

THE ORACLE

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Missing persons: Riley Strain recovered; Sebastian Rogers search continues on



GRAPHIC BY BEE GOODMAN

The disappearance of Riley Strain (left) and Sebastian Rogers (right) has risen concern in Tennessee. Strain was identified after a body was discovered in the Cumberland River in Nashville. The search for 15 year-old Rogers is still ongoing.

Harrison Conder
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR
Callie Smith
SPORTS EDITOR

Two missing persons reports have plagued the thoughts of many across Tennessee in recent weeks. These two individuals, coming from different walks of life, have gone missing without a trace. This is leaving both families as well as law enforcement asking questions and searching trying to find their loved ones.

Sebastian Rogers, a 15 year old went missing in Hendersonville, Tennessee in Sumner County. He was reported missing on Feb. 26 in the area of Long Hollow Pike in Sumner County near Beech High School.

According to Nashville stations WSMV and WTVF, Sebastian has not been seen for almost three weeks now. They also note that the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and Sumner County Sheriff's office are not giving up on their search efforts to find Sebastian.

Sumner County Sheriffs, along with Kentucky State Police, searched a landfill in Kentucky, hoping to

find clues that would help with the search. Sebastian's neighborhood trash gets taken to this specific dump. The search turned up nothing and police say they do not have enough evidence to suspect foul play.

This community is still holding out hope that Sebastian will be found. Sumner County Commissioner Don Schmit is asking everyone to be respectful of what local law enforcement is saying. "Don't let Sebastian take a back seat, keep him front and center, because this is a kid," Shmit stated.

"Sebastian is 5 feet, 5 inches tall, 120 pounds with dirty blond hair. He was last seen on Monday, Feb. 26 near Stafford Court wearing a black sweatshirt and black sweatpants", said the TBI.

A two week search for missing college student Riley Strain concluded on Friday, March 22 after the identification of a body discovered in Cumberland River Bridge, a restaurant owned by country music star Luke Bryan, at 9:52 p.m. for behavior defying the bar's code of conduct. He was last seen on surveillance camer-

as just five minutes later at 9:57 p.m. jogging towards the river.

The Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission opened an investigation into Luke's 32 Bridge at the time Strain had gone missing. Many in the community provided assistance in searching for Riley.

The community surrounding Strain and individuals following the story originally feared foul play and suspected Strain to be drugged. Forensic science student, Sarah Putnam, knows the fear of being drugged because of how common it is nowadays.

"It's definitely an example of the fear people have going out and doing things at night," Putnam said. "There were many people who speculated he was drugged first, and that's becoming a more common fear."

According to Nashville News Station WKRN, Riley was in town visiting from Missouri with his fraternity brothers in Delta Chi. They say that Strain and his friends visited several bars along Nashville's Broadway. He

See **MISSING** on page 3

Tik Tok to be banned if not sold by parent company ByteDance

McKenzie Hughes
REPORTER

On March 13, The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill threatening to ban TikTok on American devices if ByteDance refuses to sell the app.

Originally, the bill started as a concern to national security. While most popular social media apps like Facebook and Instagram are owned by American companies, TikTok is owned by the Chinese company ByteDance. ByteDance denies any accusations that it is operated by Chinese Communist groups.

Legislators in support of the bill argue the Chinese government could ask for the personal data of TikTok's users and the company would be forced to give it to them under Chinese law. According to Priori Data, TikTok currently ranks as the #1 most downloaded app in 2024 and many students at Tech have an account on this app.

Student Carlie Hall says, "It's not an American thing to do. In the United States, we value freedom. I do not think the American government can say you cannot have this app."

Other students argue this ban would protect the United States. Student Sam Shumpert says, "While I am not particularly in favor of the government banning certain social media platforms, I hope this encourages us to take a closer look at the effects of social media."

Communication major Cayden Fair says,



PROVIDED BY TIKTOK

The House of Representatives passed a bill with potential to ban TikTok on American devices if ByteDance does not sell. Students at Tech do not support the bill.

See **TIKTOK** on page 4

Cracking the code to living prosperous during college years

McKenzie Hughes
REPORTER

Living prosperously in college isn't easy, but sophomore business major Kenneth Clack might have cracked the code to flourishing in your college community.

"The importance of community is a space that a person can feel loved and connected to. Having a group of people that not necessar-

ily all look alike or think alike but just having a group of people that you can depend on when you're having a bad day, they can uplift you," Clack said. "We're all going through things in life and so it's important you have your community that can encourage you and help you fight when you can't fight for yourself."

Clack shared that, "When my grandfa-

ther died, the Director of Intercultural Affairs showed up to the funeral and supported me in time of my need. Some other people in other administrative offices sent cards and letters and took the time to reach out and connect to make sure I had everything I needed during my recent health battles. That is the basis of community. Showing up when we face

conflict in our lives."

