

# THE ORACLE

Celebrating 100 years of Tech's primary news source

## Nonlethal weapons allowed on state campuses

**Lawson Tidwell**  
CONTENT EDITOR

As of July 1, a variety of laws have been introduced to Tennessee legal code, with one such law being of particular interest to Tech students.

This law, SB 1868, prohibits schools from restricting adult students lawfully present on the institution's property from carrying nonlethal weapons, such as pepper spray or tasers.

Passing of this law does not come as a surprise to much of Tech's student body, many of whom felt more comfortable on campus carrying such self-defense implements.

"People did anyways," sophomore engineering student Abel Contreras said, "at least women did."

This comes alongside bill HB 1600, which prohibits those convicted of certain juvenile crimes from purchasing firearms until the age of 25.

These provisions to Tennessee law are a welcome relief to students living during a time in which mass shootings and other tragedies are unfortunately commonplace on educational grounds.

Aside from this, a string of laws targeting artificial intelligence as it relates to preexisting legal statutes passed as well, including an important update to name, image



PHOTOS BY BEE GOODMAN  
Many students carry self-defense keychains similar to this to feel safer on campus. The law, SB 1868 went into affect on July 1, 2024.

and likeness (NIL) laws.

HB 2091, colloquially known as the "ELVIS Act," rectified earlier NIL law's lack of protection for vocal identity. This unprecedented addition to the law allows singers and other vocalists to retain copyrights to their vocal style.

This comes after a rising commonality among internet content creators and popular musicians utilizing AI tools to fabricate musical pieces using the voices of popular musicians living and deceased, including those of famous pop icon Michael Jackson and hip-hop great Tupac Shakur.

Another law targeting AI misuse comes in the form of

SB 2668, adding AI generated materials to the list of offenses under the category of child sexual exploitation.

In simple terms, AI generated sexually explicit materials of children are now persecuted under the same umbrella as all other sexually explicit materials of children are.

As Tennessee law continues to grow to accommodate changing times of great uncertainty, it is necessary to keep track of how these changes may affect daily life for many in the state.

These newly introduced laws and more can be viewed on the TN General Assembly site, <https://www.capitol.tn.gov>.

## 7,000 parking permits sold just in fall semester

**Eva Dingwall**  
CONTRIBUTOR

Tech President Phil Oldham addressed the proposed parking garage, the failed Transportation, Parking, and Infrastructure Fee survey from the spring semester, and current parking challenges at the Faculty Senate meeting on Sept. 9, 2024.

According to the published minutes of the online meeting released Sept. 16, Oldham commented, "The issue is not that we don't have enough parking, but [campus parkers] don't want where we have it... the lot across Willow is generally available."

"A parking garage really is the only solution that will alleviate this [parking issue]. It won't solve everything, but it will alleviate things more long term," Auxiliaries Director Nick Dolata said.

Although the SGA's student-led TPI Fee survey, conducted Feb. 22 to March 7, 2024, failed with 68% of students participating voting against the proposal and 32% in favor, Dolata said plans for the garages are still in the works and are part of Tech's master plan.

Tech's enrollment this fall reached 10,551 students, an increase of 4.3% over the 2023-2024 academic year. The additional students, as well as the construction on campus, have put a strain on the limited number of parking spots available to students, faculty and staff.

Dolata confirmed there are approximately 5,500 parking spaces currently available on campus, occasionally fluctuating with construction and the needs of departments. Parking permits are sold throughout the year, however, just over 7,000 permits have been sold since the fall term began.

Senior communication major, Tyler Rich said, "On Wednesday [Sept. 17]... I left my house at 10:30, and my class started at 11:00. I live five minutes away. I got to campus and there were cars everywhere... cars lined up in the parking lot. It felt like chaos."

Rich stated he looked for parking at the Academic Wellness Center, the intramural fields, the Hooper Eblen Center and near Collegese Church of Christ, a lot near Tech. He found no spaces in any of them.

Rich said, "Finally, I found one spot someone had just pulled out of... It was 11:15." His search for a parking spot was 40 minutes.

Dr. Scott Christen, a member of the Non-Student Citation Appeals Committee, said, "We do have parking that is not being utilized to its fullest... There is an entire area [behind Tech Village] not being used as much as the interior parking we currently have."

Christen acknowledged students' hesitation to use the exterior parking areas and said, "We have a tight schedule between

See **PARKING** on page 6



PHOTO BY SAMMY HARVEY  
While there is additional parking location on Willow Avenue, many students still choose to park illegally because they're afraid of being late to class.

## "If you've got a dream, chase it"

**August Creter**  
JR. EDITOR

Transparency and care for his roots inspire Livingston-born country star Bayker Blankenship. Coming from humble beginnings, Blankenship has become one of the hottest young country musicians in the country.

Blankenship, who Livingston locals may recognize as either the kid who made "Maxed Out" or the guy at the 1806 General Store, began playing guitar with his buddies in early 2022.

The trajectory took off for Blankenship when he started posting videos and performing on TikTok live, the platform where his second single "Maxed Out" started gaining traction.

"When your song gets played that many times all over the world, people recognize who you are pretty fast," Blankenship said.

