

Mayoral candidates answer pertinent questions about future government management

By Dawn Hankins
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While all offices up for election on Aug. 6, are

important, no doubt the buck stops at the mayor's office. As one of the major components in the working government in the

County, the T-G delves into the campaigns of those running for office. Responding recently to the T-G's request for

comment to some questions were: candidates Chad Fletcher, Curt Cobb and Adam Vanderkin.

VISION AND PRIORITIES FOR THE COUNTY Chad J. Fletcher, Republican Candidate For Bedford County Mayor

What are your top three priorities for the County, and how do you plan to achieve them? My three priorities are straight-forward. My focus is smart growth, safe communities, and sensible spending. To make these three pieces of my vision for Bedford County a reality, I will prioritize building a collaborative culture across our government, partnering with our Federal and State governments, and insist on transparent governance and ongoing communication with our citizens. My goal is to protect our County's integrity, natural resources, sense of community, and Constitutional rights while standing firm on conservative spending and values. We cannot move forward as a County by embracing the status quo and "business as usual," but by working in unison towards future progress, as one.

Additionally, we must transform our budgeting process. Moving forward, the process must be open and clear. The perception of backroom politics must be replaced with public discourse. When our budget reaches the Commission floor for consideration, it



must be fully vetted and as conservative in regards to spending as possible. Furthermore, every line of the budget must be reviewed, considered, and evaluated for need. Where funds can be saved, they must be. We must find the balance between providing a high level of service within our County while maintaining strict spending policy that allows us to live within our means. Afterall, the tax revenue that is generated by our County is a result of our citizens. Their work and sacrifice must be honored. That is not negotiable.

How will you address
See FLETCHER, 3A

VISION AND PRIORITIES FOR THE COUNTY Adam Vanderkin, Independent Candidate For Bedford County Mayor

What are your top three priorities for the County, and how do you plan to achieve them? Accountability, efficiency and smart developmental industry.

I will personally hold county employees accountable for the work that they do. I will also implement several measures in place in which to improve the efficiency of the expenditure of taxpayer funds. I also plan to drive industry back to the area like we used to have, when many larger businesses were in the area and provided hundreds of jobs to the public.

How will you address the growing concerns about affordable housing? Our current housing prices are primarily driven by the sheer number of people moving to the state of Tennessee and to Bedford County. One way which could be implemented, that would slow the growth of our county and for the preservation of our land, would be when building a new home to set a mandatory requirement of five acres of land. This would not apply for someone with 5 or more acres who would want to build a home for a family member on their land.

What is your strategy



for improving the quality of life for all residents? In an efficient and accountable approach, we can analyze our current resources to further improve roads, aid in the education of county residents, take care of our low-income senior citizens and veterans, while continuing to build our industry in a smart way. This is in effort to bring us back to the age when we were producing something with many good companies in our county that were employing hundreds of people.

Can you outline your vision for the County's development over the next decade? I think we need to do a better job at holding people accountable for what they are supposed to do within our county. I am primarily talking about people who work for the county. I also feel that we can do a better

See VANDERKIN, 6A

VISION AND PRIORITIES FOR THE COUNTY Curt Cobb, Independent Candidate For Bedford County Mayor

VISIONS AND PRIORITIES

1. Strengthen Our Economy-See Economic Development
2. Safer Communities and Schools-See Public Safety Education and Education
3. Infrastructure-See Infrastructure Investment

Unfortunately, we have seen tremendous inflation since COVID, and the cost of housing has skyrocketed across the country. In Bedford County, the Planning Commission is responsible for setting land-use and development policy for the unincorporated areas of the county. Because of that role, the Commission's decisions directly influence how much land is available for development and what types of housing can be built.

The majority of the unincorporated areas do not have the infrastructure necessary to support multi-family housing, which is why, to my knowledge, none have been built in the last decade. To be responsible stewards of growth, the County should only allow new developments in areas where proper infrastructure already exists or can be upgraded by the developer at their expense.

When I say "we," I mean the entire county, including all municipalities, should work together to create job opportunities, expand tourism, and strengthen our local economy. The goal is to raise the per-capita income and improve the overall quality of life for all Bedford Countians. I plan to be the conduit that brings everyone together to work collaboratively toward these shared goals.

I envision our county entering a period of steady, well-managed growth that



strengthens our economy, enhances quality of life, and preserves the character that makes this community special. This includes investing in modern infrastructure, supporting our schools and first responders, protecting agriculture, expanding broadband access, growing job opportunities, encouraging tourism, and helping small businesses thrive.

I plan for my office to offer strong constituent-focused services, similar to the support my legislative office provided. Our county is home to many nonprofits and agencies dedicated to helping underserved residents, yet many people still struggle to find the right place to turn for assistance. My goal is to bridge that gap by connecting individuals with the resources available to them.

I will stay actively engaged in addressing problems, resolving issues, and responding to community needs. Whether it involves navigating services, coordinating with partner organizations, or helping residents find solutions, my office will be a reliable point of support for everyone in our county.

See COBB, 5A



NEW JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER COMES TO FRUITION

Photos by Tav Norman

While it is the hope that this center will never be filled, reality is that it will house youth charged with crimes in the near future. County Mayor Chad Graham said this week, "I am proud to say that we expect to receive our certificates of occupancy by the end of the month for both the juvenile and surplus facilities. This will complete all outstanding projects approved under my administration. I am grateful to all the folks that made this possible."

As for the actual opening of the new facility, plans have already begun on the necessary steps to facilitate the transfer of juveniles to the new detention center.



ON THE INSIDE

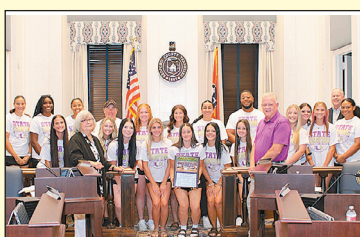
SPORTSPAGES 9-10A
PROPERTY TRANSFERS...PAGE 8A
PUBLIC NOTICESPAGE 7A
OBITUARIESPAGE 5A
CLASSIFIEDSPAGE 8A



First Commerce appoints new Bedford County market president

First Commerce Bank welcomes Daryl O'Neal.

See Page 11A



Viqueens get recognized

After winning the school's first state championship earlier this year, the Community Viqueens' softball squad was honored at the Commission meeting.

See Page 10A



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Bedford Briefs

County Meeting Bedford County Committees meet Tuesday, July 21, at 5 p.m., at the courthouse. **VFW Breakfast and News** The monthly VFW breakfast will be held Saturday, July 18, from 7 to 9:30 a.m. at the VFW building on



Depot Street. The VFW Post 5019 was recently presented a check from funds raised through Bedford County Fairest of the Fair Pageant.

Governor's School Participant

Among the 32 students statewide to participate in the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences from May 31 through June 26, was Addison Stoffan from Shelbyville. The academic program is hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin and offers rising high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to gain experience in a collegiate environment, familiarity with technology in their field and three hours of college credit in agriculture and natural resources courses. For more information about the Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences, visit www.utm.edu/AgGovSchool.

Rosenwald Community Center Events

A farewell reception will be held at the Rosenwald Community Center on Tillman Street on July 20 at 10 a.m., in honor of County Mayor Chad Graham and Sheriff Austin Swing, who are retiring in August from their County positions.

The Rosenwald Community Center annual fish fry will be held Saturday, July 25, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Take in or out. Fish sandwich is \$10. Plate meals, including sides and drink, are \$15. Proceeds support the community center.

NEW DAR MEMBER SWORN IN



Regent Maureen Garrett and Chaplain Aurelia Swann with new member Tabby Stem, following the ceremony to make Stem an official DAR member.



Tabby Stem is sworn in as a new DAR member.



Submitted Photos

**First Presbyterian had
a great VBS this week**

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

FUMC WORSHIP

Pastor Karen Barrineau will preach “Everlasting Love” from Matthew 22:34-40; Psalms 52:8 this Sunday at First United Methodist Church Shelbyville. Sunday School for all ages begins at 9 am, followed by the worship service at 10 am. Nursery and Children's Church are available during worship. For those unable to attend in person, FUMC-S offers a livestream on Facebook and YouTube and a broadcast on WLJ 98.7 FM and AM 1580.

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BEDFORD COUNTY
Schools

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BCLA DATE: TH, 8/6/2026 TIME: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	EAKIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DATE: MON, 8/3/2026 TIME: 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM
CARTWRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DATE: TH, 7/30/2026 TIME: 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM	EAST SIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DATE: TH, 7/30/2026 TIME: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
CASCADE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DATE: TH, 7/30/2026 TIME: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM	HARRIS MIDDLE SCHOOL DATE: TH, 7/30/2026 TIME: 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM
CASCADE MIDDLE SCHOOL DATE: TH, 7/30/2026 TIME: 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM	LEARNING WAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DATE: MON, 8/3/2026 TIME: 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM
CASCADE HIGH SCHOOL DATE: TH, 7/30/2026 TIME: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	LIBERTY SCHOOL DATE: TH, 7/30/2026 TIME: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
COMMUNITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DATE: FRI, 7/31/2026 TIME: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	SHELBYVILLE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DATE: TH, 7/30/2026 TIME: 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM
COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL DATE: FRI, 7/31/2026 TIME: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	SOUTHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DATE: TH, 7/30/2026 TIME: 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DATE: FRI, 7/31/2026 TIME: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	THOMAS MAGNET SCHOOL DATE: TH, 7/30/2026 TIME: 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

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FLETCHER

From page 1A

the growing concerns about affordable housing?

I will continue to urge our Planning and County Commissions to finish the work of developing our 20 Year Growth Plan. This has been in progress for some years and must be finished. Continuing to stall this work leaves the County without clear direction and guidelines. I will work with our County Commission to encourage thoughtful zoning policies and then demand that they be faithfully followed.

What is your strategy for improving the quality of life for all residents?

Improving life across the County begins with listening to the needs of the people in our County. We must have a clear sense of the needs that exist. Additionally, I will ask the Commission to establish a Citizen Resources Taskforce. This will bring together our churches, government agencies, and non-profits to develop a comprehensive guide to resources already in existence so our neighbors can be connected to services that can assist them without adding additional cost to the County budget.

