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# The forgotten history of Black people before slavery

Pop quiz: Can you name 10 kings or queens from history in 60 seconds? No Googling! Go!

How did you do? High five if you got all 10! But now here's the real question: How many of the kings or queens you named were Black or of African descent?

Let's try again. This time, I'll give you five minutes to name 10 notable Black historical figures from before slavery. I'll even start you off with King Tut. Ready? Go!

Was it harder this time? If so, you're not alone. Most of us weren't taught this history. I know I wasn't. In school, I learned about Ancient Greece, Rome, Chinese dynasties, the Mayans and Incas, Spanish conquistadors, Vikings, and indigenous Americans. Ancient Egypt was mentioned, but its people were rarely depicted as Black.

The first time I saw dark-skinned people in my history books, they were in shackles and chains. How is that possible? Was there no Black history before slavery? Or has it been hidden from us?

I believe the latter. Black history didn't begin in bondage—it is as ancient and rich as the earth itself. This Black History Month, I challenge you to look deeper. Here are 10 incredible Black historical figures who lived long before the transatlantic slave trade, whose stories are worth knowing and celebrating:

Ten Extraordinary Black Figures Before Slavery

1. Imhotep (c. 2700 BC)
  - Known as the "first genius" in recorded history, Imhotep was an Egyptian polymath—architect, physician, and high priest. He designed the Step Pyramid of Djoser, the earliest known pyramid, and is considered the father of medicine, centuries before Hippocrates.
2. Queen Nefertari (c. 1290–1254 BC)
  - One of the most influential queens of Ancient Egypt, Nefertari was the wife of Pharaoh Ramses II. She was deeply respected and honored, as shown by her elaborately decorated tomb in the Valley of the Queens.
3. Abu Bakr II (c. AD 1310)
  - Emperor of the Mali Empire and a predecessor of Mansa Musa, Abu Bakr II is said to have abdicated his throne to explore the Atlantic Ocean. Some historians believe his voyages may have reached the Americas before Columbus.
4. Hannibal Barca (247–183 BC)
  - One of the greatest military commanders in history, Hannibal was a Carthaginian general who led his army, including war elephants, across the Alps to challenge the Roman Empire. His tactics are still studied in military academies today.
5. Hypatia of Alexandria (c. AD 360–415)
  - A mathematician, astronomer, and philosopher, Hypatia was a scholar in Ancient Egypt during the Roman period. Her brilliance in science and philosophy made her a respected teacher and one of history's first female scientists.
6. Mansa Musa (c. AD 1280–1337)
  - As ruler of the Mali Empire, Mansa Musa's wealth was unparalleled, but his legacy extends beyond riches. He built libraries, mosques, and universities, transforming Timbuktu into a center of education and culture.
7. Pharaoh Hatshepsut (c. 1507–1458 BC)
  - One of Ancient Egypt's most successful rulers, Hatshepsut expanded trade networks and commissioned stunning architectural projects, such as her mortuary temple at Deir el-Bahari.
8. Ibn Battuta (AD 1304–1369)
  - A Moroccan explorer who traveled more extensively than Marco Polo, Ibn Battuta documented his journeys through Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Europe in a detailed travelogue that provides a vivid snapshot of the medieval world.
9. Queen Amanirenas (c. 40–10 BC)
  - A fierce queen of Kush, Amanirenas led her people in a successful resistance against the Romans. Despite losing an eye in battle, she defended her kingdom's independence and left a legacy of courage.
10. Makeda, Queen of Sheba (c. 10th Century BC)
  - Mentioned in the Bible, Makeda ruled over a wealthy and powerful kingdom in Ethiopia. Her famous visit to King Solomon symbolizes wisdom and cultural exchange.

Why This Matters

These individuals represent just a fraction of the rich history of excellence that predates slavery. Their achievements span science, mathematics, exploration, architecture, and governance, proving that African and Black contributions to human civilization have always been significant.

Yet, many of us were never taught these stories. When history omits these narratives, it reinforces harmful stereotypes and denies generations the opportunity to celebrate their heritage. Black history is not a sidebar to world history—it is world history.

A Call to Action

This Black History Month, I encourage you to seek out the stories of Black innovators, leaders, and visionaries who shaped our world. Share their stories with your children, friends, and communities. Celebrate their legacies and recognize the contributions they made to the global story of humanity.

Because when we learn about figures like Mansa Musa, Imhotep, and Queen Amanirenas, we don't just honor the past—we gain a fuller understanding of ourselves and our potential.

Black history didn't begin with slavery, and it doesn't end with oppression. It is a story of resilience, brilliance, and unshakable faith. Let's honor it, celebrate it, and share it—because Black history is world history.



By TJ Kirk

## Perkins Dinner and Auction to feature Dancing with the Stars

By Holly Roeder  
Staff Writer

Chester County Exchange Club - Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse Prevention presents Dancing with the Chester County Stars March 15, 2025, at the annual Dinner and Auction fundraiser. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the festivities begin at 6 p.m. at First Methodist Church, 131 North Ave., in Henderson.

Attendees will be treated to a variety of entertainment from the moment they arrive and can look forward to a mouth-watering meal prepared by Besso's, to include beef brisket, garlic mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, roll and dessert. A silent auction will be open throughout the evening for perusing, and a live auction will be conducted on stage. The Carl Perkins center is accepting items for both auction events and hope to offer a variety of auction items such as art, décor, projects or products, services or experiences and more. This event is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Perkins center. Every dollar raised in Chester County stays in Chester County, and every dollar makes a difference.

The premier event will feature a dancing competition from a few of Chester County's stars, including Andrew Fralick and Alayla Pickens, Dustin and Vivian Sanders, Ken Kitchen and Lakelin Lemmings, Lorenzo and Lauren Black and Nick Phillips and Teisha Nichols. Contestants will vie for the People's Choice Award, Mirror Ball trophy and the Spirit Award—on the dance floor and off. The community has the opportunity to submit votes for all of their favorites with donations prior to the event. Vote online at <https://www.carlperkinscenter.org/chester-dancing-with-the-stars-contestants> or donate to contestants or the Perkins Center personally.

Reserve tickets by March 3 to secure your chance to attend this year's Dinner and Auction. Tables of eight range from Tier one sponsorship for \$1,000; Tier Two sponsorship, \$750; and Tier Three sponsorship, \$500. Individual seats are available at \$50 each. Tickets can be reserved online at <https://www.carlperkinscenter.org/events/events/chester-dancing-with-the-stars> or by calling 989-7222.

Watch the Chester County Carl Perkins Center Facebook page and the **Chester County Independent** for updates.

# Big Game winners announced



Robert Allen of Oden's Marathon and Kenneth Davidson of Flathead's Upholstery are the winners in the Chester County Independent 2025 Big Game contest.

## City recognizes officers for excellence

By Kara Crump  
Staff Writer

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the city of Henderson met Thursday, Feb. 13 at the city hall. All board members were present at the meeting.


The meeting began with delegations. City of Henderson Police Chief Gary Davidson presented his "Police Department Life Saving" Awards. The 2024 Outstanding Excellence Awards for going above and beyond in efforts to save lives were awarded to Officer Mary Kate Haines, Officer Josh Burns, Officer Danielle Cook, Officer Robert Heathcock, Officer Dontavious Holloway, Officer Bobby Crumby and Captain Ron Stewart. The 2024 Chief's Citation Lifesaving Award was presented to Sergeant Michael Rhodes.

