One Year Ago

A year ago, we lost loved ones, we lost homes, we lost schools, we lost businesses. In the past year, we have been healing, but we still aren’t completely there, we may never be totally. In the chaos, the community stepped up, volunteered where they could, donated where they could, and tried to help to get everyone back on their feet. Today, we looked back at a few stories on how we have recovered, what more there is to go, and how Mt. Juliet stayed strong during one of the toughest years of our generation.

Remembering those we lost, page 6
How we came together to heal, Page 6
One family's story of getting back after losing their house, Page 7
How close are we to getting our schools back, Page 7

IN THIS ISSUE
School board narrows Director of Schools candidates to six, pg. 2
Jackson Hills Convenience Store approved, pg. 2
Love, Borders win state wrestling titles, pg. 3
COMMUNITY CALENDAR ................................. pg 3
FAITH & MESSAGE ........................................ pg 4
OBITUARIES .................................................. pg 8
CLASSIFIEDS ................................................ pg 10
School board cuts down list of Director candidates to six

By Kenny Howell
Managing Editor

The list of candidates for Wilson County Director of Schools was reduced to six at the monthly board meeting Monday night.

There were 12 applicants originally for the job. The aim was to cut the list to five, but after voting, two candidates were chosen by everyone, and four all got the same number of votes.

“It’s nice to see we are all pretty much on the same page,” said Zone 7 Board Member Jamie Farough.

The six left are Dr. John Ash, Dr. Jerry S. Boyd, Jeff Wyatt, Robert Sells and Dr. Aimee Mayfield.

Luttrell and Mayfield are both employed within the Wilson County Schools system. Luttrell works in the Central Office, and is a former principal of Watertown High School. Mayfield is the current principal of Wilson Central High School.

The board discussed how the interviews would take place. Originally, the plan was to have all the interviews Thursday, March 25, but the board flirted with the idea of moving it to Saturday, March 27. The idea was that having an hour interview with six different candidates on a weekday might be hard for the board members, some of which have day time jobs. However, after discussion, the board agreed to keep it Thursday, March 25.

The board then discussed how the interviews would operate. Zone 3 Board Member Jon White pushed for a round robin style interview where two commissioners at a time would interview the candidates, and they would move from candidate to candidate. After that idea didn’t gain much traction, they moved to the entire board interviewing one candidate at a time for one hour. The candidate will get three questions in advance to start the interview. Then each board member will get five minutes to ask individual questions. The final ten minutes will allow the candidate to ask the board any questions that they might have.

The board members will score the applicants after their interviews, and the top two will move on to final interviews in April. The hope is that the eventual pick will be hired in late April, and contract finalized in May.

Guardian Shield surpasses 100th successful interception

By Kenny Howell
Managing Editor

The Mt. Juliet Guardian Shield surpassed its 100th successful interception this past week.

The automated license plate recognition program scans plates that travel through the city, and if that plate has been flagged for possible illegal activity, it alerts the Mt. Juliet Police Department. The MJPD will then try to intercept the vehicle before it leaves the city limits.

The Guardian Shield has led to the recovery of 11 wanted persons, a missing juvenile, 57 stolen cars, 30 stolen license plates and two stolen trailers. One of the wanted persons was a TBI Most Wanted murder suspect, and another was a murder suspect out of Louisiana.

“Not all alerts result in a successful interception, but officers ensure the alerted criminal activity is no longer active within the community,” said Captain Tyler Chandler in a statement on the MJPD Newsroom Thursday.

In the time that the Guardian Shield has been active, vehicle theft is down 36 percent and vehicle burglaries are down 48 percent. Captain Chandler said it is impossible to track if this is because of the Guardian Shield, but he believes it plays a role.

Jackson Hills convenience store approved by planning commission

By Kenny Howell
Managing Editor

A controversial convenience store at the front of the Jackson Hills subdivision was approved with some changes at the Planning Commission meeting Thursday.

The commercial space was approved in the original PUD proposal, but after much discussion, the commission approved it with some changes. Specifically the traffic issues it would cause because it will not have direct access to Golden Bear Gateway. Over 60 e-mails from upset Jackson Hills residents were sent to the Planning Commission before the meeting.

“You have a public safety issue, No. 1,” said Commissioner Scott Hefner. Hefner represents the community on the Board of Commissioners as well as his role on the Planning Commission.

