City breaks ground on new greenway

The City of Mt. Juliet held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Town Center Trail at Eagle Park on March 11. | Photo courtesy of Mt. Juliet Chamber of Commerce

By Sarah Tate
Managing Editor

The City of Mt. Juliet held a groundbreaking ceremony Monday, March 11, for the new Town Center Trail greenway at Eagle Park on West
See TRAIL, PAGE 11

Community Calendar

MARCH 14
Health Fair
MJ Senior Center

MARCH 16
Free Groceries
Life Church

MARCH 17
Blood Drive
Celebration Lutheran Church

Additional information
Page 3

Couple shares poll officials spotlight

Staff Reports

This is the third in a series of articles profiling poll officials in Wilson County. Each election more than 300 Wilson County voters greet with a smile their neighbors and fellow Wilson Countians when they come to Early Vote at any of the five locations or on Election Day at their assigned polling place.

Jim and Maxine Bell have spent their lives focused on their faith, family and community.

Faith has always been a major part of Jim and Maxine’s lives. Jim has been a member of Mt. Juliet’s First Baptist Church since 1947. He and Maxine met at a Halloween party at the church. Maxine came from her home in Watertown to visit family in Mt. Juliet and, by chance, attended the party and met Jim. Maxine recalls that when Jim would come to Watertown, her mother would always have a freezer of ice cream ready for him.

The courtship continued after they graduated from high school, Jim from Mt.
See BELLS, PAGE 2

Teachers of the Year

By Sarah Tate
Managing Editor

This week’s feature on nominees for Wilson County Teacher of the Year is Rob Ruslavage.

Rob Ruslavage is a CIP teacher at Stoner Creek Elementary School, where he has been for the last five years.

The class he teaches originally started at Rutland Elementary before the school expanded to two campuses, moving the program to Stoner Creek. He was a teacher at Rutland for one year but was an aide in the program for the three years prior.

Ruslavage originally got a degree in mechanical engineering from Penn State University. He worked for a while before becoming a stay at home dad. When his children were old enough to start school, he decided to
See TOY, PAGE 11
PROPERTY & MORTGAGE FRAUD

Hello Wilson County Residents. According to the FBI, property and mortgage fraud is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States. When I took office in September, several citizens called me with concerns about property fraud. After looking into this matter, I found that the closest fraud was in Rutherford County. That is our neighboring County. I took an oath to protect and serve the citizens of this County to the best of my ability. So, I decided to team up with (BIS) Business Information System in Rutherford County. That is our neighboring County. I took an oath to protect and serve the citizens of the County to the best of my ability. So, I decided to team up with (BIS) Business Information System to implement a Property Fraud Alert Program into the Register of Deeds Office. WE CAN NOT PREVENT FRAUD, but we can catch the fraud before it gets too far, so that you can take appropriate action to resolve the problem. Go to WWW.WILSONDEEDS.COM AND CLICK Fraud Alert. Enter your name as many ways as it is on your documents. Such as John D Smith, John Smith, John Doe Smith. Enter all ways and add spouse as well. You will need to enter your email address and then submit.

If your email ever changes, you will need to update the information to stay current. If a document is recorded in the Register of Deeds Office with your name, you will get an email stating so. If you know you haven’t filed a document, call our office check on this to confirm it was or wasn’t you. Fraud Alert is 24/7 monitoring and it is FREE to you. I encourage you to sign up for peace of mind. Also, if you receive a letter from a Company stating, “your name is on file and we will supply you with them at anytime for FREE. They are your documents. This Company uses our web site to furnish you with these documents at a price. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Wilson County Register of Deeds. Stop by the office anytime to say hello, would love to see you. If you have any questions, please call the office at 615-443-2611 or email Jackie.Murphy@wilsoncountytn.gov

From BELLS, PAGE 1

Juliet High School in 1953 and Maxine from Watertown High School in 1954. Jim would pick up Maxine and drive her home when she attended Belmont and later MTSU. Jim joined the Army and was stationed at Fort Rucker in Alabama. They married three months before he left the Army in 1958. For the last 54 years, Jim and Maxine have lived in the same house. Four generations of the family gather at their home for holidays and family events. Their sons, Greg and Tim, have nine children. The Bells have five great-grandchildren. Faith and education are words heard often when the proud parents of a minister and career educator talk about their two sons and their families. All nine grandchildren have graduated from college or are attending college. Faith and family are inseparable in the Bell family.

Jim and Maxine Bell have a rich history in Wilson County. In 1939, Jim’s family moved to a 65-acre farm in Mt. Juliet. His father worked for DuPont and raised Tennessee Walking Horses on the Wilson County farm. Jim said he wasn’t allowed to ride the Walking Horses because he wanted them to run. He had to ride a mule. Maxine’s father worked for the railroad and operated a farm in Watertown. She tells that when she started school her father carried her on his shoulders to catch the bus since they lived so far off the road.

The Bells opened a sign company in Nashville in the 1960s. They grew the company from a startup to employing 21 people with Jim at the helm and Maxine as his secretary. In 1998, they decided to sell the business and retire.

