



Corey Houge

Charges filed in deadly Ridgecrest Cellars holdup

Julie Cooke

Reporter

A suspect in the armed robbery and homicide at Ridgecrest Cellars Wine & Spirits was arraigned in Jackson City Court on Tuesday. Corey Houge, 29, of Jackson is charged with first degree murder and is being held without bond on an order by Judge Blake Anderson..

Houge was apprehended by Jackson Police on Sunday, Aug. 23.

Aside from the first-degree murder charge he faces multiple charges including first-degree murder in the perpetration of especially aggravated robbery, unlawful possession of a firearm, attempted car jacking, driving on a revoked or suspended license, and evading and resisting arrest. Houge's next court appearance is set for Sept. 2.

Jackson Police said just before 9 p.m., on Thursday, Aug. 20, a masked gunman entered Ridgecrest Cellars at 2880 Ridgecrest Road Ext. and demanded money from the three employees at the store. Once the money was handed

SEE **HOLDUP**, PAGE A2

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Journalism makes you think fast. You have to speak to people in all walks of life. Especially local journalism.

— Terry Pratchett

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Tennessee leaders remember Dolly Parton

Kim JARRETT

The Center Square

Tennessee leaders described Dolly Parton as an “iconic leader” and “beacon of light” following her death on Tuesday at the age of 80.

Often just known as Dolly, she was born in Sevier County and shared the story through music and a television show of her poor upbringing as one of 12 children in a Smoky Mountains home. Her nephew, Bryan Seaver, shared the news of her death on social media.

Parton gave back to her state and hometown through her philanthropic and economic endeavors. She started Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library in 1995, which provides books to children from birth to age 5. The program started in Tennessee and spread across the U.S. and

to four other countries. She also donated \$1 million to Vanderbilt University for research on the COVID-19 vaccine during the pandemic.

Among her economic endeavors are her amusement park, Dollywood, and the dinner show Stampede, which also has a location in Branson, Missouri.

“Rare is the one who climbs to the pinnacle of fame, then scoffs at its allure, only to retain the genuine humility that defines them,” Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee said in a social media post. “Dolly Parton was one of a kind, who loved people, her work, her family, and her Lord. Tennessee has forever been changed – enhanced – by her, and will never be quite the same without Dolly.”

Parton was “talented beyond compare, and an entrepreneurial juggernaut who played an integral role in transforming our state,” said U.S. Sen. Bill Hagerty, R-Tenn., in a social media post. “She brought laughter and joy to so many through her musical and philanthropic endeavors. She will be deeply, deeply missed.”

A cause of death was not given.

She was beloved beyond Nashville, the home of country music. It was there, however, that she became known for her figure, unmistakable voice, self-deprecating humor and music sewing together generations.

Her hit tunes “Jolene,” “Coat of Many Colors” and “I Will Always Love You” collectively netted 1 billion online streams and more than 100 million sales around the world. Banjos, guitars and dulcimers were part of her repertoire in a career that include a Grand Ole Opry start at age 13 with introduction by legend Johnny Cash.

Her career crossed over to the pop charts with amazing success. She’s in the Country Music Hall of Fame, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Musicians Hall of Fame and Museum, Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. Parton earned a lifetime achievement award by the Recording Academy, and was chosen for the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 2025.

Only Beyoncé and Taylor Swift have more than her Parton’s 55 Grammy nominations. She won 10 times.

Democratic Tennessee state Sen. Heidi Campbell called Parton a “beacon of light.”

“She was a doyenne not just of business and music but of compassion, empathy, civility, dignity, self-deprecating humor, and all the good things that make people love people- what a loss for us all,” Campbell said on social media.

Parton leaves a void that no one can fill, said U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn, the Republican candidate for governor.

“There are no words to adequately express the sorrow our family and indeed, all Tennesseans, feel in the loss of Dolly Parton,” Blackburn said. “An iconic leader who loved our great state and nation.”

President Donald Trump called Parton’s death a loss for millions of people.

“There has never been anyone like her, and never will,” Trump said in a social media post. “In her honor, I am lowering the American flag throughout the United States for a one week period beginning tonight at 6 p.m.”

Covington to commemorate 25th anniversary of Sept. 11 attacks

Representatives from throughout Tipton County will gather in downtown Covington next month to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The remembrance ceremony is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 11, on the east side of the Historic Covington Square.

Organizers said the ceremony will provide an opportunity for the community to honor the lives lost in the attacks, remember the first responders and others who answered the call that day, and reflect on the unity and resilience demonstrated by Americans in the aftermath.

“Remember. Honor. Unite.” is the theme of the local observance.

The Sept. 11 attacks occurred 25 years ago this fall when terrorists hijacked four commercial airplanes. Two were flown into the World Trade Center towers in New York City, another struck the Pentagon near Washington, D.C., and a fourth crashed in Pennsylvania after passengers and crew members fought back against the hijackers.

The attacks claimed nearly 3,000 lives and became one of the defining events in modern American history.

The Covington observance is being presented by the City of Covington, with representatives from across Tipton County expected to participate.

The public is invited to attend the ceremony and join local first responders, government officials and community members in remembering those who were lost and honoring those who served.



Covington Police Department Lt. Dillingham displays her certificate after graduating from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation State Academy's Leadership Development Experience. The department congratulated Dillingham for representing Covington during the program and continuing her development as a law enforcement supervisor.

Dillingham completes TBI leadership program

A Covington Police Department lieutenant has completed a leadership development program through the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

Lt. Dillingham recently graduated from the TBI State Academy's Leadership Development Experience, a program focused on strengthening leadership and supervisory skills within law enforcement.

The Covington Police Department recognized Dillingham for her work throughout

Covington High School chosen for International Space Station radio contact

Covington High School students will have an opportunity few students ever receive — talking directly with a crew member aboard the International Space Station.

The school has been selected as one of just 13 educational organizations nationwide to host an amateur radio contact with the International Space Station during the 2026-27 school year.

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, known as ARISS, announced the selections July 28. Covington High School was the only Tennessee school among the 13 organizations selected for contacts planned from fall 2026 through spring 2027.

The ARISS program gives students an opportunity to communicate with International Space Station crew members using amateur, or ham, radio. The program is designed to engage young people in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics while increasing their awareness of space exploration and radio communications.

Organizations selected for the upcoming contacts submitted proposals detailing how they would incorporate space and communications concepts into their curriculum in the months leading up to the event and extend the experience to the wider school community.

ARISS educational contacts can use a direct radio connection between a station established at the school and the amateur radio station aboard the space station. Contacts can also be conducted through a telebridge, in which an ARISS ground station elsewhere establishes the radio connection.

During the contact, Covington students will have an opportunity to ask questions of a crew member aboard the space station. The conversations generally last about 10 minutes, with students asking questions that have been approved in advance.

Covington High School officials described the selection as a school-wide opportunity and thanked Ms. Hall and her team for their work in pursuing the project.

A specific date for Covington High School's contact and the participating crew member have not yet been announced. Those details are expected to be released closer to the event.

West TN Blitz football magazine headed to readers in September

Kelcee McMillin

The 2026 West TN Blitz High School Football Guide is officially headed to print and will soon be in the hands of football fans across rural West Tennessee.

Richardson Media Group sent the 88-page magazine to the printer earlier this week, marking the final step in months of work on a publication featuring all 46 teams in the magazine's coverage area. The magazine will be available to the public during the first week of September, with copies available for purchase at Richardson Media Group newspaper offices and for pickup at advertiser locations.

The publication provides a wide-ranging look at the 2026 high school football season, including team previews, region outlooks, schedules, returning players and other information for all 46 teams.

The magazine covers 12 regions from Class 1A through Class 5A, along with Division II-A West. Each region section includes a look back at the 2025 season, an overview of the year ahead, important games and a predicted order of finish.

Individual team previews include information on coaching staffs, returning starters, key players, position groups, 2025 results and 2026 schedules.

A two-page schedule grid

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SEE **MAGAZINE**, PAGE A3

TIPTON COUNTY JAIL REPORT

The following individuals appear on the Tipton County Sheriff's Office inmate intake/release report for Aug. 16 through Aug. 22, 2026. Bond amounts are listed where the report set a dollar figure.

Jeremy Lamar Avery, 33, Dyersburg — Speeding; felony evading arrest; reckless endangerment; tampering with evidence; evading arrest. Bond: \$50,000.

Ja'Quan Blackmore, 26, Jackson — Harassment/intimidation.

Houston Scott Booth, 24, Brighton — Failure to appear (Munford Police Department warrant for assault). Bond: \$2,500.

Malcolm Darrell Boyd, 61, Covington — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license (two counts); disregarding a stop sign.

Robert Earl Boyd, 73, Covington — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license; financial responsibility (no insurance); driving on roadways laned for traffic. Bond: \$2,500.

Stephanie Yvonne Brown, 39, Covington — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license; assault on a first responder.

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.

Buck Houston Bynum, 29, Millington — Failure to appear (Shelby County warrant); felony failure to appear; failure to pay child support.

Pedro Chavez Juarez, 27, Houma, La. — Driving without a license; violation of light law; failure to appear (Bartlett warrant).

Mark Anthony Childress, 38, Covington — Assault on a first responder; public intoxication.

Zachary Clevenger, 41, Covington — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license. Bond: \$10,000.

Billy Joe Collins, 39, Brighton — Public intoxication.

Anthony Paul Constable, 25, Drummonds

— Domestic assault (two counts).

Schylar Steven Cook, 35, Covington — Possession of drug paraphernalia; resisting stop, frisk, halt, arrest or search; unlawful possession of a weapon; financial responsibility (no insurance); driving on roadways laned for traffic; simple possession/casual exchange (Schedule VI, marijuana). Bond: \$40,000.

Joseph Maurice Cooper, 39, Drummonds — Driving while license cancelled, suspended or revoked (warrant, violation of probation).

Peyton Kenyon Day, 26, Atoka — DUI, 1st offense; public intoxication; open container; leaving the scene of an accident; leaving the scene of an accident involving property damage; domestic assault. Bond: \$15,000.

Jasmine Juwun Douglas, 33, Covington — Violation of the truancy law (violation of probation). Bond: \$5,000.

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

Brandon Antawn Dowell, 44, Covington — Failure to pay child support. Bond: \$1,200.

Terri Lynn Elrod, 22, Drummonds — Aggravated domestic assault. Bond: \$15,000.

Eunice Gregory Fayne, 69, Brighton — Domestic assault. Bond: \$7,500.

Melissa Renea Fifer, 28, Covington — Ignition interlock required; speeding; driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license. Bond: \$5,000.

Victoria Elaina Fore, 34, Covington — Failure to appear (Collierville warrant).

Larry Grandberry, 40, Covington — Tampering with evidence; resisting stop, frisk, halt, arrest or search; evading arrest; simple possession/casual exchange; financial responsibility (no insurance); violation of registration law; disregarding a stop sign. Bond: \$50,000.