The Mt. Juliet Guardian Shield surpassed its 100th successful interception this past week.

The automated license plate recognition program scans plates that travel through the city, and if that plate has been flagged for possible illegal activity, it alerts the Mt. Juliet Police Department. The MJPD will then try to intercept the vehicle before it leaves the city limits.

The Guardian Shield has led to the recovery of 11 wanted persons, a missing juvenile, 57 stolen cars, 30 stolen license plates and two stolen trailers. One of the wanted persons was a TBI Most Wanted murder suspect, and another was a murder suspect out of Louisiana.

“Not all alerts result in a successful interception, but officers ensure the alerted criminal activity is no longer active within the community,” said Captain Tyler Chan- dler in a statement on the MJPD Newsroom Thursday.

In the time that the Guard- ian Shield has been active, vehicle theft is down 36 per- cent and vehicle burglaries are down 48 percent. Captain Chandler said it is impossible to track if this is because of the Guardian Shield, but he believes it plays a role.

Planning Commission

Jackson Hills convenience store approved by planning commission

By Kenny Howell
Managing Editor

A controversial convenience store at the front of the Jackson Hills subdivision was approved with some changes at the Planning Commission meeting Thursday.

The commercial space was approved in the original PUD proposal, but after much discussion, the commission approved it with some changes. Specifically the traffic issues it would cause because it will not have direct access to Golden Bear Gateway. Over 60 e-mails from upset Jackson Hills residents were sent to the Planning Commission before the meeting.

“You have a public safety issue, No. 1,” said Commissioner Scott Hefner. Hefner represents the community on the Board of Commissioners as well as his role on the Planning Commission.

After much discussion, the commission approved it with a new right-in-right-out access off Golden Bear Gateway. Customers will have the option to use the right-in-right-out, Vanner Road or Sire Avenue.

There were some changes on the Planning Commission, Bobby Franklin and Chuck Turner are no longer on the commission, and they were replaced with County Commissioner Diane Weathers and local real estate agent Darin Cunningham. Since Turner was the vice chair, an election to fill that position was held. Hefner was the only one that volunteered to do it, and he was approved. He will hold the position for the next two meetings when new elections for the chair and vice chair are held.
Love wins first state title for Green Hill, Borders wins his second title for WCHS

Green Hill’s Dominic Love and Wilson Central’s Hunter Borders both won state titles this past week in the state wrestling tournament. Love’s win was the first in school history for Green Hill. Borders won his second state title, finishing the season undefeated. Wilson Central as a team finished state runner up.

GHHS teams end season in regionals

Staff Reports

The Green Hill High School basketball teams both saw their seasons end in the regional tournaments over the weekend.

The boys dropped a hard fought contest against Clarksville, 58-52.

The girls team faced off against a tough Northwest team and lost 64-44.

The Lady Hawks finished the season 15-11. Wofford signee Sydney Richetto and Aubrey Blankenship were named All-District.

Riggs Abner was 9-AAA MVP for the boys team. Paxton Davidson and Jason Burch were also named All-District.

Community Calendar

March 4

JOINT ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING

The Joint Economic & Community Development Board Executive Committee will meet at 7:45 a.m. Thursday, March 4 at the JECDB office located at 200 Aviation Way, Suite 207, Lebanon.

March 5

FREE CLOTHING STORE

Free Clothing Store this Friday, March 5 from 9 a.m. until noon at Life Church located at 3688 Highway 109 Lebanon, TN 37087. This is open to everyone and there will lots of clothing for men, women and children in all sizes. LifeChurchFamily.com.

March 8

MT. JULIET BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS-MEETING

The Mt. Juliet Board of Commissioners will hold their meeting Monday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the City Hall Commission Chambers, 2425 N. Mt. Juliet Road, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122. You can watch the meeting at the city’s website http://www.mtjuliet-tn.gov.

March 18

MT. JULIET PLANNING COMMISSION

The Mt. Juliet Planning Commission will hold their meeting Thursday March 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the City Hall Commission Chambers, 2425 N. Mt. Juliet Road, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122. You can watch the meeting at the city’s website http://www.mtjuliet-tn.gov.

