

It's been a historical week in Bedford County County Time Capsule now buried; history awaits future generations



Bedford County Government Photo

Marty Gordon and team escort all 5 local mayors to the Time Capsule ceremony held last Friday at the courthouse. The capsule will rest for 50 years until reopened by future generations.

By Dawn Hankins
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"I wish I could be alive for the 2076 opening to see their facial expressions and questionable comments," said Commissioner Sylvia Pinson, following Friday's Time Capsule burial ceremony.

Seventy-eight submissions were buried on July 31, 2026.

The Time Capsule ceremony-planned in conjunction with America's 250th- had been rescheduled from July 3, due to inclement weather. But Pinson said it turned out even better with the new date.

"The rescheduled July 31 date gave the committee time to add attractions, including the American Mule and Bluegrass Festival mule wagon driven by Marty Gordon," said Pinson. "The wagon carried the Tennessee flag and transported Bedford County's five mayors to the event. The committee also organized the Bedford County Time Capsule Booklet and printed 100 copies to distribute on a first-come, first-served basis to citizens attending the event."

The Commissioner said all items included in the Time Capsule were of historic sig-

nificance for Bedford County. Some that stood out were: Shelbyville 2075: Legacy in Motion 50-year plan as presented by the Bridge Bedford Committee and the Musgrave cedar pencil box with American 250th logo pencils.

Some other items included: a First Community Bank Elongate Penny est. 1988, "African American Living in Bedford County from 1820-2020" which was a book authored by Fredia Flack Lusk and a photo of Bell Buckle citizens with the 250th "Quilt Square."

Pinson said the Time Cap-



sule committee thanks the city governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, education departments, and individuals who prepared time capsule submissions for Bedford County's American 250 celebration.

The Time Capsule Committee included: Shanna Boyette, HR director; Carol Roberts,

archives director; Keith Davis and Sylvia Pinson, District 7 County Commissioners of Bedford County; Dana Rodriguez of the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce; and outgoing Bedford County Mayor Chad Graham.

See page 10 for more information about the Time Capsule booklet.



Shelbyville opens its doors for 6 weeks of Christmas fun at TWHNC grounds

By Dawn Hankins
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Right now, the Cooper Steel Arena at the Celebration grounds may be getting prepared for Tennessee's premiere walking horse show but come November, Santa is taking over.

Brian Crews of Bridge Bedford made a presentation to Shelbyville City Council Tuesday night about the planned Walking in a Winter Wonderland event, set to take off at Cooper Steel Arena on Nov. 21 and run through Jan 2, 2027.

The City, it was announced during the study session, is putting forth \$25,000 to support this event, which is open to the public.

Keeping with the Bridge Bedford theme, the Christ-

mas event's mission is to unite generations while breaking ground on a traditional holiday event right here.

Walking in a Winter Wonderland has been in the planning stages since January, Crews advised. He said the event might be the worst kept secret, as many people are now excitedly talking about it.

While sure to be seasonal fun, he said regional tourism is also a high point. Among everything planned, that 50 foot by 180-foot ice skating rink in Cooper Steel Arena will likely be a big drawing card here come Christmas.

"The Cooper Steel Arena will be converted into an NHL grade ice rink. There will be Christmas light installations . . . as you exit the Cooper Steel Arena, you'll be able to

walk through the Celebration grounds and just experience the joys of Christmas."

There will be decorated barns on the Celebration grounds. From pixel tunnels to Santa visits, Crews said there's going to be something for everyone. The Champions Arena is also going to be set up spectacularly with a concert stage.

"If you'll recall when Bridge Bedford adopted the Legacy in Motion plan . . . the Legacy in Motion Plan found that the Celebration grounds is our number one tourist attraction in Bedford County. There are so many events that go on out there throughout the season but there's going to be something extra special this holiday season."

See CHRISTMAS, 2A



BACK TO SCHOOL FUEL WINNER ANNOUNCED

T-G Photo by Renee Brown

City Councilman William Christie made the official drawing Tuesday for the Times-Gazette's \$500 gas card give-away, sponsored by local market owner Gary King. Grand prize winner was Ann Watts of Shelbyville. The five additional winners (\$100 each) will be announced next week. We thank everyone who participated.

HORSES REMOVED FROM FARM

Bedford County Government
Press Release

(August 3, 2026) - On Thursday, July 30, Bedford County Animal Control, accompanied by Bedford County Sheriff's Office, served a warrant and removed 30 horses from a farm on

Sims Road west of Shelbyville. Tennessee Department of Agriculture found probable cause to believe that the horses were not being treated properly. The owners were charged with 35 counts of animal cruelty.

The horses have been taken to

an equine rescue facility, where they are receiving veterinary attention.

This is an active investigation, and no further statement will be made at this time.

T-G Editor's Note: A Sheriff's Office/Jail arrest/intake report

this week showed that Joseph Robert Stembridge, and Jennifer Stembridge, both of Sims Road, were charged with cruelty to animals. The two were arrested and placed under a \$50,000 bond. The animal cruelty charges filled nearly a page of the police report.



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Local CASA makes preparations for annual fundraiser

Community encouraged to participate in this special day

By Dawn Hankins
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

This is the first of two features about the CASA Works, Inc., program which serves Bedford County.

CASA Works of Bedford County (Court Appointed Special Advocates) will have its annual fundraiser lunch and program “A Heart to Help” on Tuesday, Aug 18, at noon, at First Baptist Church in Shelbyville.

You're invited! Bring a table full of folks to celebrate CASA's great accomplishments!

RSVP by calling 931-455-7426. CASA workers

are trained advocates/volunteers who work in juvenile court to represent the best interests of children who have been abused, neglected, or otherwise in need of court intervention.

The Tennessee CASA Association supports 31 CASA programs, serving 60 counties, helping over 4,700 children annually. The program is funded by the state and local communities, and its goal is to reduce the time children spend in foster care and improve outcomes for abused and neglected children.

Below are some typical case scenarios experienced by CASA work-

ers.

CASA was able to set up a meeting to collaborate with school officials, teachers, attorney, doctors, the child and family, to return an abused and neglected child back into a public school after being taken out for homeschool by her biological parents 4 years ago. The homeschool program was not certified nor did the parents work with the child. The child is currently in 10th grade and had a 4th grade education. This child was diagnosed with a mental illness that hindered her ability to mainstream.

Because the CASA volunteer stayed in communication with the mental health team and the school as well as the Guardian At Litem. They fought for the child's educational rights. After 18 months, this child finally started back in the school system with an aggressive Independent Education Plan and she seems to be blossoming.

The child says she wants to go to college and become a child counselor

CASA was appointed to a family of four children. The mother was a single mom, homeless, no employment and addicted to drugs. The children were removed and placed in foster care. The mother worked very hard to meet the requirements that the team had determined in the Permanency Plan she needed to complete in order for reunification to happen.

The children had multiple fathers that were either in prison or unknown. Upon completion of her drug rehabilitation and completed the Permanency Plan (goals to accomplish), the children were returned to her. The mother decided that she and the children needed to move away from past negative influences. She moved about 60 miles across the state line. This caused DCS forbidden to check on the

CASA Mission

To Provide a VOICE for abused and neglected children in Bedford, Coffee, Franklin and Warren Counties.

