The Board of Commissioners held its regular meeting Monday night at City Hall.

Before the Board began discussing items on the night’s agenda, each commissioner had a chance to give comments and reports on their districts.

Each commissioner thanked the Public Works Department, MJPD and FDMJ for their continuous work during the intense winter weather last week. Commissioner Ray Justice also thanked Commissioner Brian Abston for the work he has done in his district, which includes Providence. Mayor Ed Hagerty joined Justice, saying this was the first time he did not receive a complaint about Providence traffic during holiday shopping.

City Manager Kenny Martin also thanked the citizens of Mt. Juliet for listening to police warnings about driving in the inclement weather. He said even though it has been a bad winter, there have been fewer accidents than previous years.

Justice and Police Chief James Hambrick also honored Officer White, who is retiring after his more than ten years of service as a reserve officer.

Martin thanked two women, Sharon and Joan, for painting a mural in North Mt. Juliet, on the side of Elegant Diamonds.

Over the next few months, The Chronicle of Mt. Juliet will be running profiles on each teacher in Mt. Juliet nominated for Wilson County’s Teacher of the Year.

Tammy Pardue is the nominee for Springdale Elementary School. Although this is only her first year teaching at Springdale, since it was first opened last August, Pardue has been teaching in Wilson County schools for 14 years.

She previously taught at Stoner Creek Elementary School for nine years and at Lebanon city schools for four years.

A public workshop was held Monday night before the Board of Commissioners meeting. The topic of discussion was the proposed 2017 Comprehensive Transportation Plan and suggested revisions. Deputy Public Works Director Andy Barlow presented the changes during the meeting, some of which cause confusion among those in attendance.

One of the main concerns some residents and city officials had about the plan was regarding the implementation of medians. A workshop on the transportation plan leaves some with concerns

Lane closures to affect intersection

According to an advisory message issued by the City of Mt. Juliet, there will be lane closures on Mt. Juliet Road at Pleasant Grove Road from Jan. 23 through Jan. 25. The closures will be approximately between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. for traffic pole replacement.

The southbound right lane turn and the outer northbound left turn lane on Mt. Juliet Road turning onto Pleasant Grove Road will be affected.

Around 10 a.m. Tuesday, the power was severed at the traffic signal at the intersection, causing it to fail. An officer was directing traffic at the location until around 1:30 p.m. when the traffic signal was repaired and fully functioning.

The City of Mt. Juliet sends alerts for residents through Nixle. Anyone wishing to sign up for alerts can visit the city’s website or the website listed below.

For more information, or to sign up for Nixle alerts, visit local.nixle.com/city-of-mt-juliet.

A workshop on the transportation plan leaves some with concerns

Medians proposed in MJ

A workshop on the transportation plan leaves some with concerns

To vote! VOTING IS NOW LIVE!

GO TO TCOMJ.COM/POLLS TO VOTE!

Voting ends February 1st

Teachers of the Year

Tammy Pardue
Springdale Elementary School

Pardue graduated from Tennessee Technological University with a degree in Elementary 1-8 education. Her degree allows her to teach from first through
Mt. Juliet native crowned Miss Volunteer 2018

Lexington, Tenn. — On Sunday, Jan. 14, 20-year-old Elise Stein, of Mt. Juliet, was crowned Miss Volunteer 2018 by the reigning Miss Tennessee, Caty Davis. Stein will now have a chance to compete for the title of Miss Tennessee June 20-23. If she advances, she could potentially become Miss America.

Stein’s platform is called “Move to Stand,” an anti-bullying campaign. Stein started the campaign at her former school, Mt. Juliet High, dedicating countless hours for her cause. She was selected as a nominee for the Governor’s Volunteer Star award in 2016 and to be part of Leadership Wilson as a junior in high school.

Stein was named the Nashville brand ambassador for the International Bullying Prevention Association in 2017 and has talked to many students about bullying in the state of Tennessee.

The MTSU sophomore also has had articles featured on bullying in 40 newspapers across the country.

Stein is an advocate for Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) Hospitals and has been working to raise money for CMN by creating a Public Relations team at MTSU for “Raidertown,” a dance marathon where all proceeds go to CMN.

“I am so passionate about helping these children, and that’s why I am doing everything I can to raise money for them,” said Stein.

She is still raising money for CMN and if you would like to help out, you can go to missamericaforkids.org and search for Elise Stein and donate to her page.

Stein is working on her music career, where she is working to release her first EP. She is also a model for The Block Agency, host of a new TV show at MTSU for “Raidertown,” and on the CMA Red Carpet with Brad Paisley.

Stein is also the host of a new TV show at MTSU called “Amp’d Sessions,” where she covers music topics throughout the Tennessee area.

As a student studying Public Relations in the Recording Industry at MTSU, she was put on the Dean’s List for receiving a 4.0 GPA this past semester.

Stein will compete this summer for the title of Miss Tennessee. The Miss America Organization is one of the nation’s leading advocates for women’s education and the largest provider of scholarship assistance to young women in the United States, awarding millions of dollars annually in cash awards and in-kind tuition waivers. Miss America contestants contribute countless community service house and have raised more than $16 million for Children’s Miracle Network. Miss Tennessee has been around since 1921 and has had two winners take the Miss America crown. To find out more information on how to compete in Tennessee, you can visit the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant website.
TDE awarded $1.2 million in funding

Funding allows the state to increase quality of early learning programs

By Becky Stoll
Guest Contributor

New data from the Tennessee Department of Health shows the suicide rate in our state is at a record high. Tragically, a reported 1,110 Tennesseans intentionally took their lives in 2016, an average of three people per day. This is higher than the national average and up four percent from the previous year.

That statistic rivals the 1,631 Tennesseans who died in 2016 from drug overdoses—a year-over-year increase of 12 percent due in part to opioid use. Reporting on opioid related suicides, TIME.com stated, “The real number of suicides may be higher. Experts say there are many challenges and inconsistencies when it comes to deciding if any drug-related fatality was intentional.”