March 22

MT. JULIET BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

The Mt. Juliet Board of Commissioners will hold their meeting Monday, March 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the City Hall Commission Chambers, 2425 N. Mt. Juliet Road, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122. You can watch the meeting at the city's website http://www.mtjuliet-tn.gov.
At first reading, one may think that Solomon is speaking of a works soteriology or salvation through good works. However, the Bible does not reveal such a doctrine. The Bible from cover to cover is very clear on what is only God (Psalm 51:4). Acts which are common good works. However, the Bible does not reveal such a doctrine. The Bible from cover to cover is very clear on what is only God (Psalm 51:4). Acts which are common

“Unfailing love and faithfulness make atonement for sin. By fearing the LORD, people avoid evil. Proverbs 16:6 (NLT2)

Bible does not reveal such a doctrine. The Bible from cover to cover is very clear on what is only God (Psalm 51:4). Acts which are common
**REFLECTIONS FROM AN OLD FRIEND - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Kenny Martin  
City Manager

Are you prepared for a natural disaster or unexpected emergency? If not, there is no time like the present to get prepared. One of the first things you should do is invest in or charge the batteries in your smoke detectors. The batteries in a smoke detector should be changed at least twice a year, preferably more. Also, smoke detectors should be placed throughout your home, the more, the merrier.

If you have an electric smoke detector that is powered by your homes electrical power source/electricity, it’s not a bad idea to invest in at least one battery powered smoke detector in case your homes electricity is knocked out. Next, you should invest in a weather radio with a battery backup. This radio is designed to alert you when tornadoes or other natural emergencies are possible or likely. You and your family should also have an emergency escape and preparedness plan in place that you practice regularly. Your plan should include escape routes, safe havens for shelter during tornadoes, storms and other natural disasters, CPR training and a central meeting location where all family members meet during an emergency.

Families should also have an emergency kit that includes medical supplies, water, matches, blankets, aspirin, batteries, a flashlight, and a battery powered radio. Each person reading this article should make it a top priority to plan for any and every possible emergency. You should also have enough non-perishable food to last 72 hours. Please take emergency preparedness seriously. We never really know when an emergency will occur. And as we all know, finding out in the middle of an emergency that we are not prepared, is not, to say the least, the best time to learn.

In closing, we all love our families very much, so please don’t hesitate to call on your local police or fire agencies for assistance or advice.

**TELLING TALES - THE FOOD PYRAMID**

Angel Kane  
Wilson Living Magazine

If I could eat whatever I wanted, every day of the week, I’d feast on appetizers.

Bring on the pigs in a blanket, spinach dip and cheese and crackers. One of the main reasons I miss weddings and baby showers so much right now is because COVID-19 has taken away tables filled with bite size snacks! Forget the full course meals or the cheesecake after, a paper plate full of finger foods that don’t require a fork make me a happy girl.

So this last week, my husband was out of town and my girls were away at school. That meant No. 3 and I would be home alone. And had you looked into my grocery cart while at Kroger you would have thought we were having a party.

Party for two that is!

There were bagel bites, sliced cheeses, carrots, hummus, hard salami, french onion dip and olives. For dessert we had a bag of M&M’s and a tub of vanilla ice cream.

Because I am still a parent, however, I added a loaf of bread and peanut butter and jelly. Also in the cart was a bag of apples and milk. We were set for the week!

So it was a complete shock to me when I got home and my third child looked in the bags and immediately started complaining.

“There is nothing here to make an actual meal! You are the parent and need to feed me!”

As a parent of three, I completely understand my role is to provide my children with sustenance until they can fend for themselves.

“What are you talking about?” I remarked in shock. “We had Zaxby’s for lunch!”

“Fast food doesn’t count and neither do protein shakes,” my teenager shot back.

Really? In what world does fast food not count. And excuse me, but a protein shake is a healthy alternative to a cooked meal - we all know that.

“Jake’s mom makes chicken breast and green beans all the time. And Landon’s mom made him chicken breast and green beans every time. And Landon’s mom made us homemade pizza for dinner when I was there and then in the morning she baked us an oatmeal casserole.”

“We have oatmeal. You can have oatmeal whenever you want.” I shot back.

“No, you have to make it!”

And there was the crux. First and foremost - I don’t even know what an oatmeal casserole is. But if you ask me it sounds a little extra. Second, chicken is chicken. I don’t care if it comes from Zaxby’s or Jake’s mom’s stove-top, it counts and you and I both know those green beans came out of a can.