The CASA program belongs to a network of nearly 59 community-based programs in Tennessee that recruit, train and support citizen-volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities.

children.

Turn the page to new beginnings through CASA.

The judge specifically asked CASA to make these visits as often as possible to ensure that this family was making progress. The volunteer was able to go to the home at least twice a month during the 3-month trial period, and found that they were thriving and the mother was doing very well.

According to the volunteers' reports, the family was reunified and CASA's recommendations gave the juvenile judge enough information to close the case for the best interest of the children.

Celebration entries highest in a decade

The 88th Annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration has surpassed 2,500 entries for this year's show, signaling continued momentum for the industry's premier event.

The 2026 Celebration will begin Aug. 26, and conclude on Saturday, Sept. 5, with the crowning of the 88th Tennessee Walking Horse World Grand Champion.

Despite the show being held later on the calendar than usual, exhibitors responded with strong support. The final entry total reached 2,587, the highest in more than 10 years. Entries closed July 28, with a late-entry deadline of Aug. 4.

The 2,582 entries represent a 4% increase over last year.

"Seeing the highest number of entries since I became CEO 6 years ago is incredibly encouraging and speaks to the momentum we continue to build at The Celebration," said Celebration CEO Warren Wells. "It's also the largest entry total we've seen in many years, which is a testament to the confidence our owners, trainers, exhibitors and breeders have in this event and in the future of our industry."

The show also reached the important benchmark of over 1,300 unique horses entered, rebounding after falling just short of that mark in 2025.

"While we're proud of these numbers, we're

even more excited about what they represent — a growing enthusiasm for the Tennessee Walking Horse and a renewed commitment to making The Celebration the premier showcase for our breed," Wells said. "We can't wait to welcome everyone to Shelbyville for what promises to be an outstanding Celebration."

The strong entry totals resulted in 11 classes being split, consistent with recent years. The Two-Year-Old Stallions class on Monday evening is the only class that will be divided into three sections. Ten additional classes will feature A and B divisions, including the Amateur Owned and Trained class, which debuts a World Grand Championship this year.

Another new feature for the 2026 Celebration is the scheduling of the World Grand Championship classes. Championship competition will begin during the second half of the Wednesday, Sept. 2, evening session before culminating on Saturday night with the selection of the 88th Tennessee Walking Horse World Grand Champion.

Qualifying for the World Grand Championship will once again take place on the first Saturday evening in A and B divisions. For the first time in modern Celebration history, the last two Tennessee Walking Horse World Grand Champions are both entered to compete for the sport's highest honor.

CHRISTMAS

From page 1A

Crews mentioned Cooper Steel, his employer, has made generous donations and said there are many, many more businesses and families in the community assisting as large sponsors. First Community Bank plans to have its own area.

Crews, a member of the school board and a former City police officer, thanked the City of Shelbyville for its part in making this seasonal event possible.

Though asked by Councilman Bobby Turnbow if the County is contributing to this event, Crews simply stated that's to be determined.

Crews said through research of Christmas markets, he's found that several communities in the area are earning serious revenue from such events. He said cities and towns are entertaining upwards of 300,000 and taking in millions in revenue.

"That's the foundation we want to lay for Shelbyville and Bedford County, so that we can be a premiere holiday destination that people want to come to and bring their families to and experience the magic of Christmas-right here-in our community."



REQUEST TO RE-NAME WEST HOLLAND IN HONOR OF VETERANS

Tim Estes, a local veteran and well-known for his work with Wreaths Across America, spoke before Shelbyville City Council at study session Tuesday about his desire to see the City re-name West Holland Street to Vietnam Veterans Way. He said sadly, Vietnam Veterans were not welcomed home with open arms like himself and other Desert Storm veterans. He said he believes it is time that generation be recognized with such a local landmark.

Business Spotlight



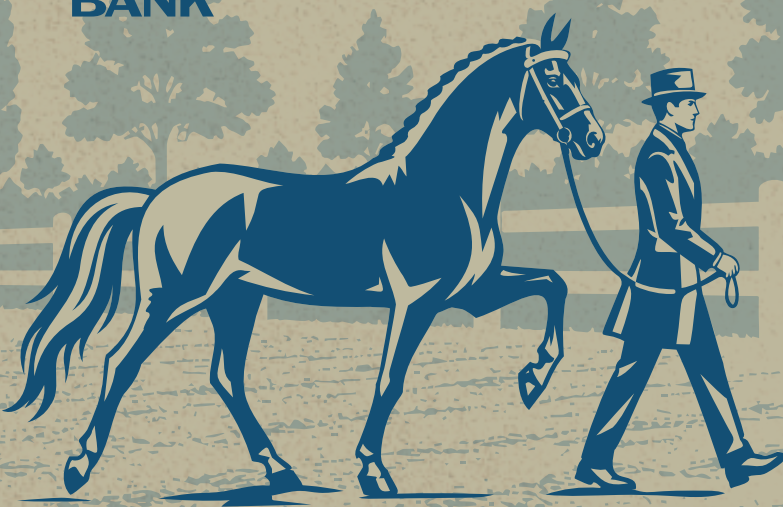
Attending the event were: Bob Graham, Ann Heflin, Patsy Lynch, Dwight King, Martha Jean Cartwright, Nancy Jensen, Barbara Pate, Wendell Agnew and Tom Clifford.

First Community Bank honors retirees

First Community Bank employees were able to celebrate last weekend with some wonderful retirees who helped make First Community Bank what it is today! Some were missed but thanked none-the-less for their years of hard work and commitment to serving their friends and neighbors. First Community Bank employee Linda Nichols said, "What a great group. The bank's strong foundation was formed by these retirees. Thank you all for your work with customers and other employees that made for lifetime friendships.



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At First Community Bank, we are committed to being there. For the long rides. The quiet mornings. The moments that make a legacy. That's why we're proud to be the official bank of the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration.

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Farm ponds in Bedford County

The right to speak, when appropriate

By Dawn Hankins
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

Farm ponds are currently a hot topic. Lots of people want to talk about it. But Bedford County Planning Director Chris White explained to those in attendance at the County Planning Commission meeting last week that the PC does not have jurisdiction over such matters.

The ability to sequester comments on this particular subject falls under the Right to Farm Act (RTFA), White advised those in attendance.

That did not fare well with some residents off Highway 64 in Wartrace, judging from their comments and tones of voice.

By law, The Right to Farm Act (RTFA) is designed to safeguard farmers and ranchers from nuisance lawsuits brought by individuals who move into rural areas where normal agricultural operations already exist. These laws aim to prevent new residents or entities from

using legal actions to disrupt ongoing farming activities, such as complaints about noise, odor, or other typical farm operations. Unlike traditional farmland preservation policies, which focus on land conservation, the RTFA emphasizes protecting the viability of agricultural operations and supporting standard farming practices

White said during the planning meeting, as explained in previous conversations with County Attorney Ginger Bobo, the farm pond matters/comments have to go before the BC Board of Zoning Appeals. If the BZA then interprets it differently, or overturns his decision, then he and planners then become involved.

“I know I’ve said it 100 times but that is what happens,” said White. “That is how you do this.”

Public comments were then opened.

Resident Beverly Saylor asked how the County can work on a

comprehensive growth plan “when they don’t exercise proper control over zoning in Bedford County.” She also asked how there’s environmental control with “illegal quarries” happening in Bedford County.