Chester County High School Senior students went before the board on behalf

2024  
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# Songwriters Night at the Historic Princess Theatre



**Buddy Cannon with Jimmy Melton,  
Ash Bowers, and Marla Cannon-Goodman.**

At Community Bank, we believe in giving back to the people and organizations that make our West Tennessee region stronger. We're proud to present **Songwriters Night at the Princess, benefiting the Henderson County Carl Perkins Center—an organization that brings hope and support to children and families.**

Thursday, February 27 | 7:00 PM | Doors open at 6:30 PM

Tickets are available at the Henderson and Lexington Community Bank Locations—\$ 35 per person.

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“What we need is not a history of selected races or nations but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate and religious prejudice.” -Dr. Carter G. Woodson, PhD

As we celebrate Black History Month this February, we recognize and honor the African Americans whose history-making accomplishments have helped shape the face and future of our nation. From arts and politics to industry, sports, science, and beyond, we celebrate the countless contributions Black Americans have made to our world and collective culture.

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Terry Bell  
and  
City Aldermen**

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From Page 1-A

## City

of Project Graduation 2025. This included the Class President, Vice President, Secretary, Reporter and Senior Council Representatives. Project Graduation is set for May 19, 2025, and the students came to ask for any donation from the city board members. There was \$500 that was given by the board and \$500 was given by the city of Henderson Police Department. “Thank you. We are very grateful,” stated Class President Nathan Salvador to the board.

State Farm business and property owner Tasha Johnson came before the board to speak with them about her property at 361 E. Main St. and Mifflin Avenue. She was requesting access to open a side street as the left-hand turn onto E. Main Street from her location is difficult. She also mentioned how she has largely an elderly client-base and there is a safety concern about drivers cutting through her parking lot to “beat the red light” to turn right. It was decided to table this item for a future meeting. There will be a conducting of further research done and sending people to go look at the parking lot to brainstorm better definitive solutions.

The next item on the agenda was to consider approval of the bids received on installing Influent Flow Meters at the three Wastewater Lagoons. The lowest bid was \$270,421 from R. Jones Underground. It was approved unanimously.

The item agenda to consider approval of bids received on dredging the East Lagoon was ultimately removed. Utility Director Darryl Green explained that there needs to be more research done and the budget would not cover the numbers that were given.

It will be discussed again (after review) at a future meeting.

Next item was to discuss hiring an engineer to design the water main extension on Eric Bell Drive. It currently does not have a waterline and will need fire protection. This would serve a new business location, Casey’s. It was decided to hire an engineer and to come back with the bids at the next meeting.

The board considered converting a part-time utility staff position into a full-time position. The current employee is part-time and will be leaving in either June or July of 2025. The board was asked for a \$20,000 salary with \$14,000-\$15,000 for insurance benefits totaling \$35,000 full-time position. The new employee would need training that the current employee would have to do part-time up until they leave the position. The discussion involved the current office employees needing help with being understaffed (for when other employees are sick or on vacation) and help with paperwork across all the departments. It was approved by all board members.

The mayor and board of alderman considered bids received on street material/services for the remainder of 2025. Hot mix asphalt and asphalt binder (laid in place) was the lowest at \$145, cold mix asphalt (delivered) was the lowest bid at \$110 and asphalt milling (per square yard) was the lowest amount of five dollars from Arrow Paving Co. Inc. Wayne County Rock had the lowest bids for 33C limestone washed rock gravel of \$19.25 per ton, gabion rip-rap stone for \$24.75 per ton and machine rip-rap stone for \$24.75 per ton. Southern Concrete had the lowest bid for 3500 psi concrete for \$170 per yard, 4000 psi concrete at \$173 per yard and flowable fill concrete at \$163 per yard.

It was approved by all board members unanimously.

The board members considered accepting a Tennessee Volunteer Fire Equipment Grant in the amount of \$29,650 for two Air Packs (SCBA) and two sets of turn out gear. The city of Henderson Fire Chief Doug Acred spoke to the board stating he applied for a grant of \$188,000 and this was the amount that was awarded from that grant. It was approved unanimously. Acred also discussed that the Chester County Fire Department needed a firetruck, and the city has a 1986 firetruck able to loan. It was not ultimately decided at this meeting.

Next item on the agenda was to discuss and consider changing the intersection of North Avenue and Sixth Street to a four-way stop. This discussion was about how to slow down drivers between those two streets. Albert Springer of North Avenue came before the board to speak about this subject. He mentioned people speeding numerous times in the area. It was decided to do more research on possible solutions and bring it back to the next meeting to discuss further.

The board considered quotes received on repainting a portion of the inside of City Hall. This would be for the outer main areas (hallways and stairways) of both upstairs and downstairs floors. Richard West Painting LLC gave a quote for labor and material equaling \$5,500. It was approved with no board members opposing.

During the discussion of any other business, there was a report from the city of Henderson Police Department on an “Undercover Alcohol Sting” operation on Jan. 17, 2025. Police Captain Ricky Hardy and Captain Ron Stewart conducted this operation at several businesses across the city including Express Liquor,



City of Henderson Police Chief Gary Davidson presented the Police Department Life Saving Awards during Thursday’s city board meeting. The 2024 Outstanding Excellence Awards for going above and beyond in efforts to save lives were awarded to Officer Mary Kate Haines, Officer Josh Burns, Officer Danielle Cook, Officer Robert Heathcock, Officer Dontavious Holloway, Officer Bobby Crumby and Captain Ron Stewart. The 2024 Chief’s Citation Lifesaving Award was presented to Sergeant Michael Rhodes.

Zippys Market, Corner Express Market, Discount Cigarettes, Odens Liquor Store, Odens Market and Bull Market. Oden’s Liquor Store at 383 N. Church Ave. received a 37-5-31 Citation (Sell of alcohol to a minor). Due to this, the Tennessee Alcohol Beverage Commission was notified. The city of Henderson Attorney Jerry Spore went before the board to explain possible repercussions of the violation. It was decided that ultimately TABC would be handing out the repercussions of the violation.

The city of Henderson Building and Zoning Official, Floodplain Manager, ADA Coordinator Brent Beshires mentioned at the meeting that there will be a discussion about the resolution of “tiny homes” in the upcoming city meeting of April 2025. Utility Director Green mentioned that he had found a new water pump for Deanburg. It was discussed at a previous meeting about keeping one as a spare if possible. More details will be discussed at the next upcoming meeting.

In updates, City Recorder Jim Garland discussed that Property Assessor Beverly Morton must complete a property adjustment

(not property reappraisal) because property values have increased quickly in the county. It was discussed that she had mentioned to city board members that the last time she was required to complete this was when she started over 20 years

ago. This will include all farmland, residential, vacant lots, etc.

Mayor Bell reminded board members of the upcoming budget meeting at City Hall at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 18.