And third, did he not see the loaf of bread? Slap some ham and cheese on there and grab an apple out of the fruit bowl and someone give this mom a prize.

**MEET OUR ASSISTANTS: LAURA, EFDA & SHANA RDA**

**Darian S Horne, Sr., Agent**  
1400 N Mount Juliet Road, Ste 103  
Mt Juliet, TN 37122  
Bus: 615-754-4604 Fax: 615-754-8362  
www.darianhorne.com

State Farm, Bloomington, IL 1211999

**Denton Dental Solutions**  
DentonDentalSolutions.com  
11211 Lebanon Rd, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122  
615-754-0853
Jim and Donna Eaton


Mr. Eaton was born in Antioch March 4, 1935, to the late Herbert and Susie Pearl Hartman Eaton. Mrs. Eaton was born on Nov. 4, 1938, in Southside, to the late William and Thelma Jones Mayfield.

They are survived by their three children: James Monroe “Monte” Eaton Jr. (Becky), Kristi Dawn Lane (Brian) and Mitchell Alan Eaton (Crystal McDonald); grandchildren: Derek Austin Hardy-Moore (Karen), Andrew “Drew” Hardy-Moore, Cara Dawn Smith and Jacob Aaron “Jake” Hardy-Moore (Eva); as well as nine great-grandchildren. Mr. Eaton is also survived by his siblings, Esther Mae Hand and Bobby Eaton. Mrs. Eaton is also survived by her siblings, Richard Mayfield, Debra Mayfield, Arnold Mayfield and Ronald Mayfield.

Jim and Donna Eaton were married more than 57 years and were heavily involved with First Baptist Church Mt. Juliet.

BRANDY NICOLE BARKER

Brandy Barker passed away March 3, 2020, at age 38.

Barker is survived by two children, Cailey Apple and Dalisten Bennett; fiancé, Chad Berryhill; mother, Connie Hill; sister, Melanie Howard; and niece, Chelsea Sanders. She is preceded in death by father Robert Howard and grandparents Dorothy and Robert Kay Howard.

Volunteers head into the Triple Crown subdivision to help with debris removal. Mt. Juliet had over 4,000 people volunteer to help early in the cleanup.

WE WERE TOGETHER

In time of need, community stepped up

By Kenny Howell
Managing Editor

A lot of help was needed as soon as the tornado made its destructive path through Mt. Juliet.

The first responders did their best that evening and in the days after, helping those that needed it, and keeping people safe from possibly dangerous situations caused by the destruction. There were 25 people transported to the hospital that evening, and 90 were treated on scene. Curfews were put in place. Areas and roads were closed off to help keep from more tragedy happening. The National Guard even came in to assist on things that couldn’t be handled by a volunteer force.

With over 1,300 structures damaged throughout Wilson County, there was plenty of work to do. Luckily, Mt. Juliet and many other communities throughout the area were ready to help. The city set up a volunteer portal with the help of Pastor Daryl Crouch of Green Hill Church, and then had to halt it because so many people wanted to help. Over 4,000 people put their name in to help their community.

“We saw the worst of mother nature that night, but we saw the best of our community,” said Mayor James Maness in his recent State of the City address. Maness said as a commissioner (he was Vice Mayor at the time), one of the biggest things to figure out is to find something for all the volunteers to do, and where to keep all the donations that came pouring in.

Vice Mayor Ray Justice was heading up the volunteer operation at the time, but he needed help. Regina Girten, Pastor of Outreach at Providence United Methodist, was asked to come assist, and it set the stage for an organization that is still trying to help people today.

Amber Nutton of Connect Church assisted the Mt. Juliet Police Department in setting up a second portal.

“We had so many phone calls, local and national,” said Girten.

Girten coordinated with other churches in the area so they could make sure that all the volunteer work was efficiently done.

“It was so we could all be working together, helping the responders and not hindering their work,” said Girten.

As the days went on, another disaster came into the community - the COVID-19 virus. That slowed down the efforts, and forced them to change their plan.

From there Recover Wilson County started. Girten and her partners worked with UMCOR and the Salvation Army to learn the best practices of such an operation. That laid the groundwork for the organization.

