

The Hartsville Vidette

\$1.00
THURSDAY
November 25, 2021

Volume 159 • No. 47
hartsvillevidette.com

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

Hartsville's first gun store opens

BY CHRIS GREGORY
MANAGING EDITOR

Another new business has launched in downtown Hartsville with the recent opening of Trousdale County Firearms.

The store, which sells firearms, ammunition and other equipment, is located at 104 Vance Ave., directly behind Farmer's Harvest restaurant in the former site of Linville Supply. Owner Steven Walker is a Gallatin native but has resided with his wife in Trousdale County for over 20 years.

"I've seen things come and go through this town over the years, and I thought this town needs a gun store," Walker said. "Why should people have to drive to Academy, to Nashville? If I can put a gun store in this town, I'd like to help the hunters and help people and try to be a blessing to the town."

Trousdale County Firearms carries all types of firearms such as pistols, handguns, shotguns and rifles. Ammunition is in particularly high demand right now, Walker noted.

"Being a small town, there's still hunting here," Walker noted. "Concealed carry is a big thing now as well. We need a few little things in this town."

In addition to guns and ammo, Trousdale County Firearms also carries targets, scopes, sights, cleaning supplies and other accessories.

In most cases, Walker said a buyer could pick up a gun the same day it is purchased. Buyers will have to fill out Form 4473 and undergo a background check, which typically can be completed in a matter of minutes, he said.

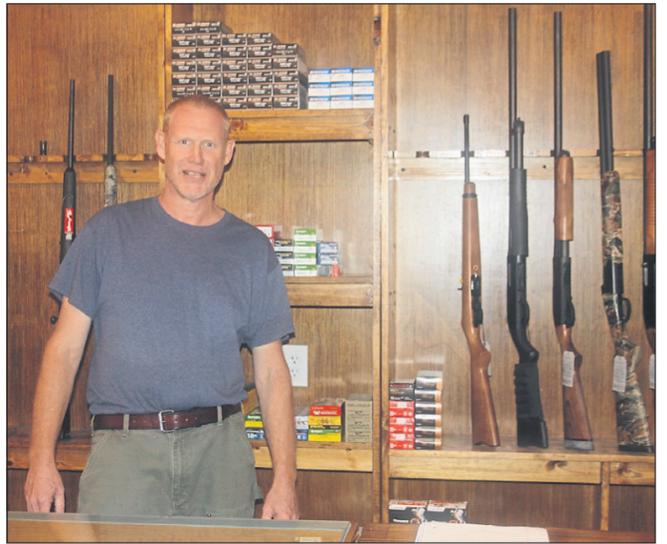
"As long as they've not committed domestic violence or a felony, you're good to go," he said. "People fill that out and I run a background check through TICS (Tennessee Instant Check System) for \$10. It usually takes just a couple of minutes."

The store is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday. Walker said he will be participating in some auctions and the Saturday hours may adjust as needed to accommodate that.

"On Dec. 4 there will be an online auction here and pickup here. On Dec. 11 we have a big auction in Castalian Springs," he said.

Trousdale County Firearms can be reached at 615-450-2840.

Reach Chris Gregory at 615-450-5756 or cgregory@hartsvillevidette.com.



Chris Gregory / Hartsville Vidette

Steven Walker shows off some of the merchandise in his new store, Trousdale County Firearms.

Jackets shut out Watertown

BY CHRIS GREGORY
MANAGING EDITOR

There is an old saying that few things in life are certain except death and taxes. A playoff matchup between Trousdale County and Watertown may just be ready to be added to that list.

For the fourth consecutive year, the two Region 4-2A rivals met in a quarterfinal matchup. And for the fourth consecutive year, it is the Yellow Jackets moving on to the semifinal round after a 23-0 blanking of the Purple Tigers at Robinson Stadium Friday night.

"We faced a good ball team tonight and they were the better team," Watertown coach Gavin Webster said. "They did an excellent job getting prepared and we had a lot of mistakes. We got beat by a good football team tonight."

Trousdale County's defense dominated the game, with the Yellow Jackets (11-1) holding Watertown (9-4) to 119 total yards and intercepting three passes.