Clack is involved in many clubs on campus including being the president of United Voices of Praise, the SOLO Events Committee, Reaching to Achievement and Committed to Excellence Program, and is a senator of Intercultural Affairs in the Student Government Association.

Faith is a central aspect of living a ful-

See **CLACK** on page 3



PHOTO PROVIDED MCKENZIE HUGHES

Sophomore Kenneth Clack understands the importance of community and friendship in living his best during his college years.

Editorial

Callie visits the coffee scene of Cookeville. The SPJ Code of Ethics. Who is an important figure in women's history?

Culture

Gus' Musical Monograph celebrates all female band The Last Dinner Party. Campus events calendar.

Sports

Baseball falls to Southern Indiana. Cheer and Dance hold auditions.

Meals within a Mile

The coffee capitals of Cookeville

Callie Smith
SPORTS EDITOR

Cookeville is the home of many favorite local coffee shops for Tech students to commune. Students gather here to study, converse and enjoy their extra supplement of energy. Within a mile of Tech's campus is Poet's Coffee, SoulCraft and Vertical Coffee.

Full disclaimer: I fall into a minority across college students and do not enjoy coffee. Nope, not even the smell. My review of the following coffee shops is based on other drinks, food, settings and "the vibe."

Poet's coffee is celebrating 30-years of service and calls themselves "Cookeville's living room." The coffee shop is located on the town square in Cookeville and is only a 0.6 mile walk from campus for Tech students.

Poet's offers 46 different beverages on its menu and is sectioned as "coffee + espresso + classic," "iced + frozen," or "teas." When I go to Poets, I get the green tea.

Poets is open to the community from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day of the week. It invites students to a warm and welcoming place to accomplish the tasks of the day. However, finding a seat may be challenging. If you are one of the lucky few, sit back, relax and enjoy the setting.

If you walk down N. Cedar Avenue and make a left at W. Broad Street you will find SoulCraft Coffee, a five-year-old coffee shop in Cookeville.

This shop takes pride in Cookeville's culture. SoulCraft nests in a historical building dating back to 1920. The floors and brick are original to its time. The decor highlights early days of Cookeville and is designed to make its customers feel relaxed.

The tastes of the shop follow the same historical context with coffee named "whiskey caramel latte," "bourbon barrel mocha," and "cuban." My favorite drink is their strawberry lemonade, usually paired with a sweet treat from the bakery.

Our final coffee shop is internationally local. Vertical coffee brews international coffee right here in the heart of Cookeville, importing coffee beans from Columbia, Ethiopia, Guatemala and Brazil.

Vertical Coffee is settling into its new home on W. Spring Street. Even with this abundant coffee selection from all across the world, I still settle for the green tea.

The SPJ Code of Ethics

SEEK TRUTH AND REPORT IT

Ethical journalism should be accurate and fair. Journalists should be honest and courageous in gathering, reporting and interpreting information.

Journalists should:

- ▶ Take responsibility for the accuracy of their work. Verify information before releasing it. Use original sources whenever possible.
- ▶ Remember that neither speed nor format excuses inaccuracy.
- ▶ Provide context. Take special care not to misrepresent or oversimplify in promoting, previewing or summarizing a story.
- ▶ Gather, update and correct information throughout the life of a news story.
- ▶ Be cautious when making promises, but keep the promises they make.
- ▶ Identify sources clearly. The public is entitled to as much information as possible to judge the reliability and motivations of sources.
- ▶ Consider sources' motives before promising anonymity. Reserve anonymity for sources who may face danger, retribution or other harm, and have information that cannot be obtained elsewhere. Explain why anonymity was granted.
- ▶ Diligently seek subjects of news coverage to allow them to respond to criticism or allegations of wrongdoing.
- ▶ Avoid undercover or other surreptitious methods of gathering information unless traditional, open methods will not yield information vital to the public.
- ▶ Be vigilant and courageous about holding those with power accountable. Give voice to the voiceless.
- ▶ Support the open and civil exchange of views, even views they find repugnant.
- ▶ Recognize a special obligation to serve as watchdogs over public affairs and government. Seek to ensure that the public's business is conducted in the open, and that public records are open to all.
- ▶ Provide access to source material when it is relevant and appropriate.
- ▶ Boldly tell the story of the diversity and magnitude of the human experience. Seek sources whose voices we seldom hear.
- ▶ Avoid stereotyping. Journalists should examine the ways their values and experiences may shape their reporting.
- ▶ Label advocacy and commentary.
- ▶ Never deliberately distort facts or context, including visual information. Clearly label illustrations and re-enactments.
- ▶ Never plagiarize. Always attribute.

