Community continues to rebuild after tornado

Despite the ongoing coronavirus crisis, Mt. Juliet continues to rebuild after a tornado tore a path through the community. Robinson Construction Group is pictured above starting new construction to rebuild the first new home in the Triple Crown subdivision. | Photo by Phyllis Robinson

City, businesses prepare for reopening

The City of Mt. Juliet is conducting a phased approach in line with Gov. Bill Lee’s guidelines on reopening businesses during ongoing concerns of coronavirus. This includes restaurants and retail and commercial businesses opening at half capacity with employees being screened daily for symptoms and required to wear face masks.

City playgrounds, basketball and volleyball courts remain closed to adhere to proper physical distancing guidelines. Tennis and pickleball courts are open. Salons, bars, gyms and fitness centers, and entertainment venues will continue to remain closed. No routine or elective procedures are allowed at healthcare and dental facilities at this time.

A statement released by the City of Mt. Juliet said different aspects of government will slowly ramp back up, in phases, to full operation while continuing to practice proper physical distancing. Other city government activities and work processes that allow for proper physical distancing, use of face coverings, and barriers will go back to full operation.

“The phased reopening is an important process to opening up our community again,” said City Manager Kenny Martin. “Just like...”

Train station to undergo improvements

Staff Reports

While ridership and foot traffic are low, WeGo is taking the opportunity to work on a number of capital improvement projects for its regional transportation services. These projects will enable more parking, safer and more comfortable commutes, and better technology along the way.

WeGo Star Train Sets – Work to improve and replace the WeGo Star train sets is continuing as scheduled.

The agency has purchased eight replacement passenger cars for the Star. These cars are currently undergoing testing and cosmetic upgrades at the rail yard in Lebanon. They are expected to be put into service in June 2020.

In Fall 2019, WeGo announced the beginning of a locomotive overhaul process. To date, one of the Star’s four locomotives has already been completed and put into service, while the second is currently undergoing rehabilitation. The third locomotive is scheduled to be sent off for an overhaul later this year.

Man in gorilla costume arrested after entering wrong home

A man was arrested Sunday afternoon after entering the wrong home, wearing a gorilla costume and frightening a 6-year-old girl.

Around 2 p.m., April 26, Mt. Juliet officers were summoned to a home in the 1900 block of Dunedin Drive to search for a suspect, wearing a gorilla costume, who unlawfully entered the back door of a house.

A resident confronted the man in the backyard of their home after realizing he was...
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL 30
Safer at Home
Gov. Bill Lee announced the Safer at Home order will not extend past April 30. State officials are working on phased plans to reopen the government.

MAY 4
Board Meeting
The Wilson County Board of Education will meet in a regular scheduled board meeting on May 4, 2020, at the Wilson County BOE Administrative and Training Complex, 415 Hardin Dr., Lebanon, TN 37087.

Garden to be dedicated at Granville Heritage Day

Staff Reports

Historic Granville Pioneer Village is now the home of Pauline’s Cottage Garden, in memory of Pauline Carter Johnson of Cookeville.

The late Mrs. Johnson was born in Granville and her grandparents, Tom and Willie McKinley’s, smoke house, chicken house and outhouse are located behind the pioneer log cabin.

The garden has been established beside and behind the Williamson Cabin which will be celebrating its 200th anniversary on July 11. The dedication of the garden will be held on that same day as the 22nd Annual Granville Heritage Day will be celebrated.

Mrs. Johnson was known throughout Putnam County for her beautiful flower garden. Her family has allowed part of her garden to be moved back to the town where she was born. Granville Museum has constructed a rock sidewalk going through the garden. An arbor is being constructed at the entrance of the garden.

Randall Clemons, President of Granville Museum, stated the volunteers of the museum have wanted to establish a flower garden since the Pioneer Village was established in 2011. They are very thankful to the Johnson family for donating the garden and to Putnam Master Gardeners for designing and moving the garden. Historic Granville will be reopening on May 13 with this year’s theme “Life in a small Mayberry Town.”