Retirement for the Bells is anything but quiet. Jim and Maxine keep themselves busy with their church, family and community. They “work out” three days a week, meet friends for meals often and stay involved in activities that, as Maxine commented, “keep them from becoming those old people that just stay at home.” They have been voting since they were old enough. Jim first voted at the Hamilton Hill Community Center on Central Pike. He recalls that there were no campaign-free zones and candidates would be handing cards to voters all the way to the front door.

When the Bells sold the business and retired they started working at the polls on Election Day. Over the past 20 years, Jim and Maxine have become familiar faces at Early Voting and on Election Day. Maxine served as an Election Day Poll Officer with Jim by her side for many years. They have become so much a part of Early Voting that voters plan their voting times to see the Bells.

Jim and Maxine agree that serving as poll officials gives them the opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones. It fulfills their desire to stay active, contribute to the community and express their patriotism in a tangible way.

Jim Bell’s summary of a poll official’s day says it all. “It’s a long day, an enjoyable day, a rewarding day and we accomplish something great for our county. The food is good, also.”

Jim and Maxine Bell are two of more than 300 Wilson County voters that serve their county as poll officials during Early Voting and on Election Day. To find out more about becoming a poll official visit www.wilsonvotes.com or call the Wilson County Election Commission at 615-444-0216.
MJHS German students take part in state competition

Staff Reports

Students from Mt. Juliet High School recently competed in the German State Competition at Vanderbilt University. Eight schools from around the state attended to compete in various categories including Spelling Bee, Singing, and German Grammar.

Central Magnet and Montgomery Bell Academy challenged each other throughout the competition, but Mt. Juliet High School placed in several categories with one student, Taylor Marvel, winning in Baking (Savory) for four years in a row, remaining undefeated and first in state.

Mt. Juliet High School also did extremely well with public speaking, gathering the courage to perform in front of a packed audience. Becca Reynolds, Kylie Randall, Will Cooper, Alex Boyd, and Regan Ingalls placed first in state for Baking (Savory) category, and participated in several other categories including Spelling Bee, Gilbert Bowl, and Goethe Bowl alongside Taylor Marvel and Becca Reynolds. Taylor Marvel went on to win third in state for Baking (Sweet category). Alex Boyd, Will Cooper, and Kylie Randall participated in Spelling Bee, Gilbert Bowl, and Performance categories as well.

Kylie Randall placed 3rd in state for Poetry Recitation, memorizing the poem “Am Strande” by Marie Luise Kaschnitz (1935).

Pictured left to right: Kylie Randall, Will Cooper, Alex Boyd, Regan Ingalls, Taylor Marvel, and Becca Reynolds. | Photo submitted

State Parks offers free guided Spring hikes

Staff Reports

With warmer weather coming, Tennessee State Parks is hosting free guided spring hikes in all 56 state parks led by park rangers on Saturday, March 23.

The hikes fit every level, from short easy-to-walk trails to longer treks through more adventurous terrain, each featuring the natural settings that are so diverse across the state.

“The spring hikes are a great way to explore our parks, as well as get to know other people who share the outdoors in a group setting,” said Anne Marshall, acting deputy commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. “Our state parks staff has valuable expertise to share about our parks to enhance the experience. There are hikes for just about every taste.”

Hikers are urged to prepare for the weather, have sturdy footwear, and bring water and snacks. Some may want to bring hiking sticks. Participants can go online to find a hike that best fits their interest at https://tnstateparks.com/about/special-events/spring-hikes/.

Pictured left to right: Kylie Randall, Will Cooper, Alex Boyd, Regan Ingalls, Taylor Marvel, and Becca Reynolds. | Photo submitted

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH 14
Health Fair
The Mt. Juliet Senior Activity Center’s Spring Health Fair will be held Thursday, March 14, from 8-11 a.m. Located at 2034 N. Mt. Juliet Road, the fair is open to the public.

MARCH 14
Parkinson’s support group
The Mt. Juliet Peterson Foundation for Parkinson’s support group will celebrate its one year anniversary with a meeting at noon Thursday, March 14 at Green Hill Church, 13251 Lebanon Road in Mt. Juliet.

MARCH 16
Free Groceries
Free groceries Saturday, March 16, at 3 p.m. There will be a large grocery giveaway in the parking lot of Life Church, located at 3688 Highway 109, Lebanon.

MARCH 17
Blood Drive
Celebration Lutheran Church is hosting an American Red Cross blood drive Sunday, March 17, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 3425 North Mt. Juliet Road.

MARCH 30
Spring Fling
The Real Mamas of Mt. Juliet will host the Second Annual Spring Fling at the Mt. Juliet Community Center Saturday, March 30 from 1-4 p.m.

LIST YOUR HOME FOR $950
Looking to buy a home in Middle TN and have one to sell? Our $950 flat fee, full service listing program can literally save you thousands vs. traditional real estate fees. Visit www.Listfor950.com for program details and guidelines.