Can you outline your vision for the County's development over the next decade?

In a word, deliberate. The misnomer is that growth is beyond our control and out of our hands as a County; not true. Our County Commission has the power to establish rules and policy that determines when, where, what kind, and how much growth and development will occur across our County. While I believe that development will happen, I believe we have a responsibility to be calculating to allow businesses, industry, and growth that adds to our County without compromising our values and way of life.

How will you address the specific needs of the County's underserved populations?

We must develop a unified resource guide for families where they can turn for assistance. By leveraging services that already exist within the spectrum of our non-profit and church partners, we can help families in a more comprehensive manner while maintaining a con-

servative fiscal stand.

How would you foster a sense of community in our rapidly expanding County?

For too long, too many of our County citizens have felt unheard. Community engagement must be a hallmark of the coming years. I will continue to hold town hall meetings on a quarterly basis across Bedford County to ensure that our government listens and responds to "we the people." Simply put, a sense of community can only flourish when everyone feels safe, heard, respected, and represented.

How do you envision the future of public transportation?

While public transportation would be a benefit to many, our current priority must be to work towards controlling spending. We must address the "have to's" such as public safety, education, and infrastructure before we can consider the "nice to's."

How do you plan to adapt County governance in the face of rapid technological advancements?

As technology allows for more fiscally productive solutions to our work, they must be considered. If there are ways that will accomplish our goal of serving citizens in a common-sense, dynamic manner that will save time, money, and still allow for a high-level of responsiveness, then it should be considered.

What legacy do you hope to leave behind at the end of your term?

Our County is my home. I grew up in a Bedford County where neighbors helped neighbors. I grew up in a Bedford County where our natural resources were abundant and evident. I grew up in a Bedford County where people could leave their doors unlocked because we felt safe.

Simply put, I want to ensure that our children, grandchildren, and future generations can also grow up in a County that is safe, fiscally sound, protected from uncontrolled growth, and is abundant in opportunity. We should be a bastion of freedom, conservative values, and protected Constitutionally guaranteed rights.

What is your plan to attract new businesses and jobs?

We must combine

the efforts of our Chamber, Tennessee Economic Development Council, and Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development to identify businesses and industries that are the right fit for Bedford County; however, we must be thoughtful and deliberate in this process. We cannot sacrifice our natural resources and peace chasing empty promises. We have already watched that movie and know the ending,

How will you work with local small businesses to support growth?

I will ask the Commission to establish a Small Business Task Force to work with business owners, County government, and the Chamber to identify barriers that currently exist to sustainable local business. By understanding their needs in a more direct, complete manner, we can work to develop structures that will benefit both current and future entrepreneurs.

What measures will you implement to boost local tourism?

We must create opportunities that encourage tourism through events such as local festivals, living histories, and events. Additionally, I believe we should partner with the Bedford County Historical Society and Tennessee Historical Commission to turn the Old Rock Jail into the Bedford County Museum.

Can you discuss your strategy for reducing unemployment rates?

Simply put, more local jobs and better training leads to lower unemployment. We need continued evolution in BCS's CTE programs so students learn needed skills.

How will you ensure that economic growth is sustainable and benefits all residents?

We simply cannot allow industry into our County that will abuse our resources and threaten our peace. Careful research must be conducted so we know that promised jobs will translate into actual jobs and that the business will be lasting and beneficial. Additionally, Bedford County should be a statewide leader in agricultural production. Our farms should be supported to produce products that leads to

added revenue for farmers and small businesses within our County.

What incentives or programs will you develop to retain young professionals?

We must diminish the exodus of smart, talented young people from our County when they feel compelled to leave Bedford to find jobs and opportunities in other locations. This can only be accomplished by working to provide the opportunities they seek within our own borders. We must prepare students for careers of their interests that match the local needs of our own business and industry so we can develop at home talent and grow our own economy from within.

How do you plan to balance economic growth with the preservation of green space?

We must have a clear, strong 20-year plan that regulates growth and development, protects our natural resources, and preserves our County's character. Once we have clear regulations in place that have the authority of the County Commission behind them, then we can faithfully enforce our own rules with clear integrity.

How do you plan to assist residents who are struggling with the cost of living?

We must develop a unified resource guide to help residents in need. Additionally, we must consider our tax practices. No senior should EVER have to choose between paying taxes or for food and medicine.

What kind of infrastructure investments do you believe are critical to stimulate economic growth?

Simply put, we must partner with State government and utility companies to improve roads, bridges, power, internet, and sewer. Additionally, we must prioritize services such as emergency response, safety, and education. We need an EMS station on the Wheel and Flat Creek side of the Duck River to decrease response times and prepare for a catastrophic flood event that could close emergency access to that side of the County.

Public Safety and Law Enforcement (one response for all) Our County government cannot work in silos. While the varied Departments may have both authority and responsibility that is unique to them, there must be a level of consistency upon which our citizens can depend. To that end, I am a strong supporter of collaborative governance.

I believe that public safety should have a clear presence in our educational system and in developing community policing initiatives that will allow communities across the County to be part of the solution. Using the National Association of School Resource Officer's TRIAD as a starting point, our emergency services should be encouraged to serve/protect, act as community liaisons, identify trends before they become issues, and we must educate citizens to address issues such as opioids, impaired driving, and internet safety. Additionally, community forums must be held to listen to residents and address concerns.

I believe that we should work towards making our emergency services fully staffed and fairly paid. Un-

derpaid and understaffed emergency services pose a continued peril to our County. Finally, we should provide our Sheriff's Department with the tools they need to keep Bedford County safe and take those who pose a danger to our neighbors off the streets.

How will you address homelessness, and what long-term solutions are you advocating for?

By developing partnerships between the government, non-profits, and churches, we can connect those in need with the resources they need in a more direct and timely manner.

How do you plan to balance the interests of property developers with those of existing residents?

Once again, we must have a clear, strong 20-year plan that regulates growth and development, protects our natural resources, and preserves our County's character. Once we have clear regulations in place that have the authority of the County Commission behind them, then we can faithfully enforce our own rules with clear integrity.

How will you work to improve the quality of education in our public schools?

While we are truly blessed to have an exceptional Board of Education and system leadership, our school system must be fully funded, responsive to community expectations, in line with the needs of our businesses, and supportive of student needs. Every student should graduate from our schools with the skills needed to build a life, make a living, and invest their livelihood in Bedford County.

Infrastructure and Public Services

Simply put, we must partner with stakeholders to improve roads, bridges, power, internet, and sewer. There must continue to be on-going, systemic, and systematic partnership between our County, utility companies, State government, and other associated entities to identify, plan for, invest in, and improve our infrastructure in a manner that is financially informed and needs responsive. On an ongoing basis, the needs of our County's citizens must be collected and addressed to gain a clear, comprehensive picture of where we are and what we need. Additionally, we should aggressively seek grant funding to help underwrite the local cost to some of these needs.

Finally, we must prioritize services such as emergency response, safety, and education. We need an EMS station on the Wheel and Flat Creek side of the Duck River to decrease response times and prepare for a catastrophic flood event that could close emergency access to that side of the County.

We must actively seek partnerships and grants to improve our County's sustainability. By diminishing our demand for services for trash exportation, for instance, we could potentially save money for the County. Additionally, by developing environmentally conscious regulations,

we can help preserve our rivers and land.

I firmly believe that the needs, concerns, and feedback from our constituents must be heard on an on-going basis. Our government must operate in an open, transparent manner. We must tear down the perception that behind-the-scenes agreements seemingly lead to the decisions that are made in our County.

In addition to ongoing, in-person town halls, we must leverage social media as a tool to promote communication and receive feedback from our residents. Additionally, it will be my expectation that calls and email will be returned to residents within a reasonable amount of time. Afterall, we are in the resident service business and no one should reach a dead-end in getting information from our County.

Finally, I intend to create a Young Resident Advisory Committee. This group will be drawn from high school and college aged residents to provide feedback regarding our County. In order to address the concerns of our younger residents, we must create a mechanism to receive it. From this information, we can look for opportunities to align our services with our resident's needs.

Transparency and Accountability in Office (answered as a whole)

My fundamental belief is that the government has an absolute responsibility to serve our citizens. That is a non-negotiable. As a result, we must thoughtfully act to "shun the very appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22). To accomplish this, we cannot promote conflicts of interest nor can we allow the perception of "back room deals" to wreck our credibility. Quite simply, neither corruption nor unethical behavior can be tolerated as our responsibility is to serve Bedford County and its residents.

Transparency must be the new norm in Bedford County. To do this, we must actively seek feedback from our constituents to gain a clear understanding of our effectiveness in serving the County by leveraging social and local media. We must have on-going discussions on the "state of the County" so our residents understand where we are, where we intend to go, and what factors figure into our decisions.

Finally, we must thoughtfully and comprehensively evaluate the effectiveness of our service to our citizens. Developing and administering needs and satisfaction surveys can be conducted for virtually no charge but provide actionable information. This must be done as a part of our ongoing commitment to our County.



CANDIDATE GREEN VYING FOR GOVERNOR

Submitted Photo
Jerri Green, a candidate for TN governor, visited Shelbyville recently, drawing a nice crowd out at the H.V. Griffin Park pavilion.

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FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

SPIES TO the Promised Land Numbers 13 and Deuteronomy 1

Moses sent 12 spies to check out the land of Canaan, the land to which they were going. One was selected from each tribe: Shammua from the tribe of Reuben, Shaphat from the tribe of Simeon, Caleb from the tribe of Judah, Igal from the tribe of Issachar, Hoshea(Joshua) from the tribe of Ephraim(a tribe of Joseph), Palti from the tribe of Benjamin, Gaddiel from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddi from the tribe of Manasseh (a tribe of Joseph), Ammiel from the tribe of Dan, Sethur from the tribe of Asher, Nahbi from the tribe of Naphtali, Geuel from the tribe of Gad.

After searching out the land the spies were to report to Moses what they had found.

At the end of 40 days the spies returned to Moses and Aaron and reported that there was great produce of the land, but that the people living there were very large.

10 of the spies said the task of taking the land from the people already there was not possible.