Regional Bus – WeGo previously announced that 10 new MCI coaches featuring USB ports and plush seating would be put into service in Summer 2019. Those vehicles, alongside the other Gray Line-operated coaches used for commuter bus service, have since been outfitted with new fare boxes and smartphone validators to ready the regional fleet for WeGo’s new fare collection system later this year.

New Fare Payment – As part of the new fare collection project, WeGo staff will begin work by early May to install new ticket vending machines (TVMs) and platform validators at all Star train stations. Construction will take place over the course of three phases, with work beginning at the Mt. Juliet station in the next two weeks in coordination with the start of the parking lot expansion project. The second phase of work will cover the Davidson County stations at Riverfront, Donelson and Hermitage. The third phase will cover the remaining Wilson County stations in Lebanon, Hamilton Springs and Martha. The entire project is expected to be completed later this year.

Station Parking Upgrade – Work has begun in Mt. Juliet to expand the train station parking lot. The overall project will include enhanced transit service amenities, 99 additional parking spaces, multi-modal connections, and safety/security at the station. Service will be maintained during construction, beginning with platform work to accommodate the installation of new fare system technology. The entire project is expected to take approximately one year.

From TRAIN, PAGE 1

Putnam County Master Gardeners members established Pauline’s Cottage Garden. Pictured left to right are Serina Wells, Linda Anderson, Mickie Loyd and Brenda Reed. | Photo submitted

From CLEANUP, PAGE 1


Cleanup continues around the city. Many cubic yards of debris has already been cleared out. City Manager Kenny Martin said the city budgeted $2 million for cleanup, and they are already up to $500,000. Martin said that cleanup is going well and will continue.

“We’re going to get our city back to where it needs to be,” said Martin.
It takes a little while to get our dinner table ready at night. Arts and crafts projects have to be cleared away. The inevitable spilled drink has to be cleaned up. Children have to be called in, hands washed, you know the drill.

When we sit down to eat, we can still hear the noise of the day, still feel the movement in our souls. But each night, we pause if only for a minute, bow our heads and say a simple prayer.

Usually one of my daughters leads us and then we all join in with “God our Father, God our Father, once again, once again, we bow our heads to thank you, we bow our heads to thank you, Amen, Amen.”

A simple prayer, but I have found that many days, within that small prayer is all we need and everything we need at the end of a noisy, busy, chaotic day.

Once again … we bow our heads to thank you. It’s strange, but my whole mood can change during that 30-second prayer. My heart can shift as I mouth the words with those little voices. I see things that I didn’t see just the moment before. I feel grateful even when there are some things I’m not so grateful for. Bowing my head and thanking God and doing it with other people is a powerful thing.

One time Paul told a group of relatively new followers of Jesus to “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you.”

—from 1 Thessalonians 5:18

See F & M, PAGE 6
Do unto others

One of my favorite quotes is: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. How true! And since that’s the case, from this point forward, I am asking everyone to try their very best at doing unto others as you would have them do unto you.

One example includes littering. Littering costs everyone. It takes a toll on our resources, our property values, our wallets, and is an insult to our great community and country. Littering is simply passing the buck. When you pass the buck, the rest of us are left with the bill, the bill of cleaning up the mess left behind.

Another example is respect. Respect is when you speak kindly of others or say nothing at all; respect is when you open a door for your wife, family member or a complete stranger who has their hands full; respect is when you don’t endanger the lives of others by driving under the influence, speeding, tailgating; respect is not telling lies, cheating, hurting, murdering and so on.

Life is so very short when you really think about it. We all have hurts, sorrows, worries, highs, lows, concerns, deadlines, aggravations and feelings that can be offended, hurt or damaged. With that being the case, let’s all start being more civil, kind, understanding, forgiving, helpful and loving to one another.

