with 10 strikeouts and only one walk over five complete innings. Despite giving up a total of six hits, including five through the first two innings, his fastball-curveball combo kept Richland hitters off-balance all night long.

Bryce Miller started on the mound for the hosts, and he went six up, six down against a very potent Champions' lineup. Meanwhile, he and his teammates put some traffic on the basepaths in the first two innings against Hathcock, but they were unable to come up with that final hit to drive home any runners.

Richland left two runners on base in the first inning, but they quickly responded in the second. Jamison Andrews poked a soft liner to right field to lead off the inning, Brody Kincannon hustled out a softly hit single that rolled right between the first and second basemen, and then Jack Jackson reached safely on a perfectly placed bunt to load the bases with nobody out.

However, this is when Hathcock really locked in

on the mound. A four-pitch strikeout of the nine-hole hitter Cole Drake was followed up with back-to-back five-pitch strikeouts against the top two hitters in the order for the Raiders in Carter Edwards and Will Shirey. Hathcock escaped the bases loaded jam unscathed, and he proceeded to allow only one hit while racking up five more strikeouts in his final three innings of work.

Correspondingly, the Cascade bats woke up in the top of the third. Starting catcher Thomas Demartelaere singled under the glove of the shortstop, Jackson, to lead off the inning, and after a James Magee bunt single followed by a full-count walk drawn by Jordan Childress, the visitors had juiced the bases with nobody out themselves.

Tullahoma transfer and leadoff hitter Bryceton Bunch then grounded out, and after senior Sawyer Lovvorn struck out looking on three pitches, Bryce Miller was one out away from escaping his own jam as first baseman Walker Craig stepped into the box. Craig, the only returning hitter with an OPS that was over 1.000 last season, worked a 2-1 count before depositing a liner that nearly split the gap in right-centerfield for a clutch two-out, two-RBI single that broke the scoreless deadlock.

Childress was held at third, and after cleanup hitter Connor Melson took strike one, Craig took off

for second base, hoping to draw a throw from Miller that would allow Childress to reach home for a third run to end the inning. That throw from Miller did in fact come, and Craig was able to avoid being tagged until his teammate scored from third to tack on another run for the Champs.

As Hathcock continued to mow down Richland hitters into the 5th inning, he also tacked on a single in the 4th inning. Courtesy runner Caden Hammonds stole second, and after a Logan Green strikeout, he also attempted to steal third, drawing a throw from Cole Drake. Drake's throw then sailed into left field, allowing Hammonds to come around to score Cascade's fourth run of the night.

The knockout blow came in the 5th inning in the form of a Sawyer Lovvorn 3-run home run off of Tucker Mayo that broke the game wide open for Cascade. Craig would tack on the eighth and final run of the night in the top of the 7th with a one-out RBI double.

Craig and Lovvorn each finished with three RBIs in the 8-0 win in what was a complete team effort for Cascade. Both teams were coming off of not only district and region tournament titles, but also a sub-state appearance from a year ago, so such a dominant win in the season opener for the visitors bodes well for the rest of the season.

Cascade improves to 1-0.

Cascade's Late Rally Falls Short At Eagleville

BY NOAH MADDOX
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The Cascade Champions fell on the road against the two-time defending Class 1A State Champions, the Eagleville Eagles, 9-6 on Tuesday.

A furious six-run rally in the top of the sixth to tie the game at six was negated by a 3-run home run by Josh Jeffcoat in the bottom half of the inning, his first homer of his high school career.

Eagleville got the scoring started early thanks to a couple of Cascade fielding errors in the first inning. After a leadoff double by starting pitcher Brayden Baker, a pair of wild pitches following a fielding error sent Baker home for the first run of the game.

Brody McLemore, on base via a walk, also came around to score after a passed ball reached the backstop, immediately followed by an infield single from first baseman Donovan Drew that scored Nathan Brown for Eagleville's third and final run of the first inning.

After working around a two-out Demartelaere single in the visitor's second, Eagleville would tack on another run in the bottom half of the inning. After Cason Lamb reached on a throwing error by the Cascade infield, he quickly stole second base. Then, leadoff hitter Brayden Bak-

Spring Sports Weekly Outlook

BY NOAH MADDOX
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Baseball

Shelbyville Central: 1-1 (0-0)

Upcoming Game(s):
3/14 @ Rockvale at 7:00 PM, 3/15 vs Middle Tennessee Christian at 6:00 PM, 3/16 vs Stewarts Creek at 10:00 AM and vs Oakland at 12:00 PM, 3/18 vs Murfreesboro Central Magnet at 6:00 PM, and 3/19 @ Tullahoma at 5:00 PM.

Last Week's Result(s):
3/11 W 16-5 @ Central Magnet and 3/12 L 9-1 @ Chapel Hill.