PUBLIC NOTICES - PAGE 12
Interactive learning at Vol State science expo

The Parris Powers Science and Math Expo at Volunteer State Community College is a hands-on learning experience for kids K-8 and their parents and grandparents. The Expo is coming up on April 4 and will provide a fun day of science learning.

There will be dozens of demonstrations and activities. Those exhibits are put together by Vol State students, who gain a new perspective on science and math education. Activities will include: Creating elephant toothpaste; building boats and testing their floating abilities; making ice cream using liquid nitrogen; learning about the effects of smoking and vaping; and touring the Vol State Community Garden, among many others.

For students interested in the stars and sky, the Cumberland Astronomical Society and Vanderbilt Mobile Planetarium will be on hand.

The Expo, now in its 18th year, is named in honor of former Vol State Chemistry Professor Parris Powers. He organized the Expo for many years and passed away in 2016.

The Science and Math Expo will be held from 2:30-6 p.m. in and around the Wallace Health Sciences Building-North, on the Vol State campus at 1480 Nashville Pike in Gallatin. The event is free and open to everyone.

Volunteer State Community College has more than 100 areas of study and offers two-year degrees, certificates and paths to university transfer. Workforce Development extends the college mission to the entire community.

The College System of Tennessee, governed by the Tennessee Board of Regents, is the state’s largest public higher education system, with 13 community colleges, 27 colleges of applied technology and the online TN eCampus, serving more than 100,000 students.

TriStar Summit names 2018 award recipients

TriStar Summit Medical Center recently announced the recipients of the 2018 Frist Humanitarian Award presented annually to a physician, employee and volunteer who exhibit the highest standard of patient care to their patients. TriStar Summit Medical Center 2018 recipients include: Dr. G. Lee Bryant, ENT/Otolaryngology, Jon Alderman, RN in surgical services, and Mary MacLennan, hospital volunteer.

“TriStar Summit is committed to delivering quality patient care and we are extremely proud to recognize our employee, volunteer and physician who were selected for their efforts on behalf of our patients and our community,” said Brian Marger, CEO, TriStar Summit Medical Center. “Their exemplary work and compassion set a high standard for health care professionals and we are proud to have them as part of our team. Undoubtedly, our patients benefit from the kind of commitment and humanitarian efforts they demonstrate each day.”

The Frist Humanitarian Award was created to recognize one physician, one employee, one volunteer at each HCA facility who demonstrate extraordinary concern for the welfare and happiness of patients and their community. The Award was named after the humanitarian spirit and philanthropic work of the late Dr. Thomas F. Frist, Sr., a founder of Hospital Corporation of America.
Gov. Lee signs executive order to further recovery efforts

TEMA to begin joint assessments with FEMA

Last week, Governor Bill Lee signed an executive order enabling further recovery efforts and beginning the process for declaring a federal disaster after record rains in February caused statewide damage.

"As waters recede and we are now able to fully review the extent of flooding damage across our state, I signed an executive order as a key step in working with the federal government for further recovery efforts," said Lee. "We thank the first responders who are working diligently to keep citizens safe and deliver services."

Currently, 83 counties have reported damage. The Department of Agriculture, Department of Transportation and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) have been coordinating with local authorities to collect the necessary data for further recovery efforts.

The executive order suspends certain laws to enable smoother delivery of health care, insurance, relief supplies and personnel, and other recovery components. The order is retroactively effective Feb. 6, 2019, when the flooding and severe weather began, to ensure that it covers all relief efforts, and it will remain in effect through April 7, 2019.

The order will also help facilitate the repair of the more than 232 locations on Tennessee state and federal highways damaged by the flooding, with more areas likely to be identified as floodwaters recede.

This will also begin the process of engaging the federal government for funding and other resources.

Pody’s resolution supporting Israel passes state senate

A resolution sponsored by State Senator Mark Pody (R-Lebanon) that reafirms Tennessee’s friendship with Israel and expresses unequivocal support for the nation, unanimously passed the State Senate last month. The resolution also recognizes Israel’s long-standing relationship with the U.S. and notes joint military efforts between the two countries in fighting terrorism.

The resolution was signed on March 7 with the U.S. and Israel’s support for the resolution.

Staff Reports

"I think it’s important that as a state we stand up and reach out to Israel as we have done in the past and express our support for the nation."

Passage of the resolution followed a controversy surrounding an anti-Semitic social media post from U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar (D-MN).

In 1996, former Governor Don Sundquist signed the Tennessee-Israel Cooperation Agreement with Israel, resulting in business, government, art, cultural, educational and university activities that strengthened the historic ties between Tennessee and Israel.

In 2015, the General Assembly voted to approve a resolution which condemns the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement and increasing anti-Semitism. The BDS movement encourages companies to boycott Israeli goods and services.

"It is imperative that we must, at every turn, fight anti-Semitism and in all ways possible stand with the Nation of Israel," said Pody.

Tennessee Blue Book dedicated to 100th anniversary of 19th Amendment

Staff Reports

Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett yesterday announced the 2019-2020 edition of the Tennessee Blue Book will be dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote.