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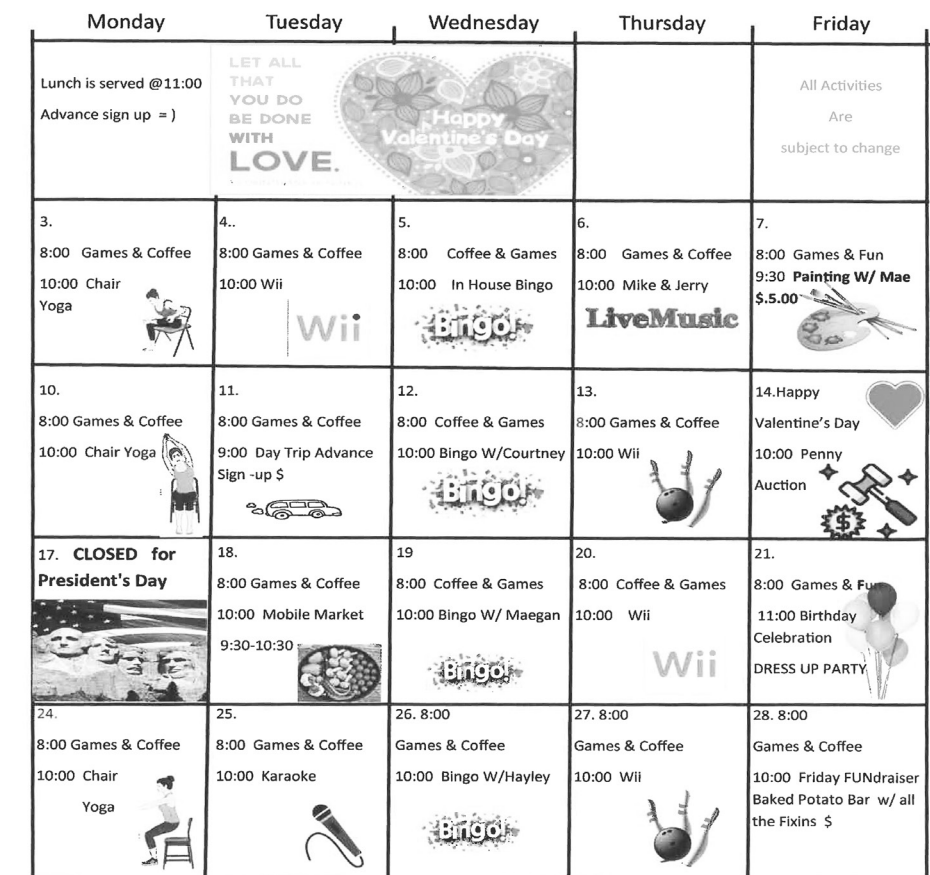
*with*  
**GLORIA HOLIDAY**

The Pig had a one-day meat sale on Thursday, Feb. 13! There were lots of great deals and door prizes. The city of Henderson would like to say thank you for rolling back the cost of meat with the way the economy is! Who would have thought a dozen eggs would have a \$6 starting price? For those who are worrying about the economy, remember what

Valorie Griggs is sending out a belated birthday wish to a young lady by the name of Ms. Elma Ross. On Feb. 7, Ms. Ross turned 99 years

HAVE A GREAT  
WEEK! LOVE YOU!

|                |                            |           |
|----------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Deanburg       | First Tuesday              | 7 p.m.    |
| Enville        | First Tuesday              | 6:30 p.m. |
| New Friendship | Third Friday               | 6 p.m.    |
| Hickory Corner | Fourth Thursday            |           |
| Jacks Creek    | Second Thursday            | 6-7 p.m.  |
| Montezuma      | First Monday               | 6 p.m.    |
| Sweetlips      | First Saturday in February |           |



Chester County Senior Citizens Center ~ Monday – Friday ~ 247 E. Main St. Henderson, TN

• “The Little Prince” by

· “Dream of the Red Chamber” by Cao Xueqin: Western audiences may not recognize this title as readily as the other books that qualify for the list of the best-selling works of

These are just some of the best-selling books of all time, and each are worthy of a read or re-read for book lovers who enjoy a good page turner.



The Chester County Independent charges \$35 for engagement announcements with photo, wedding announcements with photo, anniversary announcements with photo and miscellaneous lifestyle photos. Birth announcements are free without photo, \$28 with photo and \$38 for color photo. Hunting and fishing photos are \$30. For more information, call 731-989-4624 or email [news@chestercountyindependent.com](mailto:news@chestercountyindependent.com)

February is Black History Month; in 1926, historian Carter G. Goodson started Black History Week to recognize the contributions of African Americans. In 1976, the week was expanded to a month to celebrate the nation's bicentennial.

Please continue prayers  
for the family of Joyce

If you have news, call me at 608-3058, or if you want to rent the community center, call Pat Cates at 688-5125 or 315-8062. Have a blessed week everyone!

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MONTEZUMA  
Community  
NEWS



with  
GAYLE COX

Looking forward to getting beyond the cold and rainy weather. I could sure use a week of sunshine in my life and probably many others could, too. Come on, Spring!

Local governmental meetings are in need of more community support. If you care about Chester County, please pay attention to what is taking place in our county and come out to commission meetings and show your interest or concerns. Everyone should be mindful of what is going on in our county and care enough to help make a difference.

Montezuma sends out Happy Birthday wishes to Celeste Parker on Feb. 22, Allen Cook on Feb. 23, Imalee Montgomery on Feb. 25, Mason Wells, Sherry Thompson and Braylon Sanford on Feb. 25, Kelsa Turner, Tammy Thomas and Addison Grace Stanley on Feb. 26 and Wanda Cook on Feb. 27.

We appreciate all our

members at the center and would love for more of our community to get involved. With more help, we could plan more events for our community. Membership dues are \$25 after your first initial year of joining, and they are due for this current year. Membership dues need to be paid now to be considered an active member. We also take donations. Payments can be mailed to Edith Sills at 4475 Sunshine Rd, Henderson, TN 38340. Call Ann Moore at 608-2033 or myself if you have any new ideas for the center or wish to get involved. People who want to rent the community center should contact Betty Cooper at 879-9078 for booking. We ask those renting our facility to please follow our rules and show respect for the building. We try to keep it in the best order possible, and it takes everyone cooperating to make that happen. If you care about this community, please get involved in what is taking place to continue to grow our county and make it a better place to live and raise a family. Get to know what is changing in our local government, schools, churches and communities through the news, friends, your church, teachers, etc., and if it matters to you, there are ways to help make things better.

There is much spiritual

warfare with society accepting things that go against who God is and what HIS laws are that we are to follow. Every day of life has its challenges, but if we look to God for the right path, it can be a good one. Enjoy what time you have with your creator, your family and your friends. Please be in prayer for our local and federal government, law enforcement, school staff, teachers, people fighting the flu and COVID and the listed individuals of Kim Gray, Dobber Dyer, Brenda Hannah, Donna Doyle, Mike Lott, Linda Hopper, Cindy Kilzer, Quinten Johnson, Jerry Fletcher, Curtis Morrison, Renee Jordan, Ruby Hannah, Donnie Brooks, Linda Plunk, Mike Tedford, Sherry Fletcher, Chuck Beacham, Sandra Lott, Faye Crouse, Janice Morris, Jeanette Walker, Paul Schilling, Nancy Crouse and others that are sick or healing. We especially want to remember the families of Marty Rowland, Glynn Flatt, Lizzie Vinson and other families that have recently lost loved ones.

I am always looking for noteworthy news to share in this column. Please send to gaylescox1977@gmail.com or text me at 608-2857. As always, until next time, I am wishing a very blessed week to all you readers!

SILERTON  
Community  
NEWS

By: Marcus X. Fry/  
Mary Lynn Lambert

Wanda Kaye King passed away on Feb. 11, 2025 at Vanderbilt University Hospital in Nashville. She attended Piney Grove Baptist Church. Condolences and

prayers to her family. Josh Simer, son of Annette and Ronnie Simer, was ordained a deacon at his church in Oxford. Annette is pianist/singer at Silerton Baptist Church. Prayers for Barry Siler who will be having minor surgery late February. Barry is the son of Bill and Vonda Siler of Silerton. A reminder that at 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, there will be a fellowship of

soup, sandwiches, desserts and board games at Silerton Baptist. All are welcome. Let us hope for clear skies on Feb. 28 for a multi-planet alignment. If you have sharp vision and the skies are clear and dark, you might be able to see up to seven planets. The use of a sky/star app on a smart phone (e.g., SkyView Lite is a free one) is recommended.

