The Mt. Juliet city commission held its regular meeting on Monday night, where the board voted on new projects such as the Cedar Center development.

The commission heard the first reading of the proposed Cedar Center project, located at Cedar Lane and Old Lebanon Dirt Road. Approved 3-2, the project will come back to the board on March 9.

Cedar Center project proposes eight buildings on approximately 47.4 acres. The proposed uses would include five office buildings, a restaurant and retail/office space. No residential uses were proposed. The project would also include offsite infrastructure improvements on Old Lebanon Dirt Road and Cedar Lane.

Also during the meeting, the board unanimously approved to amend zoning regulations for commercial activities, prohibiting surgical abortion centers from being within 200 feet of any church, public or private school, college, public park or public recreation facility, public library, child care facility or single-family residential home. The city previously wanted to prohibit any such facility from being within 1,000 feet, but a lawsuit was brought before the board.

WilCo Tourism hires new director

The Wilson County Convention and Visitors Bureau recently announced the hiring of Jason Johnson as the new Director of Wilson County Tourism. Johnson’s first day as director was Feb. 10, 2020.

Johnson joins the Visit WilCo team after spending more than 10 years with Fullins Asian Cuisine in Mt. Juliet as their Community Relations Manager. It was in this role that he made relationships and partnerships with the businesses and residents of the Mt. Juliet community as well as Fullins’ customers.

Prior to Johnson’s tenure with Fullins, he served as the Marketing and Sales Manager for Hot Spring Spas of Music City. This role allowed Johnson to strengthen his social media, digital marketing, and graphic design skills all over the middle Tennessee region.

Johnson has lived and worked in Wilson County for over 10 years, where he lives with his wife and twin boys. Johnson says his boys “have been raised driving the board unanimously approved to amend zoning regulations for commercial activities, prohibiting surgical abortion centers from being within 200 feet of any church, public or private school, college, public park or public recreation facility, public library, child care facility or single-family residential home. The city previously wanted to prohibit any such facility from being within 1,000 feet, but a lawsuit was brought before the board.

WilCo Tourism hires new director

By Sarah Tate
Managing Editor

This week’s feature for Teacher of the Year is Clarissa Childress, a third grade teacher at W.A. Wright Elementary School.

Clarissa Childress has been at W.A. Wright for her entire career. Currently in her fourth year of teaching third grade, she previously taught kindergarten for eight years.

Childress attended Cumberland University where she earned her undergraduate degree in K-6 elementary education and her master’s in education with an educational leadership endorsement.

Growing up, she knew she wanted to be an educator. She said she would often play school and was always the teacher. She even attended W.A. Wright, where she had many teachers that...
Detectives. When the war
SWAT team and Lebanon/ anon Police Department
was executed by the Leb-
non. That search warrant
mons' residence in Leba-
search warrant for Clem-
tives were able to obtain a
with Clemmons.
murder and drug offens-
the fact of second degree
occurred in Lebanon in
Currently on parole for
as a co-conspirator with
 LaBry-
Lebanon
ics to the
other narcot-
tics to the
L e b a n o n
and Wilson
County area. Detectives and
officers also identified
 Cecelia Marchell Beasley
as a co-conspirator with
Clemmons. Clemmons is
currently on parole for
second degree murder and
drug offenses that
occurred in Lebanon in
2008. Beasley is also on
parole for accessory after
the fact of second degree
murder and drug offenses
in the same 2008 case with Clemmons.
On Feb. 6, 2020, Detec-
tives were able to obtain a
search warrant for Clem-
mons’ residence in Leba-
non. That search warrant
was executed by the Leb-
anon Police Department
SWAT team and Lebanon/ Wilson County Task Force
Detectives. When the war-
rant was executed, De-
tectives found Clemmons and Beasley at the resi-
dence. Also located at the
residence was Markius
Oldham. Detectives on
that same date went to
Beasley’s residence, also
in Lebanon, and executed
a second search warrant
in conjunction of the in-
vestigation.
The search of the two
residences by Task Force
Detectives and officers
located approximately
2,206 suspected Xanax
pills, 3.5 ounces of sus-
ppected MDMA/Molly, 24
grams of crack cocaine,
approximately $13,000 in
U.S. currency, a pound
of marijuana and a load-
ed semi-automatic hand
The State of Tennessee
probation and parole of-
officers assisted the Task
Force with this investiga-
tion and obtained parole
violations on both Beas-
ley and Clemmons. This
case will be presented to
the Wilson County Grand
Jury for indictment.
“We received multi-
ple complaints from res-
idents who suspected
drug trafficking at the two
residences belonging to
Beasley and Clemmons,”
said Sheriff Robert Bryan.
“Both of these individuals
have a very lengthy his-
tory involving dangerous
acts of crime. I fully com-
ment the detectives and
officers from both agen-
cies who conducted a very
thorough investigation.”

