

# The Hartsville Vidette

**\$1.00**  
**THURSDAY**  
November 18, 2021

Volume 159 • No. 46  
hartsvillevidette.com

Started by Civil War General John Hunt Morgan, bringing Trousdale County's news for more than 150 years and counting

## Trousdale EMS faces staff shortage

### Response times could become longer

BY CHRIS GREGORY  
MANAGING EDITOR

Retaining employees seems to be a problem no matter where one looks these days, and Trousdale County's EMS department is no exception.

During a Nov. 4 meeting of the Emergency Services Committee, Deputy Chief Mark Carman reported that the department currently has two paramedic vacancies and could have two more in the near future.

EMA Chief Matt Batey later told The Vidette that Trousdale County could soon be forced to run shifts with only one ambulance available rather than the current two. Doing so would have a significant impact on response times and potentially even patient outcomes, he said.

"If we have one truck doing a run to Nashville, that's a three-hour trip; you're not just dropping off at the ER," Batey said. "We try to defer those calls if we can, but a lot of private services don't want to come out this far."

"We have to depend on mutual aid or Rescue Squad, but they're

limited in what we can do without an ambulance."

Trousdale County's EMS currently averages six to seven minutes of response time per call, but if lack of personnel forces only ambulance to be on call per shift, "it could be 20 or 30 minutes before an ambulance comes," Batey said.

Trousdale EMS reported 154 calls for service in October, which Batey said was about double the number it was when he started here eight years ago.

"I don't anticipate it to slow down any with the number of

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Chris Gregory / Hartsville Vidette

Vacancies in Trousdale County's EMS department could force the county to run just one ambulance per shift, meaning longer response times.

## Yellow Jackets take down Meigs Co.

BY JERRY RICHMOND  
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

Playing perhaps their most complete game of the season, Trousdale County advanced to the Class 2A quarterfinals with a 16-8 stunner of top-ranked and undefeated Meigs County on the Tigers' home field in Decatur.

The victory marked the second year in a row that the Jackets beat an undefeated team in the second round after they ousted Bledsoe County in 2020.

"Anybody that had anything to do with the Purple & Gold tonight, this was a true team effort. You can't say anything better about those cats wearing purple & gold tonight on that field; they sold out," TCHS coach Blake Satterfield said. "I thought we responded well tonight. I am super proud of our kids, super proud of our coaches."

Trousdale County's defense kept the Jackets in the game early on, as Meigs' first two drives ended on fourth-down stops deep in Jackets territory. Meigs' defense was equally up to the task, keeping Trousdale's running game in check.

In the opening minute of the second quarter, Meigs got on the scoreboard on a two-yard run from senior quarterback Logan Carroll. The play was set up by a 37-yard pass to senior Cameron Huckabee. A trick play led to a two-point conversion as tight end



Chris Gregory / Hartsville Vidette

Brian Banks (5) and teammates celebrate after the Trousdale defense stopped Meigs County on fourth down late in the fourth quarter of Friday's game. The Yellow Jackets defeated the No. 1-ranked Tigers 16-8 to reach the 2A quarterfinals.

Da'Quawn Tatum took a hand-off and threw to Logan Purgason to put the Tigers ahead 8-0.

"Their quarterback is tough," Satterfield said. "We watched the 2019 Trousdale-Meigs game and the 2020 game. Tonight we played like the 2019 version.

That's what good football programs do."

Trousdale County would tie the game on the opening drive of the second half as Bryson Claiborne ran 52 yards down the home sideline to put the

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## Free holiday meal at high school

BY CHRIS GREGORY  
MANAGING EDITOR

The Hartsville/Trousdale County Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the return of its annual Community Thanksgiving Meal, with the sixth such event being held next week to give thanks and to honor the spirit of the people of Hartsville.

The meal will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 23 from 4-7 p.m. at the Eleanor Ford Theatre in Trousdale County High School.

"Last year we just did box meals for first responders. This year we're back to a Community Thanksgiving and planning for 850 people," said Chamber Director Natalie Knudsen. "It's right before Thanksgiving so if you're going to be out of town, you can still come and have a meal with us!"

The meal will be free to all who attend and will consist of turkey, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, dressing, green beans, cranberry sauce, rolls and pie. There will be wait staff on hand as well, but there will be no "to-go" boxes available.

Anyone who is unable to attend can request a meal be delivered by contacting the Chamber at 615-374-9243. Deliveries will be

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## Trousdale officials eye lack of locally based Veterans Service Officer

BY CHRIS GREGORY  
MANAGING EDITOR

Members of the County Commission and the mayor took differing views last week on the best way to serve the needs of Trousdale County's over 400 veterans.

Trousdale has been without a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) since Amber Russell resigned the position earlier this year. During the Nov. 9 meeting of the Steering Committee, County Mayor Stephen Chambers presented a proposal to partner with Sumner County's VSO to provide a locally based option.

The mayor said he had spoken with the state's Office of Veterans Affairs, which he added felt Trousdale's population did not justify a separate officer.

"They used an example of Clay and Jackson counties, which share a Veterans Service Officer," Chambers said. "They suggested we look at that."

The mayor presented commissioners with a Memorandum of Understanding, in which Sumner County's VSO would spend two days per month in Trousdale County from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Under the agreement, Trousdale would pay \$250 per day for a VSO or \$350 per day for the VSO Director.

"This is a way to bridge us until the next budget year and see if we can increase the interest in those

services, then see if it's worth hiring someone versus contracting that out," Chambers added.

The mayor added that currently, Trousdale veterans are being referred to other counties or the state if they need assistance.

But a number of committee members said they wanted to examine the issue and expressed preference for someone local to do the job. Trousdale County does have a part-time VSO position funded in the current budget at \$13,000 for 20 hours per week.

"If we're going to be paying out money, I'd like to pay it to someone in our county who knows our people," Chairman Dwight Jewell said. "This may be a good alter-

native but I wish we could look at this whole issue and see what needs we're going to have."

"Have we talked to our local veterans about their thoughts?" added Bill Fergusson.

"Somebody in the county's got to know the people better and understand them," Jerry Ford said.

Ultimately, committee members voted to recommend that the full County Commission set up a subcommittee to examine the needs of local veterans and whether it would be better to contract out that office.

"I want to reach out to our community first and exhaust options here first," Fergusson said.

During Monday's work session Commissioner Gary Walsh, a veteran himself and former commander of Hartsville's VFW Post, called the Sumner deal a "stopgap measure" that would provide service for the present while the subcommittee searches for a more permanent solution. The Budget & Finance Committee has also given a favorable recommendation to the arrangement.

The County Commission will take up the matter at its next meeting, scheduled for Nov. 22 at 7 p.m.

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### THE PEOPLE'S AGENDA

The Personnel Committee will meet on Thursday, Nov. 18 at 6 p.m. in the upstairs courtroom of the courthouse.

The County Commission will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. in the upstairs courtroom of the courthouse.

### MORE INSIDE



Jackets to face Watertown again in quarterfinals.

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