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EXECUTIVE INSIGHT

DENNY WAYNE ROBINSON
WHITE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BACK TO SCHOOL, OFF TO A GREAT START

It's that time again: dust off the backpacks, pack the lunchboxes, and fire up the buses. As White County Executive, it's my privilege to welcome our students, families, and educators back for another exciting school year. The first day of school is always a special time - full of energy, optimism, and opportunity. And this year, we have even more reasons to celebrate.

Our school system continues to make impressive strides. According to the latest data from the Tennessee Department of Education, White County Schools have not only met but in several areas exceeded state expectations for academic performance. In the 2024-25 Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) results: English Language Arts scores rose across nearly every grade level, with White County students outperforming the state average in English I and II. Mathematics saw a notable increase, particularly in middle grades, where proficiency jumped by more than 5 percentage points. Science scores improved steadily, reflecting our district's commitment to hands-on, inquiry-based learning. Social Studies proficiency in grades 6-8 increased by nearly 4 percentage points.

These gains are a testament to the leadership of the School Board, Director of Schools, the dedication of our teachers and staff, and the support of our families and community. Together, we are building a school system that not only educates but empowers.

Education is the foundation of any strong community, and it's clear that White County is investing in its future by engaging in the whole student. From early literacy initiatives and STEM enrichment to career and technical education pathways, we are preparing our young people for success in college, careers, and life. Our schools are safer and better equipped than ever before.

The 2025-26 school year officially begins on Monday, August 5 for students in grades 1-12. Kindergarteners will follow a staggered start beginning August 6, with all students in attendance by

EXECUTIVE 2A



EXCITEMENT. Sparta Splash Pad, located just behind the YMCA, has finally set off with the groundbreaking. Mayor Jerry Lowery and members of the board of aldermen, as well as other individuals, were in attendance. (See story below)



Jade McCallister and Austin Skelton ready to serve their communities

SPARTA PROUD. Congratulations to Lt. Jade McCallister, of Central View Volunteer Fire Department-Walling/Quebeck/Mt. Gilead, and driver/operator Austin Skelton, of Doyle Volunteer Fire Department, for completing Fire Instructor 1 at Tennessee Fire and Codes Academy.

City holds groundbreaking for Sparta Splash Pad

Community anxiously awaits completion of the project

JOSH AUSTIN
Staff Writer

On July 17, Sparta had a big groundbreaking celebration for a highly anticipated project. The Sparta Splash Pad, located just behind the YMCA, has finally set off with the groundbreaking. Mayor Jerry Lowery and members of the board of aldermen, as well as other individuals, were in attendance.

While the project has been highly anticipated for months since the announcement, May-

or Lowery said the project has been three years in the making. In October 2024, Mayor Lowery announced the concept for the design was being finalized. Then, in early 2025, rough drafts of the design were unveiled. The team working on the designs cleaned it up and, over time, have found a design with which they are happy.

The installation of the splash pad will take some time, starting with the underground work first. While Mayor Lowery is hoping and anticipating an opening date in spring 2026, the lengthy installation process and unpredictable weather make the exact opening time uncertain. (See photo above)

Operation Safe Streets: Bockman Way

SPARTA POLICE, WHITE COUNTY SHERIFF, AND THP WORKING TOGETHER

JOSH AUSTIN
Staff Writer

behaviors."

All three law enforcement groups will be acting together to monitor any violations on the busy street to catch those violating the law. They urge motorists to "remain alert, obey posted speed limits, and avoid any distractions while driving."

Operation Safe Streets: Bockman Way is expected to begin underway soon, and the departments involved will release updates about the progress of the initiative as time goes along. Anyone who has questions about the operation is asked to contact either the Sheriff's Office, Sparta Police Department, or Tennessee Highway Patrol for more information.



