THE CHRONICLE of Mt. Juliet
CELEBRATING OUR 38TH YEAR AS THE LEADING NEWSPAPER IN MT. JULIET AND WEST WILSON COUNTY | WWW.TCOMJ.COM
LARGEST CIRCULATION IN WILSON COUNTY • FEBRUARY 7, 2018 • VOLUME 38, NUMBER 6

MTEMC warns of scammers in service area

Staff Reports

Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation officials are warning members about some scam phone calls where fraudulent callers are posing as employees of Middle Tennessee Electric, contacting members, and claiming their account is past due and subject to cutoff.

“A number of our members have called us because they have received a call from scammers posing as MTEMC employees and threatening to disconnect their power,” said MTEMC Communications Coordinator Josh Clendenen. “Higher than average bills this time of year is what we believe is driving these scammers to begin calling again.”

MTEMC would like members to know if they are unsure if a caller is from the cooperative, they should hang up and contact the cooperative. In the event a member’s account is past due, they would receive an automated phone call notifying them of the past due nature of their account. MTEMC employees will never ask for their account or payment information unless the member initiates the call.

Also, MTEMC will never show up at a member’s home or business and ask to collect payment. If someone claiming to be an MTEMC employee asks for payment at your home or business, please contact the authorities immediately.

Bill payment methods at MTEMC include bank draft, online bill pay, pay by phone at 1-877-777-9020, pay by mail and pay in person during regular business hours.

“If you receive a high bill or you’re worried See SCAM, PAGE 11

Wilson County Fair signs new contract

Staff Reports

Tennessee’s largest county fair will debut a new carnival company in 2018. The Wilson County Fair in Lebanon has selected Reithoffer Shows to provide the rides, games and some food for the 2018-2020 Fairs, according to Richard Reithoffer, President, and Randall Clemons, President of Wilson County Promotions, parent company of the Wilson County Fair.

“We’re very pleased the Fair selected our show,” said Reithoffer. “It was a perfect fit — location and the fair wanting the best quality available. We were impressed with the Fair’s leadership; the directors are very committed, active and really involved in the Fair. This is the largest and best fair in Tennessee and one of the top 50 fairs in North America. We spent a lot of time reviewing operations, lot layout and discussing future plans. We

See FAIR, PAGE 8

Two arrested after burglary

Staff Reports

Two adult men were apprehended overnight Saturday after a citizen reported that they were actively breaking into a restaurant.

On Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018 around 12:13 a.m., officers were summoned to Don Pancho Mexican Restaurant, at 300 Pleasant Grove Road, in regards to an active burglary. An arriving officer witnessed the suspects fleeing the scene in a stolen Ford F250 pickup, and the suspects failed to stop for the officer.

Officers chased the suspects to Interstate 40 West, where the pursuit ended at the Nolensville Road and Thompson Lane intersection in Nashville. While entering the intersection, the suspects struck a minivan that was occupied by an adult male and female. Following the crash, both suspects

See ARREST, PAGE 2

Community Calendar

FEB 9 - 10
Home/Garden Expo
Fairgrounds

FEB 10 - 18
Book Drive
Wilson County Schools

FEB 12
School District Meeting
West Wilson Middle School

Additional information Page 2

Teachers of the Year

Danya Cole
Lakeview Elementary School

Patty Hunter
Gladeville Elementary School

By Sarah Tate
Managing Editor

This week, The Chronicle of Mt. Juliet will be featuring two teachers nominated for Wilson County’s Teacher of the Year, which will be announced at a banquet in April.

Danya Cole teaches kindergarten at Lakeview Elementary School. She is currently in her 27th year teaching and has taught

See TOY, PAGE 11
Each Office Independently Owned and Operated.

Donnie Meadows

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEB 8

Job Fair
HCA TriStar is holding a joint job fair for three division hospitals: GreenView Regional (Bowling Green, KY), Hendersonville, and Summit Medical Center. The event is being held from 5 to 8 p.m. at The Club at Fairview Plantation, 981 Plantation Blvd. in Gallatin. To RSVP or find out more about the event and HCA, visit http://tristar.joinhca.com.

FEB 9-10

Home/Garden Expo
The Southern Home & Garden Expo will be held Feb. 9-10 at the Wilson County Expo Center at the Fairgrounds in Lebanon. Friday 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission. Presented by Wilson Bank & Trust.

FEB 10

Rock the Community
Rock the Community 2018 will be held at Keller Williams Realty Feb. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free community rock painting event, fun for all ages. Paint rocks then hide them for the community to find later. Girl Scout cookies will be available for purchase from local Troop 1294. Boxes sold will support efforts to attend Camp Sycamore Hills this summer. Keller Williams is located at 2033 N. Mt. Juliet Rd.

FEB 10-18

Book Drive
From Feb. 10-18, Leadership Wilson is teaming up with the Wilson County School System’s Backpack Program to collect new or gently used books to donate to local children ages PreK-5. Drop off boxes at various locations in Mt. Juliet, Lebanon and Watertown.

