BEDFORD LIFE

FALL & HOLIDAY 2026 | Community Traditions Local Life

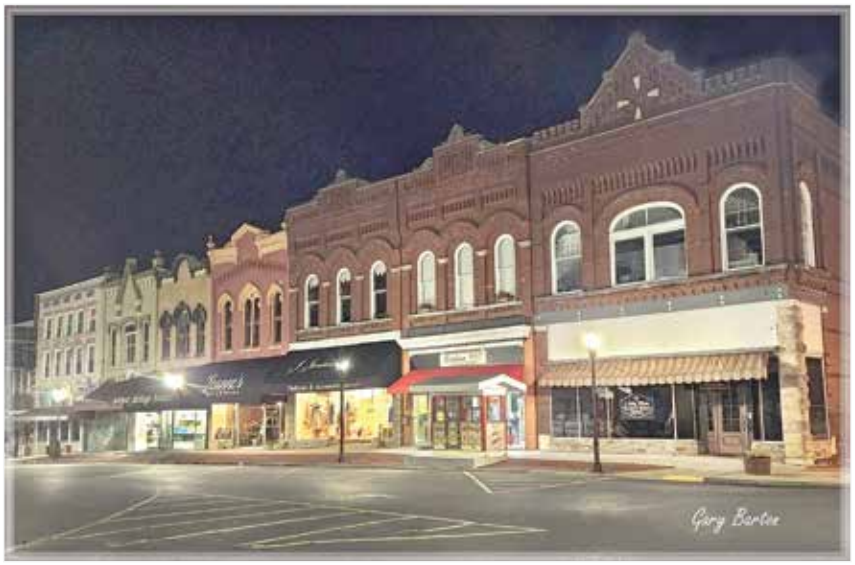


Photo by Julie Ann Smith

A special supplement to the SHELBYVILLE TIMES·GAZETTE | Thursday, November 19, 2026

From the editor...





Welcome to Bedford County! Or, if you're a long-time resident, know that we're glad you're still supporting the Shelbyville Times-Gazette and about to venture into our celebration of Fall 2026 "Bedford Life."

In this season of Thanksgiving, this community gathers to worship, fellowship and connect with one another. God has granted us great bounty here in this beautiful county. Drive around and see the smaller communities flourishing like Flat Creek, Wartrace, Unionville, Normandy, Raus, Bell Buckle, Wheel, Fairfield and areas of near Beech Grove.

We're only a stone's throw from bigger cities but we believe our town has much to offer visitors and residents alike.

What you will find is the picturesque Duck River which circles around us all, providing us with water and way of life from fishing to swimming. The City of Shelbyville/Council, taxpayers, have been working hard to make our new Riverwalk a success. It will be an awesome venue!

Our County government continues to work on programs that will give its residents even better quality of life. Public education continues to flourish as well as the private educational choices we have-Cooper Christian Academy in Shelbyville, The Webb School in Bell Buckle, LifeWise (coming soon for those wanting biblical studies for their public school kids), and homeschooling.

We love to play sports from soccer to ping pong. Shelbyville Recreation Center has big plans for a new soccer field. That big story will be coming up in our summer edition.

So, sit back and enjoy this publication. We do ask that you support those who helped make this celebration of Bedford Life a success.

We truly appreciate Bo Gill for his awesome drone shots of the town and Gary Barton for sharing his fantastic photography with readers.

Well, it's almost time to Christmas shop! So do that local!

Please pick out one of our many restaurants. We love our chicken but there is so much more from pizza to sushi. We sure have the coffee!! But most of all, our restaurant owners and merchants offer a safe and welcoming environment for those busy and those just wanting to stroll for the day.

Worship when you can at all the wonderful churches located in Bedford County and Shelbyville. The Times-Gazette can provide you an entire list of worship opportunities. Just contact me.

Happy Thanksgiving and Christmas! Bring on the snow!

Dawn Hankins, editor/reporter for
Richardson Media Group
Publisher Daniel Richardson
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

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Down on the farm . . . in Bedford County

Emily Smith Anderton says their family farm has been in theirr family for more than 200 years, but the "honor cart" farm stand began in 2016, with a wagon in their front yard, where they sold honey and eggs.

They want their children to understand how God provides. They want them to know how to grow sustainably from the earth.

Emily and her husband Eric Anderton are proud to have sustainable farm products available for their families and neighbors. Visitors are welcome during farm stand open hours.

From a simple beginning, it has grown into an indoor building—Anderton Farms Farm Stand—located at 1995 Unionville Deason Road, between Unionville and Bell Buckle. The farm stand is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The stand is security-monitored and climate-controlled.

Anderton Farms also operates a public hay business, so the farm stand is just one part of our larger family farm. We enjoy serving our community through both our agricultural work and the products we offer at the farm stand.

"Our family farm now also features a new business here, Smith Lane Massage & Wellness, owned and operated by my niece, Madisyn Smith, another lifelong resident of this family farm and a licensed massage therapist."