Justin Wayne Gray, 42, Covington — Domestic assault; disorderly conduct;

vandalism; public intoxication. Bond: \$10,000.

Tedrick Lashun Hall, 37, Mason — Possession of a firearm during the commission of a dangerous felony (state violation of probation).

Mark Anthony Hamilton, 44, Munford — Manufacture/delivery/sale/possession of methamphetamine; theft of a motor vehicle. Bond: \$5,000.

Destayne Hammond, 22, Dyersburg — Evading arrest.

Roland Heathington, 42, Covington — Theft of a motor vehicle; domestic assault. Bond: \$15,000.

Stacey Annette Helton, 52, Atoka — Possession of kratom; possession of a legend drug without a prescription; possession of drug paraphernalia; open container; driving on roadways laned for traffic; simple possession/casual exchange (Schedule II). Bond: \$20,000.

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

Ashley Renee Henry, 35, Millington — Manufacture/delivery/sale of a controlled substance (violation of probation warrant, Schedule II).

John Wayne Higdon, 58, Munford — Warrant arrest for another agency (Shelby County — driving on a revoked, suspended or cancelled license).

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

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

Wyatt Adam Holliday, 30, Atoka — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license; failure to yield right of way. Bond: \$2,500.

Shaqueria Shyann Hoover, 25, Memphis — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license; seat belt law violation; speeding; financial responsibility (no insurance).

Justin Monroe Hulsey, 45, Millington — Manufacture/delivery/sale/possession of methamphetamine (Shelby County

petition to revoke); improper tag display; driving while license cancelled; suspended or revoked; evading arrest; failure to pay child support. Bond: \$8,250.

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

Ga'Nija Nicole Jackson, 18, Covington — Failure to appear (Tipton County warrant). Bond: \$2,500.

Anthony Jefferson, 39, Memphis — Reckless endangerment.

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

William Hildred Lavelle III, 41, Burlison — Simple possession/casual exchange (methamphetamine).

Hailey Nicole Lindsey, 31, Covington — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license.

Aliyah McRay Marbrey, 20, Dyersburg — Violation of light law; driving an unregistered vehicle; driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license. Bond: \$10,000.

Brandon Jamie Lee Martin, 35, Arlington — Convicted felon in possession of a weapon.

Arcopajite Dante Mathis, 53, Memphis — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license. Bond: \$7,500.

Altieria Takhira McGhee, 19, Memphis — Domestic assault. Bond: \$10,000.

Reginald Quave Miller, 47, Memphis — Simple possession/casual exchange (failure to appear); DUI, 1st offense.

Cale Lee Millican, 37, Drummonds — Manufacture/delivery/sale/possession of methamphetamine; driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license. Bond: \$10,000.

Jacob Turnage Moody, 35, Atoka — Domestic assault (Shelby County warrant).

John David Moore, 36, Atoka — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license. 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).

Michael Anthony Morgan, 38, Clarksville — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license; financial responsibility (no insurance); disregarding a stop sign. Bond: \$3,500.

Michael Tristan Morrow, 20, Mason — Burglary of a vehicle (four counts); contributing to the delinquency of a minor (two counts). Bond: \$100,000.

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.

Gary Darrell Peete, 48, Brighton — Violation of light law; driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license (two counts); simple possession/casual exchange; possession of drug paraphernalia.

Gaines Richardson Jr., 41, Covington — Theft of a motor vehicle.

Jason Brian Rose, 37, Covington — Simple possession/casual exchange (violation of probation).

Kevin Wayne Rushing, 18, Ripley — Driving without a license; speeding 21 or more miles over the limit; possession of drug paraphernalia; simple possession/casual exchange (marijuana); reckless endangerment (two counts). Bond: \$15,000.

Hunter Scarbrough, 28, Covington — Public intoxication; domestic assault. Bond: \$10,000.

Jose Salome Servin, 23, Ripley — DUI, 1st offense.

Ann Marie Singleton, 52, Brighton — Driving while license cancelled, suspended or revoked. Bond: \$2,500.

Robert Dewayne Smith, 44, Covington — Theft of property \$1,000-\$2,500 (two counts, violation of probation); shoplifting.

Bryson Kane Spray, 21,

Ripley — Simple possession/casual exchange.

William Springfield, 48, Somerville — Failure to appear (Fayette County); financial responsibility (no insurance); driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license. Bond: \$7,500.

Desaray Taylor, 35, Mason — Driving while license cancelled, suspended or revoked (warrant).

Jesse James Taylor, 18, Munford — Aggravated domestic assault.

Kenneth William Thrasher, 49, Millington — Improper control (reckless driving); simple possession/casual exchange; possession of a firearm during the commission of a dangerous felony. Bond: \$10,000.

Bremarios Wy'Mone Tipton, 24, Ripley — Aggravated criminal trespass (violation of probation warrant).

William Smith Vanwyk, 40, Brighton — Resisting arrest; misuse of 911. Bond: \$2,500.

Dalton Ray White, 29, Covington — Aggravated assault; public intoxication.

Christopher Whitehead, 27, Drummonds — DUI, 1st offense (violation of probation warrant).

Christopher Williams, 54, Henning — Tampering with evidence.

Cornelius Williams, 33, Covington — Driving on revoked/suspended/cancelled license; violation of registration law; simple possession/casual exchange. Bond: \$3,500.

Edison Eddie Williamson, 52, Covington — Manufacture/delivery/sale of a controlled substance.

Luke Andrew Wilson, 67, Linden — DUI, 1st offense; possession of drug paraphernalia; introduction of contraband into a penal institution.

Robert Lewis Young, 24, Ripley — Vandalism (two counts, one on a warrant); aggravated burglary; resisting stop, frisk, halt, arrest or search. Bond: \$10,000.



This is Ridgecrest Cellars, where Suresh Patel was shot and killed during an armed robbery on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2026. (Photo submitted)

HOLDUP

From 1A

over, the gunman shot Suresh Patel four times according to a police report, then fled. Patel's gunshot wounds were fatal.

Police said investigators from JPD and the FBI immediately began canvassing the area, collecting video surveillance from nearby businesses and residences to try to identify the vehicle and suspect.

A Flock camera and the recovered surveillance video identified Houge as a possible suspect by the Buick Lucerne he was driving before he was located in the area of Lawrence Switch Road near Highway 70 on Sunday. When officers attempted to make a traffic stop, Houge fled in the vehicle, setting off a high-speed chase.

The pursuit ended when Houge crashed the vehicle at the Burger King at 2553 Christmasville Road, then ran inside the Burger King and exited through a back door. He then attempted to carjack a customer in the parking lot but was subdued and taken into custody by officers.

In addition to charges in Madison County, an eight-count indictment charging Houge with a Crockett County armed robbery and

murder was handed down Aug. 24 by a Special Grand Jury.

Investigators had found a possible link between a robbery Sunday in Bells at the Exxon Safari Corner Market and the Ridgecrest Cellars armed robbery. A cashier was shot and killed during the Crockett County robbery as well.

The convenience store at 5054 Highway 412 in Bells was held up around 2 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 23.

Crockett County Sheriff's Deputies arrived on the scene after a 911 call came in from a customer who entered the store and found the victim lying on the floor. Crockett EMS transported the victim to a hospital; however, he later died from his wounds.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation issued a statement Tuesday pertaining to the two cases in two separate counties:

"The TBI joined detectives from the Crockett County Sheriff's office in investigating the death of Shahed Rana Mohsin, age 37, who was found deceased at a business in the 5000 block of Highway 412 in Bells," the statement said. "During the investigation, authorities developed

information linking the suspect to a similar crime that occurred last week in Jackson.

"On Sunday, investigators along with agents from the FBI, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms located Corey Houge, who was wanted by JPD for an aggravated robbery and homicide at Ridgecrest Cellars on August 20."

On August 24, a Crockett County Special Grand Jury returned an indictment charging Houge for the murder of Moshi, 37. Charges in the indictment include first-degree premeditated murder, first-degree murder in perpetration of a felony, especially aggravated robbery, multiple counts of employing a firearm in the commission of a dangerous felony with a prior felony conviction, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

The TBI thanked the Crockett County Sheriff's Department, Bells Police Department, Jackson Police Department, Madison County Sheriff's Department, the Tennessee Highway Patrol, ATF and the FBI for their assistance throughout the investigation and in the apprehension of Houge.

Ten MLTC inmates inducted into national honor society

Ten inmates at the Mark Luttrell Transition Center have been inducted into a national honor society, marking a first for the Memphis facility.

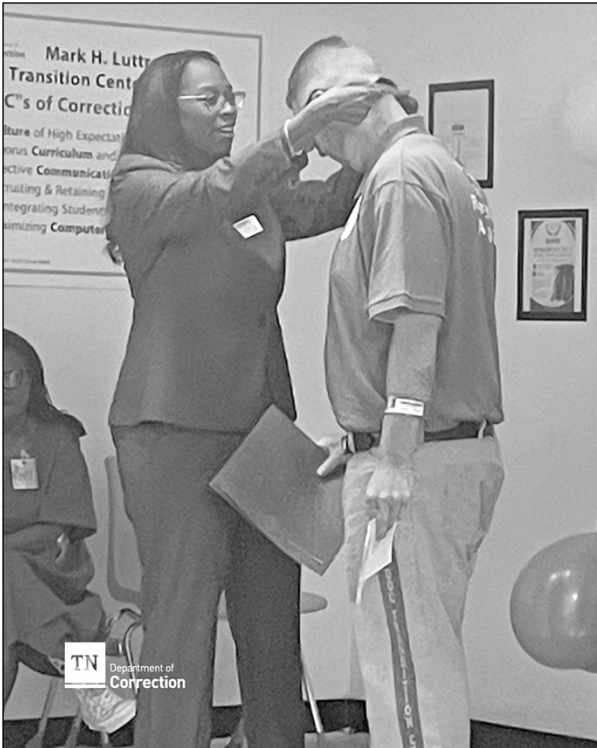
The incarcerated men, who are working toward associate degrees in business through Southwest Tennessee Community College, were inducted into Southwest's chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success during a ceremony at the transition center.

Southwest faculty members who travel to the facility to teach college courses in person presented each student with a certificate and medal.

Students with a cumulative grade-point average of 2.75 or higher are eligible to join the NSLS, which recognizes academic achievement and is designed to help members develop leadership skills.

Southwest established its chapter of the organization in 2020, and more than 800 students have joined since then.

"This recognition was earned," said Christa Jenkins, Tennessee Department of Correction post-secondary education coordinator. "These inmates met the academic standard and put in the work required of college students. They are build-



A Southwest Tennessee Community College faculty member presents a medal during a National Society of Leadership and Success induction ceremony at the Mark Luttrell Transition Center. Ten inmates were inducted into the organization, a first in the facility's history.

ing an education now that can help them when they return to their communities."

The Tennessee Department of Correction partners with colleges and universities across the state to offer post-secondary educational opportunities to inmates, including vo-

cational certificates and associate, bachelor's and master's degree programs.