FEB 11

Grief Share
Grief Share will be held at The Grace Place every Sunday from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. Located at 4316 Central Pike in Hermitage. Grief Share is a 13-week seminar/support group. You can join any time. www.griefshare.org

FEB 12 & 14

School District Meeting
Wilson County Schools will be hosting a series of community meetings in Mt. Juliet to discuss future growth. Administrators will provide information about the new high school in Mt. Juliet and discuss the anticipated rezoning of some middle school students in 2019 with the completion of Gladewater Middle School. Meetings will be held 6 p.m. Feb. 12 at West Wilson Middle School and 6 p.m. Feb. 14 at Mt. Juliet Middle School.

FEB 13

Election Commission
The Wilson County Election Commission will have its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 7 a.m. at the Election Commission Office at 203 East Main St., Lebanon, to conduct election business which comes before the commission pursuant to its duties and to conduct any other business that may come before the election commission at that time.

From ARREST, PAGE 1
were apprehended without further incident. An officer received a minor injury during the apprehension, but it was not related to an assault.
Mt. Juliet officers were assisted by Wilson County Sheriff’s Deputies in the apprehension, and the Metro-Nashville Police Department investigated the crash.
Further investigation revealed that the driver, identified as 31-year-old Jimmy Galindo of Nashville, was a wanted felon for more than 19 charges across Davidson, Williamson, Sumner and Dickson counties. He also has a revoked driver’s license and lengthy criminal history related to assault, illegal drugs, burglary and theft.
The passenger, 31-year-old Donnie Meadows of Nashville, also has a revoked driver’s license and a lengthy criminal history related to assault, illegal drugs, burglary and theft.

Detectives have been actively investigating two recent Mexican restaurant burglaries in Mt. Juliet, and it is possible that Galindo and Meadows are suspects in multiple Mexican restaurant burglaries in Mt. Juliet and across Middle Tennessee. Both were arrested and booked into the Wilson County Jail on the following:
Galindo: Conspiracy to Commit Burglary; Criminal Attempt to Commit Burglary; Unlawful Possession of Burglary Tools; Felony Vandalism; Resisting Stop/Halt/Frisk; Misdemeanor Evading; Unlawful Possession of Schedule I Drug (Heroin); $28,000 Bond.
Meadows: Conspiracy to Commit Burglary; Criminal Attempt to Commit Burglary; Unlawful Possession of Burglary Tools; Reckless Driving; Resisting Stop/Halt/Frisk; Misdemeanor Evading; Reckless Endangerment; Unlawful Possession of Burglary Tools; Felony Vandalism; $65,000 Bond.

The investigation is ongoing, and many additional charges are forthcoming.

Photo courtesy of MJPD

Early Saturday morning, two men in a stolen Ford F250 led police on a chase to Nashville before crashing into another vehicle in an intersection. The suspects were apprehended at the scene.

Shawn McMurry

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The Chronicle of Mt. Juliet, FEBRUARY 7, 2018 Page 3

 MJ Swim Teams compete in recent meets

The MJMS Swim Team had a good showing at the 2018 MTHSSAA Middle School Championship Meet Jan. 27 at Centennial Sportsplex in Nashville.

Out of 70 middle schools represented, the MJMS boys team finished third, and the team placed sixth in the combined standings. The MJMS team includes Sarah Heckman, Silas McGowan, Meyer Tinley, Ebony Carey, Lily Hendry, Carson Serbin, Rangi Sweetman, Bodie Working, Sophia Allen, Jamison Bush, Andy Donovan, Maddox Hardin, Lilly Howell, Owen Latta, Bethany Schwartz, Steven Sun and David Winsinger. They are coached by Josh Tinley and Gage Working.

The MJHS Swim Team had a Regions Meet Friday, Jan. 26.

The Girls A 200 Medley Relay received a 14th place medal with a time of 1:59.64 and the Girls 400 Free Relay finished with a 10th place medal and a time of 3:58.85.

Boys 200 Medley Relay finished with 2:09.69 and 200 Free Relay finished with 1:54.83.

“We had a great Regions Meet [Jan. 26] with a lot of good times,” said MJHS Coach Chris Hendry. “Although medals are great, what I really love to see is our swimmers working hard and improving throughout the season. This is exactly what I saw at regions with so many personal best times. I am very proud of our swimmers and the way they represented our team and Mount Juliet High School.”