Granville announces
Sutton Bluegrass For Kids

Staff Reports
Sutton Old Time Mu-
sic Hour, Sutton General
Store, and Granville re-
cently announced a new
program called “Sutton
Bluegrass For Kids.” This
program offers talented
young soloists and vocal-
ists the opportunity to per-
form at Sutton Ole Time
Music Hour.
They will perform be-
fore the syndicated radio
show Sutton Ole Time Mu-
sic Hour for ages 7 to 17.
They will perform on stage
with professional artists
weekly at 6 p.m. All youth
who participate will also
be asked to come back and
perform at the Uncle Jim-
ny Thompson Bluegrass
Festival on May 23.
Jimmy Bilbrey and Chris
Neeley jointly announced
this program and said the
program will begin imme-
diately and will captivate
audiences by incorporating
talented young soloists, vo-
calists and musicians.
For more information on
the Sutton Bluegrass for
Kids, email Jimmy Bilbrey
info@suttonvilletn.com.
Sutton Ole Time Mu-
sic Hour began on April 5,
2008, with its founder Sam
Stout developing a weekly
bluegrass dinner show.
The program is now aired
on radio and other net-
works in every state and
country in the world and
to U.S. military around the
world. The popular dinner
show will celebrate its 12-
year anniversary on April
18.
The show features differ-
ent professional bluegrass
bands each week from all
over the south with a fami-
ly-style southern dinner at
5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Res-
ervations are required for
dinner and can be made by
calling 931-663-4151.

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From BOC, PAGE 1
From WCSO, PAGE 1

 Jimmy Bilbrey and Chris Neeley of Sutton Ole Time Music Hour announce “Suttons Bluegrass For Kids.” | Photo submitted

The Chronicle of Mt. Juliet, FEBRUARY 12, 2020
New summer camp to open in Mt. Juliet

By Sarah Tate
Managing Editor

Camp Big Fish is set to open its first camp in the Nashville area, bringing its newest location to Mt. Juliet. The faith-based day camp was started 11 years ago by husband and wife team Jeremy and Molly Deitch in Chattanooga. It now has six locations serving over 11,000 children in the Chattanooga, Knoxville and now Nashville areas.

Camp Big Fish will operate out of Grace United Methodist Church at 2905 N. Mt. Juliet Road. The faith-based day camp will run Monday through Friday, May 26 through July 31. The camp offers parents the flexibility of choosing which weeks they want their children to attend. They accept rising kindergarteners to rising 8th grade students.

Similar to Vacation Bible School, the camp will provide campers with a safe environment to have fun and play around, while also worshiping and praising God.

Jeremy said their goal is to pour as much fun into the camp as possible. Throughout the week, campers will partake in a variety of activities, such as swimming, dress-up theme days and field trips, while also learning more about the Bible and their faith in God.

The field trips include trips to the Nashville Zoo, Adventure Science Center, Altitude Trampoline Park, Nashville Children’s Theatre and more.

The counselors are mostly college students who have undergone background checks and given testimonies about their faith. They have a love for kids, with many of them majoring in childhood education. Jeremy said they are the opposite of babysitters, getting involved and being interactive with the campers. This has a lasting impact on the campers, as there have been some campers who have become counselors.

Jeremy said the camp and the church are excited to bring the faith-based day camp to the community. They are also ready to work with families who may be new to the area and help introduce them to church.

The February registration fee is $75 per camper, but they are currently offering 50% the registration fee if you enter the promo code CHRONICLE. For more information or to register, visit campbigfish.org or their Facebook page at Camp Big Fish.
Jacob Wickersham recently earned the title of United States Marine by successfully completing boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, and conquering “The Crucible,” a grueling mental and physical test all Marines must pass before earning their Eagle, Globe, and Anchor pin.

Wickersham is a 2019 graduate of Mt. Juliet High School and was a successful four-year cadet in the school’s Marine Junior ROTC program. He is now studying Avionics at Pensacola Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida.

His proud parents are Jennifer Malone and Patrick Wickersham, a United States Navy and Desert Storm veteran. His grandfather, Dennis Wickersham, also served in the Navy.

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MJHS grad completes boot camp

Staff Reports

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Bears rebound after opening round loss in Preds Cup

The Bears celebrate after their 5-4 win over Ravenwood Wednesday night. | Photo submitted

Staff Reports

After an opening round upset by No. 6 Indy-Summit Feb. 3, the Bears live to play again after winning their first game in the losers bracket and ending No. 7 Ravenwood’s season.

In the Feb. 3 Monday night 4-3 decision in the favor of Indy-Summit, they jumped out to an early lead and the Bears were able to answer each of their goals until a late goal in the third period proved to break the back of the Bears, sending them to continue the chase for the Preds Cup through the loser’s bracket.

