



TKR Novelty fined \$2,500 after failed alcohol compliance check

A Covington business has been fined \$2,500 after failing an alcohol compliance check conducted by the Covington Police Department.

Detectives conducted the compliance operation June 18 at 19 businesses throughout the city as part of an effort to enforce Tennessee laws prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages to anyone under the age of 21.

According to police, a 19-year-old confidential informant entered each business and attempted to purchase alcohol while accompanied by a Covington Police Department detective who monitored the transactions.

Eighteen of the 19 businesses refused the sale after determining the informant was underage.

Police said TKR Novelty, located at 887 Highway 51 South, was the only business to fail the check.

According to the department, the cashier requested and examined the informant's identification, which showed the individual was 19, but completed the alcohol sale anyway.

The cashier was identified by police as Jamie Simpson, 45, of Munford. Simpson was issued a citation for the underage sale of alcoholic beverages and is scheduled to appear in Tipton County General Sessions Court in September.

The results of the compliance operation were presented to the Covington Beer Board during its Aug. 11 meeting. The board fined the owner of TKR Novelty \$2,500 for a first offense.

Police said the owner also provided the

SEE FINED, PAGE A11

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"A good newspaper is a nation talking to itself." — Arthur Miller

OBITUARIES

Alma Jean Whitmore

INSIDE

Faith A4-5
News A2
Legals A8-A9
Higher Education A10

Prysmian to add 100 jobs in \$100 million Jackson expansion

Cable and fiber manufacturer Prysmian will invest \$100 million and create 100 jobs in an expansion that will double the size of its Jackson plant, state and company officials announced Aug. 12.

Gov. Bill Lee, Deputy Gov. and Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Stuart C. McWhorter and Prysmian officials announced the Madison County project, which will renovate and expand the company's existing facility.

It is the second expansion for Prysmian in Jackson

since its 2018 acquisition of General Cable, which first established operations there in 1991. The company plans a groundbreaking celebration Oct. 15 and expects construction to take about 20 months.

"Global companies like Prysmian continue to choose Tennessee because of our strong business climate and highly skilled workforce," Lee said. "Today's announcement means 100 new job opportunities for Tennesseans in Madison County, and I'm grateful for Prysmian's continued investment in our state and

the lasting impact it will have on this community."

Andrea Pirondini, chief executive officer of Prysmian North America, said the project reflects rising demand for advanced digital infrastructure.

"We are one of just three U.S. manufacturers of fiber and optical cables, and now, we are committing more than a billion dollars across the U.S. to new innovative solutions and transformational capacity growth," Pirondini said.

Jackson Mayor Scott Conger said the decision reflects the city's invest-

ment in infrastructure and partnerships.

"When a global manufacturer chooses to expand in Jackson, especially through a competitive process, it speaks volumes about the direction of our city," Conger said. "We're grateful for Prysmian's continued confidence in Jackson, and we'll keep working to make our city a place where businesses, families and future generations can succeed."

Founded in the late 1800s, Prysmian has grown into one of the world's largest cable and fiber manufacturers. The company is

headquartered in Milan, Italy, with its North American headquarters in Kentucky, and operates in more than 50 countries with 109 manufacturing plants, 30 research and development centers and more than 34,000 employees. Its North American operations include more than 50 locations and 9,000 employees.

Italy is one of Tennessee's top partners for foreign direct investment, with 35 Italian companies across the state accounting for more than 3,000 jobs and \$1 billion in capital investment.

New program helps first responders better serve residents with special needs

The Tipton County Sheriff's Office has launched a new program designed to help first responders better recognize and respond to individuals with autism and other developmental or cognitive disabilities during emergencies.

The Special Needs Occupant Awareness Program allows Tipton County families to register a household member with special needs and receive decals that can be placed on vehicles, doors or bedroom windows. The decals provide law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS personnel and other first responders with an immediate visual indication that someone at the location may communicate or respond differently during a stressful situation.

Sheriff Shannon Beasley said the program grew from an idea brought to his office by Tipton County resident Michaela Gray, who had seen a similar program implemented by the Bartlett Police Department.

After Gray contacted the



sheriff's office, Beasley and his staff reached out to Bartlett police officials, who shared information about their program. The Tipton County Sheriff's Office then developed its own decals and procedures.

Before launching the program, the department also sought specialized training for deputies.

Professional Care Services in Covington connected the sheriff's office with Kimmie Quintanna and TN START, a program of the Tennessee Department of Disability and Aging. TN START provided training focused on recognizing

SEE PROGRAM, PAGE A12



SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM — Tipton County Sheriff's Office representatives joined local family members recently to mark the launch of the department's new Special Needs Occupant Awareness Program. The initiative provides participating Tipton County families with decals alerting first responders that an individual with autism or another developmental or cognitive disability may be present in a home or vehicle. The program also includes specialized training for deputies and confidential information provided to Tipton County Central Dispatch.

Thank you for your service!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE — Tipton County Schools recently recognized outgoing School Board members Loretta Eubanks, Jason Jenkins and Richard Gray for their service to the district. School officials thanked the three members for their commitment, leadership and support of students, staff and schools throughout their terms on the board.

Atoka man arrested after alleged threats involving elementary school

An Atoka man was arrested Aug. 13 following an investigation into alleged threats and disruptive behavior involving Atoka Elementary School, according to the Atoka Police Department.

Police identified the man as Richard Bradley. Authorities said Bradley was taken into custody at his home without further inci-

dent and transported to the Tipton County Jail.

Bradley was charged with threats of mass violence, disorderly conduct, civil rights intimidation, harassment by oral threat and misuse of 911. His bond was set at \$100,000.

The police department said its investigation involved multiple

threats and disturbances connected to the elementary school.

"There is no ongoing threat to the school, students, staff, or the community at this time," the department said in announcing the arrest.

Atoka police said the department takes threats involving officers, schools, students, staff and the

community seriously and will continue working closely with school officials to maintain a safe environment.

The case remains active, and police said no additional information would be released at this time.

Bradley is accused of the offenses and has not been convicted of the charges.

2026 Children's Classic

The 2026 Children's Classic is now available to purchase for \$10.

Come by our office at 899A Hwy 51 South in Covington (the same building as Harbor Freight, but on the side) to grab yours.

The 2025 Children's Classic is available for purchase at \$5 while supplies last.



965 Highway 51 North • Covington, TN 38019
901-476-7111

If it doesn't say Landers, you paid too much!

LandersMemphis.com



959 Highway 51 South • Covington, TN 38019
901-475-6080

COON CREEK MARKS 100 YEARS SINCE DEFINING PUBLICATION

MARTIN, Tenn. — In the summer of 1915, a young geologist from Trenton named Bruce Wade discovered a huge fossil site at Coon Creek on the Dave Weeks farm in McNairy County, perhaps Wade’s crowning achievement after years of fossil discoveries throughout southwestern Tennessee in the early part of the 20th century.

A paper written by Wade, “The Fauna of the Ripley Formation on Coon Creek, Tennessee,” was published in 1926 – 100 years ago this year – about many of his findings after several visits to the site, revealing a hidden treasure chest of pre-history to be found there.

The paper listed more than 300 species of animals that he had found at the site through the fossils he discovered, ranging from small seashells to giant mosasaurs.

Wade was actually a geologist – not a paleontologist – and he was more interested in finding Cretaceous Period sediments than fossils. While traveling through Tennessee, people told him about the fossilized finds in the area then known as Fossil Farm, and he decided to give it a look.

“He comes over here and meets Dave Weeks, who was pretty much the first person to actually see the fossils here,” said Joshua Ratliff, the Coon Creek program director and lecturer in the UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources. “Weeks moved his homestead here in the 1850s, so he had been here for about 50 years or so already. He was the one who had discovered the fossils.

“When Wade got here, he recognized that it wasn’t a one- or two-fossil find; it was a treasure trove of material that no one had really documented in the scientific community.”

Today, the Coon Creek Science Center remains a place of discovery and scientific wonder and learning, particularly of fossils of species from the Upper Cretaceous Period, 66 to 100 million years ago.

UT Martin’s involvement with the Coon Creek Science Center began in 1989, shortly after the area went from private ownership to corporate ownership. That year, the Pink Palace Family of Museums of Memphis bought the 240-acre site for \$200,000 from the family of farmer A.Z. Smith, the last private owner of the site. Soon after that, the museum began an association with UT Martin’s geology program’s instructors and students to help with the educational and research aspect of the site.

In April 2020, the museum turned over all facilities and operations at the site to UT Martin as part of a 40-year lease agreement. The museum maintains ownership of the land, while UT Martin controls operations of the site.

The Pink Palace Family of Museums built the main mess hall and five cabins when it first bought the site in 1989. Since UT Martin has been managing operations, a maintenance shed and a paleontology laboratory were added.

As the Coon Creek program director, Ratliff lives in the house built by the Smith family, which was built on the site of the original Weeks homestead house.

Fossils found around the Coon Creek Science Center are from animals that lived in the Upper Cretaceous Period in an area known as the Western Interior Seaway, a body of water that divided the North American continent from the current Yukon Territory in northwest Canada to eastern Texas, Louisiana and other Gulf border states, cutting through the current Great Plains region. The seaway was about 600 miles wide, 2,000 miles long and up to a half-mile deep.

Fossils ranging from microscopic animals to the great mosasaurs and plesiosaurs have been found at Coon Creek.

Because of the variety of sciences that are represented at Coon Creek, the site offers information and education on a wide scale. Ratliff said many elementary school students visit the site.

“In the Tennessee standards for teaching, fourth grade and fifth grade have a very big push for geology and paleontology,” he said. “So, for the last couple of years, I’ve had that age group come through with good hands-on science.

“You can read books all day long about going to dig dinosaurs, but most people are never going to get a chance to go dig on a dinosaur. However, you can go dig fossils here that were in the ocean at the same time the dinosaurs were walking on land.”

Coon Creek also hosts visiting scientists from across the United States and around the world, and students from other universities, including Vanderbilt and Tennessee Tech.

“They’ll bring their geology or paleontology students here,” Ratliff said. “If you come to West Tennessee, you can collect fossils from as far back as 430 million years ago up to 66 million years ago, all within an hour’s drive of this location.

Jonathan Mehr, the director of the UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer, oversees the operation of the Coon Creek Science Center.

“We just closed out a Grand Challenge grant in March,” he said. “It was only for a year, and we just extended it for another six months. With the help of that support, we serviced 3,584 elementary school-aged students during that time who were able to come and do a program at Coon Creek.”

The Grand Challenge Grants Program is an investment by the University of Tennessee System to fund transformative projects that improve the quality of life for Tennesseans. With up to \$5 million dedicated to this initiative over the next few years, these grants support solutions in strengthening rural communities, overcoming addiction and advancing K-12 education.

The Coon Creek Science Center is more than a place for elementary and high school students to explore and learn. It can be a laboratory for college students at the UT Martin main campus or at its nearby regional center in Selmer.

“Coon Creek is more than a fossil site; it’s a launchpad for students’ careers,” said Erica Bell, executive director of Regional Centers and Online Programs. “We want a student’s first spark of curiosity here to grow into a lifelong career, and that path starts close to home. Local students can begin our geoscience and meteorology pathways right down the road at the UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer and through UTM Dual Enrollment and UTM Online.”

Visits to the Coon Creek Science Center are by appointment only. For reservations and general information about Coon Creek Science Center, call the UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer at 731-646-1636 or email cooncreek@utm.edu. Information about Coon Creek can be found at www.utm.edu/ccsc.

For more information about UT Martin, visit www.utm.edu or call 1-800-829-UTM1 (-8861).



This photo of a school visit in November 2024 shows Joshua Ratliff, the Coon Creek Science Center program director, holding the jawbone of a mosasaur found at Coon Creek for students to see.



Joshua Ratliff, the Coon Creek Science Center program director, looks at fossils found by a student during a November 2024 school visit. People can find several fossils of life from the Upper Cretaceous Period at the Coon Creek Science Center.



The Coon Creek Science Center, operated by UT Martin, holds many fossils from the Upper Cretaceous Period and is open to the public. Visits are arranged by reservation only by calling 731-646-1636 or emailing cooncreek@utm.edu.

Eight Tennessee campuses share \$1 million in veteran support grants

Eight Tennessee colleges and universities will share \$1 million in state grants intended to strengthen campus support for veterans and other military-connected students, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission announced Monday.

The awards are designed to expand resources, bolster mental health and well-being services and help more campuses serve students with military ties, THEC said. Military-connected students include veterans, active-duty service members, members of the National Guard and Reserves, and their spouses and dependents.

The money is being distributed through two programs.

The Veteran Initiatives Grant, which helps campuses that already carry the state’s VETS Campus designation expand their services, went to six schools: Austin Peay State University, Belmont University, Carson-Newman University, Lipscomb University, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and Walters State Community College.

The Veteran Initiatives Designation Grant, which helps schools build the infrastructure and services

The VETS Campus initiative recognizes Tennessee institutions that demonstrate a strong commitment to serving veterans, service members and military-connected students. THEC said the grants allow those campuses to strengthen resources for students as they move into higher education, pursue workforce training and work toward academic and career goals.

needed to earn the VETS Campus designation, went to Tusculum University and the University of Tennessee Southern.