Blankenship has performed most of his recent live shows at Livingston restaurant Wayne's Grill,



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN ALDRICH  
Blankenship performs at Wayne's Grill in Livingston for family and friends on Sept. 11, 2024. His second single, "Maxed Out" has been gaining attention on Tiktok and charted on the Canadian Billboard Hot 100.

most recently on Wednesday, Sept. 11, where the patio was reserved for family and friends. Surrounded by his loved ones, Blankenship performed all the hits, as well as unreleased material and covers from the likes of Darius Rucker and Zack Bryan lining his setlist.

"Everywhere I've went has been pretty different,

coming from a small town, always getting recognized, then going out into the real world and getting recognized in places you've never been before."

Though Blankenship just recently began traveling for shows, his viral success is allowing him to headline his first US tour, supported by

See **BLANKENSHIP** on page 5

### Editorial

Managing Editor Bee Goodman gives her personal experience with suicide and how she overcame struggles with mental health.

### Culture

Future releases "MIXTAPE PLUTO," his third project of 2024. Noah Mears shares his thoughts on the movies Reagan and The Substance, in theaters now.

### Sports

Volleyball takes a spike. Football brings the game home to Tucker Stadium and clutches the first win of the season. Soccer gets a rough start to the season.

# Not big enough yet, struggles with suicide and mental health

**Bee Goodman**  
MANAGING EDITOR

The first time I thought about it I was 12, and the last time I thought about it was yesterday. Each year as I creep closer to another birthday I remember how I attempted suicide.

When I was 12, I was sitting on my bed with my radio playing. I had taken a knife from the kitchen, the one my mom always warned me about being sharp. I was going to kill myself when the phone rang.

I was 14 and I had just lost my virginity to someone too much older than me after I said no, I had a gun in my mouth when I noticed it was snowing.

I was 16 and I went home from school that day, taking home everything I kept in my locker and the bandroom, when I tripped and broke my wrist.

When I was 20 I drank a bottle of Everclear and took half a bottle of my mom's sleeping pills. I'm one of the lucky ones that woke up.

I remember sitting at the kitchen table with great grandmother Eva, she was feeding me Ritz crackers and asking what I was doing there, "You ain't big 'nough yet," she shook her head.

I opened my mouth to agree, and then I awoke in a pale hospital room. Everything was fuzzy and I had the worst headache. I'm not big enough yet.

Some statistics say that only two years af-

ter an attempt, a person is likely to attempt again. Knowing this I avoided looking back, I refused to reexamine the times that lead up to the attempt.

Now that five years have passed, I have learned that looking back gives me a new perspective as I continue to look forward.

I also learned by looking in my past I can see where things needed to change and how I could have reacted differently.

With time passing, and a lot of much needed healing I've found myself becoming an advocate for suicide prevention and awareness. I made the goal this month to take three million steps as part of a fundraiser with To Write Love on Her Arms (TWLOHA) for Suicide Awareness month celebrated every September.

As I fell deeper into the pit I became a person I wasn't proud of, and blamed for being the cause of many failing narratives.

The first few months after my attempt I felt as though I was such a failure that I couldn't even succeed in ending my own life.

I was angry at myself. I was angry at the people who stepped away in my time of need and I was angry that I was still alive. I was angry at how alone I was after surviving an attempt. How could I fall so far after being at the bottom for so long?

I made plans again to end my life but for some reason I decided to go to a new therapist that same day.

I kept thinking I never should have grown up, I never should have been born. The

"The moment you doubt you can fly, you cease forever to be able to do it."

J.M. Barrie, Peter Pan

GRAPHIC BY BEE GOODMAN

Managing editor Bee Goodman shares her struggles with suicide and mental health issues. Goodman explains how revisiting her past helped her move forward.

thoughts rang through my head as I checked in at the front desk and I sat down. I looked around the room and noticed that hanging on the wall right in front of me was the sign I needed to stay.

"The moment you doubt you can fly you cease forever to be able to do it," a quote from my favorite childhood movie, Peter Pan, hung on a black canvas a few feet in front of me.

I sat there amazed. This had to be a sign from God, the

See **SUICIDE** on page 4

## Student On The Street

**Lilly Davis**  
PHOTOGRAPHER

How do you feel about the Tenn. law lifting the ban of nonlethal weapons on campus?



*Aiden Wallace*  
Junior

"I don't see anything wrong with lifting the ban. I'd see a greater issue if they did ban it outright, because people need a right to defend themselves."



*Alex Marquez*  
Junior

"I think students should be able to carry nonlethal weapons on campus, you know, for self defense."



*Emily Pineiro*  
Freshman

"It does make me feel safer to be able to carry pepper spray or a switchblade, cause it gives me that extra confidence to walk to classes at night."



*Savanna Crook*  
Freshman

"I was raised in a family that upholds the second amendment. We are big on guns and your rights. I don't think there is any problem with it."

## Your Campus Representatives

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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](mailto:tntechoracle@gmail.com) and received by 3 p.m. the Wednesday before publication.

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# Culture

## Blankenship says he is ready to tour

Blankenship said “I am ready to get on tour and meet every single one of my fans, I really am. It’s very exciting that I’m even able to do this.”

“I really love them and can’t wait to put a name to a face and know who all these people are,” he continued.