Joshua and Caleb said that the land was exceedingly good. They said that if the Lord was pleased with the Israelites He would lead them into the land and give it to them. "...do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them," they plead before the entire assembly of the Israelites. Numbers 14: 9.

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46

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

METHODIST
CANNON UNITED METHODIST
1001 S. Cannon Blvd., 931-684-4767

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
122 Public Square N., 931-684-2535
MULLINS CHAPEL AME
601 Ledbetter Rd., 931-685-4547

PLEASANT GROVE UNITED METHODIST
1597 Hwy. 130 W., 931-294-5477

SCOTT UNITED METHODIST
940 Morton St., 931-684-2297

ST. JOHNS AME
1512 Raby Ave., 931-684-9931

WHITESIDE UNITED METHODIST
2400 Midland Rd., 615-828-8292

WOODFORK CHAPEL AME
1011 Lipscomb St., 931-684-4817

NAZARENE
FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
834 Union St., 931-684-3664

HILL TOP NAZARENE
1007 Smith Chapel Rd., 931-65-5234

HIMESVILLE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1614 Hwy. 82 S., 931-694-6920

PENTECOSTAL
EMMANUEL PENTECOSTAL
1005 Belmont Ave., 931-685-6999

IGLESIA APOSTOLIC PENTECOSTAL
2216 Hwy. 61 W., 931-680-1539

SHELBYVILLE UNITED PENTECOSTAL
1701 Green Lane, 931-685-9731

WHOSOEVER WILL PENTECOSTAL
219 E. Cedar St., 931-684-4384

PRESBYTERIAN
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
600 N. Brittain St., 931-684-6541

GREEN HILL CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN
1900 Unionville Deason Rd., Bell Buckle
931-294-2040

NORMANDY PRESBYTERIAN
108 Center St., Normandy, 931-857-9395

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
101 Church St., 931-685-9588

OTHER
ABUNDANT LIFE
600 Landers St., 931-703-0016

AGAPE WORSHIP CENTER
340 Maplewood Dr., 931-684-1243

BEREAN WAY CHRISITAN FELLOWSHIP
209 Thompson St., 931-703-7076

BLANKENSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH
3602 Midland Rd., 931-437-2599

CHURCH AT ZION HILL
510 Thompson Rd., 931-581-4777

FELLOWSHIP FOR CHRIST
142 Richdale Lane, 931-684-0949

GATEWAY
1250 Madison St., 931-684-2794

HOUSE OF PRAYER
86 Union St., 931-703-5162

HOUSE OF PRAYER MINISTRY OF FAITH
907 W. Lane St., 931-639-1368

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER
865 Union St., 931-607-8495

KING CHAPEL CHURCH AT UNION RIDGE
510 Union Ridge Rd., Wartrace, 931-389-6248

LIGHTHOUSE
111 Church St., 931-684-4900

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304 Old Nashville Dirt Rd., 931-684-6883

LIVING WATER
3383 Hwy. 41A N. Unionville, 931-993-2477

MIRACLE TABERNACLE
507 Coble Circle, 931-224-5184

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MULLIN CHAPEL
601 Ledbetter Rd., 931-685-4547

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923 COLLOREDO BLVD, SHELBYVILLE, TN
Joel Landers

COBB

From page 1A

A strong community grows when people come together around shared values and goals. As County mayor, I will support local civic involvement, and strengthen partnerships across our schools, churches, businesses, nonprofits, and local governments. Protecting Bedford County’s neighbor helping neighbor spirit will remain a priority.

We are a rural community, and I do not expect major changes to our public transportation system in the near future. Currently, our county is served by the South Central Tennessee Development District’s SCATS program, which provides shuttle and bus services. You often see their vans and buses at our senior citizens center, and they offer low-cost transportation for residents who need reliable mobility. The county mayor sit on the Development Districts board.

Over the past several years, I have focused on modernizing technology within county government, beginning with the automation of key processes in the Clerk & Master’s Office. These improvements have increased efficiency, reduced manual workload, and provided more reliable access to information for staff and the public.

Building on that success, I have developed a broader plan called the Bedford Saves Initiative. This initiative outlines a collaborative effort with the Finance Department and the County Commission to implement updated procurement and purchasing software. The goal is to provide department heads and elected officials with streamlined tools that simplify purchasing, improve compliance, and strengthen financial oversight.

In addition, I intend to expand the county’s use of data analytics, similar to the systems already used by our first responders. By applying data-driven decision-making across departments.

Together, these efforts represent a forward-looking approach to county government, one that uses technology, collaboration, and data to deliver better service to our citizens while reducing costs and improving ac-

countability.

What kind of legacy do you hope to leave behind? I’m not concerned with building a legacy for myself. What matters is helping people and improving the quality of life for everyone in our community. If my work makes daily life a little better for our citizens, that’s enough.

My goal is to strengthen our economy by fostering effective collaboration between the county and the city, expanding employment opportunities, supporting sustained tourism growth, and establishing a coordinated strategy for business retention, expansion, and recruitment. Bedford County is uniquely positioned for future advancement because of our location within a day’s drive of 78 percent of the nation’s population, our proven agritourism and tourism assets, our rich historical heritage, and our convenient access to the interstate. When all municipalities work together with the county, we can support small businesses, increase revenue, and enhance the quality of life for working families and all our citizens.

A modern economy requires a modern skill set. I will expand re-skilling programs through community colleges, MTSU, TCAT, and employer-based training so workers can transition into high-demand fields like advanced manufacturing, healthcare, logistics, and information technology. These programs must be affordable, accessible, and aligned with real employer needs.

Sustainable Growth-Economic needs to benefit everyone, not just a few. That means encouraging development that strengthens our county, supports small businesses, and protects the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens. I will promote responsible land use and infrastructure planning that ensures growth doesn’t come at the expense of future generations. Development should pay for itself and not be at the expense of taxpayers.

Retaining Young Professionals-Creating educational more and better paying job opportunities, invest in a better quality of life, and

letting them have a seat at the table.

Balancing Growth with Green Space Preservation-The Bedford County Planning Commission is studying this particular issue within their proposed land use plan. The goal should be to protect our communities’ character as well as protect our infrastructure and environment.

Infrastructure Investments for Long-Term Prosperity- Strong infrastructure is the backbone of a strong economy. I will take a regional planning focus and work with our municipalities and utilities to improve roads, broadband access, water systems, wastewater, and public facilities. This approach will strengthen our position as we apply for programs, grants, and or state and federal assistance. Investments create jobs, attract businesses, and ensure our community is prepared for future growth.

Police Reforms and Policing Police-The Sheriff has the constitutional authority over the county’s law enforcement, not the county mayor. As county mayor I will work with the sheriff to make sure that law enforcement is getting the proper training and tools they need.

Mental Health-Working in the court system I have noticed a rise in the need for more mental health services. As mayor, I believe we should look at grant opportunities and lobby our state and federal government for more resources. The county needs to promote and assist those with a need to utilize our non-profits and state agencies in areas that provide mental health services. There are resources out there that a lot of our citizens are not aware of.

Opioid Crisis-This is a very serious and complex issue that will require a lot of input from various state holders to play a critical role in finding solutions. Like any crisis, I believe we should get all the stakeholders at the table to address the

problem and look at other communities that have had success. Then create a plan and execute it.

Needs of First Responders-Every strong community stands and supports their first responders. It is very important that first responders have the tools and resources available to do their job and are properly funded. Technology, training, equipment, and their well-being will be at the top of my list. When we invest in our first responders, we are investing in the health and safety of our families. Seconds do matter!

Citizens Public Safety-We should always listen to the needs of our citizens when making public safety decisions. Whether it is constructive criticism and or long-term planning. The goal should always be to improve services and response times.

Property Developers-I am a believer in protecting property owners’ constitutional rights, but I also believe our leaders have an obligation to protect the public’s health, safety, and welfare when making decisions regarding new developments. The county’s comprehensive land use plan and subdivision regulations is where we put guardrails in place to protect the public. The county planning commission is currently in the process of updating and raising standards for land use and development for the unincorporated areas of the county. The municipalities where most of the growth occurs are governed by their planning commissions, not the county.

Education and Local Schools- As County Mayor, I will work closely with our schools and the Bedford County School Board to strengthen education across our county.

I bring a strong legislative record supporting our public schools shaped by a lifetime connection to education. My mother is a retired teacher, and I come

from a long line of educators. I will coordinate regularly with the Director of Schools and the board to understand classroom needs to support responsible budgeting and plan long term improvements to facilities safety and transportation. I will bring together county departments, local employers, nonprofits, and civic groups to work towards expanding career pathways and after school opportunities for students. By keeping communication open and treating education as a countywide priority I will work to ensure our schools have the support they need to help every child succeed. Every child deserves the best education we can provide, and that starts with making sure more education funding reaches the classroom.

Infrastructure- A regional approach is the only way the county, municipalities, and the state can realistically solve long-term infrastructure challenges we face. Yes, I will make infrastructure projects a priority.

As Mayor, I will bring the needs of our utility companies directly to the commission and work with them to upgrade and maintain our infrastructure. Strong partnerships and open communication are essential. When the county, the commission, and our utility providers work together, ratepayers benefit and the public is better served.

Public transportation is available right here in Bedford County. Through the South Central Tennessee Development District, the SCATS program provides dependable transportation for our citizens — especially seniors, workers, and families who need a reliable ride. As mayor, I will work to make sure the public clearly understands that this service is available and ready to assist our citizens.

As mayor, I will continue to solicit grants and state and federal funding to expand our access to affordable broadband. Bedford County

has made tremendous progress, but there is still a lot of work to do.

I will work to partner and assist our county road superintendent who has constitutional authority over our roads. Roads will be a priority.

The county commission votes and sets the budget, not the mayor. I will advise the commissioners, and lay out what I believe the priorities are, so they can make sound decisions on our infrastructure needs.

As mayor, I will enhance the county preparedness for natural disasters and emergencies by being involved with our homeland security district meetings, training, and working with our Emergency Management Agency as well as all of our public safety departments to prepare and train as well as to have the resources ready and available.

I believe we can engage our youth in civic affairs by supporting the Youth Leadership Bedford Program.