All told, suicide is a pressing issue in our local cities and rural towns alike. Centerstone clinical staff in Tennessee now screen all clients for suicidal thoughts, and I’ve personally trained others in suicide prevention on three continents. Suicide doesn’t discriminate, but there are common risk factors, warning signs and action steps to take when someone may be in danger.

Common risk factors

People at increased risk of suicide often share similar characteristics. These may include having a chronic physical condition, mental illness or addiction. Less social support from friends, family and community is also common. Do they have a background of trauma, prior attempts to end their life or a family history of suicide? Anyone who has shared an organized plan for suicide and has access to lethal means is a clear cause for concern.

Warning signs

Beyond those factors, people often show warning signs of suicide by talking or writing about death and dying. Sometimes they express feeling hopeless, worthless or trapped. Are they withdrawing from others; acting recklessly with drugs alcohol or engaging in risky activities; exhibiting rage or seeking revenge for past wrongs? A dramatic change in mood—even away from agitation—may need attention; those who die by suicide often seem happy once they’re determined to follow through with it.

How to help

What should you do when someone may be suicidal? First, ask direct questions and invite the person to share feelings. Be a good listener, avoid judgments and take the person seriously. Remove guns, stockpiled pills and any other items that provide means to suicide. Encourage anyone contemplating suicide to call an expert—Centerstone’s 24-hour crisis hotline is (800) 681-7444. Finally, remain engaged and seek help from a trained mental health professional for present and long-term support.

Today, suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the U.S. and a preventable public health concern. It’s important to know that help is available and hope can return. Knowing who’s at risk and the warning signs for suicide can literally save lives.
First Freedom Bank promotes Owens to Executive Vice President

From TOY, PAGE 1

eighth grade, but she has never had the desire to leave elementary education.

Purdue currently teaches first grade at Springdale. She has always taught the younger students, first or second grade, and has been blessed to stay within that age. She said she enjoys teaching that age group because she loves teaching them how to read.

“I love to teach them to read, and you see more growth in first grade than any other grade,” said Purdue. “To watch them read for the first time and when they light up the first time they realize they can read, that’s just my big motivation. That’s what I love doing.”

According to Purdue, the younger students are still at the age where they want to try hard to learn, and their efforts continue to encourage her. “Everything I give, they give right back to me,” Purdue said.

She said she enjoys teaching in Wilson County because she is challenged by the high expectation of their students. “We’re always striving to do better and be better than what we already are,” said Purdue. “I like that challenge of trying to make sure every kid is able to do their best and reach their goals.”

Owens started with First Freedom in 2006 as a Credit Analyst after a two-year stint with KraftCPAs where he focused on bank auditing. Owens quickly proved to be an asset to the bank and was promoted to Assistant Vice President in the commercial lending division.

In 2008, he was named Vice President and Relationship Manager. In 2010, he was promoted to First Vice President and Senior Lending Officer and assigned full management of the lending and mortgage divisions at First Freedom. With his success, Owens was promoted to Senior Vice President in 2013.

“First Freedom Bank, headquartered in Wilson County, was established in 2006. A full service, community bank, First Freedom Bank offers personal and commercial banking services from six locations in Wilson, Putnam and Jackson Counties, and has approximately 70 employees. First Freedom Bank has assets in excess of $440 million and is owned by more than 1,100 shareholders throughout Middle Tennessee. First Freedom Bank is a member of the Better Business Bureau, an Equal Housing Lender and Member FDIC. Additionally, First Freedom has earned the prestigious Five Star rating by Bauer Financial, the nation’s leading independent rating firm.

First Freedom Bank promotes Owens to Executive Vice President
The mural has the city’s name along with the Tennessee tri-star, similar to the famous “I believe in Nashville” mural downtown.

John Rossmaier, the finance director for the City of Mt. Juliet, was also honored during the meeting. Rossmaier, who will retire soon after his 10 years of service to the City, was presented with an Employee of the Year plaque, a decision that was made before he chose to retire.

The first two items of unfinished business were second readings of ordinances introduced at the Jan. 8 meeting. A $500 donation from Walmart for community education was passed unanimously, as was an ordinance that appropriates funding for the emergency repair to Woodridge Place near Mt. Juliet Middle School.

The adoption of the 2017 Comprehensive Transportation plan, approved on first reading in October, was deferred 30 days for more discussion. Before the Board meeting, a public meeting was held to discuss the revisions to the plan.

There were many concerns about the transportation plan, mostly involving the proposed implementation of medians on Mt. Juliet and Lebanon Roads. For more information about this meeting, see page “insert page number here”.

A resolution approving the memorandum of understanding between the City of Mt. Juliet and Regional Transit Authority (RTA) was passed unanimously after making amendments. This included striking “required” from required financial donation to make it clear to RTA that the $30,000 is a voluntary donation, not an obligated annual fee.

The Mayor assured the Board, and the residents of Mt. Juliet, that he will read carefully any memo sent back from RTA to ensure their understanding of the donation.

Following this resolution, an ordinance to appropriate the $30,000 funds for RTA was passed 4-1, with Abston opposed.

The first reading of a policy to handle an expenditure of more than $10,000 when deemed an emergency by the city manager was passed unanimously.

There were four resolutions on the New Business agenda. The first resolution approved an agreement between the City of Mt. Juliet and Wilson County Board of Education to purchase property in North Mt. Juliet. As neither the Board nor the Planning Commission have seen the final designs of this property, the resolution was deferred until a later date.

The Mt. Juliet Board of Commissioners meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

For more information about this meeting, see page “insert page number here”.

Vote for Watertown Middle School

Staff Reports

Watertown Middle School has entered a national education contest that has the potential of paying out up to $70,000 in prizes, but in order to win, they desperately need Wilson County’s help.

The Follett Challenge is an annual contest, that requires students and teachers to develop an innovative program to get their student body engaged in reading, exchanging ideas, and honing in on their technology skills. In addition to completing an online application and submitting their idea, Watertown Middle School also submitted a short video to promote its idea.