Here on the Anderton family farm, there's a variety of products and personal wellness options, including massage therapy and farm stand items such as farm-fresh eggs, a large variety of herbal products, handmade soaps, bath soaks and other bath products, botanical skincare, tallow skincare, ground coffee, homemade baked goods, honey and honey products, Highland cow candles, and seasonal wax melts. The selection continues to grow as we introduce new products, seasonal offerings, and even more wellness options here on the family farm.

"The farm stand also gives us an opportunity to work with local collaborators and other farmers."

Mama Bell's Farmhouse Kitchen, owned by Jessie Bell—her daughter-in-law and also a resident here on the family farm—provides made-from-scratch baked goods, sourdough cookies, Italian bread, and sweet specialty breads.

MW Wax & Wick, owned by Michelle Williams, creates Highland cow candles, wax melts, and fire starters.

Autumn Glow, owned by Autumn Mills, provides our tallow skincare products.

"These local collaborations add variety and give customers a chance to support several local neighbors in one stop."

One of their newer and more creative projects is "Letters from the Farmstand," a children's story-mail series featuring Juniper Rabbit and her animal friends on the farm.

"The stories teach faith-based morals and encourage thoughtful ways of thinking while observing the visitors and regular animal residents here on the farm," notes Emily.

She adds, "It has been wonderful to see something that began with honey and eggs grow into a place where we can share our work, our farm, our dreams, and the work of other local makers, artisans, and farmers within the community."

She's also recently introduced Madisyn's newest wellness business and option for their community and neighbors-all in an effort to be healthier.






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We wish you a merry and
meaningful holiday season!

Beautiful and Bountiful Bread for Thanksgiving Dinner

By Dawn Hankins
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net





Down Unionville way, Nickie Vincent's bread will no doubt thrill this year's crowd at the Thanksgiving table. Can't you just taste a turkey sandwich made with one of her fresh sourdough loaves?

When they're not tending to chickens or working the Bedford County Farmer's Market, Nickie and friend and neighbor, Joyce Jones, are in the dough.

Nickie's cottage bakery name is Friends Baked Goods, located off Highway 41A North.

"I picked that name because Joyce inspired me to start baking with her and Simone Barber (Baked by Simone.).She gave me my first starter.

What's a starter?

A bread starter is a living culture of naturally occurring yeast and beneficial bacteria (such as *Lactobacillus*) used to leaven bread instead of commercial yeast. It is the base for breads like sourdough and Amish Friendship Bread, and it gives these loaves a distinct, slightly fermented flavor and a tender crumb that is hard to replicate with store-bought yeast.

A starter is created by mixing flour and water and letting it sit in a warm, safe place. Wild yeast naturally present in the flour and air begins to ferment, producing carbon dioxide bubbles that make the dough rise. Lactobacilli bacteria also produce acids, which contribute to the tangy flavor and improve the bread's keeping qualities.

Nickie loves her chickens and the eggs they provide are kept at the stand. But it's the bread that has made her famous at farm stands and markets.

"I do use fresh milled flour and most ingredients are grown by Joyce or myself."

O.K. So who is **Simone Barber** you might ask?

Simone is also one of our Bedford County farm stand owners. She owns **Baked by Simone**, which is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., each day at 184 Gant Road in Shelbyville.

For the holidays, Simone will work up her traditional sourdough but also looks forward to the heavenly aromas wafting from her cranberry and orange loaves, blueberry scones. Check her out on Facebook! Look for a business spotlight on Simone in an upcoming edition of the Times-Gazette.



The new **Cooper Christian Academy** just opened this fall for its first official school term in its state of the art facility in Shelbyville. The school had previously operated out of First Christian Church. The mission statement is to provide a strong academic program and Christian education to students in an environment that honors God. The current CCA teacher/student ration is 15:1. The children will present a Christmas program on Dec. 8, from 6:30 to 7 p.m. CCA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, financial aid programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

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Looking for a church home? Need a little Christmas?

The Brocks warmly share their faith through music, service

By Dawn Hankins
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

The local community is served by many churches. See pages in this tab. Follow and feel welcome to attend one of their services this holiday season and in 2027.

It's that time of the year when joyous holiday music can be heard from the halls of First United Methodist Church on the square. Where are longtime members Jon and Donna Brock? Likely making their church event lists and checking them twice.

Several programs are planned at FUMC Shelbyville, under the music direction of member Jon Brock. On Dec. 13, at 10 a.m., 3rd Sunday of Advent, a Christmas cantata, "Come Home for Christmas" will be presented.



The Brocks note they learned from a young age that having a strong faith is so very important, especially for maintaining a healthy marriage. They're proud to have chosen Bedford County and Shelbyville as their home, given the strong community of faith here.

Donna was a preacher's kid x 2 and says she's blessed by that fact.

Her parents, the Revs. W.C. (Caleb) and Aileen Massengale both served as itinerate pastors for the TN UMC Conference. So, during their careers, they traveled all over middle Tennessee.