“We’re excited to support campuses as they put solutions into action to address obstacles faced by military-connected students,” said Steven Gentile, THEC executive director. “These grants will strengthen the resources available to veterans, service members, and military-connected students, helping more students achieve their education and career goals.”

The VETS Campus initiative recognizes Tennessee institutions that demonstrate a strong commitment to serving veterans, service members and military-connected students. THEC said the grants allow those campuses to strengthen resources for students as they move into higher education, pursue workforce training and work toward

academic and career goals.

The state also recognizes campuses that go further through an elevated VETS Bravo Campus designation. Tennessee College of Applied Technology–Crossville and Austin Peay State University are currently the only two VETS Bravo Campuses in Tennessee.

The grants were proposed by Gov. Bill Lee and approved by the General Assembly last year.

Information about the VETS Campus initiative and other resources for veterans and military-connected students is available at www.tn.gov/thec.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission was created by the General Assembly in 1967 and serves as the state’s higher education coordinating body.

Got Some News?

Call Us & Let Us Know

(901) 476-7116

SELL YOUR HOUSE FAST FOR CASH

No Repairs. No Showings. DONE this week!

Get Your FREE Cash Offer

- We buy homes nationwide
- No commission or fees
- Close on your timeline
- No repairs or inspections

“Selling my home with Liz Buys Houses was a game-changer!”
–Michael Beck

We work fast and are ready to help with your sale when you are. Call today to see if our fast cash offer aligns with your home sale needs!

CALL 1-844-524-1059

Not for mobile homes, not for homes listed on the market

MT. CARMEL NEWS

Elaine Watkins

Well, 100 degrees is already happening at 12:30 so we may hit that 102 forecast. It's hot! And no rain the past week at all, and just a few tenths expected this week.

This Week's Farm Report: Corn is really drying up fast. The header was on the combine Thursday ready to go! Soybeans need rain! 'Nuf said!

This Week's Decker Report: Poor kitty is just lying in different places in the carport, trying to find a cool spot on the concrete! We're back in the 80's Thursday, Kitty!

We went to Taco Tuesday with Clint, Courtney, Caroline, Chase, Joe and Jennifer Gurley and Jimmy and Andrea Gurley for Jennifer's birthday! Yum! Tacos! Happy Birthday again, Jennifer!

Wednesday night meal at church was pizza - yum! Pizza!

You can tell I'm not hard to feed! Ha!

I got my oil changed in my car at Glass Tire Friday. James picked me up and we went to McDonald's for breakfast, which we hadn't done in a long

time! Clint and Courtney picked it up for me. I was going to Walmart after I got my car back, but it was too hot! So, I went Saturday morning when it was just 99 degrees!

I got four words for you - Don't buy Tide Evo! It left white granules in the lint tray, white powder on the clothes and pieces of the wrapper like pieces of chewing gum everywhere!

Our Fellowship Group at the Covington Church of Christ met at Olympic in Munford last night for supper. Fun night with Rick and Mindy Stavrum, Donnie and Rita Benjamin, John and Cammy Evans and James and me!

On our prayer list are Judy McCool and husband Ken, Joyce Scott and so many friends and relatives of our members. Like Glenda Bramblett, Jimmy Blackburn's sister.

And all of our servicemen and women. God Bless the USA!

Area-wide Gospel Meeting September 14 - 17 at Brighton Middle School gym. 7 p.m. nightly.

The youth are going to Float the Buffalo August

29th. No rafting for me! I can't even swim!

Happy Birthday this week goes to Chesley Hoffman and Kyle McCain on August 16th, to Donnie Benjamin on the 17th, to Marley Maness and Eli Moody on the 19th and to Kaitlin McCain on the 21st!

Happy Anniversary to Tracy and Tricia Speight on August 22nd!

We are really enjoying our new preacher, Josh Manning. If you don't have a church family join us. You're very welcome!

This Week's Farmer's Almanac Quote: The hardest substance in the human body is the enamel on the surface of our teeth.

That got me to thinking about toothpaste. Ipana - With Bucky Beaver who sang, Brusha, brusha, brusha! Get the new Ipana, it's dandy for your teeth!

I'm on a roll here - You'll wonder where the yellow went when you brush your teeth with . . . Pepsodent!

Ok . I'm through now. Joke - What do you call a dinosaur who's never late? A Pronto-saurus! Until next week . . .

The VA OIG catches more scammers



by Freddy Groves

Once again, the VA Office of Inspector General has nailed fraudsters who are determined to steal benefits and cash from the VA.

A pair of scammers, one of them incarcerated, cooked up a scheme to defraud seriously ill veterans. Specifically, the jailbird would call VA medical centers and impersonate VA employees to get info on veterans, including names and phone numbers. Then, with his scammer pal, they would call a veteran to get banking and credit card info for the alleged purpose of depositing Covid stimulus checks. Armed with that info, the jailbird was able to

pull funds into his commissary and phone accounts. The pair was nailed on 26 counts of fraud and had harmed 60 veterans. They managed to pull the scam on over 30 VA medical clinics. The conspiracy to commit wire fraud and wire fraud are both good for 20 years in prison, with identity theft adding two more years each.

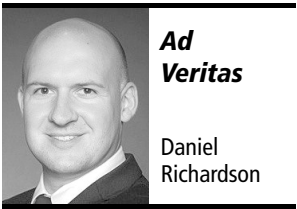
Then there was the non-veteran who applied for benefits and claimed he had both the Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. While there is no central location with a list of all those who've received a Purple Heart for VA employees to check,

once an application is made for benefits, the facts would show up on a DD-214. This scam is getting the fraudster four years in prison.

Then there was the Department of Homeland Security employee who faked an application to get a VA-backed mortgage. This was a veteran who should have known better. The fake documents said he had a 100% disability rating and received monthly disability benefits. Both lies. There was no disability rating and no monthly benefit. Not knowing the docs were faked, the lender issued a mortgage for \$478,000 with the VA giving loan guarantee backing. This scheme could be good for 30 years in prison.

I hate to think of the money that would be lost and the number of veterans defrauded if we didn't have the VA OIG to investigate these things.

Friday Night Lights



There's just something about the high school football season in Tennessee.

The weather is still hot, the days are still long, and technically summer isn't over yet. But once the lights come on over the football field on Friday night, it feels like fall is just around the corner.

For a lot of people around here, myself included, high school football is one of the best parts of the year.

Part of that is simply because it's fun.

There's something exciting about walking into a stadium on a Friday night, hearing the band warming up, seeing the cheerleaders along the sideline, watching the players come through the gate, and looking across the stands at a crowd filled

with people you know.

High school football has a different feel than almost any other sport.

It is local.

These are our kids. Our schools. Our towns.

The player carrying the football may be the same kid who bagged your groceries last week. The lineman making a big block may sit two pews behind you at church. The cheerleader on the sideline may be your neighbor's daughter. The band member playing the fight song may be your grandchild.

That connection makes the game mean a little more.

But football is about far more than what happens on Friday night.

For the young men playing the game, there are lessons being taught every day at practice that they may not fully appreciate until years later.

Football teaches that hard work matters.

You don't become stronger by talking about lifting

weights. You don't learn a playbook by carrying it around. You don't become a better player without repetition, discipline and doing the same difficult things over and over until they become second nature.

It teaches teamwork.

Eleven players have to do their jobs at the same time. A quarterback can make the perfect throw, but somebody has to protect him long enough to make it. A running back can be talented, but he still needs blockers. A defense falls apart quickly when one person decides he would rather chase the football than carry out his assignment.

There are plenty of lessons about life hidden in all of that.

Football also teaches accountability.

If you miss practice, someone notices. If you don't know your assignment, your teammates may pay the price. If you make a mistake on Friday night, there is usually no hiding it.

Then you line up and play the next snap.

That may be one of the most valuable lessons of all.

Life is full of mistakes, disappointments and losses. Learning at a young age that you can get knocked down, get back up and keep playing is worth far more than whatever the scoreboard says at the end of the night.

And then there are the coaches.

Good coaches do much more than teach football. They teach discipline. They set expectations. They demand effort. They correct bad attitudes and encourage young people when they need it.

For some players, a coach may become one of the most important positive male influences in their lives.

That responsibility should never be taken lightly, but when it is done well, the impact can last far beyond graduation.

Years from now, most of these players probably won't remember the score of every game they played. But they will remember

the locker room.

They will remember summer workouts when it was nearly too hot to breathe. They will remember long bus rides home after a win—and probably the really quiet ones after a loss.

They will remember their teammates.

They will remember their coaches.

They will remember running onto the field wearing the colors of their hometown.

And many of them will eventually come back to those same stadiums as adults. They'll sit in the stands with their own children and cheer for another generation of players wearing the same uniform.

That is one of the things I love most about high school football.

It ties generations together.

It gives young people a stronger connection to their school and community, and it creates memories that stay with them for the rest of their lives.

So as another football season gets underway across Tennessee, I hope

everyone has a great year.

To the players: work hard, listen to your coaches, take care of your teammates and enjoy it. These seasons go by faster than you think.

To the coaches: thank you for the time you invest in these young people and for recognizing that what you are teaching goes far beyond football.

And to the parents, grandparents and fans: fill up the stands. Encourage these kids. Cheer hard, but remember that they are still kids playing a game.

Most importantly, I hope everyone stays safe.

Football is a physical sport, and injuries are always a possibility. Play hard, play clean, watch out for one another and never lose sight of what really matters.

The lights are coming on. The bands are warming up.

And another Tennessee high school football season is here.

Good luck to all of our local teams.

Have a great—and safe—season.

Your elected officials
Atoka City Hall (901)837-5300
Mayor
Barry Akin
mayor@atokatn.gov
Aldermen:
Chris Detje (808)631-4110
cdetje@atokatn.gov
Brett Giannini (901)545-9623
bgiannini@atokatn.gov
John Harber (901)870-3485
jharber@atokatn.gov
Jeremy Lightsey (901) 497-8901
jlightsey@atokatn.gov
Jessie Poole (901) 849-6279
jpoole@atokatn.gov
Christopher Schaeffer, Jr. 901-837-5300
cschaeffer@atokatn.gov

Brighton Town Hall (901)476-8661
Mayor
Josh Hazlerig
mayor@townofbrighton.com
Vice Mayor
Dave Huffman
dhuffman@townofbrighton.com
Aldermen:
Kyle Smith
ksmith@townofbrighton.com
Rachel Young
ryoung@townofbrighton.com
David Tate
dtate@townofbrighton.com

Covington City Hall (901)476-9613
Mayor
Jan Hensley (901)476-9613
Vice Mayor
Jeff Morris
Aldermen:
Jean Johnson (901)317-0910
John Edwards (901)504-6497

Jeff Morris (901)626-4979
Margaret Fleming
C.H. Sullivan IV (901)674-3280
Danny Wallace (901)237-3607

Mason City Hall (901)294-3525
Mayor
Eddie Noeman (901)413-4670
enoeman@townofmasontn.org
Vice Mayor
Reynaldo Givhan
Aldermen:
Trowanna Broadnax
Alethea Harris
Mary Mason
Virginia Rivers
Carolyn Catron

Munford City Hall (901)837-0171
Mayor
Dwayne Cole
dcole@munfordtn.gov
Aldermen:
Ray Deneka
rdeneka@munfordtn.gov
Lonnie Glass
lglass@munfordtn.gov
Jack Bomar
jbomar@munfordtn.gov
Kenny Arthur
karthur@munfordtn.gov
Steve Childress
schildress@munfordtn.gov
Richard Cramer
rcramer@munfordtn.gov

Tipton County County Executive:
Jeff Huffman
Commissioners:
Shelia Barlow
Rusty Wooten
Michael W. Naifeh (901)409-2809

mwnaifeh@bellsouth.net
Justin Gangaware (901)233-5574
jgangaware@yahoo.com
Richard Kelley
John Mashburn
Walker Adams (901)355-2454
walkeradams@live.com
Brett Giannini (901)545-9623
bgiannini@atokatn.gov
Alan (Glenn) Turner (901)409-0816
gturner@tipton-county.com
Randy Roe
uspo1957@gmail.com
Michelle Smith (901)570-0141
bmichellesmith0426@gmail.com
James (Jimbo) C. Adkins
Dr. Courtney Fee
Brad Case
James (Lamont) Sneed
Cecil Watson
David Copeland (901)603-6168
Jonathan G. Murphy (901)299-9711

State Legislature Senate District 32:
Paul Rose (615)741-1967
sen.paul.rose@capitol.tn.gov
House District 81:
Debra Moody (615)741-3774
rep.debra.moody@capitol.tn.gov

U.S. Congress
David Kustoff (202)255-4714
kustoff.house.gov
Steve Cohen (202)225-3265
cohen.house.gov
Senators:
Marsha Blackburn (901)527-9199
blackburn.senate.gov
Bill Hagerty (901)544-4224
hagerty.senate.gov

Need to get something off your mind?
Send your letter to the editor to
news@covingtonleader.com or call
901-476-7116

The Leader
Have Local News to Share?
Send us your community news, photos, events, school news, church news and announcements.
We want to hear from you!
adrianna@magicvalleypublishing.com | (901) 476-7116
Help us keep the community informed.