Blankenship is going from performing at local Livingston restaurants like Wayne’s and the Steel Coop to large stages in Nashville, Chicago, St. Lewis and more. Despite the success, he tries not to let it get to his head.

“Always keep yourself humble,” Blankenship remarked. “Don’t over-enjoy yourself too much, because the fans are what makes your career, and if you lose those fans you lose your job.”

“Just be normal, be humble, and accept and love everybody.”

Blankenship carries with him the idea, “If you really want something, you can’t just halfway do it.” He continues by quoting one of his creative inspirations.

“If you’ve got a dream, chase it, cause



PHOTO BY JONATHAN ALDRICH  
Blankenship performing for family and friends at Wayne’s Grill in Livingston on Sept. 11.

dreams won’t chase you back. ‘Til You Can’t by Cody Johnson just hits me.”

“Just keep your head held high when things get low, don’t let nobody steer you wrong, and always do what you wanna do and what you think is best, and not what everyone else thinks.”

## Musical Monograph

Future releases third project of 2024, “MIXTAPE PLUTO”



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY XXL MAGAZINE  
The cover for “MIXTAPE PLUTO,” released Sept. 20 via Epic Records and Sony Music Entertainment.

**Gus Creter**  
JR. EDITOR

One of the most prolific rappers of the modern era, Future, released his third body of work of the year on Sept. 20 with “MIXTAPE PLUTO.”

Following his back-to-back number one albums “WE DON’T TRUST YOU” and “WE STILL DON’T TRUST YOU” alongside close collaborator Metro Boomin, Future is back with his trademark grimy mixtape energy, just as toxic and druggy as ever.

“WE DON’T TRUST YOU” in particular is potentially the most discussed rap album of the year, partially due to Kendrick Lamar’s return to the public consciousness with his pointed jabs at Drake and J. Cole on “Like That,” setting off what may be the biggest rap beef of all time.

Lamar’s proclamations of “Fuck the big three, it’s just big me” and “Fore all your dogs getting buried, it’s a K with all the nines, he gon’ see Pet Semetary” set the rap game ablaze, with an excellent performance from Future and a generational 1986 “Eazy-Duz-It” sample eloquently crafted by Metro Boomin.

Future’s mass output this year is not too dissimilar to his 2014-15 run, where within one year he released four mixtapes, being “Monster,” “Beastmode,” “56 Nights” and “What A Time To Be Alive,” a collaborative tape with Drake, as well as his critically acclaimed album “DS2.”

While five projects is substantial, the 58 songs managed to be eclipsed in 2024 with 59 songs between Future’s three projects. With varying levels of quality, at the age of 40, Future remains one of the most prolific rappers alive.

Alongside executive producers Wheezy and Southside, Future is back with 18 tracks, 44 minutes of material and no features.

Personally, the best moments on this tape for me come when Future gets outside of his comfort zone. Tracks near the end of the tape such as “LOST MY DOG” offer emotional complexity, while the melodies he catches on “SOUTH OF FRANCE” and “SURFING A TSUNAMI” are addictive.

Future also included bangers with a classic “Future sound” such as “SKI” and “PRESS THE BUTTON.” That said, many of the other bangers feel by-the-numbers for Future, though there is a respectable cohesion throughout.

If you have been paying attention, the moments on “WE DON’T TRUST YOU” and “WE STILL DON’T TRUST YOU” that ushered the most discussion were the tracks with featured performers – Kendrick Lamar, A\$AP Rocky and The Weeknd dissing Drake, a collab song with Travis Scott and Playboi Carti, and J. Cole’s first verse following his departure from the rap beef.

The lack of features on this mixtape is a conscious decision, proving Future does not need outside voices to create a cohesive, popular piece.

While “MIXTAPE PLUTO” does not reach the same highs as either of his previous albums, its quality still serves as a testament to his work ethic, especially considering he is nearly 15 years into his career.

## Campus Events

Sept. 26 Boom Boom Bingo @ RUC MPR 6PM	Oct. 3 Women’s Volleyball @ 2PM	Oct. 8 Jazz Concert @ BFA 7:30PM
Sept. 26 Women’s Soccer @ 7PM	Oct. 3 Women’s Soccer @ 7PM	Oct. 8 Live on the Plaza – Aprender Night @ Plaza 6PM
Sept. 27 Party for the Polls @ Plaza 6-9PM	Oct. 4 Women’s Volleyball @ 2PM	Oct. 9 Sustainable Campus Committee Meeting @ TJ Farr 108 3:30-4:30PM
Sept. 27 Festival of Voices @ BFA 7PM	Oct. 5 Preview Day from 9:00AM - 1:00PM	Oct. 11 Recital @ BFA 7:30PM
Sept. 28 Women’s Volleyball @ 4PM	Oct. 5 Football Game @ 1:30PM	Oct. 13 Women’s Soccer @ 1PM
Oct. 2 Wind Ensemble Performance @ BFA 7:30PM	Oct. 6 BSO Concert @ BFA 3PM	Oct. 15 Orchestra Concert @ BFA 7:30PM

## Director’s Take: Reagan and The Substance



**Noah Mears**  
CONTENT DIRECTOR

GRAPHIC BY AUDREY PALLADINO

Two very different films were in theaters this month, with only one thing in common: Dennis Quaid.