Pastor Caleb retired in Giles County and Sister Aileen pastored some here even after her retirement (Wartrace UMC.) The pastors moved to Shelbyville and later purchased their first home in Wartrace-such the life for UMC pastors.

Jon says if you look up the words "nice human being" that would describe Donna's dad. He adds how Pastor Caleb was big on finishing all the verses of a hymn.

Donna advises that when people ask her about her "home," she's not sure how to answer. "When they put up the mantle clock somewhere, we were home."

Donna's mother is still recognized nation-wide as one of the first female UMC pastors. Donna says she's always been proud of her parents' ministry. She became renown for her "My Mama was a Preacher" presentations. She explains how she was "immersed" early in the life within the ministry of the church.

"I can attest to their faith. It was number one in their life."

Jon moved here at age 5, with his father who worked in insurance. He lived here from 1964 to 1981, when he began his college education.

He earned a bachelor of science in music education from Tennessee Tech University, where he performed with the Golden Eagle Marching Band and Symphony Band, and a master of education in administration and supervision from Middle Tennessee State University.



He taught band 4 years in Franklin County. He had the opportunity to return to Shelbyville from 1985 to present.

With a lifelong love of music, Jon dedicated 40 years to music education, retiring in 2021. Thirty-six years of his educational career were here in Bedford County.

Donna became an educator as well. That faith, life of servitude and caring for others, would make Jon and Donna two of the most respected educators of their generation. They spent most of their working years at Harris Middle School in Bedford County.

In addition to his public education career, Jon has served as director of music ministries at SFUMC since 1990, directing the Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir. This music man is said to also play beautifully on flute.

He eventually met Donna and their love for one another has continued for decades.

Years later, they would find they wanted to share their love with a child. Adoption became a necessity to do so.

In 2005, they adopted their daughter, Sarah Morgan (Fei) Brock from China. Donna later returned to teaching, serving as an elementary ESL teacher until her retirement in 2014.

See ***CHURCH***, page 12



Shelbyville Mills School ~1925 (Left to right)

First Row: Bill Cunningham, Buck Posey, Thomas Waters, Monk Cunningham, Leolan Shapard, Floyd Reed, Julian Clanton, Pete Bell, Sam Sipsey, Elmer Posey.

Second Row: Gertrude Troupe, Robert Cantrell, Horace Hamilton, Hubert Cunningham, Clyde Waters, L. Shapard, Alvis Bell, Charlie Welch, Charlie Cantrell, Robert Cunnington, Flossie Oosey, Charlie Burns, Lillian Troupe.

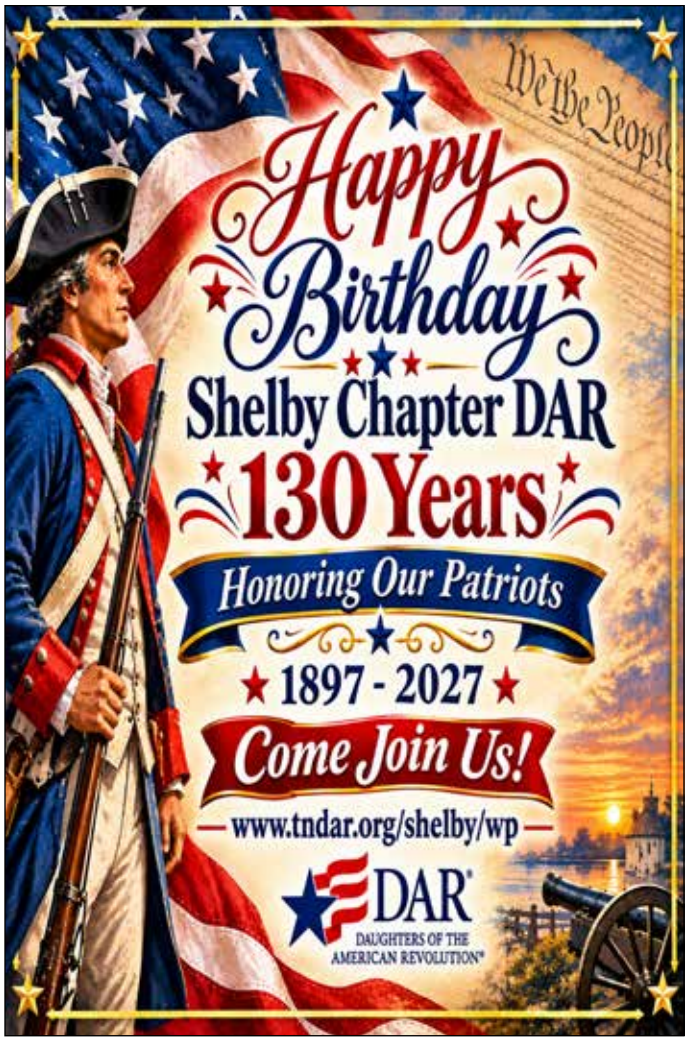
Third Row: Ethel Segroves, Norris Wilson, Adell Jordan, Roberta Shapard, Julie Helton, Irene Sharp, Lucille Cunningham, Leona Reed, Mae Cunningham, Ethel Bullion, Christine Sipsey, Mary Shapard, Violet Delk, Locky Hudson, Gladys Delk, Inez Bell.