Pictures from the Past

Submitted by: James Bright  
Chester County Historian



New Friendship School, Class of 1936-1937

Row one: Jessie Middleton, Gilbert King, Houston Savis, Rayburn Smith, Thelbert Ray Vestal, Lois Carroll, Vestern Smith. Row two: Lottie Mae King, Helen Carroll, Laverne Stanfill, Gertrude Arendall, Joe Butler, Billy Neal Priddy, Wilma Sue Smith, Joe Neal Seaton, Miss Beatrice Wright (teacher). Row three: Miss Gertrude Butler (teacher), Perry Butler, Freddie Ross Haynes, Aaron Ward Jr., Wade King, Nola Middleton, Eunice Middleton, Rosa Nell Butler, Osa Lee Smith, Harold Savis, Maxine Priddy, Allene Seaton. Row four: Clyde Priddy, Mildred Smith, Clara Bell Butler, George Seaton, Junior Mullis, Virginia Keen, Geraldine Haynes, Marie Arendall. Row five: Mrs. Oma Keen.



The Chester County Lions Club recently recognized Rilee Trice, a freshman at Chester County High School, as the Dr. Ronald Johnson Student of the Month.

**Lion Club selects Rilee Trice as Student of the Month**

The Chester County Lions Club proudly recognized Rilee Trice as the Dr. Ronald Johnson Student of the Month. Rilee is the daughter of Toni and Lee Trice and the granddaughter of Nancy and Bill Trice. She serves as the vice president of the Freshman Class at Chester County High School. She is an all-A student taking honors English and honors math courses. She is a member of HOSA and the volleyball team.

Her hobbies are reading, spending time with family and friends and enjoying activities with her church youth group.

According to her honors math teacher, Corey Sweat, “Rilee is one of my favorite

students! She is very capable academically, and her academic capabilities pale in comparison to her great character. She is resilient, never allowing the circumstances of life to be an excuse for not doing her best, and she is a constant encouragement to those around her to be the same. Rilee has a great sense of humor, and she never fails to lighten the mood of any room she enters. Rilee is someone who strives to make everyone’s day better even if she is not having a great day herself. She has already made such a great impact in this world, so I look forward to seeing her impact continue. It has been an absolute privilege to have her in my class.”

Volleyball coach, Emily Ellis, said, “Rilee is the sweetest and kind-hearted player that I’ve likely ever had. She strives to do her best every day in practice and in games. She does everything that is asked of her and is kind to everyone! She has been through so much, and she handles it all with such grace. She puts others ahead of herself and shows compassion for others.”

Her future plans include attending college to become a registered nurse and pursuing her nurse practitioner’s degree. We are super proud of you, Rilee, and know you will accomplish great things.

UofM Lambuth M. D. Anderson Planetarium

announces March and Spring Break schedule

The University of Memphis Lambuth M. D. Anderson Planetarium has announced its schedule of shows for March:

• Tuesday, March 4, 5:30 p.m. – Oasis in Space

• Friday, March 7, 1:30 p.m. – Oasis in Space

• Tuesday, March 11, 5:30 p.m. – Seeing

• Friday, March 14, 1:30 p.m. – Seeing

• Friday, March 14, 3:45 p.m. – Kids’ After School Special Planetarium Show – Astronaut

• Tuesday, March 18, 5:30 p.m. – Big Astronomy

• Friday, March 21, 1:30 p.m. – Big Astronomy

• Saturday, March 22, 9:30 a.m. – Kids’ Saturday Morning Planetarium Show – Two Small Pieces of Glass

• Tuesday, March 25, 5:30 AND 6:30 p.m. – Cosmic Castaways

• Friday, March 28, 1:30 p.m. – Cosmic Castaways

The planetarium will also present a special series of shows for kids for the week of Jackson-Madison County Public Schools spring break

— Monday, March 17 through Friday, March 21. Shows will be presented at 3 p.m., and include Capcom GO!; Tales of the Maya Skies; Max Goes to the Moon; Astronaut; and Two Small Pieces of Glass.

Doors open 15 minutes before showtime. For safety reasons, there is no seating once the IN USE lights are on. No food or drink is allowed in

the auditorium. Presentations are free to groups and individuals, with free parking in the conveniently located Hyde lot.

For more information about the University of Memphis Lambuth, visit [www.memphis.edu/lambuth](http://www.memphis.edu/lambuth), call 731.425.1904, or email [lambuth@memphis.edu](mailto:lambuth@memphis.edu).


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What's Happening  
in Our Area

Commodities Distribution  
Feb. 19-20

SWHRA will distribute commodities from 8 a.m.-noon Feb. 19 and Feb. 20 at the Chester County central office, 1527 White Ave, Henderson. You must call 989-3879 to sign up. You can sign up until the night before distribution.


CC Democratic  
Party Meeting Feb. 27

The Chester County Democratic Party will meet at 7 p.m. Feb. 27 on the second floor of City Hall, 121 Crook Ave., Henderson. For more information, contact Gloria Holiday, Chair of the Chester County Democrats, at 608-6132.

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Publication Date: February 27, 2025



Tennessee Special Session Adjourns

Immigration enforcement, disaster relief and voucher expansion among legislation passed  
By State Senator Page Walley

In a special session called by Governor Bill Lee, Tennessee lawmakers passed legislation to expand public funding of private school choice, provide critical relief and support for those impacted by Hurricane Helene, and set up the framework to collaborate with the federal government to enforce federal immigration law and remove criminal aliens from the nation.

Public funding for private school choice is expanded

With our district being overwhelmingly opposed to the expansion of public tax dollars funding private school choice expansion, lawmakers passed Governor Lee’s “Education Freedom Act” to expand what many call the “voucher program.” I voted against the measure consistent with the wishes of our district.

The Education Freedom Act of 2025 includes:

20,000 scholarships for Tennessee students starting in the 2025-26 school year

- 10,000 reserved for students at or below \$176,000 of income per family and 10,000 without any income limit. After year one, there would be no income limit.

Scholarship amounts equal to the per pupil base funds allocated to public school students each year - \$7,075 as

of the most recent school year - Funds will be deposited into an account to be used for tuition, fees and other qualified education expenses

Claims state funding to school districts will never decrease due to disenrollment

This will cost at least \$425 million to implement in year one. There is uncertainty moving forward about future participation in the program and how associated cost escalations would be funded annually. Lastly, as a conservative, I would like to see data on our existing three-county pilot project being affected before we supersize this to all 95 counties. To date, the outcomes in the pilot are not promising.

Major legislation to improve immigration enforcement passes in Tennessee special session

Comprehensive bill strengthens public safety, enhances immigration law enforcement

We also passed a comprehensive immigration enforcement bill in the Tennessee Senate last week as part of a special session called by Governor Bill Lee.

With the passage of this legislation, Tennessee leads the nation in fighting illegal immigration. It puts Tennessee in the best position to work

with federal agencies to enforce immigration laws and remove dangerous illegal immigrants from Tennessee communities.

Our local law enforcement officers and agencies are on the front lines every day. This bill provides them with the additional training, equipment, and resources they need to enhance enforcement of federal immigration laws quickly and successfully. It also ensures responsible use of taxpayer dollars and efficient government efforts.