"Tennessee played a pivotal role in ratifying the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, so it is appropriate to dedicate our state’s official historical reference, the Tennessee Blue Book, to this important milestone," Hargett said. "During Women’s History Month, it’s important to remember the Women’s Suffrage Movement across the country, and especially here in Tennessee, which led to this significant moment in our nation’s history."

Initially introduced to Congress in 1878, the 19th Amendment was not submitted to the states for ratification until 1919 and was ratified by three-fourths of the states a year later. Tennessee ratification on Aug. 18, 1920, was the last state needed to amend the Constitution.

Published by the Secretary of State’s office once every two years, the Tennessee Blue Book serves as a state and government manual for Tennessee. It includes information on Tennessee state history and government, biographies of elected and appointed state officials, elections results, census data and more.

The Blue Book dedication will honor the continuous and unwavering effort by Tennessee suffragists and the significant role Tennessee played in guaranteeing all women the right to vote.

“One hundred years ago, a Tennessee legislator and his influential mother changed the course of history becoming one of the deciding votes in ratification of the 19th Amendment. It is only fitting we recognize Tennessee’s pivotal role in the suffrage movement with a com-
Larry Grasiger
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
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
Providance United Methodist*
Scott’s Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Williamson Chapel CME Church

Nazarene
Covenant Fellowship Church of the Nazarene
Pentecostal Church

Presbyterian*
Clyde’s Cumberland Presbyterian
Hickory Grove Church
Suggs Creek Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Unity
Unity of Music City

Non-Denominational
Abundant Life*
The BARN Church
Bridge Fellowship Church
Cedar Ridge Church

The Church at Pleasant Grove
Connect Church
Faith is the Victory Church
Cross Point Church
Friendship Community Church
Gateway of Hope
Generation Changers Church
Global Vision Bible Church
Grace Bible Fellowship
Grace Fellowship Ministries
Greater True Faith Community Church
Holy Temple Church
The Journey Church
Joy Church International
LifeChurch of Mt. Juliet
Living Hope Church
Mending Fences Cowboy Church
New Heart Christian Church
New Tribe Church
Our Father’s House Community Church
The Rock of Nashville
Royal Life International

Are you following Jesus Christ closely, or are you following at a distance? There is a certain home improvement store that I used to avoid (they have actually improved), because it seemed the workers would walk by you with their hand up as a blinder so they wouldn’t have to acknowledge you, just in case you actually needed help. Sometimes, I think we are guilty of doing that with the Lord. We are following Him (I suppose), but we have our blinders up, so He can’t ask anything of us we don’t want to do or be. If we are not giving Him our all, we might as well not give Him anything.

In Matthew 26:58 we find an interesting statement about Matthew’s fellow disciple. “Peter was following Him at a distance...” The Message paraphrase renders it “Peter followed at a safe distance...” I think it is possible that we take the position of following at a distance because it is safe. In Peter’s case, he was far enough removed from the immediate company of the Lord to avoid what he perceived as danger — and yet close enough to still see. Are we guilty of wanting to see what Jesus is doing, but not willing to be a part of what He is doing?

What are some things that distract us away from following Jesus closely, instead of at a distance? Materialism should move...
With all the positive things in our lives, it's often easy to get stuck on one negative issue and not see the many positives in life. As human beings, we all have negative things that occur in our lives. Life is full of highs and lows, positives and negatives.

It's how we handle these situations that determine our attitudes. Life is like a glass of water; you can either see the glass as half full or half empty. Life is too short to spend time fussing about what we can't change. For example: We will always have traffic to deal with, lawns to mow, chores to do and frustrations. Everyone has pet peeves.

Pet peeves are things in our lives that annoy, irritate and frustrate us at what seems to be the worst time. We all have them. Even the best of people have terrible and frustrating moments. It's how we as humans handle those moments that make us or break us. For example: We've all been mad at someone and wanted to let them know exactly how we felt but kept our comments to ourselves to avoid confrontation and hurt feelings. Good move, nothing is ever gained from confrontation during a moment of rage, frustration or temper tantrums, but hurt feelings and regret.

Thinking positive during tough or low times and focusing on the good things in our lives is one of life's survival techniques. Sort of the old "If life gives you lemons, make lemonade" theory. Going through life stuck in a negative state of mind can be very debilitating and frustrating. We can't always be positive, but it never hurts to try.

In closing, life can be tough, life can be trying, but life can also be satisfying. Keep your chin up and keep reaching for the stars.

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WB&T earns 5-star rating

Staff Reports

BauerFinancial, Inc., the national bank rating firm, recently recognized Wilson Bank & Trust with a 5-Star rating for being an invaluable partner to the communities it serves.

With the latest rating, which is based on financial data through the end of 2018, Wilson Bank & Trust has earned BauerFinancial's highest recognition for 20 consecutive quarters. The distinction signifies WBT as one of the strongest banks in the nation.

BauerFinancial, Inc., a leading independent bank and credit union rating and research firm, has been reporting on and analyzing the performance of U.S. banks and credit unions since 1983. No institution pays BauerFinancial to rate it, nor can any choose to be excluded. Consumers may obtain free star-ratings by visiting www.bauerfinancial.com.