At the end of the contest, a total of $200,000 in prizes will be awarded to those schools with the most unique and inventive idea. Ten of the prizes, valued at $8,000 each, will be given away from the “People’s Choice.” Winners will be based solely on the number of votes their video receives from the public.

A resolution to approve the contract with The Learning Experience to purchase land from the City of Mt. Juliet, located on Belinda Parkway, was passed unanimously.

A resolution to use the remaining city funds from the Golden Bear Gateway project to pay for upgrades of electric light poles from wood to steel was passed 4-1, with Commissioner James Mann opposed.

The final original resolution of the agenda was to approve an agreement for the project on Old Lebanon Dirt Road, which would widen the road. According to Abston, the wording of the resolution made it seem as if the widening of the road was for including bike lanes instead of simply improving the two-lane road.

After the wording was amended, the resolution passed unanimously.

A last-minute addition to the agenda was a resolution declaring city property as surplus to be disposed of at GovDeals Auction, which passed 4-1.

The Mt. Juliet Board of Commissioners meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

For more information about this meeting, see page “insert page number here”.

Residents of John Wright Road in Mt. Juliet voiced their concerns over traffic on Central Pike caused by the new Springdale Elementary School. Photos were submitted of a wreck involving a school bus and motorcycle backed up traffic for miles in either direction because the two-lane road has no other cut-through street available.

Go to www.tcomj.com/polls to vote now!
Small seeds, big trees

Devon Webb
Pastor
Connect Church

Have you ever found yourself stuck in rut? Do you keep cycling through the same thought pattern, seemingly living the same mundane day over and over again (à la Groundhog Day)? If we're not careful, we can separate the lives we’re leading from the lives we end up living. Chances are, you led yourself to the life you are currently living. Somehow, we shirk the responsibility of leading our lives to the mindset that life just happens to us. When in reality, our lives are the sum total of the decisions we make every day. And those decisions are determined by our priorities.

Galatians 6:7 says, “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” In other words, don’t fool yourself: You will always harvest what you plant. This applies to every aspect of our lives, with no exceptions— it is a spiritual law. Actually, it’s a law of nature. I have yet to see ears of corn growing on an apple tree. The fruit produced is directly correlated to the seeds that were planted. So what is being produced in your life is directly correlated to what you are taking the time to plant, water, and tend to.

Granted, there are those moments when life just happens to us. That shouldn’t be a surprise. Jesus told us that we would face trouble in this world. So even in our response to the unexpected, what is revealed are the seeds that we have been planting into our lives. What you fill your mind and spirit with will eventually come out—especially in times of testing.

Never forget: Small seeds make really big trees. What kind of trees do you have in your life? They are a result of what you’ve sown. So we can’t complain about the forest we live in— we planted it!

Whether you realize it or not, you did plant seed this past week. You contributed to today what you planted last week. You contributed to today what you planted the week before. Some-what you currently living. So even in our response to the unexpected, what is revealed are the seeds that we have been planting into our lives. What you fill your mind and spirit with will eventually come out—especially in times of testing.

See F & M, PAGE 13

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Assembly of God
Lighthouse Assembly of God
Baptist
Baker’s Grove Baptist
Beckwith Baptist
Cedar Grove Baptist
Corona Baptist Church
Faith Church
Fellowship Baptist
The Fellowship at Mt. Juliet*
First Baptist Church of Mt. Juliet*
The Glade Church
Grace Baptist Church
Green Hill Church*
Hickory Hills Baptist
The LightHorse Fellowship
Mays Chapel
Mt. Juliet Missionary Baptist
Mt. Olivet Baptist
Music City Baptist Church
New Life Baptist Church
Rutland Baptist Church
Silver Springs Baptist
Truth and Grace Free Will Baptist Church
Victory Baptist Church
Catholic Holy Comforter Anglican (ACC)
St. Stephen Catholic Community
Church of Christ
Belindia Parkway Church of Christ
Center Chapel Church of Christ
Corinth Church of Christ
Gladeville Church of Christ
Green Hill Church of Christ
Leeville Church of Christ
Mt. Juliet Church of Christ
Nonville Church of Christ
Vesta Church of Christ
Church of God
Living Water Fellowship
Mt. Juliet Church of God
The Pointe Church
Church of Jesus Christ
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Episcopal
Church of the Epiphany
Jehovah’s Witness
Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses
Lutheran
Celebration Lutheran
Methodist
Cook's United Methodist
Gladeville United Methodist
Grace United Methodist Church
Mt. Juliet African Methodist Episcopal Church
Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church
Stone's Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Williamson Chapel CME Church
Nazarene
Covenant Fellowship Church of the Nazarene
Pentecostal
Church Alive
Presbyterian
Clyods Cumberland Presbyterian
Hickory Grove Church
Suggs Creek Cumberland Presbyterian
Unity
Unity of Music City
Non-Denominational
Abundant Life*
The BARN Church
Bridge Fellowship Church
Cedar Ridge Church
The Church at Pleasant Grove
Connect Church
Faith is the Victory Church
Cross Point Church
Friendship Community Church
Gateway of Hope
Generation Changers Church
Global Vision Bible Church
Grace Bible Fellowship
Grace Fellowship Ministries
Greater True Faith Community Church
Holy Temple Church
The Journey Church
Joy Church International
LifeChurch of Mt. Juliet
Living Hope Church
Mending Fences Cowboy Church
New Heart Christian Church
New Tribe Church
Our Father’s House Community Church
The Rock of Nashville
Royal Life International

ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH
1000 Woodridge Place
Mt. Juliet, TN 37122
(across from MJ Middle School)
Sunday Morning Gathering
9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Youth Ministry
7:00 p.m.
615-754-7035
alcmjuliet.com

SUNDAY 9 & 11
ASH WILSON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
CONNECTCHURCHTN.COM

FAITH & MESSAGE
REFLECTIONS FROM AN OLD FRIEND

Kenny Martin
City Manager
Mt. Juliet, TN

Having a good home, auto, business and personal defensive protection plan in place is your best team defense against becoming the victim of a crime.