Key provisions of the legislation include:

Creation of the Centralized Immigration Enforcement Division (CIED):

Establishes a dedicated division within the Department of Safety, led by a Chief Immigration Enforcement Officer (CIEO), appointed by the governor. The CIEO will coordinate directly with the Trump administration to implement federal immigration policies efficiently.

Immigration Enforcement Grant Program:

Provides grants to local governments participating in the federal 287(g) program, which assists in the enforcement, detention, and removal of illegal immigrants. These

grants will help fund training, operational costs, and local law enforcement initiatives.

Enhanced State-Issued ID Standards:

Prevents misuse of state-issued IDs for voting by incorporating distinct markers on state-issued IDs for non-U.S. citizens. The legislation restricts permanent state-issued IDs to U.S. citizens while allowing temporary IDs for legal residents. This change ensures that only individuals with permanent IDs are eligible to vote in Tennessee elections.

Strengthened Sanctuary City Ban Enforcement:

Imposes a Class E felony charge on local officials who adopt or maintain sanctuary city policies in violation of state law. Additionally, the Tennessee Attorney General is empowered to initiate removal proceedings against officials found guilty of violating these provisions.

Hurricane Helene Relief

In September 2024 Hurricane Helene wreaked havoc in nine counties across Northeast Tennessee, claiming 18 lives. The storm destroyed 500 homes, damaged another 538 and displaced thousands. More than 13,000 Tennesseans have registered for individual assistance, including 5,207 affected households. In addition, Unicoi County

Hospital and Hampton High School were torn apart by the storm.

To provide much-needed relief to victims of Hurricane Helene and aid local governments of impacted counties, the General Assembly passed important legislation and funding in the special session.

In total, lawmakers approved \$470 million for recovery efforts for Hurricane Helene and future emergencies. Senate Bill 6005 allocates:

- \$110 million to Hurricane Helene Interest Payment Fund
- \$100 million to the Governor’s Response and Recovery Fund

• \$240 million to TEMA to reduce political subdivisions’ cost share obligations of the non-federal portion of disaster recovery costs

- \$20 million for the reconstruction of Hampton High School in Carter County

In just a few hours, natural disasters can unleash devastation that can take a lifetime to overcome. Sadly, this is the reality many in Upper East Tennessee are facing in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. I am grateful that in this special session we are able to provide critical relief and support to

those affected and strengthen our preparedness for future disasters.

Recovery funds for Hurricane Helene and future emergencies

The General Assembly also passed Senate Bill 6003 which creates two disaster relief funds to support ongoing recovery efforts and allow for proactive preparation for future emergencies. It establishes the Hurricane Helene Interest Payment Fund which allocates \$110 million to help local governments manage loan interest for recovery costs by covering interest costs at 5% per year for three years on loans for recovery expenses. It also creates the Governor’s Response and Recovery Fund which provides \$100 million for a new program inspired by the HEAL Program that will provide flexible financial resources for future emergencies, including agricultural recovery, unemployment assistance, and business recovery efforts.

The regular session of our General Assembly will begin this coming week. It’s an honor to serve you. Please reach out to me at sen.page.walley@capitol.tn.gov or 615-741-2368.



YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW...

City of Henderson Police Department

February 10, 2025

Amy Fry, 35, Jackson, was arrested and charged with driving on a canceled/revoked or suspended license with priors. She was released from the Chester County Jail after posting a \$500 bond.

February 14, 2025

Laverious Warren, 27, Starkville, Mississippi, was arrested and charged with driving on a canceled/revoked or suspended license. He was released from the Chester County Jail on his own recognizance.

Lucas Lucas, 36, Henderson, was arrested and charged with driving on a canceled/revoked or suspended license. He is held in the Chester County Jail without bond.

City of Henderson Fire Department

February 8, 2025

4:26 p.m. – 651 Rosebud Ave., unauthorized burning.

February 10, 2025

8 a.m. – US Highway 45 N at Old Jackson Road, motor vehicle crash with injuries, no entrapment.

February 11, 2025

4:26 p.m. – 217 Mifflin Ave., public service.

6:30 p.m. – 113 S. Cason Ave., Freed-Hardeman University, Hall Roland Hall, steam from shower activated alarm.

February 13, 2025

2:48 p.m. – US Highway 45 N at W Main St., motor vehicle crash with injuries, no entrapment.

7:48 p.m. – 203 E. University St., Freed-Hardeman University, Benson Hall, automatic fire alarm, false alarm, unknown cause.

February 15, 2025

2:41 p.m. – 212 E. University St., Freed-Hardeman University, Brewer Sports Complex, pull station pulled by a child, false alarm.

7:07 p.m. – 129 E. University St., Freed-Hardeman University, Scott Hall, cooking on stove activated alarm, false alarm.

February 16, 2025

7:19 a.m. – 310 E. University St., Heritage Towers, assist EMS.

Sheriff’s Department

February 10, 2025

Nikki Kennamore, 31, Parsons, was arrested and charged with violation of Community Corrections – Misdemeanor. She is held in the Chester County Jail in lieu of a \$1,350 cash only bond.

Samantha King, 34, Henderson, was arrested and charged with allowing an unlicensed driver to drive. She was released from the Chester County Jail on her own recognizance per the judge.

Cody Sego, 31, Henderson, was arrested and charged with child abuse and neglect. He is held in the Chester County Jail in lieu of a \$5,000 bond.

Dixie Sego, 33, Henderson, was arrested and charged with child abuse and neglect. She was released from the Chester County Jail after posting a \$5,000 bond.

February 11, 2025

Jesse Butler, 24, Enville, was arrested and charged with violation of Community Corrections – Misdemeanor. He is held in the Chester County Jail without bond and is currently serving time.

Kayla Leatherwood, 36, Michie, was arrested and charged with simple possession of schedule II methamphetamine, simple possession of a schedule VI controlled substance and driving on a canceled/revoked or suspended license. She was released from the Chester County Jail after posting a \$2,000 bond.

February 12, 2025

Kody Bryant, 21, Jackson, was arrested and charged with violation of Community Corrections – Misdemeanor. He is held in the Chester

County Jail without bond.

Reignesha Gray, 23, Bolivar, was arrested and charged with leaving the scene of an accident. She was released from the Chester County Jail on her own recognizance per the citation.

Craig Rufus, 30, Bolivar, was arrested and charged with violation of Community Corrections – Misdemeanor. He is held in the Chester County Jail without bond.

February 13, 2025

Sarah Terry, 49, Finger, was arrested and charged with failure to comply with bond conditions. Bond was reinstated and she was released from the Chester County Jail.

Aljuwan Hardin, 22, Louisville, Mississippi, was arrested and charged with contempt of court. He is held in the Chester County Jail without bond.