Rep. Sherrell announces parks & rec grant for White County

State Rep. Paul Sherrell, R-Sparta, announced last week that White County will receive a \$50,000 grant through the Tennessee Recreation Initiative

GRANT 2A

TN Fire and Codes Academy names Doyle Volunteer Fire Department to Elite Club



Members of Doyle Volunteer Fire Department

1,514 cumulative training hours

RACHEL AUBERGER
Staff Writer

Tennessee Fire and Codes Academy recently announced

that the Doyle Volunteer Fire Department has been named to their Elite Club for the 24/25 fiscal year. The appointment comes after the volunteer firefighters put in a cumulative 1,514 training hours. Doyle Volunteer Fire Department is one of just 56 fire departments across the

state of Tennessee to achieve Elite Status for the year.

"We are proud of the dedication and sacrifice of our members in order to become the trained professionals that our community deserves," the department said in a released statement.

24/7
coverage

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7-DAY FORECAST

TUESDAY

42% PRECIPITATION
NNW 5 MPH

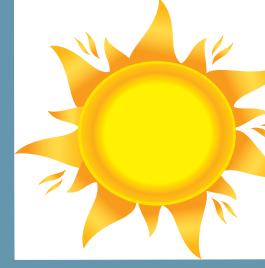
WEDNESDAY

24% PRECIPITATION
S 5 MPH

THURSDAY

15% PRECIPITATION
SSW 5 MPH

FRIDAY

24% PRECIPITATION
WSW 4 MPH

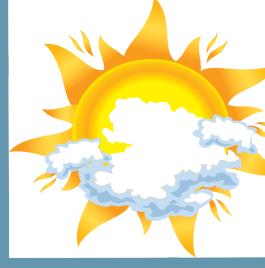
SATURDAY

22% PRECIPITATION
SW 5 MPH

SUNDAY

38% PRECIPITATION
WSW 5 MPH

MONDAY

24% PRECIPITATION
W 6 MPHHIGH 91
LOW 71HIGH 92
LOW 72HIGH 92
LOW 72

OBITUARIES

Lue Edith Dodson
Sept. 1, 1930-July 14, 2025

Lue Edith Dodson, 94, was born Sept. 1, 1930, and passed away July 14, 2025, at her residence, following a brief illness. She was a resident of Doyle and a native of Quebec.

A homemaker and longtime member of Laurel Creek Baptist Church, she was the daughter of Robert and Cora Atnip Hutchings. She was married to Daniel Lee Dodson, on Jan. 16, 1954, who preceded her in death.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Janice Ann Dodson, and siblings Tom Hutchings, Ray Roberts, Elsie Horton, and James William Hutchings.

Mrs. Dodson is survived by a son, Doug (Mollie) Dodson, of the Bone Cave Community; daughter, Belinda (Tommy) Barnett, of Pensacola, Florida; grandchildren, Cori (Jimmy) Williams, of Sparta, Christopher Dodson, of

Doyle; great-grandchild, Tuff Williams, and soon to be Walker Williams; siblings, Ruby Hutchings and Wayne (Debbie) Hutchings, all of Doyle; and several nieces, nephews, and special in-laws.

Graveside service was 10 a.m., July 16, 2025, at Beech Cove Cemetery, in Van Buren County.

High Funeral Home, in McMinnville, was in charge of arrangements.



NEWS

EXECUTIVE

CONTINUED FROM 1A
August 12. Pre-K students will begin their full schedule on August 14. Families are encouraged to attend Open House events the week prior to meet teachers and get acquainted with classroom routines. Updated calendars, supply lists, and school-specific information are available on the district's website.

As the first day of school approaches, let's remember to offer a wave to the bus driver, a word of encouragement to a teacher, or a high five to a student ready to tackle the new year. These small acts of support matter more than we know.

Thanks, D.W.

Kelvin Clay Ballard
Dec. 23, 1953-July 13, 2025

Funeral service for Kelvin Clay Ballard, 71, of Sparta, was 1 p.m., July 16, 2025, in the Cookeville Chapel of Hooper, Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home, with burial in Saylor's Cemetery.