Editorial Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in columns, letters to the editor, guest submissions and other contributed content are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Leader, its staff, management or Richardson Media Group, Inc. Publication of such material does not constitute endorsement of the opinions expressed.

THE LEADER
USPS 136-120
"Tipton County's NEWSPAPER Since 1886"
899A Hwy. 51 South, Covington, TN
PHONE 901-476-7116
www.covingtonleader.com

Garland
Burlison
Covington
Gilt
Jamestown
Gilt Edge
Brighton
Drummonds
Randolph
Clopton
Charleston
Munford
Atoka
Dayville
Mason
Wilkinsville
Tipton

TIPTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

THE LEADER (ISSN 2473-2680) is published weekly for \$48 per year in Tennessee and \$72 per year elsewhere by Magic Valley Publishing, Inc., PO Box 529, Covington, TN 38019-0529.
Periodicals postage paid at Covington, TN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Leader, PO Box 529, Covington, TN 38019-0529.
Copyright Advisement: Reproduction of all matter contained herein is prohibited without the express consent of Magic Valley Publishing.

Publisher
Lisa Richardson
lisa@magicvalleypublishing.com

News
Jeff Ireland - Sports Editor
jeff@magicvalleypublishing.com
News Submissions
lisa@magicvalleypublishing.com

Advertising
Carbo Cousar
carbo@magicvalleypublishing.com

The Leader

TENNESSEE PRESS ASSOCIATION

PROUD MEMBER OF
Tennessee Press Association, National Newspaper Association,
Covington-Tipton County Chamber of Commerce, and National Federation of Independent Businesses

Church Directory



First Utility District of Tipton County

“Natural Gas is *Best*”

Hwy 59 W & Bringle Rd.

Phone: 901-476-9525 | 901-476-0714



99 Doctor's Drive

Munford, TN 38058

901-840-1998



Design - Build Contractors

476-9600



CLIMER PAVING, LLC.

731-663-3242 • 1-800-273-3878

No Job Too Small or Too Large



Bradford Family Pharmacy

Convenient Drive Thru & Free Local Delivery

1500 Highway 51 S Covington, TN 38019

Phone: 901.475.6300

Justin Bradford, Pharmacist Locally Owned & Operated

Mon - Fri: 8:30am - 6:30pm | Sat: 9:00am - 1:00pm

Tipton County Gun Trader

1015 Hwy 51 N Covington, TN 38019

901-476-0607

Jay Ridings Cell: 901-619-5991 | John Evan cell: 901-201-9426



DON BASKIN

TRUCK SALES, LLC.

901.476.9990

1.800.331.7110 • 1870 HWY 51, S., COVINGTON, TN

MONDAY-FRIDAY 7-5 SATURDAY 7-NOON



PENNY PANTRY

11352 Hwy 51 S

Atoka, TN 38004



Turners' Plumbing

Continuing honest & hardworking tradition

Adrian Allan Turner

Owner

Grandson

Serving Tipton County 901-476-2932

Please leave a message

BUSINESS CARDS

The Leader PRINTING

(901)476-7116

One-sided

500ct \$67⁰⁰

1,000ct \$113⁹⁰

Double-sided

500ct \$82⁷⁵

1,000ct \$140⁶⁸

(sales tax & shipping not included)

"911, what's your emergency?"

If you don't have a legitimate emergency, you could be standing in the way of someone who does.

HELP SAVE A LIFE.

Call the non-emergency line

901-475-4300

Acts II Community Church
106 Star Shopping Lane
Covington, TN 38019
901-475-1732

Antioch M.B. Church
1785 Wooten Street
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-5811

Antioch Baptist Church
190 Antioch Road
Munford, TN 38058
901-837-9635

Associated Reformed Presb
81 Church Ave
Brighton, TN 38011
901-476-7233

Atoka U.M. Church
609 Atoka-Munford Ave
Atoka, TN 38004
873-8454

Atoka Evangelical Preb
1041 Atoka Idaville Rd
Atoka, TN 38004
837-3500

Avery Chapel CME
2365 Leighs Chapel Road
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-2337

Beaver Baptist
9344 Holly Grove Rd
Munford, TN 38058
901-837-2904

Bethel Baptist Church
55 Andrea Dr.
Munford, TN 38058
837-2247

Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian
3406 Tracey Rd
Atoka, TN 38004
837-0343

Big Hatchie Baptist Association
1390 Hwy. 51 N
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-6759

Bright Hill M.B. Church
4650 Ballard Slough Rd.
P.O. Box 166
Burlison, TN 38015
901-476-3227

Campground U. M. Church
3183 Drummonds Road
Drummonds, TN 38023
837-4629

Canaan Baptist Church
211 Main Street N
Covington, TN 38019
476-8782

Canaan Grove Baptist Church
57 Canaan Grove Rd
Mason, TN 38049
901-294-2990

Carey Chapel AME
4955 Ballard Slough Rd
Burlison, TN 38015
475-2288

Calvary Baptist Church
2010 Highway 51 S
Covington, TN 38019
476-4433

Calvary Bible Church
894 Munford Ave
Munford, TN 38058
837-8563

Central Baptist Church
755 Lucy Kelly Rd.
Brighton, TN 38011
901-475-4422

Central Christian Church
400 South Maple Street
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-6858

Charleston Baptist Church
8642 Hwy 179
Stanton, TN 38069
901.476.8479

Covington Church of Christ
1690 Highway 51 S.
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-8278

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
9604 Hwy. 51 North
Millington, TN 38053

City of Refuge
176 B Wesley Reed Drive
Atoka, TN 38004
901-826-4034

Clopton U. M. Church
5285 Brighton Clopton Rd
Brighton, TN 38011
901-476-5512

Collins Chapel C.M.E. Church
303 W. Ripley Avenue
Covington, TN 38019

Cornerstone Assembly of God
8041 Mt. Carmel Road
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-4676

Cornerstone Community Church
3030 Drummonds Rd
Atoka, TN 38004
901-840-4326

Crossroads Community Church at the Nazarene
3865 Beaver Rd
Munford, TN 38058
901-837-2545

Crossway Cowboy Church
8932 Mt. Caramel Rd
Brighton, TN 38011

Ebenezer Cumberland Presbyterian Church
70 Witherington Rd
Mason, TN 38049
901-294-2670

Elm Grove Church of Christ
2016 Elm Grove Rd
Burlison, TN 38015
901-476-5440

Elm Grove United Methodist
1108 Elm Grove Rd.
Burlison, TN 38015
901-476-8799

Faith Baptist Church
900 Simmons Rd
Drummonds, TN 38023
901-837-2683

Fellowship Bible Church
6920 Highway 59 W
Burlison, TN 38015
901-476-1008

First Assembly Of God Church
1422 Old Hwy 51
Brighton, TN 38011
901-837-0950

First Baptist Church of Atoka
102 Kimbrough Ave
Atoka, TN 38004
901-313-2919

First Baptist Church of Munford
521 Giltedge Rd.
Munford, TN 38058
901-451-1364

First Baptist Church of Covington
2105 Highway 59 South
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-2489

First Baptist Church of Mason
359 Hwy 70 E
Mason, TN 38049
MasonBaptistChurch.com

First Brighton Baptist Church
132 East Woodlawn Ave.
Brighton, TN 38011
476-6180

First Presbyterian Church of Covington
403 S. Main St.
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-2434

First United Methodist Church
145 West Church Ave
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-9694

Galilee M.B. Church
743 Galilee Church Road
Brighton, TN 38011
901-476-1105

Garland Baptist Church
1756 Garland Dr.
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-9691

Garland Faith Community Church
1613 Garland Drive
Covington, TN 38058
901-476-9334

Gateway Baptist Church
1915 Rosemark Rd
Atoka, TN 38004
901-837-8087

God's Grace Gospel Church
4955 Ballard Slough Rd
Burlison, TN 38015
901-317-0645

Grace Temple Apostolic Church
2054 Brighton-Clopton Rd.
Covington, TN 38011
901-475-1008

Great Expectations COGIC
2053 Highway 51 S.
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-6666

Greater St. John MBC
411 Shelton Street
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-4735

GracePoint Church
245 Commercial Drive
Atoka, TN 38004
901-840-2086

Grace Outreach Worship Center
795 Tennessee Ave
Covington, TN 38019

Green Leaf Community Church
9703 Hwy. 59 S
Mason, TN 38049

Hatchie Church of Christ
1372 Highway 51 N
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-9709

Holly Grove Cumberland Presbyterian
4538 Holly Grove Rd
Brighton, TN 38011
901-476-8379

Hebron Community Church
Rayburn Rd.
Covington, TN 38019

Hope Community Church
7204 Highway 14 S.
Brighton, TN. 38011
901-491-8138

Hopewell United Methodist
3866 Munford Giltedge Rd
Munford, TN 38058

Hosanna Ministries
13779 Hwy 51 S.
Atoka, TN 38004
901-840-4540

Jehovah's Witness of Covington
1150 Old Brighton Rd
Covington, TN 38019
901-475-2110

Jesus Christ Outreach Ministry
323 Carr Avenue
Covington, TN 38019
901-937-9371

Jesus The Way Outreach Center
795 Tennessee Drive
Covington, Tennessee 38019

Jones Grove Baptist Church
366 Simmons Rd.
Munford TN 38058
901-837-2559

King's Hill M.B. Church
123 King's Hill Road
Brighton, TN 38011

901-476-9258

Liberty Baptist
2097 Holly Grove Rd.
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-5273

Lighthouse Praise Temple
826b Hwy 51
Covington, TN 38019
901-294-3866

Lighthouse Apostolic
2536 Tracy Rd.
Atoka, TN 38004
901-837-9138

Living Waters Assembly of God
2739 Old Memphis Road
Covington, TN 38019
901-848-4542

Mason United Methodist Church
12081 Main Street
Mason, Tn 38049

Mt. Herman Church
3492 Quito-Drummonds Road,
Millington, TN 38053
(901) 835-2886

Mt. Lebanon Assembly
7560 Hwy 51 North
Henning, TN 38041

Mt. Lebanon Baptist
1837 Mt. Lebanon Road
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-3417

Mt. Sinai Baptist Church
2425 Highway 59
Mason TN. 38049
mtsinaichurchhwy59@gmail.com

Mt. Tipton Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Brighton Clopton Rd.
Brighton, TN 38011
901-476-1165

Mt. Zion Church
838 S. Tipton Street
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-3233

Munford Baptist Church
1253 Munford Ave
Munford, TN 38058
901-837-9276

Munford First United Methodist
57 Tipton Rd
Munford, TN 38058
901-837-8881

New Beginning Church
1460 Atoka Idaville Rd.
Atoka, TN 38004
901-412-0241

New Beginnings Church
2357 Wilkinsville Rd
Drummonds, TN 30823
901-835-5683

New Hope Baptist Church
1239 Hawkins Road
Burlison, TN 38015
901-828-2676

New Horizon Church of God
1099 Hwy 51 N
Covington, TN 38019
901-489-0447

New Life Community Church
5123 Highway 176
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-0062

New Salem United Methodist Church
7803 Munford Gilt Edge
Burlison, TN 38015
901-476-8536

Oak Grove Baptist Church
4048 Highway 59 W
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-7259

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church
4625 Highway 59 S
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-7016

Pleasant Grove Methodist
314 Gainesville Rd
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-3162

Poplar Grove Assembly of God
2600 Glen Springs Rd.
Drummonds, TN 38023
901-835-2611

Pleasant Hill Full Gospel
2739 Old Memphis Road
Covington, TN 38019
901-837-7687

Poplar Grove Methodist Church
228 Quito Drummonds Rd.
Drummonds, TN 38023
901-835-2568

Paradise Baptist Church
520 Simonton St.
Covington, Tennessee 38019

Quito United Methodist
4580 Quito Drummonds Rd.
Millington, TN 38053
901-835-2318

Randolph Assembly of God Church
1135 Randolph Rd.
Burlison, TN
476-8244

Randolph United Methodist Church
98 Ballard SloughRd.
Drummonds, TN 38023

Ravenscroft Episcopal Chapel
8219 Holly Grove Rd,
Brighton, TN
837-1312

The Refuge
126 E. Liberty Ave.
Covington, TN 38019

Restoration Church
60 East Main Street
Munford, TN 38058
901-837-6721

River of Life
220 Beaver Rd

Munford, TN 38058
901-837-8781

Rosemark Church of Christ
8905 Austin Peay Hwy
Rosemark, TN 38053
901-829-2059

Salem Missionary Baptist Church
124 Salem Road
Mason, Tennessee 38049
901-476-0961

Salem Presbyterian Church
3400 Atoka-Idaville Road
Atoka, TN 38004
901-837-8210

Seventh Day Adventist
213 Warring Avenue
Covington, TN 38019
731-450-0100

Shiloh MB Church
584 John Hill Rd
Brighton, TN 38011
901-476-0081

Simonton Assembly of God
4100 Munford Gilt Edge
Brighton, TN 38011
901-837-2168

Smith Grove M.B. Church
681 Smith Grove Road
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-7863

Smyrna Baptist Church
7512 Hwy 59 W
Burlison, TN 38015
901-476-6178

South Tipton Assembly of God
538 Simmons Rd.
Drummonds, TN 38023
837-2140

St. Alphonsus Catholic Church
1225 Highway 51 S
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-8140