With that in mind, we must defend our persons and property against the other team, the Tennessee Thieves. The Tennessee Thieves work on their offensive and defensive game plans daily. They prepare game plans aimed at stealing and robbing honest citizens of their hard earned property, with only one thing in mind — winning. They work on timing, execution, speed and scoring, the scoring of your property for their benefit.

That is exactly why we must prepare our defense. Our defense should consist of sound common sense approaches to home, auto, business and personal safety defenses. Being proactive will solve many attempts by the Tennessee Thieves offense.

The first step in winning any game is to not let the other team know your game plan or see your game book. Our play books should contain the following plays: Keeping all windows locked and secured, traveling with car doors locked, investing in personal, auto, home and business alarm systems, not allowing strangers in our homes, recording all serial numbers from valuables and engraving identification/tracing numbers on valuables not marked with serial numbers and video taping or photographing all valuables for insurance purposes and record keeping.

In other words, we must do all we can to win the battle against the criminal element and crime. Taking a defensive stance and preparing a good defense are proven winners against crime. The other team has to score in order to win. You’ll win by simply holding the other team scoreless. Don’t give the Tennessee Thieves the victory. Prepare a good defense, join a Neighborhood Watch program, call in all suspicious activity to your local police or simply look out for your fellow neighbors and law-abiding teammates.

In closing, if we prepare a good defense, we’ll all be Tennessee Winners in the fight against crime.

Lettering art exhibit at Vol State

The work of lettering artist and graphic designer Lisa Lorek Quine will be on display at the Volunteer State Community College Art Gallery in January and February. The Cleveland-based artist’s presentation has ranged from coloring books and murals to magazine covers and gallery shows.

“I enjoy beginning with a quote, lyric or headline,” she said. “I then challenge myself to bring it life using hand-drawn type and illustration. I strive to create a human connection with each piece. The slight imperfections and the organic nature of the forms are what I love most about the art of hand-lettering.”

After graduating from the University of Dayton with a BFA in Visual Communication Design, Quine began her career in the fast-paced world of advertising. After five years in the industry, she made the decision to leave a full-time role as an art director at Global Prairie to dedicate more time to lettering.

Lettering art exhibit at Vol State

The Vol State exhibition will run from Jan. 16 to Feb. 19. There will be a meet and greet with the artist on Monday, Feb. at 11:30 a.m. at the Gallery. The Vol State Art Gallery is located on the first floor of the Steinhauser-Rogan-Black (SRB) Humanities Building on the Gallatin campus at 1480 Nashville Pike.

Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Staff Reports

Long time Mt. Juliet residents Jim and Holly Reynolds have opened a new Signarama sign store on North Mt. Juliet Road. Fulfilling a lifelong wish to operate their own business, the family brings energy and experience to the launch of the Wilson County location of this industry-leading sign business.

The couple’s 30-plus years of marketing and graphic production experience make them uniquely suited to provide advertising solutions to the dynamic local market.

“Wilson County is our home and we want to be partners with local business to help them be successful.” The best way to do this is to get to know the businesses and providing them with a consistent branding message and quality look and feel for the business. They do not consider Signarama just a sign store, but branding solutions partners.

The Signarama brand has built its success as innovators in full-service signage and brand solutions for business. Each independently owned and operated store offers a full line of business-to-business sales tools to grow a business.

They provide customers with a quality local source for business signs, vehicle graphics, event exhibits and custom engraving as well as a range of resources available as part of the largest sign company in the world. The store has the capability to offer fully-lighted channel letters or box signs as well as banners, large format printing and specialized labeling and decals. They also can handle printing and business card needs.

While the franchised store format provides consistency and quality, each location brings its own unique style and product offering to the market to suit the needs of the local community.

“We emphasize customer service,” said Jim. “We want you to have what you need when you need it.” Estimates are always free and they can help negotiate the hassles of permitting and installation.

“We do business the way you feel comfortable doing business. When you call our store you immediately talk with a person not a machine.” If it’s more efficient for a business to contact Signarama via their website, they will provide answers right away. They can come to an office to discuss solutions or to install graphics right at that business’ location. If a customer prefers, they can stop by the store and see their range of samples and meet their people. Signarama is located at 3850 N. Mt. Juliet Rd.

For more information, visit signarama.com/tn-wilsonco.com or call (615) 758-7446.

Local couple opens new sign store franchise with focus customer service, innovation and creativity.

Signarama had its ribbon cutting Tuesday, Jan. 23. They are located at 3850 N. Mt. Juliet Rd., across from Mt. Juliet Middle School.

**LOCAL RESTAURANT & DINING GUIDE - EL REY AZTECA**

**El Rey Azteca Mexican Restaurant**
1st Mexican Restaurant in Mt. Juliet proud to serve since 1998
1319 N. Mt. Juliet Rd. (615) 773-3611
Mon-Sat: 9am-7pm | Sun: 12pm-6pm

- Fresh Grilled Burgers
- Catering for all occasions
- Homemade Dishes
- Fresh Grilled Burgers & Sandwiches
- Fresh Meats
- Daily Food & Drink Specials | Sunday Night Trivia (7pm-9pm)

El Rey Azteca Mexican Restaurant opened their doors in 1998, as Mt. Juliet, Tennessee’s very first Mexican restaurant. Since day one, they have been committed to providing their customers with authentic, fresh, and delicious Mexican food. From their vast selection of specialty drinks, to their mouth-watering menu of entrees, there’s something for everyone at El Rey Azteca Mexican Restaurant.

**Signarama**
Specials and promotions available.

**WOODFIRE GRILLE**

**SMOOTHIE KING**

**HOUSTON’S MEAT & PRODUCE**

**Riverfront TAVERN**

**THE KONNECTOR RESTAURANT & TAVERN**

Photo by Sarah Tate
Nearly 75 percent of TN high school seniors participate in 2017 ACT Retake Day

Staff Reports

Education Commissioner Candice McQueen announced last week that 74.7 percent of the state’s high school class of 2018 — nearly 52,000 students — participated in the department’s second ACT Senior Retake Day in October 2017. This number is double the number of seniors who chose to participate in the first ACT Senior Retake Day the previous fall.