I will address public concerns by having an open-door policy. I believe we should use technology and other tools to open government and increase access to our county officials and departments.

Transparency and accountability have guided my public service. I have served as a State Representative, and I have served as the Clerk & Master since 2009, a position that places a great deal of emphasis on trust. I have chaired the Bedford County Communications District Board, E-911, for over a decade, and I have been involved in strengthening campaign-reform laws on the state level, and accountability policies on the local level. The University of Tennessee CTAS used my financial, operational, and internal-controls policy as a model to teach other county offices in the state. I will continue to serve the public, and I believe my character and reputation will speak for itself.

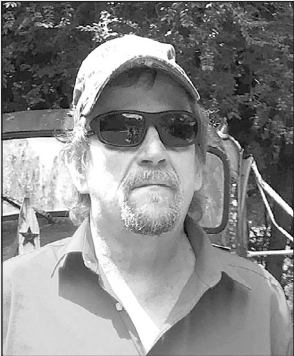
Obituaries

James “Jimmy” Clifton Price

James “Jimmy” Clifton Price, age 74, of Shelbyville, TN., passed this life, Friday, July 3, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. He was born May 1, 1952, in Sparta, TN., to the late Jack and Lucille (Bowman) Price. In addition to his parents, James was also preceded in death by his wife, Wanda Mae Price; sister, Cynthia Glover Price; and brother, Wayne Price.

Jimmy loved to tell tall tales and was known to be a jokester. He enjoyed fishing and finding Civil War Artifacts while using his metal detector.

He leaves behind his children, Donnie Lloyd Price, Jennifer Briggs, and Shelly Pressley; grandchildren, McKenzie Heflin, Ryan Heflin, Charity Briggs and Kim-



beryln Pressley; great grandchildren, Rylee Heflin, Andrew Heflin, Ryderr Mallard, Taelyn Hampton, Kayden Hampton, and Jaxon Hampton; and siblings, Margaret Bowman, Diane Walchshauser, June Walls, Sheila Lovvorn, Gary Price, and Tommy “Dickey” Price.

The family asks that you remember Jimmy in your own special way.

Feldhaus-Gowen-Smith Chapel is honored to be serving the family of James “Jimmy” Clifton Price.

Thomas F. Lynch

Thomas F. Lynch, age 82, of Shelbyville, TN, passed away on July 10, 2026, in Murfreesboro, TN. Born on January 29, 1944, in Bedford County, TN, he was the son of the late Francis Armethia Lynch Newsom and his step father William F. Newsom. Thomas is preceded in death by his wife, Martha Underwood Lynch; a son and daughter in law, Thomas Jason (Carolyn) Lynch; his siblings, Carolyn Sharp, Kathy Prouty, Mary Leverette, John P. Lynch, Randy B. Newsom, Leslie Newsom, William Roy Newsom, Doyle Newsom; and his grandchildren, Totiana Marshall and Austin Tate Lynch.

Thomas was a believer in Jesus Christ. In his mission in life, he was always ready to serve. He began his career as a welder/machinist and worked for over 25 years helping many businesses succeed. Later, he began helping build and grow Cornerstone Baptist Church where he was a proud and devoted member. He always shined his light for Christ in everything he did. Thomas’s love and devotion to his family will be remembered for many years to come.

Thomas is survived by his children, Tammy R. Lynch of Shelbyville, TN., Judy Samatha (Da-



vid M) Evans of Russellville, AL., Bruce Nathanael (Jamie) Lynch of Rockvale, TN ;10 grandchildren; 13 Great Grandchildren; 1 Great Grandchild; sisters, Debbie Fay Newsom and Patsy Darlene Newsom; brothers, Claude Edwin Newsom and Timmy Carl Newsom also survive.

A visitation with the Lynch Family will be Wednesday, July 15, 2026, from 4PM until 8PM at Lawrence Funeral Home in Chapel Hill, TN. Another visitation will follow on Thursday, July 16, 2026 from 12PM until 1PM at Cornerstone Baptist Church, 2769 Hwy 41A SE Shelbyville, TN 37160. A Funeral Service will follow at 1PM from Cornerstone Baptist Church. Burial will follow in Cothran Cemetery in Bedford Co with Pastor Stephen Reeves, Douglas Evans, and Randy V. Crosslin officiating.

Services in care of Lawrence Funeral Home 203 S. Horton Pkwy Chapel Hill, TN.

Carole June Keele Ferrell

Carole June Keele Ferrell, 82, of Shelbyville, died July 9, 2026, at TriStar Skyline Medical Center. She was born June 17, 1944, in Wartrace, TN. She retired from Empire Pencil Mill after 20 years; retired after 20 years at Fly’s Manufacturing Co. and Walmart and was a member of Wartrace Baptist Church.

She was lovingly known as Junie by her family. She loved crossword puzzles, jigsaw puzzles and playing Rook, but more than anything, she loved her grandchildren and great-grandbabies.

She also enjoyed shopping at antique shops for the Bluebirds she collected.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James J. Keele and Pauline Griffy Keele, a daughter, Melissa Carole Ferrell; step-grandson, Donald Crowder Jr.; brothers, Buster Keele, Leroy Keele, Gary Keele; sister and brother-in-law, Louise and Tom Applegate; son-in-law, Don Crowder Sr.; sister-in-law, Rosie Keele; nephews, James Allen Keele and Joe Keele.

Carole is survived by her husband of 62 years, Arthur Dwight Ferrell; her children, Teresa Renee and Jeff Gallagher of Shelbyville,



Robert Dale and Sandra Ferrell of Lewisburg; sisters, Mary Holton (David) of Shelbyville, Sandy Grubbs (Kenley) of Wartrace, sisters-in-law, Shannon Keele and Mickey Keele of Wartrace; 3 grandchildren, Bobby Ferrell (Natasha), Phillip Ferrell, Stephanie Cates (Ryan); 2 step-grandchildren, David Crowder, Crystal Crowder; 5 great-grandchildren, Tevan Richardson, Collin Richardson, Ryker Cates, Maddie Cates, Lainey Kate Ferrell; 3 step-great-grandchildren, Mason Crowder, Ryan Elizabeth Crowder, Kallie (Alex) Bryant and a host of nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services were held 2:00 P.M. Sunday, July 12th, at Hillcrest Funeral Home with the Rev. Jimmy Gray officiating. Burial followed at Hollywood Cemetery.

Hillcrest Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Death Notices

James Paul Giles Jr.

May 27, 1950-July 13, 2026

James Paul Giles, 76, a native of Bedford County, and resident of College Grove, died Monday, July 13, 2026. Lawrence Funeral Home in Chapel Hill is in charge of arrangements.

Substitute Trustee's Notice of Sale of Real Estate

Notice is hereby given that for default in payment of the debt secured by the Deed of Trust from JAMES CHADWICK TUCKER, to Richard W. Gabriel, Trustee, dated January 31, 2024, and recorded in Trust Deed Book 1109, Page 413, Register's Office of Bedford County, Tennessee, and Jeremy B. Bell appointed as Successor Trustee by instrument of record in Trust Deed Book 1194, page 753, Register's Office of Bedford County, Tennessee, the undersigned, as Substitute Trustee, at the request of Donald Parker, the owner and holder of said debt and pursuant to the authority of the Deed of Trust has demanded that the below described property be advertised and sold in satisfaction of the debt, will sell at the front door of the Bedford County Courthouse located at 1 Public Square, Shelbyville, Tennessee, on July 31, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. local prevailing time to the highest bidder, for cash, the following property located in the Twenty-Third (23rd) Civil District of Bedford County, TN:

TRACT NO. 1: Lying and being in the Twenty-third (23rd) Civil District of Bedford County, Tennessee, being more particularly described as follows, to-wit: The following described tract is bound on the West by State Highway 130, on the South by Patricia J. Ellerth, on the North by Roy W. Turner and Kerry B. Canady, and on the East by Kerry B. Canady and Terry Preston. Beginning at a ½' rebar set in the East margin of State Highway 130 (30 feet from the center), said point being the Northwest corner of Patricia J. Ellerth (Deed Book 320, Page 284) and the Southwest corner of this tract, said point being the Northwest corner of Tract 6, James C. Burns, Jr., Property (Plat Book A, Page 278); THENCE with said margin, North 44° 27' 56" West, 274.08 feet to a 1" pipe found; thence with Roy W. Turner (Deed Book 220, Page 567) and Kerry B. Canady (Deed Book 320, Page 670), North 45° 25' 52" East, 446.09 feet to a ½" rebar found; thence with Kerry B. Canady (Deed Book 320, Page 670), South 44° 34' 53" East, 74.60 feet to a ½" rebar found; thence with Terry Preston (Deed Book 239, Page 783), South 44° 13' 07" East, 200.38 feet to a ½" rebar found; thence with Patricia J. Ellerth (Deed Book 320, Page 284), South 45° 32' 46" West, 445.38 feet to the beginning; containing 2.81 acres, more or less. The above description is taken from a survey plat dated February 23, 2016 by Stanley Todd Reese, Tennessee Registered Land Surveyor, Certificate number 2648, Reese Land Surveying, 112 East Commerce Street, Lewisburg, TN 37091.

TRACT NO. 2: Lying and being in the Twenty-third (23rd) Civil District of Bedford County, Tennessee, and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Being all of that property noted as "Parcel B" consisting of 1.33 acres, as shown on the plat of Terry L. Preston Additions, Final Plat, dated January 4, 2019, of record at Plat Cabinet J, Envelope 81, Register's Office, Bedford County, Tennessee.

Being the same property conveyed to James Chadwick Tucker, an unmarried man, by deed of record in Deed Book 387, page 722, Register's Office of Bedford County, Tennessee.

THE PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1419 Hwy 130-E, Shelbyville, TN 37160

Parcel ID: Map 099; Parcel 017.00

This sale of the property will be without warranty of any kind and is further subject to subject to all unpaid taxes, parties in possession, any facts or claims which could be ascertained by an inspection of the above-described property and subject to the following documents/instruments of record in the Bedford County Register of Deeds:

1. All easements, restrictions and other matters noted on deed of record in Deed Book 387, page 722, Register's Office of Bedford County, Tennessee;

2. Right-of-way for State Highway 130. along with any other applicable easements and restrictions, prior liens or mortgages, if any. Said sale shall also be subject to any statutory rights of redemption of any governmental agency, state or federal, as well as any priority created by fixture filing; and subject to any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose.