MINIMIZE HARM

Ethical journalism treats sources, subjects, colleagues and members of the public as human beings deserving of respect.

Journalists should:

- ▶ Balance the public's need for information against potential harm or discomfort. Pursuit of the news is not a license for arrogance or undue intrusiveness.

- ▶ Show compassion for those who may be affected by news coverage. Use heightened sensitivity when dealing with juveniles, victims of sex crimes, and sources or subjects who are inexperienced or unable to give consent. Consider cultural differences in approach and treatment.
- ▶ Recognize that legal access to information differs from an ethical justification to publish or broadcast.
- ▶ Realize that private people have a greater right to control information about themselves than public figures and others who seek power, influence or attention. Weigh the consequences of publishing or broadcasting personal information.
- ▶ Avoid pandering to lurid curiosity, even if others do.
- ▶ Balance a suspect's right to a fair trial with the public's right to know. Consider the implications of identifying criminal suspects before they face legal charges.
- ▶ Consider the long-term implications of the extended reach and permanence of publication. Provide updated and more complete information as appropriate.

ACT INDEPENDENTLY

The highest and primary obligation of ethical journalism is to serve the public.

Journalists should:

- ▶ Avoid conflicts of interest, real or perceived. Disclose unavoidable conflicts.
- ▶ Refuse gifts, favors, fees, free travel and special treatment, and avoid political and other outside activities that may compromise integrity or impartiality, or may damage credibility.
- ▶ Be wary of sources offering information for favors or money; do not pay for access to news. Identify content provided by outside sources, whether paid or not.
- ▶ Deny favored treatment to advertisers, donors or any other special interests, and resist internal and external pressure to influence coverage.
- ▶ Distinguish news from advertising and shun hybrids that blur the lines between the two. Prominently label sponsored content.

BE ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT

Ethical journalism means taking responsibility for one's work and explaining one's decisions to the public.

Journalists should:

- ▶ Explain ethical choices and processes to audiences. Encourage a civil dialogue with the public about journalistic practices, coverage and news content.
- ▶ Respond quickly to questions about accuracy, clarity and fairness.
- ▶ Acknowledge mistakes and correct them promptly and prominently. Explain corrections and clarifications carefully and clearly.
- ▶ Expose unethical conduct in journalism, including within their organizations.
- ▶ Abide by the same high standards they expect of others.

At The Oracle we strive to follow a strict journalistic code of ethics for the integrity of our profession. These aren't just words on paper but ideals we work to follow. In an article published on February 6, 2024 we failed to adequately reach out to all parties involved in order to allow

each of them to express their perspective. Additionally, we were incorrect on the name Catherine McCaig. We will continue to strive to be better journalists for the better of our profession.

Student On The Street

Brian Carpenter
PHOTO EDITOR



Jillian Taylor
NURSING
Freshman

"Taylor Swift. She empowers young women and unites culture and community."



Julianna Hotchkiss
MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
Senior

"Princess Diana. She had heart behind her work. She set an amazing example of how to love others... she also struggled with many things women struggle with."



Savannah Trew
AGRIBUSINESS
Freshman

"Jane Austen. She wrote great literature, which helped form who I am today."

Who is an important figure in women's history and why?

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The Oracle

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Voice Your Opinion

The Oracle encourages readers to write letters and commentaries on topics of interest. A few guidelines:

Letters should not exceed 300 words. Commentaries should not exceed 500 words and include a picture of the writer.

Originality is required, no plagiarism. For verification, letters and commentaries must include your name, email, hometown and classification or title.

Letters may not run every edition due to space. The Oracle reserves the right to edit for style, grammar, length and clarity.

Submissions must be sent to tntechoracle@gmail.com and received by 3 p.m. the Wednesday before publication.

Spring Publication Dates

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Find an error? Contact the editors:

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News content and photographs for The Oracle are provided by The Oracle staff, JOUR 2220, JOUR 3370, JOUR 4820, and JOUR 4930.

Culture

Campus Events

Tuesday, March 26

School of Music – Concert: Spring TubaFest, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

School of Music – Junior Recital - Zeke Spirko, saxophone, 7:30 p.m., Recital Hall, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Wednesday, March 27

Student Engagement – SOLO Concert 2024, 2 Chainz and Young Nudy, 6:30 p.m., Hooper Eblen Center, Cookeville, Tennessee.

School of Music – Concert: Spring TubaFest, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Thursday, March 28

+

Friday, March 29

No Classes!