Kelvin Ballard, a devoted family man and treasured friend, passed away unexpectedly, on July 13, 2025, at Ascension Saint Thomas Highlands Hospital.

Born Dec. 23, 1953, in Gainesboro, Kelvin lived a life filled with love, laughter, and a strong work ethic that defined his character and his relationships with those around him.

Kelvin dedicated many years of his life to working as a truck driver for various companies, embodying the former adage that hard work pays off. After retiring, in 2010, he found joy in nurturing his passions. A passionate gardener, Kelvin was known for cultivating a stunning, abundant garden each year. His green thumb brought vitality not only to his garden but also to the hearts of those who beheld it. Kelvin relished time spent outdoors, soaking in the beauty of nature and sharing it with his loved ones.

The memories of Kelvin are rich and varied, often highlighted by his laid-back and happy-go-lucky nature. Such tales will forever remind his family of his spirited personality and zest for life.

Kelvin was an avid eater who took great pleasure in country cooking. It was said that he had a hungry appetite and a love for all things delicious, turning meal-times into cherished gatherings with his loved ones. His pride and joy were found in caring for his family, a role he embraced wholeheartedly, showing unwavering support and affection to

everyone around him.

He leaves behind a loving life partner, Betty Nash Ballard, and his daughters, Lori Ballard Greatorex (Donnie), Jenny (Bobby) Anderson, and Aimee (Mike) Payne. His legacy continues through his brother, Robert Ballard, and sister, Sandy (Billy) Scott. Kelvin's grandchildren, Brooklynn Payne, Alex (Ben) Hickey, Michael Peyton Payne, Katie (Joe) Kashner, Sean Nash, and Emily Anderson will carry on his spirit, alongside his great-grandchildren, Josie, Lila, Norah Kashner, and Theo Hickey. He is also survived by his loyal companion, his dog, Tater, who was by his side through life's many moments.

Kelvin was preceded in death by his loving parents, Encil and Wilma Dean Martin Ballard; his brother, Ricky Ballard; and his cherished son-in-law, Bobby Anderson. He also mourned the loss of his beloved dog, Abby, who brought him such joy.

Mike Payne, Donnie Harville, Joe Kashner, Billy Scott, Sean Nash, Denton Bristow, Brian Ballard and Aubrey Watson served as pallbearers.

Hooper, Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

James Keith Sims
March 23, 1935-July 13, 2025

James Keith Sims, 90, passed away July 13, 2025, surrounded by his family.

He was born March 23, 1935, in Sparta, to Tom Frank and Eugene Sims.

Keith was the oldest of five children. After graduation from White County High School, Keith enlisted in the United States Army and proudly served his county in the Korean War. After returning home from his service, he worked several jobs that included driving a tractor-trailer and driving a school bus for White County School System, but his favorite job was helping run the family farm. Keith also loved attending U.T. football games with his brothers.

In addition to his parents, Keith was preceded in death by two sisters, Jean Ann Chambers (husband Bobby), Rubye Todd; brother, Glenn Sims; and sister-in-law, Jan Sims.

Keith is survived by his wife of 32 years, Margaret Alfreida "Freida" Sims; son, Terry Sims (Crystal); stepsons, Grover Lee Wilson (Kristen Bailey), Steven Wilson (Brenda), Phillip Wilson (Tina); brother, Tommy Sims; sisters-in-law, Kim Sims, Shirley Kittle; brother-in-law, John Todd; grandchildren, Lauren Sims, Bethany Bogle, Kierstin Sims, Will Wilson, Tad Wilson (Joelynn), Molly Wilson, Megan Wilson, McKenna Young, Madox Young; and several great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

A celebration of life will be

Aug. 6, 2025, at Valley View Baptist Church, in Sparta, with full military honors. The family will receive friends 1-2 p.m., Aug. 6, with the service at 2 p.m.