Saylor said no one can deny that’s happening.

It’s actually happening in other small communities. Coffee County Commission has been fighting farm ponds in Beech Grove for a few years. The state held a public hearing earlier this year and later approved the applicant permits for what it deemed agricultural activity.

BC Planning Commission Chair Jeff Sweeney told the commenter that again, farm ponds are agricultural and not in the PC’s jurisdiction. Those permits are issued by the state, he advised.

Resident Dewayne Carter said it was obvious that he wasn’t going to get to say what he wanted to say. But he ventured this, “You show your true colors when you get with the

County attorneys and try to come up with a way to shirk your responsibilities and not let these people speak about what they need to speak about.”

Carter told the Planning Commission they are “wrong.” Carter said the first truck that came off the road from the Wartrace site was in violation.

“They cannot barter or sell the rock; they’re in violation of it and the Greenbelt! They’re running an industrial quarry, on the Greenbelt. It’s against the law. Everything they’re doing is against the law!”

He told the PC members that those with the ponds cannot sue the County for any authoritative action because they’re in “violation of the law.”

He ended his speech with these words: “What you need to worry about is us suing you!”

Anna Brandon said she lives next to the site on Highway 64. She said it’s been going on for 2 years and now she’s see-



Dewayne Carter was among several residents who accused Bedford County Planning Commission, during its monthly meeting, of shirking its responsibilities by not letting residents speak on farm ponds in Bedford County.

ing home damage. The residents now have their public hearing with the state. They will speak during this meeting and the state will record the comments and give the residents an opinion at a later date.

TDEC Public Hearing in Bedford County

A Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) public hearing is scheduled for August 25, 2026 in Bedford County. (TN State Government.)

- Event details
- Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026
 - Time: 5:00 p.m. CDT – Information Session; 6:00 p.m. CDT – Public Hearing
 - Location: Bedford County Business Complex, 200 Dover Street, Suite 110, Shelbyville, TN 37160
 - Format: Video-teleconference; may be attended in person, online, or by phone Permit actions under review

The Division of Mineral and Geologic Resources will consider two National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit applications:

1. Permit TN0070755 – Fairfield Pike Lake (Applicant: Matthew Allen)
2. Permit TN0070756 – Highway 64 Lakes (Applicant: Hawkins and Price, LLC)

Receiving streams: Hurricane Creek and

Purpose of the hearing

To gather public comments relevant to water quality issues for the proposed permits. Comments on unrelated matters (e.g., air quality, zoning, blasting, noise, dust, traffic) will not be considered

Comment guidelines

- Oral comments: limited to 5 minutes per person; avoid repetition to ensure all participants have an opportunity to speak
- Written comments: accepted at the hearing and considered equally as verbal comments
- Contact for permit-related questions: Ashleigh Simons, (865) 320-6143 or Ashleigh.Simons@tn.gov

How to participate

- Online: Use the provided video-teleconference link in the public notice.
- By phone: Audio call-in numbers will be provided in the notice.
- In person: Attend at the Bedford County Business Complex address above
- Tip: Review the draft permits in the TDEC Data Viewer before attending to prepare relevant comments

For the official notice and meeting instructions, see the TDEC public notice for M2026-13 on the TN.gov TDEC page.

New Tennessee law on public comments in government meetings

The most recent change to Tennessee’s public comment rules came with Tennessee House Bill 22, passed in March 2026 and effective March 26, 2026. This law amends the Tennessee Open Meetings Act to expand the scope of when public comment periods must be reserved.

Key changes under the new law:

- Broader scope of public comment: Local governing bodies must now reserve a period for public comment on any matter germane to the jurisdiction of the governing body, regardless of whether the

matter is listed on the agenda.

This means the public can speak about issues not on the agenda if they are relevant to the body’s authority.

- Reasonable restrictions allowed: Cities and towns may still impose reasonable limits on the total time for comments, the number of speakers, or the time per speaker. They must also provide advance notice of how the public can sign up to comment.

- Fair representation requirement: Governing bodies must take all practicable steps to ensure opposing view-

points are fairly represented if any exist.

- Exemptions remain: The law still does not require public comment periods in:
 - * Meetings with no actionable items on the agenda.

- * Disciplinary hearings for governing body members or persons whose profession/activities fall within the governing body’s jurisdiction.
- * Why it matters:

This change strengthens public participation by allowing citizens to address issues outside the formal agenda, as long as they are within the body’s

authority. It aligns Tennessee’s rules more closely with other states that require comment on any jurisdictional matter, not just agenda items.

Practical effect:

If you attend a city council or school board meeting, you can now request to speak about a topic not on the agenda — for example, a local zoning issue or a public safety concern — as long as it’s within the body’s authority. The city must reserve time for such comments, though they can set limits on how many or how long you can speak.

T-G Letter to Editor Policy

Letters to the editor are accepted and printed when they pertain to a topic of interest within the community or area (government, schools, infrastructure problems, etc.) The T-G is not a venue for letters that are personal attacks upon individuals, groups, or businesses. The Times-Gazette Letter to the Editor policy includes the right to refuse to print or edit any letter received, if it does not meet those standards. Send to dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net.

Dear Editor:

It is unbelievable that today’s Democratic party is turning to socialism as a remedy for all supposed wrongs of our American government.

It is an obvious conclusion that this segment of Democrats lives in a utopian world blindly historical stupid and like Artic lemmings will gather in aimless herds of losers drowning in a sea of self-destruction under a failing socialist government that has never succeeded. They want this socialist type government for America that is egalitarian, no centralized government, no police force, no Supreme court and no republican-type government of any type, and when in power elections would be a farce and

they would dictate all policies without legislation. Their type of government would provide all basic physical requirements at no cost for all her citizens and everyone is cloned equal and totally dependent on the government for survival, a controlled from cradle- to- death sort of regime.

Of course, the advocates of socialist government never tell their subjects that it is they who reap the benefits and not the dumb supporters who put them in power.

In their dream world private industry and capitalism is the Unpardonable Sin and anyone that believes working for a living and supporting a government that offers unlimited opportunities for all her

citizens to excel and prosper via hard work, education and government-supported protection from criminals and foreign enemies is the cancer of American society and must be eliminated at all costs. There is one glaring factor the wannabe socialists have ignored or are not aware of; who pays the bill for a socialist government that provides all commodities including food, medical care protection and shelter for her citizens? Since governments are not self-supporting and capitalist type governments depend upon her citizens/and private owned industry via taxation to operate and provide the basic necessities for her citizens, then without this feature socialism is doomed before it starts and the utopian dream is dead.

To support the historical logic and truth that socialism is a dismal failure you don’t have to be a learned historian, all that is required is to study basic factual history plain and simple. A tenet that the so-called socialists leaning Democrats have failed to do

either through plain stupidity or closing their eyes to the truth. In the past hundred years not a single country implementing a socialist type government has seen socialism survive. The results have been total chaos and ruin. These countries include Soviet Russia, East Germany, Bulgaria, Hungary and others with the most drastic and chaotic failure; Maoist China, under communist Mao Tse-tung which resulted in an estimated 30 to 45 million Chinese deaths (approximately 6% of total population) in the ‘Great Chinese Famine’ due to starvation and overwork in Mao’s socialist party’s ‘Great Leap Forward’ from 1958 - 1962. These historical facts are meaningless to the present American socialist advocates; they contend that it wasn’t the horse of socialism that failed, but the fault was with the jockey riding the horse. What a joke; I can imagine the “success” of the socialist horse with US Senators Chuck Summers or Bernie Sanders in the saddle.