First, I sat down and powered through the movie Reagan.

It was a very tough watch, as the entire film was about how former president Ronald Reagan was a prophet sent to lead the people to prosperity. Okay.

Throughout the film, we see Quaid tackle the events of Reagan’s life, while constantly grinning and attempting to solve political issues by going on walks with dictators.

The movie also felt like a more wonky and bland version of Baz Luhrmann’s 2022 Elvis biopic, making for a mediocre two hours and twenty-one minutes of cinema, only for

the viewing experience to be topped by another movie cracking that two hour mark.

Soon after my experience with Reagan, I sat down for one of the most jarring films of the year, The Substance.

If you ever wanted to see a film full of guts, goo, needles, and a still-stunning Demi Moore, The Substance is for you.

If you have any triggers when it comes to body horror or any of the things I just listed, please stay away.

The film follows an aging actress, played by Demi Moore, who decides to risk everything she has to clone a younger version of herself, played by Margeret Qualley.

While these two actresses slay every second they are on screen, the supporting role of Harvey, played by Dennis Quaid, caught my eye.

See **REAGAN** on page 4

# Using AI ethically in your school work, job and life

**Madelyn Lamb**  
Guest Writer



PROVIDED BY MADELYN LAMB  
Junior business major at Tech and UNUM summer intern in Chattanooga.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming an integrated part of

our lives, impacting everything from healthcare to education. While some worry about the risks, AI can be ethical and helpful if used the correct way.

AI is a tool, and like any tool, its ethics depend on how it's used.

For one, AI is improving healthcare by helping doctors diagnose diseases more accurately, as it can analyze large amounts of medical data to spot patterns that could lead to earlier diagnoses. This can save lives by allowing doctors to intervene sooner.

In addition, AI is making technology more accessible for people with disabilities. For instance, voice recognition systems and AI-driven apps are helping those with visual or hearing impairments, further

promoting inclusivity and making technology usable for everyone.

Educationally, AI is being used to personalize learning. Adaptive learning platforms adjust lessons based on a student's progress, helping them learn more effectively and ensuring that students who need extra help can get the support they need.

While AI has a lot of potential, it also raises clear ethical concerns. Issues like data privacy, bias in algorithms, and job displacement need to be addressed.

To build trust in AI, it is important to develop systems that are transparent, fair, and accountable. AI does not need to replace any work done by the

individual – it is just here to enhance productivity in everyday life.

Many organizations are now working on ethical guidelines for AI. These guidelines focus on fairness (ensuring AI does not discriminate) transparency (making AI systems understandable), and accountability (ensuring human oversight).

AI can bring a lot of benefits to society, but it is up to us utilizing its abilities to make sure it is being used ethically.

By focusing on responsible development, we can use AI to solve problems and improve lives while minimizing risks. As college students, we have a role in shaping the future of AI by being aware of these issues and advocating for ethical practices.

## Struggling with suicide to taking 300,000 steps forward

universe or even Peter himself to stay. Whatever it was the message was clear, I was going to be okay. I continued my appointments with this therapist and found myself becoming the better version of me. I reached that two year anniversary and found myself in a position I had never been in before: I was happy.

I found pride in my journey, I made amends with those I had hurt and I forgave myself. I revisited who I wanted to be when I was five years old. I wanted to be bigger than I was then, I wanted to be a better me. I've been getting closer to seeing that person in the mirror every day, and some days I think I do. I have noticed gray hair growing that wasn't there when I was 20, a sight I never would see if I had succeeded in my attempt.

Since I have looked back at who I was then and what I was experiencing, I have been able to forgive that version of myself and realize that I was sick. I tell myself now that I would never shame myself for getting the flu, so shaming myself for having a mental illness doesn't make any sense. I never

thought I would be at a point in my life where I thought happiness was something I could achieve, I thought before it wasn't possible for me.

I still have bad days, just like everyone, and sometimes those bad days seem to flash this big red button that says "the end of all your problems," but I know better now that I can't, because there are people who depend on me, and my hurt would only be given to them if I was gone.

I've found that sometimes taking one step at a time is best thing a person can do. This month I completed my goal of taking three hundred thousand steps in partnership with TWLOHA, and it would not have been possible without taking each step one at a time. Practicing patience like this is a big part of my journey.

I see the progress I've made and I know that it is okay to look back sometimes, because it allows me to look forward with more perspective. Now I approach another year and remember to count the grays, and the steps as they come, because I almost never got the chance to see them.



PHOTO BY LILLY DAVIS  
Bee Goodman is The Oracle's managing editor and a senior communications major.

## Reagan & The Substance



GRAPHIC BY AUDREY PALLADINO  
Reagan and The Substance, both in theaters now, feature two performances from Dennis Quaid and boast a 17% and 89% on Rotten Tomatoes respectively.

Dennis Quaid, caught my eye.

Quaid's character, named Harvey, resembles the stereotypical Weinstein-esque TV producer we have come to perceive.

In act one, we are blessed with a scene where Quaid is eating shrimp in a similar fashion to how babies eat jars of Gerber squash, giving us some insight to just how disgusting this man is open to being.