TDOC officials say the programs are intended to give participants skills they can use after release and help support successful reentry into their communities.

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The leader
Your story here

Socialism v. The American Spirit

Bill Wallace

At it's best, Socialism is a temporary fix for a failing economy. The paper trail through socialism is a road map to Communism. The two are mutually next of kin.

A "silver-tongued" politician possessed with greed and the lust for power, spews empty promises, emphasizing the word "FREE". The most naïve among us ignore the message of truth in Romans 16, verses 17 and 18. They are deceived and willingly cast their valuable vote accordingly.

When resources are depleted, the naïve are disappointed. They and their neighbors are subject to become governed by Communism with little or no individual freedom, nor private ownership of property.

I was unaware at the time, but I now realize I tasted a bit of Socialism as a fifth grader in public school. We elected a class president. Our teacher walked us through the necessary procedures. Two candidates were chosen by popular vote. Russell and Bubba were directed to prepare

a "platform" of ideas that might advance the academic experience and enhance the entire school activities. We, the constituents were to "campaign" for our favorite candidate. It seemed Russell would prevail and become our class president.

Russell delivered his campaign speeches revealing tremendous ideas of growth. Then, Bubba stood, cleared his throat and declared "if elected there will be ice cream for everyone, everyday". Bubba won by a landslide. When asked about the promise of ice cream days later, he responded "the ice cream melted".

This scenario is repeated every time a Socialist politician gives a speech, and if elected the "ice cream" melts. There is a concern that too many innocent uninformed voters will cast their precious vote for the "free ice cream".

For advocates of Socialism, I kindly ask you to thoughtfully re-read the "Pre-amble of our Constitution with special review of certain phrases. "We, the people" means "legal citizens of the United States of America. "Un-

alienable" still means ownership, "cannot be taken away – not transferable". Work continues on the "more perfect union". The Pre-amble is our mission statement for our very unique form of government of the people, by-the people and for the people. It remains as meaningful today as it did almost 250 years ago. LIFE still means living a lifestyle of awesome possibilities, not mere existence.

LIBERTY still means "the opportunities for ordinary people to be extraordinary". PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS still means "different strokes for different folks". Fill your spare time with gratification, enjoy hobbies, collecting, golfing, fishing, charity work – whatever brings you joy.

Take time also to revisit the Pledge of Allegiance. Especially, examine the phrase, "one nation under God, indivisible –" which still means "whole" – "not to be divided".

If you do all of this and top it off with Johnny Cash's "Ragged Old Flag" you can still feel the American Spirit.

MT. CARMEL NEWS

Elaine Watkins

It's a beautiful, partly sunny Sunday afternoon - 87 degrees! Eighties all week till Thursday when it's just supposed to be 90. And chances of rain four days!

This Week's Farm Report: We got .2" yesterday which wasn't much but it will help the soybeans. Oh, and we started shelling corn! Yay!

I worked spiffing the deck up Tuesday and moved the bird seed out there, so I don't have to go out holding cups of it.

You know I have a bird feeder with a camera on it. Well, every morning I have pictures of that raccoon out there eating all of my seed overnight.

I saw an advertisement about a disc you put out to deter them, made of peppermint and cinnamon, which they aren't supposed to like.

So, I sneaked a couple of peppermints home from church (shhhh) and wet them. Covered them with cinnamon and put them on the table where the feeder sits.

Next morning I had clear pictures of that raccoon picking each peppermint up carefully and eating them! I could hear the crunching noise!

So that didn't work. But it was kinda cute!

Granddaughter Lyla came over Monday and vacuumed and mopped for me. She's a cleaner! Then she put the little bin together that I put the seed in on the deck. And I fed her pot roast for supper, one of her favorites! I love it when she comes over!

I promised her Lasagna next time!

Wednesday night supper at the Covington Church of Christ - Deli sandwiches this week.

On our prayer list are Bobby White, home from the hospital and at church this morning, Judy Merritt, Judy McCool, Bill Murray, Joyce Scott and Carlson Burks, Braxton Seward and Ellyana Bowden, the last three all children fighting cancer at St. Jude, especially in our prayers.

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

Our sincere sympathy goes to the McCool family in the death of Kenneth last night. All of them are in our prayers at this hard time in their lives.

Ladies Bible Class starts back Tuesday. "Float the Buffalo" Saturday. And "church-eat-church Sunday, the 30th.

Happy Birthday this week goes to Brad Evins, Pat Gatlin, Fay Hazlerig and Kip Hoffman on August 27th, and to Hannah Phillips on the 30th!

Happy Anniversary to Alan and Debbie Otts on August 23rd!

And I had a great visit with the heart doctor Friday. The left side of my heart has gotten stronger with my meds! Yay! Elizabeth went with me and we celebrated by eating at Sapporo!

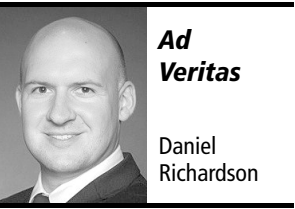
"Thanks for Reading" this week goes to David Kamey, Bill Gatlin and Ron Sutton! Sa-lute!

This Week's Farmer's Almanac Quote: "Use a paste made of baking soda, water and dish soap to remove red sauce stains from plastic containers".

Which leads me to the joke – They probably should have made Tupperware the color of spaghetti sauce in the first place!

Until next week . . .

Getting the Paper Out



Ad Veritas

Daniel Richardson

It has been a pretty crazy week and a half in the newspaper world.

Last Wednesday night, a storm blew through Huntingdon and knocked out power to our printing plant. The power outage lasted long enough to put us about a full day behind, but by Friday morning our crews were back in the building and ready to catch up on Thursday's work.

Then we discovered the internet was out.

The power was back on, but in 2026, having electricity without internet only gets you so far.

Our printing press itself is still a pretty mechanical piece of equipment. There are rollers, ink, paper, plates and a whole lot of moving parts. But getting

the newspaper pages from our individual offices to the printing plant, processing those files through the RIP and sending them to the plate burner all depends on computers and network connections.

So without internet, there were no plates.

Without plates, there were no newspapers.

We spent most of Friday working through that problem and finally got the internet back up and running. At that point, I thought we were finally ready to print.

Not quite.

The software that sends the processed page files to the plate maker would not communicate with the machine. After hours of troubleshooting, everything seemed to point toward a small box that sits between the computer and the plate maker.

We assumed the storm had fried it.

So we ordered a replacement and spent the week-end anxiously waiting for it to arrive, hopeful that we

had finally found the problem.

It came in Tuesday morning.

We hooked it up.

Still nothing.

At that point, I think everyone involved was beginning to wonder what else could possibly go wrong.

Another half-day of troubleshooting followed, but by Tuesday afternoon we finally got the system communicating again and started making plates.

The presses could run.

Of course, by then we were several days behind.

And just for good measure, we also discovered that the sensor that counts newspapers as they come off the press had apparently been damaged by the storm too. We're still waiting on a replacement for that.

Thankfully, that problem doesn't stop the press.

It just means we get to count newspapers the old-fashioned way for a while.

So now we are playing catch-up.

Most of our newspapers

are late this week, and for that I sincerely apologize to our readers and subscribers. I know people expect their newspaper on a certain day, and they should.

But I also want readers to know what has been happening behind the scenes.

There are a lot of steps between a reporter sitting down to write a story and that newspaper showing up in your mailbox or on a rack.

Stories have to be written. Photos have to be taken. Pages have to be designed. Ads have to be built. Files have to be sent. Plates have to be made. The press has to run. Papers have to be bundled, labeled, transported and delivered.

Most weeks, all of that happens quietly enough that nobody has to think about it.

That is exactly how we like it.

But every once in a while, something like a major storm reminds us just how many moving pieces are involved.

It also reminds me how important the printed newspaper remains.

There is something different about holding the finished product in your hands.

A website can be updated instantly. A social media post can disappear as quickly as it appeared. But a newspaper is a physical record of what happened in a community that week.

It contains the ball-games, the school events, the obituaries, the government meetings, the church news, the businesses, the photographs and all the little pieces of community life that might otherwise be forgotten.

People save them.

They clip articles out of them.

They mail them to relatives.

They tuck copies away when their children or grandchildren appear in the paper.

And every week, our staff takes seriously the responsibility of putting that

record together and getting it into the hands of our readers.

That is why, even when the power goes out, the internet goes down, the plate maker refuses to cooperate and the counter on the press gives up, the goal remains the same:

Get the paper out.

I'm especially thankful for our printing and production crews who have worked through all of this frustration and continued coming back ready to solve the next problem. There have been long days, changed schedules and plenty of troubleshooting, but nobody has suggested simply giving up for the week.

The newspapers may be late.

But they are coming.

And after the week we've had, I think watching those papers finally roll off the press may be one of the most satisfying sights I've seen in a long time.

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MAGAZINE

From 1A

brings the schedules for all 46 teams together in one place, and the magazine also includes a preseason Top 10 ranking of teams from across the region.

The cover story focuses on Huntingdon and Westview, two programs entering the 2026 season after winning state championships in 2025.

Huntingdon finished last season 14-1 and captured the program's second state championship, while Westview also returned from Chattanooga with a state title. Both programs enter the new season attempting to stay on top.

Much of the magazine was put together by Brandon

Shields, managing editor of Richardson Media Group sister publication The Jackson Post. Shields wrote in the magazine that this is the first publication of its kind he has helped produce in 10 years after overseeing a similar football magazine for a former employer.

The football guide is also the beginning of Richardson Media Group's expanded high school football coverage for the season.

Richardson Media Group owns 22 publications, including nine based in the area covered by the magazine in Alamo, Camden, Covington, Dresden, Huntingdon, Jack-

son, Martin, Savannah and Tiptonville.

Throughout the season, the company plans to provide additional coverage through its newspapers and a dedicated West TN Blitz website, including weekly previews and feature stories, team and individual statistical leaders and coverage from games throughout the region.

With the magazine now at the printer, the countdown is on for its first-week-of-September release and the start of another season of West Tennessee high school football coverage.

Need to get something off your mind?

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

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Faith

ALONG THE JOURNEY

THE LEADER • THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026 • A5

There are many today questioning God, God's actions, and God's intent. Still, others are questioning what we have done ... because it seems God is punishing us both collectively and for some, even individually. These are "normal" wrestlings when humankind cannot rationalize or justify what is going on in our lives. We want to make it about God.

Your image of God creates you. This is why it is important that we see God as loving and benevolent and why theology still matters. One mistaken image of God that keeps us from receiving grace is the idea that God is a cruel tyrant. People who have been raised in an atmosphere of threats of punishment and promises of reward are programmed to operate with this cheap image of a punitive God. It usually becomes their entire view of the universe.

Unfortunately, it is much easier to organize people

around fear, hatred and negative feelings than around love.

