Trivett appointed District 2 Commissioner

By Kenny Howell
Managing Editor

After several rounds of voting, the Mt. Juliet Board of Commissioners avoided a special election and appointed Bill Trivett as District 2 City Commissioner. The seat has been vacant since the election of James Maness as Mayor. He previously held the District 2 seat.

The discussion started with District 5 City Commissioner Jennifer Milele saying it was unfortunate that the six people that ran for the position couldn’t publicly speak at the meeting. She proposed that each got to speak for three minutes so the residents of District 2 could hear their ideas.

“I think for one they deserve to know,” said Milele.

See BOC, PAGE 9

State implements COVID-19 vaccine appointment portal

By Kenny Howell
Managing Editor

The State of Tennessee is attempting to make the COVID-19 vaccination process a little more streamlined with the announcement of a new registration portal.

Many Wilson County residents were left frustrated last week when they tried to get through to the Wilson County Health Department, but couldn’t get anyone to answer so they could schedule an appointment. Some were confused about

See VACCINE, PAGE 2

LOCAL SCHOOLS

Board picks Director search path

By Kenny Howell
Managing Editor

The Wilson County School Board elected to do a self-search Monday in picking the new Director of Schools.

Three options were laid out to the board Monday in

See BOARD, PAGE 3

Teacher of the Year

By Kenny Howell
Managing Editor

Alison Brown is Gladeville Elementary’s Teacher of the Year.

Brown has spent her entire 6-year teaching career at GES, but this year she made the change to teaching com-

See TOTY, PAGE 3

A little blanket of snow

A band of snow showers came through Monday morning and continued off and on for the rest of the day. It caused the school system, which is currently on remote learning, to send their teachers home for the day. A few icy spots on roadways were reported.

COVID-19
MJPD arrest impaired woman trying to drive on greenway

Mt. Juliet Police Department responded to a call of an impaired driver on W. Division Street and found an impaired 22-year old female trying to drive around a bollard on the Mt. Juliet Town Center Trail. She was arrested for Driving Under the Influence.

22-year old was trying to get around a bollard

A stolen car led to the discovery of many other items in an arrest made Thursday. That evening, #MJGuardianShield alerted officers to a license plate, stolen from Nashville Dec. 10. Officers intercepted the vehicle on Lebanon Road near North Greenhill Road. During the interception, an adult male took off running and was caught by officers. Unfortunately, an uncapped needle stuck an officer during the apprehension of the male.

Further investigation revealed the car, a 2011 Honda Civic, was stolen from Nashville Dec. 10. A 31-year-old male of Ashland City, was arrested and charged with the theft of items, drug paraphernalia, and aggravated assault on officer. He was also wanted out of Dickson, Cheatham and Sumner Counties.

A 37-year-old female passenger, wanted out of Nashville and in possession of a Schedule IV drug, was arrested as well. Many items of likely stolen mail and packages were discovered in the car, which is under investigation by detectives.

From VACCINE, PAGE 1 the process.

“As many may be aware, the health department is extremely busy,” said Wilson County Mayor Randall Hutto. “Employees are providing COVID-19 testing and administering vaccines on top of their usual workload. The launch of the new sign-up portal, which adds the current phase populations onto the waiting list, will help speed things along.”

The State of Tennessee is trying to help that with the portal. How it works is if you are unsure if you are eligible, you go to https://covid19.tn.gov/covid-19-vaccines/eligibility/.

If you are unsure what phase Wilson County is currently, you can go to https://covid19.tn.gov/covid-19-vaccines/vaccine-phases/.

Wilson County is currently in phases 1a1 and 1a2, as well as people aged 75+. Phase 1a1 includes inpatient and other high exposure healthcare workers, residents and staff of long term care facilities, persons 18 years and older unable to live independently and first responders. Phase 1a2 includes all other healthcare workers, funeral and mortuary workers and persons aged 75 and older.

If you are in the current phase, you can go to https://covid19.tn.gov/covid-19-vaccines/vaccine-phases/ to register for a vaccine with the Wilson County Health Department. Click Wilson County on the map and then click “Make an Appointment” to register. Those who register will be asked to enter their name and contact information to be notified of their appointment date, time and location as soon as vaccine becomes available.

You can also reach this site through the Wilson County Government’s website by clicking on COVID-19 Resources and finding the link that says “COVID-19 Vaccine Waiting List”. That will lead you to a signup portal that is located at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/wilson_priority_list. If you have trouble accessing the internet, you can call the COVID-19 hotline at (866)442-5301.