Fourth Row: Earl Bullion, Jewell Bell, Bertha Lowery, Johnnie Reed, Earl Ethridge, Tom Segroves, Booker Bullion, Herbert Reider, Bryson Welch, Grant Smelcer, Lorene Segroves, Frieder Reider.

Fifth Row: Frieda Reed, Ruby Ethridge, Lillie Mae Hill, Lucy Leed Sharp, Unknown, Elizabeth Ethridge, Belva Cunningham, Sadie Helton, Sadie Posey, Teachers Angela Hope & N. B. Williams.

Shelbyville Mills School (SMS)

As the village community grew and prospered, better educational opportunities were needed for the village children. A group of mill workers coordinated efforts with Uniroyal and the County to build a new school. "Shelbyville Mills School" opened in 1935 as part of the Bedford County School System and became a vital asset and focal point for the village. The school served the first through eighth grades. Its facilities were expanded and upgraded over the years and eventually included 10 classrooms, a 200-seat auditorium, lunchroom, a small library, well-equipped playground, and one of the first fully-equipped gymnasiums in the area. The school later added kindergarten and special education classes. See more about the Shelbyville Mills community in upcoming T-G editions.



Bedford County Historical Society is entering its 7th decade of preserving the history and heritage of Bedford County

The Society's "Family History Book" gives the ancestry of over 650 County families and the history of their communities, churches and businesses

Contributed by Al Simmons

Local ancestry begins with a historical group that was organized in the County in 1899, with local businessmen as officers; however, no records survive of their activities in the following years. The current version of today's Society initially started in 1954 and met infrequently until 1964 when celebration of the Centennial of the War Between the States began. Events therewith revived interest in the Society as numerous celebrations of the 100th Anniversary of the war's conclusion were held in the schools, civic clubs, and other county-wide memorials. Thereafter, interest waned in the organization, and it disbanded until 1974.

In the early 1970s, a few citizens with a common interest in local history met to re-establish the

Society and held regular meetings. Attendance was low until they hosted potluck meals preceding their meetings. Interest and attendance grew with this added meeting feature. In 1974, the Society reinvented itself and has operated continuously ever since. Membership grew sporadically over the following years, being affected by local and national societal issues of the times. Current Society leadership has emphasized membership growth, with the current roster having over 300 members. Over 50% of those reside in Tennessee, with most of them in Bedford County. The other members reside in 26 states, the District of Columbia, and The Netherlands.

The Society is a Tennessee nonprofit organization that operates on annual membership dues and donations. Its leadership is a typical club format with a president, vice president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and treasurer, governed by a nine-member board of directors.

Meetings are held quarterly on the third Monday nights of March, June, and September, and first Monday night in December at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Meetings begin with a potluck supper at 6:30pm, followed by a short business meeting and then the program at 7:30pm. Programs feature historical presentations about events in or affecting Bedford County history. Annual membership dues are $25 and include four Historical Quarterlies.

The Society's goal is to preserve the history and heritage of the county and its citizens; their communities, towns, businesses, industries, churches, and schools; and the many sites and events associated therewith.

Local businessman Jon English: A friend to this community

By DAWN HANKINS
dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net

Jon English, Brentwood contractor and owner of several local businesses, including the Antique Sports and Cards Store on the square, has literally reworked many of the historic public square buildings back from ruin.

We love our historic buildings on the public square but are quite aware they are aging, as we write.

Jon's antique sports store includes everything a fan or collector might enjoy. From antique football helmets to signed cards of all genres, he has it all.

Jon has entered the local business community and has restored many of the public square structures, particularly on East Depot, where his store is located.

After purchasing an abandoned parking lot, Jon told the T-G, "I think Shelbyville will see some big changes in the next 5-10 years. Just trying to be able to have a few properties to take advantage of what may be coming."

Local realtor Ben Craig said, "Jon has always had great vision for our community and courthouse square area since the first property I sold him. We have had a great business relationship and friendships with Shelbyville Grand and the owners. It was a good mesh to make this happen and a win-win for both!

He added, "This is something that interested Jon, as he owns adjoining properties. It's great to see a square come back to life as it has."

Send your business stories to us at dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net.





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SUN, NOVEMBER 22

Kids Choir Musical: "The Secret of Snowflake County" — 6:00pm

SAT, NOVEMBER 28

Outdoor Ice Skating Rink Opens

SUN, DECEMBER 6

A Winter Wonderland featuring the WOC Teen Choir performing "A Charlie Brown Christmas" — 3:30pm and 5:30pm. Activities for the whole family start at 2:00pm! Ice Skating, Live Nativity, and more!



SUN, DECEMBER 13

World Outreach Worship Christmas Concert — 6:00pm

WED, DECEMBER 23 & THU, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Services — Wednesday: 6:30pm and Thursday: 1pm, 3pm, and 5pm

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FCB celebrates 10th Small Business Saturday!