Monday, April 1

School of Music – Concert: Faculty Jazz Ensemble, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Tuesday, April 2

School of Music – Concert: Cumberland Quintet, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Wednesday, April 3

School of Music – Recital: Saxophone Ensemble, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Thursday, April 4

School of Music – Concert: Tech Chorale & Concert Choir, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Friday, April 5

Center Stage – Guest Artist: Richard Hawkins, clarinet, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Saturday, April 6

School of Music – Clarinet Day, 8:00 a.m., Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

School of Music – Senior Recital: Mackenzie Hargis, flute, 6:00 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

School of Music – Senior Recital: Kent Mathis, flute, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

School of Music – Senior Recital: Sam Hood, trumpet, 9:00 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Sunday, April 7

School of Music – Recital: Percussion Studio, 3:00 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

School of Music – Concert: Opera & Musical Theater Scenes, 4:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

School of Music – Trombone Choir, 6:00 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

School of Music – Junior Recital: Lauren Sowards, viola, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Tuesday, April 9

School of Music – Concert: Tech Concert Band & Symphony Band, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Musical Monograph

The Last Dinner Party releases inventive debut album



Gus Creter
COPY EDITOR

Up and coming UK indie rock outfit The Last Dinner Party released their debut album “Prelude to Ecstasy” on Feb. 2 to notable critical acclaim, and personally, the hype is completely warranted.

The band consists of five female rockers: Abigail Morris, Lizzie Mayland, Emily Rogers, Georgia Davies and Aurora Nishevci. The collection of vocalists, guitarists and keyboardists alongside the flute, mandolin and bass creates an addictive sound, with all of the players being excellent in their individual craft.

This new record borrows elements of indie rock, glam rock, pop rock, baroque pop, and more, allowing for an ever-evolving tracklist that continues to present new stand-outs as I listen.



The vocals are handled by Morris and Mayland, who have great chemistry and, most important, an incredible understanding of tone. The songs on this record are far from basic, going through evolutions of tempo and mood, with the varying vocal emotion being the tie that binds it all.

The introductory title-track, “Prelude to Ecstasy,” is exactly that – an eerie, grand 90-second piece that leads seamlessly, both in sound and mood, to the glimmering “Burn Alive.” The album title is an accurate depiction of the records’ sound, emphasizing the baroque and glam rock nature that makes such genres so pleasing to the ears.

“Caesar on a TV Screen” is a clear stand-out for me, having a change in tempo within the first minute, and going through extreme evolutions of emotional potency. The vocal styling gives a similar eccentricity to that of David Bowie, an artist they have been openly inspired by.

My favorite track on this record is definitely “Sinner,” a bouncy pop rock banger built around a simple, catchy piano line with a chorus that will not get out of my head. The accompanying guitars solos throughout absolutely rip, and with another tempo change for the bridge, the track is interesting, exciting and accessible – a rare combination.

With all of that being said, every track has a necessary place on this album. “Beautiful Boy” is a slow burn that builds into one of the most purposeful, dissonant moments in the tracklist, while the penultimate and most popular song “Nothing Matters” features necessary electric guitar embellishments and a powerhouse chorus, allowing the group a hit single internationally.

“Prelude to Ecstasy” is one of the most confident debut albums I’ve heard in years. There is remarkable cohesion to the album, made even more impressive when you consider their range of styles. These are versatile musicians who have my ear, and who I will continue to look out for in the future.

Missing Persons cont.

was then seen stumbling on several street cameras in the downtown Nashville area and was observed having an interaction with a Metro Nashville Police officer near the Cumberland River where his phone last pinged. A homeless man that lives nearby told detectives that he had also briefly interacted with Riley.

Strain was on a fraternity trip with his Delta Chi brothers while visiting Nashville. This has many college students opening their eyes and reevaluating

their safety. One of those students is a Sigma Phi Epsilon brother, junior mechanical engineering major, Zak Henson.

“It’s a grim reminder at the end of the day everyone has to be cautious,” Henson states,

“Don’t go solo. Make sure you’re with a group. Make sure someone in the group is able to take care of anyone should they need to.”

Young girls have been known to travel to groups. Henson believes it is time

for boys to begin looking out for each other more intently and traveling in groups as well. “I think that’s something if people were not doing, then they need to begin doing it,” Henson said.

“This is a reminder of what can happen if you don’t have people there.” Henson suspects an implementation of more safety regulations from fraternity chapters very soon and advises any college student to be more vigilant.

Cracking the code to college cont.

filling and meaningful life for Clack. Leaning into God’s word and his personal faith has brought him into areas he never thought he would go.

Clack explained, “The choir is something I do that I think uplifts people because faith is so strong to me I would love to share that with others. The choir is made up of many people who believe and don’t believe. It’s made up of many denominations of people and there’s people who have never been

to church and who don’t know how to get back into the church and so it’s been a great thing to minister and bring lessons to them and it also gives me a chance to increase my own faith.”