“In addition to creating a strong infrastructure for distribution, we’re currently one of the top states in the nation for total doses administered, vaccinating more than 150,000 Tennesseans in just two weeks,” said Governor Bill Lee. “This tool is yet another step we’re taking to provide Tennesseans with critical information as our vaccine supply increases and more phases become eligible.”

Those who received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine prior to Jan. 8 will be contacted by the health department to schedule their second dose appointment. These individuals will be called by the health department’s regional office once their appointment is ready to be scheduled. From there, they will be given instructions to access a separate registration link, where they can schedule their second dose. On Jan. 8, the health department began offering a QR code. The new QR codes may be scanned on-site via smartphone, which take individuals to a website where they may schedule their second dose appointments.

“The state-run Wilson County Health Department is working diligently to provide the COVID-19 vaccine to our most vulnerable populations,” said Hutto. “We appreciate everyone’s patience and thank all of the healthcare workers and volunteers that are making this possible!”

If you have general questions about the vaccine you can call the COVID-19 Public Information Line at (877)857-2945 or (833)556-2476 between 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday – Friday and 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

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The Wilson County School Board meeting will be Monday, Feb. 1 at Administrative & Training Complex, 415 Hard-
**Mark 1:29-34**

Over this past year, we all have faced so many challenges in Mt. Juliet. Not just physical issues but also spiritual, mental, and emotional ailments. Isolation does not do many people good at all. We need each other! Folks have lost friends, family members, jobs, businesses, etc. We need Jesus!

Take a moment to read Mark 1:29-34.

Marks starts this passage by identifying that it was Simon Peter and his brother Andrew that came to get Jesus and race Him to Simon’s mother-in-law because she had fallen ill. Why would they do that? Back up to vs 16-18 in the same chapter and you see. They had already experienced Jesus doing the amazing. They did not hesitate to run get Jesus when they saw a need. He has authority over physical nature.

Think of what Jesus can do for you! It does not matter what you face, Jesus has authority over it. He can correct course, fix disaster, heals, mold, shape… anything you face. In fact, Jesus wants to walk with you, dance with you, and have a personal relationship with you every moment of every day. He is the wonderful counselor, prince of peace, King of Kings, and so much more. Part 2 of this point, who do you need to take Jesus to. Carry the message of the good news of Christ to those you know and who need it. It is not about the reception of the news, but that you took it. Leave the rest to God for results. Lay down your guard, rest in Him. It is a choice we make. You must receive Him and yield to Him. I challenge you to do that today. Stop right now and pray to Him. Talk to Him. A two-way street. He would love to hear from you. I promise He would love to respond to you.
The last many months have been very rough for our community, our country and us as human beings. I must admit it has taken a toll on me personally in a lot of ways as well. I have caught myself worrying more and laughing a lot less. I’ve ignored my country, my family, my grandkids and my friends and neighbors and felt the need to share my heart.

One of my biggest worries and concerns is what appears to be an ever-increasing lack of compromise, forgiveness or desire to meet in the middle for common ground by many of my fellow citizens and that includes me. I’ve been guilty of this before but my desire to do and be better has never been greater. As we all know, there will always be times when we don’t agree completely, but the more we totally disagree without the desire to talk, forgive or compromise, the farther apart we will grow and that troubles me deeply.

We can’t ask others to do what we aren’t willing or committed to do ourselves and we can’t fix many of our issues without communication, compromise, forgiveness and commitment. I love this country, my family and my neighbors and I desire to be a part of the solution.

As human beings none of us are perfect. But if we don’t come together with an open heart and mind things will likely only worsen and the divide will grow wider and wider. There are some things we do because of personal gain, but the things we do other than what we know it’s the right thing to do as humans always seem to bring us the most joy and personal satisfaction. In other words, there are genuine things we do in our lives that make us feel better and teach us lessons about life in a positive and heartfelt way, all while being blessed and blessing others in the process. We do it because it’s what we want to do and it’s the right thing to do for not only ourselves, but others as well.

There are life lesson opportunities every day if we all just look and listen within our hearts. Spending time looking out for one another and being kinder. One another are the right things we can do and always will be. I’ve always had a hard time being mean to someone I love or someone who was being nice to me. We all know it’s a lot easier being nice and considerate when the process goes both ways. Please know that does not mean we will not disagree or even get mad at one another periodically. But how we handle or respond when we disagree does matter immensely. Digging deeper with our division and dislike when we disagree or are mad at one another or others will not solve anything.