In closing, nothing is ever accomplished without sincere effort and a positive attitude. Good will always prevail over indifference and divisiveness. Please do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

TN pays Pandemic Unemployment Assistance benefits

Self-employed individuals receiving federal benefits provided through CARES Act

Staff Reports

The state of Tennessee began providing economic relief to thousands of self-employed individuals by paying Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits, made available to them through the federal government’s CARES Act.

After building the system necessary to accommodate this new benefit, the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD) began processing unemployment applications under PUA guidelines set by the United States Department of Labor.

Self-employed individuals are not typically eligible for unemployment. PUA provided the funding necessary to pay benefits to Tennesseans who have not been able to work in order to help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The Department began processing eligible claims on April 22 and continued processing into the weekend. Tens of thousands of eligible individuals should have funds deposited into their bank accounts or debit cards this week.

In order to process the claims in the most expeditious manner possible, all claimants will first receive the minimum weekly PUA benefit of $120 and the additional $600 weekly Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefit. Individuals eligible for more than the minimum will see their payments adjusted up over time. Payments are retroactive to March 15 or when the claimant first applied. The FPUC benefit is retroactive back to the week ending April 4.

TDLWD utilized the minimum payment method in order to distribute benefits immediately, and then take the necessary time needed to calculate each claimant’s weekly benefit amount (WBA). Once the Department finalizes a WBA, the claimant will receive the difference between the minimum and their actual benefit in a later payment.

The Department will contact each claimant to request wage information if it has not already been provided. Claimants will also receive instructions on how to become current on any missed weekly certifications. It is extremely important claimants do not make any changes to their claims while they are processing in order to prevent issues that could cause a delay.

PUA provides up to 39 weeks of benefits to qualifying individuals who are otherwise able to work and available for work within the meaning of applicable state law, except that they are unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable or unavailable to work due to COVID-19 related reasons, as defined in the CARES Act. PUA benefits cannot be paid for weeks of unemployment ending after Dec. 31, 2020.

Self-employed Tennesseans can still apply for PUA by visiting www.Jobs4TN.gov or calling 844-432-0969.
Gladeville Elementary
Gators of the Month

Staff Reports

Gladeville Elementary School recently announced the Gators of the Month for February. Due to schools closing, a photo could not be taken. Gators of the Month include:


Dear Clients,

While we are closed to tending to your tresses, we are still here and ready slowly reopening or Phase 1 reopening, but they are prepared to do so when the state guidelines allow.

Many businesses in the community are either already slowly reopening or preparing to do so whenever state guidelines allow. Restaurants were allowed to open to half capacity on April 27, and many have taken advantage of this. Some are choosing to limit business to curbside pickup, such as Painturo’s in Mt. Juliet. Painturo’s, which has been closed for over a month, reopened April 28. It will be curbside pickup only because they want to ensure the health and safety of customers and employees.

“Our decision to remain closed the past five weeks was because we felt it was our responsibility to do our part in flattening the curve,” Painteruo’s said on its Facebook page. “As we reopen in this new and unprecedented fashion, we ask for your patience and cooperation.”

Retail businesses, such as Ramona and Co. and The Basement Marketplace, are reopening this week, with limited customer capacity in the businesses. Due to the public nature of commercial and retail business, they will be mindful of and increase cleanliness. Many small businesses are still encouraging curbside pickup. Some are also getting creative in their business practices during this time, such as AR Workshop which is offering DIY-to-go for delivery and curbside pickup before they reopen May 8.

Businesses, such as hair and nail salons, are not included as part of Gov. Lee’s Phase 1 reopening, but they are still preparing to reopen safely and with additional guidelines for customers.

At Salon Galleria, stylists will only work on one client at a time. Clients must come alone and stay in their car until their stylist calls them when they are ready. Stylists will wear masks, and clients are recommended to do the same. Out of an abundance of caution, they will not work on anyone who has a cough, even if it’s allergies. In other salons that don’t have separate suites, such as Capella’s, they are working to limit available seating before reopening. Stations are moved farther apart and dividers have been put in place.

Due to physical distancing parameters, retail and healthcare facilities are not open for routine and elective procedures at this time. However, they are also preparing for the time when they can operate.