Of those seniors who took the ACT in October, about 40 percent — or almost 19,000 — increased their overall score, and 2,333 seniors raised their composite to a 21 or higher, making them eligible for HOPE Scholarship funds that provide up to $16,000 to help students pay for college in Tennessee, as well as potentially additional grant support.

The 2017 ACT retake also resulted in more students hitting the ACT college-readiness benchmarks in each of the four tested subject areas: math, English, science, and reading. Meeting college-readiness benchmarks allows students to enroll directly into credit-bearing postsecondary coursework, avoiding remedial classes that take additional time and money and may make it less likely they will graduate college. Scores earned from the 2017 ACT Senior Retake Day will save Tennessee students up to $7.8 million in remedial course costs.

“As we work toward our goal of a statewide average of 21 by 2020, we see opportunities like the ACT Senior Retake Day moving our students one step closer,” McQueen said. “These results are so much more than just a number; they allow our students to open new doors of opportunity that can change the trajectory of their lives. Now, more Tennessee students are able to access scholarship funding, gain admission to colleges and universities, and earn credit for their work from day one.”

For the 2017 retake, the state expanded the ACT Senior Retake Day to all Tennessee public high school seniors for the first time, no longer requiring students to have taken it as a junior in order to be eligible or asking them to sign up separately. In addition, the department made it easier for public school seniors to retake the ACT by offering this second opportunity during the school day in students’ own schools, instead of asking them to take it on a Saturday morning at an ACT testing site. These changes provided all public school students increased access to take advantage of the opportunity. School districts were also empowered to choose the testing date that was best for their students and caused the least disruption for those not taking the exam. The results — in terms of scholarship eligibility obtained and remediation avoided — demonstrate that the return on investment of this initiative is consistently more than tenfold.
OBITUARIES

BASS, Audrey Ellsworth

Audrey Bass passed away on Jan. 18, 2018, at age 85. She lived in Nashville, Tenn., on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2018, at age 81. The Memorial Service was conducted 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018 at Bond Memorial Chapel with Bro. Darrell Duncan officiating. Interment will follow at Hermitage Memorial Gardens. Active pallbearers will be Steve Ford, John Hunter, Preston Lay, Dan Howland, Tommy Conn and Mike Slagle.

BUSH, Robert Holland

Robert Holland Bush, age 74, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Jan. 14, 2018. He was preceded in death by his parents, Stanley Holland and Helen Johnston Bush of Short Beach, CT. Born Feb. 19, 1943 in New Haven, CT, he spent his early years in Short Beach. He was a veteran of the 82nd Airborne Infantry Division of the United States Army, specializing in parachute assault operations into denied areas. He moved to Nashville in 1963 and retired as a premium sales manager at Lipman Bros., Inc. after 32 years in 2005.

He is survived by: Son – H. Dennis (Gloria) Ford; Daughter – Viki F. (Bill) Sorey; Grandchildren – Steven D. Ford, John T. (Ashley) Hunt, and Jamie D. White; Great-grandchildren – Elton Ford, Nathan Ford, Miley Ford and Hunter Hodges; five nephews.

Funeral services will be conducted 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018 at Bond Memorial Chapel with Bro. Darrell Duncan officiating. Interment will follow at Hermitage Memorial Gardens. Active pallbearers will be Steven Ford, John Hunter, Preston Lay, Dan Howland, Tommy Conn and Mike Slagle.

Bennett, Sammie Bernice

Sammie Bennett passed away on Jan. 22, 2018 at age 65. The family will be receiving friends at Sel- lars Funeral Home, Leba- non TN, on Wednesday from 10 a.m. until noon. The Graveside Service is 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018 at Smith County Memorial Gardens. Dave Bennett was a member of Hillcrest Bap- tist Church and the Leba- non Senior Citizens Cen- ter. She is survived by siblings Butch (Beverly) Van, Brandon (Tricia) Heathey (Tim) Graves, and Greg (Don- na) Harrel, and numerous nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by husband Larry Bennett, parents Hollis and Hattie Harrel, and brothers Dan Harrel and Wayne Harrel. Sellears Funer- al Home, Lebanon TN 615.444.9939.

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Funeral services will be conducted 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018 at Bond Memorial Chapel with Bro. Darrell Duncan officiating. Interment will follow at Hermitage Memorial Gardens. Active pallbearers will be Steven Ford, John Hunter, Preston Lay, Dan Howland, Tommy Conn and Mike Slagle.

Bennett, Sammie Bernice

Sammie Bennett passed away on Jan. 22, 2018 at age 65. The family will be receiving friends at Sel- lars Funeral Home, Leba- non TN, on Wednesday from 10 a.m. until noon. The Graveside Service is 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018 at Smith County Memorial Gardens. Dave Bennett was a member of Hillcrest Bap- tist Church and the Leba- non Senior Citizens Cen- ter. She is survived by siblings Butch (Beverly) Van, Brandon (Tricia) Heathey (Tim) Graves, and Greg (Don- na) Harrel, and numerous nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by husband Larry Bennett, parents Hollis and Hattie Harrel, and brothers Dan Harrel and Wayne Harrel. Sellears Funer- al Home, Lebanon TN 615.444.9939.

HALL, David Charles “Dave”

Hall, David Charles “Dave”, age 76 of Hermit- age, TN, was born on Jan. 23, 1942. Dave has had a career in the music industry since 1965 and has traveled and performed all over the world with some of country’s biggest artists. Dave also was a Veteran and served our country as a Medic in the Air Force. Dave started his music career playing bass for George Jones. He then played bass, drove the bus (or did both) with several other entertainers during the following years. These include Kity Wells, Con- nie Smith, Red White and Bluegrass, The Kend- dals, Faron Young, Stu Phillips, The Whites and Doug Stone. Faron Young once referred to Dave as the “FRANK SINATRA of COUNTRY MUSIC” as his tenor voice blended so well with Faron’s voice.