The MJHS team includes Diana Araque, Simone Atkinson, Jules Atkinson, Abby Bennett, Haley Bennett, Ellie Bonner, Ben Fridelli, Shelby Hendry, Mark Hendry, Nicolette Hoeg, Jenny Howell, Natalie Huffman, Eileen Istré, Parker Lasson, Karina Lorenzo, Logan McPhee, Madison Myers, Brady Pope, Ethan Roberts, Chloe Sun and Hannah Vickers.
Local students make Tennessee Tech University fall Dean’s List

Mt. Juliet

Lebanon

www.tcomj.com
Mt. Juliet Elementary School
Second nine weeks

Principal’s List

2nd grade: Afonia Abel, Armia Adly, Avery Anderson, Sam Bauman, Draken Beck, Zoe Bennett, Katie Cecil, Aanya Dhawan, Jake Dwyer, Kolton Edenfield, Maddie Finney, Kevin Freeman, Camden Godbolt, Lily Griffith, LJ Grimal, Camden Godbolt, Maddie Finney, Kevin Dwyer, Kolton Edenfield, Ceci, Aanya Dhawan, Jake Beck, Zoe Bennett, Katie Armia Adly, Avery Anderson


Honor Roll


3rd grade: Annie Blackman, Katie Blair, Evan Buckner, A.J. Cason, Danny Chalk, Oliver Clarke, Kendall Cole, Chad Druen, Taymor Elekali, Ian Farley, Adelaide Fly, Rohan Ganachari, Bailey Gibb, Mayurika Girgis, Jodi Hardin, Joseph Hawkes, Liam Kloppel, Everett Lawson, Joazlynne Lewis, Lilly Lockwood, Miller Mayer, Travis Moreno, Dishar Pierce, Ange Riveria-Jimenez, Lily Rowe, Tyler Rupp, Emma Savage, Carson Spencer, Samantha Swierc, Savannah Szyperski, Alonzo Trivett, Zepplin Vawter, Conrad Wilson, Catherine Wilt, Averie Woelke, Alex Wood


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- Gary Branchaud

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Dr. Jennifer Moorhead, DDS

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MJHS alums accept award for college team

Staff Reports

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Club Tennis Team were the recipients of the Tennis on Campus Club of the Year. Men’s Team Captain Nathan Brown and Women’s Team Captain Taylor Bounds are both 2014 graduates of Mt. Juliet High School. They have been captains of the UTC Tennis Team for the past two years. The team will head to the National Championship in Florida later this spring to compete against other teams from around the country.

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Larry Grainger
Abundant Life Church

One of my favorite hymns is the Charles Austin Miles song “In the Garden.” The lyrics speak of a time when we are alone with the Lord and “He walks with me and He talks with me.” Miles continues by revealing “the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.” Have you ever met someone who has lost their joy? They offer an accurate impersonation of the folks on Hee Haw who would sing, “Gloom, despair, and agony on me; Deep, dark depression, excessive misery.” I will stop right there before I depress you so much you can’t even finish this article.

When I encounter miserable people, I wonder where along their way they lost or forfeited their joy. It is no secret that it is in the garden with the Lord Jesus that we find our joy. Jesus spoke to His disciples in John 15 about Him being the True Vine and we his followers are the branches. He calls us to fruitfulness and lets us know that if the branch isn’t bearing fruit, it’s because it isn’t attached. He repeatedly appeals to us to abide in Him and He will thusly abide in us. He describes what this looks like when He proclaims “If you abide in me, and My words abide in you, you will thusly abide in me.” He goes one step further when He points out that if we keep His commandments, it is then that we will abide in His love. And then He speaks these words, “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” Now, don’t you want your joy to be full? The fullness of our joy is found in the garden.

Often we get occupied with doing religious activities and we give our attention to the accou-
With many very serious and deadly fires tragically occurring all across our great county and state, having peace of mind and confidence in our safety plans and the safety of ourselves and our family is of paramount importance, as we all know. Every year, hundreds of accidental fires are caused by everyday household items being too close to an open flame or heating device. Many fires have been caused as a result of human error or outside burning during dry conditions.

With all this in mind, please make sure to keep all flammable materials such as curtains, furniture, debris and dust away or from heating ducts, coils and burners. Please double check for flammable materials or debris around or near your heating devices. Small portable heaters and heater vents and coils should also be kept clean and free of dust. It’s best to keep space and portable heaters at least three feet or one meter from anything that can burn.

Candles are also a major source of house fires each year. Most are either forgotten about or placed too close to flammable materials. Make sure candle holders are in a safe place where they can’t be knocked over. Kids should never be left alone with a burning candle. Leave the candles to the grown ups. Candles and matches should be placed or locked up high and out of the reach of small children.

When burning outdoors please make sure the weather conditions are suitable for outdoor burning. Many injuries, deaths and serious fires have been caused as a result of burning during less than safe and ideal conditions. To determine if weather and outdoor conditions are suitable, please contact your local fire department.

Every home should also have a fire escape plan, a fire extinguisher, smoke detectors and a carbon monoxide detector. Smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector batteries should be replaced every six months.

I would also ask that if any reader knows of any homebound senior citizen or anyone homebound to please check on them to make sure that their homes are prepared for the frigid temperatures. Extremely low and high temperatures kill hundreds of citizens every year so please keep them in mind throughout the year. It is also said that 1 in 15 homes has high levels of radon, so please test your homes for radon as well.

God Bless You All.

Wilson County Schools to hold book drive

Leadership Wilson is teaming up with the Wilson County School System’s Backpack Program to collect new or gently used books to donate to children in the county. The book drive will last Feb. 10 through Feb. 18.

The age-appropriate books will be distributed to local elementary students ages Pre-Kindergarten to 5 years old.