Powerful people prefer this worldview because it validates their use of intimidation ... which is quite effective in the short run! Both Protestantism and Catholicism have used this threat of eternal hellfire to form Christians. I am often struck by the irrational anger of many people when they hear that someone does not believe in hell. You cannot "believe" in hell. Biblical "belief" is simply to trust and have confidence in the goodness of God or reality and cannot simply imply some notion of anger, wrath, or hopelessness at the center of all that is. Otherwise, we live in a toxic and unsafe universe, (which many do).

Our Christian view of hell largely comes from several unfortunate metaphors in Matthew's Gospel. Hell is not found in the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. It is not found in the

Gospel of John or in Paul's letters. The words Sheol and Gehenna are used in Matthew, but they have nothing to do with the later medieval notion of eternal punishment. Sheol is simply the place of the dead, a sort of limbo where humans await the final judgment when God will finally win. Gehenna was both the garbage dump outside of Jerusalem ... the Valley of Hinnon ... and an early Jewish metaphor for evil. (Isaiah 66:24). The idea of hell as we most commonly view it came much more from Dante's Inferno than the Bible. Believe me on that. It is the very backdrop of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel. It makes for good art, I suppose, but it also has provided a horrible, dualistic theology. This is not Jesus, "meek and humble of heart," which is his self-description in life (Matthew 11:29). We end up with two different and opposing Jesuses: one before

Resurrection (healing and compassionate) and one after Resurrection (dangerous and damning).

Jesus tells us to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44), but the punitive god sure does not. Jesus tells us to forgive "seventy times seven" times (Matthew 18:22), but this other god does not. Instead, this other god burns people for all eternity. Many of us were raised to believe this, but we usually had to repress this bad theology into our unconscious

because it is literally unthinkable. Most humans are more loving and forgiving than such a god, but we cannot be more loving than God. It is impossible! Note the difference between "god" and God! This "god" is not God!

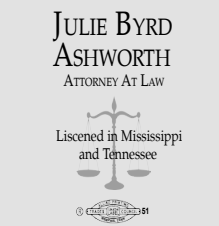
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Gilt Edge church of Christ
10726 Highay 59 W., Burlison, TN
901-609-4748

by Rick Huffman, Elder

Expiration Date

One of my sons just received a letter that his truck warranty was about to expire. If you look at any food product label at the grocery store, somewhere on that label has a date that says "best if used by ____". We call that the expiration date. We all get coupons in the mail from retailers or restaurants that have an expiration date. These coupons will not be accepted past that date.

Unless Jesus comes again at the end of time, each one of us also has an expiration date. His coming is the only reason that we will not die (experience an expiration date). "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (I Corinthians 15:51-52). "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (I Thessalonians

4:16-17). God assigned an expiration date to each of us at the moment of our conception. (Yes, life begins at conception.) Psalms give us some general information about man's expiration date. "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away" (Psalms 90:10). Some of us live a little longer. Several of us may live into the bonus years- 70-80 years old. A few of us may live into the double bonus years - > 80 years old. However, many of us die far short of 70, three score and ten.

The Psalmist gives us some advice since we have an expiration date. "Who knoweth the power of thine (God's) anger? even according to thy (God's) fear, so is thy (God's) wrath" (Psalms 90:11). Remember the flood (Genesis 6:5-7) and Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:1-26). They did not attain a normal life span due to their wickedness. The Psalmist entreats God, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalms 90:12). We are not going to live forever and

need to be ready to meet God prior to our expiration date.

In light of our expiration date, the Psalmist requests that God make him ever aware of the frailty of life and the uncertainty of the future. "LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am" (Ps 39:4). James counsels us to always put God in our plans. "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that" (James 4:13-15). The rich farmer did not have God in his plans. "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided (Luke 12:20)?" We are warned not to be like the farmer. "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:21).

As far as we know, Methuselah was the man

with the longest expiration date. The Bible says he died (expired) at age 969 (Genesis 5:27). The Bible records these events in Methuselah's life. He was 187 years old when his son, Lamech, was born (Genesis 5:25). Lamech had a son, Noah, when he was 182 years old (Genesis 5:28-29). That would mean Methuselah was 369 years old when Noah, his grandson, was born (187+182=369). Noah was 600 years old when the flood came (Genesis 7:6). So the flood came when Methuselah was 969 years old (369+600=969). Did he die before the flood? Did he die in the flood? If he died in the flood, it means he was accounted among the wicked that God destroyed by the flood (Genesis 6:5-7; 7:16-23) because of their wickedness. It is sad to even think it is possible that a man who lived 969 years, almost a millennium, might be among those lost. None of us will ever come close to attaining the age of Methuselah but it is not how long we live but how well we live that is important. Are we ready to meet God if our expiration date is today?

Church events to be held

This is the first ever area wide gospel meeting in Tipton County with Brighton, Covington, Gilt Edge, Hatchie, Mason and Munford congregations (all in Tipton County) hosting the event. Information is below. If you need more info, contact Mike Rogers (or Jeff Phillips) via the Covington church office 901-476- 8278.

Sept. 14-17th— Area Wide Gospel Meeting 7:00 PM Each Evening— Brighton Middle School

Singing precedes the meeting each night 6:30PM- 7:00 PM

Give me the Bible...

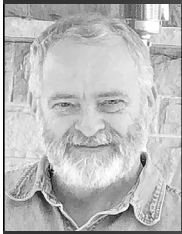
14- For unity in a World of Chaos— Jermal Blanchard, Hatchie church of Christ, Covington, TN

15- For Love in a World of Hate— Daniel Dalton, Gilt Edge church of Christ

16- For Joy in a World of Sorrow— Mike Rogers, Covington church of Christ

17- For Peace in a World of Despair— John Somerville, Mason church of Christ

The Great Flood



IS GOD DEAD?

Dr. Ty B. Kerley

Though answered in part, the question from last week remains: "Is Christianity a copycat religion?" It is an essential question that critics of Christianity often ask, and rightly so. After all, the oldest clay tablet fragments we have of The Great Flood story are not from the Genesis account but are from at least two other and much older accounts; one written in Sumerian and the other embedded in The Epic of Gilgamesh. So, it is with purpose that we once again take up our investigation from last week, comparing The Great Flood

account in Genesis with these two older universal flood stories to gain some idea of which one is most likely the original version. Since the origin of all three flood accounts is ancient Mesopotamia, and since their transmission undoubtedly began as oral traditions handed down through the generations, some insight can be gained by comparing these three stories to help determine the plausibility and probability of each story being the original, or being a copycat tale.

Flood researcher Charles Martin notes substantial and irreconcilable differences between the stories, and it is in light of these conditions that some significant determinations of plausibility can be made. First, in the flood story of Gilgamesh, the hero Utnapishtim and his wife survive the flood

TIGER

YOU'RE CROWDING ME, STRIPE

LEMMIE PAST, STRIPE

OUTTA MY WAY, STRIPE

NOT SO CLOSE, STRIPE

BACK UP, STRIPE

MOVE! I CAN'T SEE, STRIPE

SEE IF YOU CAN FIND STRIPE ANYWHERE

by BUD BLAKE

Amber Waves

GERALD, DEAR, YOU ONLY EAT MAG & CHEESE AND FISH STICKS. TRY THIS CASSEROLE I MADE.

MMPHH...

GULP! CHOAK! ACKK!

YEAH, MY TASTE BUDS HAVE A STRICT "2-INGREDIENT POLICY."

by Dave T. Phipps

Even Exchange

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Rework

2. TV accessory

3. Luster

4. Pursue

5. Deputy Fife

6. Roomer

7. Carpet location

8. Green Bay player

9. Aesop's tale

10. Amble

___ L ___

___ _ T _

___ O _

___ A _

___ N _

___ D _

___ _ R

___ A _ _ _

F _ _ _ _

___ T _ _ _

In search of

Get rid of

Crystal

Selected

Cereal grain

Lumberjack

Surge of water

Prepare to kiss

Spreadsheet

Parchment paper

___ F ___

___ _ V _

___ A _

___ O _

___ L _

___ G _ _

___ _ D

___ U _ _ _

T _ _ _ _

C _ _ _

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

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See This Week's Answers In Next Week's Edition

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answers

King Crossword

Even Exchange

1. Divine, Divide
2. String, Spring
3. Thank, Think
4. Crown, Crowd
5. Locked, Locker
6. Appear, Apear
7. Carol, Carob
8. Pride, Bride
9. Swede, Suede
10. Potter, Porter

Answers

King Crossword

Answers

King Crossword

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FEAR KNIGHT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ... OR DARE!

HET
WOPNUT
♥ ARMCO
EWOM
REACNA
♥ MYA
♥ ENMA
AWMCA
♥ ENW
SORRAT
PYNPI
♥ RYNA

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King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Layer
4 Radiant
9 Soup legume
12 Dubai's country, for short
13 Kin of "Presto!"
14 Online chats, briefly
15 Keyboard piece for two
17 Impose
18 Pained sounds
19 Nobel-winning Mother
21 "Hooray!"
24 Story lines
25 Hollywood's Gabor
26 Genetic stuff
28 Nasser's successor
31 Stinging insect
33 Pop
35 Arias for one
36 Animal's nose
38 Mexican Mrs.
40 Teeny
41 "Phooey!"
43 Disney exec Michael
45 1912 Olympic legend
47 MGM motto
48 Tease
49 Teen's formalwear

DOWN
1 Young dog
2 Chou En-
3 Pro vote
4 Acknowledged
5 Blessing
6 Actress Lucy
7 "Get Here" singer Adams
8 Tends the lawn
9 Stops talking
10 Flightless birds
11 Hammett pooch
16 M-Q connection
20 Some HDTVs
21 Evergreen trees
22 Nobelist Pavlov
23 Latin ballroom dance
27 Small batteries
29 Sheltered
30 Wedding cake layer
32 Kitten's sound
34 Visionary
37 Designated
39 Put on a clothesline
42 Succinct
44 Lith., once
45 Small combo
46 Mound
50 Non-Rx
51 Newt
52 — Lanka
53 Boston squad, for short

STICKELERS

by Terry Stickels

The three numbers at the top of each group will produce the fourth number directly below. The same operation occurs in each group. What is the missing number in the last group?

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

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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!

Alarm
SNORES

Ripe
RUMATE

Truth
POGLES

Heir
ICONS

TODAY'S WORD

WORD SPIRAL

I		L
	Y	E
		G

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.

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7	6	4	2	7	4	5	2	8	4	5	2	3
S	J	B	T	E	E	B	H	E	E	U	I	Y
7	5	6	7	2	4	5	2	7	4	3	6	4
R	I	O	V	N	X	L	K	E	P	O	B	R
2	8	5	3	4	2	3	2	3	2	6	2	3
I	X	D	U	E	N	R	G	B	C	S	L	O
7	2	7	3	5	8	2	6	8	3	5	8	2
O	E	T	S	B	P	A	E	R	S	R	E	R
8	4	7	4	7	6	7	6	4	5	2	8	2
S	S	H	S	E	C	R	U	I	I	S	S	U
3	8	4	5	2	4	7	8	6	3	5	8	3
I	I	V	D	P	E	S	V	R	S	G	E	H
8	6	5	6	5	8	3	8	3	6	3	8	3
L	I	E	T	S	O	A	V	P	Y	P	E	Y

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CryptoQuip

When a particular answer

that was pine-tingling.