This is an attempt to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. This communication comes from a debt collector.

If the highest bidder is unable to comply with the terms of the sale, I reserve the right to proceed to the next highest bidder able to comply or re-advertise, if I so choose. The terms and conditions of the sale are subject to any other announcements which may be made at the date of sale. The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another date certain, without further publication, upon announcement at the time set above.

Proceeds of the sale shall be applied as provided for by the terms of the Deed of Trust. Said Deed of Trust is made a part hereof as if copied verbatim.

Third party internet posting website is: www.foreclosuretennessee.com

This notice will be published in the Shelbyville Times-Gazette three times on the following dates: July 9, 2026, July 16, 2026, and July 23, 2026.

Dated this 7th day of July, 2026.
JEREMY B. BELL, Substitute Trustee
For Donald Parker

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Bonnie Mae Williams, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on June 30, of 2026 Letter of Administration in respect of the estate of Bonnie Mae Williams who died 02/12/2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Bedford County Chancery Court of Bedford County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and Non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
This the 30th day of June, 2026.
/s/ Brenna Kay Stowell, Executrix
/s/ Trisha L Henegar, Attorney
/s/ Curt M. Cobb, Clerk and Master/Deputy Clerk (792tp)

NOTICE

KRISTAN GRACE SIMPSON

The State of Tennessee, Department of Children's Services, has filed a Petition to Declare Children Dependent and Neglected as to Chase Isaiah Brandon. It appears that ordinary process of law cannot be served upon you because your whereabouts are unknown. You are hereby **ORDERED** to serve upon Stephen Marsh, Attorney for the Tennessee Department of Children Services, 200 Athens Way, 2nd Floor, Suite A, Nashville, TN 37243, an answer to the Petition to Declare Children Dependent and Neglected filed by the Tennessee Department of Children's Services within five (5) days of the last day of Publication of this notice, and you must also appear in the juvenile court of Franklin County, Tennessee at Winchester, Tennessee on the 26th day of August, 2026, at 8 a.m. for the hearing on the petition to Declare Children Dependent and Neglected by the State of Tennessee, Department of children's services. If you fail to do so, a default judgment will be taken against you pursuant for the relief demanded in the Petition. You may view and obtain a copy of the Petition and any other subsequently filed legal documents at the Juvenile Court Clerk's Office, Winchester, Tennessee. (7164tc)

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE

WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms and conditions of a Deed of Trust dated June 2, 2017, executed by KENDALL C HAMPTON and TORREZ HAMPTON conveying certain real property therein described to RANDALL CLEMONS, as Trustee, as same appears of record in the Register's Office of Bedford County, Tennessee recorded June 12, 2017, in Book TD881, Page 962; and

WHEREAS, the beneficial interest of said Deed of Trust was last transferred and assigned to Citizens Bank, N.A. who is now the owner of said debt; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned, Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, having been appointed as Substitute Trustee by instrument to be filed for record in the Register's Office of Bedford County, Tennessee.

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable, and that the undersigned, Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, as Substitute Trustee or his duly appointed agent, by virtue of the power, duty and authority vested and imposed upon said Substitute Trustee will, on August 6, 2026 at or about 10:00 AM at the front steps of the Bedford County Courthouse, Shelbyville, Tennessee, proceed to sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash or certified funds ONLY, the following described property situated in Bedford County, Tennessee, to wit:

LAND LOCATED IN BEDFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE, BEGINNING AT A METAL PIN ON THE SOUTH MARGIN OF COOP ROAD 2498.5 FEET EAST OF THE CENTER LINE OF HIGHWAY 231 BEING MEASURED ALONG THE SOUTH MARGIN OF COOP ROAD; THENCE SOUTH 49 DEG. 29 MIN. EAST 130.1 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH MARGIN OF SAID ROAD; THENCE SOUTH 42 DEG. 25 MIN. EAST 140.2 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH MARGIN OF SAID ROAD AND THE WEST MARGIN OF AN ENTRANCE DRIVEWAY; THENCE FOLLOWING THE WEST MARGIN OF THE SAID DRIVEWAY SOUTH 57 DEG. 49 MIN. WEST 81.7 FEET; SOUTH 69 DEG. 20 MIN. WEST 101.0 FEET; SOUTH 60 DEG. 15 MIN. WEST 53.5 FEET; SOUTH 52 DEG. 22 MIN. WEST 41.5 FEET; SOUTH 41 DEG. 45 MIN. WEST 259.8 FEET; SOUTH 88 DEG. 54 MIN. WEST 212.2 FEET TO A METAL PIN ON THE NORTH MARGIN OF THE SAID DRIVEWAY AND ON A TRACT LINE; THENCE NORTH 25 DEG. 56 MIN. EAST 386.0 FEET TO A PAINTED ROCK; THENCE SOUTH 79 DEG. 30 MIN. EAST 131.7 FEET TO A METAL PIN; THENCE NORTH 35 DEG. 08 MIN. EAST 237.07 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, AND CONTAINING 3.00 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO KENDALL C. HAMPTON AND TORREZ HAMPTON, WIFE AND HUSBAND, BY WARRANTY DEED FROM LONNA M. MODERSOHN AND HUSBAND, GREGORY T. MODERSOHN OF RECORD IN BOOK D338, PAGE 258, IN THE REGISTER'S OFFICE OF BEDFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE.

Parcel ID: 022-034.01

PROPERTY ADDRESS: The street address of the property is believed to be 629 COOP RD, BELL BUCKLE, TN 37020. In the event of any discrepancy between this street address and the legal description of the property, the legal description shall control.

CURRENT OWNER(S): TORREZ & KENDALL HAMPTON AS TRUSTEE OF THE HAMPTON FAMILY LIVING TRUST, DATED MARCH 4, 2024

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. , WILSON BANK & TRUST
The sale of the above-described property shall be subject to all matters shown on any recorded plat; any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements or set-back lines that may be applicable; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; and to any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. This property is being sold with the express reservation that it is subject to confirmation by the lender or Substitute Trustee. This sale may be rescinded at any time. This sale is subject to purchaser's tendering to Rubin Lublin, LLC, anti-money laundering information as required pursuant to the FinCEN Real Estate Report Rule. Failure to provide information, could result in rescission of the sale. The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day, time, and place certain without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place for the sale set forth above. All right and equity of redemption, statutory or otherwise, homestead, and dower are expressly waived in said Deed of Trust, and the title is believed to be good, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Substitute Trustee. The Property is sold as is, where is, without representations or warranties of any kind, including fitness for a particular use or purpose.

THIS LAW FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, Substitute Trustee
3145 Avalon Ridge Place, Suite 100
Peachtree Corners, GA 30071
rslaw.com/property-listing
Tel: (877) 813-0992
Fax: (470) 508-9401

Acopyofthisnoticeisbeingpublishedatwww.BetterChoiceNotices.com (793tc)

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE

WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms and conditions of a Deed of Trust dated May 26, 2017, executed by KENDRICKS L. GRISSOM and KAMILAH GRISSOM conveying certain real property therein described to J.D. KIOUS, as Trustee, as same appears of record in the Register's Office of Bedford County, Tennessee recorded May 30, 2017, in Book TD881, Page 245; and

WHEREAS, the beneficial interest of said Deed of Trust was last transferred and assigned to PennyMac Loan Services, LLC who is now the owner of said debt; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned, Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, having been appointed as Substitute Trustee by instrument to be filed for record in the Register's Office of Bedford County, Tennessee.

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable, and that the undersigned, Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, as Substitute Trustee or his duly appointed agent, by virtue of the power, duty and authority vested and imposed upon said Substitute Trustee will, on August 3, 2026 at or about 11:00 AM at the main entrance to the Bedford County Courthouse, 1 Public Square, Shelbyville, TN 37160, proceed to sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash or certified funds ONLY, the following described property situated in Bedford County, Tennessee, to wit:

A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE 7TH CIVIL DISTRICT OF BEDFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE, BEING BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT A STAKE LOCATED ON THE EAST MARGIN OF HOBSON AVENUE, THE SAME BEING 130 FEET SOUTH OF THE INTERSECTION OF HOBSON AVENUE WITH MARTHA STREET AND RUNNING THENCE WITH THE EAST BOUNDARY OF HOBSON AVENUE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 40 MINUTES WEST 75 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 84 DEGREES 33 MINUTES EAST 160 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 40 MINUTES EAST 75 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE NORTH 84 DEGREES 33 MINUTES WEST 160 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, AND BEING THE SOUTHERNMOST 10 FEET OF LOT 7, ALL OF LOT NOS. 8, 9 AND 10, AND THE SOUTHERNMOST 5 FEET OF LOT 11, IN BLOCK H OF THE J.E. THOMPSON SUBDIVISION TO THE CITY OF SHELBYVILLE, A PLAT OF WHICH IS OF RECORD IN DEED BOOK 38, PAGE 15, REGISTER'S OFFICE, BEDFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE. SUBJECT TO MATTERS AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF RECORD IN DEED BOOK 38, PAGE 15, REGISTER'S OFFICE OF BEDFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE.

Parcel ID: 089G E 015.00

PROPERTY ADDRESS: The street address of the property is believed to be 304 HOBSON AVE, SHELBYVILLE, TN 37160. In the event of any discrepancy between this street address and the legal description of the property, the legal description shall control.

CURRENT OWNER(S): KENDRICKS L. GRISSOM, KAMILAH GRISSOM

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:

SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPEMENT, HARPETH FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC DBA ADVANCE FINANCIAL, 3D FINANCIAL

The sale of the above-described property shall be subject to all matters shown on any recorded plat; any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements or set-back lines that may be applicable; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; and to any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. This property is being sold with the express reservation that it is subject to confirmation by the lender or Substitute Trustee. This sale may be rescinded at any time. This sale is subject to purchaser's tendering to Rubin Lublin, LLC, anti-money laundering information as required pursuant to the FinCEN Real Estate Report Rule. Failure to provide information, could result in rescission of the sale. The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day, time, and place certain without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place for the sale set forth above. All right and equity of redemption, statutory or otherwise, homestead, and dower are expressly waived in said Deed of Trust, and the title is believed to be good, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Substitute Trustee. The Property is sold as is, where is, without representations or warranties of any kind, including fitness for a particular use or purpose.