The failure of socialism in these countries that tried it are foregone conclusions, but for some reason America’s rising socialist wing of the ultra-left democrat party will not acknowledge or admit socialism does not work. Why they think it would succeed in America is not understood. As the German philosopher Hegel so aptly put it “we learn from history that we do not learn from history”.

The Democratic party would be well advised to return to the philosophy and tenets of the past sensible moderate democrats such as Presidents Roosevelt, Truman and Kennedy and others who put America front and foremost. And for sure turn from their appeasers and supporters such as the dismal do-nothings in congress who support the more radical socialist Democrats. As example they insisted on supporting and lauding the virtues and sterling character of another of their darling socialist candidate for the Maine Senate race, criminal Graham

Platner who finally withdrew from the race. These type socialist’s candidate all have shady and criminal past records and with the liberal media support attempt to lie out of the accusations when confronted. Hopefully the socialists will meet defeat in November elections and the democrat party will return to sensible and American favored leadership.

Woe unto the Democratic party if they continue to support these losers. and God help America if the sensible wing of the Democrats doesn’t oust these hair-brained inept losers from their ranks.

Charles David Sliger
Shelbyville

MEMBER

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FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

A Bronze Snake Numbers 21

The Israelites traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Sea of Reeds to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way and spoke against God and against Moses. They said, Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

The Lord sent venomous snakes among them that bit the people and many Israelites died.



They came to Moses and confessed their sin of rebellion and asked that Moses ask to take the snakes away. Moses prayed for the people. The Lord instructed Moses to make a snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.



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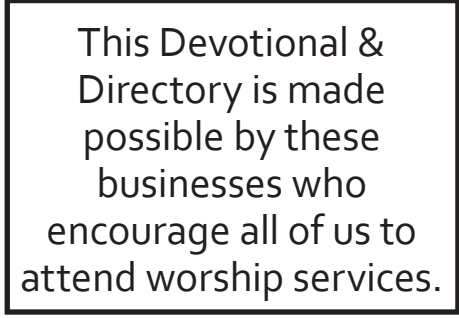
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Obituaries

Paul Eugene (Gene) Cunningham

Paul Eugene (Gene) Cunningham, age 92, passed from this life on July 28, 2026, at Har-ton Hospital in Tullaha-ma, surrounded by his family and loved ones after a brief illness. Fu-neral services will be held at Doak Funeral Home in Shelbyville on August 1, 2026, with the Reverend Jon Nelms officiating. Visi-tation will begin 10:00 a.m. until service time at 1:00 p.m. He will be laid to rest in the family plot at Maxwell Ceme-tery in Rover.

Gene was born on October 18, 1933, in the Potleg Community of Bedford County, to Clar-ence Eugene Cunning-ham, and Annie Pauline Smith Cunningham. He was married to his late wife, Claudine Bullock Cunningham for 44 years and they resid-ed in Shelbyville. Gene faithfully served Shel-byville as a firefighter for 36-1/2 years and retired as a Captain. On his "off" days, Gene worked at Carlton Mo-tors and could be found detailing cars and also restoring cars to their original beauty through body repairs and paint jobs. Gene was immac-ulate with every job and task and his yard was a testimony to his talents. Many are un-aware of his gift of play-ing the piano totally by ear—never reading music. He was part of another family through his love of Studebaker cars. Gene owned and restored a total of elev-en plus cars and trucks during his lifetime. One truck now resides in an Indianapolis Museum still today. His shop has one left. Gene was a member of the Middle Tennessee Studebaker Drivers Club and re-ceived the Man of the Year award in Novem-ber 2025. Gene attend-ed and supported St. Paul Fellowship Church at Rover and 1st United Methodist Church at Shelbyville.

Gene was preced-ed in death by his be-loved wife, Claudine; his parents, Clarence & Pauline; his brothers, Donald Cunningham, Herbert Cunningham, and James A. Cunning-ham; sisters, Dorothy Cunningham, Alta Mae Cunningham, and Mary Lee Cunningham; granddaughter, Stepha-nie Cunningham Dud-ley.

Gene (known as the Studebaker Man in the Hoodlum Alley area), was a hardworking and loving man who was a friend to all who knew



him. As a firefighter Gene was a great cook. He quietly went about his business and ser-vice to others, not look-ing for credit, glory, or fanfare but to just "get the job done." Gene and his family hosted many annual gatherings at his Hoodlum Alley Shop for family events, Sunday School parties, and hol-iday Studebaker events until he was 90.

Gene was a Korean War Veteran and his job was to drive the Army chaplain. He was the only person who could drive the 5-speed Jeep Willy up the steep hill. Gene was honored and awarded a Quilt of Valor for his military service at his 85th birthday cel-ebration.

Gene is survived by his special companion of 21 years, Lynda Phil-lips; his children Lisa (Mike) Gregory of Shel-byville; Rhonda (Tim) Boyce of Unionville; Jeff Cunningham of Shelbyville. Grandchil-dren: Michael (Amy) Gregory, Jenny (Jeffrey) Wiser, Cindy (Andrew) Stickler, Matt (Ashley) Gregory, Calli (Cody) Keele), Blair Boyce, Ashley (Nathan) Hale, Nathan Cunningham, Blake Cunningham, Kyle Cunningham and Jacob Cunningham. Great-grandchildren, Mattie, Maddox and Miccah Gregory, Hunter Elliott, Nicholas Wiser, Austin and Ethan Stick-ler, Willow and Wyatt Gregory, Braylon West, Landon and Easton Cassidy, Harper Hale, Peyton Dudley of Geor-gia; Joshua, Hannah, and Landon Cunning-ham, Kolston Cunning-ham, Lilith and Ashton Cunningham, great great grandchildren, Scarlet Elliott, Sister, Georgia C. Wisdom of Lavergne; brothers, Calvin Cunningham, Kenneth Cunningham, Wayne Kinky (Donna) Cunningham, sister-in law, Bonnie Cunning-ham, and brother-in-law, Jerry Harber.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Maxwell Cem-etery at Rover in care of Amy Martin, 3681 Hwy 41A North, Unionville, TN 37180.

Doak Funeral Home is serving the family.

William Jason Hunt

William Jason Hunt, 49, of Shelbyville, died July 30, 2026. A Me-morial Service will be held 2:00 P.M. Monday, August 3rd, at Hillcrest Funeral Home with the Rev. Jimmy Gray offi-ciating. Visitation will begin at 12:00 P.M.

He was born March 28, 1977, in Nashville, Tn., to his parents, Dor-othy Soper Hunt of hel-byville and the late Wil-liam Lawrence Hunt.

In addition to his mother he is survived by his sister, Wendy Marie Seibers (Dale) of Shelbyville; nieces and nephews, Shelby



Hardin, Ethan Hardin, Chase Butcher, Logan Seibers (Monica) and Kelcie Williams (Zeb.) He was preceded in death by a sister, Tracy Hunt Thompson.

Hillcrest Funeral Home in Shelbyville is in charge of arrange-ments.