Being a part of many different communities has influenced how Clack lives, yet it has raised new ideas on how Tech could potentially change to benefit all students alike.

“We have to change our mindsets and how we think. We are all more alike than

we are different. We all come from different walks of life but there are certain things that we can each relate to in different areas of our life,” said Clack.

“Simply saying hello to somebody. Just speaking to people you have never spoken to before and randomly in the hallway. Friends or not, we will be much better off and can set aside differences to become better people.”

Maternal does not mean Marriage and Motherhood



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ADOBE STOCK
Pictured are dolls Allan and Midge and their children.
This was the Happy Family set produced by Mattel.

Lilly Davis
PHOTOGRAPHER

The idea that women must take the man's last name had been a cultural and societal norm since 1855, until Lucy Stone broke it.

In the past, women would always take their husband's last name. When we think of the women's suffrage movement, we often think of the feminist duo, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. But in fact, the duo was a trio, and the third name often forgotten is Lucy Stone.

According to TIMES Magazine, "Stanton once described Stone as, 'The first woman in the nation to protest against the marriage laws at the altar, and to manifest sufficient self-respect to keep her own name, to represent her individual existence through life.'" Stone wanted to keep her last name as a sign

of protest and a stand for marriage equality.

Often girls are influenced from a young age that they should look forward to marriage and finding a husband. Media also portrays this through things like Disney movies where a "princess should be swept off her feet by a prince." There is one form of media that does not aspire to do that: Barbie. Stone's accomplishment, Barbie was invented and later came Ken. Most do not know Barbie and Ken have full names, Barbie's is Barbara Millicent Roberts and Ken's is Kenneth Sean Carson.

Since coming out with the Ken doll, fans have wanted Barbie and Ken to get married and have children. Notice how that has never happened. The creator of Barbie, Ruth Handler, wanted to showcase to young girls that marriage and motherhood do not have to be the ultimate ideal for women. Considering this, they instead gave her a kid sister named Skipper, to signify that Barbie can have maternal qualities without having to marry and have kids.

On a chat with National Public Radio, M. G. Lord, author of *Forever Barbie: The Unauthorized Biography of a Real Doll*, stated that Handler herself said to her that she would not classify herself as a feminist. But following in feminist Stone's ideals, Handler strongly stated that Barbie would never marry because it could limit her possibilities to be whatever she wanted to be, just like Stone expressed so many years ago. On the flip side, Mattel did want to give girls who wanted a doll with a family an option.

They created Barbie's best friend Midge, Margaret Hadley Sherwood, known as Happy Family Midge. She was Barbie's traditional opposite. Mattel proceeded to create Ken's best friend Allan, also known as Allan Sherwood. They got married and had children together, and we can hope Allan took Midge's last name.

Though, these points were challenged when the new Barbie movie came out. Midge was first shown at the beginning of

the movie with Skipper living with her and not Barbie.

The narrator stated, "Midge was Barbie's pregnant friend. Let's not show Midge actually. She was discontinued by Mattel because a pregnant doll is just too weird." This was before Barbie traveled to the real world and discovered motherhood and children and understood hardships. Ultimately, we find that Barbie wants to experience real life and "not be stuck in a box". She asked at the end of the movie if she could become human and Ruth tells her she cannot control her from what she wants to achieve.

She compared Barbie to her own daughter stating, "We mothers stand still so our daughters can look back to see how far they've come." A collage of short clips of childhood and motherhood, love and grief, adventure and excitement, and old and young is then shown. Though we do not know if Barbie goes on to start a family of her own in the real world, we do know that she became a role model to Sasha, the teenage girl, in the Barbie movie.

Marriage and motherhood were never pushed on Barbie by Mattel. Barbie today is a strong feminist icon for girls everywhere expressing they can be whoever they want to be. This is just how Stone wanted to be. She did not want to take a man's last name and lose the mark she had already left on the world.

Just as Lucy Stone challenged societal norms by keeping her maiden name upon marriage, Mattel's portrayal of Barbie sends a powerful message that women can maintain their individuality and independence. This choice reflects the ongoing evolution of gender roles and reinforces the idea that women, trailblazers like Lucy Stone, can pave their own future, identity, and destiny, unburdened by traditional expectations of marriage. In this context, Barbie becomes not just a toy but a symbol of empowerment for generations of girls and women everywhere.

Donald Trump wins Tennessee primary, Putnam county

Carson Crouch
REPORTER

Donald Trump won the republican primary in the state of Tennessee on March 24, 2024. According to NBC News, "Donald Trump racked in 90% of the votes in Putnam County."