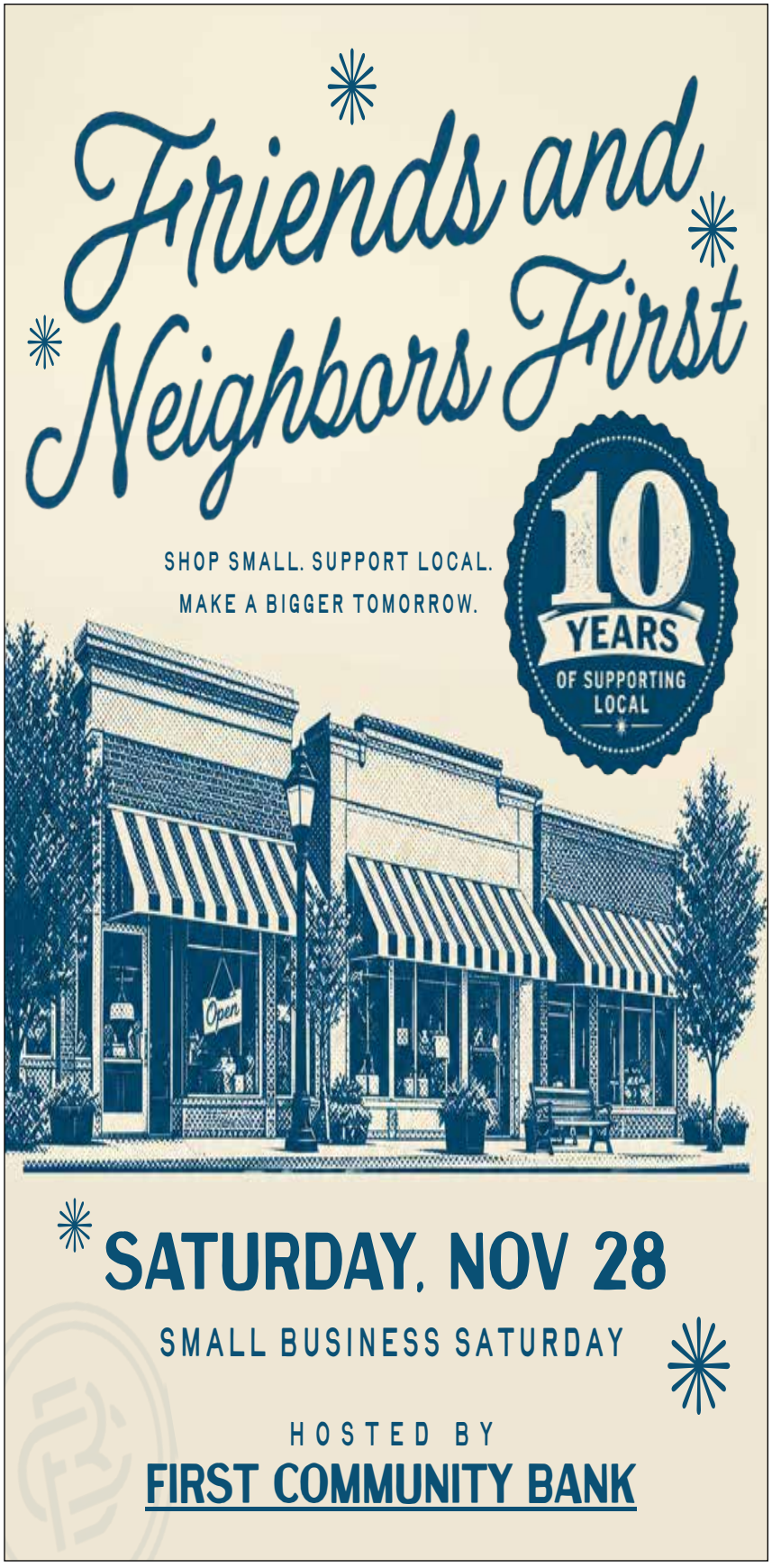
For the tenth year, First Community Bank is excited to bring our communities together for one of our favorite days of the year: Small Business Saturday! What started as an effort to encourage shopping locally has grown into a special annual tradition, and it is a day we look forward to every year. One of the best parts is seeing familiar faces, families, friends, and neighbors out enjoying the day, visiting their favorite shops, discovering new ones, and making the most of all our local communities have to offer.

Getting involved is easy! As shoppers visit participating businesses and make purchases throughout the day, they will receive a mark on their Small Business Saturday punch card. Once they are finished shopping, they can turn it in at any of our drop-off locations in Shelbyville, Bell Buckle, Lynchburg, or Wartrace to be entered into the drawings. This year's prizes include a $200 gift card to the local business of the winner's choice every two hours beginning at 10:00 a.m., as well as drawings every hour beginning at 9:00 a.m. for a Walking in a Winter Wonderland Family of Four Package.