“As the dentist is going to look much different when dental offices are allowed to reopen,” said Dr. Darren Foster. “Southeastern Dental is concerned about the health of our employees and the health of our patients.”

The waiting room will not be open for a while; instead, patients will call the office to let them know when they arrive. Only patients will be allowed to enter the building, unless the patient is a minor. Their temperature will be taken before any appointment.

“The dental industry has already been doing many things to protect everyone for many years,” he said. “We use many disposable items, and there is no possible way for cross-contamination. We disinfect all items in the treatment room in between every patient. All our instruments are sterilized and wrapped for every patient. We have our sterilization equipment checked every week to make sure it is functioning correctly. A dental office is a very clean place for many years and going into the future it will only become even more of a clean and sterile environment.”

“All of our community begins the calculated re-opening process of local businesses it is incumbent upon each of us to be mindful of our surroundings, each other and ourselves,” said Mark Hinesley, president of the Mt. Juliet Chamber of Commerce. “I want to encourage everyone to follow proper sanitation guidelines, to socially distance as requested, and to support those businesses working so hard to get back to serving their customers.”

The City of Mt. Juliet will monitor the phased re-opening process and guidelines from local health officials. As new information is received or conditions improve, restrictions will be evaluated.
MJPD hopes to identify motorist who assaulted teen during road rage incident

**Staff Reports**

Detectives are hoping to identify a motorist who confronted and assaulted a 16-year-old in a road rage incident.

Around p.m., April 26, officers were summoned to the area of Willoughby by Station Boulevard and South Greenhill Road to investigate an assault. A 16-year-old motorist was assaulted by another motorist, who approached the victim’s side window, grabbed their glasses, and struck their face. After the assault, the suspect left the area. The suspect approached the victim because he thought the victim was following too close.

The suspect was described as a white male in their 20s. At the time of the incident, he had dark brown or black hair, a beard trimmed short, and was wearing a black shirt. He was driving a 2-door or 4-door, gray Toyota Tacoma pick-up truck with a white license plate that had red letters.

Anyone with any information regarding this crime is encouraged to call the Mt. Juliet Police Department at (615) 754-2550. Information can also be given anonymously by calling (615) 754-TIPS (8477) or via the Mt. Juliet Police Department website at http://www.mjpd.org/.

**From ARREST, PAGE 1**

was just inside the home. The man ran, and he was eventually located by officers nearby on Portsmouth Court.

Richard Muzick, age 31 of Old Hickory, was identified as the suspect. The investigation revealed that Muzick thought he was at someone else’s home and looking for another individual. He was arrested and booked into the Wilson County Jail, charged with Aggravated Burglary.

Trauma volumes down at VUMC due to Stay at Home orders

**Staff Reports**

One possible positive impact of the coronavirus pandemic is that fewer people on the roadways translates to fewer motor vehicle accidents and fewer traumatic injuries.

The adult trauma unit at Vanderbilt University Medical Center is on track to admit 65% fewer patients this month from motor vehicle accidents, motorcycle accidents and pedestrians struck by autos, as compared to last April.

“I think the cause for this big drop is that people have been staying home, plain and simple,” said Bradley Dennis, MD, interim chief, Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care. “The social distancing and shelter at home recommendations from the city and the state governments appear to have been largely heeded.”

On April 2, to stem the spread of COVID-19, Gov. Bill Lee issued a statewide stay at home order.

VUMC's trauma numbers echo numbers from the Tennessee Highway Safety Office. This month, motor vehicle accidents resulting in death or serious injury are down by half, and Tennessee is on track to see 25 fewer traffic fatalities compared to the average for the previous five Aprils.

Online dashboards from the state are updated daily with “fatal and serious injury crashes,” as well as traffic fatalities.

Based on the rate during April 18, Tennessee is projected to end this month with 243 fatal and serious injury crashes, a 49% reduction when compared to the average over the two previous Aprils.

