

Good News

exchange

Our HEROES

Jeri Clements

**Homegrown Hero
Wears Scrubs**

**Local Family
and First
Responders
United in
Heroism**

How an
emergency
birthed a 'lion'

**'I Look Up to
Those I Lead'**

Fire Chief Matt Doak
has always had a
sense of service.



ISSUE 10 2024

A PUBLICATION OF
EXCHANGE MEDIA GROUP

Don't forget to schedule your 3D screening mammogram.



Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Is it time for you to have a mammogram? For women of average risk, the American College of Radiology* recommends annual mammograms starting at age 40, with no upper age limit as long as the woman is in good health. A screening mammogram can help detect breast cancer in its earliest and most treatable stages.

Schedule an appointment by calling 931-685-5433.

(A doctor's order is NOT necessary for a screening mammogram.)

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*For American College of Radiology recommendations, visit acr.org. An order from a physician or qualified healthcare provider is not required, but the patient must provide a physician/provider name when an appointment is made. All mammogram reports will be sent to the physician/provider, and the patient is responsible for follow-up.

2835 Highway 231 N • Shelbyville, TN 37160 • 931-685-5433

FALL In Love With These Listings

Custom Built Brick Home



Custom built 3 bedroom, 3 bath home with a winding drive that leads to a picturesque setting on 2.5+/- acres. Large, updated kitchen, custom-built in entertainment, and bonus room over the 2 car garage.

214 New Center Church Rd Shelbyville, TN 37160
\$679,000 MLS# 2682912

Exceptional Custom-Built Home



2,226 sq ft, with 3 BR, 2.5 BA, & situated on a 1.81+/- acre lot. Conveniently located near Murfreesboro, Franklin, & Shelbyville. Includes granite countertops, luxurious vinyl plank floors, & coffered ceilings in owner's suite & 9' to 10 ft ceilings throughout. Bonus room above the garage can be transformed into a fourth BR. Gas log fireplace, laundry room next to the owner's suite, owner's BA with tiled showers. Don't miss out! Additional acreage available.

2212 Hwy 41A N, Shelbyville, TN 37160
\$679,900 MLS# 2662457

A Stunning Patio, Gazebo Property



3 bedroom, 2 bath 1734 sqft home on 11.54+/- acres features a 24x30 shop with electrical and office space, 40x52 implement shed attached. Small animal barn in back all fenced. Patio with Gazebo Property could be divided also.

314 Ernest Campbell Rd Shelbyville, TN 3716
\$489,900 MLS # 2679484

Newly Renovated Home



House has been newly renovated. LVT flooring, paint, new counter tops and plumbing fixtures. Gas HVAC unit installed 2016. Convenient to Tullahoma, Manchester and the new 437 Bypass. Craig and Wheeler to hold earnest money.

2513 Mullinswood Rd., Shelbyville, TN 37160
\$379,900 MLS# 2704763

This Property Has It All



Beautifully remolded 4BR, 2BA home features exquisite designer touches throughout. The kitchen boasts a bright open layout, sliding glass door that connects to a stamped concrete patio, new landscaping. Has modern tiled BAS & a huge laundry room. It has numerous upgrades including a 3-year-old HVAC system, new roof, water heater, & gutters, this home ensures comfort and reliability. Access to AT&T fiber guarantees high-speed internet, has a new privacy fence.

103 Rosewood Drive, Shelbyville, TN 37160
\$405,000 MLS# 2699627

Ideal For A Cattle Farm



This exceptional property features a charming 1920 farmhouse set on approximately 70 acres of picturesque rolling farmland, ideal for a cattle farm or potential new development. The estate includes a spacious 20x20 garage, providing ample storage and workspace. With convenient access to nearby communities such as Murfreesboro and Franklin, this highly desirable location offers unlimited possibilities for both agricultural and residential ventures.

734 Old Nashville Dirt Road, Shelbyville, TN 37160
\$1,450,000 MLS# 2695258

Acres of Endless Possibilities



Discover the beauty and potential of this stunning 59.2-acre tract of land, ideal for building your dream home or continuing in the agricultural world! This expansive property is currently row cropped, offering a blend of open spaces and natural beauty. Located in an area close to Liberty School, this property offers a unique opportunity to create a private retreat or invest in future growth. Land hasn't been attempted to be perked - buyer to determine location desired. Great soil!

1261 Highway 130 West, Shelbyville, TN
\$1,480,000 MLS# 2657320

Experience The Serenity on 288 Acres



This property features a House, Studio/Bunkhouse, Shop, Barns & More!!! Generator hook-ups & city water w/spring available. Farm has 2 Hay Barns w/ sheds, open equipment barn & cattle working barn, fenced & cross fenced throughout property, 6 waterers & more. Simply breathtaking view of Downtown Lynchburg! Very Secluded - Home half mile off Goosebranch Road.

501 Gray Road, Lynchburg, TN
\$2,850,000 MLS# 2586908

Perfect For Entertaining Guests



This home has a gorgeous backyard with a 14x34 in-ground pool & a salt system. There is a 60x30 shop with a loft and a roughed in BA downstairs, two roll-up doors, & a 1200 sq ft apartment with a loft. The home features two BRs downstairs, with the primary BA boasting a new tiled shower, a breakfast nook, a see-through fireplace, hardwood floors, & a formal dining room, high ceilings & tray ceilings in some rooms. Two additional BRs upstairs, a bonus room, and full BA. The new roof installed in 2019.

1640 Fairfield Pike, Shelbyville, TN 37160
\$699,000 MLS# 2678747

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Nov. 15 & 16 **Holiday Open House**

Nov. 30 **Small Business Saturday**

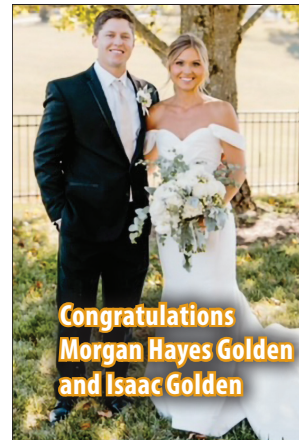
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TRACT 1: 22.70 Acres Scenic Hilltop Building Tract!! 360 degree views of countryside pastureland & w/large 4 Bdrm soil area, county water avail - BREATHTAKING TRACT!