February 14, 2025

Casey Roach, 23, Bethel Springs, was arrested and charged with contempt of court. Bond was reinstated

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Chester County Independent encourages letters to the editor, especially those that are deal with local issues and topics in a timely manner. In order to be considered for publication the following criteria must be met:

- \* All letters must be signed by their authors and include the address and telephone number of the author for verification purposes. The names of all letter writers will be published.
  - \* Letters should be typewritten if possible, and if not type-written must be neatly handwritten.
  - \* Letters must be less than 350 words. Longer letters may be returned to their authors to be shortened.
  - \* All letters must comply with legal restrictions regarding libel, and the Chester County Independent reserves the right to edit all letters.
  - \* Letters from candidates for public office and letters endorsing candidates for public office will not be considered for publication.
  - \* Letters which raise new or substantially new issues will not be considered for publication within a week prior to an election. Such issues must be raised in time to give candidates time to respond.
  - \* The Chester County Independent will not continue to publish letters which raise the same or substantially the same issue(s) or allegations.
  - \* The newspaper also will not publish “form” or mass-produced letters originating from special interest groups.
- Letters should be emailed to news@chestercountyindependent.com or mailed to P.O. Box 306, Henderson, TN 38340. Our office address is 218 S. Church Ave., Henderson, TN 38340. All letters to the editor become the property of the Chester County Independent and are not returned. The Chester County Independent reserves the right to edit or refuse to publish any letter.

and he was released from the Chester County Jail.

Crystal Surratt, 39, Savannah, was arrested and charged with violation of Community Corrections – Misdemeanor. She is held in the Chester County Jail in lieu of a \$3,000 cash only bond.

Kevin Jones, 33, Henderson, was arrested and charged with contempt of court. He was released from the Chester County Jail after posting a \$250 cash bond.

Christina Jones, 34, Beech Bluff, was arrested and charged with simple possession of a schedule VI controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was released from the Chester County Jail on her own recognizance.

February 15, 2025

Donald Elrod, 47, Henderson, was arrested and charged with simple possession of schedule II methamphetamine and driving

on a canceled/revoked or suspended license. He was released from the Chester County Jail after posting a \$1,000 bond.

February 17, 2025

Kathy Utley, 54, Medon, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence. She is held in the Chester County Jail without bond.

Jamie Castillo, 44, Bethel Springs, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence with one prior conviction, driving on a canceled/revoked or suspended license and two counts violation of implied consent. He is held in the Chester County Jail without bond.

Chester County Fire Department

February 10, 2025

3:17 p.m. – Masseyville responding, Hurst Road at Grooms Road, brush fire.

All information included in Your Right to Know is provided by law enforcement, emergency service agencies and the Chester County Court System, and reflects reports, bonds, charges, jail status and court disposition at the time the report is received.

Governor Bill Lee

1st Floor, State Capitol  
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Phone: (615) 741-2001



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CHESTER COUNTY

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# FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

## TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

### AARON and the Golden Calf

Exodus 32

Aaron was left in charge while Moses was on the mountain receiving the commandments from God.

When the people saw that Moses did not come down from the mountain for a long time, they grew impatient. They asked Aaron to make them gods who would go before them.

Aaron instructed them to bring the gold earrings the people were wearing. He took the gold and formed it into a golden calf. Aaron then built an altar in front of the calf and called for a festival to the Lord on the following day.

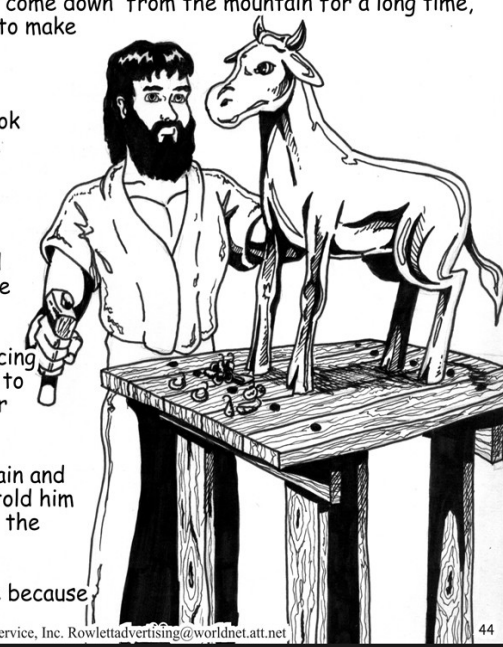
The people sacrificed burnt offering and presented peace offerings. Then they ate and drank and indulged in revelry.

God knew that these people were sacrificing to the idol and not to Him, so he planned to destroy them. Moses intervened on their behalf and God spared them.

When Moses came down from the mountain and questioned Aaron about the calf, Aaron told him that he had thrown the gold jewelry into the fire and out came the calf.

The Lord struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the golden calf.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR CHESTER COUNTY, TENNESSEE AT HENDERSON

IN RE: Estate of MARY JOYCE STEWART, DECEASED,

R.D. No. 2025-PR-810

NOTICE TO CREDITORS PURSUANT TO TCA §30-2-306

Notice is hereby given that on February 7, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect to the Estate of Mary Joyce Stewart who died January 18, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk and Master of Chester County, Tennessee. All persons, residents and non-residents, 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 of the 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. All persons indebted to the above Estate must come forward and make proper settlement with the undersigned at once.

Date: 2/7/25

Richard A. Murley, Executor  
Date: 2/7/25

John E. Talbott, Attorney  
Date: 2/7/25

Keith Frye, Clerk and Master  
Date: 2/7/25

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE AT HENDERSON

SEAN JOHNSON, Plaintiff,  
v.  
DONALD S. RHOADES JR., Defendant.

Docket No. 18-CV-21

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

It appearing to the Court from the motion and affidavit in this cause that the whereabouts of the Defendant, Donald S. Rhoades, Jr., are presently unknown and cannot be ascertained upon diligent inquiry, so that ordinary process cannot be served upon him.

A copy of this Order shall be published for four (4) consecutive weeks in The Chester County Independent, a newspaper published in Henderson, Chester County, Tennessee. Defendant is hereby required to appear and answer or otherwise defend against the Complaint for, and to serve an answer to said Complaint by April 1, 2025 which is thirty (30) days from the last day of publication of this notice on W. Justin Reynolds, Attorney for Plaintiff in this cause, whose address is Reynolds & Reynolds, P.C., 55 Court Street, Suite A, Savannah, TN 38372, or default judgment will be entered against the Defendant, Donald S. Rhoades, Jr., and this cause be set for hearing ex parte as to Defendant. Failure to answer or appear may result in a judgment against the Defendant.

Entered this the 24th day of January, 2025.

KYLE C. ATKINS,  
Chester County Circuit Judge

APPROVED FOR ENTRY: W. JUSTIN REYNOLDS, BPR #028032  
MELISSA G. STEWART, BPR #023041  
Attorneys for the Plaintiff  
Reynolds & Reynolds, P.C.  
55 Court St, Suite A  
Savannah, TN 38372  
731/925-7000  
731/925-9282 – Facsimile  
[justin@reynoldslawfirm.pc.com](mailto:justin@reynoldslawfirm.pc.com)

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NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTION OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms and conditions of a Deed of Trust dated May 13, 2015, executed by TRACY L WATKINS and REBECCA WATKINS conveying certain real property therein described to CHARLES E. TONKIN, II, as Trustee, as same appears of record in the Register's Office of Chester County, Tennessee recorded May 19, 2015, in Deed Book 396, Page 731; and

WHEREAS, the beneficial interest of said Deed of Trust was last transferred and assigned to PennyMac Loan Services, LLC who is now the owner of said debt; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned, Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, having been appointed as Substitute Trustee by instrument to be filed for record in the Register's Office of Chester County, Tennessee.

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable, and that the undersigned, Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, as Substitute Trustee or his duly appointed agent, by virtue of the power, duty and authority vested and imposed upon said Substitute Trustee will, on **March 27, 2025** at 10:00 AM at the Main Entrance steps of the Chester County Courthouse, Henderson, Tennessee, proceed to sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash or certified funds ONLY, the following described property situated in Chester County, Tennessee, to wit:

BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIN FOUND IN THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY OF NEW FRIENDSHIP ROAD, WHICH POINT

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IT'S TIME TO STOCK YOUR POND!