Wilson Bank & Trust, member FDIC and an Equal Housing Lender, is a community bank established in 1987 to provide personal and professional service in a hometown setting. One of the top banks in the South in stability, products, technology, growth and earnings, WB&T now operates 28 full-service offices in nine Middle Tennessee counties, offering a full range of financial products that include secondary market mortgage loans and mobile and online banking services.

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Make Lemonade

Worry and anxiety will also turn our attention away from following Jesus closely. Anxiety or worrying can be defined as "to divide into separate parts; to be split in factions." This is manifested in that although we are kept in the hands of God our Father, we are sometimes preoccupied with things that cause us anxiety, stress and pressure. As Brother Vernon Simpson used to say, "Anxiety is a mild form of atheism." We can't follow Him closely if we don't trust Him.

Another thing that can cause us to follow Jesus from a distance is when we are afraid to say the "Dangerous Prayer." This is the prayer where we completely surrender our lives to Him and give Him permission to do whatever He will is concerning us or sending us wherever it pleases Him. When we make ourselves entirely available to Him, it can be a scary thing. Most people are afraid to pray the dangerous prayer due to their fear God is going to send them to Africa as a missionary.

Finally, the measure of how closely we are following Christ is our desire to be with Him; our desire to be like Him; and our willingness to follow Him closely always. We should follow the words of Jesus when He said, "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else..." The New Living Translation.
The Eastern Middle Tennessee Association of Realtors proudly announces the

2018 Awards of Excellence

**DIAMOND AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**PLATINUM AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**RE/MAX Exceptional**
From BOARD, PAGE 1

ing property into corporate boundaries of the City and one amending the budget to increase paving expenditures passed first reading and will be brought back to the commission at a later meeting for discussion and final approval.

The commission held a special-called meeting Sunday night, March 3, to discuss rezoning surgical centers that provide surgical abortions after a women’s health clinic opened in Mt. Juliet that had future plans to include that service.

The next scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting is 6:30 p.m. March 25 at City Hall. A public hearing will be held prior to the start of the meeting at 6:15 p.m.
OBITUARIES

BARRETT, Linda Jean

Linda Barrett passed away March 3, 2019, at age 62. A funeral service was held March 9 at Sellars Funeral Home in Lebanon, and interment followed at Hunter Memorial Gardens in Water- town.

She is survived by husband: Edward J. Bar-rett Sr.; children: Linda Feirn-Capobianco, Matt Feirn, Edward J. Barrett Jr., and David Barrett; grandchildren: Travis Feirn, Junion Salas, Briana Salas, Tyler Salas, Lilah Feirn, Savannah Feirn-Capobianco, Matt Barrett Sr.; children: Linda Hardaway, Chris (Jennifer) Sorey, Jason (Amanda) Sorey and John (Ashley) Hunter; Daughter – Jamie White; Grandchildren – Kaleb Dillard, Taylor White, Gabriel William Sorey, Lauren Sorey, Adam Sorey and Hunter Hodges.

A funeral service was held March 7 at Bond Memorial Chapel, and inter-ment followed at Hermitage Memorial Gardens. Flowers accepted or me morials may be made to the Shriners Hospitals for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607.

SOREY, William Robert “Bill”

William Robert “Bill” Sorey, age 72 of Mt. Ju-liet, died March 3, 2019. Bill was the son of the late John Francis Sorey and Lelia Ursery Sorey Jones.

He is survived by: Wife of 30 years – Vickie Ford Sorey; Sons – Bob Sorey, Chris (Jennifer) Sorey, Jason (Amanda) Sorey and John (Ashley) Hunter; Daughter – Jamie White; Grandchildren – Kaleb Dillard, Taylor White, Gabriel William Sorey, Lauren Sorey, Adam Sorey and Hunter Hodges.

A funeral service was held March 7 at Bond Memorial Chapel, and inter-ment followed at Hermitage Memorial Gardens. Flowers accepted or me morials may be made to the Shriners Hospitals for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607.

HALL, Gary Austin

Gary Austin Hall, age 73 of Old Hickory, passed away on March 5, 2019. A funeral service was held March 10 at Sellars Funer- nal Home in Mt. Juliet, and interment followed at Hermitage Memorial Gardens with full military honors.

He is survived by loving wife of 44 years, Ann Darlene Ford Hall; daughter, Ashli (Chris) Warren and their children and step-children, Emily Pollock, Eli Warren, Elliott Warren, Samantha Warren, and Mickayla Warren; daughter Rebecca (Justin) Hodges and their son, Jakob Hodges; sib-lings, Doris Little, Mike Hall, and Yvette Olmsted; numerous nieces and nephews also survive. He was preceded in death by parents, George Franklin and Martha Patton Hall; brothers, Jere Hall and Randy Hall; paternal grandparents, Robert and Hattie Hall; maternal grandparents, David and Lily Patton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer’s Association of Tennessee: 5801 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN, 37919 or www.alztennessee.org.