Honorary pallbearers include Gary Gibson, Charlie Hickey, Ernie Raper, Charles Sims, Koltin Sims, Seth Sims, Zaylan Sims, Charlie Wright, and Madox Young.

Oak Lawn Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



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Regular ads-Noon, Thursday

Friday edition

Classifieds-10 a.m., Tuesday

Regular ads-Noon, Tuesday

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All Letters to the Editor must contain a name and phone number. (Phone number is used for verification and not printed.) Letters are subject to editing/rejection

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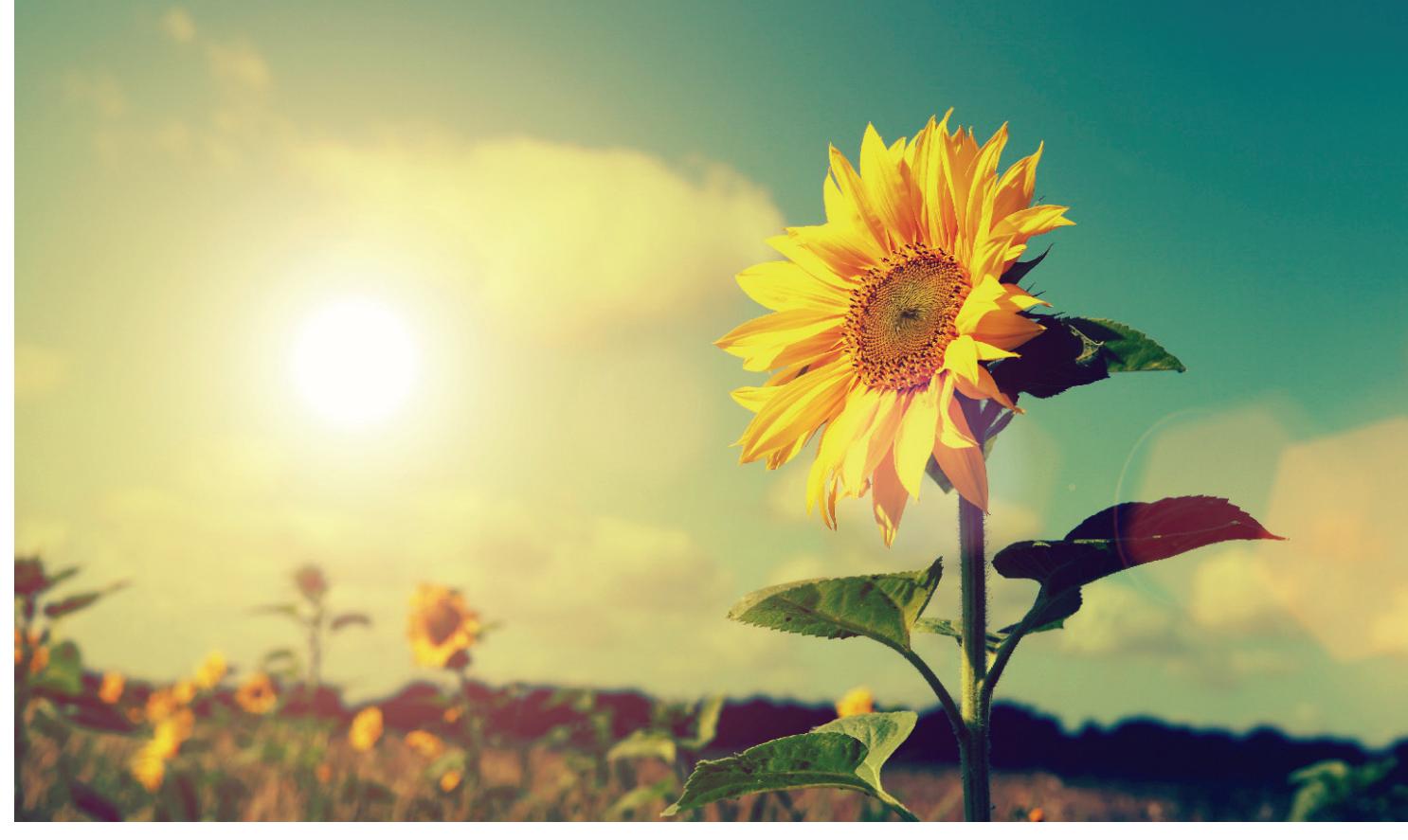
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and rejoice in hope of the
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Romans 5:2*