Scoring for the Mt. Juliet/Wilson Central/Lebanon Hockey Club were Michael Settle, Logan Baskin, and Linden Palmer. Mark Broekhuizen stopped 13 of the 17 shots he faced as goalie.

In last Wednesday night’s game against Ravenwood, the Bears attacked early and ended up with a 5-4 victory, including a game-winning goal from Linden Palmer with 93 seconds left in the game.

Anthony Paponetti had a hat trick, scoring three goals on the night and earning the MVP gold jacket. Nick Redisi had a goal and two assists in the effort. Goaltender Michael Dillard got the win, turning away 12 of 16 shots.

The Bears continued their action Monday night, facing the Fighting Irish of No. 4 Father Ryan at Centennial Sportsplex.

Early voting begins for presidential primary

Staff Reports

Early voting for the Presidential Preference Primary begins Wednesday, Feb. 12, running Monday to Saturday until Tuesday, Feb. 25. Election Day is Tuesday, March 3.

The registration deadline to participate in the Presidential Preference Primary was Monday, Feb. 3.

“Interest is high as voters prepare to select leaders across all levels of government for the November ballot,” said Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett.

“Voters can take advantage of early voting since it offers the opportunities to find a convenient time and location to cast their ballots.” Voters can find early voting and Election Day voting locations, view and mark sample ballots and much more with the GoVoteTN app or online at GoVoteTN.com. Download the GoVoteTN app, for free in the App Store or Google Play.

“Polling locations and times can vary during early voting and on Election Day, so it is important to check that information with your county election commission through our GoVoteTN app,” Sec. Hargett said.

State law requires polling locations and the area within a 100-foot boundary surrounding each entrance to remain campaign-free zones. This includes the display or distribution of campaign materials and the solicitation of votes for or against any person, party or question on the ballot in these areas.

Tennesseans voting early or on Election Day should remember to bring valid photo identification with them to the polls. A driver’s license or photo ID issued by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security, by Tennessee state government or by the federal government are acceptable even if they are expired. College student IDs are not acceptable.
Wilson County CASA receives grant from The Healing Trust

Wilson County CASA recently received a grant from The Healing Trust, which awarded funds totaling $1.4 million in its most recent grant cycle. The Wilson County CASA grant was for $22,000 and will be used for the salary of a part-time Volunteer Coordinator.

Wilson County CASA provides trained volunteers who advocate for child abuse victims. These volunteers then serve by appointment of Juvenile Judge Barry Tatum to speak to the safety, well-being, and best interests of children who have come to the attention of the Court as a dependent child that is abused or neglected.

“We are deeply grateful for the life changing work done by these 23 grantee partners,” said President and CEO Kristen Keely-Dinger. “Their commitment to improving the health of the most vulnerable members of our community is inspiring.”

The mission of The Healing Trust, a private grant making foundation, is the sacred work of fostering healing and wholeness for vulnerable populations through strategic investing, philanthropy and advocacy.

Recipients of the contributions include non-profit organizations from 40 counties in Middle Tennessee that focus on advocacy, physical health, mental health, recovery from alcohol and drug abuse or healing from abuse, neglect and violence.

This year’s grants bring the collective grant making of The Healing Trust to over $94 million since 2002. The Trust, while created out of the sale of Baptist Hospital to Ascension Health/St. Thomas Health Services, is a private, independent foundation and is not affiliated with the St. Thomas Health Services or the St. Thomas Health Services Fund.

From TOY, PAGE 1

HELPED her enjoy learning.

She said being offered a chance to work at the school she attended felt like everything was coming full circle. She even got to work alongside some of the teachers she had while she was a student.

“Becoming a teacher at the school she grew up in as been a special experience.

“This is home for me. It would be really hard to see myself elsewhere,” she said. “I feel like it’s me giving back to the blessings I received over the years.”

“For me it’s giving back to the community and the home that I know, it’s definitely a special and unique feeling and experience all around. People come and go, but this has a special meaning — this place, this school and the community.”

Childress said W.A. Wright is like her second home.

“It laid the foundation first few years.

From her colleagues in her of college, she learned a lot about teaching from her school as Teacher of the Year send her school as Teacher of the Year. Her colleagues chose her to represent her school as Teacher of the Year. Because she started teaching right out of college, she learned a lot from her colleagues in her first few years.

“Being recognized as Teacher of the Year is a testament to how much they’ve invested and poured into me,” she said. “I wouldn’t be where I am. I’m not able to do everything I do without the support around me.”

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WHY ELITE?
The profitable nature of the scripture

In some ways, the Bible is under attack today ... and sadly, much of the attempt to dilute and discredit the scriptures is coming from within the church. Let’s take a fresh look.