Over the first 20 days of April, traffic fatalities in the state are down 21%, compared to the average for the first 20 days in the two preceding Aprils.

From March 29 through April 18, the adult trauma service at VUMC admitted 131 patients, a 22% reduction compared to the average for the same three-week period over the preceding two years.

“Unfortunately, interpersonal violence continues to happen whether we’re socially distancing or not. While we’re seeing much less blunt trauma than usual, we’re seeing the same amounts of gunshots and stabbings that we typically see,” Dennis said.

Trauma admissions can be divided into two categories: blunt trauma, such as traffic accident injuries, and penetrating trauma, such as gunshot.

“With COVID, the volume that initially went away for us was elderly falls. We saw a period where, except for young risk-taking age groups, people were staying indoors and not doing a whole lot,” Dennis said.

“But now those elderly falls are starting to return. Maybe it’s that the weather is getting warmer and people are doing stuff around the yard, but we’re seeing a fair number of falls off ladders and other household sorts of injuries. It implies that, even if they’re staying at home, people are getting a little bit more active.”

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I have a confession to make. I’m both embarrassed and nervous about putting it on paper for anyone to see. Since it has been said that, “the truth shall set you free,” here goes. I have not read nor plan to read, any of the “Twilight” novels. I know, I know. I can hear the collective gasps from “Twilight” enthusiasts, a lot of which are my family members and close friends. Now that my secret is out I fear I will be defriended from more than half of my Facebook friends, party invites will cease, and I will be forced to hang my head in shame.

I have nothing against the teen vampire series. In fact, I’ve had many friends who are self-labeled “literary snobs,” tell me how fantastically written they are.

Now I guess it’s time for my second confession (oh yeah, it gets worse). I hate, and will avoid at all costs, any scary movies. At the movies, if one of the coming attractions is scary, I’ll close my eyes and put my hands over my ears. In the event my husband and I are with other couples, I forego that exterior self-soother in favor of singing, “You’re My First, My Last, My Everything” by Barry White, in my head.

Before anyone tries to interject and tell me how “Twilight” isn’t scary or “it’s about good vampires” or “it’s a love story,” don’t bother. Any vampire is scary to me. No matter if they feast on human or animal blood. They all totally freak me out!

It’s like when I was in college and a close friend told me she had been studying an alternative religion where she is one with nature. She went on to tell me how she will now be considered a goddess of nature or witch. She must have noticed the shock on my face when she said, “It’s a good witch, not a bad witch.”

My aversion to all things cinematically frightening began at a very young age when my big brother thought “The Wolfman” was an appropriate movie for a 5 year old to watch. I don’t think I slept for close to a year. Not long after I could sleep all night again, I walked into the den while my parents were watching “Psycho.” After that, I couldn’t sleep or take showers. Don’t even ask me what watching “Jaws” I, II and III did to me.

That’s where it all started, and I’m embarrassed to say, it’s stuck. While I say it’s the price you pay for having an active imagination, my husband calls it “another piece of the puzzle.”

For now, I’ll continue to deal with the frenzy of “New Moon” mania and accept that some of my family and friends will remain Vampire Devotees. Perhaps I’ll just have to break down and read what everyone is raving about.

Comments? Email becky@wilsonlivingmagazine.com

**Scary movies**

By Becky Andrews
Wilson Living Magazine

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**PET OF THE WEEK**

Buddy and his fur sister Blossom, who has since been adopted, were surrendered to our shelter after their owner passed away. Buddy is a 7-year-old German Shepherd mix. Buddy enjoys playing outside and working for treats. Buddy is already neutered so his adoption fee is $75. Please call the shelter at 615-773-5533 to schedule an appointment to meet Buddy.

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ASHLEY, Lora Fathera

Lora Fathera Ashley, age 89 of Lebanon, died April 19, 2020. Mrs. Ashley was the daughter of the late Joe and Minnie Belle Allen Fathera. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Robert Wayne Ashley and her siblings, Ruth Powell, Lorene Bullock, Jewel West, Doris Davis and Bobby Fathera.