GRATUITY

Today's Word

3. Sludge; 4. Mayhem

SCRAMBLERS

Solution

1. Rustic; 2. Rustic

MAGNIFIER

Answer

Word Spiral

fold into the prism.

Sticklers Answer

Figures A and B will

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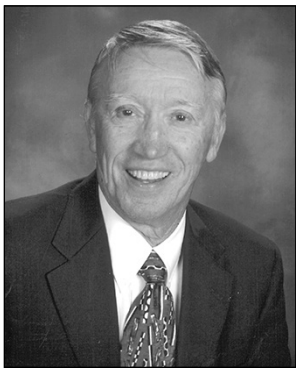
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Kenneth Ashe McCool
August 22, 2026

Kenneth Ashe McCool passed away on August 22, 2026, at the age of 86, surrounded by his loving family. Ken was a lifelong resident of Covington, graduating from Byars Hall High School in 1957 where he was a gifted athlete. In 1957, Ken set the Tennessee State Record for both the 100-yard dash and the 220-yard dash. Ken attended Memphis State University before transferring to Murray State where he met the love of his life, Judy Bennett. They were married in 1960 and were still seen holding hands up until the time of his death. Their life was built around family, faith, Church, community service, and golf. Ken was a scratch golfer, won a large number of Local tournaments, and recorded 9 holes-in-one.

Ken is survived by his wife Judy, daughter, Kendy and husband Paul (Skip) Erwin of Covington and daughter Kathy and husband Rod Townsend of Knoxville. He is also survived by grandchildren Cody Erwin, his wife Jessica and their children, Sadie and Finn; Gil Erwin; Garland Montgomery Fisher and husband Jason; Kacey Montgomery and husband Tyler, their children Emerson and Briggs; and David Townsend and wife Michaela; cousins Joe McCool and wife Renee and Dickey Stark and wife Dunnia; and Sister-in-law Marilyn Gregory.

Ken went into the family Grocery business after High School and grew McCool's



Supermarket into one of the leading groceries in the County. In order to spend more time with his family, he sold the Company to Creekmore's Food Stores in 1993. He served as President of the Tennessee Grocers Association in the mid 1990s.

Ken has given back to the Covington community by participating in the Exchange Club, where as President he helped organize the Carl Perkin's Child Abuse Golf Tournament Fund Raiser, the Covington -Tipton Chamber of Commerce, the Jaycees, and First United Methodist Church.

Funeral services will be held at 12 noon on Thursday, August 27 at the Covington First United Methodist

Church with interment to follow in Covington Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends beginning at 10:30 a.m. until noon at the church. Covington Funeral Home has charge of services.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be directed to St. Jude, First Methodist Church, the Food Pantry or Samaritan Funds.

Carolyn Sue Patterson
October 20, 1950 -
August 17, 2026

Funeral Services were Saturday, August 22, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at Palmer Funeral Home Chapel in Mason, TN, with burial in St. Matthew Cemetery in Stanton, TN.



Boys & Girls Club plans
'Steak & Burger Soul
Showcase' fundraiser

The Boys & Girls Club of the Hatchie River Region is asking supporters to save the date for a special fundraising event this fall in Covington.

The organization will host its Steak & Burger Soul Showcase at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at the Covington Civic Center, 100 W. Washington Ave.

The event, which will benefit the Boys & Girls Club and the young people it serves, will feature a soul music theme connected to Memphis' legendary Stax Records and Soulsville, USA.

Organizers are promoting the event with the message, "Invest in kids. Inspire the future," and say the fundraiser will help support the club's work with area children.

The Boys & Girls Club of the Hatchie River Region provides programs and activities designed to support local youth and give children opportunities to learn, grow and succeed.

Additional details about the Steak & Burger Soul Showcase, including ticket and event information, are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

Tennessee adds 21,300
jobs over the year as
healthcare leads the way

Staff Reports

Tennessee employers added 21,300 nonfarm jobs over the past year, according to data released Aug. 20 by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, even as payrolls slipped by 400 jobs from June to July.

The largest annual gains came in health care and social assistance, which grew by 10,200 jobs, followed by the administrative, support and waste services sector, up 9,400, and durable goods manufacturing, up 5,100. On the other side of the ledger, financial activities lost 4,200 jobs over the year, retail trade shed 3,800 and nondurable goods manufacturing fell 3,700.

The slight monthly decline was led by leisure

and hospitality, which dropped 3,400 jobs from June to July, along with retail trade, down 1,100, and nondurable goods manufacturing, down 1,000. Those losses were partly offset by monthly gains in administrative and support services, up 1,800, and transportation, warehousing and utilities, up 1,400.

The mixed picture came alongside the state's falling jobless rate, which reached a two-year low of 3.4% in July. Total nonfarm employment stood at about 3.39 million on a seasonally adjusted basis.

The Labor Department will release July unemployment data for all 95 Tennessee counties on Aug. 27.

How much car insurance
do you actually carry?



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.

Most drivers buy the minimum limits their state requires and never think about it again — until they're in a wreck with someone who did the same thing. Tennessee's



minimum liability requirement is 25/50/25: \$25,000 per person and \$50,000 per accident for bodily injury, plus \$25,000 for property damage.

Decades ago, that was enough to cover a totaled car. Today it barely dents one. New trucks and SUVs routinely price out at \$50,000 to \$100,000, and even a mid-range sedan can run \$35,000 or more! But no one has raised the minimum limits in Tennessee since 1977.

If you cause an accident and total someone's Silverado or Tahoe, a \$25,000 property damage limit leaves you personally

exposed for the difference for their \$90,000 vehicle.

The same math applies to bodily injury. A single ambulance ride, ER visit, and a day in the hospital can blow past \$25,000 before treatment even really starts. If there's any lasting injury — surgery, disability, physical therapy, lost wages — \$50,000 total for multiple people disappears fast.

A reasonable target for most drivers today is 100/300/100— \$100,000 per person, \$300,000 per accident for bodily injury, and \$100,000 for property damage. If you own a home, have savings, or otherwise have assets a lawsuit could reach, higher limits (or a personal 1M-2M umbrella policy) are worth pricing out. It typically costs far less than people expect. Remember just doubling your coverage does not double policy premium. It doesn't work like that.

Just as important if not even more overlooked: uninsured/underinsured

motorist (UM/UIM) coverage, matched to your liability limits. A large share of drivers on the road carry only minimum coverage or none at all. If one of them hits you, your own UM/UIM coverage is often the only thing standing between you and paying your own medical bills. Don't waive it to save a few dollars a month — it's some of the most valuable coverage in your policy.

Talk to your agent about raising your limits. The cost difference is usually minor; the protection difference is not. If your agent says you don't need UIM coverage, show them my article and ask them to call me.

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.

Tennessee factory paychecks slip in July
but remain up sharply over the year

Average weekly manufacturing earnings fell to \$1,058.87 as hours dipped, even as annual pay climbed 7%.

Staff Reports

The average production worker in Tennessee manufacturing earned \$1,058.87 a week in July, down \$18.63 from \$1,077.50 in June, according to data released Aug. 20 by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The decline was driven largely by shorter hours:

the average manufacturing workweek fell to 42.8 hours from 43.5, while average hourly earnings held roughly steady at \$24.74.

The monthly dip came against a stronger year-over-year backdrop. Comparing June 2026 with June 2025 — the latest month for which all states are available

— Tennessee's average manufacturing paycheck rose 7.0% to \$1,064.45, as the average workweek lengthened 6.4% to 43.2 hours.

Tennessee's factory pay ran in the middle of the regional pack. Among neighboring states in June, Alabama (\$1,198.80), Kentucky (\$1,173.61) and Georgia (\$1,069.19) posted higher average weekly manufacturing earnings, while Mississippi (\$999.60), Arkansas (\$971.39) and North

Carolina (\$996.68) came in lower.

Nationally, the average manufacturing production worker earned \$1,267.26 a week in July, above Tennessee's figure, reflecting the state's lower overall cost of living and industry mix.

The Labor Department will release July unemployment data for all 95 Tennessee counties on Aug. 27.

Tennessee unemployment falls to two-year low of 3.4% in July

The state's jobless rate held well below the 4.1% national figure and matched its lowest mark since July 2024

Staff Reports

Tennessee's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 3.4% in July, its lowest level in two years, according to data released Aug. 20 by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The rate was down a tenth of a point from 3.5% in

June and down a tenth from where it stood a year earlier.

The last time Tennessee reported a seasonally adjusted rate of 3.4% or lower was July 2024. The state has now held its rate at or below 3.6% throughout 2026, ticking down from 3.5% in June to 3.4% in

July.

Tennessee's rate remained well below the national mark. The U.S. seasonally adjusted rate was 4.1% in July, leaving the state seven-tenths of a point ahead of the country as a whole.

On a not-seasonally-adjusted basis, which

does not account for seasonal swings in hiring, Tennessee's rate was 3.6% in July, down from 3.8% in June and 4.0% a year ago. The number of unemployed Tennesseans fell to about 125,700, down roughly 15,500 from July 2025.

The Labor Department will release July unemployment data for all 95 Tennessee counties on Aug. 27.

FLOOD

From A5

through obedience to the divine, and in return, they are granted immortality. The problem is that neither Utnapishtim nor his wife are anywhere to be found today. Had they indeed been granted immortality, they should still be around, living their immortal lives somewhere on the earth that we could talk with them. Second, there is a fundamental problem with the Gilgamesh ark. In the story, Utnapishtim is instructed to build an ark that turns out to be seventeen times smaller than Noah's ark.

Nevertheless, the story goes that all the animals came on board this tiny boat two by two. But there is still more. The Gilgamesh survivors, apparently, vanish from recorded history without leaving so much as a trace. By contrast, Martin notes that in the Genesis story "Noah and his family are identified and their lineages given—lineages that can be traced, historically, to various parts of the world." Ultimately, when placed beside the Genesis flood story, the Gilgamesh flood story (as well as the Sumerian version) reads like a fanciful fairytale. Based upon direct

observation, there is no doubt the Genesis text is the most logical and plausible of the three flood accounts and much more likely to be the original Great Flood story.

Based upon the evidence, it is highly likely that there was one original flood story told by the survivors themselves, which circulated about through oral tradition in ancient Mesopotamia. As a result, the story of a great flood spread far and wide as cultures developed and migrated. In the process, some of the details were changed to better suit the developing cultures, but the core of the Great Flood story remained the same: a divine commitment to destroy almost all of mankind; there is a focus on one wise and righteous man destined to survive the flood which involves the building of an ark as 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. It is not just a Jewish and a Christian story. It is the human story that began in the cradle of civilization and can now be found across the globe.

One Flood—The Great Flood—one Flood story.

