

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### THE 2023 BARTLETT FESTIVAL

Make plans now to be a part of the 2023 Bartlett Festival on Friday evening, September 29 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. and on Saturday, September 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at W. J. Freeman Park located at 2629 Bartlett Boulevard.

Featuring live music, 5K, BBQ Contest, & much more!



### THE 2023 BROTHER STAKEHOLDERS GOLF TOURNAMENT

The golf tournament will return to the award winning Mirimichi Golf Course October 6, 2023.

We will start with registration at 7:30 AM and have a shotgun start at 8:30. [Register Here](#).



### CHRISTMAS IN BARTLETT MARKET & FESTIVITIES

Friday, Nov 17, 4-7PM

Saturday, Nov 18, 9AM-4PM

Local artisans, Santa, kid's activities, music, food trucks, plus the Christmas Tree Lighting & Christmas Movies on Nov 17th. See flyer on next page.



### HOLIDAY HEROES

Would you like to help the children of Youth Villages have a fun and exciting Christmas Party?

There are approximately 100 children at the Youth Villages, Bartlett Campus. Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce members and Kiwanis members have made it their tradition since 1993 to reach out to these children by purchasing and wrapping gifts to provide a Christmas party for the residents.



## NEW & NOTEWORTHY



### 101-YEAR-OLD CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY AFTER UNDERGOING INNOVATIVE HEART VALVE REPLACEMENT PROCEDURE AT METHODIST LE BONHEUR HEALTHCARE AND RETURNING HOME THE SAME DAY

In the summer of 2022, 100-year-old Vernice Jones from Cordova, Tenn., experienced a health scare which led her to Methodist Germantown Hospital. Tests revealed she had a blocked heart valve requiring replacement. Under the leadership of Dr. Mehul Patel, head of Methodist Le Bonheur's structural heart disease program, Jones underwent a minimally invasive heart valve replacement. Remarkably, after just six hours in the hospital, she returned home the same day to recover.

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare is renowned for their groundbreaking protocol, allowing patients a same-day discharge after such procedures. Their innovative approach has been recognized with awards from prestigious cardiovascular conferences worldwide. As Dr. Patel remarked, "Our innovative process reduces hospitalization time from days to hours, making life-saving procedures less strenuous for patients and families."

Jones, once hesitant about undergoing surgery at her age, trusted Dr. Patel and his team wholeheartedly. Her daughter, Beverle Spruill, noted her mother's swift recovery, saying just two hours post-surgery, Jones was mobile. After two weeks, she began attending cardiac rehab regularly, an activity she couldn't do pre-surgery. By Thanksgiving, she was robust enough to cook dinner for



(Methodist con’td)

her family.

Highlighting her resilience, Jones had lived through the civil rights era, marching with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis just days before his assassination. In August 2023, as she approached the first anniversary of her surgery, Methodist Le Bonheur threw a celebration in her honor.

The hospital’s cutting-edge protocol, which earned “Best Abstract” at the 2021 PCR London Valves Conference, allows heart surgery patients to return home on the procedure day, a significant advancement from the conventional one to five-day recovery. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic’s strain on global healthcare, these protocols have proved essential.

Methodist Le Bonheur’s cardiologists, using a small leg incision instead of open-heart surgery, complete the procedure in about 30 minutes. After a brief post-anesthesia recovery and some essential tests, patients are often cleared to leave. Dr. Patel’s method is now guiding heart centers globally, ensuring timely, life-saving treatments for heart patients worldwide.

### DISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE

Join Us for an In-Person Beginning Japanese Class

Are you fascinated by the rich culture and enchanting language of Japan? Do you dream of immersing yourself in the land of cherry blossoms and ancient traditions? The Tennessee Language Center will offer Beginning Japanese in-person at the Shelby County UT-TSU Extension Office at Agricenter International.

Class Details:

Wednesday, 6-8 p.m.

Oct. 4-Dec. 6 (nine weeks)

Cost is \$340

Get 10% off if you register by Sept. 18. Use code EARLYFA23 at checkout.

Ages 16+

Learning a language is more enjoyable when you have a community to share your progress, challenges, and experiences. Come join us! Learn more or register at [tiny.utk.edu/MemphisJapanese](http://tiny.utk.edu/MemphisJapanese).