She is survived by: Sons – Jack Hayes and Greg (Donna) Jennings; Daughter – Pat Jansen; Grandchildren – Jason Hayes, Ross Hayes, Parker Jennings and Cara Jennings; Great-grandchildren – Devan Hayes, Drew Hayes, Tyler Hayes, Nathan Hayes, Evie Hayes and Spencer Hayes; Several nieces and nephews.

Private graveside services were held April 22 at Mt. Juliet Memorial Gardens. Flowers accepted or memorials may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

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

COOPER, Charles Eugene

Charles “Charlie” Cooper was born Jan. 18, 1940, in Nashville. He went to heaven on March 13, 2020.

He was preceded in death by son, Richard “Ricky” Cooper. He is survived by wife of 60 years, June (Green) Cooper; sons, William “Billy” (Tina) Cooper and Robert “Bobby” (Patti) Cooper; granddaughters, Eligh Cooper and Tabitha (Cooper) Stewart; two great-grandchildren.

Smith Family Funeral Home in Murfreesboro. Memorial service on another date.

GOODSON, Donna

Donna Goodson passed away April 22, 2020, at age 72. No services are scheduled.

Mrs. Goodson is survived by son Chris Parker, grandchild Jordan Parker, and sisters Carla (D.) Ray and Peggy (Ronald) Oaks. She is preceded in death by husband Charles Goodson, son Greg Parker, and parents.

Sellers Funeral Home, Lebanon TN, 615.444.9393.

GRAPES, Priscilla Mai “Prisy”

Prissy Graves passed away on April 21, 2020, at age 61. No services are scheduled.

Mrs. Graves is preceded in death by husband William “Buddy” Graves, son Mickey Graves, grandchildren Timothy Graves and Rickey Netherton, parents Carlos and Mary Hurst, and sisters Joyce Darnell. She is survived by children Samantha (Richard) Netherton, Rickey (Renee) Graves, and Timothy (Kimberly) Graves, grandchildren Landon Netherton, Kayleigh Graves, Brendan Graves, Paisley Roberts, Jemma Cooper, and Finley Roberts, siblings Janice (Bobby) Garrett, Rebecca (Doug) Garrett, Margie (Harold) Taylor, and W.T. (Mary) Hudson, and numerous nieces and nephews. The Funeral Service will be held at Sellars Funeral Home at Mt. Juliet, 2229 N. Mt. Juliet Road, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122, 615-758-5459, obituary line 615-758-8818, www.sellarsfuneralservices.com

LASSITTER, Leonard Russell

Russell Leonad Lassiter, age 80 of Cookeville, passed away on April 21, 2020. Mr. Lassiter was preceded in death by parents, Russell and Willie Pearl Lassiter; step-mother, Lillian Lassiter; sisters, Debra Lassiter, Lucy Culloca and Mary Pay Kaiser; and brother, Estle Green. He was survived by wife of 60 years, Wanda Lassiter; children, Donald (Marilyn) Lassiter, Gary (Vickie) Lassiter, Danny Lassiter and JoAnn Beck; daughter-in-law, Marie Lassiter; sisters, Arlene Ledbetter, Angie Lassiter, Carol (Roger) Fuqua and Jean Lassiter; brothers, Andy Lassiter, George and Glen Green; uncle, Roscoe Lassiter; grandchildren, Josh (Jessica) Lassiter, Melissa Lassiter, Jennifer (Michael) Binion, Brittanee (Greg) Mabry, Garrett Lassiter, Kristin Lassiter, Noah Beck, Isaac Beck, Angel Beck and Eli Beck; and great-grandchildren, Noli and Cas Mabry. Inurnment will follow at Mt. Juliet Memorial Gardens.

Memorial Contributions may be made to: St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital at www.stjude.org or Shriners Hospitals for Children at donate.livetotherescue.org.


MADDIN, Larry Eugene

Larry Maddin passed away April 21, 2020, at age 69. Services will be private.