TRACT 2: 5.01 Acres Beautiful building tract with large 4 bdrm soil site, country water avail, 414 ft. of road frontage.

TRACT 3: 5.01 Acres Beautiful building tract w/Barn & primitive log barn, large 4 bdrm soil site, county water avail, 346 ft. of road frontage.

TRACT 4: 12.26 Acres Scenic Hilltop Buildable Tract w/Trees on hill, 360 degree views of countryside, pond w/large 4 Bdrm soil site, county water avail, 297 ft. of road frontage, BREATHTAKING TRACT!

TRACT 5: House, Barns, Shop & 5.01 Acres Turn of the Century Home all original, beautiful trees, cellar, hardwoods, county water. Small amount of TLC to be a showplace!

TRACT 6: 7.69 Acres Beautiful building tract w/4 Bdrm soil site, county water avail, with highland. 192 ft. of road frontage.

TRACT 7: 8.82 Acres beautiful building tract w/4 bdrm soil site, county water avail, highland included. 193 ft. of road frontage.

TRACT 8: 63.47 Acres, Several Barns, Outbuildings - Beautiful Rolling Farm Tract with large stand of Black Walnuts, woods, pasture, pond, spring, creek, soil site, county water avail



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Running toward danger

Celebrating our local heroes

SHE FLASHES her lights and pushes the gas pedal a little harder. The walkie-talkie is too quiet, so she spins the dial and makes her bulletproof vest a little more comfortable. She worked hard to wear that badge. She joined the force to give people comfort and safety — a luxury her mother didn't have. A few people may think she joined law enforcement for pride, power, or influence, but the truth is that she just wants to help people.

He puts on a yellow helmet — the real one — not the play one he wore when he was younger. Decades ago, he watched his dad go to work every morning to go save the day. Sure, some of the days were not as exhilarating, like climbing a tree to get a cat home. But other days were scary. He

thought of his dad every time he ran into a burning house.

And she shops at Bath & Body Works for the new deals they're offering. Her favorite lotion scent is "Into The Night." She is sometimes self-conscious about her cracked, itching hands. When she worked long 16-hour days during the COVID-19 pandemic, she had to wash her hands triple what she used to... because she had to save triple the lives she used to. Only a hero like her could help give a family several more years with their loved ones.

Our first responders are heroes. And this issue of Good News shines a light on the life, happiness, and joy they help us keep. When we scream for help, they run toward danger. We thank you, now and forever. **GN**

Wesley Bryant,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

From our
publishing
partner



“As a lifetime resident of Shelbyville and an experienced advertising/marketing professional, I’m incredibly thrilled to contribute to a magazine that shares positive stories, strengthening our community. If you are interested in building a stronger brand or promoting your business feel free to reach out to me and let’s talk.”

Sissy Smith

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GOOD NEWS IS PUBLISHED BY Exchange Media Group, Inc.

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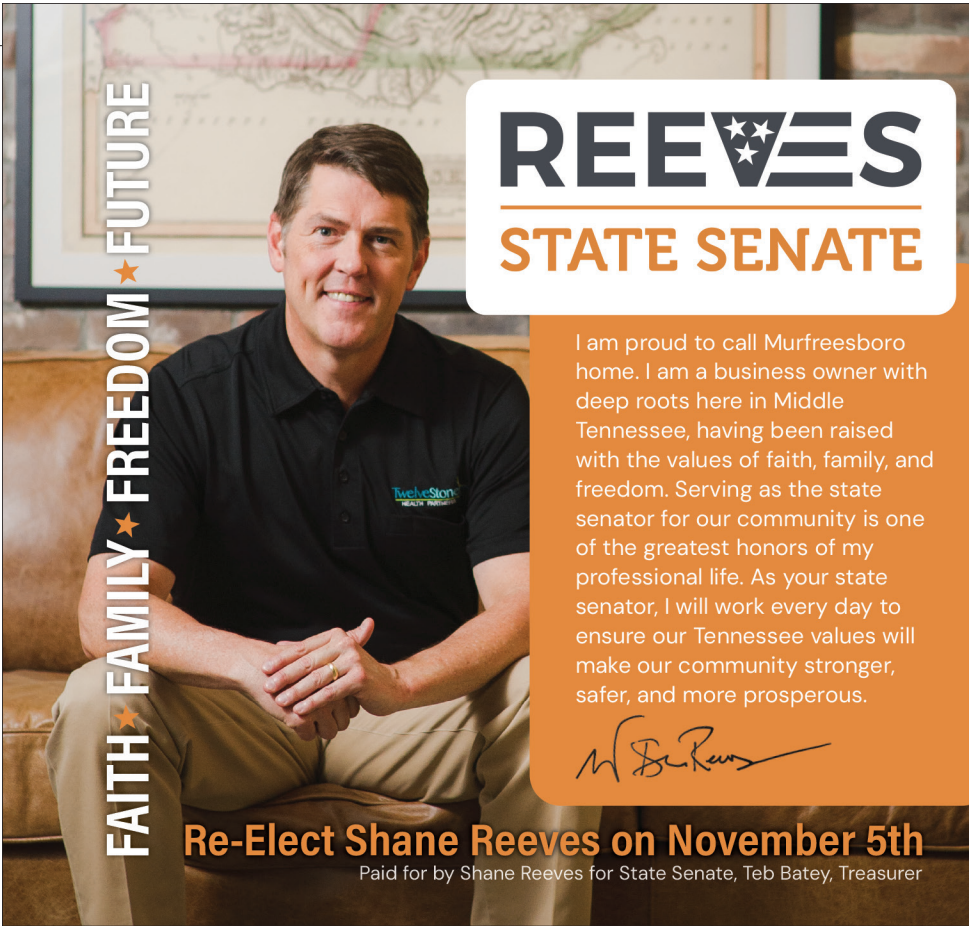


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REEVES

STATE SENATE

I am proud to call Murfreesboro home. I am a business owner with deep roots here in Middle Tennessee, having been raised with the values of faith, family, and freedom. Serving as the state senator for our community is one of the greatest honors of my professional life. As your state senator, I will work every day to ensure our Tennessee values will make our community stronger, safer, and more prosperous.