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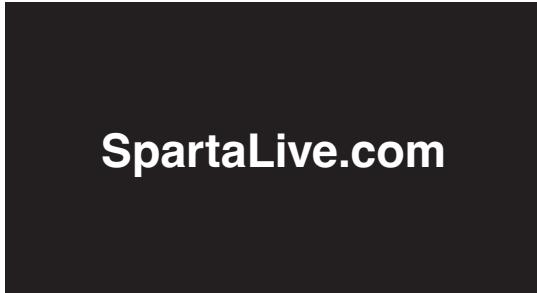
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And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.
Mark 4:1

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2025



Top 5 in contest

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE PET!

Winner will be announced July 25

Ballot can be found elsewhere in today's Expositor

Here are the
Top 5!

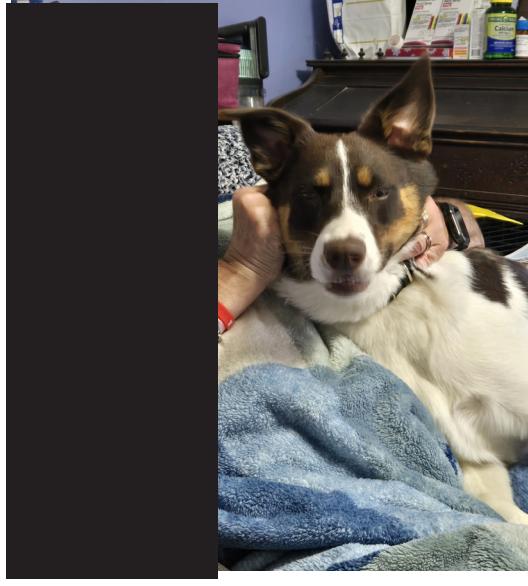


OLIE
Pet Parent: Kayla Holland



ZOEY
Pet Parent: Alexa Dempsey

VOTE!
VOTE!



BISCUIT HENSLEY
Pet Parent: Larry & Becky
Hensley



SISU & MORDE
Pet Parent: Gigi & Denny
Mitchell



GAMMA
Pet Parent: Hattie Mae
Young

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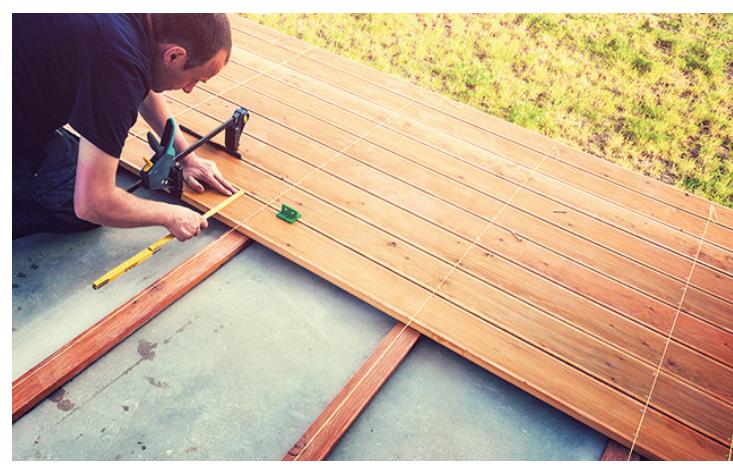
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HOME

Did you know? Outdoor living spaces are a good investment for homeowners seeking to enjoy their home exteriors to the fullest, and that investment continues to pay dividends when homes are put on the market. According to Remodeling magazine's Cost vs. Value report, a number of outdoor living upgrades provide a sizable return on investment (ROI) when homeowners put their properties up for sale. According to the report, a wood deck could recoup up to 82 percent of the original cost at resale, meaning a job that comes in around the national average price of \$17,000 could net \$14,000 at resale. An outdoor kitchen could prove an even better investment in terms of ROI, as Remodeling magazine indicates such a feature nets a return between 55 percent and 200 percent at resale depending on the location of the home and the materials used for the project.