Dave also cut a single, “We Can Work It Out,” as an Exclusive RCA Rec- ording Artist. Along with some friends, they found- ed the group Foxfire that had a hit single “Fell into Love” that reached No. 30 on Billboard. Foxfire earned CASHBOX New Singles Vocal Group of the Year in 1979. During that same period, he was involved with publishing companies Raindance Music and Ballpoint Music. Dave was also a co-writer of the No. 1 Billboard country hit “Every- way Twitty No. 1 hit “I am the Dreamer (You are the Dream)” on both Bill- board and Cashbox.

Dave really enjoyed working on the publishing side of country music doing royalty accounting (“crunching the numbers”). Over the last de- cade, he worked as an Executive Advisor with Horipro Entertainment. Dave had the utmost respect for Mr. Kaz Hori, CEO of Horipro because he allowed him to contin- ue being a part of what he loved the most—being in- volved in “Music”. He was the son of the late Staley and Mary Conner Slagle. Dave was also preceded in death by his wife, Peggy Hall.

He is survived by: Daughter – Leslie (Mi- chael) Barr; Brothers – Woody (Linda) Hall and Ron (Janice) Hall; Sister – Narvona Langley; Grandchildren – Amber Bay and Tabitha Sand- erson; Great-grandchildren – Landon Wortham, Aar- ik Bay, Adrianna Zarago- za and Mariah Zaragoza; Several nieces and neph- ews. Graveside services will be conducted 1 p.m. Sat- urday, Jan. 27, 2018 at Mt. Juliet Memorial Gar- dens with Phil O’Donnell and Butch Baker officiat- ing. Flowers accepted or memorials may be made to the American Heart As- sociation, PO Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75303-0692. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Friday at Bond Mem- orial Chapel, N. Mt. Juliet Road and Weston Drive, Mt. Juliet, TN. 615-773-2663. Obit Line (615)641-2663, www. bondmemorial.com

WHITTLE, James Dar- rin “J.D.”

Whittle, James Darrin “J.D.”, age 51 of Mur- freeboro, died Jan. 15, 2018. J.D. attended the Laos Temple. He was a 1984 graduate of Dupont High School. He was em- ployed by Johnson Con- trols and was a former employee of Nissan. J.D. was an outdoorsman and an avid Florida State Football fan.

He is survived by: Wife of 26 years Tonie Whittle; Mother – Bessie (Jose Colloca) Whittle; Father – James A. Whit- tle; Daughters – Ashley Nicole Whittle (Fred) Rog- ers and Kelley Whittle; Step-daughters – Jenny Phimavong and Jessie Phimavong; Brother – Tim Whittle; Nephew – Ty Whittle; Niece – Amber Buchanan.

Funeral services were conducted Jan. 19, 2018 at Bond Memorial Chapel, and interment followed at Mt. Juliet Memorial Gar- dens. Bond Memorial Chap- el, N. Mt. Juliet Road and Weston Drive, Mt. Ju- liet, TN (615)773-2663, Obit Line (615)641-2663, www. bondmemorial.com

PAGE 10, THE CHRONICLE OF MT. JULIET, JANUARY 24, 2018
Local nurse surprised at work with $10,000 scholarship

Western Governors University (WGU) Tennessee—a nonprofit, online university endorsed by the state—surprised a TriStar Summit Medical Center nurse by awarding her a $10,000 Tenn-K Scholarship.

Registered nurse Melody Johnson learned that she was the recipient of the scholarship as she was wrapping up her shift on Thursday, Jan. 18. Johnson received the surprise announcement during a Summit “Good News Break” assembly. Chief Nursing Officer Mary Ann Angle joined WGU Chancellor Kimberly K. Estep to present the scholarship.

“Our mission is rooted in helping hardworking Tennesseans achieve their educational and career goals,” Estep said. “It’s an honor to present this scholarship to deserving students like Melody, and we look forward to awarding more Tenn-K Scholarships in the months ahead.”

Johnson has more than 25 years of experience in health care, and recently enrolled in WGU Tennessee to earn her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. This fulfills a lifelong ambition for Johnson, who put her dreams on hold to spend more time with her young children and then again to support her young adult son through a difficult battle with cancer.

The scholarship, combined with a tuition discount offered to HCA employees by WGU Tennessee, will cover most if not all of the cost of her degree.

TriStar Summit Medical Center is a member of TriStar Health, a division of HCA which employs more than 500 employees currently enrolled at WGU Tennessee.

“TriStar Summit is happy to celebrate this honor with Melody and her nursing family. We are thankful that WGU selected such a worthy recipient as she continues to give so much of herself to her patients and our hospital. TriStar Summit is committed to providing a positive work environment where our nurses can flourish,” said Mary Ann Angle, Chief Nursing Officer at TriStar Summit Medical Center.

Johnson is just the second Tennessean chosen for the 2018 WGU Tennessee Tenn-K Scholarship. The scholarship, which covers more than 80 percent of WGU Tennessee’s already-low tuition of approximately $6,500 per year for most programs, is awarded based on students’ academic records, readiness for online study, and demonstrated financial need. Up to 10 scholarships will be awarded this year, and the deadline to apply is March 15.

Big Brothers Big Sisters to go Over the Edge

If you are in downtown Nashville on Friday, April 20, you may see some individuals that are clearly not window washers dangling from the top of 291 feet at the Bank of America Plaza. They are participating in Over the Edge Nashville, a fundraising campaign for Big Brothers Big Sisters, and they are offering an opportunity to join them.

This is the third year that Big Brothers Big Sisters will hold the urban rappelling fundraising event, and it is the first year they will be scaling Bank of America Plaza. A total of 70 participants will register and fundraise a minimum of $1,000 to earn a spot on the ropes.