The apostle Paul wrote to his spiritual son, Timothy, that “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.” If we will embrace the scriptures as our standard of life, we will find them useful for instruction. May we be at a place in our Christian walk that when faced with a decision, we immediately turn in our thoughts to how this decision might fit in the context of the instruction of the Word of God. It is important that we not segregate a verse out of the Bible to support our cause or desired goal, but rather allow the scripture to instruct us and adjust our cause or desired goal to the standard communicated by God’s Word.

Determine to require all other instruction to subordinate itself to the standard communicated to you by the Word. That doesn’t mean no other instruction is important or valid, but if it is to maintain validity, it must rest comfortably in the whole counsel of scripture. *For whatever was written in earlier times was written...

See F & M, PAGE 8

Larry Grainger
Abundant Life Church

Assembly of God
Lighthouse Church
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 LightHouse 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
109 Church of Christ
Belinda 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
Nonaville 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
Providance United Methodist*
Scott’s Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Williamson Chapel CME Church

Nazarene
Covenant Fellowship Church of the Nazarene
Pentecostal 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 Pences Cowboy Church
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If we all had a dollar for every time we overheard someone say, "They are about to get on my very last nerve," we’d all be rich, or at least richer. With that being the case, what exactly does someone mean by getting on one’s very last nerve? It surely can’t be a good thing from the sound of it. Another good question would be what is a last nerve? Is it the point that someone storms off, tells you what’s on their mind or has had enough? Well, I must be honest; I think we all know what getting on one’s very last nerve is. What I’d like to do is encourage everyone to please not let anyone get on your last or even your very first nerve.

Life is way too short to be agitated, aggravated or mad as a result of someone else’s actions through aggravation, intimidation, rudeness or other. We all can do a better job of controlling our anger, impatience and so-called nerves. Just remember to not let things get to you as easily or at all. Think about it, is letting someone that tailgates you in traffic, cuts you off or refuses to dim their lights worth getting you upset and ruining your day? I think not. If you have an encounter with someone rude, crude and disrespectful, especially in a driving or traffic situation, the best thing to do is ignore them. Playing into their game or letting them get to you only allows the agitator to win.

We’ve all probably been guilty of being on either side of this equation at one time or another, but wouldn’t the world be a much better place if we all treated one another with respect and courtesy? I can’t imagine trying would hurt in any way. I could only see it as helping and as our parents always said, two wrongs don’t make a right. If you have two people throwing hurtful remarks or actions at one another there’s sure to be hurt feelings, aggravation and even trouble. It’s sort of like arguing with your spouse and saying hurtful things during the process. You would think we would know better, but we just can’t seem to help ourselves at certain points. Think about it, is there ever any good that comes from arguing, aggravating or saying hurtful things? We know the answer, but most of us do it anyway only to regret it later.

So, if saying or doing hurtful things would bother you if the shoe were on the other foot, then you must know that it will probably not be taken in a positive manner by anyone else as well.

In closing, don’t be the person that gets on one’s last nerve; be the person that makes things better, not worse, for others.
Lily Crickmar of Mt. Juliet High School signed with Northwestern Oklahoma State University for rodeo.

Halle Jones of Mt. Juliet High School signed with Martin Methodist College for basketball.

Brett Robinson of Wilson Central High School signed with Cumberland University for football.

“Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction... therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.” 1 Corinthians 10:11-12

We have the gift of God in the form of the written accounts of our ancestors and their walk with God. Both the successes and failures are clearly illuminated so that we can draw from their experiences. Every parent’s desire is that their offspring not make the same mistakes as them, and yet the pattern usually continues because the offspring doesn’t partake of the experiential wisdom offered them. May we not make the same mistake and ignore the wanderings from the standard by those of whom the Scriptures testify.

Lastly, the main profit to be gained from the scriptures is that they paint a picture of the character of God and His expectations of us. We are certainly called and commanded to be godly people, and to understand exactly what that is we need to observe the Lord Himself and His character. What characteristics does God display in His Word? How does He respond in what might be an adverse situation? How does He respond and relate to you? These can all be answered by the Word of God and our embracing it as our benchmark. God is on display in the scriptures and it would be foolish of us to ignore the display.

www.tcomj.com
**EXIT Realty Lake Country arrives in MJ**

Staff Reports

Stacy Strobl and Kenny Lynn, regional owners of EXIT Southeast are pleased to announce the opening of EXIT Realty Lake Country’s 7th office under the direction of Aaron Dwyer and Christy Chitwood as EXIT Realty franchisees.

EXIT Realty Lake Country, located at 11316 Lebanon Road, Mt. Juliet, TN, 37122, is a member of EXIT Southeast’s rapidly expanding network of independently owned and operated brokerages across the region.

For more information about this brokerage, call 615-716-1700 or visit www.exitrealtylakecountry.com. For more information about EXIT Southeast’s region-wide expansion, please call 615-364-8122 or visit www.exitsoutheast.com.