Drop-off boxes will be available at many locations throughout Mt. Juliet, Lebanon and Watertown.

Mt. Juliet locations include Providence United Methodist Church, Green Hills Church, The Church at Pleasant Grove, and US Community Credit Union.

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The Goat had its ribbon cutting with the Mt. Juliet Chamber of Commerce Friday, Feb. 2, 2018. The restaurant and bar is located at 1127 Westwood Blvd. near Providence.

Photo by Phyllis Robinson

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want to be a part of their master plan to make the Fair even better.”

Reithoffer said Lebanon is mid-way on the Reithoffer travel route from the New Jersey State Fair to the New Mexico State Fair in Albuquerque.

“It is not quite half way, but pretty close,” said Reithoffer. “The stars were aligned relative to travel and availability.”

Clemons, having served as treasurer of the Fair for 38 years, became president of the Fair, following the death of longtime President Hale Moss. Clemons said the Fair wanted to seek the best carnival available — more spectacular rides, electronic ticketing and creative thinking for the future.

“Our executive board did a thorough job of reviewing carnivals, and in the end, Reithoffer Shows was our best fit for the Fair,” said Clemons. “We liked the rides, staffing, new ticketing system, quality and cleanliness of the rides. We studied all areas of their business and Reithoffer had the entire package and they were available.”

The Wilson County Fair is located 20 miles east of the Nashville metro market, one of the fastest growing areas in America. 2017 Fair attendance was 488,299. The 1000-plus member volunteer Fair gave more than 77,000 hours to produce the Fair, which encompasses 270 acres, 150 events and more than 14,000 exhibits.

A highlight of the facility includes more than 50 buildings of Tennessee history and lore called Fiddlers Grove. The latest addition to Fiddlers Grove is the Moss Feed Store constructed in 2017 by the Moss Family and the Fair Board in memory of the late Hale Moss.

The Wilson County Fair is also the home of a new 78,000-square-foot expo center at the James E. Ward Agricultural Center, which was the dream of Moss and the volunteers for more than 20 years. The expo center has taken the Fair to another level with competitive exhibits, fair pageants and Hometown USA located in the facility.

Reithoffer Shows is one of the largest mobile amusement companies in North America. Begun 122 years ago by German-born Julius Reithoffer, with a steam powered carousel in Pennsylvania, the company has grown to include 100 rides, as many as four units on the road and new technology including electronic ticketing.

Reithoffer Shows is regarded as one of the top carnivals to purchase spectacular rides, many of them from Europe. Reithoffer said the Blue Unit will play the fair, providing approximately 50 rides, including two roller coasters and the largest portable slide in North America.

Reithoffer Shows annually plays more than 50 events, including state and county fairs, festivals and corporate functions.

The Galaxy Roller Coaster is a popular ride with fairgoers across the country. Wilson County Fair recently signed a contract with Reithoffer Shows to provide rides, games and foods for upcoming fairs in 2018-2020.

Above: Reithoffer and Wilson County Fair officials review details of the new carnival/fair agreement. Seated L-R: David Hale, Richard Reithoffer, Bobby Pugh; Standing L-R: Jimmy Comer, Johnnie Webb, Randall Clemons, Joe Holbrook, Terry McPeak, Lyndon Lafevers; (Not pictured: Karen Johnson, Lynnette Taylor and Donnie Steed).
Jim and Shari Adair were crowned King and Queen of the Mt. Juliet Senior Center in a benefit held at Sister’s Whimzy, located at 2396 N. Mt. Juliet Rd., on Thursday, Feb. 1. Carmelita Stafford (left) is Chair of the Fundraising committee, and Brenda Farmer (right) is Chair of the Board.

Hall retires from Mt. Juliet Family Vision

Staff Reports

In August of 1989, the doors of Mt. Juliet Family Vision opened and began serving Mt. Juliet and surrounding communities. One of the first families to enter through the front doors of the new business and become patients was the Hall family, Kathy and Lester and their two children, Leslie and Laura. That initial professional relationship soon became a friendship.

In September of 1994, Kathy was approached about filling the newly vacant Receptionist position. She accepted and as the saying goes, “the rest is history.” Kathy not only became the new receptionist, she became a great asset to the business in many ways. She was soon promoted to Office Manager and coordinator of the optical dispensary.

To many of their patients over the past twenty-three years, Kathy became the face and voice of Mt. Juliet Family Vision. To her coworkers, her warm smile, bubbly attitude and willingness to help have been a joy to watch. Anyone who ever entered the office knew Kathy truly went above and beyond with everything she did.

During her tenure at Mt. Juliet Family Vision, Kathy has not only been an employee and friend, she has become their family. They have been blessed to share so much of their lives with each other, including weddings, funerals, meals and church functions. They feel they can never express how much they truly appreciate and admire this wonderful woman.

On Thursday Feb. 15, 2018, Kathy Hall will be retiring. They cannot let this special lady leave without letting her know how much she will be missed. The public is invited to drop in and out that day between the hours of 3 and 7 p.m. during an Open House celebration of her more than twenty years of service and friendship.