Throughout the film, Quaid shows off extreme levels of misogyny towards any female character, while boasting a similar Reagan-style grin. The parallels are uncanny.

While I have never been a fan of Quaid, I have to give him props for his portrayal of Harvey.

My respect for his acting was particularly raised after watching him compare eating Jelly Beans, a bagged candy full of treats that, though they are the same, all look different, to being racially inclusive.

When Oscar season rolls around next year, we might see Quaid earn a nomination, and it won't be for taking his coat off in the cold.



# Overdose Awareness in Putnam County



Power of Putnam, host of the International Overdose Awareness Day event on Aug. 31, 2024 in Dogwood Park.



Zaria Ford and Kathryn Dye of Tech's Center for Addiction Prevention and Support.



PHOTO BY BRIANNA RANKIN

**Lilly Davis**

PHOTOGRAPHER

PHOTOS BY LILLY DAVIS

Did you know, according to the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, 107,543 people in the U.S. died of a drug overdose in 2023?

That was only a 3% decrease since 2022 and was the first

decrease in drug overdoses since 2018.

September is National Recovery Month in the US. This month is dedicated to promoting the importance of evidence-based recovery and treatment options. The overdose crisis and substance abuse affect thousands nationwide, including misusers and their loved ones.

This is not only a national issue but also a local issue in our community. The Tennessee Department of Health reported in 2022, 29 deaths in Putnam County were due to drug overdose. Power of Putnam, located in the heart of Cookeville, Tennessee, is fighting this crisis at hand.

Power of Putnam is a coalition dedicated to preventing substance misuse and working together to implement strategies to help the community here in

Putnam County. This is one of the many organizations devoted to this cause in the Putnam County area.

Recently, the coalition hosted Paint the Park Purple at Dogwood Park in honor of International Overdose Awareness Day on Saturday, Aug. 31. This event highlighted community resources committed to people struggling with substance abuse, testimonies of addicts, speakers of organizations, a proclamation signing, a candle vigil for lost ones to overdose and more.

Testimonial speaker Dylan Johnson, a Narcotics Anonymous (NA) member, spoke about his battle with addiction starting back early in his childhood.

Johnson stated, "I remember thinking in my mind the first time I used, this is what everyone else feels all the time. I don't

have to worry about this."

Johnson, an alumni of Cookeville High School and TTU, has been clean since Dec. 15, 2018. He currently works helping people struggling with addiction.

"NA for me, gave me what I needed," Johnson concluded.

Power of Putnam and all the community resources aimed at supporting addicts of all different kinds in Putnam County, strive to help people in the local community just like Johnson.

If you or someone you know is struggling with an addiction, know it is okay to reach out for help. There are plenty of local resources available just a phone call away.

For more information, you can visit the Power of Putnam website at [PowerofPutnam.org](http://PowerofPutnam.org) or give them a call at (931) 520-7531.



Lila Naugle speaking on behalf of Power of Putnam on September 18 in Dogwood Park.



Katy and Ally Williams of Tech's sorority, Omega Phi Alpha, September 18 in Dogwood Park.



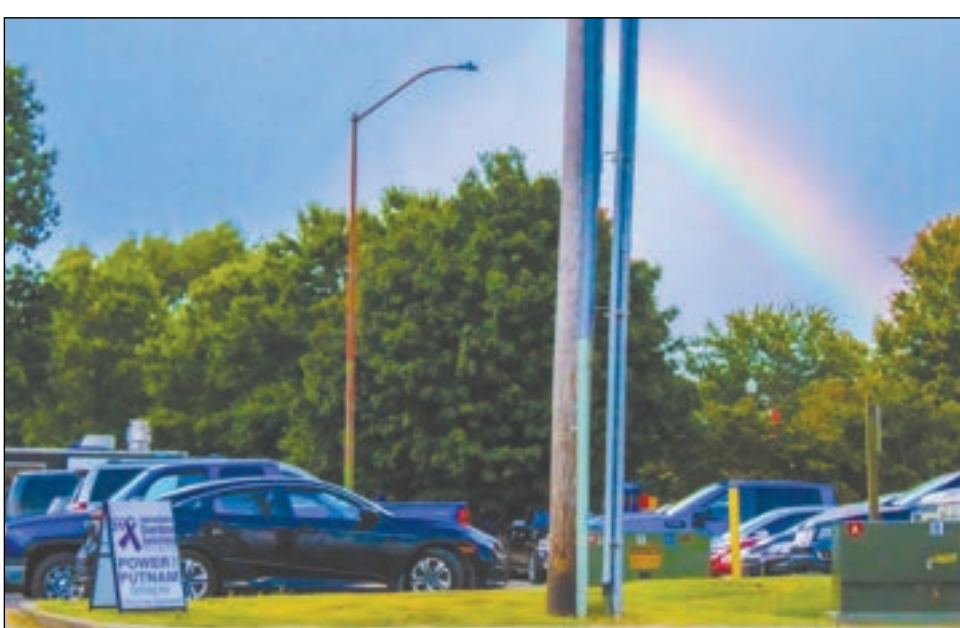
Alex McLerran and Cherokee Hope Upton singing for the event.