Betty J. Marbury

It is with profound sadness that we an-nounce the passing of Betty J. Marbury who passed away peacefully on July 30, 2026, at the age of 94.

Betty was born on November 13, 1931, in Lewisburg, Tn. She lived a life defined by love, kindness and de-votion to her family and friends. She touched the lives of many through her compassion, gener-osity and unwavering strength.

Betty was a lifelong member of the First Baptist Church, Shel-byville. She found joy in walking every day, bowling and working jigsaw puzzles. Wheth-er she was with family, enjoying favorite pas-time or helping others, Betty made every mo-ment meaningful. Her warmth, laughter and caring spirit will be re-membered by everyone fortunate enough to have known her.

Above all, Betty cherished family. She is lovingly survived by her daughter, Libby and her husband Don. She was preceded in death



by her husband Rudy Marbury, mother, Lou-ise Allen and stepfather, Raymond Allen and her brother, Loxie Doud.

Though our hearts are heavy with grief, we find comfort in the memories we shared and lasting impact Bet-y had on those around her. Her legacy of love, kindness and faith will continue to inspire gen-erations to come.

A Graveside Service will be held 1:00 P.M. Tuesday, August 4th, at Willow Mount Cem-etery. "Let everything that have breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord"

Psalm 150:6. Forev-er loved, deeply missed and never forgotten.

Hillcrest Funeral Home is in charge of ar-rangements.

CHURCH NEWS

Pastor Abe Zimmerman of **First United Methodist Church Shelbyville** will preach "Mysterious God: Part 3" from 2 Peter 3:8-9. "We will look at some of the different ways that God is mysterious but still knowable. 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, we offer a livestream on Facebook and YouTube and a broadcast on WLJ 98.7 FM and AM 1580.

FISH FRY

SCOTT'S CHAPEL UMC

Friday, August 7, 2026

Starting at 5 PM

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Sandwiches only

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COMMUNITY CLINIC RECEIVES TYSON GRANT

Community Clinic of Shelbyville and Bedford County recently received a \$15,000 Tyson Foods Community Grant to provide adults living in the Bedford County community with assistance with utilities and dental care. From October 2025 to August 4, 2026, CCsBc provided 26 dental services/68 dental appointments; utility assistance; as well as food, gas assistance and hygiene items. CCsBc is thank-ful for the continued local support of Tyson Foods Inc., since 2003. Will Hightower, complex manager, presents the check to Fredia Lusk, CcsBc executive director.

Lillian Marie (McBee) McCullough

Lillian Marie (Mc-Bee) McCullough, age 97, of Shelbyville went to be with her Heavenly Father Monday, July 27, 2026 surrounded by her loving family. The fam-ily will receive friends from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Thursday, July 30th at Edgemont Baptist Church. Funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. at the church with Broth-er Jimmy West and Brother Bobby McGee officiating. Interment will follow at Willow Mount Cemetery. Me-morials may be made to Edgemont Baptist Church, 150 Fairfield Pike, Shelbyville, TN 37160. Lillian was born May 30, 1929 in Shel-byville to the late Rob-ert Bell and Lula Daniel (Jolly) McBee. In addi-tion to her parents, Lil-lian is also preceded in death by her husband of 70 years, Charles L. Mc-Cullough; sons, Danny (Dianne) McCullough, Jimmy McCullough, and Timothy Daryl Mc-Cullough; sisters, Eliza-beth Woods (Bill), Ruby Adams Orr, Nellie Mae McBee, Clara McBee Adams, Lorene Davis (James), Elma Ruth Gee (Jim), Sarah Mc-Bee, and Juanita Mc-Bee; and brother, Rob-ert McBee, Jr (Laura.) Lillian was a charter member of Edgemont Baptist Church. She and her husband Charles attended Edgemont Baptist Church their entire life. Lillian was a hard-working wom-an, working countless hours at the former sock factory in Shelbyville until they closed busi-ness and then working up into her later years at Economy Pen and Pen-cil Factory as a Machine Operator. Lillian always



made time for her fami-ly and friends and never passed up the opportu-nity to make someone smile or laugh. She never met a stranger and if she did, they were never a stranger for long. Lil-lians' loving disposition welcomed everyone into her heart and family. To know her was truly to love her and everyone who ever met Lillian loved her dearly.

Lillian leaves be-hind to cherish her memory her daughter, Judy Garrett (Billy); grandchildren, Danny McCullough (Kristen), Jason Graham (Lidia), Scott Spray, Julie Gra-ham, Joey McCullough (Mireyda), Emily Thomas (Jason), Eric McCullough (Zary), and Caroline McCullough; great grandchildren, Ai-mee Campbell (Chris), Kip Prosser (Grace), Ki-ley Graham, Palin Gra-ham, Ian McCullough, Paulina McCullough, Arina McCullough, Henley Thomas, Wrex-ie McCullough, Garrus McCullough, Victoria McCullough, and Is-abella McCullough; great-great grandchil-dren, Ali Campbell, Landry Prosser, Lil-lian Grace Prosser, and Logan Prosser. Feld-haus-Gowen-Smith Chapel is honored to be serving the family of Lillian Marie (McBee) McCullough.

Feldhaus-Gowen Smith Chapel in Shel-byville is in charge of arrangements.

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August 9th

August 23rd

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"Therefore, Go make Disciples of all Nations..."

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SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1) Classic TV alien
- 4) Lively French dance
- 9) “___ and the Man” (Prinze sitcom)
- 14) Kiwi’s erstwhile kin
- 15) With jaw on floor
- 16) Relaxed
- 17) FAA employee
- 18) Some tracks
- 20) T-bone source
- 22) Fabric features
- 23) Fabrics
- 26) Cole or Wood
- 31) Counting everything
- 33) University founder Stanford
- 34) Blood classification
- 36) “Finna” preceder
- 38) Prefix with “linear”
- 39) Addition word
- 41) St. ___ (Caribbean island)
- 43) Peasant of yore
- 44) Start of a 1991 Schwarzenegger catchphrase
- 46) Cry after “Forward!”
- 48) Singer Orbison
- 49) Small keys
- 51) Latino lady
- 53) Kind of pencil that halts

- bleeding
- 55) Power-plant apparatus
- 58) Aitches in Athens
- 60) What to do when you have a full house
- 61) Indy 500 leaders
- 67) Sounds of understanding
- 68) Type of movie ticket
- 69) Certain water craft
- 70) Once surnamed
- 71) Does the job
- 72) A caddy may hold it
- 73) Observed

CLUES DOWN

- 1) Gather together
- 2) “Whole ___ Love” (Led Zeppelin)
- 3) Tongue-in-cheek
- 4) Sheriff who killed Billy the Kid
- 5) Ottoman ruler
- 6) Fond du ___, Wis.
- 7) Major tennis event
- 8) Southern nut
- 9) Bunch of grapes
- 10) Feminine pronoun
- 11) Common possessive
- 12) It’s waited for in the wings
- 13) Photo ___ (camera sessions)

- 19) October birthstone
- 21) Late-October suffix
- 24) Songwriter Coward
- 25) Opt not to pick?
- 27) Barley products
- 28) Deep cut
- 29) Emcee’s task
- 30) Instruct and uplift
- 32) Killers at sea
- 34) Plant louse
- 35) Criticize in no uncertain terms
- 37) TV or radio station
- 40) Flight component
- 42) Unwanted outbreak
- 45) Bears witness to
- 47) Get rough, as a voice
- 50) Surfer’s destination
- 52) “His Master’s Voice” record label
- 54) Throwing game
- 56) Irish actor Milo
- 57) Adjust some seams
- 59) Dog command
- 61) Litter foot
- 62) Teapot tempest
- 63) Inferior dog
- 64) Antlered animal
- 65) Bananas have two
- 66) Aussie boulder

ACES!