The two teams battled through a scoreless first quarter before Trousdale took the lead early in the second quar-



Chris Gregory / Hartsville Vidette

Trousdale County's Bryson Claiborne (3) jukes a pair of Watertown defenders on the way to the first of his three touchdown runs Friday night. Claiborne finished with 188 rushing yards as the Yellow Jackets defeated Watertown 23-0 in the Class 2A quarterfinals.

ter on Bryson Claiborne's 34-yard run.

It was a bounce-back effort for Claiborne and Trousdale County, which lost 31-21 in the regular-season finale in Hartsville three weeks earli-

er. In that game, the Yellow Jackets turned the ball over three times, which led to 17 Watertown points, and Claiborne was held to 80 yards. In Friday's quarterfinal, Claiborne finished with 188 yards

and three touchdowns on 13 carries.

"I think losing in Week 11 to Watertown gave us a lot of fire," Claiborne said. "Ever

SEE JACKETS/PAGE A2

Local man charged in domestic assault case

BY CHRIS GREGORY
MANAGING EDITOR

A Trousdale County man is facing multiple charges, including aggravated assault and evading arrest after a pair of recent incidents.



Jason Hesson

Jason Coelle Hesson, 51, of Bethpage, was taken into custody on Nov. 16 after a pursuit involving both Macon County and Trousdale County deputies.

According to arrest reports, earlier in November Hesson allegedly entered the Trousdale County home of his girlfriend, struck her and began strangling her while holding a gun to her head. Hesson reportedly told the victim "she was not leaving unless it was in a body bag."

On Nov. 16, an off-duty Macon County deputy spotted Hesson, who had active warrants for aggravated domestic assault, false imprisonment and violation of bond conditions. The Macon deputy reportedly followed Hesson into Trousdale County and notified local law enforcement, which caught up to Hesson on Tillman Lane.

Hesson reportedly ignored orders to stop and fled into the woods and was found after a roughly 40-minute search. He allegedly had a loaded 9mm pistol on him and a loaded .22 revolver in a backpack he was carrying, along with what was believed to be a small amount of marijuana.

Hesson was arrested and in addition to the earlier counts, charged with a second count of violating bond conditions, evading arrest on foot, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, unlawful possession of a weapon and simple possession of a Schedule VI substance. He was booked into the Trousdale County Jail and at press time was being held on \$27,500 bond.

Hesson is scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 28.

Reach Chris Gregory at 615-450-5756 or cgregory@hartsvillevidette.com.

Commission OKs Hickory Ridge rezone

BY CHRIS GREGORY
MANAGING EDITOR

County commissioners narrowly approved a re-zoning of property near the Hickory Ridge subdivision on second reading during Monday night's meeting.

The decision, which came by a 10-6 margin with two abstentions, puts two parcels at the front of the subdivision and adjoining Highway 25 to commercial status for future development.

A similar request had been voted down in 2019, something

resident Ed Royals pointed out during a public hearing prior to the vote.

"Our concerns remain the same," he said. "There is no limit of what type commercial business could go there."

Commissioner Gary Walsh asked why the property had been zoned residential in the first place and was told it had been at the owner's request prior to the construction of the first Hickory Ridge homes.

SEE REZONE/PAGE A6

TCAT receives grant

BY CHRIS GREGORY
MANAGING EDITOR

Hartsville's Tennessee College of Applied Technology will be receiving \$975,000 as part of the Governor's Investment in Vocational Education (GIVE) program.

Gov. Bill Lee announced on Nov. 18 the second round of investments through the program, which Lee instituted in 2019. GIVE is designed to prioritize learning opportunities in rural counties and enhance career and technical education statewide.

TCAT Hartsville plans to use the funding to help create a cooperative manufacturing program along with Tennessee Central Economic Authority, Sumner County Schools and Wilson County Schools. TCAT Hartsville President Mae Wright provided a summary of the grant proposal, which lists NIC Global, Wonder Porcelain, Simpson Strongtie and Aladdin Temp-Rite as proposed workplace partners.

SEE TCAT/PAGE A6

CONNECT WITH US



Connect with us socially. Get the e-edition at hartsvillevidette.com.

THE PEOPLE'S AGENDA

The Education Committee will meet on Thursday, Dec. 2 at 6 p.m. in the upstairs courtroom of the courthouse.

The Law Enforcement Committee will meet on Thursday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. in the upstairs courtroom of the courthouse.

MORE INSIDE



Boykin signs softball scholarship with Columbia State.

Page A3