EXIT is a proven real estate business model that has to-date paid out more than $460 million dollars in single-level residual income to its associates across the U.S. and Canada. EXIT Realty’s Expert Marketing Suite including geolocation Smart Sign technology gives home sellers the edge in a competitive marketplace.

The company’s Focus on Good Health initiative promotes wellness at work and home. A portion of every transaction fee collected by EXIT Realty Corp. International is applied to its charitable fund and to-date, $5.5 million has been pledged to charity.

From **TOURISM**, PAGE 1

through the Dancing Lights of Christmas, eating funnel cakes at the Wilson County Fair, and playing on the shores of Percy Priest Lake,” and he cannot wait to share those experiences with tourists in Wilson County.

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Service With A Smile

By Linda M. Eakes

My grandfather, C.B. Smith, came to Middle Tennessee from Cumberland County, Kentucky, in the late 1920s with Minnie, his wife, four small children, and not much else to work another man’s farm “on the shares.” Within a year or so, he was leading his farm wagon with produce, home made lumber ground by a hand-turned grinder, and my grandmother’s preserves and home canned fruit.

In the spring they added tub-fulls of buttercups to their stock, and he peddled these wares in Old Hickory. When he found the time, he made hickory rocking chairs, too. Fashioned from saplings bent by boiling water and backed and bottomed with oak, the chairs sold well.

In 1932, C.B. Smith brought the family to Mt. Juliet, and he became partners with S.O. Jennings in a grocery store (in the building of East Division Street now occupied by Beckwith Missionary Baptist Church). Within a few years, he was sole owner of the business, and in 1939 he built a new store building in the center of Mt. Juliet.

Constructed of concrete blocks and cement floors, the store’s cooling was provided by opened screen doors and windows and its heat by a Warm Morning stove which would serve as a village gathering place. Warren paint Co. decorated one side of the building with a picture of a gigantic paint can.

Smith’s Store in those days after World War II was quite different from grocery stores today. One example of that difference was the nature of its merchandise. A customer then could not only buy foodstuffs but could also outfit the family and the horses and mules at Smith’s. One could purchase seed, feed, tools, overalls, dress material, sewing supplies and hats. If a ready-made dress was desired, a dressing room consisting of a curtain fitted to a circle of pipe suspended from the ceiling covered the shopper to the ankles.

Pots and pans, coal oil, and the lamps in which to burn it, medicines for both human and animal complaints, fishing tackle, reading material (including hardbacks for 25 cents each), washtubs, lard stands, paint, curtains, blankets, diapers, rolls of fencing wire, Wallrite (very heavy paper that not only decorated walls but kept out drafts as well) and black tar roofing paper were in stock.

Long underwear was for sale in all sizes, as were winter coats. Horse and mule collars, horseshoes, rope, chain, plows, axe and hoe handles, tobacco in great variety, lace, ribbon and toys were available along with live hens. Baby chicks were special ordered and shipped by mail.

Customer service, too, was a bit different in my grandfather’s heyday. “Service with a smile” was his motto, and customers had choices as to how their orders would be filled. They could produce a list and call out an item to the clerk who went to the shelf or bin and got the merchandise. If the customer needed an article fastened high on the back wall, the clerks picked up a peculiar long metal device and used its claw-like gripper to take it down. Thus, item by item, the order was rung up on the hand cranked cash register.

Another method of service was for the customer to simply hand the clerk a list to be gathered. Then he could socialize a bit, perhaps while drinking a five cent Coke or eating a five-dips-for-a-nickel ice cream cone as he waited.

The most convenient service of all at Smith’s Store was for some ladies of Mt. Juliet to send a maid to the store with a list. After being boxed, the order was delivered in the 1936 international panel truck. If it was small enough, however, the order was packed into the roomy basket of a bicycle with “Smith’s Store” emblazoned across the front and pedaled to its destination.

Store packaging in the early 1940s was, unlike today’s individual plastic-wrapped portions, generally in bulk. Dried beans dumped into deep wooden bins were shoveled out with a hand turned metal scoop and weighed on scales hanging from the ceiling. Whiting (fish) arrived by the barrel steeped in brine and were “fished” out one-by-one with long-handled tongs. White pork “butts” came crusted with salt, packed in greasy cardboard boxes. Huge dill pickles floating in cloudy vinegar and home made lard in 50 pound stands could be dipped out according to customers’ needs.

A barrel of apples and 20 pound boxes of dried fruit stood open on display. Hoop cheese in great cloth-wrapped rounds were stored in wooden covered cases and customers brought empty jugs to be filled by a hand-pump inserted into the top of the vinegar barrel. Coarse salt, not the fine, free-flowing kind we know now but damp, sandy, not-quite-white salt, was presented in open 100 pound bags, as were potatoes and onions. Sugar cookies, fig bars, candy balls and jaw breakers exhibited in heavy glass containers sold for a penny a piece.