Re-Elect Shane Reeves on November 5th

Paid for by Shane Reeves for State Senate, Teb Batey, Treasurer

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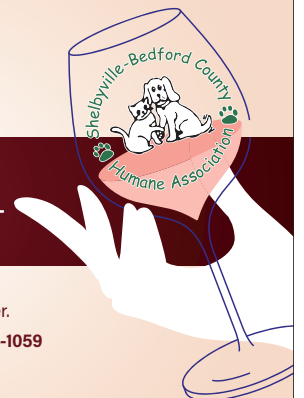
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Come Fall In Love With One Of These Properties



Great mini farm on 7.6 acres. Bring the animals & the kiddos. 3 BR 2 bath one owner home with large eat-in country kitchen, Storm shelter room in basement area, covered front porch, 8x49 covered back deck for entertaining, 2 car carport, barn with attached shed with concrete floor, & large shop. All property is fenced & pond on the property. **MLS# 2658647. \$389,900.**



Gorgeous 8.3 acres in a prime location. Just minutes to Eagleville, Unionville, Shelbyville, Murfreesboro, and Franklin. Lot is mostly wooded, but has cleared area where old home and barn currently sits. Pond in the back of the property. **\$329,900.**



5 BR, 3 BA brick home in the heart of Shelbyville with mother-in-law quarters. Large K w/NEW appliances. Huge living/sunroom w/sliding glass doors. MBR w/large closet & BA. BRs are a great size w/ closet space. Outside is a 5 bay carport, a barn for storage or animals, a she-shed for storage, & a 2nd home. The mother-in-law space has BA, & K (no stove). Large covered patio w/ceiling fans off the back. This home sits on 1.5 acres. Roof is only 2 years, HVAC 3 years, & replacement windows throughout. **MLS#2649401. \$499,900.**



2 bedroom, 1 bath barndo, but has the potential for more. Open LR, DR, and K. BR w/ tiled walk-in shower, & double vanities. 9 stall horse barn w/ wash bay, as well as a very large lien to for all storage needs, and an outdoor wash rack. Large front field with pond, and paddocks are in the back. This piece will be surveyed off a larger portion at this address to be 2.5+- acres. **MLS#2690822. \$299,900**



3 BR, 2 BA w/ sunroom & BR. Open living concept to the K, DR, LR, and sunroom. Split bedroom system with two very large BRs and a shared BA. A large primary BR, with bath attached, & huge walk-in closet. Upstairs is a huge bonus room that could be used as another BR, or family room. 2 car garage. Outside is a pergola, & above ground pool with deck. The backyard is completely fenced. Detached garage is also on the property. **MLS#2693766. \$644,900**



Prime location in Shelbyville. Downstairs is currently being used as a large boutique with dressing rooms. A half BA is downstairs with efficiency kitchen with sink, microwave, & refrigerator. Large extra space in the back for storage with two washer & dryer hookups. Upstairs is currently being rented with a large living area, 2 BR, & a BA. When current owner bought they redone all electrical, plumbing, windows, siding, flooring, BRs, & roof. **MLS#2692672. \$849,900.**



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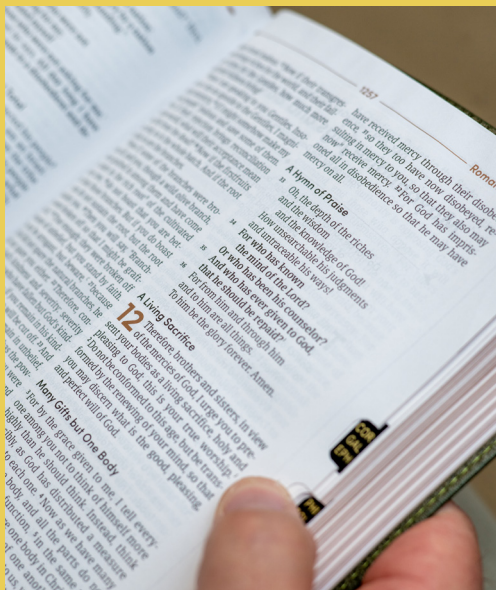




◀ *Pastor Jimmy West
in the sanctuary
at Edgemont
Baptist Church*

A BADGE, a BEAR, and a LASTING BOND

One man's influence lives on in a program honoring our local heroes.



By Tina Neeley
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

THE CHURCH parking lot is full. Fire trucks, ambulances, police and sheriff's department cars, and other emergency response vehicles encircle the property and overflow into areas surrounding Shelbyville's Edgemont Baptist Church. It might spark concern or speculation in those passing by, especially in light of today's headlines. But it's not a crisis situation — it's the church's annual Hero Sunday.

HONORING OUR HEROES

Blue, black, and tan uniforms dot the sanctuary and choir loft pews. Red, white, and blue festoon banners, stars, and American flags salute and honor them. Badges and shoes shined to perfection glint under the ceiling's spotlighting, reflecting pride in their work and commitment and dedication to the community. Their posture defies the load they carry for us as they sit and stand, still prepared to jump into action the second a call comes.

Pastor Jimmy West recognizes each hero in the special Sunday service, presenting them with a certificate of appreciation. Also honored are our city and county mayors and others responsible for our safety and well-being. Afterward, a special meal waits in the fellowship hall, extending the celebration of those who come when we call.

Do they wonder if what they do is ever fully understood and appreciated? Do we underestimate our long-term impact on the lives of those we encounter, even for the briefest of seasons?



▲ Pastor Jimmy West presenting police Chief Jan Phillips with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the congregation of Edgemont Baptist Church and the Shelbyville community.

A LASTING IMPRESSION

Officer Perry “O.P.” Brummett stood before the fifth grade class in a Powder Springs, Georgia, classroom explaining the dangers of drugs. The students, only 10 and 11 years old, might otherwise never hear the facts or understand the consequences of choices they might later make under pressure. Was he reaching them with the nationwide officer-led lessons of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program? Would they remember his words when they needed them most?