Spectators, supporters and any participants who might lose their nerve will be on the plaza grounds below for a fun “Drop Zone Party” from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a live DJ announcing the individuals coming down. There also will be several booths for everyone to check out.

Participants, called “Edgers” by event standards, can be any age, and as long as they weigh between 100-300 pounds, they can rappel. There is no previous climbing or rappel experience required. Participants can register and fundraise at OverTheEdgeNashville.com.

“We had two great events in the past at the Omni Nashville Hotel,” said Carlyle Carroll, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennesse. “The one request we heard from participants was to be able to land on the sidewalk with their friends nearby, and the hotel’s framework didn’t allow for that. We are thrilled to be at Bank of America this year and have Edgers supporters witness their landing up close and personal this year.”

This Nashville event is being conducted by Over the Edge USA, a national touring fundraising event company. They have been in operation for 20 years and conducted 500 events across the country for various nonprofit organizations.

For more information on this event, visit www.overtheedgenashville.org or call (615) 522-5665.

www.tcomj.com

Zara

Zara is a young shepherd mix that was found as a stray in the city of Mt. Juliet. She was kept by the people who found her in hopes that her family would come looking for her. Unfortunately, that was not the case, so she was brought to us so people who found her in hopes that her family would come looking for her. Unfortunately, that was not the case, so she was brought to us so she could find her forever home that will cherish and love her. She is a happy, active, and goofy girl who loves to put her nose to the ground and investigate new smells. She is so much fun and enjoys being with people. She loves to cuddle and play with whoever is with her. Getting a good picture of this sweet girl was nearly impossible because she is constantly on the move and wanting your attention. Zara is up to date on her shots but will be need to be spayed before going to her forever home. Her adoption fee is only $25 plus the cost of her spay at a vet in Mt. Juliet.

Please call the shelter at 615-773-5533 to schedule an appointment to meet Zara, or come during OPEN HOURS Tuesday - Thursday from 11:30-5:30.

Mt. Juliet Animal Care & Control 115 Industrial Drive, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

www.tcomj.com

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HELP WANTED

The City of Mt. Juliet is success-
cession planning for their Finance Director who will be retiring. The City is seeking qualified applicants for Finance Director who will work alongside the Finance Director until his retirement. The City of Mt. Juliet is a fast growing city and only minutes away from Nashville. The City of Mt. Juliet Twin beds with bedding and operates under a City Manager form of government with a Mayor elected at large and four Commissioners elected from their respective districts. The City has General Fund revenues approaching $20 million excluding grants that share the costs of major improvements, with 165 full-time employees (seven under the direction of the Finance Director which includes sewer billing), a capital projects budget varying from $1.5k to $5k depending on activity and 6 other lesser funds. The City provides one utility, that of wastewater with $6 Million in billing revenue. City Departments include Administration, Building & Codes, Planning, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Storm Water, Police and Fire. The selected candidate must hold a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university in finance, accounting, business administration, or a related area; a master’s degree is preferred. This position requires at least five years of experience in municipal finance or related field, three years of relevant supervisory experience, familiarity with GASB pronouncements as they affect the City and demonstrate a knowledge of the principles of governmental budgeting and accounting. A Certified Public Accountant is preferred or CMFO (or able to obtain within eighteen months of employment). The starting salary range is $70,000 to $79,435.00. Detailed job description, Employee Application and requirements are available online. Applications must be filed electronically and are available online at the City’s website, www.mtjuilet-tn.gov. We will accept electronic applications until such time when a qualified candidate is chosen. The City of Mt. Juliet reserves the right to stop accepting applications at any time. For questions, regarding the electronic application process, please call (615) 754-2552. The City of Mt. Juliet does not discriminate based on race, color, sex or national origin in federal or state sponsored programs, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d). EO/Drug-free Workplace.

GARAGE SALE

Brandywine Pointe Estate Sale 3718 4013 Brandywine Pointe Blvd (off Shutes Lane) January 25th, 26th & 27th Thurs & Fri 8 Til 4, Sat 8 Til 1

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GARAGE SALE

net, Windsor Style Sewing Rocker, Set of Rosenthal German China, Lots of Nice Glassware, Antique Gone With the Wind Lamps, Pair of Vintage Lamps & other Lamps, Round Oak Table & 4 Chairs, 2 Sofas, Pair of End Tables and other side Tables, Coffee Table, Set of Twin beds with bedding, Maple Chest, Cherry Chest on Chest, Cherry Armoire, handicap items, Natural Wicker set includes; Settee, pair of chairs & 1 side table, Ladies and Men’s clothes & Coats, Purses, Mink Stole, 2 Antique Dolls, Washer & Dryer (Profile), Reclin-
er, Lots of Nice Oriental Style and Pattern Rugs, Framed prints, Treadmill, Sewing Machine, Decorator Items, Brass Bells, Silver Plate items, Crystal Can-
padle Holders, Fern Stands, Queen Anne Style Sofa Table, Blue Ridge Plates, Books & Cookbook, Nice Linens, Pots & Pans, Small Appliances & other Kitch-
ens Items; Garage items; Lawn Mower (Toro), including tools, ladders, garden tools & more! Many Sur-
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Does anyone really know? The normal I’m speaking of is the adjective sometimes used to describe family life. Growing up in a family of six kids and reared by parents who were transplants to Tennessee, it was clear from the beginning that we were not “normal” in the traditional sense.

Recently I was talking to a friend who described holidays with her husband’s large family as very “Norman Rockwell.” I shook my head in agreement to which she responded, “You must know what that’s like with your big family.” I stopped mid-bobble and said, “Not quite.” I quickly changed the subject sensing that this relationship was too new to expose this very nice lady to the disorder I call family.

We (my brothers, sisters, in-laws, nieces, nephews, parents, children and husband) are not exactly Norman Rockwell. By comparison, we belong to the Newman Rockwell family. Newman would be the less successful, more neurotic cousin of Norman. Instead of cozy holiday scenes, this Rockwell family resembles a velvet picture of dogs playing poker.