So please be on the lookout for those positive life lessons. Be a leader not a follower and nice even when someone else is rude or having a rough day. Take the high road every chance you get, and others will soon follow. The human heart has a tough enough job keeping blood flowing to our bodies to harbor any division, hatred, vindictiveness or ill will. Please don’t add any more stress to your life than is necessary. I am praying that our citizens, communities and country will come together in a way unlike anything we’ve ever seen before. I’m praying that our country and its people will put aside many differences and agree to disagree when we can’t agree or are divided in some way. We will always have likes, dislikes and disagreements at times, but we must be more open to compromise and forgiveness or agreeing to disagree when we don’t see eye to eye.

I’ve been thinking and praying about this for some time and I’m sure my message is a rambling mess, but please know I mean it from the heart. I don’t have or even know the perfect words to say right now. I only ask that you consider joining me in becoming a more forgiving, understanding, helpful, compromising and loving human being. I’m not perfect but I promise to be a better human being and ask that you forgive me when I fail or fall short. Your friend, neighbor and imperfect human being that truly wants what’s best for all.

There’s a little game I like to play leading up to the deadline for this column. The game is called, “Let’s pretend we are trying to come up with something clever to write about, but we’re really just procrastinating.” This is not a fun game. I don’t know why I play it. I avoid most things that cause anxiety - crowds, scales, nightly news, Tik Tok, Snap Chat, and the organic food aisle at the grocery. So why in the name of everything good and holy do I repeat the same behavior week after week? The behavior that causes so much anxiety?? Why do I want to work ahead? It would undoubtedly help quell this sick feeling in the pit of my stomach. Luckily, I’ve discovered a workaround. And that workaround always worked... until it didn’t.

Sometimes I can’t think of anything that’s funny. Or maybe the things I find funny may make you rethink our relationship. No matter how many times I sit down in front of the glowing screen that’s likely causing computer vision syndrome, I can’t pull together 600 words or less of something clever, funny, or interesting. On the clock is ticking and getting ever closer to that zero hour, I have one of two options. I can send in a few jumbled sentences talking about how my cat loves to throw up in front of our dog’s food dish or I can do a quick search of columns that I’ve written over the past 14 years. While I can always find a little gem worth repeating, there’s a good portion of those columns that are no longer usable because of age.

For instance, Jacob doesn’t insist on sleeping with us after a nightmare anymore. Jacob is 21 and not 7. It would be weird (and crowded in our bed) if this still happened on the reg. I can’t use the one about Jackson learning how to tie his shoes because Jackson is 17. I can even use the one about PMS because whatever. A few weeks ago, I was in full panic mode. I had nothing. My rapid heartbeat thumped, dead line, dead line, dead line. With little time to flesh out an old article, I quickly found one about my dad, which, if this still have a sigh of relief. I probably whispered something like, “I’m going to work on next week’s column RIGHT NOW! I am not doing this again.” But didn’t.

Several days after the column came out, my mother-in-law called to see if we moved my dad yet again. Yesterday, I ran into a friend who asked the same question about dad. There I sat…busted. So, I felt it appropriate to follow up. Dad is happy, healthy, and living in the same wonderful place he lived in when I moved to in 2018. I’d love to say, I’ve learned my lesson. That would be a lie. So, next time you finish reading the Telling Tales column and think to yourself, “I feel like I’ve heard this story before,” now you’ll know. Yes, you have.

Comments? Ideas? Suggestions? Email becky@wilsonlivingmagazine.com
Volunteer State CC Dean’s List

The following students have been named to the Fall 2020 Dean’s List at Volunteer State Community College. The Dean’s List recognition is awarded to students that have completed a minimum of twelve college-level hours with at least a 3.750 GPA during the awarding term. All students listed are from Mt. Juliet.

Andrew Bergman, Grace Boaz, Jayda Brown, Britney Carmel, Jay Clark, Kelsey Clock, Jorgen Hawley V, Faith Hayes, Mary Hayes, Lauren Ingalls, Jenna Keller, Joseph Meadows, Alexander Poe, Grant Tarver, Destiny Taylor, Rachel Thomas Minor, Angel Toro, Brian Wilson, Lydia Winters.

Volunteer State Community College has more than 100 programs of study and offers two-year degrees, certificates, and keys to university transfer. Continuing Education and Workforce Development extends the college mission to the entire community. For more information, visit volstate.edu.

Families across Tennessee enrolled in Ready4K text-based program

Staff Reports

Monday, Governor’s Early Literacy Foundation (GELF), in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE), announced a statewide rollout of Ready4K, a research-based text messaging program to help parents support their students in learning at home. This marks the largest statewide rollout of the Ready4K program to date and this resource is being made available for free to Tennessee begins receiving district GELF and TDOE.