THIS LAW FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, Substitute Trustee
3145 Avalon Ridge Place, Suite 100
Peachtree Corners, GA 30071
rslaw.com/property-listing
Tel: (877) 813-0992
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A copy of this notice is being published at www.BetterChoiceNotices.com (793tc)

AD VERITAS
The Summer of Wet Grass



Daniel Richardson
Publisher/
Owner

daniel@RichardsonMediaGroup.net

I don't want to complain too much about rain in July.

Anyone who has lived in Tennessee very long knows that summer can turn hot and dry in a hurry. A good rain can be a blessing. It keeps the fields green, cools the air and gives everything a little relief from the kind of heat that makes you regret stepping outside.

But this summer has felt unusually wet.

Maybe the numbers will eventually prove my memory wrong. Maybe this is just one of those seasons that feels worse because the rain keeps coming at the least convenient times. Either way, it seems like every time the grass gets dry enough to mow, another shower rolls through and starts the whole process over again.

The yard doesn't care that I have a schedule. It just keeps growing.

The National Weather Service has continued

to show repeated rain chances across the region, with unsettled weather hanging around and temperatures running several degrees below normal at times. I appreciate the cooler temperatures. A July afternoon in the mid-80s is a lot easier to tolerate than one in the upper 90s.

Still, there is a tradeoff. The grass is winning. Then there's the pool.

This summer we got a 14-foot above-ground pool, which has been great for the kids. They love it. On the hot days, it has been one of the best purchases we've made.

But I did not fully appreciate how much work goes into keeping pool water clear.

Rain, as it turns out, does not help. At least not when it keeps coming. Every heavy shower seems to dilute the chemicals, stir up debris and push the water level higher than it ought to be. Then you start testing, treating, adding a little, running the filter and hoping the water doesn't turn green while you're trying to figure out what it wants from you.

A backyard pool is supposed to be relaxing. The water chemistry feels more like a science fair project.

Of course, these are small problems in the grand scheme of things. Wet grass and cloudy pool water are not real hardships. Farmers, construction crews, utility workers and anyone who works outdoors have much bigger reasons to pay attention to the weather than I do.

And we all know the other side of the coin. If the rain stopped completely and the ground started cracking, we'd be praying for showers again soon enough.

That's the funny thing about weather. We always want it, just not too much of it. We want rain, but not on the weekend. We want cooler temperatures, but not cloudy days. We want sunshine, but not drought. We want the grass green, but not tall.

In other words, we want Tennessee weather to cooperate with our plans.

It rarely does.

Maybe that's part of what makes it such an easy topic of conversation. Weather affects everyone. It interrupts all of us equally. It changes ball-games, vacations, work-days, hayfields, gardens, lake plans and mowing schedules. It gives us something to talk about with strangers and something to grumble about with friends.

So yes, I'm thankful for the rain.

I'm thankful for the cooler days.

I'm thankful the yard is green and the kids have had plenty of chances to splash around in the pool.

But I would also be thankful for about three dry days in a row.

Just enough to mow the yard, balance the pool and feel like I've regained some small measure of control over the backyard.

Then, I suppose, it can rain again.

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Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1) Campus military org.

5) City known for romance

10) Blood vessel obstruction

14) Geometry calculation

15) Decrease in intensity

16) Puerto ____

17) Dispatched

18) Moscow monetary unit

19) Line on a list

20) Three things a chef might bake

23) West Point student

24) Ecstasy opposite

25) Ants, collectively

28) Fill a belly

30) Egg, to a biologist

31) Ruin

33) Gabor of old Hollywood

36) Three things a chef might roast

40) Snowy place that provides quite a view

41) Legendary actress Sophia

42) Pond organism

43) Basketball highlight

44) Tuition collector

46) Its business is beauty

49) Favored by God (Var.)

51) Three things a chef might fry

57) Russo of “Outbreak”

58) Fertilizer derived from sea birds

59) Wield the scepter

60) Sermon sign-off

61) Intense hatred

62) One of the Great Lakes

63) Attention-getter, in a theater

64) Have a feeling about

65) Designates, as a knight

CLUES DOWN

1) Sculptor’s tool

2) Twistable cookie

3) Pitched shelter

4) Ancient burial place

5) Travesty or spoof

6) Mistreatment

7) Morocco’s capital

8) “____ do you good!”

9) “So it would ____”

10) Wince

11) Collectible art print, briefly

12) Crossing medium

13) Famous rock opera

- 21) It may be picked up at the beach
- 22) Solemn promises
- 25) Soda selection
- 26) Shape of Obama’s office
- 27) Oatmeal glob
- 28) Hit like a ton of bricks
- 29) Section of a play
- 31) Boxer’s comeback?
- 32) Bill often passed
- 33) Sinuous coral reef dwellers
- 34) Chevy car of yore
- 35) Way off yonder
- 37) Hollow twanging sound
- 38) Longest division of geologic time
- 39) Traded
- 43) Learned teacher
- 44) Tum into
- 45) Get mileage out of
- 46) Type of heap or metal
- 47) Throaty cries for attention
- 48) Airport inconveniences
- 49) Egghead
- 50) “Peanuts” character
- 52) Psychiatric components
- 53) Like all newborns
- 54) Wise Hindu teacher
- 55) Silver-tongued
- 56) Witnesses

KITCHEN RANGE

FreeDailyCrosswords.com

By Timothy E. Parker

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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57					58						59			
60					61						62			
63					64						65			

Sudoku

EASY

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

INTERMEDIATE

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

NOVICE

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

Bedford County property transfers

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

File date: July 2

Location: 1177 Unionville Deason Rd; Seller, Michaels Homes LLC; Buyer, Brandi Leonard; Price, \$714,900 (Deed).

Location: 14 Railroad Square; Seller, Jon Gregory Heinike; Buyer, Heinike Family 2026 CP Trust, Jon Gregory Heinike, Jeanette Linda Heinike, Heinike Family Trust; Price, \$0 (QD).

Location: Red Hill Rd; Seller, Collin C Bills,

Kristin L Bills; Buyer, Jerry Alan Neill, Linda Sue Neill; Price, \$50,000 (Deed).

Location: 102 Lee Ann Dr; Seller, Robert J Simmons, James C London; Buyer, Bobby Randall Taylor; Price, \$159,000 (Deed).

Location: New Herman Rd; Seller, Regina F Warren, Tina R Oneal, Rosa Ann Burton Estate; Buyer, Regina F Warren, Tina R Oneal; Price, \$0 (Deed).

Location: 280 Kingdom Rd; Seller, Howard Dittrich, Mary Therese Dittrich, Dittrich Family Trust; Buyer,

Barry T Fly, Stephanie J Fly; Price, \$385,000 (Deed).

Seller, Barry N Childers, Janie Childers, Jane Childers; Buyer, Wesley Jay Nichols, Iva Rae Nichols; Price, \$85,000 (Deed).

Location: Mullinwood Rd; Seller, William E Shofner Trustee, James M Dekle, Mack Dekle; Buyer, Midstate Finance Co Inc; Price, \$332,000 (TRD).

File date: July 6

Location: 139 Bruce Meadows Dr; Seller, Bruce Meadows Partnership; Buyer,

Henley Homes and Construction LLC; Price, \$0 (QD).

Location: 139 Bruce Meadows Dr; Seller, Henley Homes and Construction LLC; Buyer, Mark Page, Debbie Christen Page; Price, \$704,999 (Deed).

Location: 178 Tom Walker Rd; Seller, Abby Frazee; Buyer, Scott A Yyoung, Abby JM Frazee; Price, \$0 (QD).

Location: 181 Bynum Rd; Seller, Carol Lynn Driver, Carol Lynn Driver Revocable Trust; Buyer, Wendy Payne; Price, \$450,000 (Deed).

Location: 300 Repub-

lic St; Seller, Ole South Properties Inc; Buyer, Aneta Mix, Lawrence D Backer; Price, \$359,990 (Deed).

Location: 1068 Frank Martin Rd; Seller, Charles Rediker, Karlee Rediker; Buyer, Emily Elise Stott; Price, \$374,900 (Deed).

Location: Charlie Russell Rd; Seller, Richard Hamrick, Bianca E Durachko; Buyer, Scabone Family Trust, Fred Scavone; Price, \$960,000 (Deed).

Location: 103 Horse-shoe Ct; Seller, Billie Crowell; Buyer, Tommy Hodges 2012 GST Trust; Price, \$290,000 (Deed).

Location: 560 Himesville Rd; Seller, Lisa Stub-

blefield, Lisa S Lindsey, Lisa S Christie; Buyer, Richard Hamrick, Bianca E Durachko; Price, \$470,000 (Deed).

Location: 205 Saddle Wood Dr; Seller, Kaylee Sue Orend, McKenzie Taylor Orend, Marianne Orend Langford, Robert Karl Orend Estate; Buyer, Joshue Gulley, Stephanie Elise Gulley; Price, \$300,000 (Deed).

Location: 917 Smith SST; Seller, Nicole R Buttrey, Kyle A Buttrey; Buyer, Autumn B Daniel, Blaize Corbett; Price, \$220,000 (Deed).

Location: 313 Shelby Cir; Seller, Vera Doris Chapman, Vera Doris Champion; Buyer, JW Properties; Price, \$220,000 (Deed).

Classifieds

YARD SALES

YARD SALE

1265 Mt. Herman Road Saturday, In the red barn 07/18/26, 8AM-4PM Lots of fabric, commercial singer sewing machine, hospital bed, massage chair, glassware, furniture, trolling motor, tools and much, much more.

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113 Cloverdale Road, Shelbyville July 23, 24, 25 10AM-4PM Daily Entire household of treasures from around the world. John Deere and more Sale by Ole Grapevine 931-580-6134

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NOTICES

These vehicles will be sold at auction, July 28, 2026 at 9 a.m. for unpaid tow and storage fees.