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VOTING BALLOT

The Expositor is sponsoring 'Pet Idol,' which provides those who have beloved furry or feathered friends (or maybe not-so-furry and feathered) a way to showcase their cutie pies in a contest that will also provide a donation to White County Humane Society. Deadline to enter is May 31. For those who do not have access to internet, photos can be brought to The Expositor office, at 34 W. Bockman Way.

1. Voting forms must be filled out completely.
2. Any incomplete or incorrect voting ballots will be disqualified.
3. Each vote is a voluntary donation of 50 cents. Visit SpartaLive to view photos, or they can be viewed in each edition of the Expositor through July 17. Call 931-836-3284 to vote over the phone (If paying by credit card there is a \$5 minimum charge).
4. Expositor reserves the right to make all final decisions concerning all matters of administration, procedures and eligibility. All entry photos become property of The Expositor.
5. Rules are subject to change. In the event The Expositor becomes aware of any attempt to subvert the general intent of the contest or its rules, the company reserves the right to protect itself, its advertisers and customers from those who would act to change the intent of the promotion for their own benefit.
6. The Expositor and their immediate families not eligible to win.
7. Ties will be decided by random drawing.

CUT OUT THIS BALLOT AND SAVE FOR FUTURE VOTING. View pet photos beginning June 6 on SpartaLive.com. They can also be viewed in each edition of The Expositor through July 17. Votes can be placed with a suggested donation of 50 cents per vote. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the White County Humane Society.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

ZIP: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____

VOTE 1: PET'S NAME: _____ **# OF VOTES:** _____ **x 50 cents = \$** _____

VOTE 2: PET'S NAME: _____ **# OF VOTES:** _____ **x 50 cents = \$** _____

VOTE 3: PET'S NAME: _____ **# OF VOTES:** _____ **x 50 cents = \$** _____

EXAMPLE: PET'S NAME: AWESOME PURPLE CAT **# OF VOTES:** 20 **x 50 cents = \$** 10 DOLLARS

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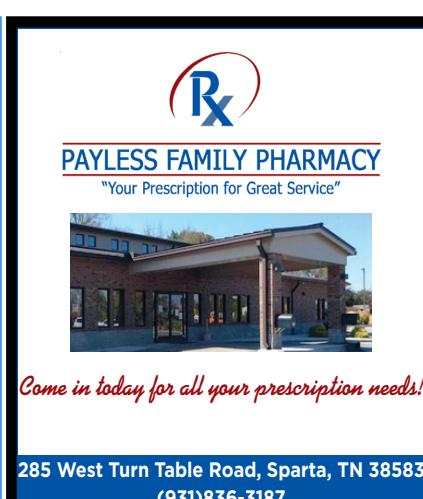
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CARD #

EXPIRATION: / CVV:

CALL 931.836.3284 to vote over the PHONE, OR visit our office to vote in person.