Through the Ready4K program, 140,000 families with pre-K through 3rd grade students across Tennessee will receive three weekly text messages with facts, tips, and activities on how to help each child learn and grow by building on existing family routines.

“This marks the largest statewide rollout of the Ready4K program to date and this resource is being made available for free to Tennessee begins receiving district GELF and TDOE.

“The widespread use of text messaging combined with its ease of use and short-message format is allowing school districts, educators, and administrators to implement highly effective programs for the families they serve. In fact, nationally, research shows:

• 97% of parents have mobile devices and 98% of those parents regularly send and receive text messages.

• Text messages have a 98% open rate, compared with an open rate of 26% for education-related emails.

Adults from underserved communities typically use texting with the greatest frequency making the platform an effective way to help the hardest to reach families.

• Overall, 96 percent of parents remained in the Ready4K program when automatically enrolled, compared with less than 10 percent of parents who signed up for the program when invited to enroll.

If any Tennessee public school district is interested, there will be future opportunities for districts to participate and can email Ready4K@governorsfoundation.org for additional information.

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Call us at 615-758-7999 to learn more.

www.hearlife.org

1400 N. Mt. Juliet Rd. Suite 205

Proudly serving Mt. Juliet since 2007

We want to hear from you!
Tennessee R.E.A.D.S. Breaks Record with Nearly Five Million Checkouts in 2020

Staff Reports


Tennessee R.E.A.D.S. was once again one of OverDrive’s most used digital library services. OverDrive is the world’s leading digital reading platform for libraries and schools. Last year, R.E.A.D.S. had the fourth-highest number of checkouts worldwide and was the southeast’s number one library system.

The record number of checkouts is a milestone for the top five Tennessee libraries for digital checkouts through R.E.A.D.S.: Williamson County Public Library, Linebaugh Public Library in Rutherford County, Blount County Public Library, Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library and Johnson City Public Library, along with all of the Tennessee Regional Library System members across the state.

Tennessee R.E.A.D.S. provides any Tennessean with an active library card from a public library in the Tennessee Regional Library System 24/7 access to free digital content. The Regional Library System is a part of the Tennessee State Library & Archives, a division of the Tennessee Secretary of State’s office.

"Free access to entertaining and educational online resources is a vital service for Tennesseans, especially during a pandemic," Secretary of State Tre Hargett said. "We will continue to promote and support accessible digital library services across our great state."

Tennessee R.E.A.D.S. features a vast catalog of more than 100,000 titles, with new and popular titles added every month. In 2020, the top-circulating genre was Mystery/Thriller, followed by Romance. E-books were the most popular format with 2,929,674 checkouts, followed by audiobooks with 1,879,508 checkouts, magazines with 1,316,679 checkouts and video with 16,167 checkouts.

The top 5 eBook titles borrowed through Tennessee R.E.A.D.S.’s in 2020:

1. Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens (5476 checkouts)
2. Educated, a memoir by Tara Westover (3295)
3. Every Breath by Nicholas Sparks (3202)
4. The Reckoning by John Grisham (3027)
5. Outlander by Diana Gabaldon (2802)

The top 5 audiobook titles borrowed through Tennessee R.E.A.D.S.’s in 2020:

1. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone by J.K. Rowling (6531 checkouts)
2. Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng (4392)
3. Little Women by Louisa May Alcott (4111)
4. Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens (3881)
5. The Last Widow by Karin Slaughter (3662)

Tennessee R.E.A.D.S. through OverDrive, and their award-winning app, Libby, seamlessly connects first-time and experienced users with the industry’s most extensive catalog of e-books, audio-books, magazines and other digital media.

Through R.E.A.D.S., Tennesseans with active cards from participating public libraries may browse the library’s digital collection, instantly borrow titles and start reading, listening or watching for free. Digital content can be downloaded or streamed to a personal computer, smartphone, tablet or e-reader. Titles automatically expire at the end of the lending period with no late fees.

To learn more or to start using Tennessee R.E.A.D.S., visit reads.tn.gov or download the Libby app.

TSS announces Tennessee Literacy Now advocacy campaign

Tennesseans for Student Success (TSS) Monday announced a new campaign to promote childhood literacy improvements and work with the Tennessee General Assembly to advocate for the passage of long-overdue strategies to improve the state’s literacy rates.