Trump has won the primary in every state for the republican party except Vermont and the District of Columbia. Trump won most of the counties in Tennessee by 80 percent or higher. Based on the statistics, it is clear that Tennessee wants Trump back in the president's chair.

If you live in Tennessee, especially in the Putnam County area, be aware of things that may be happening as the race continues. Trump's policies and priorities, as reflected in his campaign platform, would likely

have implications for Tennessee.

One example is his stance on issues such as trade, immigration, and healthcare which could affect industries and communities within the state. Tennessee's economy, which relies heavily on manufacturing and agriculture, might experience shifts in regulations or trade agreements under a Trump administration, potentially impacting businesses and workers. Trump's policies during his presidency, including tax cuts and deregulation, have generally been favorable to business interests.

Trump's victory in the primary could signal continuity in economic policies that align with the priorities of many businesses in Tennessee, particularly in industries like manufacturing, agriculture, and healthcare. However, Trump's approach

to trade and tariffs could have mixed effects on Tennessee's economy, especially considering the state's reliance on exports and industries affected by international trade dynamics.

Winning red states like Tennessee demonstrates continued support from Trump's base, which consists of conservative voters, particularly in rural areas and small towns. These voters are essential for Trump to secure victory in the general election, as they typically turn out in large numbers and provide a solid foundation of support for Republican candidates.

Trump's biggest competitor in the republican party is Nikki Haley. MSN News stated, "Trump is continuing to put pressure on Haley."

Winning Tennessee and other red states early in the primary

season can help Trump build momentum and create a perception of inevitability surrounding his candidacy. It sends a signal to voters, donors, and party officials that Trump is a strong contender with widespread support within his own party, which can attract additional support and resources for his campaign.

Overall, Trump winning the primary in Tennessee would undoubtedly have ripple effects across various aspects of the state's political and social fabric, influencing voter behavior, policy decisions, and the dynamics of its political landscape.

It seems evident that the republican voters want Trump back in office, but the question remains if he will be able to take the seat at the president's table for the second time.

TikTok Ban cont.

"Social media is a drug, but we are too over consumed to realize it." Megan Tillis agrees, saying "[TikTok] is rotting children's brains."

On Tech's campus, the Wi-Fi does not allow TikTok to load, meaning Tech students are experiencing some of the effects of this ban.

If students want to scroll through TikTok on campus, they must log off of the Wi-Fi to do so.

U.S. legislators supporting the bill have argued the algorithm makes the app addictive and allows its users to be swayed by the content they engage with.

Due to the TikTok algorithm, content creators, influencers, and businesses utilize this app for brand deals.

If the app is purchased by an American company, the algorithm cannot be purchased along with it.

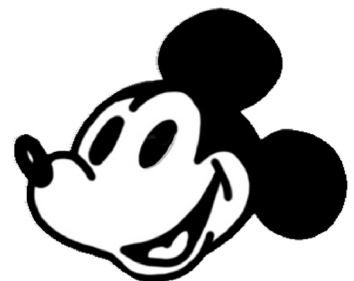
Marketing student Cassidy Stryker said, "To ban TikTok from universities does business students a true disservice. TikTok could be used in many courses as examples of marketing and business strategy as many companies have become extremely successful through the app."

Some of Stryker's courses emphasize how to use social media to promote a product. If the bill passes, the content of the classes could be altered.

It is unknown when the bill will enter the Senate for voting.

100 Years and Counting

In celebration of the Oracle's 100 year anniversary we're shining light on other centurians! As we take this semester to remember our past we'll include a new feature for every issue.



Disney

A hundred years ago the world was reborn with Disney magic! Walt Disney began making cartoons with his brother, Roy in 1923. In 1924, Disney Co was founded and would introduce magic to "a whole new world." Steamboat Willie was the first produced Disney cartoon as well as the first cartoon with synchronized sound. In Jan, Steamboat Mickey entered the open domain, but other newer depiction of this magical mouse are still subject to copyright.