“We built a car as we were driving it,” said Girten of putting Recover Wilson County together. Her co-chair on the project is Michael Moscardelli. They work in coordination with Amy Fair and Tornado Recovery Connection. If you need assistance you can visit www.tornadorecoveryconnection.com or call (615)270-9225.

Girten said they still have calls today, even debris removal, a year after the event. Girten said FEMA told them originally that the recovery time for the area would be 15-18 months.

There were many other organizations, groups and individuals and that helped in the community’s recovery. Too many to list. Many came from other areas, but a lot was due to the hardwork of people here in Wilson County.
Journey is long for families that lost homes

By Kenny Howell
Managing Editor

Over 350 homes were damaged or destroyed the night of the tornado.

That left a lot of families without a place to stay for an extended period of time. Some have moved on to different homes, some sold their land and left, and some are still trying to get insurance situations worked out a year after the event.

The Walz family just recently got into their new home, but it was after a hard year of recovery from the event. The family has battled through a lot, healing from injuries physical and emotional, trying to find a place to live, and really just trying to find some sort of normalcy in all the chaos the tornado caused. The mother, April Walz, even has a text chain with some other women that were affected by the tornado. They call themselves the Twister Sisters.

“In a blink of an eye, everything changed,” said April.

That evening when the tornado hit, her youngest son, Hudson, was believed to be sucked out of a room he was sleeping in and set down outside. His father Daniel went up there to look for him, but couldn’t find him. He told News Channel 5 at the time he thought he was gone, but started to yell for him. He heard his voice outside, he was in the yard on the side of the house. Their son Cayson was the calm one, telling everyone that they were OK, and that it was going to be fine.

“Honestly, I just woke up,” Cayson joked about how he dealt with the situation. “I didn’t think I was going to die, so I stayed calm.”

The family then moved to an Airbnb for a short time before friends found them a rental on a farm out on Highway 109. The family was used to living in a more suburban setting, but they made the best they could. Their sons got ATVs and dirtbikes, and their golden doodles had plenty of land to run around. April even befriended a local horse that she enjoyed feeding.

But it wasn’t home. Even with their friends going above and beyond to help them. They stocked them up with clothes, even printed out Facebook pictures and put them in frames so it felt more like home. Friends combed through the wreckage of their old home to try to save anything they could. Then people donated tons of items to the family. Hudson had over 30 pairs of shoes donated to him.

“We started to feel guilty getting as much support as we did,” said April.

The family passed what they didn’t need on so others could have it.

During this time, the family was trying to get back on track. They suffered from anxiety and panic attacks, and both April and Daniel had to go on blood pressure medication because of the stress. April says things have gotten better, but the family is still working on dealing with the issues.

The Walz family is one of the lucky ones that got what they needed from their insurance. It took a long time, but the money was right, and they were able to build a new house out in Gladeville, close to where April teaches at Gladeville Elementary.

Despite all of the heartache over the past year, they do see the positive that came from it.

“We are not taking anything for granted,” said Daniel.

His wife April agrees. “We have a different perspective on life...It has made our lives better.”

Damaged Schools getting closer to being rebuilt

By Kenny Howell
Managing Editor

The Wilson County School Board voted unanimously Monday to move forward with parameters for helping the two damaged schools closer to being rebuilt.

The parameters were not able to be released to the public because of legal reasons. The discussion was held behind closed doors in Executive Session.

“I’m sorry for the general public we have to be so vague at this time, but it will become very clear at some point in time,” said Attorney Mike Jennings. “Our hope is if you approve this tonight, things will move relatively quickly.”

City gathers in remembrance

The city gathered at the clock tower Tuesday afternoon to look back over the past year, remember the people we lost, but also to honor those that helped get Mt. Juliet back on track after the tornado. Mayor James Maness was one of many speakers at the event.

Data courtesy of National Weather Service
**OBITUARIES**

**AGEE, Goldie E. Summers**
Goldie E. Summers Agee, 80, Nashville passed away Feb. 25.

Goldie Agee was the daughter of William Glenn Summers and Oma Belle Hand Summers.

She is survived by: husband of 55 years, Nealon Agee; sons, Macey Agee (Marla) and their son, Aidan Agee of Shelbyville; Manny Agee of Nashville; daughter, Rachel Agee of Nashville; two sisters: Glenda Summers Horton, and Pam Summers Lively.