DELIVERY WILL BE:  
**Tuesday, February 25th**  
Jackson 10:45-11:30  
@ R & J Feed Supply  
**Tuesday, March 4th**  
Bolivar 12:45-1:30  
@ Stockdale's  
Henderson 2:15-3:00  
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NOTICE TO FURNISHERS OF LABOR AND MATERIALS TO:  
Superior Traffic Control, LLC  
PROJECT NO.: R4BVAR-M3-037  
CONTRACT NO.: CNX163  
COUNTY: Chester

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 4/4/2025.

IS THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF DYKE SELLS AS RECORDED IN RECORD BOOK 310, PAGE 645, REGISTER'S OFFICE OF CHESTER COUNTY, TENNESSEE; THENCE, FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING, AND WITH THE WEST LINE OF SELLS, SOUTH 02 DEGREES 29 MINUTES 47 SECONDS WEST 1940.07 FEET TO AN IRON PIN FOUND IN THE NORTH LINE OF WRIGHT; THENCE, WITH THE NORTH LINE OF WRIGHT, THE FOLLOWING CALLS: SOUTH 77 DEGREES 29 MINUTES 45 SECONDS WEST 234.53 FEET; SOUTH 48 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 12 SECONDS WEST 144.23 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF VIRES; THENCE, WITH LINES OF VIRES, THE FOLLOWING CALLS: NORTH 07 DEGREES 44 MINUTES 22 SECONDS WEST 214.13 FEET TO AN IRON PIN FOUND; NORTH 19 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 07 SECONDS WEST 105.15 FEET TO AN IRON PIN FOUND; NORTH 31 DEGREES 04 MINUTES 17 SECONDS WEST 109.21 FEET TO AN IRON PIN FOUND; THENCE CONTINUING ON WITH VIRES AND THEN A NEW LINE THROUGH EMISON, NORTH 00 DEGREES 25 MINUTES 10 SECONDS WEST 1683.81 FEET TO AN IRON PIN SET IN THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY OF NEW FRIENDSHIP ROAD; THENCE, WITH THE

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SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY OF NEW FRIENDSHIP ROAD, SOUTH 89 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 54 SECONDS EAST 552.57 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 22.5 ACRES AS SURVEYED BY ADVANCED LAND SURVEYING, INC., R.L.S. NO. 1999, AN DECEMBER 10, 2012.

Parcel ID: 011-014.07

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

The street address of the property is believed to be **185 NEW FRIENDSHIP RD, HENDERSON, TN 38340**. In the event of any discrepancy between this street address and the legal description of the property, the legal description shall control.

CURRENT OWNER(S):

TRACY L WATKINS, REBECCA WATKINS O T H E R INTERESTED PARTIES:

S I M M O N S LUMBER COMPANY, INC., VELOCITY I N V E S T M E N T S, LLC ASSIGNEE OF L E N D I N G C L U B C O R P O R A T I O N ASSIGNEE OF WEBBANK, HARPETH FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC D/B/A ADVANCE FINANCIAL, PMB RENTALS, LLC, CITIBANK, N.A., THE PEOPLES BANK

The sale of the above-described property shall be subject to all matters shown on any recorded plat; any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements or set-back lines that may be applicable; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by

a fixture filing; and to any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. This property is being sold with the express reservation that it is subject to confirmation by the lender or Substitute Trustee. This sale may be rescinded at any time. The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day, time, and place certain without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place for the sale set forth above. All right and equity of redemption, statutory or otherwise, homestead, and dower are expressly waived in said Deed of Trust, and the title is believed to be good, but the undersigned will sell and convey only as Substitute Trustee. The Property is sold as is, where is, without representations or warranties of any kind, including fitness for a particular use or purpose.

THIS LAW FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Rubin Lublin TN, PLLC, Substitute Trustee 3145 Avalon Ridge Place, Suite 100 Peachtree Corners, GA 30071 [rlselaw.com/property-listing](http://rlselaw.com/property-listing) Tel: (877) 813-0992 Fax: (470) 508-9401

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# FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

## Big seventh lifts Lions to win

In the first game of a long weekend of baseball the Freed-Hardeman University Lions used a four-run seventh inning to defeat the University of St. Francis (Ill.) Fighting Saints 4-2.

The Lions (6-3) had a tough time figuring out the USF starter. A pitcher's duel had no player reaching scoring position until a leadoff double from the Saints created an opportunity that USF capitalized

on to take a 1-0 lead. After being spotted a second run, the Fighting Saints (0-1) turned the game over to their bullpen in the bottom of the seventh. Trace Anderson took advantage of the change by lacing a double down the line in left. Three straight singles from the Lions helped FHU to plate runs on three consecutive at bats to take the lead of the final score 4-2.



## Lucas Gupton signs to play golf at FHU

One day after the spring half of their season concluded Freed-Hardeman golf looks to the future with the signing of Davidson Academy's Lucas Gupton.

Gupton has plenty of tournament experience, competing on the Sneds Tour, the Mid-South Junior Tour, and the Hurricane Golf Tour. During the 2024 campaign, Gupton finished with a share of 2nd place at the Mid-South Junior Masters. During the Mid-South Tour, he was in the top-10 in total points. He carded a 67 at the Legacy Golf Club to record the second-lowest round while tying for third place at the Ted Rhodes Open with a closing round of 70 (-2). He helped the Bears to two Regional Tournament berths.

"There are no true words to describe how I feel about FHU," said Gupton. "When I first started talking to Coach Randall, one of the first things we talked about was our love for Christ. FHU felt like the right place for me before I even stepped foot on campus. My decision to commit to FHU was a no-brainer when I saw the community that they have created and when I got to sit down and meet with the coaching staff.

Coach Randall is an amazing person and his striving for Christ is unmatched. I can't wait to get down there and represent the FHU Lions!"

Head golf coach Randall Rhodes said, «Lucas exemplifies the type of player and person we want on our team. He has a passion for competing, a love for FHU, and a desire to work hard to continue growing. His character and his strong tournament experience will have a positive impact for us. We're looking forward to Lucas being at FHU and the impact he will have.»

## Odom's 20 leads FHU to victory

Competing in their final road trip of the regular season the No. 4 Freed-Hardeman University Lady Lions had a huge second half to put away the Lindsey Wilson College Blue Raiders 71-47.

The Lady Lions (23-3, 7-3 MSC) fell behind early but promptly scored the next 12 points to storm ahead to a 12-2 lead thanks to the forward tandem of Kaylee Odom and Kelsey Bender.

After a free throw from LWC put the Blue Raiders back on the board Bender and Odom connected for layups before Alaina Stiles' free throw ended the first quarter with FHU leading 17-9.

Lindsey Wilson (15-11,

2-8 MSC) jumped back in during the second quarter by connecting on back-to-back 3-pointers to narrow the margin to as little as four points before Stiles and Brooklyn Crouch connected from long range to open an eight-point run to push FHU's lead to 31-19. The Blue Raiders hit four free throws to end the half with the Lady Lions leading 33-25.

As has been the case all season the Lady Lions turned it up to 11 by tallying 19 points in each quarter. Odom and Crouch opened with layups before Jenna Satterly's triple made it a 15-point lead for the maroon and white. FHU and LWC traded scores until Satterly's jumper made

it a 52-36 FHU lead after three quarters.