As part of the Tennessee Literacy Now (TNLitNow) campaign, TSS launched a statewide advertising campaign to educate voters that:

One in three 3rd graders are not reading at grade-level proficiency; More than 650,000 Tennessee students are not reading on grade level; Nearly 80 percent of students of color are reading below grade level

The TNLitNow campaign will also direct voters to advocacy tools to reach out to their legislators to advocate for the bold and urgent action needed to chart a new path to success for hundreds of thousands of students. TSS will also coordinate the donation of thousands of books to schools across Tennessee, with a particular focus on communities with high populations of low-income families.

On Dec. 29, 2020, Governor Bill Lee announced his intention to convene the Tennessee legislature for a special legislative session to address critical issues facing public education on Jan. 19. Gov. Lee has worked with education leaders, lawmakers, teachers, and parents to develop a response to our state’s literacy crisis, attacking these challenges head-on with proven strategies that will provide better instructional materials for students, resources for teachers, and lead to a brighter future for thousands of young minds.

“Next week, the Tennessee General Assembly has the opportunity to drastically change the lives and futures of hundreds of thousands of students,” said TSS President & CEO Adam Listner.


State Programs

The University awards 16,167 checkouts.

The following Carson-Newman University student(s) made Dean’s List for the fall 2020 semester:

Morgan Bailey
Madison Burnette
Jenna Puestung

The University awards Dean’s List honors to students earning a grade point average of 3.5 or higher while taking 12 or more credit hours.

 Founded in 1851, Carson-Newman is a Christian liberal arts-based university affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The Universities is located in Jefferson City, Tennessee, among the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains and has over 2,700 students. Carson-Newman offers 50 undergraduate majors, as well as associate, bachelors’, masters’ and doctoral degrees. The Institution’s website is cn.edu.
OBITUARIES

BRUCE, Jr., Patrick

Patrick Jonathan Bruce, Jr., 20, Hermitage, died Jan. 7. Jon was born April 18, 2000 in Nashville. He is a 2018 graduate of Donelson Christian Academy where he played baseball and football. Jon was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, Edward Sherwood and his paternal grandmother, Ples Bruce. Jon is survived by: mother Pam Bruce; father Patrick Bruce; sister, Paige Bruce; maternal grandmother, Belva Sherwood; paternal grandmother Flora Bruce; many aunts, uncles and cousins.

A Celebration of Life service will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Jingle Bell Run to benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, 10 Brookline Place, Brookline, MA 02445.


CLARK, Christopher E.

Christopher E. Clark, 50, Bethpage, passed away Dec. 29, 2020. He is preceded in death by: brother, Michael Riggins; grandparents, Charles & Opal Lawe and Paul and Lillie Mae Clark; uncle Dwight Clark; and aunt Patricia Clark.

He is survived by: daughter Makenzie Clark; father Leroy (Ann) Clark; mother Carolyn (John) Chambers; brothers Travis Clark, Charlie (Tara) Riggins, Joshua (Megan) Clark and Joey (Brandi) Brown; sister Autumn (Luke) Brown; and aunts Paula Clark, Paullette (Dan) Gardner and Daphne (Larry) Engles.

No service will be held at this time.


EVANS, Joan “Jody” Rose Davidson

Joan “Jody” Rose Davidson Evans was called to her eternal home, Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020, where she is reunited with her husband and daughters.

Jody was born Dec. 22, 1949 in Youngstown, Ohio to Virginia D’Isa Davidson and John Davidson, Jr.; her half-brother, John Davidson, III; her husband, Hank Evans; and her daughters, Jennifer Evans, Chrissy Roe and Kimberly Evans. She is remembered lovingly by her half-sister, Amy Davidson of Youngstown, Ohio; son-in-law, Matthew Roe; her grandchildren, Madeleyn and Carson Roe, all of Smyrna; her “honorary” daughter, Katherine Von Canon (Chris) Jensen of Mount Juliet; as well as nieces, Jill, Tania Turner, Jane D’Isa, and an abundance of friends.

A memorial service will be planned at a later date in the Nashville area for family and friends who wish to attend.

GROVES, Chris

Chris Groves, 45, a devoted son and brother, passed away unexpectedly Jan. 2 in Mt. Juliet.

Chris is survived by: his parents, Burch and Linda Groves of Mt. Juliet; his brother, Trevor, of Old Hickory; his sister, Angie, of Mt. Juliet; nieces, Nikki and Anniston Groves of Old Hickory; and nephews, Trevor Groves, Jr. of Old Hickory and Rowan Groves of Mt. Juliet; and his grandmother, Betty Stacy of Chattanooga.

Chris was preceded in death by: his grandparents, Groves; his grandfather, Vernon Stacy; and his uncle, David Stacy.