One fifth grader paid close attention. It was more than the program he presented — the boy respected Brummett, whose admonishing and encouraging words created a lasting impression upon him. And a year later, when a car struck the boy while riding his bicycle to school, Brummett was at the hospital to comfort him, presenting him with a teddy bear signed “Love, O.P.”

Brummett made a lifetime impression on the student, Jimmy West, who continues to honor him today.

“This guy comes in, and he was larger than life, but you could tell he really loved us. He said, ‘I love you and don’t want you to make bad decisions. I don’t want you to do something that’s going to ruin your life forever. Please don’t ever do that.’ And that stuck with me. I knew Officer Perry Brummett loved me, and I knew he would be devastated if I ever did anything that would cause me to ruin my life,” West recalled.

He continued, “When I grew into my high school years, I really didn’t want to have anything to do with drugs. In the back of my mind, I kept thinking, ‘What if Officer Perry catches me? What would he think about me?’”

West graduated high school and went to Bible college, but time never diminished his connection to Perry.

A LEGACY OF APPRECIATION

“When I took my first church to Louisiana in 2012, I wanted to do two things. I wanted to find a way to take Sept. 11 and use that as an opportunity to show love, gratitude, and appreciation to all the law enforcement in our town. But I also wanted to do something to honor Officer Brummett,” said West.

West arranged for Brummett to fly to Louisiana under the guise of seeing where he pastored.

“On that day, not only did we have our town’s mayor, city council, police department, fire department, and all the people we recognized that day, but I recognized him for the impact he made in my life,” West shared. “Then every year after that, while I pastored there in Louisiana, we had Hero Sunday, and I would give out an award called the ‘You Made a Difference Award’ in honor of Officer Brummett.”

The award continued yearly until West and his family moved to pastor Edgemont Baptist Church.





Pastor Jimmy West praying over Shelbyville Police Officers, deputy Chief Pat Mathis, Chief Jan Phillips, and Maj. Charles Merlo in the sanctuary at Edgemont Baptist Church

Being new to the area made the individual award more difficult. But West, committed to honoring Brummett and others like him, used Hero Sunday to honor all our local first responders and others who work to keep our community safe.

West said, “We have great attendance. I’ve done Hero Sunday in two different states for over 10 years now. And every year, I open up our service by telling everybody that I do this because of an officer by the name of ‘Perry T. Brummett.’ He made such an impact on me. It made me have a tremendous love for those in law enforcement and those that make a difference in our community.”

A LAST GOODBYE

While West and his family visited family in Georgia last Christmas, Brummett’s wife sent a

message requesting prayers for Brummett, who was in the hospital.

“Amanda and I jumped in the van and drove to the hospital. I was able to see him, spend time with him, pray with him, laugh, and cry with him a little bit. Then, two to three weeks later, he passed away,” West said.

Brummett’s memory lives on through West, a pastor, husband, and father of four committed to recognizing local heroes and promoting and supporting drug prevention programs in Bedford County schools.

While many of us, including our local heroes, may never know the lives we touch, never underestimate the long-term potential of our kindness and compassion. The smallest act can make the difference of a lifetime. **GN**

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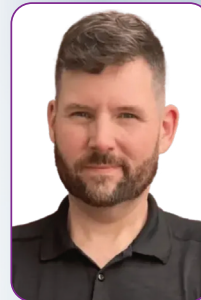
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With 28 years in education, Shelbyville's own Dee McCullough has dedicated his life to our schools. As a former football coach and the current Vice Principal of Shelbyville Central High School, serving 1,600 students and 100 teachers and support staff, Dee has honed his skills as a **listener, problem solver, conflict manager, and team leader.** Dee is ready to tackle City projects and challenges. His leadership is needed at City Hall to deliver results that matter for our families - leadership that values **listening, caring, and achieving** for our future.

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Selflessness, Service, and Sacrifice

POLICE CHIEF JAN PHILLIPS

By Amanda E. West

Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

AS A native of Shelbyville who began his career in public service over 50 years ago, police Chief Jan Phillips is deeply rooted within the core of our community. He started his career as an EMT at the Bedford County Ambulance Service in 1973. In January 1977, he became a dispatcher for the police department. After graduating from the

Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy later that year, he was promoted to the patrol division.

From there, Phillips received several promotions. In 2000, he was promoted to the major over patrol, and in September 2014, he was promoted to his current position as chief of police under City Manager Jay Johnson.



Chief Jan
Phillips standing
outside of a
Shelbyville Police
Department car



“

I'm not a hero, but I have enjoyed my job. The men and women who put their lives on the line daily and the ones we've lost along the way — those are the real heroes.

**POLICE CHIEF
JAN PHILLIPS**

Chief Jan Phillips with
a map of Shelbyville at
the Shelbyville Police
Department

Cellphones, personal computers, portable radios, the World Wide Web, and advanced technology in forensic science didn't exist for many of those years, and Phillips recalls this as being the biggest challenge he has overcome. Nonlethal weapons such as tasers, projectile weapons, and chemical sprays also weren't available. With the newfound use of DNA analysis in 1987 and advancements in cell phone forensics in recent years, the city now has a trained cellphone forensics technician, a crime scene unit, crime scene investigators, and an evidence technician. Phillips' officers are also using in-car and body-worn cameras.

When he first began patrolling the streets, there were 25 officers and dispatchers, but today, the police department's staff has swelled to 68 staff members, with 52 of those being sworn officers. Through the years, Phillips has made the training of his officers a top priority, so the department employs a full-time officer who prepares staff for unusual circumstances and helps them develop and enhance their skills.

One such unusual circumstance happened in 2017 when several nationally known organizations planned to hold a rally near the courthouse. This event had the potential to ignite division locally and caused a stir across national media outlets.

Phillips recalls, "This was the biggest challenge of my career. It was a very stressful time. Our department prepared for weeks to keep our city safe during that time. As a member of the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police (TACP), I am thankful I had strong relationships with other chiefs across our state who offered their assistance with equipment manpower, and they showed up in numbers. There was also good planning and support from within our own city, and many others helped our department maintain peace that day."

The following year, the TACP named Phillips as "Chief of the Year" for 2018. He



also received the 2018 Shelbyville-Bedford County Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Leadership Award.

According to Phillips, the largest challenge he faces today is in recruiting and retaining officers.