Cascade: 1-1 (0-0)

Upcoming Game(s):
3/14 vs Richland, 3/15 vs East Robertson, and 3/18 @ Huntland, all LIVE on WZNG The Zinger 100.9 starting at 6:15 PM.

Last Week's Result(s):
3/11 W 8-0 @ Richland and 3/12 L 9-6 @ Eagleville.

Community: 1-1 (0-0)

Upcoming Game(s):
3/11 vs Dekalb County at 5:00 PM and 3/12 @ Franklin County at 6:00 PM.

Last Week's Result(s):
3/11 W 6-5 vs Dekalb County and 3/12 L 11-1 @ Franklin County.

Softball

Shelbyville Central: 0-0 (0-0)

Upcoming Game(s):
3/14 @ Franklin County at 5:30 PM, 3/15 vs Columbia at 5:00 PM, and 3/19 @ Warren County at 5:15 PM.

Last Week's Result(s):
3/12 vs Spring Hill (postponed in 3rd inning due to lighting issues).

Cascade: 0-3 (0-0)

Upcoming Game(s):
3/13 @ Moore County (at time of print), 3/14 @ Rockvale at 5:30 PM, and 3/18 @ Cannon County at 5:30 PM.

Last Week's Result(s):
3/7 L 12-1 @ Coffee County and 3/12 L 10-3 @ Blackman.

Community: 1-0 (0-0)

Upcoming Game(s):
3/14 @ Marshall County at 5:30 PM, 3/15 vs Hickman County at 8:00 PM, @ Zion Christian Tournament on 3/16 vs Spring Hill at 12:00 PM, vs Mt. Pleasant/Richland at 4:30 PM, and potential Championship game vs TBA at 7:00 PM, and 3/18 @ Cornersville at 6:00 PM.

Last Week's Result(s):
3/12 W 18-5 @ Murfreesboro Central Magnet.

Boys' Soccer

Shelbyville Central: 1-0-0 (0-0-0)

Upcoming Game(s):
3/14 @ Coffee County at 7:00 PM and 3/19 vs Lincoln County at 7:00 PM.

Last Week's Result(s):
3/12 W 6-0 @ Columbia.

Cascade: 0-1-0 (0-0-0)

Upcoming Game(s):
3/14 @ Chapel Hill at 5:30 PM, 3/15 @ Lincoln County at 6:30 PM, and 3/18 @ Tullahoma at 6:00 PM.

Last Week's Result(s):
3/12 L 4-0 @ Coffee County.

Community: 1-0-0 (0-0-0)

Upcoming Game(s):
3/19 vs Agathos Classical at 6:00 p.m.

Last Week's Result(s):
3/12 W 4-0 vs Middle Tennessee Christian.

er singled home Lamb on a drive to left field to increase Eagleville's lead to four after two innings.

Craig and Baker both settled down on the mound to hold the other's lineup scoreless until the bottom of the fourth inning when the Eagles tacked on two more runs to take a commanding 6-0 lead.

After the sides traded scoreless innings, Cascade's bats finally showed some signs of life in the top of the 6th. Sawyer Lovvorn got hit by a pitch on a full count to lead off the inning, then Walker Craig doubled on a ball to the wall out in deep center field which allowed Lovvorn to eventually score. Connor Melson and Jayden Hathcock immediately followed that up with back-to-back infield pop-ups, and it looked like the rally was just about over.

However, Logan Green put solid contact on the ball and sent it to third base where a Brady Burns throwing error allowed Green to reach second base safely and for Craig to end up on third. Demartelaere and pinch-hitter Caden Hammonds both followed that up by taking a walk, driving Craig home for the second run to keep the pressure on the hosts still with two outs.

The bases were still loaded as the nine-hole hitter, senior outfielder Logan Pulley, dug into the batter's box against Maddox Boul-

din. Pulley, who had a walk-off base hit to win a game late last season, delivered in a big spot once again, driving a double all the way to the wall in left-center field to clear the bases and cut the Eagles' lead to one, 6-5. To follow, Cascade's leadoff hitter, Jordan Childress, singled a 1-2 pitch to left, driving Pulley home for the game-tying run. After Lovvorn flew out to center, the dust finally settled with Cascade having put up a six-spot in the top of the 6th to somehow tie the game.

Unfortunately for the Champions, Eagleville showed their championship mettle in the home half of the inning. Green sandwiched a strikeout between two HBPs, but on the first pitch after a mound meeting, Josh Jeffcoat ambushed a hanging breaking ball that bounced off the top of the wall and over in left-center for a backbreaking one-out, 3-run home run. To make the moment even more incredible, this was Jeffcoat's first home run in his high school career, and was his first home run in an official game since he was 12 years old.

Cascade was unable to muster up another rally in the 7th, and the Eagleville Eagles could finally exhale after persevering, 9-6, over their former district rival.

Eagleville improves to 2-1 overall while Cascade falls to 1-1 on the season.