Narcotics Anonymous, a nonprofit organization founded to aid people struggling with drug addiction.



Dylan Johnson, Narcotics Anonymous member and Tech alumni, giving his testimony.

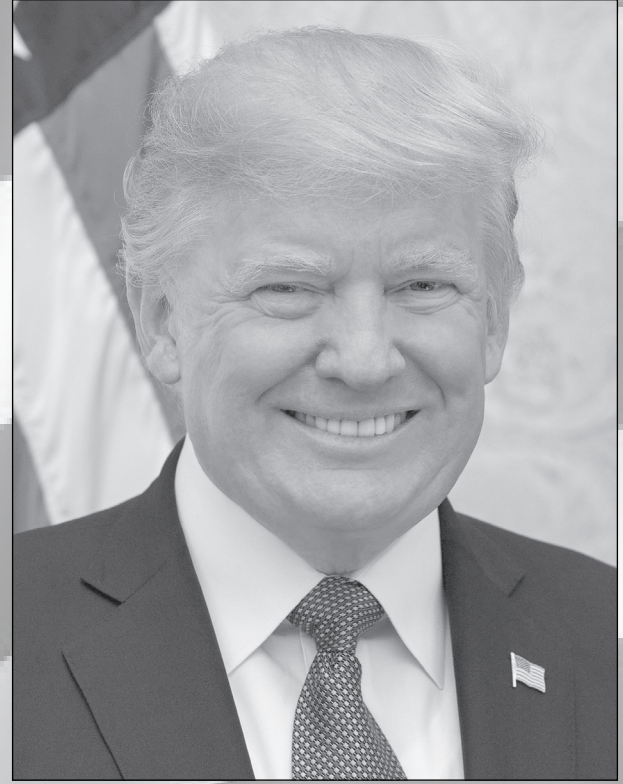


A rainbow covering the event at Dogwood Park.



Danielle Price, Crystal Anderson and Kendra Martin of This is Living Ministries, a christ-centered re-entry program for women.

# Harris vs. Trump - Policy Breakdown



**Up to \$25,000 in down payment aid for first-time homebuyers**

**Hiked minimum wage**

**Ban taxes on tips for service and hospitality workers**

**Codify Roe v. Wade and protections for bodily autonomy**

**In favor of continued fracking**

**Universal background checks for firearm purchase**

**Red Flag Laws and assault weapon bans**

**Cap the price of Insulin at \$35 for all citizens**

**Cap out-of-pocket expenses for prescription drugs at \$2,000 per year for everyone**

**Deportation of around 11 million immigrants**

**Imposing a 10% – 20% tariff on most imported goods, 60% from China**

**No tax on tips**

**Additional 200 miles of physical barriers on the US-Mexico border**

**Keep abortion decisions to the states**

**In favor of continued fracking**

**Reverse Biden’s gun safety bill**

**Reinstating the Travel Ban**

**Roll back limits on carbon emissions from vehicles and factories**

**Stop cash-flow to Ukraine in their war against Russia**

## Oracle sports cast

*tyler payne*

*ella fox*

Join us each week for all things Tech Sports!



## Students chose to park illegally over distanced lot

parking areas.

“We have a tight schedule between classes, and students are afraid they can’t get from parking to class,” Christen added.

In the Faculty Senate meeting, Oldham contributed part of the issue impacting campus parking to the fact nearly half of enrolled students have not purchased parking permits.

Oldham also said increasing stricter enforcement of parking policies would need to happen to encourage students to utilize the available parking in the outer lots.

Christen also said, “I believe [Tech parking officials] have two additional people who are doing enforcement and... anticipating

additional [citation] appeals, [the committee] agreed to conduct an extra meeting a year.”

“I talked to my counterparts nation-wide, and given our enrollment amounts,” Dolata said.

Dolata also added, “Tech is facing similar issues as other universities. At least we have a plan in place.”

More information on Tech’s parking policies can be found on Tech’s parking portal website, <https://www.tntech.edu/parking/index.php>.

Additional information on Tech’s Master Plan is located at Tech’s Capital Projects website, <https://www.tntech.edu/capital-projects/master.php>.



PHOTO BY SAMMY HARVEY  
Parking at Tennessee Tech continues to be a hot topic. Parking tickets are given between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to those parked poorly or in an area not corresponding with their parking pass.

# Sports

## Tech Football beats TSU 24-14



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN ALDRICH

Junior cornerback Ty Moss (1) celebrates in the end zone after returning an interception for a touchdown against TSU. The Sept. 21 game was the first at home and gave the Golden Eagle their first win of the season.

**Tyler Payne**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Tech football team wins their first game of the season on Saturday, Sept. 21, defeating Tennessee State University (TSU) 24-14. This was both the home and conference opener for the Golden Eagles, so getting a win is huge for everybody involved.

Tech started hot, scoring on their opening drive with a 12-yard designed run from number 5, sophomore quarterback Jordyn Potts.

Defensively, the Golden Eagles looked crisp on that side of the ball as well.

The defensive line was getting pressure on TSU quarterback Draylen Ellis, sacking him on third down multiple times throughout the first quarter.

Coming off of the Jordyn Potts touchdown, the defense forced a three-and-out and Tech was back on offense.