The doctors and staff want to wish Kathy Hall, her husband, Lester, daughters Leslie (Hudson) and Laura (Henley), sons-in-law David Hudson and Russ Henley, and grandchildren, Daniel, Shelby, Luke and Max the very best in health and happiness in the coming years. The grand-children can now have even more time with “Minnie” and “Big L.”

“Kathy, we will miss your daily presence and wish you a joyous and well-deserved retirement. You have earned it. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your invaluable help, friendship and love over these many years. We love you more than words can ever convey,” said doctors Mike, Pete and Kevin Davis.

Tech training scholarships granted to Goodwill

Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee has kicked off a partnership with Google and Coursera, a leading online education provider, to help learners acquire the skills they need to start a career in information technology. With cutting-edge courses, hands-on labs and more, the Google IT Support Professional Certificate being offered through Goodwill Career Solutions is designed to take beginning learners to job readiness in eight to 12 months.

“We are thrilled to be able to offer this valuable program free-of-charge to qualified Middle and West Tennessee residents who are interested in launching an IT career,” said Goodwill President and CEO Matthew Bourlakas. “This program perfectly aligns with our mission of changing lives through education, training and employment.”

Google.org is providing scholarships and full financial assistance to 10,000 learners over the next year. A portion of those seats are with Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee and other nonprofit partners. Those who complete the program will have the opportunity to share their resumes with top companies across industry sectors and across the country who are hiring entry-level IT support, including Bank of America, Walmart, Sprint, GE Digital, PNC Bank, Infosys, TEKSystems, UPMC and Google.

This first-of-its-kind IT certificate will give aspiring professionals a hands-on IT experience. Through Coursera’s platform, learners will be able to learn on the go with short engaging videos interspersed with interactive labs that simulate on-the-job troubleshooting.

Students receiving scholarships through Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee will receive not only the online instruction but also hands-on learning and support services, such as job placement assistance. Registration for classes is now under way.

Just last year, there were 150,000 job postings for IT Support roles in the United States alone.

“Finding qualified IT personnel is a challenge many companies face. With 150,000 open roles in IT support, it is one of the fastest growing occupations in the country,” said Ben Fried, vice president and chief information officer at Google.

“We developed this curriculum to address this problem head on. We are looking forward to working with Coursera, our nonprofit grantees and participating corporations to create opportunities for thousands of learners.”

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CLARK, Anna Marie
Anna Marie Clark, age 85 of Stuart, Virginia, formerly of Richmond, Ind. and Mt. Juliet, Tenn., passed away at her home on Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2018. She was born on Aug. 21, 1932 to the late D.T. “Doc” and Millie Ann Dens of Sparta, Tenn.
In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by an infant daughter Nancy Ann; and ten brothers and sisters: Reed Dens, Jessie Clark of Stuart, Virginia; two grandsons Jeffrey Clark of Stuart, husband of 69 years, Dudliet. She is survived by her

FISHER, Berta
Berta Fisher, a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend, passed away on Jan. 29, 2018 at the age of 87. Funeral Services were held Feb. 3 at Sellars Funeral Home, Mt. Juliet, and interment will follow at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family request donations be made in honor of Ber- ta to The Brain Aneurysm Foundation; 269 Hanover Street, Building 3, Hanover, MA 02339.


RODGERS, Cynthia Ann
Cindy Rodgers passed away on Feb. 2, 2018 at age 60. The family will be receiving friends at Sellars Funeral Home, Leba-non, on Wednesday from 10 a.m. until the service. The Funeral Service, con- ducted by Marty McCaleb, is 11 a.m., Feb. 7 in the chapel of Sellars Funeral Home. Interment in Brush Creek Cemetery will follow the service.

Mrs. Rodgers’ smiling face greeted customers at McDonalds with a “honey baby,” “darlin’,” and later “angel” for 42 years. She was a “blessing” in so many ways to so many people.

Pickens, Jim
Jim Pickens, age 67 of Lebanon, passed away on Jan. 30, 2018. A Celebration of Life Service was held Feb. 2 at Light House Church in Mt. Juliet.
He is survived by chil-dren, Chris (Tanya) Pickens and Angie Kough; grandchildren, Maddi, Matt, Braydon, and Bryson; sister, Sandra (Emmett) Wood; nephew, Todd Wood; niece, Allyson Hobbie.


SPURLING, Irene
Irene Kindrick Spurling passed away on Jan. 27, 2018, at age 80. Her pas-sion for living was evident in the love and care she extended to her husband, children, grandchildren and many friends through-out her eighty years. Al- though she was a devoted mother and grandmother, family wasn’t Irene’s only passion; she was a book- keeper by trade, and was a voracious reader of all books. She was a lover and student of history, particu-larly English and Scottish. She was passionate about politics - she was not shy about her staunch Repub- lican leanings. She was passionate about sports - even in times of sickness, you could find Irene cheer-ing her beloved Vanderbilt football and basketball teams. She was passionate about her faith, as a long-time member of the Peyton Road Church of Christ. She was a friend to the end, beloved by her fami- ly, friends and caretakers, and will never be forgotten.