St. Luke Baptist Church
632 St. Luke Rd.
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-9746

St. Mark AME Church
842 Tipton Road
Munford, TN 38058
(901) 837-8961

St. Matthew's Episcopal
303 S. Munford Street
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-6577

St. Matthew MB Church
296 Mason-Charleston Rd.
Stanton, TN 38069
901-476-5935

St John Missionary Church
2086 Atoka-Idaville Rd
Atoka, TN 38004
901-837-2474

St. John Missionary Baptist Church
1602 Highway 59 West
Covington, TN 38019
901-4767645

ST. Paul Episcopal Church
2406 Hwy 70 East
Mason, TN 38049
901-294-2641

St. Stephens M.B. Church
3827 Hwy 51 North
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-1559

Tabernacle United Methodist Church
4258 Highway 179
Covington
901-553-9598

Temple of Praise
8323 Richardson Landing
Drummonds, TN 38023
901-835-3462

The Church at Shiloh
497 Shiloh Road
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-3467

The Rock Church
1861 Hwy 51 South
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-9592

Tipton Church of God in Christ
470 Watson Rd
Munford, TN 38058
901-837-8356

Trinity Baptist Church
5954 Brighton Clopton Rd.
Brighton, TN 38011
901-476-8889

Trinity Episcopal Church
11886 Main St.
Mason, TN 38049

Victory Baptist Church
5422 Drummonds Rd
Drummonds, TN 38023
901-835-2280

Western Valley Baptist
836 Church Rd.
Covington, TN 38019
901-475-1255

Westside Assembly
Non-Denominational
33 Paulette Circle
Covington, TN 38019

Willow Grove M.B. Church
618 Willow Grove Rd.
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-7337

Rosemark First Presbyterian
8592 Kerrville-Rosemark Rd.
Rosemark, TN 38053
901-829-2051

This Devotional & Directory is made possible by these businesses who encourage all of us to attend worship services

Faith

ALONG THE JOURNEY

THE LEADER • THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026 • A5

Kenneth S Uselton

Several years ago, I led a spiritual life retreat for a group of men on one of the great themes of Paul: “Life as Participation,” which I still think is one of the most important themes of the sacred writings. Paul’s conversion on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-6) was a dramatic and utterly life changing moment. In my opinion, the resulting insights from this initial experience became central to all he taught for the remainder of his life. While most of us experience many smaller transformations throughout our lives, the result should be the same. With only a few updates to my language, this is how I described it: (Now that was a fancy way of telling you I am paraphrasing my teachings from years ago ... meaning I do not remember the exact words I used.)

Before conversion, we tend to think God is “out there.”

After transformation, God is not out there and we do not look at reality. We look from reality. We are in the middle of it now; we are a part of it. This whole thing is what I call the “mystery of participation.” Paul is obsessed by the idea that we are all already participating in something. I am not writing the story by myself.

I am a character inside of a story that is being written in cooperation with God and the rest of humanity. This changes everything about how we see our lives. If we are writing the story on our own, we think we have to write it correctly. We have to be clever; we have to figure it out. If anything goes wrong, we have only got ourselves to blame. That is a terrible way to live, even though a

high degree of Christians do. I would call that bad news.

The good news is a completely different experience of life. A participatory theology says, “I am being used, I am actively being chosen, I am being led.” It is not about joining a new denomination or having an ecstatic moment. After authentic conversion, you know that your life is not about you; you are about life! You are an instance in this agony and ecstasy of God that is already happening inside you, and all you can do is say yes to it. That is all. That is conversion and it changes everything.

This idea of participating in the goodness and continual unfolding of God’s creation reminds me of the prayer attributed to St. Francis that begins, “Make me an instrument of your peace.” I remember being so delighted when I under-

stood that part of my role as a pastor, more importantly as a child of God, is to be a “voice,” a “conduit,” or a “pipe” on behalf of the Creator. That is a huge gift for all who have experienced that conversion/belief moment (no matter how dramatic or small). I learned long ago that for God to use me in the unfolding of his kingdom “I” must step aside and allow God’s message to move through me.

Looking back on my journey, I can see that God has been the conductor. God has even used my mistakes to bring me closer to God and hopefully God’s wisdom to others. I hope this article will inspire you to look at what has happened when you also said yes to participating as God’s instrument in the world.

... in the journey with you!



Parkway Cove
assisted living by Americare

Bryan Ikerd
Administrator
805 Bert Johnson Avenue
Covington, TN 38019
ph. 901.475.9020
fax 901.475.9891
www.americareusa.net
covington@americareusa.net

**JULIE BYRD
ASHWORTH**
ATTORNEY AT LAW



1500 Munford Avenue
Munford, TN 38058
901-840-4776



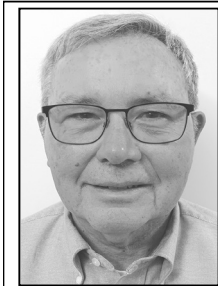
COVINGTON
887 Hwy 51 Covington, TN
901.476.1540

MUNFORD/ATOKA
10921 Hwy 51 Atoka, TN
901.837.9526



Covington Funeral Home
Magnolia Gardens Cemetery

3499 Highway 51 South P.O. Box 791
Covington, TN 38019 (901) 476-3757
www.covingtonfuneralhome.com



Gilt Edge church of Christ

10726 Highay 59 W., Burlison, TN
901-609-4748

by Rick Huffman, Elder

It Goes Both Ways

Some years ago, Toby Keith had a hit song entitled “I Wanna Talk about Me”. The song was about his girlfriend who talked about herself all the time with the emphasis on “all”. In desperation, he says, “You know talking about you makes me smile but every once in a while, I want to talk about me”. All of us have had our share of one sided conversations where we cannot get a word in edge ways unless the speaker has to pause to catch his breath like a diver coming up for air. We all have acquaintances whose favorite subject is themselves and whose conversation is filled with first person singular pronouns such as “I”, “me”, “my” and “mine”.

Communication is a two way street. For communication to be effective, it has to go both ways. Each party needs to talk (which few of us have a problem with) but we also need to listen (which sometimes we do not do) and let the other fellow talk. Often we struggle with listening, particularly with paying attention to what we are hearing. We are too busy thinking about what we are going to say next.

I heard this a few years ago: “Nobody ever learned anything while talking”. I have thought about that statement a lot and have come to the conclusion that it is true. To learn something, we have to receive information or instruction.

We cannot do that while/if we are talking. If we want to learn, we must listen. “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath” (James 1:19)

Communication with God is imperative if we are to make it to Heaven. God speaks to us today but not as some suppose nor as He did in the past. During the Patriarchal Age, God spoke directly to the fathers (patriarchs) such as Adam (Genesis 2:16-17), Noah (Genesis 6:13-14), Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3), Moses (Exodus 3:1-12) and others. God then spoke to Israel through Moses (and by the law given Moses at Mt. Sinai) and the prophets. Today we speaks through His Son, “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds” (Hebrews 1:1-2).

How does Jesus speak to us today? It is through His Word, the Bible. Jesus told His disciples that He was sending the Spirit to “guide you into all truth” (John 16:13). The disciples (apostles) and others of the first century, who were given the gift of prophecy (I Corinthians 12:8-11) by the laying on of the apostles’ hands (Acts 8:14-18), were inspired. This enabled them to inerrantly write

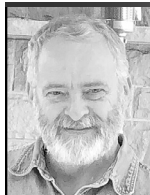
down God’s word. “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:21). The end of prophecy (and miracles) came as Paul predicted (I Corinthians 13:8-13) when that which is perfect, a reference to God’s word, came (James 1:25.) By the time Jude writes, he maintained that the gospel (the faith) had been once delivered (Jude 3). Peter says we now have all things that pertain to live and godliness (II Peter 1:3). In some of the last words in the Bible, John warns us not to change God’s word by adding to it (some falsely claimed new revelation) nor taking away from it (Revelation 22:18-19). Paul explains that the scripture, the Bible, does everything we need. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2Timothy 3:16-17).

Communication with God consists of two parts as does any communication. Both parties must speak to each other and both parties must listen to each other. God speaks to me through His Word. I speak to Him through prayer with Jesus as my intercessor (I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:14-16).

How does the breakdown in communication between

us and God occur? I can only speak for myself. I do not know about others but spiritually speaking, I do a lot more praying (speaking) than I do listening to (reading) God’s Word. Praying and praying often is required (I Thessalonians 5:17), but failure to study (listen) can be a fatal flaw. “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2Timothy 2:15). Maybe God gets tired of my telling Him all the time what I need which often is something I want and not a true need (I Timothy 6:7-8; Hebrews 13:5). Maybe I am like the ones the Hebrew writer writes about whose spiritual immaturity shows they had not been listening to (studying) God’s word. “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe” (Hebrews 5:12-13). Maybe God is trying to tell me what Toby told his girlfriend, “I want to talk about me”. Maybe I need to be more like Samuel who said, “Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth” (I Samuel 3:9).

Is Christianity a Copycat?



IS GOD DEAD?

Dr. Ty B. Kerley

Is Christianity just a copycat religion? Many critics answer, “Yes,” and argue that much of the Old Testament is nothing more than rewritings of Ancient Near Eastern myth. One particular reason they answer yes is that the biblical story of the Great Flood in Genesis is not the original story, they say, but is, in fact, a copy of the much older flood tale from the Babylonian Epic of Gilgamesh. Sure enough, The Epic of Gilgamesh, written in about 1800 BC, predates the Genesis account by some 1,000 years! Not only that, the similarities between the Genesis flood story and the Gilgamesh flood story are striking: in both stories, there

is a divine commitment to destroy almost all of mankind; there is a focus on one wise and righteous man destined to survive the flood; both stories involve the building of an ark which is described in detail; animals are brought on board to preserve the species; the hero of the story sends out birds to see if they can find dry land; after the floodwater subsides sacrifices are made by the hero to mend mankind’s relationship with the divine; and finally, the survivors repopulate the earth. Sound familiar?

To further their argument, skeptics point to Mesopotamian scholars like Louise Pryke, who claim, “We actually have the smoking gun. . . Archeologists have found bits of The Epic of Gilgamesh all over ancient Israel. It looks like Gilgamesh was in broad circulation at the time.” Do you suppose Moses knew this? Could it be that the Christian story of the Flood

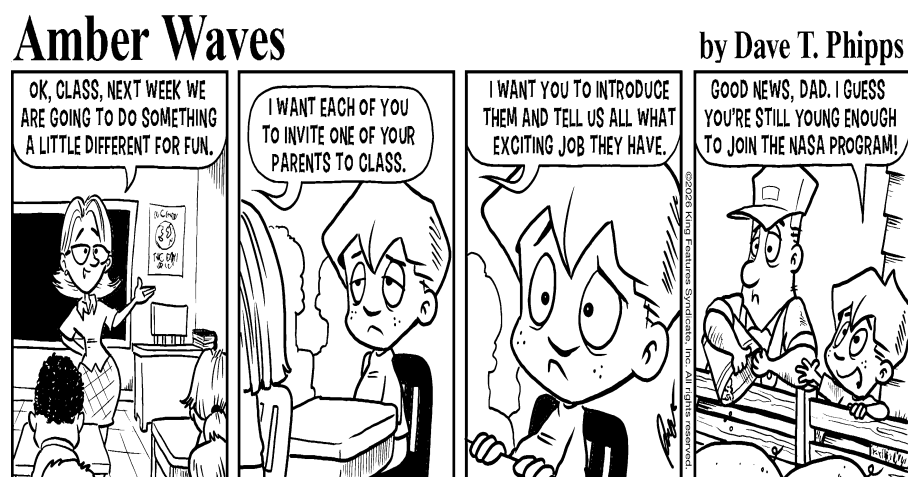
in Genesis is actually the ancient Babylonian flood story copied by Moses into the Pentateuch and incorporated into the Hebrew Bible? That is what the critics say. But the Gilgamesh story is not really the beginning of the story either. In 1985, Irving Finkel, at the British Museum, discovered a very similar ancient flood story written in Sumerian on a clay tablet fragment that had been recovered from the same region. Similar to the Gilgamesh and Genesis flood stories, a hero named Atrahasis is commanded to build an ark and to prepare for a devastating flood. It turns out this flood story is even older than Gilgamesh! That makes at least three ancient flood stories, all originating out of Mesopotamia. All are relaying very similar details. What are we to make of this? Is one of the ancient pillars of Christian belief just a widely told myth? And if so, is Christianity just a copycat religion

after all? These are powerful questions, and they certainly warrant our consideration.

It turns out there are hundreds of flood stories from around the world. Sure enough, stories of The Great Flood can be found on every continent and in nearly every culture, from Alaska to Africa, Canada to India, Europe to the Americas, and many more in between. Similar to the three Mesopotamian flood accounts, almost all accounts from around the world have the same base characteristics: an angry deity determined to destroy the world and all life in it by flood and a hero, along with a few others, who survives to repopulate the post-diluvian world. So, from where does the story originate? The interesting thing is this: these flood stories are all too similar to have had independent origins. That is to say, somewhere back up the

SEE COPYCAT, PAGE A7

**We’re looking for
people interested
in sharing their
messages of faith and
spirituality with our
readers! Submit your
columns to us for
possible publication
(at no charge!) via
email at [adrianna@
magicvalleypublishing.
com](mailto:adrianna@magicvalleypublishing.com) Call 901-476-7116
for more information.**



Weekly SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆ HOO BOY!

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

[illegible]

FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

GIW
WEPORD
AILEK
PEKL
WULOAT
♥ ADW
♥ AEGP
DALPI
♥ RKI
KADLET
ROLGW
♥ ERWE

©2026 King Features Syndicate. All rights reserved.

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Sheepish
"Hello!"

4 Out of control

8 Regretted

12 U.S. Navy
vessel

13 — Crunch
(breakfast
cereal)

14 Singer
Guthrie

15 Mel of base-
ball

16 Manitoba
tribe

17 The same

18 Cold-hardy
salad veggie

21 Whatever
amount

22 Green shade

23 Kick out

26 Send elec-
tronically

27 Extinct bird

30 Sunrise direc-
tion

31 Future flower

32 Border on

33 Tippy

34 A Bobbsey
twin

35 Dish

36 Cat's coat

37 Three, in
Rome

38 Young per-
son, meta-
phorically

45 Mideast air-
line

46 Bern's river

24 Actress
Longoria

48 Lighten

49 Wall St.
debuts

50 Profit

51 Times Sq.
force

52 Salamander

53 Hosp. areas

DOWN

1 Gust

2 Wine region

3 Envelope abbr.

4 Emphasize

5 Tie the knot

6 Autobahn

7 Skateboard-
er's protection

8 Indian yogurt
dish

9 Language of
Pakistan

10 Power co.
supply

11 Stadium top

19 Diplomacy

20 — -Mex cui-
sine

23 Long, skinny
fish

24 — alai

25 Proposal fig.

26 Gaiety

27 CEO's
degree, often

28 Chic no more

29 Chowd down

31 Shopper's
quest

32 Novelist
Waugh

34 Mother
Teresa, for
one

35 Mass cele-
brant

36 Mailed a tax
return

37 Toss

38 Beheld

39 Stage show

40 Grate

41 Superhero's
garment

42 Vegas game

43 Always

44 D.C. baseball
team

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

STICKLESTICKERS [sic].

by Terry Stickels

Two of the four figures below will fold into the prism shown in the middle.

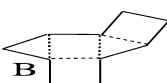
Which two?



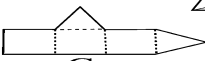
A



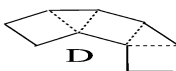
B



C



D



©2026 King Features Syndicate



SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Student

_ _ _ _

_ _ _ _

Rural

_ _ _ _

_ _ _ _

Slime

_ _ _ _

_ _ _ _

Anarchy

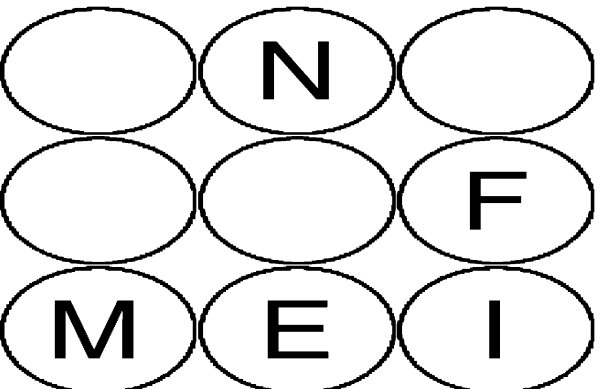
_ _ _ _

_ _ _ _

TODAY'S WORD

"I'll have the chef's special and no need to hurry — unless you want a _____!"

WORD SPIRAL



Fill in the missing letters to reveal the nine-letter word that starts at one of the four corners and moves clockwise around the perimeter before ending in the center.

©2026 King Features Syndicate

Sticklers Answer

The U.S. states are Washington, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine.

Word Spiral

Answer

BACKBOARD

Thank you to our Activity Page Sponsors!



**Tipton County Board
of Education**

**First Utility
District**

Highway 59 W.
Covington, TN

901-476-0714



SECURITY BANK
AND TRUST COMPANY

securitybanktn.com

Member
FDIC



EQUAL HOUSING
LENDER

Want to keep the fun going every week? Become a sponsor! Call 476-7116 for details.

Alma Jean Whitmore
July 13, 1952 -
August 4, 2026

Funeral Services were Saturday, August 15, 2026, with viewing from 10:00 - 10:55 prior to service at 11:00 am at Williamson Chapel M B Church with burial in the church cemetery both in Mason, TN.



Covington school cafeteria posts perfect score as classes resume
Dairy Queen of Atoka clears ice cream machine follow-up; four county inspections

COVINGTON — Austin Peay Elementary Cafeteria, 474 Academic Dr., earned a perfect score of 100 in a routine Tennessee Department of Health inspection August 12, one of four Tipton County inspections during the week of August 12 through 17.

The only item noted at the cafeteria was an expired posted permit. The report states the inspector received proof of payment that day from the director of the Tipton County Schools nutrition program and forwarded it to a supervision team for processing in Nashville, and that the permit will be emailed to the person in charge once cleared.

Dairy Queen of Atoka, 11542 Highway 51 South, scored 99 in a follow-up inspection August 14, up from 94 on August 6. The report identifies the visit as a follow-up on soft serve ice cream machine sanitation requirements, the item that drove the earlier score. One item, covering wiping cloth storage, remained marked out of compliance without written detail.

Verneces’ Flava, a mobile unit permitted at 1005 Hill Ave., Covington, scored 99 in a routine inspection August 14, cited only for no drainboards on the three-compartment sink.

Bad Boy Bakery, 804 U.S. 51 S., Covington, scored 98 in a routine inspection August 12, with no drainboards on the three-compartment sink and employee drinks with lids stored on a table with the mixer and next to a prep table.

Inspection reports are public record. Complete reports for all Tennessee establishments are available at inspections.myhealthdepartment.com/tennessee.

This Week’s Inspections at a Glance
Tipton County health inspections, August 12-17, 2026. Source: Tennessee Department of Health.

Dairy Queen of Atoka — 11542 Highway 51 South, Atoka
Food service, follow-up, August 14 — Score: 99 (up from 94 on August 6)
Item marked out of compliance, no detail given: wiping cloths properly used and stored.
Comment: follow-up for Item #14, soft serve ice cream machine sanitation requirements.

Verneces’ Flava (mobile unit) — 1005 Hill Ave., Covington
Food service, routine, August 14 — Score: 99
No drainboards on three-compartment sink.

Austin Peay Elementary Cafeteria — 474 Academic Dr., Covington
Food service, routine, August 12 — Score: 100
Posted permit is expired. Inspector received proof of payment from the director of the Tipton County Schools nutrition program and forwarded it for processing; permit to be emailed to the person in charge once cleared.

Bad Boy Bakery — 804 U.S. 51 S., Covington
Food service, routine, August 12 — Score: 98
No drainboards on three-compartment sink.
Employee drinks with lids stored on table with mixer and next to prep table.

RIPLEY TERRACE APARTMENTS
AFFORDABLE RENT
227 Volz Rd
Ripley, TN 38063
731-634-5449

Monday thru Friday, 8 am to 5pm
1 & 2 bedroom apartments available.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ROLLING HILLS APARTMENTS
AFFORDABLE RENT
219 Volz Rd
Ripley, TN 38063
731-634-0192

Monday thru Friday, 8 am to 5pm
1 & 2 bedroom apartments available.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

SURREYWOOD APARTMENTS I
AFFORDABLE RENT
74 Birchwood Dr.
Munford, TN 38058
901-837-0087

Monday thru Friday, 8 am to 5pm
1 & 2 bedroom apartments available.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

SURREYWOOD APARTMENTS II
AFFORDABLE RENT
74 Birchwood Dr.
Munford, TN 38058
901-837-0087

Monday thru Friday, 8 am to 5pm
1 & 2 bedroom apartments available.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Common questions after a crash that wasn’t your fault



Mr. Peel seeks justice for those injured in tractor-trailer and car accidents, medical malpractice, and disability. He often addresses churches, clubs, and groups without charge. Mr. Peel may be reached through PeelLawFirm.com wherein other articles may be accessed.

Being injured in a car accident you didn’t cause is stressful and confusing. You may get ambulance chasers or clinics calling you, and that is unethical and annoying.

Here are answers to the questions most people ask

in the days and weeks that follow.

What should I do right after the crash? Prioritize safety and documentation. Move to a safe location if possible, call 911, and request medical help. Exchange information with the other driver, take photos of the vehicles, and get contact details from witnesses. Do NOT assume police will do so.

Should I see a doctor if I feel okay? Yes. Adrenaline often masks injuries. That’s a God given gift. But damage, concussions, and other problems may not appear for hours or days. Prompt medical evaluation creates a clear record linking your injuries to the crash and protects your health

Do I need a lawyer?

Not every minor fender-bender requires one, but you should consult an attorney if you have significant injuries, disputed fault, limited insurance coverage, or pressure from the other driver’s insurer. An experienced personal injury lawyer can handle communications, preserve evidence, and pursue full compensation while you focus on recovery.

Should I give a recorded statement to the other driver’s insurance? Generally, no. You are not required to. Adjusters are trained to gather statements that can later be used to minimize or deny your claim. Refer them to your attorney instead.

What compensation can I recover? You may be entitled to medical expenses (past and future), lost wages, property damage, pain and suffering, and in some cases loss of enjoyment of life. Tennessee law gives you one year from the date of the accident to file a personal injury lawsuit, so acting sooner rather than later is important.

Will this raise my insurance rates? A reported

crash, especially as a not at fault motorist, is not a problem. In fact, state law protects you from rate increases or cancellations for using your uninsured/underinsured motorists (UM/UIM).

Every case is different. Document everything, seek medical care, and speak with a qualified personal injury attorney early so you understand your options and protect your rights.

Mr. Peel seeks justice for those injured in truck, motorcycle and car crashes. He often addresses churches, clubs and groups without charge. Mr. Peel may be reached through PeelLawFirm.com wherein other articles may be accessed.

David B. Peel
PEEL LAW FIRM

Oldenway Manor
Historic Arlington Depot Square
11982 Mott St.
Arlington Tn 38002
Peellawfirm.com
901 872 4229
901 872 4272 fax

LEFTOVER 2026 WMA HUNT, WATERFOWL BLIND PERMITS AVAILABLE

NASHVILLE — The [Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency \(TWRA\)](https://TennesseeWildlifeResourcesAgency.org) is announcing that leftover permits will be available for the 2026 Wildlife Management Area (WMA) big game fall quota hunts and season-long waterfowl blind permits.

Leftover WMA big game permits will go on sale on a first-come, first-served basis on Wednesday, Aug. 19 at 8 a.m. (CDT). These can be purchased online at gooutdoorstennessee.com, on the TWRA Mobile App, or at any TWRA license agent.

LEFTOVER WMA PERMITS

Location	Device Type	Dates	Total Available
Catoosa WMA-Genesis 1 antlered deer	Muzzleloader	Oct. 29-31	100
Cheatham WMA 2 deer, 1 antlered, 1 antlerless	Muzzleloader	Nov. 6-8	79
Cheatham WMA 2 deer, 1 antlered, 1 antlerless	Gun	Nov. 21-28	125
Prentice Cooper State Forest 2 deer, no more than 1 antlered (bonus)	Archery	Sept. 19-21	27

The season-long waterfowl blind permits can be obtained by visiting one of the following draw sites: the TWRA Region I office in Jackson for Camden and Reelfoot, and the TWRA Region II office in Nashville for Old Hickory Units. The draw will be held at 9 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 24.

LEFTOVER SEASON-LONG WATERFOWL BLIND PERMITS

Location	Sites
Camden Unit 1	119
Old Hickory Unit 1	49, 89, 92, 104, 77
Old Hickory Unit 2	9
Reelfoot	RD74

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is responsible for protecting, managing, and conserving fish and wildlife species for the benefit of Tennesseans and visitors. The Agency also maintains public safety through law enforcement and safety education on waterways.

TWFC MEETING SET FOR AUGUST 20-21 IN NASHVILLE

NASHVILLE --- The [Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission](https://TennesseeFishandWildlifeCommission.org) will return to the [Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency’s](https://TennesseeWildlifeResourcesAgency.org) Region II Ray Bell Building in Nashville for its Aug. 20-21 meeting. The committee meetings begin Thursday, Aug. 20, at 1 p.m., with full Commission proceedings continuing Friday at 9 a.m. To watch both days of the meeting, visit the [TWRA YouTube Channel](https://TWRAYouTubeChannel.org).

Among the agenda items will be a presentation of the 2027-28 TWRA budget for review on Thursday, with the vote on Friday. Also, at this meeting, the Commission will consider any adjustments needed to the 2026-27 budget.

Commissioner and Audit Committee Chair Ford Little will present a Federally Assisted Program Civil Rights Review. Conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior and recently completed by TWRA, the review found that the TWRA complies with applicable federal civil rights requirements. The review recognized strengths, including free Hunter and Boater Education courses, effective recruitment, and the integration of ADA reviews into routine facility inspections.