LITCHFORD, Nancy Jane

Nancy Litchford passed away March 8, 2019, at age 80. The family received friends at Sellars Funeral Home, Lebanon, on March 12.

She is survived by children: James W. (Leslie) Sullivan, Jeanette Page, and Mark A. Sullivan; sisters: Flora Carson and Mary (Bob) Yahola; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by first husband James H. Sullivan, second hus-bard Carter Litchford, son Bobby Sullivan, daughter Darlene Sulli-van, companion Billy S. Bennett, parents William “Bill” and Ellen Lavender, brothers William Lavender Jr. and Richard Lav-ender, and sister Virginia Carr.

In lieu of flowers, make Memorial Donations to New Leash on Life (507 John Draper Drive, Le-banon TN 37087) Sellars Funeral Home, Lebanon TN, 615.444.9393.

HARDAWAY, Mai Nell

Mai Nell Hardaway, age 82 of Castalia Springs, passed away March 7, 2019. A funeral service was held March 10 at Sellars Funeral Home in Mt. Juliet, and interment followed at Mt. Juliet Memorial Gardens.

She is survived by children, Terrell (Lisa) House, Carol (Leslie) Pruitt, and Clayton (Sale-nia) House; step-children, Denise (Randy) Pryor, Sherry Kelley, Tracy Toohey, and Monica (Steve) Cook; grandchildren, Billy House, Terri Ketter-man, Chris Tyler, John Pruitt, Stacy House, Cory House, and Marli Garcia; nine great-grandchildren; six great-great-grandchildren; caregivers, Teresa and Mike Garrett; special friends, Sarah Hall, Karen Hall, and Virginia Weston. She was preceded in death by husband of 32 years, Cecil Hardaway; parents, Hu- bert and Mary Reed and Louise and Merle Swinea.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer’s Association of Tennessee: 5801 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN, 37919 or www.alztennessee.org.

TOPP, Anthony D.

Anthony D. Topp, age 63 of Tullahoma, passed away March 12, 2019. Anthony was preceded in death by parents, Robert Top-and Walter Topp; a half-brother, Robert Todd; step-grandparents, David and Yevette Olmsted; six great-great-grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; grandchildren – Kalee Dillard, Taylor White, Gabriel William Sorey, Lauren Sorey, Adam Sorey and Hunter Hodges.

A funeral service was held March 7 at Bond Memorial Chapel, and interment followed at Hermitage Memorial Gardens. Flowers accepted or memorials may be made to the Shriners Hospitals for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607.

SWEARINGEN, Joan M.

Joan M. Swearingen, of Old Hickory, formerly of Mohawk, NY, passed peacefully on March 9 surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Herkimer, NY, to Fred-rick Martin and Mary Irene (DuPont) Schell. She was preceded by her parents and in-fant daughter, Lisa Ma-rie. She is survived by her beloved husband Ben Swearingen; her son, Robert (Tammy) Collins; her daughter, Robyn (Mike) Jwaskiewicz, Kelly (Doug) Jones and Denise (Roger) Kohen; 15 grand-children, Michael and Adam Jwaskiewicz, Doug and Nick Jones, Justin, Mitch, and Carly Koehn, Jessica, Katie, and Carrie Collins, Leanne LaCrost, Shandell Palmer, Thom- as Stubblefield, John Rieben, and Jennifer Butler; 17 great-grand-children, Georgia, Ruby, Bernadette, Miles, Haley, Jalen, Dean, James, Juliana, Landon, Keilin, Kollin, Presley, Jackson, Christopher, Chandler and Liam; sister, Patty (Char-ley) Hollerman, and broth-er Fred (Anne) Schell and several nieces and neph-ews.

Visitation with the family will be Thursday, March 14 from 4-8 p.m. at Hermitage Funeral Home. A Celebration of life service will be held Friday, March 15 at 11 a.m. at St. Stephens Catholic Community. There will also be a one-hour visitation prior to the service at the church, beginning at 10 a.m. Burial will be at Hermitage Memorial Gar-dens immediately follow-ing the service.

TODD, Cleo

Cleo Todd, age 70 of Mt. Juliet, passed away March 6, 2019. The Fu-neral Service will be conducted Wednesday, March 13, 2019, at 11 a.m. in the chapel of Sel-lars Funeral Home at Mt. Juliet. Interment will follow with military honors in Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery.

He is survived by loving wife of 30 years, Patric-ia Todd; sons, Michael (Angie) Todd and James (Joel) Todd; grandchil-dren, Justin Todd, Hunter Todd, Garrett Todd, and Cody Todd; sister, Nan-cy (Bobby) Hughes. He was preceded in death by father, Cleo Todd; mother, Rosalee Todd; broth-er, Joe Todd; parents, Robert Todd, and Lynnwood Todd; sister, Betty Moreno.

In lieu of flowers, me-morial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

Local DIY studio offers opportunity to make decor

Staff Reports

Novice crafters and do-it-yourself enthusiasts alike can create high-end custom home decor and personalized gifts at AR Workshop Mt. Juliet, a new boutique DIY shop that offers a unique, fun experience for all ages and skill levels through instructor-led workshops.