"In recent years, police departments throughout the country have experienced much negativity, but our community stands beside us and supports our law enforcement officers. Besides my officers, community support is our biggest asset. We work hard to maintain a good relationship with everyone in our community."

Since 2012, Phillips has worked alongside Bedford County Sheriff Austin Swing to receive accreditation via the Tennessee Law Enforcement Accreditation Program.

"This is a lengthy process of development of policies and procedures that raises our department to the highest levels in the state."

On Aug. 20, Phillips and his wife, Mary Grace, celebrated their 50th anniversary. Their son, Kyle Phillips, is a board-certified doctor of pharmacy and

serves our veterans as the chief of pharmacy at the Alvin C. York VA Medical Center in Nashville and Murfreesboro. Mary Grace likes to say she has "two chiefs."

Although his personal and professional accomplishments prove otherwise, Phillips does not think of himself as someone who is heroic.

"I'm not a hero, but I have enjoyed my job. The men and women who put their lives on the line daily and the ones we've lost along the way — those are the real heroes. I'm just an old country boy that grew up here on a farm. But I believe that if we treat everyone with respect and dignity, it will come back to you. This is what I have instilled in each of my officers."

Phillips continued, "One of the darkest days of my career was Feb. 17, 1999, when Officer Melvin Claxton and I were chasing an escaped inmate, and Officer Claxton became ill. We lost him to a heart attack that day. He was one of my closest friends. I still miss him. Early in my career, we also lost G.J. Jordan and Floyd Collins, who were killed in the line of duty. These officers are heroes — not me." **GN**

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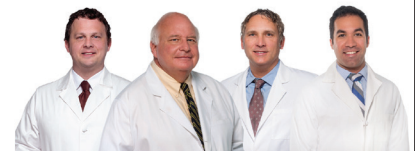
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A LIFETIME OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

DETECTIVE LT. JOHN SWEENEY



By Amanda E. West

Photography by Ashleigh Newnes and submitted by John Sweeney

“ **DIDN'T CHOOSE** this career. Honestly, it chose me,” said Detective Lt. John Sweeney with the Bedford County Sheriff’s Office. “I never thought in a million years I would ever become an officer, but this is my biggest personal accomplishment. Giving back to the community that has so graciously given to me is very rewarding. I knew most of my life that I wanted to make a difference. I just never knew what that would look like.”

Although Sweeney’s family is originally from Bedford County, Tyson Foods moved his parents to Hope, Arkansas, before he was born. They returned “home” after he turned 5.

“My grandparents laid roots here long before I was born. I can’t think of a better place to be! This is where I attended school [and] work, and we are raising our family. To say the least, this is where my heart is. My favorite part of our community is how we stick together.”

During his childhood, money and food were often scarce.

“It’s easy to get trapped in a mindset of ‘this is how your life is destined to be.’ Breaking that way of thinking was key to my success. Of course, this wasn’t done on



Sheriff Austin Swing ►
 promoting John Sweeney
 to detective lieutenant
 on Nov.9, 2021

“I can’t think of a better place to be! This is where I attended school [and] work, and I’m raising my family. To say the least, this is where my heart is.”

- DETECTIVE LT. JOHN SWEENEY

my own. I had huge support from my family, especially my wife, Ann, and our community of big-hearted people who helped me along the way.”

An unlikely friendship between himself and a man he now remembers as his personal “hero” nurtured his desire to invest in others that he now encounters.

“There have been many heroes in my life, but if I narrowed it down, it would be the late Ray Lyons. He was a man who took me under his wing at a very young age. To this day, I remain baffled as to why he did that, other than just being a great man in general. Ray provided me with guidance on work ethic and personality.

“He always treated everyone the same, no matter what ethnic background you were, whether you were rich or poor. He greeted you with a smile and would laugh and cut up with you. Or he might just sit

and listen. Ray inspired me more than he ever really knew. Much of my testimony in life reflects from the unconditional kindness and life lessons he showed me. He also taught me that life is short and laughter is the best medicine.”

Sweeney started out as a corrections officer for the sheriff’s office in 2011, and in 2013, he became a court/warrants officer before transferring to the patrol division the following year. Doors opened quickly for Sweeney, and he was promoted to the Criminal Investigations Division. In 2018, he earned the title of sergeant before becoming the lieutenant over the Criminal Investigations Division in 2021.

Over the years, he has graduated from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy, the TBI State Academy, and SWAT school. He has also completed several intense courses to increase his



“My future goal is to be the sheriff of Bedford County. I want to make a difference in our community, and I feel this is the road that God is leading me down.”

- DETECTIVE LT.
JOHN SWEENEY

◀ *Detective Lt. John Sweeney outside of the Bedford County Courthouse on Aug. 6, 2024*

awareness and knowledge of internet crimes against children, child abduction responses, instructor development, and drug-related death investigations.

“Being an officer has challenges like most careers. Not every case we deal with has a happy ending, and those cases weigh heavily on an officer. The child you saved, the justice you got for the victim who is no longer with us, the life you see turned around from addiction, the mother or father, or sometimes children you rescue from an abusive relationship ... these are what make[s] this career so rewarding. Although we never want to see our community face challenges, it is comforting to know we have such dedicated officers willing to respond when these come up. For me personally, being the voice for a victim is the most rewarding part of my day. It is what drives me in this career.”

Just as Ray Lyons forever changed the trajectory of his life, Sweeney intends to do the same for others within our community.

“I often look in the mirror at myself and wonder if what I’m personally doing is making a difference. I truly believe God has sent me down this path for a reason, and I’m excited to see who He crosses my path with. My future goal is to be the sheriff of Bedford County. I want to make a difference in our community, and I feel this is the road that God is leading me down. This is what He has prepared me for all of my life, and I intend to be obedient.” **GN**



▲ Detective Lt. John Sweeney's TBI State Academy pin. The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation holds a 148-hour course which helps advance the investigation skills in forensic science and general investigations.