A further unique feature in my grandfather’s grocery business were his “Rolling Stores.” He stocked two huge vans, each with “Service with a Smile” painted on its side and set up regular routes around the countryside. My uncle, Charles Hugh (Hooty) Smith, worked one route while my grandfather or a hired man worked the other. While they drove the route, the store was managed by my mother, Mildred. Mr. McCorkle, who would later buy the business and continue it as McCorkle’s Grocery.

Each van was like Smith’s Store in miniature for on either side of its six foot aisle shelves running from floor to ceiling, carried all manner of goods. A narrow board nailed across the front of the shelves prevented items from falling. Wooden chicken coops, tubs, buckets, lard stands and a coal oil can hung on the outside of each van. Customers waited by the roadside to board the rolling stores and do their weekly shopping.

Systems of payment for groceries, too, differed greatly in Mt. Juliet in those early war years from those we know today. Cash was not always available and checking accounts were not common. No matter how payment was made, though, the government strictly required the ration coupons be counted out with each purchase. Barter was still a viable system for grocery shopping and “old” (cured) ham and jars of honey, home made sorghum and farm produce were often traded for store goods.

Fat hens, a good commodity to trade, went out back to the hen house. Fresh eggs, too, made good trading material, but these had to be “canned.” This was the use of a testing device made from a piece of cloth with a hole fastened over a lit-up electric bulb. (At one time, a
BLEDSOE, Ina Evolene

Ina Evolene “Evelyn” Bledsoe, age 86 of Mt. Juliet, died Feb. 6, 2020, peacefully at her home under the loving care of Avalon Hospice after a long hard battle with breast cancer and metastatic breast cancer.

Mrs. Bledsoe was the daughter of the late Herman Guy and Daisy Ann Young Denson. She was also preceded in death by her husband of 49 years, Charlie Farmer Bledsoe; siblings, Georgia Inez Bland and Freddie Denson; and her great-granddaughter, Avalyn Shaye Bright.

She is survived by: Children – Freda Gail (James) Bright, Charles Emmanuel (Fonda) Bledsoe and Angela Ann (Kerry) Howell; Sisters – Bobbie Sue (Joe) Sells and Doris Jean (Holley) Fowler; Grandchildren – James H. (Krista) Bright, III, Clint T. Wright, Derek E. (Julie) Coleman, Chaz S. (Sandi) Bledsoe and Andrew (Kayla) Coleman; Great-grandchildren – Aynslee Elyse Bright, Bradley Eugene Goolsby, Kennedy Jonell Coleman, Rilea Chase Coleman, Jaxon Lance Coleman, Kaylie Michelle Page and Kynndall Tillery Bright; Several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Feb. 11 at Sellars Funeral Home, Lebanon, and interment followed at Cedar Grove Cemetery.


ROWLAND, Vernon Albert Jr.

Vernon Rowland passed away Feb. 8, 2020, at age 28. The family will be receiving friends at Sellars Funeral Home, Lebanon, on Wednesday from 4-7 p.m. and on Thursday from 10 a.m. until the service. The Funeral Service is 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, in the chapel of Sellars Funeral Home.

Mr. Rowland is survived by daughter River Snow Mears and her mother Taylor Mears; mother: Faye Rowland; sister: Tammy Gibbs; brothers: Terry, Rick, and John Rowland; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins. He is preceded in death by father Vernon Rowland Sr. and sister Gina Seward. Sellars Funeral Home, Lebanon TN, 615.444.9393.

JONES, Russell Howard

Russell Howard, “Rusty” Jones, age 63 of Mt. Juliet, died Feb. 3, 2020. Rusty was the son of the late Howard Edward and Dorothy Lillian Bolling Jones. He is survived by: Children – Russell Howard “Dusty” Jones, Jr., Christianna Lynn Higham and Robert Shane “Bobby” Jones; Brothers – Bradley Eugene Jones and Donald Gene Grant (Rachel) Jones; Grandchildren – Wanda Lynn Higham, Kaya Rebecca Jean Higham and Isabella Amore’ Wood; Former wives – Robin Lynn Buchanan and Wanda Blanche Travis; Life-long friend since 6th grade – Jere Lane.

A Celebration of Life was held Feb. 7 at Bond Memorial Chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the charity of your choice.

Bond Memorial Chapel, N. Mt. Juliet Road and Weston Drive, Mt. Juliet, TN. (615) 773-2663. www.bondmemorial.com

The Chronicle of Mt. Juliet celebrates 37 years as Mt. Juliet’s longest-running news source. Distributed to 12,500 homes & business weekly, from local news to weddings to births announcements to garage sales. The Chronicle covers it all!
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candle actually served the testing purpose.) The end of the egg was placed into the hole, and its interior it up much as if it was being X-rayed. Clerks checked for suspicious eggs, while good eggs paid as well as cash at Smith’s Store.