Workshop participants can construct custom wood plank signs, framed signs, canvas pillows, round signs, trays, Lazy Susan, monogrammed items, keepsakes, canvas items, specialty projects and more utilizing raw materials, a variety of non-toxic stain and paint colors, and stencils. Attendees can also create textile items such as chunky knit blankets as well as seasonal or holiday keepsakes.

Mother-daughter team Tina Pressley and Haley Jones will open the fifth AR Workshop location in the state of Tennessee on March 16.

“We're so excited about the opportunity to bring a fresh entertainment option to the area,” Jones said. “Residents will have the opportunity to attend a class to try their hand at DIY — with a little expert help.”

Project designs can be personalized with names, memorable dates, quotes and graphics, as well as the color scheme, to create beautiful one-of-a-kind artworks. The average time to complete a project is two and a half hours.

A grand opening party from 5-8 p.m. on March 16 will feature a free mini DIY project, sips, sweets, giveaways, raffles and discounts on future bookings. Space is limited, and supplies last. Interested guests can visit the event page to register, and like “AR Workshop Mt. Juliet” on Facebook or follow them on Instagram to receive notifications of upcoming specials.

In addition to open workshops, customers can also book a private, corporate, youth or holiday event. During the summer months, camps for children will be offered. For more information on AR Workshop Mt. Juliet, located at 1984 Providence Parkway, call 615-212-5676 or visit https://www.arworkshop.com/mtjuliet/.

From BOOK, PAGE 5

memorative edition of the definitive guide to Tennessee state government, the Tennessee Blue Book,” Tennessee Lt. Gov. Randy McNally (R-Oak Ridge) said. “I am grateful to the Office of the Secretary of State and its Division of Publications for putting together this special edition in honor of this important anniversary."

“We are proud of Tennessee’s important role in ratifying the 19th Amendment to our U.S. Constitution and the decisive part our state played in the nation’s history,” said Tennessee House Speaker Glen Casada (R-Franklin). “I am pleased to join with Secretary Hargett to celebrate this remarkable development which led to women gaining the right to vote, and I stand with my Republican colleagues as we continue our work addressing the critical needs of all Tennessees.”

The 2019-2020 Tennessee Blue Book will be a commemorative edition similar to the 2013-2014 edition dedicated to former University of Tennessee Lady Vols Coach Pat Summitt. The next edition will be published and ready for distribution in early 2020. To request a current copy of the Tennessee Blue Book, contact your local state legislator or the Secretary of State’s office at (615) 741-2819. Past editions of the Tennessee Blue Book can be viewed at sos.tn.gov.

From TOY, PAGE 1

go back himself. After taking classes at Cumberland University, he became certified and licensed to teach special education which led to him being a full-time teacher.

Before becoming a full-time teacher, he was also a substitute and an aide. After subbing at Rutland, he realized he was a good fit and had the right mentality for the program. With his engineering background, he is very analytical and thinks about why his students may act out with behavior issues and figure out a strategy to help them overcome it.

In his class, Ruslavage works with students of all grade levels, but currently only has those in second, fourth and fifth grades. He and two aides can work with one grade level at a time to ensure each grade can focus on their level of learning.

He said the students he works with displayed some type of behavior issue in their regular classrooms that was a problem. He said he can see his students’ progress and continues to want to ensure they will be successful when they leave his class.

From TRAIL, PAGE 1

Division Street. The greenway will stretch nearly 1.7 miles when completed.

Deputy Director of Public Works Andy Barlow said the project, which started in 2012, is expected to be completed by summer 2020. The greenway will connect South Greenhill Road and Fourth Avenue, allowing for pedestrians to walk safely away from traffic.

It will also provide connectivity between different subdivisions in the city.

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### Classifieds

#### Help Wanted
- Local Newspaper Carrier Position Available in the Mt. Juliet Area
  - Must have own car & furnish proof of insurance. Must be available to deliver papers every Wednesday during the day.
  - Call Phyllis at 615-754-6111

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#### Vehciles
- The following vehicles will be sold at Mobiletech Automotive Repair 108 West Division, Mt. Juliet, Tn. 37122 at 10 a.m. on March 28, 2019 for towing and storage fees accumulated on vehicles if not paid in full by the time of the sale. Paperwork will be provided at the point of sale to apply for a title.
  - 2017 Chevrolet Malibu VIN 1G1ZB5ST3HF272291
  - Charles Miles & Joanne Rice & Santander Consumer USA
By Becky Andrews
Wilson Living Magazine

It usually starts off innocently enough. A few friends or family members start a conversation via text to inform the group of a change of plans, a photo of a perfectly plated dish, a link to an article about menopause (this is what my life seems to be coming to) or sometimes a cute little “hope you have a fantabulous day” meme. You waste no time in responding to the initial text. Within seconds, your phone begins to ping, ding, vibrate at a pace so frenzied it becomes nearly impossible to get anything done. Before you know it, what started out as a productive morning, turns into a 45-minute texting exchange about a weird mole that your sister found on her shoulder followed by an hour googling “dangerous moles”. I lost most of my productive morning after clicking on one of the “dangerous moles” search results—“Top 10 spies in History”. Google it! That list is fascinating!