Chris was born in Chattanooga to Butch and Linda Groves on Jan. 20, 1975. Even though his birthplace was in Chattanooga, Chris was a Mt. Juliet boy through and through. He graduated from high school at Mt. Juliet High School and graduated in 1992. Chris was his mother’s caregiver for the last few years. When he wasn’t helping his mom, you could find him working out at the gym.

Chris loved all things football. He had a true passion and love for the game. He was an avid fan of UT football as well as the TN Titans. He would not miss a game, whether at the stadium or watching on TV. He was also a big Atlanta Braves fan.

His greatest love was family. Spending time with family, especially his nieces and nephews, brought him much joy! Chris was most definitely the “fun” uncle, always ready for a crazy adventure.

Chris will truly be missed by his family and friends!

Funeral service were at Sellars Funeral Home at Mt. Juliet Friday, Jan. 8 with Keith Groves, Chris’ passion, officiating. Burial followed at Mt Juliet Memorial Gardens, W. Division St, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122. Pallbearers were: Brian Jones, Jon Groves, Joel Barnes, Jason Wakefield, Travis Clay, Jerry Dodd, Shannon Campbell and Brian Rowe. The family received friends at visitation Thursday, Jan. 7 and Friday, Jan. 8 before the service.

Memorial donations may be made to: St. Jude Children’s Hospital at stjude.org.


HOBBS, Lucile Lea

Lucile Hobbs, 93, Lebanon, passed away Jan. 8. The family received friends at Sellars Funeral Home, Lebanon, Monday and Tuesday until the service.

The Funeral Service, conducted by Brother Donald Owens, was Tuesday, Jan. 12 in the chapel of Sellars Funeral Home.

Interment in Wilson County Memorial followed the service. Pallbearers were Jeff Whitefield, Kirk Whitefield, Doug Whitefield, Scott Hobb, Michael Harrell, Mitchell and Michael Hobbs, and Daryl Rosak. Honorary Pallbearers were Martha Sunday School class at Immanuel Baptist Church.

A native of Wilson County, she was the daughter of the late Austin and Pattie Hackney Lea. She was a homemaker, real estate agent, and a member of Immanuel Baptist Church.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by: her son, Douglas Edward “Eddie” Hobbs; siblings A.C. “Slick” Lea Jr., Robert A. Lea, David Lea, Kenneth Lea, Hester Howard, Virginia Hallums, and Ruth Ricketts.

She is survived by: her husband of 73 years, Roy Douglas Hobbs; children Nancy (Charles) Whitefield, Betty Harrell, Cindy (Eddie) Rosak, and Mark (Teresa) Hobbs; daughter-in-law Debbie Hobbs Leftwich; sisters Margie Trice and Sue Barnes; 14 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Sellars Funeral Home, Lebanon TN, (615)444-9393.

HORNSBY, Mary Elizabeth “Betty”

Betty Hornsby passed away Jan. 5 at age 97. The family received friends, conducted by Pastor Chris Chambers, was Friday, Jan. 8 in the chapel of Sellars Funeral Home, Lebanon, and was followed by interment in Wilson County Memorial.

The family received friends at the funeral home until the service.

See OBITS, PAGE 9
OBITS, from PAGE 8

Mary Elizabeth Hornsby was born to Ruby Holiday and C.S. Chambers in Rome TN. She worked at the VA as a phone operator and was a member of Fairview Church. She loved watching game shows, football, and college basketball. She is survived by: son Mike Hornsby; grandchildren Troy (Robin) Hornsby, Brian (Tammi) Hornsby, Jeff (Desiree) Hornsby, Jason Hornsby, Ashlee Hornsby (Michael) Barber, Rachel (Josh) Usetol-Proctor; 14 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by: husband Arthur Hornsby; son Stephen Arthur Hornsby; daughter Margaret Ann Usetol; grandson Chad Stephen Hornsby; and parents C.S. and Ruby Hornsby.

Sellars Funeral Home, Lebanon TN, (615)444-9393.

JOHNSON, William “Bill”

William Barry Johnson Jr. passed away Dec. 24, 2020 at age 84. The family will be accepting friends at Sellars Funeral Home, Lebanon Saturday, Jan. 23 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Johnson will be interned in Calvary Cemetery in Louisville Ky. on June 5.

Johnson was an engineer with Ford Motor Trucdy for 45 years in operations. He was a member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. He enjoyed wood working, RV travel, camping, and fishing.