Graveside service were Monday, March 1 at Mt Juliet Memorial Gardens on W. Division St., Mt. Juliet, TN. Visitations with the family was Monday, March 1 until the time of the grave side service.


**DIXON, Richard Dean**

He was preceded in death by: parents, Sherman Dixon and Geraldine Shoulders; sister, Evelyn Clark; brother, Johnny Woodrow Dixon; and nephews, “Bam” Dixon and Ricky Dixon.

Richard is survived by: wife of 45 years, Denise Dixon; sons, Jason Dean (Kim) Dixon and Chase Kendall Dixon; siblings, Johnnie Lee (Linda) Dixon, and Vickie (John) Billingsley; grandchildren, Christopher Dixon, and Jaycie Dixon; sisters-in-law, Diane Poole, Debra (George) Snodgrass, and Donna (Brent) Thomas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitations was Tuesday, March 2 and Wednesday, March 3 at Sellars Funeral Home at Mt. Juliet. Funeral service will be held Wednesday, March 3, at 1 p.m. at Sellars Funeral Home at Mt. Juliet with Bro. Todd Elliott officiating. Intermnt will follow the service at Mt. Juliet Memorial Gardens with Hal Schall, Jerry Hire, Bobby Dixon, Brandon Scott, Justin Harrell, and Chris Dixon serving as pallbearers. Honorary Pallbearers are: Jack Elliott, “Boogie” Hensley, and John Billingsley.


**FLORES, Nestor**
Nestor Flores, 59, Mt. Juliet, formerly of Marietta, Ga., passed away March 2. He is preceded in death by parents, Marcos and Josefa Flores.

Nestor was a loving husband, father, brother, and friend to all who knew him. He is survived by: spouse, Liliana Flores; sons, Junior and Nestor; daughter, Araceli Flores; and grandchildren, Austin Burke and Chase Flores.

Visitation was Friday, Feb. 26, and prior to service Saturday, Feb. 27 at Sellars Funeral Home at Mt. Juliet.

Memorial service was Saturday, Feb. 27, at Sellars Funeral Home at Mt. Juliet.


**PIGNONE, Jeffrey John**
Jeffrey John Pignone, 42, Mt. Juliet passed away on Friday, Feb. 11. He was a 1997 graduate from Mt. Juliet High School. He is preceded in Death by his mother, Pamela (Lee) Pignone (2011) and his Father, Anthony (Tony) Lawrence Pignone, (2018). He is survived by his four children, Anthony Pignone, Julianna Pignone, Joey Pignone and Giovanni Pignone.

He is also survived by four siblings, Kim Smith, Jim Monnin, Michelle Monnin Madison, and Michael Pignone. Jef also left behind several nieces and nephews. Those that knew Jefrey would say that he had the biggest heart and loved his children dearly.

“A Celebration of Life” for Jeffrey Pignone was Feb. 27 at 2 p.m. We thank Global Vision Bible Church in Mt. Juliet with Pastor Greg Locke officiating such a wonderful service.

**SPANN, Ardash Ann**
Ardash Ann Spann, 80, Mt. Juliet, passed away Feb. 21.

Ardash was preceded in death by: parents, Charles and Ardash Alsup; husband, Marion Spann; son, Jon “Marty” Spann; and brother, Jon Alsup.

She is survived by: daughter, Luann Spann; sister-in-law, Carolyn Alsup; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Memorial service was Saturday, Feb. 27 at 2 p.m. Russ Fairbanks officiating. Visitation was Saturday, Feb. 27 at Sellars Funeral Home at Mt. Juliet.

Donations can be sent to Avalon Hospice Lebanon, or Avalon Hospice Nashville, 595 W. Division Street, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122, (615)758-5459, obituary line (615)758-8818, www.sellarsfuneralservices.com.

**UNDERWOOD, Kirsi Lynn**

Kirsi was a middle school student. She was current ly being home schooled but had formerly attended Page Middle School. Kirsi was full of life, a ray of sunshine on the cloudiest day. She was upsie down more than she was right side up. She was a whole lot of fun where she went.

Memorial service was at the family home. Active pallbearers were Steve Goake, Tim Wright, Chancellor Mullins, Rocky Calmley, Billy Norton and Curtis Vreiben. Kirsi’s casket will not be opened. Memorial donations may be made to: Floyd’s Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 595 W. Division Street, Mt. Juliet, TN with Pastor Mike Reese officiating. Interment followed at Mt. Juliet Memorial Gardens.