The TWRA will present two rules for Commission action. One is the new license and permit structure designed to reduce the complexity of licensing options. This license structure will be very similar to the amended version that was previously proposed to the Commission and the Government Operations Committee. The other rule concerns new fees for TWRA shooting ranges and hunter education centers.

Fisheries Division Assistant Chief Travis Scott will give a report on the [Tennessee Black Bass Management Plan](https://TennesseeBlackBassManagementPlan.org). The plan is a comprehensive plan developed to guide black bass management from 2027-36. A Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) was created late last year.

A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) consisting of TWRA staff and outside experts developed the objectives and strategies to meet stakeholder goals. The plan will be finalized in October 2026.

Additionally, award presentations will take place on Friday, which will include the annual Boating Officer of the Year, part-time Boating Officer of the Year, Boating Education of the Year, and Boating and Law Enforcement Dispatcher of the Year awards. In addition, resolutions honoring former TFWC Commissioner Tony Sanders and Lt. Gov. Randy McNally will be made.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is responsible for protecting, managing, and conserving fish and wildlife species for the benefit of Tennesseans and visitors. The Agency also maintains public safety through law enforcement and safety education on waterways.

COPYCAT From A5

line, there was a first story, a uniquely original Great Flood story. Flood researcher and writer Charles Martin posits the correct question: “How can we account for these common threads unless we admit that the stories all originate from the same source?” An original story of a Great Flood from which all other stories are cultural modifications added to the original.

Anthropologists have long agreed that mankind originated and migrated “out of Africa” into ancient Mesopotamia’s “cradle of civilization.” This fact, coupled with the fact that the three oldest flood accounts (Sumerian, Gilgamesh, and Genesis) originated in the cradle of civilization, leads to the ready conclusion that one of these stories must be the origin of most all universal flood stories. Although the Sumerian flood story is the oldest existing story, that does not mean it is necessarily the oldest (original) of all Great Flood stories. Since the transmission of all three accounts undoubtedly began as oral traditions handed down through the generations, some insight can be gained by comparing these three stories for plausibility. Martin notes a couple of strong, irreconcilable differences between the stories, and it is in light of these conditions some significant determinations of plausibility can be made.

Join us next time as we explore these substantial and irreconcilable differences between the Genesis Flood account and the older Gilgamesh and Sumerian flood stories. Until then, what is written upon your heart? Is God dead?

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Ty B. Kerley, DMin., is an ordained minister who teaches Christian apologetics and relief preaches in Southern Oklahoma. Dr. Kerley and his wife, Vicki, are members of the Waurika church of Christ, and live in Ardmore, OK. You can contact him at dr.kerley@isGoddead.com.

LEGALS

ADVERTISEMENT
FOR BIDS

Separate sealed bids for Tipton County Farmers Market Phase II will be received by Jeff Huffman, County Executive, at Tipton County Government, 103 E. Pleasant Avenue, Covington, TN 38019, until 10:00 a.m. on September 4, 2026, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

Any person with disability requiring special accommodations must contact the Tipton County Government no later than 7 days prior to the bid opening. Bids must be submitted with envelope label (provided in the bid documents) affixed to the front of the envelope.

The project consist of the construction of a wood truss farmers market pavilion and associated concrete foundation and building pad. Also included in the project will be the construction of post-tensioned concrete pickle-ball courts, fencing, court coating, concrete curbing, flagpole, and electronic monument sign. A new entrance drive that aligns with Portersville Road will also be part of the construction project.

All bid documents may be examined at the following:

1. Tipton County Government, 103 E. Pleasant Avenue, Covington, TN 38019.
2. A2H, Inc., 65 Germantown Ct, Suite 300, Memphis, TN 38018, www.a2hplanroom.com.
3. Builders Exchange, 642 South Cooper, Memphis, TN 38104, www.memphisbx.com.
4. West TN Plans Room, 439 Airways Blvd., Jackson, TN 38301, www.wtplanroom.com.

Electronic files may be downloaded free of charge from the A2H Planroom at www.a2hplanroom.com. Hard copy sets of plans and specifications will also be available for purchase on the planroom at the contractor's expense. For questions regarding obtaining the plans and specifications, please email Laurie Smith, Project Coordinator at lauries@a2h.com.

PLEASE NOTE: Official plan holders list will only be the list maintained by A2H, Inc. It is the sole responsibility of all plan holders, whether they have received digital downloads or paper copies of the plans and specifications, to periodically to check for Addenda which may have been posted on the A2H Planroom at www.a2hplanroom.com.

A bid bond or certified check for five percent (5%) of the total bid amount must accompany each bid. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond in the amount of his bid and shall, before entering on the work of said contract, be licensed as a contractor of Tipton County Government.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on August 27, 2026 at Tipton County Public Works, 8279 Highway 51, Brighton, TN 38011.

The owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids.

Jeff Huffman
County Executive
Tipton County Government

NOTICE OF
COMPLETION

Chris-Hill Construction

Co., LLC, of Memphis, TN is completing construction on the TDEC ARPA Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project No.: 2022-8772 for the City of Covington. Any person or party having a claim against the project should notify Mayor Jan Hensley at City Hall (901) 476-9613 within the next ten (10) days.

ADVERTISEMENT
FOR BIDS

Brighton High School is currently soliciting sealed bids for the production of the 2027 Brighton High School Yearbook. The project specifications include 11-inch pages, a print run of 400 copies, 100 lb. paper stock, full color throughout, and 160 pt. cover board. The design will feature a school-designed cover with embossing and hot foil lamination, rounded and custom end sheets utilizing process color variations from front to back. To obtain further information, interested parties should contact Aubrey Drenner or Morgan Kidd at 901-840-9400. Sealed bids must be delivered to Brighton High School, 8045 Highway 51 South, Brighton, TN 38011, where they will be opened and read at 9:00 a.m. on August 21, 2026.

The school administration reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities or irregularities in the bidding process.

Brian Crowson
Principal
Brighton High School

SUBSTITUTE TRUST-
EE'S NOTICE OF SALE

Sale at public auction will be on September 15, 2026 at 11:00 AM local time, at the at the Tipton County Courthouse, 100 Court Square, Covington, TN 38019 pursuant to Deed of Trust executed by Shannon David George and Wendy Kay George, a married couple, to Tim Williams, Trustee for, 21st Mortgage Corporation on January 2, 2024 at Record Book 2025, Page 114; conducted by Crawford & von Keller, LLC having been appointed Substitute or Successor Trustee, all of record in the Tipton County Register's Office. Default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms and conditions of said Deed of Trust and the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable.

Party Entitled to Enforce the Debt: 21st Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns

The real estate located in Tipton County, Tennessee, and described in the said Deed of Trust will be sold to the highest call bidder. The terms of the said Deed of Trust may be modified by other instruments appearing in the public record. Additional identifying information regarding the collateral property is below and is believed to be accurate, but no representation or warrant is intended.

Property description: Abbreviated description per T.C.A. § 35-5-104(a) (2) is the property referenced and described fully in the Deed of Trust referenced above and commonly known as 136 Junior Drive, Covington, TN 38019. Pursuant to T.C.A. § 47-9-604 this sale shall include the affixed manufactured home described as a 2024 SEH Farm-

house, 27'x48' manufactured home bearing VIN/Serial No.

RUS086184ALABAC.

Tax Map Identification No.: Ctrl Map 51M, Group B, Parcel 3.00 (However, the property description shall control in the event of any inconsistencies between the description and address or tax identification number).

Current Owner(s) of Property: Shannon David George and Wendy Kay George

This sale is subject to, without limitations, all matters shown on any applicable recorded plat; any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easement, or setback lines that may be applicable; and statutory right of redemption of any governmental agency, state of federal; any prior liens or encumbrances including those created by a figure filing or any applicable homeowners' association dues or assessments; all claims or other matters, whether of record or not, which may encumber the purchaser's title and any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose.

This Substitute Trustees' Notice of Sale can also be found online at the website ForeclosureTennessee.com.

The following parties may claim an interest in the above-referenced property to be affected by the foreclosure: any judgment creditor or lien holder with an interest subordinate to the said Deed of Trust of any party claiming by, though, or under any of the foregoing. Such parties known to the Substitute Trustee may include: Any recorded judgment creditor(s) or lien holder(s) subordinate to the Deed of Trust: None.

Terms of Sale will be public auction, for cash, free and clear of rights of homestead, redemption and dower to the extent disclaimed or inapplicable, and the rights of Shannon David George and Wendy Kay George, a married couple, and those claiming through him/her/it/them.

Any right of equity or redemption, statutory and otherwise, and homestead are waived in accord with the terms of said Deed of Trust, and the title is believed to be good, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Substitute Trustee.

The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day, time, and place certain without further publication, upon announcement a the time and place for the sale set forth above. If you purchase a property at the foreclosure sale, the entire purchase price is due and payable at the conclusion of the auction in the form of a certified/bank check made payable to or endorsed to Crawford & von Keller, LLC. No personal checks will be accepted. To this end, you must bring sufficient funds to outbid the lender and any other bidders. Insufficient funds will not be accepted. Amounts received in excess of the winning bid will be refunded to the successful purchaser at the time the foreclosure deed is delivered.

This property is being sold with the express reservation that the sale is subject to confirmation by the lender or trustee. The sale may be rescinded only by the Substitute Trustee at any time. If the Substitute Trustee rescinds the sale, the purchase shall only be entitled to a return of any

money paid towards the purchase price and shall have no other recourse. Once the purchaser tenders the purchase price, the Substitute Trustee may deem the sale final in which case the purchaser shall have no remedy. The real property will be sold AS IS, WHERE IS, with no warranties or representation of any kind, express or implied, including without limitation, warranties regarding condition of the property or marketability of title.

This office may be a debt collector. This may be an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained may be used for that purpose.

Crawford & von Keller, LLC
Substitute Trustee
501 Corporate Centre Drive
Suite 570
Franklin, TN 37067
Phone: (615) 807-0939
Fax: (615) 807-0949
File No. 16856-26-0021 2wp

Tipton County
Chancery Court

1801 South College Street Covington, TN 38019- 0087 (901)476-0209

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS

As Required by TCA §30-2-306
Case Number PR-5056
Estate of JAMES W. HAYDEN, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on June 23 of 2026 Letters Testamentary (or of Administration as the case may be) in respect of the estate of JAMES W. HAYDEN, who died 5/20/2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Tipton County Chancery Court of Tipton County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this

(2) notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors, if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or
Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

JO ANNA HAYDEN-GARBER
Executor, Administrator, Personal Representative
JOHN ROBERT WHITE
Attorney
Gina Smith, Clerk & Master

Clerk & Master/ Deputy Clerk personally appeared before me, the undersigned Clerk of Tipton County Chancery Court of Tipton County, Tennessee, and made oath that the attached notice, being in the form required by Tennessee Code Annotated §30-2-306 shall be published in the The Leader, a newspaper published in Tipton County, Tennessee on and.

13Aug2wp

Tipton County Chan-
cery Court

1801 South College Street Covington, TN 38019- 0087 (901)476-0209

NOTICE TO CREDI-
TORS

As Required by TCA §30-2-306
Case Number PR-5068
Estate of LARRY KEITH KINNEY, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on July 16 of 2026 Letters Testamentary (or of Administration as the case may be) in respect of the estate of LARRY KEITH KINNEY, who died 4/16/2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Tipton County Chancery Court of

Tipton County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are

required to file the same with the Clerk of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2)

otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this

(2) notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before date that is four (4)

months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors, if the creditor

received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or
Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

HALEY KELLY
Executor, Administrator, Personal Representative
WILLIAM WOOTEN
Attorney
GINA SMITH, CLERK & MASTER
Clerk & Master/ Deputy Clerk

personally appeared before me, the undersigned Clerk of Tipton County Chancery Court of Tipton County, Tennessee, and made oath that the attached notice, being in the form required by Tennessee Code Annotated §30-2-306 shall be published in the The Leader, a newspaper published in Tipton County, Tennessee on and.

13Aug2wp

Tipton County
Chancery Court

1801 South College Street Covington, TN 38019- 0087 (901)476-0209

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS

As Required by TCA §30-2-306
Case Number PR-5054
Estate of Josephine Dixon, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on June 16 of 2026 Letters Testamentary (or of Administration as the case may be) in respect of the estate of Josephine Dixon, who died 5/10/2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Tipton County Chancery Court of Tipton County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of

the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this (2) notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors, if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or
Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

Tina Grosnick
Executor, Administrator, Personal Representative
WILLIAM A. WOOTEN
Attorney
Gina Smith, Clerk and Master

Clerk & Master/ Deputy Clerk

personally appeared before me, the undersigned Clerk of Tipton County Chancery Court of Tipton County, Tennessee, and made oath that the attached notice, being in the form required by Tennessee Code Annotated §30-2-306 shall be published in the The Leader, a newspaper published in Tipton County, Tennessee on and.