Johnson is survived by: sons Phillip (Linda) Johnson, Paul (Juliania), Robert (Laura) Johnson; grandchildren Nicole Marie (Rodney) Yoakum, Anthony (Nicole) Johnson, Kyle Johnson, and Arthur Johnson; brothers Ronald (Carol) Johnson and Terry (Kathy) Johnson; and great-grandchildren, Jordan Pendergrass, Ari Barbee; daughter-in-law, April Slayton; and infant grandchildren, Daniel Armet, Christopher Fakus, Shawna Cook, Amanda Fakus, Toshia Hartman, Douglas Walters, III, Cody Walters, Krystal, Kaily, and Alexander; great-grandchildren, Jaliynn, Reid, Austin, Jemma, Dylan, Lyric, Gunner, Addison, and Mia.


PITTMAN, Maylon Eugene

Maylon Eugene Pittman, 90, Nashville, died Jan. 8. Pittman was born in Hulaco, Ala. and was the son of the late, Carlton Mason Pittman and Ophelia Davis Solley Pittman. He was a member of Donelson Church of Christ. Mr. Pittman was retired from Freddie Federal and worked as a realtor after retiring. He was a man of love, faith, generosity and laughter. He faithfully served the Lord and his family. He embraced life and prepared for death with dignity and peace. Pittman was also preceded in death by: his wife of 67 years, Margaret Neal Pittman; brothers, Leonard Pittman, Curtis Pittman, Eddie Pittman and Jimmie Pittman; and sisters, Lola Pittman Hyatt and Cloie Pittman Parker. He is survived by: children, Lon (Pam) Pittman, Donald (Donna) Pittman, Jim (Debbie) Pittman; 16 great-grandchildren, 14 great-great-grandchildren; 12 nieces and nephews; and many dear friends.


WILLIAMS, Judie Abbott

Judie Abbott Williams, lovingly known as Mother and Mawmaw, 72, Lebanon, and formerly of Louisania, went home to be with her Lord on Friday afternoon, Jan. 8. The Funeral Service, conducted by Bro. Danny Sellers, was held in the chapel of Sellars Funeral Home at Mt. Juliet on Sunday, Jan. 10. Interment followed in the Mt. Juliet Memorial Gardens with family and friends serving as pallbearers. The family received friends Sunday, Jan. 10 until service time.

Jodie Mae Lewis was born on Tuesday, Aug. 10, 1948 in Collins, La., the daughter of the late John and Ader Lewis. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by: husband, Jeffrey Williams; sisters, Ruth and Mary Ededith; brother, Arron.

She is survived by: children, Teresa Hendrickson, Wanda Barbee, and Douglas Walters, Jr.; step-daughter, April Slayton; sons-in-law, Howard Hendrickson and Rick Barbee; daughter-in-law, Ronda Walters; step-son-in-law, Lucas Slayton; grandchildren, Daniel Armet, Christopher Fakus, Shawna Cook, Amanda Fakus, Toshia Hartman, Douglas Walters, III, Cody Walters, Krystal, Kaily, and Alexander; great-grandchildren, Jaliynn, Reid, Austin, Jemma, Dylan, Lyric, Gunner, Addison, and Mia.


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That motion was not seconded so it moved on to other nominations. Mayor James Maness nominated Shawn Donovan. Milea nominated Linda Elam. Justice nominated Lisa Neff and Scott Hefer nominated Bill Traverse.

None of the nominees made it out of the first round of voting, as each got one vote, except for Lisa Neff who got two. Elam removed from the second round of voting, and in that round Shawn Donovan didn’t have the votes to move forward, leaving Neff and Traverse.

In the final round of voting, Neff received two positive, one negative and one abstention. Traverse received three positive votes and one negative. Mayor Jes led to his appointment. His term will run until November 2022.

“I’m looking forward to working with the folks on the board,” said Traverse Tuesday. Traverse moved to Mt. Juliet in 2013 and wanted to be a bigger part of the community. He is on the Board of Directors for Hickory Hills subdivision. As he began to work more within the city on different issues, he thought his 23 years in operations experience could be helpful to the Board of Commissioners so he submitted his name for the vacant position. Look for a bigger article on Traverse in next week’s edition.

PET OF THE WEEK

Amos is a Basset Hound mix who came to our shelter as a stray and went unclaimed. This sweet guy is good with other dogs and would make for a great companion! Amos is neutered and his adoption fee is $75. If you are interested in meeting Amos, give us a call at 615-773-5533 to schedule an appointment.
The Chronicle of Mt. Juliet, JANUARY 13, 2021
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TDOE awards $1M to Tennessee’s PBS stations

Staff Reports

Friday, the Tennessee Department of Education announced $1 million will be awarded to Tennessee’s six PBS stations- WNPT Nashville, East Tennessee PBS, WCTE Upper Cumberland, WKNO Memphis, West TN PBS, and Chattanooga WTCI- for their partnership to engage families and support quality education for students across the state.