Perhaps it is a story written not only on clay tablets but on the hearts of all men; a story that haunts the very soul of all human beings. I am reminded of the American educator and writer Norman McClean, who once wrote, "Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it. The river was cut by the world's great flood and runs over rocks from the basement of time. On the rocks are timeless raindrops. Under the rocks are the words, and some of the words are theirs." Eventually, if one goes back far enough in time, all things do merge into one. Christians hold that after the Great Flood, Noah, and his family began to repopulate the earth in ancient Mesopotamia; "the cradle of civilization." Having built a tower to reach and compete with the Divine, God confounded their languages and dispersed the people across the land. From this great dispersion at Babel, on the

Plains of Shinar, in ancient Mesopotamia, each race, culture, and language trace their origin back to a place and time where all peoples were truly merged into one.

If Christianity is true, then all people on earth are descendants of Noah and his family. But is this true? Going back in time, do all things merge into one? Join us next time as we call upon the science of linguistics to help answer the question: "Was there a Great Flood? And if so, do all people descend directly from Noah and his family?" To every living person, the answer matters a great deal. Until then, what say ye, 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

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GENERAL ELECTION
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

NOVEMBER 3, 2026

TO THE VOTERS OF
TIPTON COUNTY, TEN-
NESSEE: You are hereby
notified that a GENERAL
ELECTION, various MU-
NICIPAL ELECTIONS
& SCHOOL BOARD
DISTRICT 7 UNEXPIRED
TERM will be held in all
voting precincts in Tipton
County, TN on: TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 3, 2026

A General Election for
the following offices:
Governor (4 yr. Term)
U.S. SENATE, U.S.
House of Representatives,
8 th & 5 th . Congres-
sional Districts (2 yr. Term)
Tennessee House of
Representatives 81 st .
District (2 yr. Term)
County Vacancy School
Board District 7 Unexpired
Term - Independent Pe-
titions are being issued
starting August 20, 2026
with a
Qualifying Deadline on
September 9, 2026 @
Noon. These petitions can
be picked up at the Tipton
County Election Commis-
sion Office.

A Municipal Election, for
each of the following mu-
nicipalities:

Town of Atoka, TN: (1)
Mayor & (3) Alder-
men, each for a four year
term. No person shall be
eligible for the office of
Mayor or Alderman unless
such person has resided
within the Town for at least
one (1) year preceding the
election. Town of Burlison,
TN: (1) Councilmen for a
four year term. All appli-
cants must reside within
the Town for at least one
(1) year preceding an elec-
tion.

City of Covington, TN:
(1) Mayor & 3 Alder-
men, (1) in Ward 5, (1) in
Ward 6 and (1) in Ward
7, each for a four year
term. No person shall be
eligible unless a resident
of the State of Tennes-
see for more than one (1)
year, a resident within the
boundaries of Covington
for not less than twelve
(12) months preceding the
election and shall continue
to reside within the limits of
their district.

Town of Garland, TN:
(1) Mayor, (6) Alderman
& (1) Recorder for a 4
year term. No person shall
be eligible for the office
of Mayor, Alderman or
Recorder unless they are
a resident of the State of
Tennessee for one year or
more, a resident within the
boundaries of Garland for
not less than six months
immediately preceding the
election, and shall con-
tinue to reside within the
town of Garland during
their term of office.

Town of Gilt Edge,
TN: (3) Councilman for a
4-year term. Applicants
must have been a bona
fide resident of the Town
for six months preceding
the election.

Town of Mason, TN: (1)
Mayor & (3) Aldermen
each for a 4 year term. No
person shall be eligible
for the office of Alderman
unless they are a quali-
fied voter and have been
a bona fide resident of the
Town for six (6) months
preceding the election.

City of Munford, TN:
(3) Aldermen for a 4 year
term. All applicants shall
have been a resident of
the state of Tennessee for
at least one (1) year and a
resident of the city for not
less than six (6) months
immediately preceding the
election, and shall contin-
ue to reside within the city
for the term of office.

Candidates for all mu-
nicipal offices must file
nominating petitions with

the Tipton County Election
Commission Office.

The first day to pick up
a petition is June 22, 2026
and the qualifying dead-
line is August 20, 2026 by
12 Noon. A candidate who
qualifies must file any re-
quest to withdraw no later
than 12:00 Noon Thurs-
day, August 27, 2026.
TCA§ 2-5-204(b)(1)

Tipton County Election
Commission

Tipton County Chan-
cery 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-5083

+
Estate of OLEAN
FIELDS ANDERSON, De-
ceased

Notice is hereby given
that on August 21 of 2026
Letters Testamentary (or of
Administration as the case
may be) in respect of the
estate of OLEAN FIELDS
ANDERSON, who died
5/23/2026, 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 es-
tate 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 re-
ceived 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.

TARA BURNETT
Executor, Administrator,
Personal Representative
RIKKI HERBERT
Attorney
GINA SMITH
Clerk & Master/ Deputy
Clerk

personally appeared be-
fore 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 Ten-
nessee Code Annotated
§30-2-306 shall be pub-
lished in the The Leader,
a newspaper published in
Tipton County, Tennessee
on and.

27aug2wp

*

**IN THE CHANCERY
COURT OF TIPTON
COUNTY, TENNESSEE**
**D YOUNG MANAGE-
MENT GROUP LLC,**
VS.
Plaintiff,
GAULT FINANCIAL,
LLC,
AND UNIFUND CCR
PARTNERS.
Defendant.

No. 40186

**NOTICE FOR PUBLI-
CATION**

A case has been filed in
the Chancery Court of Tipton
County, Tennessee, it
appearing that
the Defendants, Gault

Financial, LLC and Uni-
fund CCR Partners, are
not to be found at their last
known address, and that
the present whereabouts
and address of Gault Fi-
nancial, LLC and Unifund
CCR Partners are un-
known and cannot be
ascertained after diligent
search and inquiry.

That said Defendants,
Gault Financial, LLC and
Unifund CCR Partners, file
a response in
the Chancery Court of
Tipton County, at Coving-
ton, Tennessee, and with
Plaintiff's attorney,
Rikki Herbert, 125 E.
Pleasant Ave., Covington,
Tennessee, 38019, on or
before October 19, 2026,
or Judgment by Default
may be entered and the
cause set for hearing ex
parte.

28aug4wp
Rikki Herbert (#39475)
Owen and Witherington
Law Group, LLC 125 E.
Pleasant Ave.
Covington, TN 38019
Phone: (901) 476-6066
rikki@owtnlaw.com

Tipton County Chan-
cery 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-5082
Estate of JAMES DAVID
WOODARD, Deceased

Notice is hereby given
that on August 21 of 2026
Letters Testamentary (or
of Administration as the
case may be) in respect of
the estate of JAMES DA-
VID WOODARD, who died
12/12/2025, 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 re-
ceived 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 re-
ceived 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.

LAURIE HOBSON
Executor, Administrator,
Personal Representative
SHELBY COMBS
Attorney
GINA SMITH
Clerk & Master/ Deputy
Clerk

personally appeared be-
fore 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 Ten-
nessee Code Annotated
§30-2-306 shall be pub-
lished in the The Leader,
a newspaper published in
Tipton County, Tennessee
on and.

27aug2wp

*

**IN THE CHANCERY
COURT OF TIPTON
COUNTY, TENNESSEE**
**D YOUNG MANAGE-
MENT GROUP LLC,**
VS.
Plaintiff,
GAULT FINANCIAL,
LLC,
AND UNIFUND CCR
PARTNERS.
Defendant.

No. 40186
**NOTICE FOR PUBLI-
CATION**
A case has been filed in
the Chancery Court of Tipton
County, Tennessee, it
appearing that
the Defendants, Gault

SUBSTITUTE

**TRUSTEE'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 Shan-
non 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; con-
ducted by Crawford &
von Keller, LLC having
been appointed Substi-
tute 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 indebt-
edness has been declared
due and payable.

Party Entitled to Enforce
the Debt: 21st Mortgage
Corporation, its succes-
sors and assigns

The real estate located
in Tipton County, Tennes-
see, 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 instru-
ments 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 refer-
enced and described fully
in the Deed of Trust re-
ferenced above and com-
monly known as 136 Ju-
nior Drive, Covington, TN
38019. Pursuant to T.C.A.
§ 47-9-604 this sale shall
include the affixed manu-
factured home described
as a 2024 SEH Farm-
house, 27'x48' manufac-
tured 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 be-
tween the description and
address or tax identifica-
tion number).

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

This sale is subject to,
without limitations, all mat-
ters shown on any appli-
cable recorded plat; any
unpaid taxes; any restric-
tive covenants, easement,
or setback lines that may
be applicable; and statu-
tory right of redemption of
any governmental agency,
state of federal; any prior
liens or encumbrances in-
cluding those created by a
figure filing or any applica-
ble homeowners' associa-
tion 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 Trust-
ees' Notice of Sale can
also be found online at the
website ForeclosureTen-
nessee.com.

The following parties
may claim an interest in
the above-referenced
property to be affected by
the foreclose: any judg-
ment creditor or lien holder
with an interest subordi-
nate to the said Deed of
Trust of any party claiming
by, though, or under any of
the foregoing. Such par-
ties known to the Substi-
tute 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 be-
lieved 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 pur-
chase 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 en-
dorsed to Crawford &
von Keller, LLC. No per-
sonal checks will be ac-
cepted. To this end, you
must bring sufficient funds
to outbid the lender and
any other bidders. Insuffi-
cient funds will not be ac-
cepted. 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 be-
ing sold with the express
reservation that the sale
is subject to confirmation
by the lender or trustee.
The sale may be rescind-
ed only by the Substi-
tute 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 ten-
ders 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 representa-
tion of any kind, express
or implied, including with-
out 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

**City of Covington
Board of Zoning Ap-
peals Meeting
September 3, 2026 @
6:00pm
200 West Washington
Ave.**

Kurt D. Gray 315 Park
St. – Map 041F Group D
Parcel 004.00 – Variance.

For additional informa-
tion, call City of Covington
Code Compliance Depart-
ment at 901-476-7191 ext.
1046 or email codecompl-
iance@covingtontn.com.

**NOTICE TO
CREDITORS**

Estate of PAUL ALEX-
ANDER BELL, Deceased
Notice is hereby given

that on August 11 of 2026
Letters Testamentary (or
of Administration as the
case may be) in respect of
the estate of PAUL ALEX-
ANDER BELL, who died
4/3/2026, 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 es-
tate 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 re-
ceived 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
4 15

(B) Sixty (60) days from
the date the creditor re-
ceived 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.

MARGARET REED
BELL
Executor, Administrator,
Personal Representative
SHELBY COMBS
Attorney
GINA SMITH
Clerk & Master/ Deputy
Clerk

personally appeared be-
fore 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 Ten-
nessee Code Annotated
§30-2-306 shall be pub-
lished in the The Leader,
a newspaper published in
Tipton County, Tennessee
on and.