13Aug2wp

Tipton County
Chancery Court

1801 South College Street Covington, TN 38019- 0087 (901)476-0209

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS

As Required by TCA §30-2-306

Case Number PR-5070
Estate of DEBBIE DARLENE TRAVIS, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on July 27 of 2026 Letters Testamentary (or of Administration as the case may be) in respect of the estate of DEBBIE DARLENE TRAVIS, who died 5/5/2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Tipton County Chancery Court of Tipton County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors, if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

SCOTTY MCDIVITT
Executor, Administrator, Personal Representative

Higher Education

UT MARTIN CLASSES BEGIN AUG. 24 FOR 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

MARTIN, Tenn. — Fall 2026 classes at the University of Tennessee at Martin will begin Monday, Aug. 24, with a slate of events scheduled at the main campus to welcome students for the new academic year.

Welcome Weekend will begin Thursday, Aug. 20, as students return to campus during “Move-In Mania.” Other welcome-back events include the Welcome Home Picnic that will begin at 5 p.m. Thursday on the lawns between Conner Community and Ellington Hall.

UT Martin is putting a fresh spin on tradition this fall with the debut of First Flight Frenzy, a reimagined welcoming event replacing the university’s former convocation ceremony.

“Designed to give incoming students an energetic and interactive introduction to campus life, First Flight Frenzy will bring new Skyhawks together to

meet campus leaders, participate in hands-on games and activities, and build school spirit as they begin their journey at UTM,” said Benjamin Ort, director of First Year Experience.

“The event reflects the university’s commitment to creating meaningful, engaging experiences that help students feel connected to the Skyhawk community from their very first days on campus.”

First Flight Frenzy will take place at 10 a.m., Friday, Aug. 21, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

A list of all welcome-back events for students can be found on the UT Martin First-Year Experience website.

Additional opening fall semester activities will follow during the first week of classes, including the third Skyhawk Palooza, sponsored by Leaders Credit Union. The event will take place Thursday, Aug. 27,

in Veterans Park adjacent to Hardy M. Graham Stadium. Skyhawk Palooza will begin at 4 p.m. and includes food trucks, games, face painting and inflatables. The public is invited.

The Skyhawk football team then kicks off its 2026 season at 6:30 p.m. against the University of Central Arkansas in Graham Stadium. A fireworks extravaganza after the game will help bring the university’s year-long 125th anniversary celebration to a close.

UT Martin classes are offered at the main campus and the university’s six regional centers at Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer, Somerville and Springfield. More information about the opening of fall semester classes can be found at www.utm.edu.

Learn more about Skyhawk athletics, including ticket information, at www.utmssports.com.



BACK TO SCHOOL — Fall 2026 classes at the University of Tennessee at Martin will begin Monday, Aug. 24, with a slate of events scheduled at the main campus to welcome students for the new academic year. Learn more at www.utm.edu.



UT Martin rising senior Seth Edwards is shown at the TEST Hub construction site, working with his project manager, JT Donovan, as they go over base plate patterns to set piers.



UT Martin rising senior Seth Edwards is shown taking a measurement to align the base plate pattern in the pier. Edwards said he is considering a career as a construction project manager.

UT MARTIN STUDENT GETS CONSTRUCTION EXPERIENCE ON CAMPUS

MARTIN, Tenn. — Imagine taking part in an internship where you can use your knowledge, learn more real-world career information and be part of your university’s growth. Seth Edwards did just that.

Edwards is a rising senior construction management major from Clarksburg with a minor in business, and over the summer, he had an internship with Barger Construction, which is building the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Tennessee Entrepreneurial Science and Technology (TEST) Hub on the west side of the campus near the Student Recreation Center.

The TEST Hub is a \$19 million facility that will combine educational facilities, entrepreneurial centers and manufacturing workshops surrounding a shared industrial makerspace.

The TEST Hub will also be the new home for the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center. The REED Center assists existing and potential business owners through one-on-one consultations and interactive training programs.

Edwards began his internship with Barger in April, the day that construction began for the TEST Hub.

“I was going to class, getting out of class, going to work, going home, eating supper, doing homework and doing it all again the next day — and I enjoyed it,” he said.

A former football player at West Carroll High



UT Martin rising senior Seth Edwards directs the concrete truck operator where to move the chute to pour concrete while working the TEST Hub site at UT Martin.

School, Edwards was a quarterbacks student assistant with the UT Martin football team when he first came to campus.

“I enjoyed that,” he said. “My parents always believed that anything you do, you can learn something from. I might not be a coach, but I learned the management part. Like, if I’m talking with 100 players, I know a little bit about everybody.”

“It’s the same thing when I go out to a job site. There might not be 100 people,

but I learned how to talk to people and get to know people when I helped with football, and I learned responsibility. As an intern at Barger working with a big project, it’s not as nerve-racking because I had learned about working with people and responsibility.”

At the TEST Hub site, Edwards works with the superintendent, which keeps him involved in several aspects of the project, including working with the different trade people, like plumbers, carpenters and

electricians.

“The superintendent does a little bit of everything,” he said. “We’re making sure that when the trades come on-site, they can do their work. For example, we do our own rebar work that we use. I have to make sure that none of those materials are in the way of the plumbers.”

“If somebody comes on-site and they have to sit there and not do any work because of something like that, it’s just wasted money because you still have to

pay them for their time.”

Edwards said he felt fortunate to work on the TEST Hub site as an intern. Much of the TEST Hub deals with engineering, and construction management is a major in the UT Martin Department of Engineering.

“When they asked me if I wanted to work on the TEST Hub project, I said I did because I knew it was a bigger project,” he said. “It was for UT Martin, and it has ties to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), so I know what

some of the materials might be, and that’s pretty cool.”

Edwards said he eventually wants to be a construction project manager after graduation, but he wants to get there one step at a time.

“I want to start out as a superintendent or assistant superintendent,” he said. “I want to be in the field for a while. I want to learn the different trades because I feel like to become a project manager — making out schedules with the different trades — I want to be able to relate more.”

“So, I want to be in the field more — maybe 10 years or so — and get different projects under my belt before I become a project manager.”

Edwards said he enjoys construction because the workers are able to see their work from start to finish and beyond that.

“When we first started the TEST Hub, we built a big hill,” he said. “It was just digging dirt, moving dirt, bringing in dirt, bringing in gravel — that kind of thing. Now, we look at it, and we have the building pad and other things.”

“You can look back and remember the work you’ve done and see where you are and, one day, when the building’s done, you can say, ‘I built that. I was a part of that.’ You can see the work you’ve put in.”

Edwards plans to graduate next May.

For more information about UT Martin, visit www.utm.edu or call 1-800-829-UTM1 (-8861).

Extreme heat forces cancellation of final Food, Family & Fun Night

Main Street Covington has canceled the final Food, Family & Fun Night of the summer because of extreme heat and humidity.

Organizers announced the decision Tuesday, saying the safety and comfort of families, animals, food truck operators and volunteers had to come first.

“With the excessive heat, we feel this is the best decision for everyone,” Main Street Covington said in announcing the

cancellation.

The summer series had brought families to the Depot District for food trucks, games, animals and other activities throughout the season.

Organizers thanked residents who attended the events, as well as vendors, volunteers and downtown businesses that helped make the gatherings possible.

“Thank you to everyone who came out this summer,

grabbed dinner from our food truck, played games, enjoyed the animals, brought the family, and helped make our first Main Street Food, Family & Fun Nights such a wonderful community gathering,” the organization said.

Main Street Covington encouraged residents to stay cool and said additional downtown events and activities will be announced in the future.

Special Announcements Are

Share important milestones of you and your families' life with those in your community!

Engagements

Weddings

Anniversaries

Births

Graduations

Retirements

Class Reunions

Family Reunions

Military Service

Highlights

Church Events

Sports

Submit your special announcements today!

Email to adrianna@magicvalleypublishing.com or stop by our office at 899 A Hwy 51 South Covington, TN

*Listing is free. \$35 to add photos, \$45 for color photos. Standard ad rates apply for special artwork, or size specifications.

News tip or story idea?
Call 901-476-7116

Rounding out the top

Not every sale tracked the appraisal that closely. The Jacquelyn Drive home sold for \$500,000 against an appraised value of \$460,300, while a 2022-built house on Holly Grove Road in Covington sold for \$465,000

A complete listing of July's property transfers appears elsewhere in this edition. Property transfers are a matter of public record, and prices reflect the consideration stated on the recorded instrument, which may not represent full market value.

Six are in Covington, including houses on Michael Street, E. Ripley Avenue, Winn Avenue and two adjoining properties at 319

The most valuable residential parcel in the group is 2608 McWilliams Rd. in the unincorporated county, a 1946 house appraised at \$255,700. The least is 311 E. Ripley Ave. in Covington, a 982-square-foot house built in 1948 and ap-

Property transfers are a matter of public record. A transfer carrying no stated consideration is not a sale, and the parcels' appraised values are the assessor's figures rather than any transaction price.

Most of the month's other corporate buyers were smaller and local in character. Oliver Investments LLC made two purchases of vacant land — \$45,000 for 1.36 acres on Glen Springs Road on July 17 and \$40,000 for 1.14 acres

Two of the 15 buyers were family trusts rather than investors — the Rose Revocable Living Trust, which paid \$90,000 for a Candy Lane property out of an estate, and the Gantt

Property transfers are a matter of public record. Prices reflect the consideration stated on the recorded instrument and may not represent full market value.

Lidl placed third among Tennessee respondents. The European grocery chain is known for low-priced groceries, smaller-format stores, a bakery section and a rotating selection of merchandise.

Among factors that discourage consumers from comparing eyewear prices, 28% cited loyalty or convenience.

“With 86% open to switching for a better price on the identical product, the appetite for value is clearly there,” Adeltoft said. “Shoppers just need to bring a little of that grocery-aisle bargain hunting to the way they buy eyewear.”

TKR Novelty
 Accessories, Disposable Vape, Vape Juice, E-Cigs,
 Tobacco, Beer, Cold Beverages, Cigars, Jewelry,
 Hand Bag, Purses, Backpacks, T-shirts, Lottery

887 Highway 51 South, Covington, TN 38019
 901-296-5039

887

OPEN

MONSTER
 2 FOR \$5.25

OS, BANG
 2 FOR \$5.25

C4, GHOST
 2 FOR \$5.25

Edgefield
 247

PROUDLY SOLD HERE

From A1

Chief Donna Turner said the department conducts the checks randomly through its partnership with Tipton Prevents, which fo-

“We congratulate the 18 businesses who are enforcing the laws related to the sale of alcohol in our com-

Turner said the department will continue working to promote responsible alcohol sales and ensure businesses comply with state law.

TIPTON COUNTY JAIL REPORT

The following individuals appear on the Tipton County Sheriff's Office inmate intake/release report for Aug. 9 through Aug. 15, 2026. Bond amounts are listed where the report set a dollar figure.

Deangelo Antwon Alston, 33, Covington — Failure to pay child support; evading arrest (warrant). Bond: \$7,500.

Damariz Alvarez, 32, Memphis — Driving while license cancelled, suspended or revoked (warrant). Bond: \$10,000.

Octavis Clearance Bady, 30, Covington — Simple possession/casual exchange (two counts); manufacture/delivery/sale of a controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond: \$15,000.

Tabitha Star Baskin, 39, Covington — Aggravated domestic assault. Bond: \$1,000.

Christopher Bateman, 24, Covington — Manufacture/delivery/sale/possession of methamphetamine; manufacture/delivery/sale of a controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond: \$25,000.

Brandi Kay Bower, 31, Covington — Domestic assault (two counts, one on a warrant); public intoxication. Bond: \$25,000.

Jessica Shay Boyd, 37, Drummonds — Criminal trespass; assault; disorderly conduct. Bond: \$5,000.

Richard Bradley, 29, Atoka — Threats of mass violence; assault on a first responder; disorderly conduct; civil rights intimidation; harassment/intimidation; misuse of 911. Bond: \$100,000.

Kevinis Keshun Brown, 26, Mason — Failure to appear. Bond: \$2,500.

Lea Elizabeth Ann Bryan, 26, Olive Branch, Miss. — DUI, 1st offense; driving on roadways laned for traffic; open container; violation of the implied consent law. Bond: \$10,000.

Tre'Von Joseph Burnett, 25, Covington — Theft over \$10,000; theft of vehicle parts and accessories. Bond: \$25,000.

Matthew James Cantrell, 36, Atoka — Evading arrest; simple possession/casual exchange.

Matthew Jacob Carpenter, 33, Burlison — Harassment/intimidation; stalking; domestic assault (violation of probation).

Larry Claybon, 75, Mason — Simple possession/casual exchange (Schedule VI); violation of the implied consent law; possession of drug paraphernalia; financial responsibility (no insurance); open container; DUI, 1st offense. Bond: \$5,000.

Andrew Lee Cockerell, 34, Munford — Aggravated domestic assault. Bond: \$25,000.

Anthony Paul Constable, 25, Drummonds — Domestic assault (two counts). Bond: \$25,000.

James Aaron Cooper,

48, Mason — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license (two counts).

George Cornelious, 51, Covington — Theft of property \$1,000-\$2,500 (Shelby County).

Marquiz Monte Currie, 35, Covington — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license (violation of probation). Bond: \$250.

Madison Davidson, 40, Stanton — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license; speeding. Bond: \$7,500.