"Small Business Saturday is about more than a day of shopping. It's about taking the time to support the people who invest in our communities, build relationships with their customers, and make our towns what they are.

"We're proud to be part of a tradition that brings friends and neighbors together and reminds us how much of a difference shopping local can make," said Scott Cocanougher, CEO of First Community Bank.

As we celebrate ten years of this special tradition, we are excited to see another great turnout! We encourage everyone to make a day of it, get out and explore, and show some love to the local businesses that make our communities special. After all, these are our friends and neighbors, and there's no better time to show them our support!



CHURCH

From page 7

She later began serving her church, working as an administrator in the FUMC Finance Office under the leadership of former pastor Lanita Monroe. In 2018, she began as membership director.

When it comes to FUMC serving its community, Donna likes to share with folks how the church is a real incubator of growth for local youth.

This December, the Brocks will once again enjoy the sweet melodies of Christmas worship in the historic sanctuary. And when the Christmas cantata is over, Jon will immediately start to work on Easter worship music.

The music director vows that church worship never stops. Still he and Donna say they're thankful and feel blessed to serve FUMC and community.

Having sung and presented a multitude of music from"It is Well" to "And Can it Be,"- Jon and Donna Brock believe in the power of worship music.

Just as biblical scholar Ralph P. Martin once said, "The Christian church was born in song."

Walking in a Winter Wonderland

A new regional holiday experience coming to Shelbyville this Christmas season

From Warren Wells, Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Director:

What began as a vision to create more opportunities for connection, community, and shared experiences is one step closer to becoming a reality.

We're incredibly excited to welcome families, friends, and visitors from across Middle Tennessee and beyond to Walking in a Winter Wonderland at the Celebration!

This is about more than Christmas lights and holiday attractions. It's about creating a place where memories are made, families reconnect, and new traditions begin.

CHOOSE YOUR EXPERIENCE. MAKE YOUR MEMORIES.

November 21, 2026 – January 2, 2027

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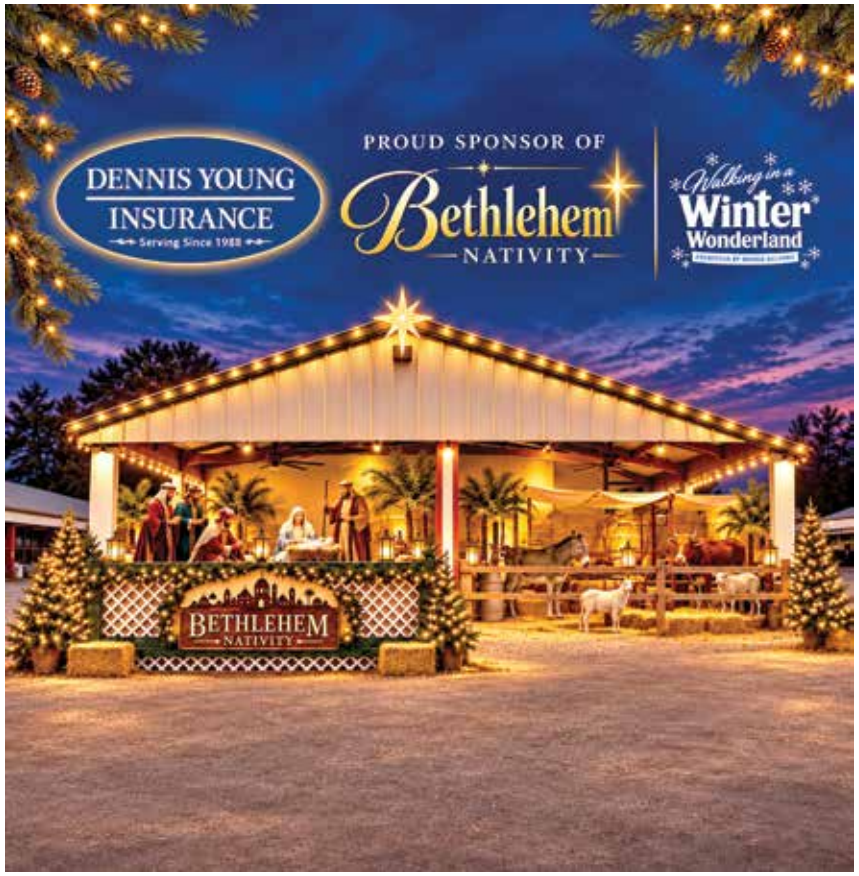
READY FOR A SHELBYVILLE EVENT

Following decades of service to the community, Shelbyville Woman's Club continues to meet monthly. This fall, J Jordan Boutique presented its annual fall fashion show in Bell Buckle. The forecast: get ready for a warm and comfortable fashion season. Mustard and gold tones are headed to offices. Holiday plaids are Shelbyville gala-bound. And you might even see some ladies wearing satin to the grocery store this holiday season.





Jessica Smith (left) and Sydney Langford. *Photos by Diandra Womble, SWC member.*





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Pastor Bobby McGee and wife, Mrs. Joyce McGee serving this community of faith for many years.