Her family extends a special thank you to Home Instead Senior Care and Kindred Hospice, who were there for Irene as her earthly journey conclud-ed. We rejoice that she is reunited in Heaven with her beloved husband of fifty-two years, James Spur ling; parents Virgil and Haz-el Farmer Kindrick; and siblings Tommy Kindrick, Avery Kindrick, Dennis Kindrick, Edwin Kindrick, Eugene Kindrick and Lenice Potter.

She is survived by her children, Jamey (John Taylor and James “Kirk” Spurling (Amanda), and her grandchildren Jamey Marie Spurling and James Cody Spurling.
A Memorial Service in honor of Irene’s life was conducted Feb. 3 at Sellars Funeral Home, Lebanon.
Sellars Funeral Home, Lebanon TN,615.444.9393.
Cooking Channel to feature Tennessee State Fair

Staff Reports

The Cooking Channel heads to Nashville for its “Carnival Eats” episode in mid-February featuring a host of fun items often found at the Tennessee State Fair.

Airing Thursday, Feb. 15, the program will show off a number of midway treats that have proven to be favorites of fair-goers.

“The foods found at the Tennessee State Fair are now as much of a tradition as the Fair itself,” said John Rose, who chairs the Tennessee State Fair Association, the nonprofit group responsible for producing the event each year.

Rose described the State Fair as a venue for educational opportunities, a place for Tennesseans to exhibit their crafts and talents, a stage for the state’s agricultural industry, and a potpourri of attractions, events and competitions that lure the interest of more than 100,000 annually who attend the Fair.

But he said the Fair also provides an opportunity for wholesome family fun and entertainment which he said includes the tastes and smells of specialty foods found on the carnival’s midway.

An ongoing feature of the Cooking Channel, “Carnival Eats” has developed a series of episodes by visiting different locations across the country and focusing on the variety of foods found at fairs and carnivals midways.

The show selected Nashville and the Tennessee State Fair for its production in February several months ago. Along with the Tennessee State Fair, the show will also feature the Washington State Fair in the same episode.

According to officials with the State Fair, the actual time on Feb. 15 that the Tennessee State Fair episode will be broadcast may vary in different locations across the state.

The show is scheduled to be broadcast at 8 p.m. CST in several markets, but viewers are encouraged to check local TV listings regarding the Cooking Channel’s “Carnival Eats” program to find the broadcast time in their particular area.

From TOY, PAGE 1

at Lakeview for 14 years. Though she previously has taught second and third grade, she enjoys kindergarten, which she has taught for 20 of her 27 years.

“I love teaching them how to read,” she said. “When they come in, I want them to love school and I love it when they’re fresh. They are so eager to learn.”

Teaching her students, of which she currently has 17, how to read and teaching them higher numbers in math is part of why she enjoys what she does.

Cole knew she always wanted to teach, and she received her Early Childhood Education degree from Western Kentucky University.

“[Education] is the road to the beginning of your life,” she said. “You can come from any path and education will lead you anywhere you need to go.”

Cole said she feels strongly that every child deserves to go to kindergarten and be with peers their own age so they can grow and learn from each other.

She is very passionate about what she does, saying she teaches kindergarten because she loves it and not because she has to teach. It is more than a job to her.

“I just want them to love to come to school,” she said.

Cole enjoys teaching at Lakeview because of the great community. Some teachers even went to Lakeview when they were younger.

“They are the ones so involved and the faculty is like a family,” said Cole.

In regards to being named Lakeview’s Teacher of the Year, she said she feels humbled but embarrassed because all of the teachers are deserving of the honor.

“It’s very humbling that your peers nominate you for this position, but there’s so many deserving teachers, so I feel very humbled,” she said. Patty Hunter teaches fourth grade math and science at Gladeville Elementary School. She taught in Texas for 20 years before moving to Tennessee, where she is in her fourth year with Gladeville.

She graduated Texas State University with a degree in Elementary Education and has always known she wanted to be a teacher. She particularly enjoys teaching the older students.

“Fourth graders are amazing,” said Hunter. “They can think critically. You can ask them questions and get interesting responses. They think deeply about things and they question things.”

She said their independence and curiosity makes teaching fun because she can help stretch their skills and comprehension.

The community is another reason Hunter enjoys teaching at Gladeville.

“Gladeville Elementary has a very loving, caring environment,” said Hunter. “All around the school, teachers work well together. There’s a huge teamwork feeling.”

In her science class, Hunter has her students do many hands-on activities and experiments, which gets them excited about learning. They even follow the Iditarod race, with the students researching the race and choosing a musher who they think will win.

Hunter said children are naturally curious and want to learn and that a teacher’s goal should be to continue that. She also said that every day is different, and that is a part of what makes teaching fun.

“I like learning, and I like to see those moments where kids get excited to learn something new and watching them grow and knowing that I can make a difference in somebody’s life,” she said.