2001 BMW WBAGH83451DP33334 2006 BMW WBANF33526CS37266 2004 VOLVO YV1CZ91H941073728 2008 BMW WBANW13588CZ79677 2008 CHEVY 2G1WB58K689196995 1987 GMC 1GKEV18K6HF520137 2006 SUZUKI JS1GR7GA462101447 1970 CHEVY 1363701547169 Mike’s Towing 833 N. Jefferson St Shelbyville, TN 37160 Ph: 931-684-1625

SERVICES

LAWN CARE SERVICES 931-773-6105

KITCHEN RANGE

By Timothy E. Parker

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73

Three Blue Raiders selected in 2026 MLB Draft

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

PHILADELPHIA – Three Blue Raiders were selected in the 2026 MLB Draft, marking the program’s 78-80th selections all-time. This is the most selections for Middle Tennessee since the 2018 MLB Draft, and sets a record for the 20-round draft format. Right-handed pitchers Drew Horn, David Horn Jr. and outfielder Owen Nowak were the Blue Raiders to hear their names called on Sunday. The selections etch their names into Middle Tennessee baseball history among the 115 others to appear in professional baseball.

DREW HORN- Red-shirt Junior RHP

Horn was selected in the 12th round, 354th overall by the St. Louis Cardinals after two years with Middle Tennessee. Following a stellar 2025, Horn was named to the All-CUSA second team after making eight

starts to the tune of a 1.75 ERA, with 57 strikeouts in 46.1 innings. A product of Smyrna, Tennessee, Horn put himself in the record books after throwing the fifth no-hitter in program history against Oakland on March 9, 2025. The right-hander struck out a career-high 13 batters in the effort. In 2026, Horn made ten appearances including eight starts on the bump to accumulate 35.2 innings.

OWEN NOWAK- Junior OF

The Blue Raiders everyday centerfielder and a member of the 2026 All-CUSA second team, Owen Nowak was selected by the Houston Astros in the 12th round at pick 361. In 57 games played during his lone year at the Division I level, Nowak slashed .318/.435/.472 while turning in the only perfect, error-free season by an outfielder in CUSA. Nowak is the first primary outfielder drafted



Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

from the Blue Raiders since Ronnie Jebavy was selected by the San Francisco Giants in the fifth round of the 2015 draft. **DAVID HORN JR.- Senior RHP**

The Tampa Bay Rays used the 563rd pick in the 19th round to select senior right-hander David Horn Jr. to mark the third Blue Raider taken in the draft. In his lone season

at Middle Tennessee, Horn Jr. took charge of the weekend rotation, starting the first game of the final five series of the season. The right-hander led the staff in innings pitched with 72.0, strikeouts (82) and

wins (four). Horn Jr. finished the season strong at home, picking up 7.0 innings of one-run ball against Liberty to win CUSA Pitcher of the Week.

Blue Raiders’ Catcher Tyler Minnick inks UDFA deal with Phillies

MT ATHLETICS
MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Former Blue Raider catcher Tyler Minnick has inked a free agent deal with the Philadelphia Phillies following the 2026 MLB Draft. Minnick’s signing follows a stellar senior season. The Smyrna, Georgia product tallied a league-high .916 OPS for a catcher, on his way to a 2026 All-CUSA second team selection. The catcher’s strong senior campaign was highlighted by a program-record 43-game on-base streak, while tying the single game record for doubles in a game with three.

The two-year Blue Raider cleaned up in the awards department in his final collegiate season. Along with the All-CUSA second team selection, Minnick was named to the CUSA All-Academic Team, while earning the CUSA Spirit of Service Award and the CUSA Scholar Athlete of the Year for baseball. Minnick’s signing comes after the 2026 MLB Draft, where the Blue Raiders had a record three players selected in the 20 round draft. It marks the first time since 2018 three Middle Tennessee players were selected.



CUSA announces 2026-27 Women’s Basketball league schedule

MT ATHLETICS
DALLAS – Middle Tennessee’s 18-game Conference USA slate will feature nine home games and nine away contests, announced by the league office Wednesday. The Blue Raiders, under first-year head coach Matt Insell, will tip off their CUSA campaign at home against Jax State on Jan. 2 and Kennesaw State on Jan. 4. MTSU will hit the road for the first time in league play on Jan. 8 with a trip to Sam Houston, following by a contest at New Mexico State on Jan. 10. Middle Tennessee returns home the following week to host Liberty on Jan. 14 and Delaware on Jan. 16. The Blue Raiders then travel to FIU on Jan. 21 and Missouri State on Jan. 23. A rivalry showdown with WKU

on Jan. 30 will close out the month in Murfreesboro. February begins with home games against New Mexico State on Feb. 4 and Sam Houston on Feb. 6. MTSU heads back on the road to face Delaware on Feb. 11 and Liberty on Feb. 13. MTSU will welcome Missouri State and FIU to the Glass House on Feb. 18 and Feb. 20 before closing out the month on the road against rival WKU on Feb. 27. The Blue Raiders will then conclude the regular season by traveling to Kennesaw State on Mar. 4 and Jax State on Mar. 6. The 2027 CUSA Women’s Basketball Championship is scheduled for March 9-13 at Propst Arena in Huntsville, Alabama. Full 2026-27 Confer-

ence Schedule:
Jan. 2, 2027 – Jax State
Jan. 4, 2027 – Kennesaw State
Jan. 8, 2027 – at Sam Houston
Jan. 10, 2027 – at New Mexico State
Jan. 14, 2027 - Liberty
Jan. 16, 2027 - Delaware
Jan. 21, 2027 – at FIU
Jan. 23, 2027 – at Missouri State
Jan. 30, 2027 - WKU
Feb. 4, 2027 – New Mexico State
Feb. 6, 2027 – Sam Houston
Feb. 11, 2027 – at Delaware
Feb. 13, 2027 – at Liberty
Feb. 18, 2027 – Missouri State
Feb. 20, 2027 - FIU
Feb. 27, 2027 - at WKU
Mar. 4, 2027 – at Kennesaw State
Mar. 6, 2027 – at Jax State

MTSU Men’s Basketball 2026-27 conference schedule released

MT ATHLETICS
DALLAS – The Middle Tennessee men’s basketball program will compete in 18 league contests in the 2026-27 season, as announced by the Conference USA office Thursday. Nine of the conference games will be played at home in the Murphy Center, while the other nine will be played on the road. Contrary to the year prior, the Blue Raiders will begin conference play on the road, playing Jacksonville State on New Year’s Eve before heading east to Kennesaw State on January 2. MTSU will return home for the league home opener against Sam Houston on Jan. 7 before welcoming in New Mexico State on Jan. 9. Heading back on the road, Middle Tennessee will travel to Liberty for

the first time in two years on Jan. 14 followed by a trip to The First State to play Delaware on Jan. 16. For the final home games of the month of January, the Blue Raiders will host FIU on Jan. 21, then Missouri State on Jan. 23. The first rivalry game against WKU will see the team travel north to Bowling Green, kicking off a three-game road stand on Jan. 30. Heading out west, MTSU will play New Mexico State on February 4 then venture to Sam Houston on Feb. 6. With three home contests to complete the slate, the second game against WKU will take place on Feb. 27. Full 2026-27 Conference Schedule
December 31, 2026: at Jacksonville State
January 2, 2027: at Kennesaw State
January 7, 2027: vs.

Sam Houston
January 9, 2027: vs. New Mexico State
January 14, 2027: at Liberty
January 16, 2027: at Delaware
January 21, 2027: vs. FIU
January 23, 2027: vs. Missouri State
January 30, 2027: at WKU
February 4, 2027: at New Mexico State
February 6, 2027: at Sam Houston
February 11, 2027: vs. Delaware
February 13, 2027: vs. Liberty
February 18, 2027: at Missouri State
February 20, 2027: at FIU
February 27, 2027: vs. WKU
March 4, 2027: vs. Kennesaw State
March 6, 2027: vs. Jacksonville State

Viqueens Recognized at Monthly County Commission Meeting For Winning State Title

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@t-g.com

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn. — After winning the school's first state championship earlier this year, the Community Viqueens' softball squad was honored with a custom plaque from the Bedford County Commission at Tuesday's monthly meeting.

"We're very thankful for everybody," Viqueens' Head Coach Cam Farrell said, "Both me and the girls have had so many people come up to us and tell us congratulations, but this was pretty cool. We're appreciative and thankful for a lot of stuff that they [the County Commission] do that people don't realize that they do as far as approving things and making sure we have things and stuff like that. Not everybody always agrees with them, but you can tell that they are for the kids. That was awesome. I think the girls were really proud of themselves, and I think it's kind of sinking in for everybody now. It was a great experience."

The Viqueens finished the year with a 35-9 record overall, finishing as Runners-Up in the District 9-AA Tournament before winning the Region 5-AA Tournament at Summertown the following week. Community continued its winning ways, finishing a perfect 4-0 at the TSSAA Class



The 2026 Community Viqueens' softball team was recognized at the monthly Bedford County Commission Meeting on Tuesday night with a custom plaque.
Submitted Photo by John Carney.

2A State Tournament punctuated with a 10-1 win over Marion County in the title game on May 23rd at Shelbyville Central High School.

"It's starting to sink in about now," Farrell said, "That's a lot of time. A lot of time away from home, a lot of time where my wife has to deal with me coaching, and we went the distance. It's amazing to me because it was the first one in school

history, first one in this county in softball, so a lot of that is starting to sink in. You can take a lot of stuff away from us, but you can't ever take this away from us. It's a lot of hard work. The kids miss out on a lot. We played 44 games, won 35 of them, played 60% of our games away from home, and we did all that while maintaining a 3.7 GPA as a team. That says a lot about those kids and

how locked in they are." The Viqueens featured a high-powered lineup as well as possessing one of the best pitchers in the entire country in Annie Prince. Prince finished eighth in the country in wins with 28 on the season as well as 19th in the country with 334 strikeouts. For Tennessee leaderboards, Mattie Maxey finished 14th with 12 home runs while Prince

was 15th in ERA at 1.29, third in strikeouts, and second in wins. Community was led by nine seniors in 2026, and seven of them were able to attend. Two were unable due to illness. "It means everything to see the [graduates] there," said Farrell, "Usually once those seniors are gone, they are gone. They came back, and it was good to see them. Some of us went

out to eat afterwards to talk and catch up, and it just kind of told me that in years to come this group will always share this and be able to chat about the good times, so that will be pretty cool." The Viqueens' softball program looks forward to the 2027 season with tryouts to take place in August.