Winner will be announced July 25



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THE EXPOSITOR

JULY 22, 2025, PAGE 7A

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE
WHEREAS, on July 27, 2015, KAREN NASH and JESSE NASH executed a Deed of Trust to Walter G. Birdwell, Jr., Trustee for Citizens Bank of Carthage, for a certain indebtedness, which Deed of Trust was recorded in RB372, Page 456 in the Register's Office for White County, Tennessee; and WHEREAS, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness,

1, BRANDON GRIFFIN, Substitute Trustee, by virtue of instrument recorded in the Register's Office for White County,

Tennessee, will sell the property on Friday, August 1, 2025 at 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the East Door of the White County Courthouse, Sparta, Tennessee to the highest and best bidder, for cash, as described in the Deed of

Trust as follows:
Lying and being in the Second (21d) Civil District of White County, Tennessee and more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at an 0.5 inch diameter pipe in the North margin of Simmons Road, being the Southeast corner of tract being described and the Southwest corner of the property of Norma Highsmith; thence, leaving the property of Highsmith and with the North margin of Simmons Road, South 81 degrees, 45 minutes, 10 seconds West 38.03 feet to a point in the North margin of Simmons Road; thence, South 80 degrees, 00 minutes, 16 seconds West 95.38 feet to an 0.5 inch

PUBLIC NOTICE

diameter pipe in the North margin of Simmons Road, being a Southwest corner of this tract being described and the Southeast corner of the property of tract 2; thence leaving Simmons Road and severing the property of Kramp, North 3 degrees, 55 minutes, 36 seconds East 297.00 feet to an 0.5 inch diameter pipe, being a corner of tract being described and the Northeast corner tract 2; thence, continuing to sever the property of Kramp, South 85 degrees, 39 minutes, 14 seconds West 145.16 feet to an 0.5 inch diameter pipe in the East line of the property of Anderson, North 3 degrees, 41 minutes, 29 seconds East 878.16 feet to an 0.5 inch diameter pipe in the South

line of the property of William Lloyd Black, being the Northwest corner of this tract being described and the Northeast corner of the property Anderson; thence, leaving the property of Anderson and with the South line of Black, South 84 degrees, 55 minutes, 17 seconds East 278.02 feet to an 0.5 inch diameter pipe, being the Northeast corner of the property of Highsmith; thence leaving it property of Black and with the West line of Highsmith, South 3 degrees 58 minutes, 32 seconds West 1117.71 feet to BEGINNING, containing 6.2832 acres as surveyed by William S. Williford RLS No. 1689, Route 8, Box 332, Sparta, Tennessee 38583, on April 15, 1996.

The previous and last conveyance to Tract 1 as above described being

PUBLIC NOTICE

a Warranty Deed from Vernell Krampf to Jesse Nash, Jr. and wife, Karen Nash found recorded in RB16, Page 57 in the Register's Office for White County, Tennessee.

Tract 1 as above described is further identified by County Tax Map 037, Parcel 002.12, in the office of the Assessor of Property for White County, Tennessee and is situated at 350 Simmons Road, Sparta, Tennessee.

Beginning on a 1 inch pipe located approximately 20 feet North of the center of Simmons Road in the Ravenscroft Community, said pipe is the southeast corner of this described tract and is the line of William Simmons' property; thence leaving William Simmons and going with the northern side of Simmons Road N81-55-14W 109.33 feet, S85-51-16W 99.97 feet, S81-45-10W 71.11 feet to a 1/2 inch pipe marking the common corner on the South for Kramp and this tract; thence leaving Simmons Road and going with Kramp N03-58-31E 1117.71 feet to a 1/2 inch pipe in the line of William Lloyd Black; thence leaving Kramp and going with Black S84-55-17E 299.67

feet to a 1 inch pipe marking the northeast corner of this described tract and also a corner for Herbert Simmons; thence leaving Black and going with Herbert Simmons S05-02-27W 707.54 feet to a 1/2 inch pipe; thence leaving Herbert Simmons and going with William Simmons S05-18-48W 383.26 feet to the beginning, containing 7.27 acres. (Description same as previous deed

PUBLIC NOTICE

The previous and last conveyance to Tract 2 as above described being a Quitclaim Deed from Jesse C. Nash, Sr. to Jesse C. Nash, Jr. found recorded in RB332, Page 792 in the Register's Office for White County, Tennessee.