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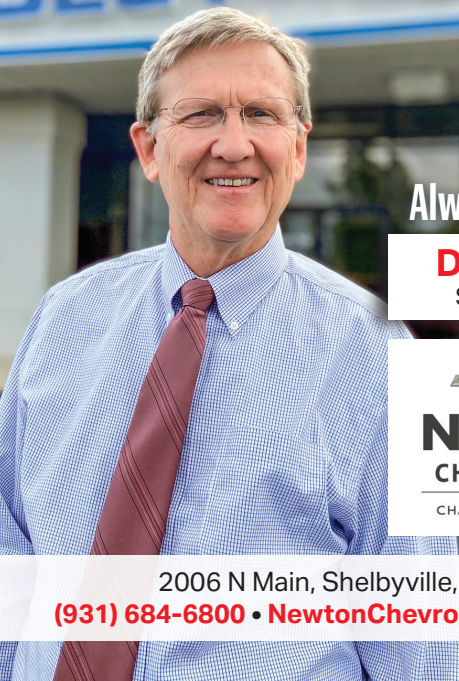


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BREWS, BITES, & BRUSHES

GOOD NEWS IS COMING TO DINNER!

We will feature a local food critic's thoughts as they dine in Shelbyville. This month Colby Prince visited Arty All the Time.

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ON THE corner of Shelbyville's square, Arty All the Time is a refreshing fusion of creative expression and cafe confections. The bright blue facade is impossible to miss, beckoning both locals and visitors to step inside for an experience that's equal parts art gallery and cafe retreat.

Inside, the vibrant energy of ongoing painting and craft activities sets the tone for creativity that flows as freely as the coffee. The "ArTea & Coffee Spot," nestled within this artistic haven, serves up a well-curated selection of beverages and baked goods. I opted for the caramel mocha iced coffee, which struck a delightful balance between sweet and rich, with the caramel offering a perfect complement to the mocha's deep, chocolaty notes. It was a refreshing pick-me-up, paired wonderfully with the selection of treats I sampled.

The blueberry scone stood out with its buttery, crumbly texture, dotted with bursts of fresh, juicy blueberries. It was neither too dense nor too dry, making it a pleasure with each bite. The blueberry muffin, equally indulgent, offered a slightly softer texture, delivering the same fresh blueberry flavor

but in a more cake-like form. Lastly, the banana nut muffin was a comforting classic. Moist and flavorful, with the right crunch from the nuts, it brought a heartwarming sense of homemade goodness.

The heart and soul behind Arty All the Time is the Jackson family — true staples of the Shelbyville community. Known for their deep-rooted connection to the town, the Jackson family have long been champions of local arts and culture. Their vision for Arty All the Time is more than just a business. It's a space for community members of all ages to explore creativity and connect with one another. Whether it's hosting art workshops, supporting local artists, or simply providing a warm and welcoming atmosphere, the Jackson family has made their mark as passionate advocates for the arts in Shelbyville.

Overall, Arty All the Time is a delightful escape where art and food unite in a bright, inviting space. Whether you're in it for creative activities or a relaxing bite, it's a spot where you can easily spend a few hours unwinding, coffee in hand, surrounded by inspiring energy. GN

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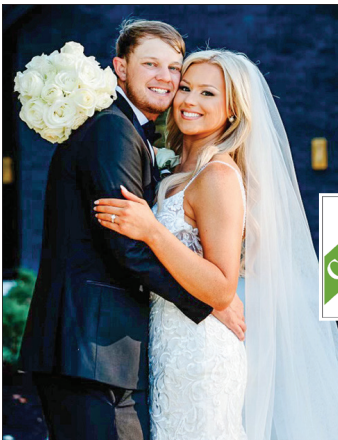
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Homegrown Hero Jeri Clements Wears Scrubs

FROM FILE CLERK TO
HEAD OF THE ER

NO MATTER WHAT time of day it is, the emergency room at Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital is constantly abuzz with activity. Since the acquisition of the hospital by Vanderbilt in 2021, the daily census reveals that the number of people seeking help at the facility has doubled from 34 patients per day to over 60, swelling to over 22,000 patients last year. At a moment's notice, the staff must be ready to handle emergencies that range from serious infections, severe allergic reactions, broken bones, injuries from accidents, patients in cardiac arrest, and everything in between. Behind each door, minutes flash by like seconds as a person's life — or that of an entire family — is changed forever.

Registered Nurse (RN) Jeri P. Clements knows this all too well — 37160 has been her ZIP code since the day she was born at the old Bedford County General Hospital (BCGH) on Union Street. As her triage nurses spring into action, the patients lying on the gurney facing a crisis are often personal friends, relatives, neighbors, or classmates who grad-



uated high school with Clements. To her, this career is more than just punching a time clock and working her scheduled shift, and the rigors of this calling, especially in the last 30 years, have steadily become more challenging. But, as she slips on her scrubs every morning, she

▲ ER Multidisciplinary Clinical Team. Top: Jeri Clements, RN. Middle: Jessica Osterhaus, LPN; Chloe Mooneyham, RN; Heather Keel, RN; Emily Grubb, RN. Bottom: Michaela Stone, RN; Devon Barton, RN; Erin Nunley, RN; Cari Leverette, RN; Jessica Doak, AEMT.



*Jeri Clements,
RN, in the hallway
of the ER at
Vanderbilt Bedford
Hospital*

JERI CLEMENTS

"It's comforting to work in a facility where we are not just a number. Everyone knows your name and your strengths, and this makes the enterprise successful."

- Jeri P. Clements

chooses this life, this dedication, and these challenges all over again.

Her beloved grandmother, Bobbie Jean Bell, who began picking her up after school in 1986 and driving her to the BCGH when she was only 14, nurtured her thirst for health care.

"She would take me to her office to file records in the bookkeeping and payroll department," said Clements. "I

OUR HEROES



▲ Mike and Jeri Clements with their dog, Lilly Bell, outside of Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital.



▲ Jeri Clements using the blood pressure cuff

was paid \$3.25 per hour for the job, but the reward was so much greater than the money I earned. Over the years, I held many positions — file clerk, switchboard operator, nursing tech, emergency department RN, nursing house supervisor — and I’ve been the director of the emergency room since 2015. My grandmother instilled in me the foundation of a strong work ethic. She was a kind, Christian, Southern lady and I admired her for so many things. That first job led me down the path to my career in nursing.”