20aug2wp

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-5079
Estate of JERRY LEE
RAY, Deceased

Notice is hereby given
that on August 11 of 2026
Letters Testamentary (or
of Administration as the
case may be) in respect of
the estate of JERRY LEE
RAY, who died 3/28/2026,
were issued to the un-
dersigned by the Tipton
County Chancery Court
of Tipton County, Tennes-
see. All persons, resident
and non-resident, having
claims, matured or unma-
tured, 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 re-
ceived 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 re-
ceived an actual copy of
the notice to creditors, if

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Call this newspaper's classified advertising dept. or go to www.tnpress.com

LEGALS

From A8

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.

WILLIAM L FISHER
Executor, Administrator,
Personal Representative
Shelby Combs
Attorney
Gina Smith
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. 20aug2wp

Tipton County Chancery Court
1801 South College Street
Covington, TN 38019- 0087 (901)476-0209

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TOWN OF ATOKA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS – ATOKA FIRE STATION #2

The Town of Atoka is accepting sealed proposals from qualified contractors for concrete improvements at Atoka Fire Station #2, located at 681 Walker Parkway, Atoka, TN 38004.

The project generally consists of the removal of existing asphalt, site preparation, and installation of reinforced concrete in accordance with the specifications contained in the Request for Proposals (RFP).

Proposal documents may be obtained from the Atoka Fire Department by contacting Fire Chief Bill Scott at (901) 837-5323 or bscott@atokatn.gov.

Sealed proposals must be clearly marked “RFP – Concrete Improvements Phase 1, Atoka Fire Station #2” and submitted to: Town of Atoka – Town Hall

Attn: Fire Chief/Phase 1 Concrete Project

334 Atoka-Munford Avenue

Atoka, TN 38004

Proposals will be accepted until 10:00 a.m. (Central Time) on Friday, September 25, 2026, at which time they will be publicly opened.

The Town of Atoka reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any informalities or technicalities, and to accept the proposal deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

The Town of Atoka is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages participation by all qualified contractors.

As Required by TCA §30-2-306
Case Number PR-5080
Estate of EDGAR MOSES, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on August 11 of 2026 Letters Testamentary (or of Administration as the case may be) in respect of the estate of EDGAR MOSES, who died 7/23/2026, 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.

TIMOTHY MOSES
Executor, Administrator,
Personal Representative
David E Owen
Attorney
Gina Smith
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. 20aug2wp

Tipton County Chancery Court
1801 South College Street
Covington, TN 38019- 0087 (901)476-0209

NOTICE TO

TIPTON COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS MEETING

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the Tipton County Public Works Committee meeting for September has been rescheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Tipton County EMA Building.

CREDITORS
As Required by TCA §30-2-306
Case Number PR-5077
Estate of WILLIAM LOUIS MILES, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on August 10 of 2026 Letters Testamentary (or of Administration as the case may be) in respect of the estate of WILLIAM LOUIS MILES, who died 5/30/2026, 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) (2) 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

Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

MARK MILES
Executor, Administrator,
Personal Representative
SARA CARTER
Attorney
GINA SMITH
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. 27aug2wp

Atoka restaurant scores 79 after employee seen sanitizing hands instead of washing them

Covington Applebee's discards food over cooler design flaw; two tattoo studios score 100

ATOKA — Los Alebrijes, 114 Atoka Munford Avenue, scored 79 in a routine Tennessee Department of Health inspection August 19, the lowest of 10 Tipton County inspections during the week of August 18 through 23.

The inspector reported witnessing an employee use hand sanitizer rather than soap and water to clean their hands between taking payment at the register and serving food to tables. The report also describes a case of Roma tomatoes stored on top of a chest freezer outside the walk-in cooler, in the same box as a dirty slicer and the tops of already-cut tomatoes.

Other citations included a dirty cutting board stored on the can holder shelves with a knife on it, large pots stored on the dish room floor that needed to be rewashed and sanitized, a meat slicer and grinder with dried food debris in the feeder chamber, dirty knives on a prep table, an ice scoop stored directly on top of the ice machine, and debris hanging from walk-in cooler shelves.

Applebee's IHOP, 1617 S. Highway 51, Covington, scored 93 in a routine inspection August 18 after the inspector determined that ice rails on top of the prep line reach-in coolers could not hold temperature-sensitive foods at proper temperature because of heat lamps mounted above them. The person in charge voluntarily discarded diced cucumbers, diced tomatoes, cole slaw and sour cream. The inspector and staff then shifted temperature-sensitive items to the rear of the rail to let the shelf deflect radiant heat, and added ice. The report calls the arrangement a design flaw that management needs to address, and notes that because the items had not been on the line more than three hours, no embargo was applied.

Two Atoka tattoo studios earned perfect scores August 20. Hard Luck 13 Tattoo Studio, 14336 A. Highway 51, and Vince Bell's Lucky Devil Tattoo, 13274 Highway 51, each scored 100, with the reports noting state statutes were posted.

Little Angels Learning Center, 14654 Highway 51 S., Atoka, scored 100 in a food service follow-up inspection August 19. In a separate child care facilities inspection the same day, the center received an approval rating, with the inspector noting hot water was not provided in the yellow room and recording 42 children present.

Casa Mexicana, 11180 S. Highway 51 Ste. 4-5, Atoka, scored 97 in a follow-up inspection August 18.

specation August 18. Theo & Roe's Ice Cream Parlor, 105 West Pleasant Avenue, Covington, scored 99 on August 20, and two mobile units — TNT Bar B Que at 478 Griffin Rd., Mason, and Double D's at 438 Brittany Ln., Atoka — scored 99 and 98 respectively.

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 18-23, 2026. Source: Tennessee Department of Health.

TNT Bar B Que (mobile unit) — 478 Griffin Rd., Mason
Food service, routine, August 22 — **Score: 99**
No drainboards for three-compartment sink.

Double D's (mobile unit) — 438 Brittany Ln., Atoka
Food service, routine, August 21 — **Score: 98**
Broken thermometer in freezer.
No drainboards on three-compartment sink.

Hard Luck 13 Tattoo Studio — 14336 A. Highway 51, Atoka
Tattoo studio, routine, August 20 — **Score: 100**
No violations noted.
Comment: state statutes posted.

Vince Bell's Lucky Devil Tattoo — 13274 Highway 51, Atoka
Tattoo studio, routine, August 20 — **Score: 100**
No violations noted.
Comment: state statutes posted.

Theo & Roe's Ice Cream Parlor — 105 West Pleasant Avenue, Covington
Food service, routine, August 20 — **Score: 99**
No drainboards on three-compartment sink.

Little Angels Learning Center — 14654 Highway 51 S., Atoka
Food service, follow-up, August 19 — **Score: 100**
No violations noted.

Los Alebrijes — 114 Atoka Munford Avenue, Atoka
Food service, routine, August 19 — **Score: 79**
Employee witnessed using hand sanitizer, instead of soap and water, to clean hands between taking payment at the register and serving food to tables.
Case of Roma tomatoes stored on top of chest freezer outside the walk-in cooler, with the dirty slicer and tops of already-cut tomatoes

Notice of Sale by Auction:

The following vehicle owned and/or operated by:

Betty Hawkins, Credit Acceptance Corporation, 2010 Dodge Charger, 2B3CA3CV5AH214158

Jasmin Combs, Brittany Worley, 2014 Ford Fusion, 1FA6P0HD0E5358292

will be sold at auction September 21, 2026 at 10:30a.m. at 96 Quinton Drive in Munford TN. Sealed bids will be taken.

All bids can be rejected.

For information call 901-837-7735

Vehicle auction on September 16, 2026 at Daly Automotive, 375 Bass St, Munford, TN 38053.

2018 Ford

Vin # 1FAHP2F80JG102307. Owner: Robert C Clark, Lienholder: Santander Consumer, USA.

2015 GMC

Yukon Vin # 1GK2SCKJ6FR688315. Owner: Tomas Godula.

2001 Chevrolet Vin # 1GCEK14T21Z269995. Owner: Robert Cayton.

2005 Toyota Vin # j=JTDK-B22U757056773. Owner: Peyton Sing.

FOR SALE

Lots of Crappie fishing accessories,

Lots of tackle boxes full, rods, reels, And Crappie fishing poles.

Retired body man tools; pullers, Clamps, chains and accessories.

Buy one or buy all.

901-876-5855

Aug13,20,27

NOTICE TO FURNISHERS OF LABOR AND MATERIALS TO: Superior Traffic Control, LLC

PROJECT NO.: R4BVAR-M3-053

CONTRACT NO.: CNY143

COUNTY: Tipton

The Tennessee Department of Transportation is about to make final settlement with the contractor for construction of the above numbered project. All persons wishing to file claims pursuant to Section 54-5-122, T.C.A. must file same with the Director of Construction, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Suite 700 James K. Polk Bldg., Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0326, on or before 9/25/2026.

in the same box as whole tomatoes.

Cutting board stored on the can holder shelves, dirty, with a knife on it.

Large pots stored on the dish room floor; need to be on shelves off the floor and rewashed and sanitized.

Meat slicer/grinder has dried food debris in the feeder chamber.

No visible thermometer in the chest freezer for ice cream.

Damp wiping cloth stored on table by beverage station.

Dirty knives stored on prep table by walk-in cooler.

Ice scoop stored directly on top of ice machine, not in a clean container.

Debris hanging from shelves in walk-in cooler; top of ice machine sticky.

Employee drink with lid stored in reach-in freezer.

Little Angels Learning Center — 14654 Highway 51, Atoka

Child care facilities, routine, August 19 — **Score: Approval**

Hot water is not provided in yellow room.

Comment: 42 children present.

Applebee's IHOP — 1617 S. Highway 51, Covington

Food service, routine, August 18 — **Score: 93**

Ice rails on top of the prep line reach-in coolers unable to hold temperature-controlled foods at proper temperature, even with added ice, due to heat lamp location above them. Person in charge voluntarily discarded diced cucumbers, diced tomatoes, cole slaw and sour cream. Items were shifted to the rear of the rail so the shelf deflects radiant heat, with more ice added. Report calls this a design flaw for the coolers that management needs to address.

Flies being let in through back door propped open for trash removal.

Wet nesting of plastic containers on shelves by dish machine.

Dinner plates stored food side up on shelves by convection oven.

Cutting board on prep station across from steak grill severely gouged; needs replacement.

Comment: the discarded items had not been on the line more than three hours, so no embargo was applied.

Casa Mexicana — 11180 S. Highway 51, Ste. 4-5, Atoka

Food service, follow-up, August 18 — **Score: 97**

Items marked out of compliance, no detail given: thermometers provided and accurate; utensils, equipment and linens properly stored, dried, handled; physical facilities installed, maintained and clean.

Notice for Intent to Apply for Title for Motor Vehicle

288 Griffen RD, Mason, TN 38049 intends to apply for a title for the following vehicle:

2005 Ford Ranger 1FMZU-63K25UA02064

Any and all parties claiming to hold interest in said vehicle shall contact the above address by certified mail, return receipt requested, within fourteen (14) business days of the date of this publication.