Hunter said she was honored and excited to learn she was chosen Gladeville’s Teacher of the Year by her colleagues.

“I was very excited that I won because there were six other fantastic teachers,” said Hunter. “I’ve been teaching 24 years, so it was nice to have that moment of being recognized.”

Hunter said there a lot of teachers at Gladeville who also deserve this award, but she thanks all those who nominated or voted for her.

Along with her colleagues and the Wilson County School System, she is also thankful for the sponsors and community for their continued support of teachers.
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Mt. Juliet will have a Public Hearing on Monday, February 12, 2018 at 6:15 p.m. to hear comments on the following items to be considered: Annex into the corporate boundaries of the City of Mt. Juliet, and to amend the zoning classification of approximately 14.87 acres of land located at 8530 Saundersville Road from Wilson County Residential (R-1) to Mt. Juliet Single Family Residential (RS-20), said property being found on Wilson County Tax Map 032, Parcel 038.06, and being located within the City’s Urban Growth Boundary. The public is invited to attend and comment.

Kenny Martin, City Manager
City of Mt. Juliet

Land’s End Property
Tax Map 032, Parcel 038.06
(Saundersville Rd.)

Rezone to RS-20

14.87 +/- Acres

GRAND JURY NOTICE

It is the duty of your Grand Jurors to investigate any public offense which they know or have reason to believe had been committed and which is trial able or indictable in this county. Any person having knowledge or proof that such an offense has been committed, may apply to testify before the Grand Jury subject to the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, section 40-12-105.

The foreman in this county is presently, Jeff Millhollin.

The Grand Jury will meet on Monday, February 12, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

You may be prosecuted for perjury for any oral or written statement which you make under oath to the Grand Jury when you know the statement to be false and when the statement touches on a matter material to the point in question.

The public is invited to attend and comment.

Kenny Martin, City Manager
City of Mt. Juliet

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Are you there, God? It’s me, Becky.

My children, like most I suppose, never got the hang of the art of whispering. This was especially true when they were three and seven-years-old. They demonstrate this best in places like church, the library, and once during a funeral service. For this reason, we always sat in the balcony during church services.

Even though we sat in the “nosebleed” section, there were occasions where I was surprised we weren’t asked to leave because of the wrestling match going on between our children in the middle of The Lord’s Supper. No amount of bargaining, stink-eye looks or threats made through clenched teeth made a difference. That only aggravated the situation.

My mother-in-law was always shocked when she attended services with us. As soon as we would leave, she’d share stories of how Jay never made a peep in church and at two-years-old, probably could have led the service on his own.

One Sunday the pastor had just made the last announcement and was leading congregants into the final prayer. I was so excited that we had almost made it through an entire service without as much as a peep from our kids. As I was about to pat myself on the back and thank Jesus for his divine intervention making my children behave, my youngest snapped me back into reality with a question.

In a tone that could only be described as blaring, he shouts out his query. While the timing was off, it could not have been more appropriate.

“Mama!”

“Quiet, Jack. We’re praying!”

“Mama! I have a question. IT’S IMPORTANT.”

“What is it? And whisper!”

“What’s God’s last name?”

“What? God’s last name?”

I came late to religion, so this made me fear the wrong answer would be forthcoming. I searched and searched, and finally, with beads of sweat forming on my forehead, it came to me.

“MAMA! What IS God’s last name?”

“It’s Christ. I think it’s Christ.”

“No, it’s not!” My husband chimed in. “That’s Jesus’ last name. God’s last name is Almighty. Yep, that’s it. God’s last name is definitely Almighty.”

About this time I caught the stare of my mother-in-law who was listening in on our conversation with a look of disdain. She got my husband’s attention and gave him that, “You need to be quiet” look. Before I could give her the “You’re not the boss of us” look, the prayer ended.

When I told friends about this conversation, everyone shared a nervous laugh. I’m not sure if they laughed because I thought Jesus’ last name was Christ and Jay thought God’s last name was Almighty or maybe because none of us really knew the answer. I think that question posed by a five year old all those years ago was God’s way of telling us to pay more attention in church.

Comments? Email becky@wilsonlivingmagazine.com

By Becky Andrews
Wilson Living Magazine
First Freedom Bank announces four new promotions

Staff Reports

First Freedom Bank is excited to announce promotions for four of its staff members. Each of these individuals started with First Freedom in an entry level position. Their promotions are reflective of their hard work and the company’s focus to educate, train and promote from within.

Laura Johnson

Laura Johnson AAP, CAMS, CBSM, Assistant Vice President and Deposit Operations Manager, has been promoted to Vice President.

Johnson started with First Freedom in March of 2008 as a Financial Services Representative. She immediately demonstrated strong operational skills and was assigned to the deposit operations area two months later. Progressing quickly, Johnson was promoted to Deposit Operations Supervisor in January of 2011 before being promoted to Operations Officer and Deposit Operations Manager in June of 2013. In 2017, Johnson was promoted to Assistant Vice President.