**PET OF THE WEEK**

King is a Lab/Pitbull mix who came to our shelter as a stray and went unclaimed. King is a sweet but shy and timid guy. King will need to be taught his basic commands. King is almost two years old. He is not yet neutered, so his adoption fee is $25 plus the cost of neuter at a local vet in Wilson County. Please call the shelter at 615-773-5533 to schedule an appointment to meet King, or come during **OPEN HOURS** Monday – Friday from 11:30-5 PM.
Friendship Christian School announced its 2021 Valedictorian and Salutatorian. The Valedictorian is Logan Thompson and the Salutatorian is Matalyn Espenshade. Thompson plans to attend the University of Alabama and Espenshade received an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Madeline Smith is a recipient of the 2020 Governor’s Volunteer Stars Award in the youth category. She was nominated by Greg Armstrong for the numerous volunteer services she provided throughout 2020.

Staff Reports

Madeline Smith was recognized as a recipient of the 2020, Wilson County, Governor’s Volunteer Stars Award. GVSA is an initiative from Volunteer Tennessee that seeks to recognize outstanding volunteers from each of Tennessee’s 95 Counties. With the program now in its thirteenth year, participating counties conduct a call for nominations and recognize one outstanding youth and one outstanding adult volunteer. Madeline received a commemorative plaque to mark the occasion, sponsored by Wilson Bank & Trust. Sara Davenport, Coordinator for GVSA - Wilson County, joined County Mayor, Randall Hutto present Smith with her award and thanked her for her volunteer service.

Madeline was nominated by Greg Armstrong who recognized Madeline’s leadership skills in volunteerism. He describes Madeline as having a servant’s heart, strong leadership skills and dependable. Madeline has been involved with assembling food backpacks for the LSSD pack back program, feeding the homeless in Nashville and serving individuals in Hancock County, the poorest in our state. She also recently worked on a project to bring clean water to homes in East Tennessee and assembled Thanksgiving baskets for families in the Hancock County area. “She is bold and courageous enough to lead her peers yet humble enough to always lead by exemplifying service” said Armstrong.

In addition to local county recognition, Madeline has been invited to attend the State of Tennessee virtual banquet, in February, where adult and youth award winners across the state were recognized for their volunteer efforts.

Thank you for naming us the best hearing clinic of Mt. Juliet!
* Free Consultation
* No Interest Financing
* Free Trial Period
* Waterproof, Rechargeable, & Bluetooth Hearing Aids

call us at (615)758-7999 to learn more

www.hearlife.org
1400 N. Mt. Juliet Rd. Suite 205

Advanced Hearing Solutions
Proudly serving Mt. Juliet since 2007
The Board of Commissioners of the City of Mt. Juliet will have a Work Session on March 8, 2021 at 5:15 PM to present Privatized EMS in the City of Mt. Juliet. Social distance guidelines will be followed. We ask that persons wait outside if the areas are full and you will be called in when you would like to speak when your item is being considered. Masks are requested to be worn while in City Hall. This work session may be viewed at: http://tiny.cc/CMJYT. The Public is Invited to Comment thru the agenda portal on the cities webpage www.mtjuliet-tn.gov / Go to Government / Agendas and Minutes then log into the agenda portal in the upper right hand corner or emailing sluckett@mtjuliet-tn.gov or by calling 615-754-2552. Please submit all comments by 4 PM on Monday, March 8th and provide your address so it can be forwarded to the Commissioner representing your district.

Kenny Martin, City Manager
City of Mt. Juliet
Former MJ standout elected to Tennessee Sports HOF

Staff Reports

Former Mt. Juliet High School basketball player Cathy Bender was named as a 2021 inductee to the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Tuesday morning.

Bender was an all-state guard for the Lady Bears in 1978, a team that won the state championship. Bender was the first Black woman at Vanderbilt to receive a full athletic scholarship.

“Cathy Bender led the way for so many athletes that came after. Her playing career is made even more impressive knowing that she was the first African-American female with a full athletic scholarship at Vanderbilt,” said Brad Willis, executive director of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. “Her contributions to the Mid-State area continue to this day, and we’re thrilled to have her as part of our 2021 Class of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame.”