Credit, of course, was easily obtained by regular customers. They paid their bills when checks or crops came in or when some family member got well. Grocery bills when checks or crops customers. They paid their easily obtained by regular cash at Smith’s Store.

The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee seeks scholarship applicants

Staff Reports

The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, a charitable organization connecting generosity with need in 40 Middle Tennessee and three Kentucky counties, announces its annual scholarship application process is now open and invites students to apply by March 15, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. Central Time, at www.cfmt.org.

The Foundation administers more than 125 scholarship funds, established by individuals, companies and civic groups. Students may be eligible for multiple scholarships and need only to submit one application.

Whether a student is studying law or horticulture, planning a career in criminal justice or teaching, or studying at a technical school or four-year university, The Community Foundation’s scholarship program supports individuals from various backgrounds and communities seeking funding for educational opportunities. “Getting an education is one of the most important milestones in life, but for many, it comes with a great burden,” said Ellen Lehman, president of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee. “We feel honored to help students receive a quality education, made possible by donors who wish to make a difference. It is a privilege to connect generosity with need in this way.”

In 2019, The Community Foundation awarded scholarships to 320 individual students totaling $715,850 in funding to students pursuing secondary educational goals at accredited schools throughout the United States. Scholarships offered in Wilson County include:

• Lebanon High School Scholarship Fund
• John and Belinda Havron Scholarship Fund
• Watertown High School Fund
• Jubilee Scholarship Fund

For a complete list of scholarships and the online application, visit The Community Foundation’s website at www.cfmt.org. For more information, call The Community Foundation at 615-321-4939. Applications must be submitted by March 15, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. Central Time. Applicants will be notified of results in mid-May.

The Community Foundation exists to promote and facilitate giving in the 40 counties of Middle Tennessee and beyond. It does this by accepting gifts of any size from anyone at any time and by empowering individuals, families, companies, nonprofits, and communities to respond to needs and opportunities that matter.

The Community Foundation works with people who have great hearts, whether or not they have great wealth, to craft solutions that reflect their intentions and goals.

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FOR MORE INFO!

CELEBRATING OUR 40TH YEAR AS
THE LEADING NEWSPAPER IN MT. JULIET & WEST WILSON COUNTY
CALM DOWN! I’m not talking about that “C” word. The c-word I’m referring to is wayyyyyy more offensive/obscene. In fact, this word has the power to divide life into the symbolic “before and after dimensions,” i.e. before kids/after kids, before marriage/after marriage, before social media/after lobotomy (I mean, social media), and so on.

Last week my brothers and sisters experienced the power of that word firsthand. One of our own, my sister Kathy, let us know something was different. There were mammograms, ultrasounds, a biopsy and then an appointment. It was during this appointment she was given results. The good news is it’s early and highly treatable. The bad news is … the good news still sucks.

To keep everyone in the loop, Kathy sent the report to me, my sisters Laura and Christy and Christy’s husband, Brian. It made sense that she would send it to Laura and Christy who are both nurses and Brian, a physician. I couldn’t understand why she sent it to me. Unless you count the 542 diseases I have according to the WebMD symptom checker, I really have no experience in reading medical reports. I read it anyway. I immediately called and told her to get to the hospital because it appears that she was already dead.

Soon she will have a plan of action. Laura and I will go to doctors’ appointments. Laura is going because she’s a nurse and can help interpret all the super scientific things that will be thrown at her. I’m going because I watched nine seasons of ER, twice. It’s called balance. (Side note: I implore anyone going through medical procedures to bring an advocate with you. Preferably an advocate with experience in the medical field.)

Kathy is very upbeat and feels good about the approaching treatments. She told me her new doctor is one of the top breast specialists in Middle Tennessee. I told her to check her facts because I knew several guys in college who made the same claim. All liars.

Since there will be a surgery, Laura put her impeccable organization/nurturing skills to work and created a recovery suite fit for our sister queen when she returns from surgery minus two glands.

In the meantime, I put my impeccable creative skills to work and created slogans for a new line of T-shirts that Kathy can wear to show how she plans to tackle this thing. So please do not be offended if you see her wearing T-shirts that say: “I wish it was you instead of me too!” “You’re right, you deserve this more than me.” Seriously, this is all in good fun. We want what’s best for our sister. There’s not another one on the planet like her. So, if laughter happens to be the best medicine, her prognosis is excellent.

Comments? Email becky@wilsonlivingmagazine.com
Local comedians headline MJCA fundraiser event

Staff Reports

Mt. Juliet Christian Academy welcomes all to attend an evening filled with laughter, music and art during this year’s Evening with the Arts: Showcase of Stars fundraising event on Thursday, Feb. 20.