Merry Christmas from Grace Baptist Church in Shelbyville

Church Schedule

Grace Baptist Church, 1019 Madison St.

Church-wide Thankful Potluck Banquet, Nov. 24th, 6:00 pm.

Dec 13, choir presents, "Repeat the Sounding Joy" at 10 a.m.

Dec 16th, Church wide Christmas Party.

Dec 24th, Christmas Eve Service 10:00 a.m.

Everyone is welcome!

Luke 2:1-20 New King James Version

Christ Born of Mary

2 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed [a]wife, who was with child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a [b]manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Glory in the Highest

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And [c]behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a [d]manger."

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

14 "Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace, goodwill[e] toward men!"

15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made [f] widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

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Heritage Jewelers

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Small Business Saturday
November 28th
9:30-4:00

Wine Walk
Shelbyville Square
December 11th
4:00-8:00

In Store Jewelry Repair



Hope Center Ministries



T-G Photo by Dawn Hankins

Hope Center Ministries exists to lead addicts and their families to become fully devoted followers of Christ. It is working.

Living Stones Church in Shelbyville off Old Nashville Dirt Road has donated property for Hope Ministries to open a new center here.

Call it a "Jesus Camp" or whatever you like, those involved in the ministry note He's there, helping those lost and afraid.

A ribbon cutting for the property was held earlier this month.



Local Senior Citizens Center on J.G. Helton Drive, serving seniors from Shelbyville and Bedford County.

We love our animals here in Bedford County. We urge all citizens to keep their pets spayed and neutered to reduce over population of cats and dogs.

Shelbyville and Bedford County also operate animal shelters. The mission is to keep them as "no kill" shelters and our folks at these facilities are doing a great job!

Middle Tennessee Spay and Neuter Clinic is located on Union Street. Applications available online for assistance for those who qualify. Call 931-684-5353. www.mtsnc.org.

Donations are appreciated to help support all of these groups.

SHILOH
OUTREACH CHURCH

2547 Highway 64 West
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(The Wheel community)



We Believe

... the Bible to be the complete Word of God

... in one God, Creator of all, holy, sovereign, eternal, existing in three equal Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

... in the absolute and essential deity of our Lord Jesus Christ

... in the absolute and essential deity, and in the personality of the Holy Spirit

... that Adam was divinely created in the image of God

... that salvation is by the sovereign grace of God



Celebrate, Bedford life!

By Bedford County Mayor Curt Cobb

As Bedford County Mayor, I want to personally invite everyone to come experience the warmth, charm, and Christmas spirit of our wonderful county! Join us for the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Winter Wonderland, and the many holiday festivities taking place throughout our communities. From Shelbyville to Bell Buckle, Normandy to Wartrace, and throughout our beautiful countryside, you'll find wonderful local businesses, unique shops, holiday traditions, and friendly faces ready to welcome you. I encourage everyone to bring their families, enjoy the festivities, shop local, dine local, and Discover what makes Bedford County such a special place to live and visit. Whether you call Bedford County home or are visiting for the first time, we Welcome you with open arms and wish you a very Merry Christmas!



MAYOR COBB PARTICIPATES IN COAT DRIVE



The annual coat drive was held recently at Eakin Elementary for all students. Warm coats were modeled by many of the littles. This is a service of a nonprofit with local ties. Mayor Curt Cobb, former Clerk & Master, was elected as the new Bedford County Mayor in August during the General Election. He's being escorted here by a great veteran during the Veterans Day Parade.



Happy Holiday Season from newly elected Wartrace Mayor Sheila LeDere! Visit Wartrace events for your "Christmas gifts from the heart"

Wartrace Christmas Events

Wartrace Chamber of Commerce - Christmas Marketplace – Nov. 28, 2026 – 9 a.m., to 5 p.m.

Town of Wartrace - Christmas Tree Lighting – Nov. 28, 2026 @ 6 p.m.

Celebrating Vanderbilt-Bedford County Hospital with BC Chamber of Commerce

Caring for our community this holiday season



At Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital (VBH), providing exceptional care to the Shelbyville community is our highest priority. During the holiday season when families and friends come together we are reminded of the importance of connection, compassion and gratitude.

While many of us enjoy time with loved ones, our clinical teams continue working around the clock to deliver high-quality, compassionate care close to home. Whether you need medical attention during the holidays or throughout the year, you can count on our team to be here for you and your family.

Providing care during the holiday season takes tremendous dedication. As you celebrate with your loved ones, we encourage you to take a moment to recognize the healthcare workers who make this care possible. A simple word of encouragement or gesture of thanks can mean so much to our caregivers working through the holiday season.

Thank you for your continued trust in us. On behalf of everyone at VBH, we are proud to serve you..

Rooted in Community: The Funderburk Family McDonald's Legacy

For three generations, the Funderburk family has built their business on a simple truth: owning a local restaurant means actively investing in your neighbors.

At the organization's two Shelbyville locations — 763 Madison St. and 1508 N. Main St. — the Funderburks create meaningful career and educational pathways for their team members.