In her time as a Commodore, Bender set a program record that stands to this day with 262 assists during the 1981-82 season while passing out 14 assists in a game three times during the campaign. That number also still stands as the third-best mark in a game to date. She also stands third for steals in a season with 111 that same season.

By T. Stephen Ward

Mt. Juliet High School Junior Cadence Perry competed with six other students from the regional area of central Tennessee in the American Legion Oratorical competition Saturday Feb. 27 in Smyrna.

American Legion Post 281 of Mt. Juliet sponsored Perry. She presented an eight-minute, memorized speech on her appreciation for the constitution and its significance in establishing our freedoms in this country.

She then followed up with a second, four-minute speech discussing the significance of the 22nd Amendment (wherein, the President can only serve two terms) and its value in keeping our republic free of tyranny.

Perry will receive a $100 cash award from the American Legion Department of Tennessee for her speeches.

Perry presents speech on appreciation for the constitution

By T. Stephen Ward

Mt. Juliet High School Junior Cadence Perry competed with six other students from the regional area of central Tennessee in the American Legion Oratorical competition Saturday Feb. 27 in Smyrna.

American Legion Post 281 of Mt. Juliet sponsored Perry. She presented an eight-minute, memorized speech on her appreciation for the constitution and its significance in establishing our freedoms in this country.

She then followed up with a second, four-minute speech discussing the significance of the 22nd Amendment (wherein, the President can only serve two terms) and its value in keeping our republic free of tyranny.

Perry will receive a $100 cash award from the American Legion Department of Tennessee for her speeches.
By Sam Hatcher  
Submitted to The Chronicle

Lebanon businessman and civic leader John B. Bryan has been named to chair The Community Foundation of Wilson County.

Bryan replaces Bob Black who has served as chairman of the local nonprofit for four years.

The Community Foundation of Wilson County is supervised by an all-volunteer board and is an affiliate organization of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

“I look forward to serving as chair of The Community Foundation of Wilson County and I am especially eager to work with those who freely give of their time to serve on this board for the benefit of the many local nonprofits that make a difference daily in so many lives across our county,” Bryan said.

He commended Black’s leadership with the organization saying he had been a major factor in seeing the nonprofit gain significant public recognition, in securing the Annual Whip Crackin’ Rodeo as a major fundraising event for The Community Foundation and being a key “hands-on” leader in the effort to help victims of last year’s tornadoes.

“Bob Black continues to be a valued member of our community. He and his wife Pam unselfishly give of their time and resources in service to others. The time he has spent as chair of The Community Foundation of Wilson County is just one example of his dedication to our local community,” Bryan said.

Scott O’Neal, an executive officer of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee who serves as a liaison to county affiliate organizations, said Bryan is to assume the post as chairman immediately.

“I look forward to working with John and I am confident that through his leadership he will continue the progress the organization has realized in Wilson County.

“The Wilson County affiliate has been fortunate to have had the service of Bob Black for the past several years. He has made significant contributions that will make a lasting difference locally for many nonprofits,” O’Neal said.

A lifelong Lebanon resident, Bryan, who has been active in a number of civic and community endeavors, has been a licensed insurance agent since 1984 and is a member of the THW Insurance firm. Before joining THW he held ownership and administrative positions in newspaper publishing for some 25 years and served as vice-president and officer of a local community bank for nine years.

He has served in all offices of the Lebanon Kiwanis Club as well as lieutenant governor for Division II of the Kentucky-Tennessee District of Kiwanis International.

He is a past board chairman of the Lebanon-Wilson County Chamber of Commerce and has served on the boards of Prospect Inc., and Hearthside at Castle Heights.

Bryan currently serves on the Joint Economic and Community Development Board of Wilson County and is a board member and secretary of the Wilson County Industrial Board. He is also President and board member of Cedarcroft Home, Inc., a not-for-profit 501c-3 organization that provides housing and other services to the mentally challenged and disabled men.

The Community Foundation of Wilson County has been instrumental over the past several years in providing financial assistance to almost 50 local charities and more recently, when devastating tornadoes ripped through Lebanon and other counties, The Community Foundation was a lead provider in assisting in the recovery effort for homeowners and businesses that were victims of the violent storms.

For more information about The Community Foundation visit cfmt.org.