Brent Stockstill selected to CUSA Hall of Fame

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — Former Middle Tennessee quarterback Brent Stockstill was named to the Conference USA Hall of Fame Class of 2026, the league office announced on Wednesday.

Stockstill becomes the fourth Blue Raider to be inducted into the CUSA Hall of Fame, which inducted its first class in 2019. He joins former Middle Tennessee football standout and NFL All-Pro safety Kevin Byard, legendary MTSU Track and Field Coach Dean A. Hayes, and former head women's basketball coach Rick Insell as MTSU members of the CUSA Hall of Fame.

"Brent Stockstill represents everything you hope for in a student-athlete," said Director of Athletics Chris Massaro. "He was an outstanding leader, an exceptional quarterback and someone who elevated our football program both on and off the field. His accomplishments speak for themselves, but what has always stood out to me is the way he carried himself with humility, toughness and integrity. This recognition is incredibly well deserved, and we couldn't be happier to see him take his

rightful place in the Conference USA Hall of Fame."

Stockstill, the starting quarterback for the Blue Raiders from 2015 to 2018, led MTSU to four straight winning seasons and four bowl games. In 2018, the Blue Raiders played for the CUSA championship after winning the East Division title.

The left-hander ended his career as the MTSU record holder in passing yards (12,495), touchdown passes (106), 300-yard passing games (19), 400-yard passing games (3), passing yards per game (277.7), completions (1055) and attempts (1610). He also ranked in the top 10 all-time in CUSA history in touchdown passes, completions, attempts, passing yards, completion percentage, and 300-yard passing games.

A permanent captain as a sophomore, junior and senior, Stockstill played in 45 career games and had 44 starts. He was crowned the 2015 CUSA Freshman of the Year while also earning Freshman All-American honors from Athlon Sports after throwing for 4,005 yards and 30 touchdowns. His 4,005 passing yards set a new CUSA freshman record and fell just 53 yards shy

of breaking the NCAA freshman passing mark. The Murfreesboro product capped his career in 2018 by being named the CUSA Player of the Year after throwing for 3,544 yards and 29 touchdowns while completing 70.3 percent of his passes (third best in school history). Nationally, he ranked third in completion percentage, ninth in completions per game, 13th in touchdown passes and 15th in passing yards. During his career,

Stockstill led impressive road victories at Missouri and Syracuse while also facing Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Vanderbilt (four times), Illinois and Minnesota. He finished his career with a 12-12 road record, with half of those losses coming against Power Four opponents. Stockstill was equally impressive in the classroom by being named to the CUSA All-Academic team three times, earning CUSA Scholar-Athlete of the Year honors,

while also being named to the prestigious 22-man AFCA Allstate Good Works Team in 2017. "This is an incredible honor, and to be honest, it's something I never saw coming," Stockstill said. "I'm truly humbled and extremely thankful to be recognized by Conference USA alongside so many great players and coaches. Middle Tennessee means so much to me, and I'm grateful to all my teammates, coaches, support staff and my family who made

this possible. This recognition isn't just about me; it reflects what we accomplished together during my time as a Blue Raider. It means a great deal to me, and I'll always be thankful for my years at MTSU." Stockstill and his wife, Jessica, along with their daughter, Skye, and sons, Swayze and Rocky, reside in Indianapolis, where he serves as an offensive quality control coach for the Colts.



Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.



Business Spotlight



Mike Rittenberry, Al Bellenfant And Daryl O'Neal

First Commerce Bank announces Bedford County leadership transition

By Dawn Hankins/
First Commerce Bank

Lewisburg, Tenn. — First Commerce Bank recently announced a leadership transition in its Bedford County market, recognizing the continued service of two longtime banking professionals while welcoming new leadership with Daryl O'Neal.

The bank recently announced its promotion of O'Neal, who has served

as a senior vice president, to Bedford County president. With “extensive banking experience and deep roots in the local community,” O'Neal is credited with bringing strong leadership and a forward-looking vision to the Shelbyville market.

“We are thrilled to have Daryl lead our Bedford County market,” said First Commerce Bank President and CEO Luke Buckley. “His ex-

perience, character, and commitment to our mission make him the ideal person to guide our Shelbyville team forward and we're grateful for Mike and Al's continued support.”

After more than 40 years in banking, outgoing BC president, Mike Rittenberry, has chosen to step into a part-time role in the Shelbyville office, where he will serve as Bedford County executive. In this role, Rit-

tenberry will continue to provide his experience, leadership, and customer support to the Shelbyville community he has long served.

“I couldn't be more confident in Daryl stepping into this role,” said Rittenberry. “He understands this community, values relationships, and leads with integrity. I've had the privilege of working alongside him, and I know Bedford County is in great hands



New BC Market President Daryl O'Neal

moving forward.”

Additionally, Al Bellenfant, outgoing senior vice president, has elected to transition into a part-time position. He will remain an active presence in the Shelbyville branch, continuing to assist customers and support the team, according to First Commerce officials.

First Commerce recently extended its sincere appreciation to Rittenberry and Bellenfant for their decades of leadership, dedication, and service to the banking industry and to the Bedford County community. Their ongoing involvement, bank representatives said, reflects their continued commitment to both the bank and its customers.

First Commerce Bank was the dream of a group of local people saw the need for a locally owned, locally managed community bank. With the help of over 1,000 shareholders, that dream be-

came a reality on December 2, 2002.

First Commerce Bank looks forward to continued growth and community engagement in Bedford County under O'Neal's leadership, while benefiting from the ongoing support and experience of both executives.

Along with its employees, First Commerce realizes that customers and community are its most important asset. And the goal, according to the bank, is to provide communities with competitive banking products that meet customer needs.

Thanks to “enormous customer support,” First Commerce Bank has enjoyed excellent growth. To view First Commerce Bank's financial information, you may visit the FFIEC website.

First Commerce Bank has offices in Lewisburg, Chapel Hill, Fayetteville, Shelbyville and Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Q&A with Vanderbilt's Newest Breast Surgeon, Angie Larsen, MD

Dr. Larsen is an experienced breast surgeon seeing patients in and around Lebanon, Tennessee, at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center at Wilson County.

Breast cancer affects 1 in 8 women during their lifetime, making breast health an important part of overall wellness. Providers say early detection remains one of the most important tools in improving breast cancer outcomes. It is important to stay proactive about your breast health through regular screenings and awareness of early warning signs. Below are answers to common questions about breast cancer risk,

screening recommendations and the importance of early detection.

What are some common signs or symptoms of breast cancer?

Dr. Larsen: People with breast cancer may not notice any symptoms at first, which is why regular screenings are so important. However, common signs can include a lump in the breast or underarm, changes in breast size or shape, skin dimpling, unusual nipple discharge, or redness and swelling. Any unusual change in the breast should be discussed with a health care provider.

When should

women begin getting mammograms?

Dr. Larsen: Mammograms are one of the best tools for finding breast cancer early, sometimes before symptoms appear. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data shows that around 10% of all new breast cancer cases in the United States are diagnosed in women younger than 45. Many women should begin annual screening mammograms around age 40, although recommendations can vary depending on personal and family history. It's important to speak with your provider about what screening schedule is best for you.

What should I do if I find a lump or notice a change in my breast?

Dr. Larsen: Don't panic, but don't ignore it either. Most breast lumps and changes turn out to be benign, but it's important to seek care with a trusted provider and have changes evaluated properly. The sooner we can determine what's causing the change, the sooner we can provide reassurance or begin treatment if necessary.

Who may be at a higher risk for breast cancer?

Dr. Larsen: Several factors can increase breast cancer risk, including age, family his-

tory, inherited genetics and certain lifestyle factors. Having a close relative with breast or ovarian cancer may increase risk. However, many people diagnosed with breast cancer do not have a family history, which amplifies the importance of routine screening.

Why is early detection so important?

Dr. Larsen: Early detection gives patients more treatment options and can improve outcomes. Regular screenings and paying attention to changes in your body can make a major difference, ultimately increasing the chances of recovery and survival.



Staying current on recommended screenings, understanding your personal risk, and paying attention to changes in your body can make a meaningful difference. If you have questions about your breast health, talk with your health care provider about the screening and prevention strategies that are right for you.



SPECIAL ENTRIES AT BC FAIR

Just as she's done for many years, Elaine Butner of Shelbyville was a participant and winner, along with other residents, in the Bedford County Fair, going on this week, at the Ag Center. Looks like the judges enjoyed that chess pie!

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SHELBYVILLE

TIMES-GAZETTE

Shelbyville has its own weather guy
Meteorologist Kirby is SWC speaker

The July Shelbyville Woman's Club meeting was held on Wednesday, July 8, at Bell Buckle Banquet Hall. Speaker was Elijah Kirby, owner and founding meteorologist of Southern Tennessee Weather, formally known as Shelbyville Weather.

Born in Hopkinsville, Ky., but raised in Bedford County, since he was 5, Elijah has called the Shelbyville / Normandy area home for most of his life. His connection to Southern Middle Tennessee runs deep, and that local perspective continues to shape the way he serves the community today.

Elijah's love of weather has a complicated past. What began as storm anxiety during childhood — something he knows many people across the South can relate to — gradually transformed into fascination. He quickly discovered that understanding the

weather helped ease his fears, leading him to spend countless hours watching The Weather Channel and studying every storm that passed through the region. That curiosity grew into a lifelong passion, and ultimately, a calling.

While still in high school in 2018, Elijah launched Shelbyville Weather with a simple goal: provide clear, hyper-local forecasts and lifesaving storm updates for his hometown. What

started as a small community-driven project quickly gained momentum, especially during high-impact weather events where timely, understandable information mattered most.

Over time, that effort evolved into Southern Tennessee Weather — now one of the region's most trusted sources for weather information.

For more information about Southern TN Weather, go to: <https://stnweather.com/team>



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-paid for by Bo Gill