Xavien Deshaun Deberry, 33, Ripley — DUI, 1st offense; simple possession/casual exchange; possession of drug paraphernalia; financial responsibility (no insurance); disregarding a stop sign. Bond: \$10,000.

Dylan Thomas Doan, 25, Memphis — Introduction of contraband into a penal institution; simple possession/casual exchange; driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license; violation of light law; seat belt law violation; driving an unregistered vehicle.

Jasmine Juwun Douglas, 33, Covington — Theft. Bond: \$2,500.

Jeremiah Cortez Douglas, 27, Memphis — Theft of a firearm (less than \$2,500).

Jerry Featherstone, 64, Stanton — Financial responsibility (no insurance); possession of drug paraphernalia; violation of registration law; possession of a firearm during the commission of a dangerous felony; manufacture/delivery/sale/possession of methamphetamine. Bond: \$25,000.

Tyrone Leon Gayden, 26, Mason — Theft of property under \$1,000 (Shelby County).

Fredrick Tyree Glass, 50, Covington — Violation of the implied consent law; driving on roadways laned for traffic; DUI, 1st offense. Bond: \$10,000.

Mallory Michelle Goad, 20, Dyersburg — Failure to appear (Dyersburg Police Department); possession of drug paraphernalia; simple possession/casual exchange (fentanyl). Bond: \$20,000.

Rodney Terrelle Gude, 37, Covington — Child endangerment; possession of drug paraphernalia; manufacture/delivery/sale of a controlled substance (Schedule II); manufacture/delivery/sale of a controlled substance (fentanyl); aggravated criminal trespass (violation of probation); failure to pay child support.

Billy Beamon Hackle, 37, Dyersburg — Driving on roadways laned for traffic; possession of drug paraphernalia; simple possession/casual exchange (fentanyl). Bond: \$20,000.

Destaynee Hammond, 22, Dyersburg — Evading arrest.

Adreiana Nicole Harris, 27, Brighton — Aggravated child abuse and neglect; child abuse/neglect/endangerment, child 8 or younger, imminent

danger; resisting arrest. Bond: \$50,000.

Marivian Rashun Heaston, 22, Covington — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license; violation of window tint laws; resisting stop, frisk, halt, arrest or search; theft of merchandise/shoplifting (\$1,000-\$2,500, violation of probation).

Preston Corday Hennings, 38, Henning — Unlawful possession of a weapon.

Charles Leon Hill Jr., 61, Memphis — DUI, 1st offense. Bond: \$15,000.

Jordan Daeshun Hill, 28, Covington — Simple possession/casual exchange (Schedule II).

Christopher Hockett, 52, Tiptonville — DUI, 1st offense.

Kelan Blake Holland, 28, Drummonds — DUI, 1st offense; evading arrest.

Terry Wayne Holland, 55, Covington — Theft of merchandise/shoplifting (\$1,000-\$2,500). Bond: \$1,500.

Ryan Benton Riley Howell, 18, Hornsby — Violation of light law; violation of registration law; financial responsibility (no insurance); manufacture/delivery/sale/possession of methamphetamine; possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond: \$30,000.

Debra Ann Ingram, 61, Brighton — DUI, 1st offense.

Stacey Andrea Jackson, 59, Covington — Driving while license cancelled, suspended or revoked; DUI, 1st offense; possession of drug paraphernalia; driving an unregistered vehicle; financial responsibility (no insurance); driving on roadways laned for traffic; violation of the implied consent law; driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license (two counts, violation of probation).

Curtis Austin Jasen, 24, Munford — Aggravated assault; aggravated assault, no injury (two counts, violation of probation).

Anthony Jefferson, 39, Memphis — Reckless endangerment.

Marcellous Johnson, 28, Memphis — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license; improper tag display; financial responsibility (no insurance).

Ricky Franklin Johnson, 62, Covington — Theft under \$1,000.

Fajayan Avanta Jones, 26, Drummonds — Driving while license cancelled, suspended or revoked. Bond: \$2,500.

Michael William Jordan, 35, Mason — DUI, 1st offense; assault on a first responder.

Robert Eugene Kelly, 65, Drummonds — Simple possession/casual exchange; DUI, 1st offense; driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license; driving on roadways laned for traffic; assault on a first responder. Bond: \$10,000.

Brandon Wade King, 38, Brighton — Aggravated burglary (state violation of probation).

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Kurus, 34, Brighton — Domestic assault. Bond: \$10,000.

Charlie Heath Lenagar, 46, Brighton — Domestic assault. Bond: \$7,500.

Hailey Nicole Lindsey, 31, Covington — Driving while license cancelled, suspended or revoked; driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license.

Kaylann Danyelle Love, 19, Ripley — Improper control; possession of drug paraphernalia; simple possession/casual exchange (Schedule VI, marijuana); child endangerment; reckless endangerment; failure to exercise due care; speeding 21 or more miles over the limit (100 mph in a 60 mph zone). Bond: \$15,000.

Lewis Antwan Mable, 43, Cordova — DUI, 1st offense; simple possession/casual exchange (two counts, violation of probation).

Tammy Jean Maclin, 39, Covington — Driving while license cancelled, suspended or revoked (warrant). Bond: \$2,500.

John David Martin, 48, Stanton — Resisting stop, frisk, halt, arrest or search (violation of probation).

Katherine McCoy, 42, Jackson — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license (Madison County warrant); improper tag display; possession of drug paraphernalia; manufacture/delivery/sale of a controlled substance (cocaine). Bond: \$15,000.

Demarius Vontez Mitchell, 33, Covington — Unlawful possession of a weapon; public intoxication; disorderly conduct. Bond: \$5,000.

Tanya Leigh Moore, 44, Atoka — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license; financial responsibility (no insurance); improper tag display; violation of registration law (expired registration). Bond: \$15,000.

Travis Ryan Mosier, 35, Alamo — Possession of drug paraphernalia; manufacture/delivery/sale/possession of methamphetamine; resisting stop, frisk, halt, arrest or search; financial responsibility (no insurance); driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license. Bond: \$25,000.

Russell Lashan Muex, 44, Covington — DUI, 1st offense; violation of registration law; manufacture/delivery/sale of a controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license; open container; resisting arrest; financial responsibility (no insurance); violation of the implied consent law.

Shawn Allen Newman, 52, Burlison — Failure to pay child support (Tipton County warrant). Bond: \$1,000.

Jeremy Norwood, 39, Memphis — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license (violation of probation).

Robert Ernest Olden, 61, Covington — Posses-

sion of drug paraphernalia; simple possession/casual exchange (Schedule II, cocaine); financial responsibility (no insurance); violation of registration law. Bond: \$10,000.

Joshua Lee Owens, 30, Covington — Aggravated domestic assault; aggravated child abuse and neglect (two counts); manufacture/delivery/sale of a controlled substance (two counts, Schedule II).

Steven Owens, 44, Brighton — Possession of drug paraphernalia; manufacture/delivery/sale/possession of methamphetamine; introduction of contraband into a penal institution; failure to appear (out-of-state court); driving left of center; seat belt law violation; financial responsibility (no insurance); misuse of evidence of registration.

Devon Eugene Parker, 28, Munford — Domestic assault.

Javontaye Lashawn Poe, 30, Ripley — Failure to appear (violation of probation, felony evading); manufacture/delivery/sale of a controlled substance (Schedule II).

Demaris Antonio Prewitz, 41, Somerville — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license.

Jimmie Dale Pryor, 78, Mason — DUI, 1st offense (warrant); driving while license cancelled, suspended or revoked (violation of probation); resisting stop, frisk, halt, arrest or search.

Albert Rankin, 51, Memphis — DUI, 1st offense.

David Scott Rizer, 47, Hornsby — Manufacture/delivery/sale/possession of methamphetamine; possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond: \$30,000.

Gary Donnell Robertson, 55, Memphis — DUI, 2nd offense; driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license; financial responsibility (no insurance); no registration lights; violation of the implied consent law; open container. Bond: \$20,000.

Tabitha Kaye Sanders, 36, Olive Branch, Miss. — Possession of a firearm during the commission of a dangerous felony; manufacture/delivery/sale of a controlled substance (Percoct); manufacture/delivery/sale of a controlled substance (Xanax); driving on roadways laned for traffic; possession of drug paraphernalia; manufacture/delivery/sale/possession of methamphetamine. Bond: \$50,000.

Jonathan Michael Scott, 40, Covington — Child abuse/neglect (three counts); domestic assault (four counts); domestic assault (violation of probation).

Charles Finley Seagle II, 31, Atoka — Public intoxication (two counts). Bond: \$2,500.

James Michael Shelton, 56, Brighton — Assault on a first responder; disorderly conduct. Bond: \$10,000.

Michael Thomas Sta-

ples, 27, Brighton — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license.

Charles Lane Taylor Jr., 61, Mason — Use of an off-road vehicle on a highway; driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license. Bond: \$3,500.

Desaray Taylor, 35, Mason — Driving while license cancelled, suspended or revoked (warrant). Bond: \$929.

Eric Tyrone Taylor, 42, Ripley — Financial responsibility (no insurance); violation of window tint laws; driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license.

Franklin Dewayne Terry, 56, Somerville — Public intoxication. Bond: \$1,500.

Anthony Vincent Thorn, 22, Atoka — Failure to signal for turns; speeding; improper control; reckless endangerment (two counts); aggravated assault. Bond: \$25,000.

Karen Marie Wakefield, 37, Brighton — DUI, 1st offense.

Shinecia Wakefield, 32, Covington — DUI, 3rd offense; possession of drug paraphernalia; simple possession/casual exchange (three counts, including Schedule IV and a violation of probation); resisting arrest; driving on roadways laned for traffic.

Clinton Jean Watkins, 58, Brownsville — Simple possession/casual exchange (Schedule VI); driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license; financial responsibility (no insurance); violation of the implied consent law; DUI, 2nd offense; seat belt law violation. Bond: \$15,000.

Joshua David Webster, 33, Covington — Opposing traffic; violation of registration law; driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license; tampering with evidence; manufacture/delivery/sale/possession of methamphetamine. Bond: \$25,000.

Christopher Shun Wiggins, 54, Dyersburg — Driving while license cancelled, suspended or revoked (violation of probation).

Christopher Williams, 54, Henning — Tampering with evidence.

Jurmar Orlandus Williams, 37, Covington — DUI, 2nd offense (failure to appear).

Malcolm Woodland, 50, Mason — Failure to pay child support (two counts — Rutherford County and Fayette County).

Cortez Deshune Wright, 38, Memphis — DUI, 1st offense; open container; simple possession/casual exchange (violation of probation); driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license (violation of probation). Bond: \$5,000.

Robert Lewis Young, 24, Ripley — Vandalism (two counts, one on a warrant); aggravated burglary; resisting stop, frisk, halt, arrest or search. Bond: \$53,500.

Applications open for community tree planting grant

Applications open for community tree planting grant

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry is accepting applications for a grant program aimed at expanding tree canopy coverage and supporting sustainable urban ecosystems across the state.

The Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program Community Tree Planting Program grant is funded by the state of Tennessee and is designed to increase tree canopy cover in urban and suburban areas.

“Our Urban and Com-

munity Forestry Program partners with Tennessee's communities, helping them enhance the well-being of residents by cultivating and sustaining healthy urban and community forests,” State Forester Heather Slayton said. “One way we do that is through financial assistance that expands access to the benefits trees provide, including stormwater mitigation, cleaner air and reduced heat.”

Eligible applicants include local governments, nonprofit organizations and public educational institutions. Grant awards range from \$500 to \$20,000.

Eligible expenses in-

clude trees and shipping costs, contracted planting, mulch, irrigation devices, tree labels and signage.

Applications must be submitted online by 5 p.m. Central time Sept. 4.

The Division of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Program promotes the growth and sustainability of healthy forests through outreach, education and financial support. The division also assists landowners, provides tree seedlings, supports forest health programs, collects forest inventory data, assists forest industries and fights wildland fires.

PROGRAM

common characteristics of autism, understanding sensory sensitivities, improving communication and using response strategies intended to produce safer interactions.

Individuals on the autism spectrum may react differently to flashing lights, sirens, verbal commands or unfamiliar people. Some may avoid eye contact, repeat words or phrases, become overwhelmed, attempt to leave the area or fail to respond to instructions in ways that could otherwise be misunderstood by first responders.

The program is intended to give responders additional information before they arrive and allow them to adjust their approach when appropriate.

“The safety of every citizen in Tipton County is important, and that includes those who communicate or respond differently because of autism or other special needs,” Beasley said.

Beasley said the combination of the decals, infor-

mation provided through dispatch and specialized training can help responders slow an interaction down when necessary, communicate more effectively and reduce unnecessary fear or confusion.

Participating families may receive up to four decals at no cost. Families will also complete a confidential information form. Once registered, the household's address will be noted by Tipton County Central Dispatch as having a special needs occupant, allowing dispatchers to alert first responders if they are called to the residence.

A sheriff's deputy will then deliver the decals along with instructions for placement and information families may share with others who are interested in the program.

The sheriff's office said the initial response has been stronger than expected, and staff members are working through submitted applications. Officials asked applicants to allow

From A1

Need to get something off your mind?

Send your letter to the editor to news@covingtonleader.com or call 901-476-7116