FreeDailyCrosswords.com by Thomas E. Sheffield

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Sudoku

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There is a forest behind those trees of politicians

By Dawn Hankins dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

The forest is local government with mighty needs at hand to keep up with a changing world. This has no doubt been a nasty election year, in some corners. Shame. But that’s how it often goes in the world of politics. Locally, it seems some do not “see the forest for the trees.” This actual quotation is from a classic book and the exact wording is: "It cannot see the wood for

the trees." It was written in Frederick Engels' famous treatise about socialism. Engels was criticizing metaphysics and how an intense focus on individual concepts can cause people to forget their connections to a larger whole. Science fiction author Robert A. Heinlein (yes, thought he was appropriate here) once said, “You can sway a thousand men by appealing to their prejudices quicker than you can convince one many by logic.” More are concerned

about PAC dollars and a candidate’s past DUI charges than “the wood” that’s really facing Bedford Countians in the near future. Will the candidate you voted for mayor or sheriff be able to handle honorably and dubiously the tasks that are before them over the next 4 years? Are they the type of person that will walk out the courthouse in four years with honor and or possibly seek re-election. Or will they be someone who has to slink off into the sunset

with disdain from what they experienced? What are the traits really a voter should be looking for? That would be integrity, emotional intelligence and accountability. But don’t just look at the candidates at face value. Dig deeper. A leader is someone called to be a servant of the public. Not everyone can do so with grace. Truth is, we could shake all the political trees and find something to be a harpy about. I do not profess to know everything about the PAC contributions and certainly don’t defend DUI but this I know, there are many more long-term, crucial,

issues that are affecting this County that have gone untouched in conversations across the board this election year. Will this make a difference in who wins the election? Or are there gray skies that are going to clear up soon? Maybe. It’s up to the voters to examine the real potential of their candidates, not just because they’re currently popular on Facebook or Instagram. What’s some of those crucial issues possibly forthcoming? It might include any fiscal damage the City vs County lawsuit will have on the local economy. Or perhaps the infrastructure issues affecting local development projects. Or perhaps that the debt service fund accounts decreasing for both City and County-those maybe not being where they should be due to prolonged capital projects.

A big one could be that the County is only meeting the state’s required per-pupil-spending requirements. Don’t get me started here on the senior tax freeze and how it could help residents over age 65. Remember? That’s been delayed indefinitely here. We have a lot of people taking cruises in the next few months. What if you missed the boat for your trip? That might wind up costing you more in the long run? Now think about that in terms of the election, which will have pretty much passed on into history by the time most people read this newspaper. Thank you to all who have turned out to vote in this election. I pray with all my heart that the “best” candidate on the ballot wins in their respective office.

Divorce cases granted in Bedford County Chancery Court July 2026

- Jessica Leigh Baird vs William Jordan Baird
- Bruce Van Boehm vs Sandra Gail Howard
- Evan William Brown vs Autumn Marie Brown
- Carter Lee Clay vs Vickie Lynn Clay
- Gloria Karina Del Angel Otero vs Ranferi Dela Paz-Tavera
- Mercedes Lynn Hamby vs James Joseph Hamby Jr
- Betty Cooper Hanvy vs Franklin Cletis Hanvy
- Heather Brooke Hicks vs Roger Lynn Hicks
- Rylee Blake Jeans vs Haley Grace Cunningham
- Kenneth Marvin Lynch vs Tracie La bet Merlo
- Cassie Gabrielle Mongeon vs Daniel Paul Mongeon
- Bobby Dwayne Osborne vs April Danille Osborne
- Adam Drake Polk vs Cheyenne Marie Polk
- Marvin Benjamin Ralston vs Sheree Ann Ralston
- Miguel Eduardo Ramirez vs Gabriela Lares Cervantes
- Richard Randall Rozell vs Amanda Gail Stewart Rozell
- Maria E Valdiva vs Jose O Mendoza
- David Aaron Wingo vs Mariel Ann Wingo

EASY

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INTERMEDIATE

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66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78

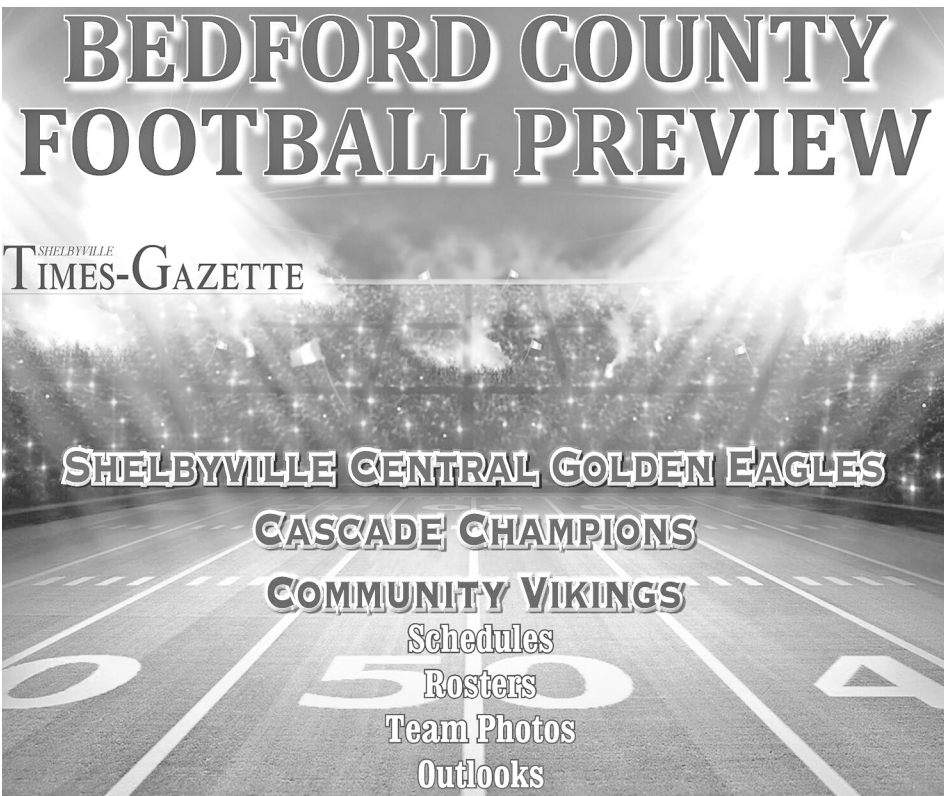
Support Local Sports Coverage in the 2026 Bedford County High School Football Preview

BY NOAH MADDOX
noah@richardsonmed-
diagroup.net

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn. – As the calendar flips over into August, football season is right around the corner. The Shelbyville Central Golden Eagles, Cascade Champions, and Community Vikings all kick off the 2026 campaign on Friday, August 21, and the Shelbyville Times-Gazette is working hard to produce an in-depth season preview for each of the three teams for the second-consecutive year. All three programs deserve an unwavering commitment to provide

in-depth and comprehensive coverage this upcoming season. Despite playing in one of the toughest regions in the state, the Golden Eagles are looking like a serious contender to qualify for the playoffs once again. Cascade is entering Year Three of the Carkuff era, and the program has an established star at quarterback hoping to lead the Champions to the postseason for the first time since 2023. Meanwhile, the Vikings are continuing to lay the groundwork for continued growth and success under second-year head coach Glenn Tidwell. To cover all of that before the first ball is kicked

off, we are requesting some assistance. The Times-Gazette is looking for sponsors for the prestigious 2026 Bedford County High School Football Preview special, and the deadline is August 10th. If you or someone you know is interested in supporting quality, local sports coverage, please contact our office at 931-684-1200, or reach out to our sponsorship representatives at noah@richardsonmediagroup.net, dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net, or renee@richardsonmediagroup.net.