Johnson has 18 years of banking experience, compounded by a specialized education revolving around bank automation, money laundering and information security. Johnson holds the Accredited ACH Professional certification (AAP) from National Automatic Clearing House Association (NACHA), the Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist certification (CAM) from the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists and the Certified Banking Security Manager designation (CBSM) from the SBS Institute.

Laura Morris

Laura Morris, Operations Officer and Loan Operations Manager, has been promoted to Assistant Vice President.

Morris started with First Freedom in November of 2011 as a Financial Services Representative. As a result of her interest in loans and background in Accounting, she was promoted to Loan Operations in December of 2012. In August of 2016, Morris was promoted to Loan Operations Supervisor before being promoted to Operations Officer and Loan Operations Manager in January of 2017.

Morris has eight years of banking experience. She holds an Associate Degree in Accounting from Everest College. Originally from Portland, Michigan, Morris is a graduate of Watertown High School and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology from Middle Tennessee State University. She has taken additional classes in the areas of training and communication through the Tennessee Bankers Association. She resides in Watertown with her husband, Jeremy, and daughter, Kaylee.

Kayla Ring

Kayla Ring, Construction Specialist, has been promoted to Bank Officer and will function as the Construction Manager. In this role, Ring now has responsibility for document, structuring, closing, inspecting and funding of the bank’s residential construction loan portfolio.

Ring started with First Freedom in August of 2013 as Financial Services Representative before quickly being promoted to FSR Manager in November of 2013. In September of 2015, Ring was promoted to Construction Specialist where she assisted in the management of the bank’s new and existing construction loans.

Ring has 10 years of total banking experience. She has completed multiple training modules through the Tennessee Bankers Association in the areas of cash flow, credit analysis and credit documentation. Ring is a Wilson County native and a graduate of Wilson Central High School. She currently resides in Bethpage with her husband, Michael, and their son Aiden.

Sarah Poss

Sarah Poss, Personal Banker and Marketing Specialist, has been promoted to Bank Officer and will function as the bank’s Marketing Officer. She will also continue to serve as a Personal Banker in the Providence Office.

Poss started with First Freedom in January of 2015 as a Financial Services Representative. By the end of the year, her performance warranted a promotion to FSR Manager for the Lebanon Office and Training Coordinator for the entire company. In May of 2016, Poss was instrumental in establishing and eventually managing the bank’s uniform operational audit process throughout the company’s footprint. In June 2017, Poss was promoted to Personal Banker and Marketing Specialist in the company’s Providence Office.

A native of Detroit, Michigan, Poss is a graduate of Watertown High School and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology from Middle Tennessee State University. She has taken additional classes in the areas of training and communication through the Tennessee Bankers Association. She resides in Watertown with her husband Justin.

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The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) recognized Cedars of Lebanon State Park with the 2017 Award for Excellence in Resource Management for protecting rare plant species, preserving historical records and more.

“Cedars of Lebanon has done a phenomenal job to protect and preserve the natural beauty of the area as well as the cultural significance of the park,” said TDEC Deputy Commissioner of Parks and Conservation Brock Hill.

The park has successfully revitalized 75 acres of degraded open meadow. The area was formerly used by private landowners for crop production and grazing. Park staff developed a land management plan that includes prescribed burns, chemical applications for invasive plant control, thinning of fence rows and planting of native grasses.

In conjunction with TDEC’s Division of Natural Areas and the Tennessee Plant Conservation Alliance, park staff housed and cared for the critically impaired Running Glade Clover plant species. The park will relocate more than 200 plants to park property and state natural areas within the Cedars of Lebanon State Forest.

The historical significance of the park is obvious in the craftsmanship of some of the facilities as well as the stories passed down within the community. Several original structures remain that date to the park’s founding during the Works Progress Administration in the Roosevelt-era. Several cabins and the iconic Cedar Forest Lodge received upgrades in 2017 that maintain the space’s historic character.

“Our lodge sees hundreds of weddings and private events each year,” said Park Manager Wayne Ingram. “I think the public is so drawn to it because of the historical beauty it offers combined with the modern-day amenities.”

With a grant from the Tennessee State Archives, hundreds of documents and artifacts have been catalogued and preserved for the public to explore. In addition to physical keepakes, the park plans to record oral histories of area families whose land became park property in the late 1930s. Other improvements include the construction of a half-mile ADA-compliant trail funded by a $150,000 Recreation Trails Program grant. Once completed, the loop will take visitors through the Nature Center’s Butterfly Garden to the eastern end of the meadow. The Annual Park Awards of Excellence – which honor five parks annually – were created to recognize exceptional work within Tennessee State Parks. The 2017 award winners were recognized at the Tennessee State Park annual park management conference in January at Montgomery Bell State Park. Parks are nominated by TDEC staff and voted on by Tennessee State Park leadership.

Additional 2017 winners include: David Crockett Birthplace State Historic Park (Interpretation), Henry Horton State Park (Innovation), Montgomery Bell State Park (Sustainability) and Sergeant Alvin C. York State Historic Park (Park of the Year).

Cedars of Lebanon is located at 328 Cedar Forest Rd. in Lebanon.