In just three plays, the Golden Eagles found the end zone once again on a 54-yard run by junior running back and Old Dominion transfer Obie Sanni.

This pushed the lead to 14-0 at the end of the first quarter, and after Tech was putting together another nice offensive drive, the momentum completely shifted.

On the first play of the second quarter, Tech quarterback Jordyn Potts rolled to his right and fired a pass in the flats that was tipped up in the air, intercepted and ultimately returned to the house for six.

This took the momentum that was completely on the Golden Eagles' side, and shifted it in TSU's favor as they would then capitalize on their next offensive possession.

Draylen Ellis, TSU quarterback fired a pass into the end zone that was hauled in by former Golden Eagle receiver Jalal Dean, evening up the score at 14-14 going into halftime.

In the post game conference Tech coach Bobby Wilder expressed how he felt by halftime, "...it was going to become a field position game."

In the third quarter, Tech was able to regain the lead on a 34-yard field goal by freshman kicker Dom LeBlanc, making the score 17-14 in favor of the Golden Eagles. Wilder stressed, "I can't say enough, about a game like that, about taking the lead,"

This score remained the same until late in the fourth quarter, the Tech defense was able to seal the deal.

Draylen Ellis fired a pass to the TSU sideline, and after the ball was bobbled by the TSU receiver, junior defensive back Ty Moss (1) was able to grab it and take it the other

way on a 56-yard pick six to put the nail in the coffin.

After a last-hope effort by the TSU offense resulted in a turnover on downs, the clock hit zero and the Golden Eagles moved to 1-0 in conference play in Wilder's first season.

In terms of team statistics, the Golden Eagles were able to gain 314 yards of total offense, 220 of those coming on the ground.

However TSU finished with a total of zero rushing yards, taking into account the tackles-for-loss and sacks that the Tech defense forced.

The turnover battle was dead even as both teams forced two turnovers. The time of possession battle was a perfect 30 minutes for each team, which is something that does not happen often.

Next week Tech will travel to conference opponent Gardner-Webb on Saturday, Sept. 28 to continue OVC play and hopes to obtain their second win of the season.



Cheerleader Drake Pyle carrying a TTU flag during the Eagle Walk on Saturday, Sept. 21.



Awesome Eagle celebrates Tech's success during the TTU Boogie on Saturday, Sept. 21.

### *Brutally Honest Sports*

**Tyler Payne**  
SPORTS EDITOR



PHOTO PROVIDED BY NCAA

The NCAA Transfer Portal is a hot commodity in the world of College Sports.

The transfer portal has been around for a very long time in collegiate athletics. However, here recently, it has become one of the most popular tactics for acquiring athletic talent throughout the country.

It is so incredibly easy for a collegiate athlete to, once adversity of any kind strikes, enter their name in the transfer portal, select their school of choice, and then arrive on campus soon after with zero consequences whatsoever.

Some folks would even argue it should be this way, but when this freedom gets taken advantage of, the wheels begin to fall off.

To give an example, look at the current state of the University of Colorado Boulder football program led by transfer portal enthusiast, Deion Sanders.

In week one, they struggled against an inferior opponent in North Dakota State, and then got physically dominated by rival Nebraska.

The alarming thing about the Buffaloes, who have an entire roster revolving around the portal, is once Shedeur Sanders and Travis Hunter leave, what will the team look like?

While these players were both transfer portal guys, there is not a lot of promise at other positions because they have barely any "true" freshman on the roster who they can actually develop, and to me, this is where Coach Sanders' implementation to the transfer portal strategy program is flawed.

It does not seem that Sanders is going to change his ways anytime soon, though.

Back in April, "Coach Prime" was asked what position groups he would "hunt" for in the portal, due to Colorado's significant player loss in the spring already.

Sanders immediately attacked the media and was quoted saying "I wish you guys did a little more homework when you start talking about the portal."

On the flip side, I do feel there are certain programs doing a great job of balancing transfer portal players and recruiting high school guys.

Programs like Georgia, Ole Miss, Texas, Tennessee, Ohio State, Oregon, and others are consistently at the top of both the recruiting rankings, as well as the transfer portal rankings.

What makes college football, and really all collegiate athletics so great, is the authenticity and the tradition.

I think it is still important in college football to have the option to build up your program from the ground through the high school ranks like how Steve Spurrier, Bobby Bowden, Bob Stoops, Nick Saban, and even Dabo Swinney were able to do.

In order to ensure that authenticity remains a part of collegiate athletics, there will have to be tighter restrictions and more clarity overall on the rules and regulations of the portal so it does not ruin college sports as we know it.

# Volleyball continue historical run

**Tyler Payne**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Golden Eagle volleyball team has had an impressive start to the early Fall season.

To kickoff the 2024 campaign, the team took on Austin Peay and Memphis in the Carrie Yerty Classic on Aug. 30.

Tech took care of business, sweeping both teams three to zero.

The very next day, they took on Mississippi Valley State, and the result was the same: a three-nothing sweep to win the Carrie Yerty Classic and start off the season 3-0.

The following weekend, Tech traveled to Charlotte, NC to play in the Charlotte Invitational.

In games one and two on Friday, they played Charlotte and Towson, winning both games and staying undefeated.