Before landing her dream job in the emergency room, Clements spent 14 years of her nursing career working for Dr. Lana Beavers, a general prac-

itioner who was trained during a time when one doctor was expected to diagnose and treat the symptoms of every patient.

“Dr. Beavers taught me how to use common sense, combined with intelligence when treating patients of all ailments during different stages of life. I am forever grateful for the mentorship she provided to me early in my career. I have been blessed with a successful nursing career, and now that I have transitioned into a nursing director role, I admire our bedside nurses and techs more than ever. They are the heroes doing the real work every day. You will never see me taking credit for their accomplishments, but I do take

OUR HEROES



Clements continued, “I wish everyone understood how difficult it is to work in the emergency room. All of our clinical staff are heroes in my eyes. They see so much tragedy and sadness, yet they keep coming back for more, shift after shift. In today’s world, health care has transitioned into a business where patients are not always kind to our staff. My employees endure verbal and sometimes physical abuse while caring for their patients. Thirty years ago, that would have been unheard of in the health care industry.”

Outside of Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital, Clements has been married to her husband, Mike, also a registered nurse, for 17 years. The two enjoy traveling and spending their free time doting on their extremely spoiled 9-year-old dog, Lilly Bell. GN

“My staff are an extension of my own family. I keep my office door open so they can enter as they please. Most times, you’ll find them chatting at my desk.”

- Jeri P. Clements

great pride in sharing the victories on their behalf.”

She credits more than just the “adrenaline rush” that is frequently experienced by her staff as the reason her team is thriving.

“It’s comforting to work in a facility where we are not just a number. Everyone knows your name and your strengths, and this makes the enterprise successful. My staff are an extension of my own family. I keep my office door open so they can enter as they please. Most times, you’ll find them chatting at my desk. My biggest accomplishment in this role is having satisfied employees. Ensuring they keep a work/life balance is extremely important to me.”



▲ Jeri Clements using a vital signs monitor cart



*EMS paramedic
Clarence Santini,
Trevor Reed,
Kohen Reed, Whitt
Reed, Hollis Reed,
Advanced EMT
Abby Reed, and
Frances Fann*

How an Emergency Birthed a ‘Lion’

LOCAL FAMILY AND
FIRST RESPONDERS
UNITED IN HEROISM

AFTER PREVIOUSLY giving birth to her two sons, Kohen and Hollis, paired with a background in obstetrics, Abby Reed had few concerns about the upcoming delivery of her third son, Whitt. But on June 26, 2023, as her husband, Trevor, dialed 911, the Reed family had no idea how drastically their lives were about to change.

“We have ‘Cousin Pool Day’ every Monday in the summer, so I’d laid by the pool all day,” said Abby. “I had random contractions, but they were nothing, really. We watched the World Series that night, and everything was fine. Around midnight, I was having more contractions, but they weren’t bad, so I fell asleep. At 3:45, a major contraction woke me, and I called my mom to come stay with our boys.”

As the pains across her swollen belly intensified, Abby struggled to find a comfortable position on the family couch while Trevor called for help. Time was not on the Reeds’ side. Just

as their baby boy was entering the world, paramedics from Bedford County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and several firefighters from the Wartrace Fire Department pulled into the driveway of their duplex.

Advanced EMT Frances Fann hopped down from the ambulance and sprinted through the open door while fellow EMS paramedic Clarence Santini retrieved the stretcher. Although Fann has helped seven mothers deliver their babies over the phone, this would be her first in-person delivery.

With no time to suit up, she took one look at the soon-to-be mother, braced one knee on the couch and one foot on the floor, and said, “Hi, I’m Frances. Looks like we’re going to have a baby today.”

After feeling the tightness gathering across Abby’s abdomen, she added, “We’re about to have another contraction. Get ready.”

Two contractions later, Whitt was born at 35 weeks, weighing 5 pounds, 9 ounces.

“After I delivered him, we didn’t have to do any lifesaving measures,” recalled Fann. “We just got the baby out, suctioned him, and I placed him on Abby’s belly. After the cord was cut, Clarence and I loaded Abby onto the stretcher and headed toward Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital.”

While Frann drove and Trevor rode “shotgun” up front, Santini kept Abby and her newborn comfortable in the back of the ambulance. When their shift ended later that day, Fann and Santini couldn’t stop thinking about the Reeds, so they visited them at the hospital the following day. But the news they received was not what they expected — Whitt was fighting for his life.

“When Trevor told us the baby was sick, I went to my preacher at church, and I said, ‘I can’t give you names, but I need you to pray for this family,’”

said Santini. “Frances and I are both Christians. We think of ourselves as a Christian team, so we pray with almost every patient.”

Due to Whitt being born the morning of her scheduled doctor’s appointment, Abby missed being tested for group B strep. Mothers who test positive require antibiotics during delivery,

but since Whitt was delivered at home, the virus was now ravaging Whitt’s frail little body and had settled into his premature lungs.

Abby said, “Doctors put Whitt under a warmer because he struggled to keep his body temperature up. That’s all they told us initially, and then he just got really sick from there.”



▲ Frances Fann and Whitt Reed

“I don’t think Frances and I are heroes. We train every day for this.”

- Clarence Santini

OUR HEROES





▲ Clarence Santini, Whitt Reed, Abby Reed, and Frances Fann

Whitt remained in the neonatal intensive care unit at Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital for 10 days while fluid flooded his lungs. He was diagnosed with double pneumonia and sepsis.

“He had a huge air pocket in his right lung and was on 10 different antibiotics,” recalled Abby. “After being there 10 days, Whitt was given a 30% chance to live, and because they didn’t have an ECMO machine, the the Angel Team transferred us to Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt. He was kept paralyzed for 11 days while blood was taken from his body, oxygenated, and put back. While

on ECMO, he developed CDH, where his liver and intestines were near his lungs, and he underwent emergency surgery to move them back where they should go. Because Whitt’s lungs were sick, we played the Brandon Lake song ‘Gratitude’ that reminds us that we all have a lion inside of our lungs, so we should get up and praise the Lord.”

Miraculously, Whitt responded to the treatment, and the prayers uttered on his behalf from all across Middle Tennessee were answered. He recently celebrated his first birthday.