Through participation in the Archways to Opportunity program, Funderburk Family McDonald's directly funds college tuition assistance, high school diploma completion, and English language courses for crew members, opening doors to lifelong personal and professional growth right here at home.

From supporting local schools to backing community programs and first responders, Funderburk Family McDonald's is proud to invest in Bedford County and looks forward to strengthening the community for years to come.



Paying it forward, to those here in need

CCsBc delivers comprehensive medical and dental care to underserved Bedford County residents

Fredia Lusk, Executive Director Phone: 931-684-6772 Email: shelbyvilleclinic@att.net

When access to affordable healthcare is out of reach for thousands of rural Tennessee families, community leaders step in. That is precisely what happened in Bedford County, where Community Care of Bedford County (CCsBc) has built a two-clinic model — one medical, one dental — to serve uninsured and low-income adults and children who might otherwise go without care.

Meeting Medical Needs

In September 2023, community leaders organized and equipped a medical clinic to provide essential healthcare services for low-income and uninsured Bedford County adults. The clinic operates on a schedule designed to maximize access:

- Tuesdays: 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Thursdays: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Fourth Thursday of each month (evening hours): 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Medical services are available to adults ages 18–64 who are uninsured and whose household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). In Fiscal Year 2026, the medical

clinic recorded 1,015 adult encounters, serving 256 unduplicated patients.

Meeting Dental Needs — A Partnership That Changed Everything

The path to dental care in Bedford County began with a single conversation. In 2019, the CCsBc Executive Director attended a medical conference in Nashville and approached Dr. James Tyus, asking him to bring the Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry (MMCSoD) to Bedford County. That ask launched a transformative partnership.

Beginning in 2020, CCsBc partnered with MMCSoD to establish a teaching site in Shelbyville, - where fourth-year student-doctors complete clinical hours required for graduation while providing dental services to the community. Dr. Julie Gray coordinates this bi-monthly program.

The collaboration was instrumental in establishing the CCsBc Dental Facility, which was officially dedicated on June 11, 2021.

The dental clinic serves patients ages 3–90+ who are uninsured or TennCare-enrolled with household income at or below 200% of the FPL, and is open: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

In Fiscal Year 2026, the dental clinic logged 1,029 adult encounters, 143 pediatric encounters, and 113 TennCare encounters, serving 364 unduplicated adult patients and 73 unduplicated pediatric patients.

Fredia Lusk, CCsBc executive director states, "the Board of Directors met the financial challenge to provide dental care in 2019 and continue to pray for the success of the dental and medical clinics."

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact CCsBc at 931-684-6772 or visit shelbyvilleclinic.org.



Jesus tells us to help the least of these . . . .

Churches and blessings boxes are keeping the food pantries full here in Bedford County for those in need.

And where would the community be without the Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen? See them on Facebook.

So, here's a great big thank you to those who've supported the food pantry ministries.

For more information on these help agencies, contact dawn@richardsonmediagroup.net



Christmas Memories in Bedford County/Shelbyville

The Past, the Present, and The Future

By Shelbyville Mayor Randy Carroll

My memory takes me back to the late 1950's. Growing up in the Robinson addition and in the old fairgrounds area of Maplewood Drive. The Carroll family consisted of Mom, Dad, three daughters, and four sons. In those days, television consisted of four channels received by an outdoor antenna. Houses were smaller so children stayed outdoors as much as possible. We rode bicycles, visited neighborhood friends, played together, and used everything as a makeshift ball field.

As we entered the 1960's and 70's, we experienced growth in our City. More family automobiles and young people having a car of their own. Fast food restaurants started operations in the City and frozen dinners became a quick way to have a meal at home. The family children grew and some left home for school or work opportunities. The United States became involved in a War in Vietnam. Many of our young men joined the military or were drafted into the service.

Shelbyville grew in population because our children started families of their own. The Celebration, pencil industry, and other businesses offered jobs to locals and people that would move to Shelbyville. We saw the beginnings of computer technology and a small view of things became a world view.

Today, we depend on a hand-held phone for all communication, business, and entertainment.

Life was slower and our churches provided social interaction between people. Today, there are so many avenues to life in our City. We all have cars, school parking lots are full, activities are abundant, and with diverse dining selections. The family no longer has time to sit down at meal time because everyone is on a different schedule.

As the world has grown so has our community. As the future unfolds, may we all grow with the changes and remember the past.

"It's hard to choose just one favorite, because every Christmas with my family is special and the moments I treasure most.

When I think back to my childhood, one Christmas stands out: the year Santa brought me my first bicycle, with a Cabbage Patch doll sitting on the seat.

I can still picture that bicycle beneath the tree. As a child, seeing it there and knowing Santa had really come to visit me was the moment I felt the magic of Christmas take root in my heart. I believe that memory has kept the magic alive for me all these years. If you don't BELIEVE, you won't RECEIVE—and I BELIEVE more today than ever."

—Dana Bobo, director of the Caregiver Relief Program