Against Charlotte, the sweep trend continued as the Golden Eagles were victorious three to zero.

However, Towson proved to be more of a challenge as it was a back-and-forth affair for the majority of the game.

In the end, with a late Tech rally, the Golden Eagles emerged victorious and gave Towson their first loss of the short season so far.

Tech then wrapped up the weekend on Saturday, Sept. 7, defeating Delaware State three to zero and winning the Charlotte Invitational.

As a nice change of pace, Tech was able to stay at home and host the annual Golden Eagle Invitational on Friday, Sept. 13 and Saturday, Sept. 14.

Friday's matchups included games against Nicholls and West Georgia. The Golden Eagles swept both teams three to zero, pushing their record to an impressive 8-0.

On Saturday, Radford tried their luck against the undefeated Golden Eagles, but were unsuccessful as Tech took home the



PHOTO BY LILLY DAVIS

Senior setter for Tech, Jordan Karlen (2), sets the ball during the Golden Eagle Invitational on Sept. 13.

Golden Eagle Invitational with a 3-0 sweep against the Highlanders.

This past weekend, the Tech Volleyball squad traveled to Greensboro, North Carolina, to compete in the Greensboro Invitational.

On Friday, they took on host UNCG and then Marshall later that afternoon.

Against UNCG, the Golden Eagles stayed unbeaten, fending off the Spartans three to one.

However, against Marshall, the undefeated streak unfortunately came to an end as the Thundering Herd swept the Golden Eagles three to zero.

This loss was the first of the season for Tech, dropping their record to an impressive 10-1.

On Saturday, the Golden Eagles wrapped up the Greensboro Invitational, beating Georgetown three to one. This was a nice

bounce-back game for Tech heading into conference play, standing at 11-1 on the year.

The Golden Eagles have multiple players who are among the nation's best in their respective stat categories.

Madolyn Isringhausen is 8th in the NCAA in aces per set with .69 and Jordan Karlen is 10th in the NCAA in assists per set with 10.92.

Isringhausen is also 19th in the NCAA in points with 194.5.

These statistics put into perspective just how good this Tennessee Tech volleyball team has been thus far.

The Golden Eagles open conference play this Friday, Sept. 27, at 6 p.m. against TSU.

The following day, the Golden Eagles return home for the first time in two weeks and take on Morehead State on Saturday, Sept. 28 at 4 p.m.

## *Golden Eagles fall short after last second efforts*



PHOTO BY LILLY DAVIS

Senior defender Bella Garrett (9) watches as Junior goalkeeper Maggie Conrad (0) fails to save shot made by a Belmont.

**Tyler Payne**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Tech Women's soccer team opened up conference play on Sunday, Sept. 22 against Little Rock. The Golden Eagles fell just short to the Trojans one to nothing after a last-second shot in the 89th minute was blocked by Trojan goalie Peyton Urban.

The Golden Eagles opened the regular season at Samford on Aug. 15, falling three to one to the Bulldogs.

Three days later was their home opener against Miami (OH) on Aug. 18. The game ended in a two-two tie after a late goal by Cheyenne McCloud evened up the score with just under ten minutes left.

Tech returned home on Aug. 22 to take on Saint Mary's (CA). The game resulted in a four-to-nothing loss for the Golden Eagles as they dropped to 0-2-1 on the season.

On Aug. 25, the Golden Eagles traveled to Murfreesboro to take on rival MTSU but fell just short three to two.

Next up on the schedule was SEC opponent Mississippi State as Tech traveled to Starkville, Mississippi, on Aug. 29.

Despite the valiant defensive effort on the



PHOTO BY JONATHAN ALDRICH

Sophomore forward for Tech, Neve Renwick (7), trapping the ball while being contested by a Belmont defender.

Tech's part, the 22nd-ranked Bulldogs were able to escape with a one-to-nothing victory.

Kicking off the September slate, Tech returned home to take on Columbia on Sept. 1. The final score was a four-four tie, with every goal being scored in the second half.

On Sept. 5, the Golden Eagles traveled to Chattanooga to take on UTC. After a flashy offensive start, the final score was a one-to-one tie, making Tech's record 0-4-3 on the season.

In a two-game home slate, Tech took on South Alabama and Belmont on Sept. 8 and Sept. 12. Against South Alabama, the Golden Eagles were able to get out to a two-nothing lead in the first half. However, the Jaguars rallied back with three unanswered goals, resulting in a three-to-two loss.

Against Belmont, the outcome was similar. Neve Renwick scored the first goal of the game in the second half, but Belmont battled back with three goals, making the final score three to one in favor of the Bruins.

On Sept. 15, the Golden Eagles traveled to Greenville, South Carolina, to take on the Furman Paladins. The game resulted in a one-one tie, resulting in a Tech win-loss-

tie record of 0-6-4 heading into conference play.

After the loss to Little Rock on Sunday, the Golden Eagles currently stand at 0-7-4 and 0-1 in the conference.

Show your support for the Golden Eagles as they host conference opponent SEMO on Thursday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m.



PHOTO BY JONATHAN ALDRICH

Senior defender Bella Garrett (9) contesting a Belmont midfielder for a loose ball.