Blue Raiders WBB Announce 2026-27 Non-Conference Slate

MT ATHLETICS
MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Highlighted by road matchups against Southeastern Conference opponents Tennessee and Auburn, along with tournament appearances at the Jacksonville Classic and the Cherokee Invitational, the Middle Tennessee women’s basketball team announced its complete 2026-27 non-conference schedule Tuesday morning. “We intentionally built a non-conference schedule that will challenge us from day one,” said Head Coach Matt Insell. “Playing quality opponents early gives our team an opportunity to grow, learn about ourselves, and establish the standard we want to play to throughout the season. Every game is a chance to get better, and that’s exactly what we want from our non-conference schedule.” Middle Tennessee opens the regular season at home against

Saint Louis on Nov. 2 before making the short trip west to face Memphis on Nov. 6. The Blue Raiders will then head to Knoxville for a matchup against Tennessee on Nov. 12 before returning to the Glass House to host Tennessee Tech on Nov. 16. The Blue Raiders continue their challenging early-season slate with a trip to Auburn on Nov. 20 before traveling to Jacksonville, Florida, for the Jacksonville Classic. Middle Tennessee will face two opponents to be announced on Nov. 23 and Nov. 25. Following the Thanksgiving tournament, the Blue Raiders return home for three consecutive games, welcoming Lipscomb on Nov. 30, Southern Indiana on Dec. 3 and Wichita State on Dec. 6. Following the three-game homestand, Middle Tennessee travels to Nashville to take on Belmont on Dec. 13 before returning to the Glass House to host former



Conference USA rival Rice on Dec. 17. The Blue Raiders will conclude non-conference play at the Cherokee Invitational in Cherokee, North Carolina, taking on Tulsa on Dec. 20 before facing South Florida on Dec. 21.

2026-27 Middle Tennessee Women’s Basketball Non-Conference Schedule:
• Nov. 2 – Saint Louis
• Nov. 6 – at Memphis
• Nov. 12 – at Tennessee
• Nov. 16 – Tennessee Tech

• Nov. 20 – at Auburn
• Nov. 23 – TBA (Jacksonville Classic – Jacksonville, Fla.)
• Nov. 25 – TBA (Jacksonville Classic – Jacksonville, Fla.)
• Nov. 30 – Lipscomb
• Dec. 3 – Southern Indiana (Education Day)

• Dec. 6 – Wichita State
• Dec. 13 – at Belmont
• Dec. 17 – Rice
• Dec. 20 – Tulsa (Cherokee Invitational – Cherokee, N.C.)
• Dec. 21 – South Florida (Cherokee Invitational – Cherokee, N.C.)

MTSU Men’s Basketball to take part in 2026 Paradise Jam

MT ATHLETICS
MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – As part of the non-conference slate of competitions, Middle Tennessee men’s basketball will travel to the U.S. Virgin Islands to take part in the 2026 Paradise Jam November 20-23. The tournament features Temple, Indiana State, Stephen F. Austin, UT Martin, Southern Illinois, East Carolina and Utah Valley as potential opponents for the Blue Raiders. MTSU will play the first game of the tour-

namment against Temple on Nov. 20 at 11:30 a.m. CT, with the multi-team event taking on the form of a true tournament bracket. The meeting with the Owls is set to be the first time the two have met head-to-head in program history. The 2026 edition of the tournament will mark the second overall appearance for Middle Tennessee, though the first for head coach Nick McDevitt. The last time the program competed, they took on Alabama, Toledo and College of Charleston in 2006. For all Blue Raider

fans interested in traveling to St. Thomas to cheer on the team, Paradise Jam Fan Packages are available now to purchase. The packages offer fans an incredible opportunity to immerse themselves in the excitement of the tournament while supporting the Blue Raiders. For those not interested in fan packages, tournament and single day passes are also available for purchase. The remainder of non-conference matchups will be announced at a later date.



Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

MTSU Announces Six-Member 2026 Blue Raider Hall of Fame Class

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Middle Tennessee Athletics announced today the Class of 2026 Blue Raider Hall of Fame inductees. The six-member class will bring the total number of Blue Raider Hall of Fame members to 199.

The six individuals will be inducted into the Blue Raider Hall of Fame during a ceremony on Nov. 6, prior to the football game against WKU on Nov. 7. More details about the event will be announced at a later date on GoBlueRaiders.com.

The Class of 2026 includes:

John Ampomah, track – Competed as a javelin thrower from 2014 to 2016 and was the National Runner-Up in the javelin at the 2015 NCAA Championships. Ampomah, from Accra, Ghana, owns the career record throw for MTSU with a mark of 81.55m and was the CUSA champion in 2015 and 2016. The first back-to-back event winner at the Penn Relays in MTSU history, Ampomah was the Outstanding Field Performer/Field Athlete of the Year in 2015.

Paige (Goeglein) Davis, soccer – The 2012 Sun Belt Conference Offensive Player of the Year, Davis played for the Blue Raiders from 2009 to 2012, helping lead the program to a 49-29-6 record. The Fort Wayne, Indiana, native ranks seventh in program history in points, is tied for third in matches played, ranks fourth in game-winning goals, and is tied for 10th in goals scored. In 2012,



Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

Davis led the Blue Raiders to a 14-5-1 record and a Sun Belt championship while scoring 32 points and setting a single-season school record with eight game-winning goals.

Izabela Kozon, volleyball – The former Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year and Honorable Mention All-American in 2010, helped lead the Blue Raiders to four NCAA Tournament appearances (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010). Kozon finished her career ranked first in the 25-point rally scoring era in kills (1,330), kills per set

(3.58), attacks (3,311), service aces (88), and double-doubles (33). A three-time all-conference selection, Kozon also earned Sun Belt Tournament MVP honors in 2010.

Clint Marks, football – A 36-game starter, Marks led the Blue Raiders to their first-ever FBS bowl appearance in 2006. The left-hander finished his career ranked second in school history in completion percentage (66.0), fourth in pass completions (668), fourth in passing yards (7,342), fourth in 200-yard passing games

(18), and seventh in touchdown passes (37). Marks guided MTSU to a share of the 2006 Sun Belt Conference championship and became the first quarterback in school history to record back-to-back 2,000-yard passing seasons.