Tract 2 as above described is further identified by County Tax Map 037, Parcel 002.19, in the office of the Assessor of Property for White County, Tennessee and is situated at 320 Simmons Road, Sparta, Tennessee. This the 6" day of June 2025.

Brandon S. Griffin Substitute Trustee
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• Bid opening will occur at UCHRA on August 4, 2025 at 4:00 pm

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• Must follow Davis Bacon Act.

• UCHRA reserves the right to reject all bids.

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July

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1 Closed for Parking Lot Paving* *Timing subject to change	2 10:00-10:30 walking class 12:00-1:00- bingo. 1:00-2:00 – trivia	3 09:30-10:00 – Chair Exercise 10:00-10:30 – Beginning Line dancing 12:00 - BUNCO 1:00-2:00 Texas Hold Um 2:00-4:00 4th of July Celebration	4 Closed for 4th of July Dance. Music by Kool Water Band 6:30 – 9:30
7 8:45-9:15-Exercise Class 9:30 – 10:30 - Stretch and Go 12:00 – 1:00 line dancing	8 9:00-10:00 Crocheting group 09:30-10:00 – Chair Exercise 1:00-2:00 – Texas Hold Um 5:00-8:00 - Karaoke Presented by Judy Turner	9 10:00-10:30 walking class 12:00-1:00- bingo. 1:00-2:00 – trivia	10 09:30-10:00 – Chair Exercise 10:00-10:30 – Beginning Line dancing 12:30-3:30-Spades Tourny
14 8:45-9:15-Exercise Class 9:30 – 10:30 - Stretch and Go 12:00 – 1:00 line dancing 1:00-2:00- Jewelry BINGO	15 9:00-10:00 Crocheting group 09:30-10:00 – Chair Exercise 1:00-2:00 – Texas Hold Um 1:00-2:00-craft class sponsored by Dominion Senior Living of Crossville 2:30 Board Meeting 5:00-8:00 - Karaoke Presented by The Chapmans	16 10:00-10:30 walking class 12:00-1:00 Bingo 1:00-2:00 – trivia	17 09:30-10:00 – Chair Exercise 10:00-10:30 – Beginning Line dancing 1:00-2:00 Texas Hold Um
21 8:45-9:15-Exercise Class 9:30 – 10:30 Stretch and Go 12:00-1:00 – line dancing 4:00 - 6:00 - Game Night	22 9:00-10:00 Crocheting group 09:30-10:00 – Chair Exercise 1:00-2:00 – Texas Hold Um 5:00-8:00 - Karaoke Presented by Billie and Glen Chapman	23 10:00-10:30 walking class 12:00-1:00- bingo sponsored by Wallace Insurance 1:00-2:00 – trivia	24 09:30-10:00 – Chair Exercise 10:00-10:30 – Beginning Line dancing 1:00-2:00 Texas Hold Um
28 8:45-9:15-Exercise Class 9:30 – 10:30 Stretch and Go 12:00-1:00 – line dancing	29 9:00-10:00 Crocheting group 09:30-10:00 – Chair Exercise 1:00-2:00 – Texas Hold Um 2:00-3:00 - Birthday Party 5:00-8:00 - Karaoke Presented by The Chapmans	30 10:00-10:30 walking class 12:00-1:00- bingo sponsored by Wallace Insurance 1:00-2:00 – trivia 2:00-3:00- Volunteer Meeting 3:00-4:00 Participant council	31 09:30-10:00 – Chair Exercise 10:00-10:30 – Beginning Line dancing 1:00-2:00 Texas Hold Um

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July 22
July 29

5:00pm – 8:00pm

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Wednesday July 23
Parmesan Chicken
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*Cinnamon Applesauce * Wheat Roll & Milk

Thursday July 24
Sausage/Eggs
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Friday July 25
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DOMINION SENIOR LIVING OF CROSSVILLE. Kimberly Dixon visits the Sparta-White County Activity Center on a monthly basis to lead an activity. This month, they created the cutest canvas tote bags.