The FHU defense did not allow a made shot by the Blue Raiders until a jumper at 3:06. Meanwhile the Lady Lions continued to dominate in the paint with Lucy Curry's layup sealing the 71-47 win.

Both teams attempted 49 shots, but the Lady Lions connected on more than double LWC's total with 29 makes to the Blue Raiders' 13. The Lady Lions scored 46 points in the paint while Lindsey Wilson had four.

Kaylee Odom was 9-10 from the floor to score a game-high 20 points. Jenna Satterly tallied 11 points while Kelsey Bende scored nine.



## Law's big day leads Lions to win

Peyton Law dropped a career high 30 points to lead four No. 4 Freed-Hardeman University Lions in a 91-76 victory over the Lindsey Wilson College Blue Raiders.

Phil Horton and Law got the game going with three straight layups for the Lions (22-4, 7-3 MSC) but Lindsey Wilson got white hot from beyond the arc by sinking eight 3-pointers in the first half. Three of those game in the middle of an 11-0 run for the hosts, eventually taking a nine-point lead over the Lions. Ryley McClaran stepped up for three triples of his own before Blake Dean's trey at 5:52 gave FHU back a 29-27 lead. Dean would go on to score six more points in the half before heading to the locker room with a 42-38 lead.

Law would then make waves in the second half beginning with a 3-pointer to give the Lions a nine-point edge over the Blue Raiders (15-11, 2-8 MSC) in the first minute of the half. Law would forge ahead with six unanswered points to make the Lion lead 57-47 at the 13:14 mark of the second frame. Sam Powell entered the fray to score six points with Geraldo Lane's layup at 8:01 ending a 7-0 run to push FHU's lead to 13. The hosts would only connect for one field goal in the last five minutes of play while the Lions forged ahead to the 91-76 victory.

Freed-Hardeman shot 56% from the floor while keeping Lindsey Wilson at 45%. The Lions dominated the glass by out-rebounding the opposition 41-27.

It was a big day for Peyton Law, being named to Small College Basketball's Top-50 Bevo Award Watchlist, recording his career high, and eclipsing the 1,000 point benchmark in the win. Phil Horton and Ryley McClaran each contributed 13 points while Blake Dean tallied 12. Law and Horton each earned double-doubles with Horton grabbing a team-high 11 boards with Law collecting 10.



# Johnson’s jersey retired at Liberty Tech ceremony

Chester County Head Basketball Coach Tarius Johnson was honored last week by his Alma Mater Liberty Tech in Jackson by having his jersey number retired.

Johnson was a star basketball player at Liberty, garnering many accolades during his four-year career.

They include:

2006 State Champion  
2008-2010 Team Captain  
2008 - District 13AAA All-Tournament  
2008 - District 13AAA All District  
2008-2009 District 13AAA Champions  
7AAA Runner-Up Sub-State  
2007-2008 District 13AAA Champions  
2007 - Poplar Bluff Basketball Show-down First Team All-Tournament Team  
2008 - MLK Classic MVP  
2009 Poplar Bluff Basketball Show-down First Team All-tournament Team  
2008-2009 All-District Team  
2009 Region 7AAA All-Tournament

2009 - All West Tennessee Basketball Team  
2010 - All West Tennessee Basketball Team  
2010 - All District 14AA All-Tournament Team  
2010 All Region Team 7AAA  
2010 - District 14AA All-Tournament Team  
2010 - Region XVI All Region Team  
2010 Golden Circle All Star Game MVP  
2010 - Lead Team in Charges  
2010- 1,000 Point Scorer (Finished with 1,733 points)  
2010 Second Lead Scorer in School History  
2010 - State Runner-up, Sub-State Champions  
2010 - State Runner-Up District 14AA Runner-Up  
2010 - All-American High School Basketball Team



Savannah Williams drives to the basket during last Friday night’s game against Lexington. The Eaglettes were defeated in the final game of regular season 22-47. They advance to the district tournament that begins this week.

Photo by Caneisha Turner

## Basketball teams lose two in regular season finale

By Caneisha Turner  
Sports Writer

The CCHS Girls and Boys lost both games in the final game of regular season against the Lexington Tigers. The girls were defeated 22-47 and the boys lost 35-52.

They advance to the district tournament this week. (see graphic below).

In girls’ action, the Eaglettes held them on in the first quarter with baskets by Karlie Heinsohn and Brooke Ketchum. They were down by two as the first quarter came to an end, 6-8.

JuJu Prather found the hoop in the second, as she was fouled while shooting. The basket counted and she was able to add two free throws. The score at the break was 10-25 as Lexington widened the margin.

The Eaglettes were only able to muster four points in the third with baskets by Ketchum and Kloe Taylor. The Lady Tigers’ lead was 15-40 at the end of three.

Prather provided five points in the final period and Esther Osburn provided another two. At the buzzer the Eaglettes were defeated 22-47.

Prather led the scoring with eight points followed by Ketchum with six, Heinsohn with four and Osburn and Taylor contributed two apiece.

The fate of the boys’

team was like the girls. Lexington jumped on top in the first quarter 14-6 and the Eagles were never able to recover. Aiden Welch, Jayden Williams and Christian Swift accounted for the scoring. The Eagles were trailing by eight.

The Tigers lead continued to grow in the second quarter, up by 12 at the intermission. Williams, Christian Halford and Swift

put six on the scoreboard. The Eagles were able to add 13 points in the third on baskets by Welch, Williams and Halford. but trailed 25-39 by quarter’s end.

The Eagles added 11 points in the final quarter but came up 17 points short at the buzzer, losing 35-52.

Leading the Eagles in scoring was Welch with 12, Williams and Halford with eight and Swift with five.

## District 12-3A Basketball Tournament

**Girls**  
at Lexington  
**Tuesday, Feb. 18 - POSTPONED UNTIL 2/20/25**  
Game 1: No. 4 Hardin County vs. No. 5 Chester County, 6 p.m.  
Game 2: No. 3 McNairy Central vs. No. 6 North Side, 7:30 p.m.  
**Friday, Feb. 21**  
No. 1 South Side vs. Game 1 winner, 6 p.m.  
No. 2 Lexington vs. Game 2 winner, 7:30 p.m.  
**Monday, Feb. 24**  
Consolation, 6 p.m.  
Championship, 7:30 p.m.

**Boys**  
at Lexington  
**Thursday, Feb. 20**  
Game 1: No. 4 Lexington vs. No. 5 Hardin County, 6 p.m.  
Game 2: No. 3 Chester Co. vs. No. 6 McNairy Central, 7:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, Feb. 22**  
No. 1 North Side vs. Game 1 winner, 6 p.m.  
No. 2 South Side vs. Game 2 winner, 7:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday, Feb. 25**  
Consolation, 6 p.m.  
Championship, 7:30 p.m.



Chester County High School Head Basketball Coach Tarius Johnson waves to the crowd during a ceremony last week at Liberty Tech High School in Jackson. Johnson’s number 4 jersey was retired because of his outstanding career. Johnson is joined by his daughter, Jada and wife, Jasmine.



Volleyball at Chester County High School has gotten underway, hosting the Lexington Lady Tigers last week. The Junior Eaglettes were defeated in two sets 22-25 and 14-25. Pictured is Aayla Howell as she readies to serve.

Photo by Caneisha Turner

# PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

**AIDEN WELCH**

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# NATIONAL FFA WEEK



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Terkira Smith  
Kennon Smith  
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Katelynn Carter  
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Christopher Davis  
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