Ken Riley, men's basketball – A two-time All-OVC selection and team captain (1970-71), Riley is a member of MTSU's 1,000-point club and ranks 23rd in program history in scoring. He also ranks third in career rebounds (924) and fourth in rebounding average (12.2 per game).

Riley led the Blue Raider freshman team in scoring and rebounding during the 1966-67 season with 398 points and 353 rebounds. He also earned three letters in track.

Whit Turnbow, men's golf – A former player, assistant coach and administrator, Turnbow served as head men's golf coach from 2007 to 2015. He led the Blue Raiders to six NCAA Regional appearances in eight seasons, one NCAA Championship appearance (2008), a conference championship, and three conference Coach

of the Year honors. His teams won 16 tournament titles and recorded 43 top-five finishes during his tenure. Turnbow coached 14 first-team all-conference selections, and his players earned National Player of the Week honors three times. His first team secured the program's first-ever at-large berth to an NCAA Regional in 2008 before advancing to the NCAA Division I Championship for the first time in school history.

MTSU Football Launches Season-Long Team Store Featuring Exclusive “ALL IN” White Out Shirt

MT ATHLETICS

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – As part of BSN Sports' continued partnership with MTSU Athletics, Blue Raider teams will launch program-specific online stores throughout the year, giving fans the opportunity to purchase exclusive merchandise while directly supporting their favorite teams.

MTSU Football is the first program to unveil its season-long team store, highlighted by an exclusive “ALL IN” T-shirt featuring the program's 2026 team motto. Available starting at just \$24.99, the shirt gives Blue Raider fans an opportunity to show their support while embracing the program's

2026 theme.

A portion of every purchase made through the team store will directly benefit the football program.

Throughout the season, fans will hear Head Coach Derek Mason emphasize the importance of being “ALL IN,” a mindset that reflects the commitment, accountability, and effort expected of the Blue Raiders on and off the field.

The “ALL IN” T-shirt has also been selected as the official White Out Game shirt for MTSU's home opener against Murray State on Saturday, Sept. 5. Fans who purchase the shirt and wear it to the game will receive complimentary admission as part of the White Out celebration.

While the team store

features a variety of MTSU Football apparel and merchandise options, only the official “ALL IN” White Out Game shirt qualifies fans for complimentary admission to the home opener against Murray State as part of the White Out promotion.

The online store will continue to feature new merchandise releases throughout the season tied to themed game days and special events. The next featured collection will honor MTSU's Salute to Veterans and Armed Forces Game, providing additional opportunities for Blue Raider fans to show their support.

How to Receive Your White Out Game Ticket(s)

On Saturday, Sept. 5,



Photo courtesy of MT Athletics.

wear your official “ALL IN” White Out Game shirt to Floyd Stadium and stop by the MT-SU-branded tent near Gate 1 beginning two

hours before kickoff.

When you arrive, simply show your “ALL IN” White Out Game shirt to a staff member at the tent to receive your re-

served-seat ticket. Then head into the stadium and cheer on the Blue Raiders!



Thoughts about Bedford

Reprinted with permission
By Aaron White,
Bridge Bedford

Sometimes we spend so much time looking for extraordinary places that we forget we're standing in one. Long before inter-states stitched America together, before GPS could tell us where to turn, a simple idea born in Shelbyville quietly began traveling. In 1810, our community introduced a town layout so practical, so intentional, that it became known as the Shelbyville Plan. What started here

became a blueprint. Communities across the South, the Midwest, and Texas looked to Shelbyville and said, "Let's build ours like that." Think about that for a moment. We often celebrate what arrives in Bedford County, but sometimes we forget to celebrate what left here. An idea. One that shaped downtowns, welcomed businesses, created gathering places, and influenced generations of communities that most of us will never visit. That's the beauty of legacy. It isn't always loud enough to make the history books. Sometimes it's simply an idea so well designed that people hundreds of miles away decide it's worth repeating. Every time I stand on our square, I'm reminded that Bedford County has never just been a place on a map. It has been a place where ideas begin. The next idea that shapes a community may already be sitting in someone's notebook, workshop, classroom, or conversation right here in Bedford County. History has proven we're capable of more than we sometimes believe.



COOPER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY WELCOMES FAMILIES TO NEW FACILITY

Cooper Christian Academy held an open house earlier this week for its families. School starts soon at the new facility off Madison Street.



RED SAND PROJECT MARKS ANOTHER MILESTONE

Bedford County Government Photo On July 29, Bedford County Health Council held its 5th annual Red Sand project. The event this year was moved to The Fly Arts Center. The Red Sand Project raises awareness of human trafficking, which, according to the Tennessee Department of Health, is "the use of force, fraud or coercion to exploit someone for labor or sex." Dave Rogers, president of the health council, said the project was moved to The Fly this year in preparation for an expanded observance next year. If you know someone who needs help to escape trafficking, contact the Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline at 855-558-6484 or the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888. You can also submit a tip online at www.ItHasToStop.com.



**SATURDAY
AUG. 8TH
2026
9-10:30 AM**
first come first served while supplies last
SCOTT'S CHAPEL UMC
940 MORTON STREET
SHELBYVILLE, TN
For More Information:
<https://scottchapelumc.org>



THE HEART OF BEDFORD COUNTY

Communities become extraordinary because ordinary people choose to serve. This capsule honors organizations that strengthen Bedford County every day. Including:

GOVERNMENT

- Bedford County Government
- Bedford County Mayor's Office
- City of Shelbyville
- Town of Wartrace
- Town of Bell Buckle
- Town of Normandy

CURRENT MAYORS IN 2026

Bedford County — Chad Graham
City of Shelbyville — Randy Carroll
Town of Wartrace — Brian Ross
Town of Bell Buckle — Ronnie Lokey
Town of Normandy — Cody Sharrock

HISTORIC Bell Buckle Tennessee



WELCOME TO HISTORY

"Every generation is entrusted with preserving the stories of those who came before while creating new stories for those who follow."

Today, **Bedford County** pauses to do something extraordinary.

We are preserving a moment in time—not because our story is finished, but because it **continues to unfold**.

This time capsule is a gift from the **people of 2026 to the people of 2076**. It captures our community exactly as it is today: our businesses, schools, churches, industries, traditions, public servants, celebrations, dreams, and everyday life.

Fifty years from now, another generation will gather on this very courthouse lawn to discover **who we were**.

May they see a community that cared deeply about one another and loved the place we **proudly call home**.



We're celebrating 90 years of service! Please join us!



Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, Aug. 15, 2026
Harris Middle School
570 Eagle Blvd. Shelbyville, TN
Registration Opens: 8:30 a.m. | Meeting Begins: 9:30 a.m.

Lots of exciting reasons to attend!

- celebrate our 90th anniversary
- prize drawings and complimentary breakfast
- qualify to win the grand prize
- first 400 registered members receive a special gift
- learn about DREMC's past, present and future



2026 GRAND PRIZE

2014 Ford F-150 4x4
The truck is retired from the DREMC fleet, with approx. 161,000 miles. It includes a tonneau bed cover and DECKED® truck bed organizer. Visit dremc.com for photos, vehicle details and giveaway information.

Meet Watts!

- Snap a selfie with Watts
- Grab official Watts gear
- Collect coloring pages
- Get Watts' autograph at his FIRST annual meeting



Visit dremc.com for more information