There’s a few group texts that seem to go on and on. I am a member of several. One group is my sisters. If a stranger were to read our exchanges, they might conclude that each one of us has the attention span of a two-year-old hopped up on cake OR if they scrolled to our most recent group message, they might be horrified.

Last week, one of my sisters—we’ll call her Mathy-sent the following message, “So, I’ve been thinking. The next time Christy visits, we should all learn how to shoot a gun. I have a friend that has offered to teach us, or we could take a class and get a handgun permit. With all the craziness out there, it’s time for us to prepare ourselves.”

“…”For what?!” Laura continued, “A zombie apocolypse? Guns don’t work on zombies. I think.” She added that she’s also afraid she might hurt herself.

Before I could google “Can a gun kill zombies?” Christy responded suggesting that just one of us should take the gun class and that one could protect the other three.

I sent a meme of Suzanne Sugarbaker wearing a pink bathrobe, holding a machine gun with the caption, “I’m trying to protect my home and my pig.” I added, “I’m scared of guns. Not it.”

We agreed to discuss further during Christy’s next visit. Side note: Christy hasn’t responded as to when that visit will be.

My favorite group text is with my boys and husband. Jay has a flip phone (I know!). Because of this, it always takes a bit longer for him to respond to the group. By the time he gets a simple “what time” keyed in and sent, we’ve moved on to the next subject. We all end up a little confused. He can’t enjoy the fun memes and emojis we send. He managed to open one once. It shut down his phone. Don’t waste your time explaining why a smart phone is better. He isn’t having it. It’s been going on so long, now he’s doing it out of spite.

Last Christmas my brothers, sisters, their spouses, and a four nieces and nephews decided a great way to communicate plans for a holiday dinner would be more convenient via text message. There’s six of us. Multiply that by two. Add in four additional relatives. It’s 16 people—a few of which have mastered the art of “it’s my way or the highway” when discussing food, time, location, politics, religion, breastfeeding, etc.

After the 46th message about chairs and tables, I googled how to turn off a group text without the group finding out. I could have asked everyone in this message how to do it, but who does that? (My brother Mike does that.) So, I figured it out and ghosts. I’m not sure if that’s what ghosting is, but I love using it.

So, group texts are mostly great. While they can sometimes be a bit overwhelming, it’s still an incredibly efficient way to communicate to large groups. Try texting 20 people individually with the same message. If you’re annoyed by the pings, I’ve got two words that will change your texting life…HIDE ALERTS.

Comments? Email becky@wilsonlivingmagazine.com
Tennessee begins 2019 with low unemployment

Staff Reports

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Jeff McCord announced recently a preliminarily statewide unemployment rate of 3.3 percent for January 2019.

The seasonally adjusted rate for January mirrors the December 2018 unemployment rate of 3.3 percent, which was revised down 0.3 of a percentage point from the month’s preliminary rate of 3.6 percent.

“Tennessee has now had a statewide unemployment rate of 3.3 percent for the last four consecutive months. ‘Tennessee continues to experience a strong economy with record low unemployment,’” Lee said.

“It is our goal to build on this foundation with several initiatives outlined in [last] week’s State of the State Address, including the GIVE Act which will help produce a highly-skilled, high-demand workforce in Tennessee.”

Total nonfarm employment in Tennessee increased by 8,300 jobs from December to January. The largest increases occurred in accommodation/food services, administrative/support/waste services and arts/entertainment/recreation. Over the last year, nonfarm employment across the state grew by 61,200 jobs.

“We continue to see low unemployment levels in our State,” McCord said. “Job creators are investing, and we are continuing our efforts to ensure they have the qualified workforce necessary for their businesses to succeed.”

Nationally, January’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 4.0 percent, up 0.1 of a percentage point from December.

The statewide and national unemployment rates are seasonally adjusted to eliminate the influences of weather, holidays, the opening and closing of schools, and other recurring seasonal events from an economic time series.

Tennesseans interested in new employment opportunities can find the latest job openings, receive assistance updating their resumes, and sharpen their job interview skills by visiting the state’s workforce development website.

Wilson County Retired Teachers’ Association president Dianne Cozart welcomed Dr. Paul Stumb, president of Cumberland University, as guest speaker recently at the WCRTA meeting held at the Owen’s Building on the Immanuel Baptist Church campus. Dr. Stumb spoke about things seen and unseen at Cumberland University and the special events offered to the public. WCRTA has been able to give a scholarship to a worthy student at Cumberland University since 1988, with donations from its membership. Applications for 2019-2020 scholarship will be available soon. | Photo submitted

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 Smoker: Every weekend, the smoker is loaded with dry seasoned St. Louis Style Pork Ribs to be smoked and served to drop-in grilling for the masses. Menus are available online, call or email for a customized quote on your event.

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From the Deli: Monday thru Friday, enjoy our Home-made 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.

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