FOR RENT

3BR 1 BATH

\$1500 A MONTH AND \$1500 DEPOSIT

773-886-5776

4WP

Munford opens season with dominant 58-0 win over Memphis Business Academy

David Perry

The Munford Cougars opened the 2026 football season in dominant fashion Friday night, cruising past Memphis Business Academy 58-0 behind a powerful rushing attack, explosive special teams play and a defense that refused to give the opposition room to breathe.

Munford wasted little time setting the tone as Germarione “Sweetfeet” Turner returned the opening kickoff 85 yards for a touchdown, immediately putting the Cougars in front and sending a message that the season opener would be played at Munford’s pace.

The Cougars’ offense continued that momentum throughout the game, piling up 309 rushing yards on just 23 carries. Munford averaged more than 13 yards per carry while MBA managed just 14 rushing attempts for negative 26 yards.

Qua Bell led Munford’s rushing attack with five carries for 97 yards and a touchdown. Bell consistently created big plays and helped the Cougars maintain pressure on the MBA defense.

Tay Starks also made his presence felt, rushing four times for 56 yards and two touchdowns. Jr. Cunningham added three carries for 41 yards and a touchdown, while Zavion Ross carried three times for 29 yards and another score.

Dixon Mooneyham contributed both on the ground and through the air. Mooneyham rushed three times for



Qua Bell runs around a defender during game action last Friday. Photo by Amy Smith.

30 yards and a touchdown while completing his only pass attempt for 31 yards, giving Munford another explosive element on offense. Turner, who opened the scoring with his kickoff return, added a 24-yard rushing attempt to his stat line as Munford continued to find success with nearly every touch.

While the offense and special teams provided plenty of highlights, Munford’s defense was equally impressive. The Cougars held Memphis Business Academy to negative 26 rushing yards and created multiple turnovers while keeping the shutout intact.

Braxton Grant led the defensive effort with four tackles, one sack, two tackles for loss and a forced fumble. Caleb Polk recorded three tackles and recovered a fumble, taking it back for a defensive touchdown to add even more points to Munford’s domi-

nant performance.

Amare Bell and Garrett Ballard each finished with three tackles, with Bell recording a tackle for loss and Ballard also contributing a tackle for loss.

By the final whistle, Munford had completed a 58-0 shutout in its season opener, giving the Cougars an impressive start to the new campaign. The combination of explosive rushing, special teams touchdowns, defensive pressure and turnovers gave Munford a complete performance on both sides of the football.

The Cougars will now turn their attention to one of their biggest games of the season when they face rival Millington next. After opening the year with a 58-point performance and a shutout, Munford will look to carry that momentum into the rivalry matchup against the Trojans.



Chick-fil-A Munford to host tailgate ahead of 2026 M&M Bowl

David Perry

With one of the area’s biggest high school football rivalries set to take center stage Friday night, Chick-fil-A Munford is helping the community get ready by hosting a tailgate party ahead of the 2026 M&M Bowl between the Munford Cougars and Millington Trojans.

Chick-fil-A Munford announced that it will serve as the sponsor of this year’s M&M Bowl, bringing together two communities with a long-standing rivalry and plenty of pride surrounding Friday night’s matchup.

The festivities will begin Thursday, Aug. 27, with a special tailgate party hosted by Chick-fil-A Munford from 5 to 7 p.m. The event will give fans, students, families and community members an opportunity to celebrate the rivalry before the teams take the field.

The tailgate will feature games, giveaways and

samples of new fall menu items from Chick-fil-A. Munford Cheerleaders will also be on hand to perform as the community gets into the football spirit.

Chick-fil-A Munford representatives said the business has a strong connection to both the Munford and Millington communities and is excited to help celebrate the historic rivalry.

The M&M Bowl will take place Friday night at Munford High School, with the Cougars hosting the Trojans for this year’s matchup. The game comes just days after Munford opened its season with a dominant 58-0 victory over Memphis Business Academy, giving the Cougars plenty of momentum heading into the rivalry contest.

For Munford fans, Friday’s game will be an early opportunity to see how the Cougars respond against a familiar opponent after their impressive season-

opening performance. Millington will enter the matchup looking to spoil Munford’s home opener and claim bragging rights in one of the area’s most anticipated rivalry games.

The Chick-fil-A tailgate is designed to make the M&M Bowl more than just a football game, giving the community a chance to come together and celebrate the schools, athletes, families and fans who make the rivalry special.

With games, giveaways, food samples, cheerleading performances and plenty of football excitement planned, Chick-fil-A Munford is ready to get the celebration started Thursday.

Then, on Friday night, the lights will come on at Munford High School as the Cougars and Trojans meet in the 2026 M&M Bowl.

The cow is ready for some football, and the community is ready for the rivalry.

Lady Chargers sweep halls in straight sets

David Perry

The Covington Lady Chargers volleyball team picked up a convincing straight-set victory over the Halls Lady Tigers, winning 25-15, 25-12 and 25-22. Covington controlled the match from the opening serve and never allowed Halls to take a set.

The Lady Chargers came out strong in the opening set, using steady offensive play and strong defense to build an early advantage. Covington eventually pulled away to secure a 25-15 victory and take a 1-0 lead in the match.

The second set was even more dominant for the Lady Chargers, as Covington continued to put pressure on Halls with its serving and attacking game. The Lady Chargers cruised to a 25-12 win, moving one set away from completing the sweep.

Halls battled back in the third set and made Cov-

ington work for the finish, keeping the final frame competitive throughout. The Lady Chargers stayed composed late and closed out the match with a 25-22 victory to complete the straight-set sweep.

Layton Smith led Covington’s offensive attack with seven kills, providing the Lady Chargers with a consistent presence at the net throughout the match. Raylynn Elder added six kills, while Ava McCalla finished with five kills to help keep Covington’s offense rolling.

McCalla also led the Lady Chargers from the service line with nine aces, while adding seven digs in an all-around performance. Her serving helped Covington create separation during key stretches and put Halls under pressure throughout the match.

Abby Ward helped keep the Covington offense organized with 16 assists, set-

ting up the Lady Chargers’ attackers and helping the team maintain its offensive rhythm. The balanced production from Covington’s hitters and strong serving performance helped the Lady Chargers finish the night without dropping a set.

Covington will now turn its attention to a road matchup against Tipton-Rosemark Academy in its next match. The Lady Rebels will present a familiar challenge, as the two teams faced each other in a pre-season scrimmage earlier this month that saw Tipton-Rosemark push Covington to five sets.

The upcoming match will give the Lady Chargers another opportunity to test themselves against a competitive opponent away from home. After sweeping Halls, Covington will look to carry its momentum and continue building on its strong start to the season.

Munford FFA kicks off 2026 Pig Show season at Tennessee State Fair

David Perry

The Munford FFA program kicked off its 2026 pig show season this week at the Tennessee State Fair, with seven exhibitors bringing 12 pigs to compete while gaining valuable experience both inside and outside of the show ring.

With temperatures soaring throughout the event, livestock care quickly became the top priority for the Munford FFA exhibitors. Students worked together to keep their pigs cool, comfortable and safe while making sure each animal was fed, washed, prepared and ready to compete.

The teamwork displayed by the students was one of the biggest highlights of the event. While each exhibitor was responsible for their own livestock project, the students consistently stepped in to help one another and made sure every pig received the care it needed in the challenging heat.

The hard work also translated into success in the show ring. Munford FFA exhibitors recorded several Top 5 class placings throughout the competition, giving the program plenty to celebrate during its first show of the season.

Hayden Pike turned in



an especially strong performance, winning her Crossbred Barrow class and earning an opportunity to return for the Grand Drive. Pike also added another major accomplishment by finishing first overall in the Swine Skillathon.

Nathan Greuling also represented Munford FFA well in the Skillathon, finishing ninth overall in the competition. All seven Munford exhibitors participated in the Swine Skillathon, giving students an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of swine production, management and care.

For the Munford FFA program, however, the Tennessee State Fair was about much more than ribbons and rankings. Livestock projects provide students with opportunities to de-

velop responsibility, work ethic, animal-care skills, knowledge, sportsmanship and leadership.

The experience also teaches students the importance of teamwork and being willing to help others. Whether they were preparing an animal for the show ring or helping a fellow exhibitor keep a pig cool in the Tennessee heat, the Munford students demonstrated the qualities that make agricultural education so valuable.

The Tennessee State Fair served as a strong opening to the 2026 pig show season for Munford FFA. With seven exhibitors, 12 pigs, multiple Top 5 finishes and impressive Skillathon performances, the program has plenty of momentum heading into the remainder of the season.

Week 2 of high school football is upon us

M and M Bowl is the marquee game this week

Jeff Ireland

jeff@magicvalleypublishing.com

Here’s a quick look at what you need to know about all four Tipton County-area matchups:

What: Munford (1-0) vs. Millington (0-1)

When: Friday at 7 p.m.

Where: Munford

Players to watch: Munford – RB Tay Starks, DB Qua Bell, OL Jayden Mullins, LB Braxton Grant, OL

two scores. The Munford rush-heavy offense is well known, but the defense is something to keep an eye on. Last weeks vs. MBA, the Cougar defense allowed negative 26 rushing yards.

What: Covington (1-0) vs. Haywood (0-1)

When: Friday at 7 p.m.

Where: Covington

Players to watch: Covington – QB Colby Labermeier, RB Collen Winfrey, OL Reid McMahan, OL Hunter Jones, DL Jalen Holland

The skinny: Covington won last year’s matchup

with rival Haywood in a shootout, 55-42. Haywood is 0-1, but its loss last week was against perennial power Henry County, 31-28, in a game that could have gone either way. This is one of the oldest and most competitive rivalries in West Tennessee. If you want to get a good seat, show up early.

What: Brighton (1-0) vs. Dyersburg (0-1)

When: Friday at 7 p.m.

Where: Brighton

Players to watch: Brighton – WR Timon Thompson, QB Michael Gilliland,

RB Jakarion Burrell, TE Brett Cothran, OL Jonathan Stanley

The skinny: Brighton should be really pumped up in this one, coming off a wild win vs. a very talented PURE Academy team last week. Freshman quarterback Michael Gilliland was impressive in his debut last week and should improve in Week 2. Keep an eye on senior running backs Jakarion Burrell and Jenkins. They were both very active last week in Brighton’s new run-first offense. Dyersburg beat Brighton last year, 36-27.

What: Tipton-Rosemark Academy (0-1) vs. Halls (0-1)

When: Friday at 7 p.m.

Where: TRA

Players to watch: TRA – QB Cason Gilmore, WR Jordan Smith, TE Buck Ford, WR Edward Lague, K Colin Corbitt

The skinny: The Rebels beat Halls 40-32 on the road last year and will be looking to get their first win Friday night. This is a non-region game, but picking up a win is important to get the Rebels on the right track as league play approaches.

Need to get something off your mind?

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