“The department is pleased to award the state’s six PBS station $1 million to support the critical role our public television stations have played, especially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, to engage families and provide access to educational resources and supports,” said Commissioner Penny Schwinn. “We thank the Tennessee PBS stations for their partnership to ensure students have daily access to Tennessee teachers and classroom lessons.”

In collaboration with Tennessee teachers and districts, the department created an at-home learning series with over 300 instructional classroom video lessons for 1st – 8th grade students airing across all six Tennessee PBS stations since the spring.

“It is an honor to work closely with Tennessee Department of Education on providing teacher-created content for an At Home Learning Block in this trying time for our Tennessee families and children. COVID-19 put all of us in an unprecedented situation and I’m so grateful that our Tennessee Public Television Stations were ready and willing to serve in this capacity and continue to look for ways to grow that service,” said Becky Magura, President and CEO of WCTE. “This amazing award of one million dollars to TN PBS stations in support of our amazing partnership in engaging and supporting our families and students could not come at a more important time. As our PBS stations work daily to serve our communities in this pandemic, the support from the Tennessee Department of Education is needed and deeply appreciated. We are so very grateful!”

This additional one million dollars is one-time funding from the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) through the CARES Act.

This winter, families and students have had the opportunity to utilize the Winter Foundations Bootcamp, which focuses on literacy and math foundational skills for Pre-K through 2nd grade students with additional content on science.

These lessons are airing on all six Tennessee PBS stations weekdays from 9 a.m. through the end of January. The schedule and additional information can be found on the department’s website.

Since April, the department has aired academic instructional classroom videos on Tennessee’s PBS stations across the state. The video lessons are also available on the department’s YouTube page and have had more than 100,000 views there since the spring.

For additional information on the department’s COVID-19 and school reopening related resources, please visit https://www.tn.gov/education/health-safety/COVID-19 and school reopening.html. For Tennessee Department of Education media inquiries, contact Edu.MediaInquiries@tn.gov.
Tennessee state parks have $1.84 billion economic impact in 2020

Staff Reports

Tennessee State Parks had an economic impact of $1.84 billion in Tennessee in 2020 and welcomed 34.7 million visits, according to a report done for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. The report notes that local area spending by visitors has a substantial impact on local economies. The parks reached historic highs in camping, recording four of the top 10 months ever, and set a pace for future success with $184 million in investments in capital projects throughout the year. Those projects alone are expected to result in over $400 million in economic impact in 2021.

The figures show that Tennessee State Parks are a driver of a healthy Tennessee economy and a great way for Tennesseans to get out of doors but are a significant component to public demand. The last year has been trying for Tennesseans, but we are confident the reliance on our state parks throughout this period bodes well for the coming year and beyond.

In total, the report found $1.7 billion in economic impact from operations and visitor spending; $126.7 million from capital projects; and $11.4 million from facilities and land management maintenance projects.

The report found:
- 14,514 total jobs supported by parks activity
- $110.3 million in state taxes reflected in parks activity, which is more than double what the state general fund contributes to state parks
- $22.1 million in local county taxes generated from parks activity

The report was conducted by Impact DataSource, an economic consulting firm based in Austin, Texas, the same firm used by the state’s Department of Economic and Community Development. It also relied on visitor spending data collected by the University of Tennessee Human Dimensions Research Lab. The report assesses the impact of the state’s operating expenditures, maintenance and capital expenditures, and parks visitors’ spending.

Morrison Industries acquires Envoy Packaging

Morrison Industries, a manufacturer of custom steel returnable shipping racks and packaging, announced the acquisition of Envoy Packaging.

“Morrison Industries, headquartered in Lebanon, is broadening its packaging footprint to better serve existing customers and expand into new markets. Envoy Packaging will specialize in fabricating expendable, reusable, and customizable protective packaging solutions.

For over 25 years, Morrison Industries has been designing and building steel products for a range of industries, including customized shipping racks for the automotive industry. The integration of Envoy Packaging stems from a desire to simplify Morrison’s offerings and the purchasing process for clients.

“Envoy Packaging will not only fabricate plastic and foam packaging, but also dunnage designed to work in tandem with Morrison’s steel shipping racks and expendable, cardboard, packaging products as well. This allows Morrison and Envoy to market and produce a full line of both expendable and returnable packaging products.

“I am honored and excited to be leading this new venture,” said Rachelle Smith, CEO of Envoy Packaging.