Sports

Tech falls to Southern Indiana Screaming Eagles 13-11

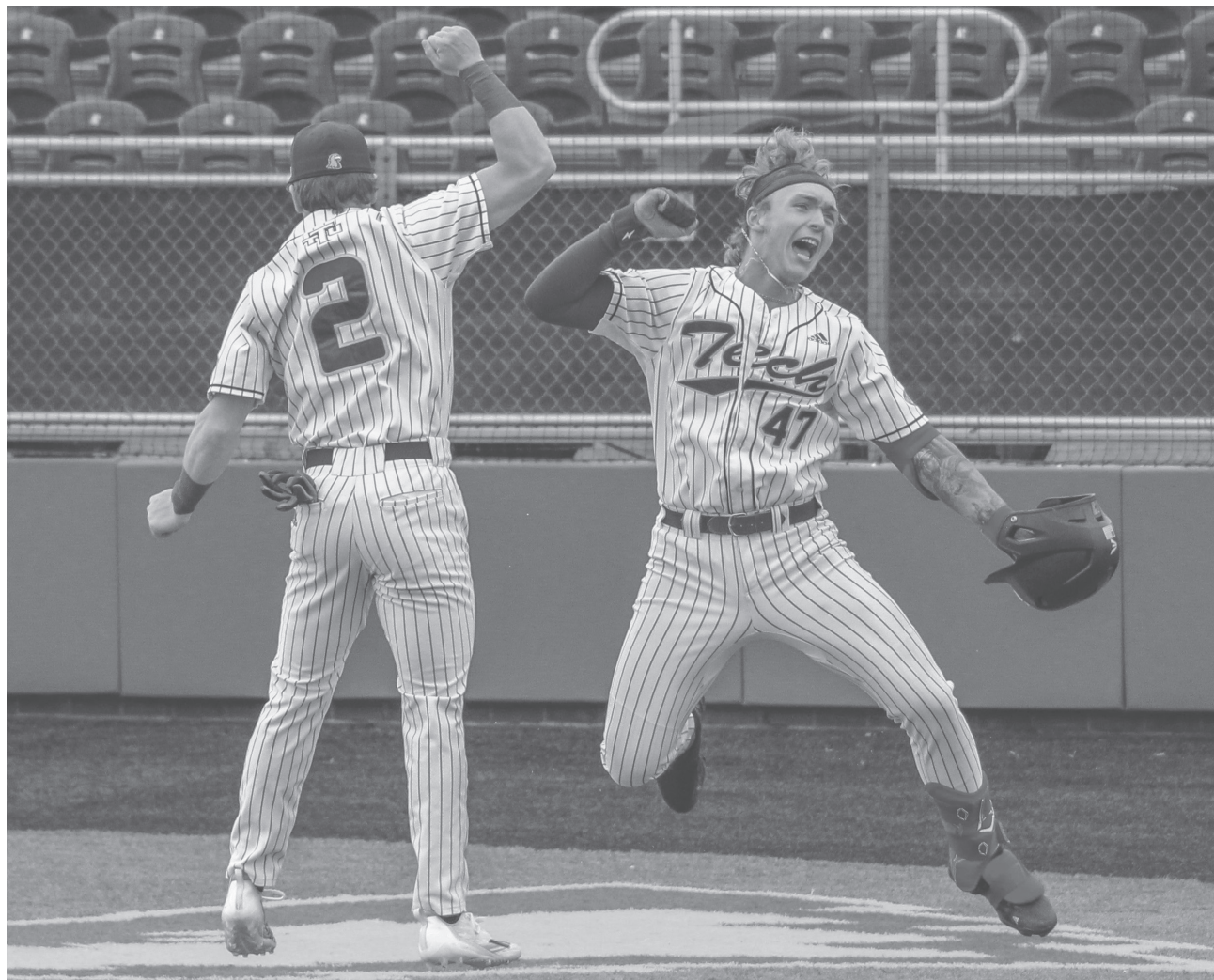
Callie Smith
SPORTS EDITOR

The Golden Eagles soared to Southern Indiana for their first OVC series of the season this past weekend.

Southern Indiana won the series against Tech 2-1. The opening match was a close back and forth battle against the Golden Eagles and the Screaming Eagles.

Southern Indiana held the lead, leaving the purple and gold scoreless until the 5th when Tech scored 3 to take the lead 3-2. The 6th inning ended in a tie, 4-4. Tech took the lead again in the 7th and the win looked promising. But Southern Indiana was able to tie the matchup again in the bottom of the 9th, 8-8. Extra innings were added to the scoreboard and Tech secured the win 10-8 in the 10th inning.

The following game looked much



Tech's Brock Smith (2) and Mack Whitcomb (47) celebrate during a recent game. Tech beat Southern Indiana on March 22 but lost the series two games to one.

PHOTO BY LILLY DAVIS

different than the first Golden Eagle victory. The scoreboard was first needed in the third inning when Tech rallied five across home plate. A second OVC win looked upon the horizon.

Until the Screaming Eagles came back, scoring one point in the 8th and bringing home six in the ninth to win, 7-5.

The third and final matchup of the weekend held no glimmer of hope for

the Golden Eagles. Southern Indiana scored eight across the plate before Tech was able to bring even one home in the 8th inning. The weekend concluded with a second Screaming Eagle

win, 8-1.

The Golden Eagles are nearly halfway through the 2024 season and currently sit at 13-11.