For questions or more information, you can also contact Brian Barnett at 615-741-7579 or at [worldlanguages@tennessee.edu](mailto:worldlanguages@tennessee.edu).

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### BARTLETT HIGHSCHOOL BASKETBALL

The annual Panther Madness event is November 12 at BHS. This is our official kickoff for basketball season and will feature our MS and HS basketball teams in Bartlett as well as a Bartlett City Schools vs Bartlett Police Department game. All BHS athletic Schedules, including basketball can be found at

[www.wearebartlett.net](http://www.wearebartlett.net)

### NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

Save the date: Tuesday, November 14th from 11:30-1:00. Stay tuned for details about our speakers and caterer for this event.



## MEET YOUR FELLOW BARTONIANS: SUMMERS TOWNSEND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT COO FIRST SOUTH FINANCIAL

### Can you tell us a little about your background?

I am Bartlett born and raised. I have lived in the same 2 mile radius my entire life and love Bartlett! I graduated high school in 2000. My first jobs were at Toys R Us and Eddie Bauer at Wolfchase. After high school I went to the University of Memphis. Staying home close to family was always important to me! I received my Bachelor of Business Administration in International Business and a Bachelor of Arts and Science in Spanish. I followed my undergrad up with a Masters in Business Administration. Before graduating I attended a career fair, as encouraged by the U of M. I met a recruiter from First South Financial, headquartered here in Bartlett. It was so perfect! I started in a branch-based business development role on campus at the U of M and in the span of a few years had the opportunity to be a branch Vice President in different several markets. I feel so fortunate to be with First South Financial, a company that has provided me with an amazing career path and learning opportunities. Today, I am proud to serve as our Executive

Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

My husband Jeremy and I have 2 small boys, Eli and Toby and are enjoying every minute being parents to such wonderful young men! Eli, a 6th grader, is an avid golfer and we feel fortunate travel the country with him as he competes on a national level. Toby is in 1st grade and loves art, reading and music. From country to Elvis, he has his musical impersonations down perfectly!

### How is Bartlett different today compared to when you were growing up?

Bartlett Festival, Easter Egg hunts, Fourth of July fireworks and Fishing Rodeos were some of favorite Bartlett childhood memories. I love that these community events still take place and look forward to sharing them with my children each year.

It has been exciting to see the growth in Bartlett. Bartlett has offered my family great schools, lower taxes, great home values and a safe environment to raise my children.

### What things are you passionate about?

With young children, my passions often center around them. Soaking up every moment with our two boys and family is so important to us!

We love to travel too. We like to tell people we love traveling the world...Disney World that is! Since we were married it has been our favorite travel destination each year. Our kids love it just as much as my husband and me.

### What is the most interesting thing about working in banking that most people don't know?

Our industry is always changing and provides new things to learn every day. The most interesting part by far though is the people! In our industry, we are afforded the opportunity to support our amazing members and communities! I also have the opportunity to work daily with intelligent, passionate and talented people who make work rewarding and fun! Our credit union team is genuinely interested in improving the lives of our members every day by delivering exceptional customer experiences and products and services.

### Does listening to music while working serve as a distraction, or motivation?

We are a music loving family. We appreciate almost all genres! Music is always on in our home and of course we have our car kara-

oke down to a science. I have not, however, found a way to successfully focus and listen to music at work. I get too caught up in the lyrics and before I know it, I am singing, and my coworkers do not need to hear that!

### What are you looking forward to the most in Bartlett over the coming year?

I am so excited to see the incredible focus the Mayor, Chamber, and business leaders have on bringing new opportunities and business to Bartlett. This amazing community has so much to offer, and I am excited to see the commitment in ensuring that it remains safe and strong for future generations.



## NEW STUDY DETAILS THE FUTURE OF TN WORKFORCE

This year’s report, the *Improving the Pipeline for Tennessee’s Workforce: Academic Supply for Occupational Demand Report* maintains the Career Cluster structure, grouping occupations and aligned training programs in one place. Accompanying dashboards and data downloads are also available for readers who prefer to work with the data directly. Excitingly, this report includes a few new features, including a revised approach to measuring degree completers’ employment and wages, as well as a simplification of report layout to improve readability and flow.

Multiple state agencies facilitate this report’s completion and there are many audiences for this report. Each year, efforts to refine and improve the report and associated outputs will continue to ensure the report is useful in education and workforce planning.

The full report can be accessed [here](#).