To this, Frances Fann said, “God has big plans for this baby.” GN



‘I look up to those I lead.’

FIRE CHIEF MATT DOAK HAS ALWAYS HAD A SENSE OF SERVICE.

FIRE CHIEF Matt Doak has been a firefighter either in Bedford County or for the city of Shelbyville for 31 years. He diligently worked his way through the chain of command, beginning his career as a volunteer for Bedford County before becoming an instructor for the city of Shelbyville, a lieutenant, a captain, and a shift commander. Later, he was appointed interim fire

chief after the previous chief retired, and on Sept. 11, 2017, he officially accepted the title of chief.

“I’ve always had a sense of service,” said Doak. “I grew up looking up to Capt. Johnny King since his son and I were good friends. After I returned home from serving in the United States Marine Corps, I still felt the need to serve, so I became a firefighter.”

▲ Fire Hall 1, headquarters of Shelbyville Fire Department

As a member of the United States Marine Corps who enlisted in 1991, Doak was a gunner sergeant who completed two tours to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom before retiring from the reserves in 2011.

On a personal level, he is a dedicated father to his son, Slate; his recently married daughter, Olivia Parsons; and his twin daughters, Kayden and Jordan. As a business owner, he, along with several members of his extended family, has held the trembling hands of countless members of our community as they have buried their loved ones and walked through unimaginable circumstances.

But even with this record of public service and a reputation burst-

OUR HEROES



ing with integrity and heroism himself, Doak has never thought of himself as a “hero.”

“My heroes are the people who work for me — I look up to those I lead. They are the ones going out in the trucks 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. They are the ones making the sacrifices, and when they arrive on scene, they are the ones who make the toughest decisions. As their chief, I get to support them. I make it my mission to get them whatever they need to be successful.

“It isn’t just my people — it’s also our police department, sheriff’s department, our [emergency medical services], and all of our emergency management agencies, including our 911 dispatchers. Aside from these who are heroes, I’ve had comrades in the Marine Corps that lost their lives very selflessly. So on that level, most of my heroes are no longer living.”

Recalling one such selfless person, Doak said, “While I was over in Iraq, Pfc. Daniel McClenney gave his life serving

“Today, firefighting is one of the most challenging jobs, not only because of the risks and danger involved but also because of the wide variety of skill sets that must be obtained.”

- Fire Chief Matt Doak



OUR HEROES

*Austin Saddler,
Justin Aubin, Clyde
Porter, Matt Doak,
Chance Woods,
Glen Campbell,
Nate Frey, and
Coedy Rogers*



▲ Fire Chief Matt Doak's helmet

our country. When his team was ambushed in Afghanistan, he went way over and above and earned a Silver Star. The Bible says, 'Greater love hath no man than he who lays down his life for a friend.' This verse describes McClenney. I still see his dad and his family often. His grandmother lives in my neighborhood. It is families like the McClenneys — the ones who have continued to carry on, yet they've given the ultimate sacrifice — to me, that's heroic. They've carried on despite the ups and downs. By comparison, I've sacrificed very little."

During his time as chief, the city of Shelbyville has witnessed "explosive growth." In order to keep up, they added a third station, bringing the total number of full-time firefighters to 51 and 12 working part time.

"We took the position of a firefighter in Shelbyville and made it a title instead of just a job. It's pretty strenuous to earn this title, and I think it shows a real sense of accomplishment. We've been able to grow our department to keep up with the growth. I'm proud of my people and how we've worked together to

create a legacy. Everyone who works for me are all smoke divers, and they also have operational training of dealing with hazardous materials. We also now have members on every shift who are trained in swift water rescues, high angle rescues, and we have some who specialize in different disciplines.”

Doak continued, “Today, firefighting is one of the most challenging jobs, not only because of the risks and danger involved but also because of the wide variety of skill sets that must be obtained. We must be prepared for just about anything. But the blessing for me is being able to work in the community that I live in, where I own a business, and where my family lives. The caveat to this is that the next call we receive could be someone I know and care about.” GN

“My heroes are the people who work for me – I look up to those I lead. They are the ones going out in the trucks 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. They are the ones making the sacrifices, and when they arrive on scene, they are the ones who make the toughest decisions.”

- Fire Chief Matt Doak





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Normandy Farmers Market - Sept. 7



Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

Vendors at Normandy Farmers Market set up and were ready for customers on the breezy morning of Sept. 7, 2024. The market is open from June to October each year and is located on Front Street.



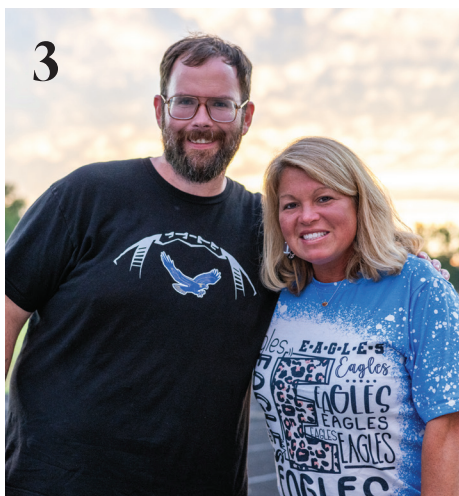
1. Cindy von Dohn 2. Levi Waggon and Shirley Langston 3. Vanessa and Taylor Yentz 4. Hamish Fresh Produce apples
5. Berry Sebastian 6. Rhonda Comstock and Kim and Stephen Maradik

Shelbyville Central vs. Coffee County - Sept. 6



Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

The Shelbyville Central Golden Eagles scored 32 points and defeated the Coffee County Red Raiders (28) at Raider Academy on Sept. 6, 2024.



1. Shelbyville Central Golden Eagles defeat the Coffee County Red Raiders 2. Makayla Lusk and Brandy Levine
3. Chris Fritz and Melissa Themm 4. Mattie Taylor, Wayne Taylor, and Betty White



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- Save money
- Stay covered under warranty
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- Improve your comfort
- Help the environment
- Give yourself greater peace of mind



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Thursday - Saturday	9am - 7pm
<i>Retail Shopping, Tours, and Tastings</i>	
Sunday	11am - 5pm
<i>Retail Shopping, Tours, and Tastings</i>	

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