Benefitting MJCA’s Fine Arts Department, the fun-filled evening will feature local comedians Jonnie W and John Driver in addition to the singing, dancing, artistic and musical talents of MJCA students, faculty and staff.

Headliner comedian Jonnie W entered the comedy scene with nothing more than a guitar and his razor-sharp wit. Now he entertains audiences nationwide and has even won the Bronze Crown Award for Best Comedy with his “LIVE at The Franklin Theatre” comedy special. Jonnie and his wife, Curry, live in Nashville because that is where all their stuff is.

Local comedian, minister and author John Driver will also perform at the fundraising event. Driver, the executive and teaching pastor at The Church at Pleasant Grove, is an MJCA dad and a supporter of the fine arts at MJCA.

Many people might recognize the names Jonnie Driver and Jonnie W from their podcast, “Talk About That,” where they hold funny, personal and real life conversations about faith and culture.

In addition to the comedy, the students, faculty and staff of MJCA will compete in a Talent and Art Show. Students competing in the Talent Show include Caroline Woolson, Abigail Whicker, Savannah Brewer, Callie Neville, Audrey Brown, Madeline Morris, Sadie Jennings, Tanner Jennings, and members of the Olivier family known as Ozone. The Art Show will feature the artistic talent of several MJCA secondary students. The winners of the talent and art shows will be announced after a memorable faculty and staff performance.

The event will also feature a silent auction and a free Popcorn Bar. All funds raised at this event will help supplement the efforts of the Fine Arts Boosters in providing quality seating for future live events at MJCA.

The $10 tickets are available for presale at MJCA. Tickets will also be available at the door on the night of the event, to be held in the MJCA Gymnasium. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the event kicking off at 6:30 p.m.

MJCA is located at 735 North Mt. Juliet Road. Call the school at 615-758-2472 or visit www.mjca.org/live-arts for more information.

LOCAL RESTAURANT & DINING GUIDE - HOUSTON’S

Houston’s is a family owned and operated butcher shop, grill, and catering kitchen nestled in the heart of North Mt. Juliet for 25 years. We started as a butcher shop in 1993, and developed into a premier purveyor of both fresh and prepared southern delicacies.

From the Meat Department:
USDA Choice Beef, USDA Prime Ribeyes, Coming soon! US grown Wagyu Beef, Individually portioned Seafood, Premium Pork, Fresh, never frozen Chicken, Ground Buffalo & Elk, and Buffalo Steaks.

From the Deli: Monday thru Friday, enjoy our Homemade Meat & 2, with Meatloaf Monday and Taco Salad Thursday being the favorites. 7 days a week, though, the grill is open for Houston’s made to order burgers, made from fresh ground chuck that is ground in house. Or try our Grilled Chicken Club or Grilled Pork Chop Sandwich.

From the Kitchen: We have a wide selection of deli salads, including Houston’s county famous Chicken Salad and Pimento Cheese. Our customers benefit from our family recipes faithfully prepared by the staff at Houston’s. If you have been to a wedding reception, family reunion, corporate event or team banquet in the last 15 years in Middle Tennessee, chances are Houston’s has served you. From groups of 20 to over 1000, we provide home cooking, full service catering, and on site grilling for the masses. Menus are available online, call or email for a customized quote on your event.

From the Smoker: Smokey Chopped chicken that can be purchased by the pound. Smoked Pork Loin and Sliced Beef Brisket are also available in our deli case. All smoked items are available as catering entrees.
Unemployment remains low in nearly all TN counties

Many counties ended 2019 with steady or lower unemployment than November

Staff Reports

New data released by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development showed the vast majority of counties in the state had unemployment rates below 5% during December 2019.

In December 2019, unemployment rates compared with the previous month decreased in 12 counties, increased in 55 counties, and remained unchanged in 28 counties.

Williamson County continued to have Tennessee’s lowest unemployment rate at 2.2%, which mirrored its November rate.

Davidson, Rutherford and Cheatham counties each had an unemployment rate of 2.3% in December. That number held steady for Davidson County, dropped by 0.1% for Cheatham County, and decreased by 0.1% in Rutherford County when compared to the November rates.

Lincoln and Clay counties recorded the state’s highest unemployment in December. Each has a rate of 6.2%, which amounted to a 1.8% increase for Lincoln County and 0.3% for Clay County. McNairy County also had a rate at or above 6%, which was 1.3% higher than in November.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment statewide held steady in December. The latest rate of 3.3% remained unchanged from Tennessee’s November unemployment rate.

Nationally, unemployment also showed no movement in December. The rate held steady at 3.5% for the last month of 2019.

Tennesseans looking for new employment opportunities will find more than 195,000 current job openings from across the state on Tennessee’s workforce development website, www.Jobs4TN.gov. They can also find job search assistance, resume writing tips, and job interview advice at more than 80 American Jobs Centers across the state.