Growing up I think most of us aspire to live a “normal” life with 2.5 kids (this one always confuses me — where is the rest of that third kid?), house with a white picket fence, and so on. And as adults this fantasy of normal becomes the metaphorical “Lombardi Trophy.” But most of us don’t even know what normal really is. For instance, it wasn’t until I visited a friend’s house during the holidays one year that I realized not everyone’s house sounds like Grand Central Station with people shouting over each other and little insults being passed around like a bread basket.

“This must be how normal families behave” I thought.

Memory takes me back to Christmas circa 1987 when my Italian grandmother was in town for her standard three-week winter visit. Christmas morning arrived and I picked out a small box wrapped up nice and tidy from grandma. Because she was old by my standards and more cantankerous than chummy when it came to gift giving, you never knew what was behind that tidy wrapping. When I unwrapped the box I found just that — an empty box.

I looked a little confused and my grandmother said hastily, “What, you don’t like it?” Before I could tell her she must have made a mistake I noticed a scathing look coming in the direction of my mother and simply said “I love it.”

After becoming a mom, I made it my personal mission to create the “normal” I thought we needed. The harder I tried to make holidays, birthdays, etc., perfect, the worse I felt. I fell short each and every time. I just didn’t have what it takes to pull off “normal” and this made me feel like there was something wrong with me.

But maybe it wasn’t me. Maybe there is no such thing as normal when it comes to family life. And this got me to thinking. Is it normal to be normal?

My conclusion is that normal is relative. As nice as it is to be around a family where the house is always clean, birthday parties are perfection, holidays are like something out of a Norman Rockwell painting, I can’t help but feel lucky that I have the type of family where there’s no holding back.

As brutally honest as my relatives can be, they are just as loving and protective. In one of my favorite movies about a dysfunctional family, one of the main characters said, “We may not be much, but we’re all we’ve got”. That’s exactly how I feel about my family. We’re not perfectly normal, but we love each other perfectly.

Comments? Email becky@wilsonlivingmagazine.com

By Becky Andrews
Wilson Living Magazine

www.tcomj.com
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee is celebrating National Mentoring Month throughout January, and everyone is encouraged to join in this movement. Throughout January, supporters are encouraged to wear purple, and post selfies explaining that their wardrobe choice is to help spotlight mentoring and pay tribute to previous mentors. Adding the hashtag #PurplePeople helps followers understand the far-reaching effects a mentor can have on another person.

On Wednesday, Jan. 17, “International Mentoring Day,” Nashville Mayor Megan Barry has arranged to have the Nashville Courthouse, Korean War Veterans Bridge and other municipal landmarks lit in purple.

On Thursday, Jan. 25, “Thank Your Mentor Day,” supporters are encouraged to reach out to the individuals who positively impacted them as a young person, and acknowledge the efforts that helped guide personal decisions and aspirations through life.

During this month of multiple efforts and resolutions for the coming year, anyone interested in learning more about becoming a mentor is encouraged to apply as well. The initial volunteer commitment is approximately an hour and half each week for one year with the same child that prospective mentors have been specifically matched with as friends.

While this initial time commitment may seem daunting, consistently volunteers in the program report that their time spent with their Little Brother or Little Sister is the highlight of their week.

In 2017, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee served 1,283 children with a mentor. There are many children waiting for a Big Brother or Big Sister to take the first step in helping build a bright future for them.

There are opportunities to mentor a young person during the school day at the same time each week, or with a flexible schedule in the community based option.
in turning lanes along Mt. Juliet and Lebanon Roads.

Commissioner Ray Justice had concerns about the city mandating access easements through ordinances, while Commissioner Art Giles asked why they current transportation plan wasn’t just amended.

Barlow said the current plan was just a collection of different documents, various revisions of small projects over the years. The last full plan introduced and enacted was the 2008 Mt. Juliet Land Use and Transportation Plan.

Justice said he liked the plan but only if the city was an empty slate, the plan would be great, but the city cannot go back and “rewrite” it. He also said putting medians on Lebanon Road at Nonaville Road, which is a high crash area according to the plan would be a disaster.

Commissioner James Maness proposed taking the first 40 pages of the 90-page plan and making it its own document for reference. Commissioner Brian Abston agreed with Maness on that but would like more information from the police about the high collision areas.

Giles also said he would like to have more information from the police before passing a vote on the plan. According to him, the city needs to be given more proof if they are going to adopt a plan so controversial. He also proposed removing the information and pictures of medians if they are against them, as to clear up any misunderstanding developers may have in the future.

During Barlow’s presentation, he showed pictures of other projects similar to what he has submitted to the city. He included pictures of medians on Navy Road in Middle, Tenn., a project he oversaw while working at TDOT.

Many were concerned about the medians, picturing them as those on Golden Bear Gateway, which are continuous along the road. This caused confusion among some residents and business owners as it was previously proposed the medians would be continuous along the roads in some areas. For example, medians have previously been proposed that would restrict access to Mt. Juliet Church of Christ.

There was also confusion over whether the plan is a formal document, requiring Mt. Juliet to follow it exactly, or if it is to serve as a guide when addressing transportation in the city.

For most of the discussion, the plan was emphasized as a guide but would serve the purpose of a formal document to provide for any use, such as TDOT wanting to view the city plans. There was some concern about how the interpretation of “formal” could later mean the plan would be required.

In an effort to clear up some of the confusion, some of the language in the plan was changed to suggest guidelines instead of requirements. Words like “shall” were changed to “should” and “city engineer” to “city” to ensure a broad overview of how the City of Mt. Juliet can approach the transportation plan.

Changing the language was meant to make sure the proposed changes in the plan are suggestions, not obligations. Giles, however, quoted a Supreme Court ruling that “shall” and “should” legally mean the same, so changing those words doesn’t change the meaning in the plan.

An ordinance to adopt the 2017 Comprehensive Transportation Plan was scheduled to be read at the Board of Commissioners meeting after the workshop. However, since there was not a consensus at either meeting, the ordinance was deferred 30 days until there can be more discussion.

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