Tech will travel to Knoxville, Tennessee tonight, March 26, to take on the Ten-

nessee Volunteers. The Golden Eagles have a chance of taking their third consecutive win over the Vols.

The winning streak against the Volunteers started at the Tennessee Smokey's stadium in 2022 when the Golden Eagles were able to fly away with a 3-2 win over the SEC school. Tech reclaimed the victory in 2023, 12-5. The purple and gold will return to Lindsey Nelson Stadium with hopes of a three-peat.

Tech baseball will return to its home field this upcoming weekend, March 28, 29 and 30, to face its second OVC opponent of the season, Western Illinois. The first pitch is scheduled for Thursday at 6 p.m. Friday's game will also start at 6 p.m. Saturday will be at 2 p.m. Come and support your Golden Eagles at Bush Stadium.

Cheer and Dance to hold tryouts in April



Callie Smith
SPORTS EDITOR

The Tech cheer and dance teams will be holding tryouts for their nationally ranked team on April 19, 20 and 21.

Tech Spirit Squad is nationally recognized and is climbing higher and higher in their rankings among Division one colleges. Spirit Squad Coordinator, Coach Sydney Hickerson is looking to expand her teams.

"We are excited to grow our program and look forward to seeing some very talented athletes at tryouts," Hickerson said.

Cheer tryouts will be Friday, April 19 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, April 20 from 12

p.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, April 21 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Dance tryouts will be Friday, April 19 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, April 20 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Sunday, April 21 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Athletes are expected to wear Tech or purple/gold athletic wear with hair pulled back and no jewelry whatsoever. Virtual tryouts or combined tryouts can be arranged for any student who cannot attend all three sessions.

Any students interested can contact Coach Sydney Hickerson (shickerson@tntech.edu) for more information.



PHOTO BY LILLY DAVIS
Tech's nationally ranked cheer and dance teams will hold tryouts April 19-21.

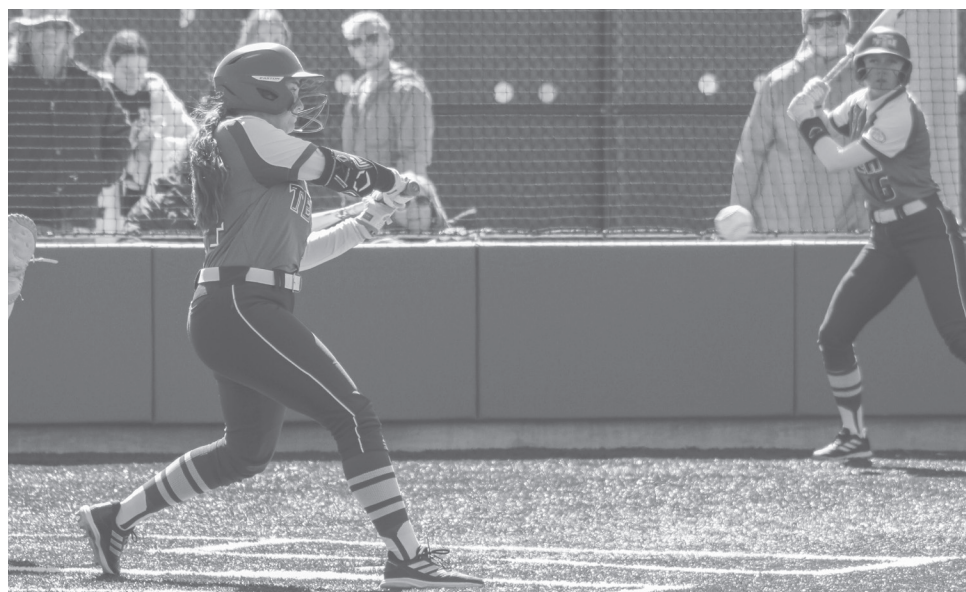



PHOTO BY LILLY DAVIS

Tech's Jordan Key (24) takes a swing in a recent softball game. The Golden Eagles are 14-11 on the season.



PHOTO BY LILLY DAVIS

Tech's Mac Fitzgerald (16) catches a ball in a recent game.


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INTERNSHIP

Are you looking for a **paid summer internship** that will help you develop your research and creative inquiry skills?

If so, Tech's Creative Inquiry Summer Experience (**CISE**) grant program is for you. **CISE** grants are part of Tech's Quality Enhancement Plan (**QEP**) named "**EDGE: Enhanced Discovery through Guided Exploration.**"

Grants are for a maximum of **\$4,000**, with up to **\$3,500** as a paid stipend.

To apply, visit <https://www.tntech.edu/provost/ureca/cise.php>
Deadline: **March 22, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.**

**Creative Inquiry Summer Experience
(CISE) Grants**

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