Mr. Maddin is survived by wife of 48 years and 8 months, Sandy Maddin, children Lori (Alan Huges) McKay, Larry Eugene (Regina) Maddin, Jr., and Tonya Maddin (Rocky) Gann, mother Frances Maddin, grandchildren Ronnie (Savannah Davis) McKay, Sara Danielli (Ronnie Petrovski) Maddin, and Justin Thomas Maddin, brother Homer (Tina) Maddin, sister Debbie (Terry) Stewart, and numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by father Homer Maddin and brother Michael Maddin.

Sellers Funeral Home, Lebanon TN, 615.444.9393.

MIZZONI, Joseph Jr.

Joseph Mizzoni, Jr. passed away April 24, 2020, at age 62. No services are scheduled at this time.

Joseph is survived by wife of 36 years Rosa Mizzoni, brother Ted (Olga) Mizzoni, children Veronica (Dr. Alberto) Cadena and Annmarie (Courtney) Mizzoni, three grandchildren Vicente Cadena, Adrianna Cadena and Greyson Mizzoni, numerous nieces and nephews, and a brother-in-law. He is preceded in death by parents Joseph and Norine Mizzoni.

Sellers Funeral Home Lebanon TN, 615.444.9393.

ware, Mary Magdalene Bennett

Mary Magdalene Bennett Ware served earthly ties and took her Heavenly flight on April 22, 2020, at the beautiful age of 95 surrounded by her precious family. The Funeral Service was held April 26, and interment followed in Mt. Juliet Memorial Gardens.

She is survived by children, Mabel (Alvie Adams) Beazley and Dave (Connie) Carver; step-children, Kaye Bills and Danny (Julie) Ware; grandchildren, Michele (Jeff) Savage, Jarrod (Shannon) Beazley, and Rachel (Robert “Easy”) Posey; great-grandchildren, Jason (Jennifer) Denby Savage, Shelby (Dyann) Webb, Miles Posey, Anna Posey, Mackayla Posey, Leah Grace Beazley, and Dalton Beazley; sister, Christine (Clifford) Collier; sister-in-law, Sue Bennett; numerous nieces and nephews also survive.

She was preceded in death by husband, Joseph Daniel “J.D.” Ware; parents, Robert and Laura Bennett; sisters, Myrtle Berry, Lula Scott, Dovie Bennett, Dorothy Bennett, Naomi Groves, and Sadie Vandohlen; brothers, Robерт Bennett, Wilbert Bennett, Bobby Bennett, and Grady Bennett; special friend, Johnnie Daniels.


JAMES, Hugh B.

Hugh B. James, age 79 of Mt. Juliet, passed away April 21, 2020. Mr. James was preceded in death by parents, R B and Annie Kate James; and great-granddaughter, Penny Kersey. He is survived by wife of 59 years, Joyce James; children, Rhonda (David) Baker, Donna (Danny) Francis and Timothy (Donna) James; sister, Brenda James Tippit; grandchildren, Brittany (Trey) King, Tiffany (Justin) Granstaff, Cortany (CJ) Kersse, Daniel James and Emily Sue James; and great-grandchildren, Bradley & Payton King, Lyla, Lux and Lincoln Granstaff and Samuel, Clara and Sawyer Kersey.

A private family service will be held at Sellars Funeral Home at Mt. Juliet, and interment will follow at Mt. Juliet Memorial Gardens. The family wishes to extend a special THANK YOU to the nurses and outpatient staff at TriStar Summit and Dr. Brian Hemphill, Sara Perry and their staff. Memorial contributions may be made to the MDS Foundation at: www.mds-foundation.org or you can donate blood in Mr. James’ memory.


WARE, Mary Magdalene Bennett

Mary Magdalene Bennett Ware served earthly ties and took her Heavenly flight on April 22, 2020, at the beautiful age of 95 surrounded by her precious family. The Funeral Service was held April 26, and interment followed in Mt. Juliet Memorial Gardens.

She is survived by children, Mabel (Alvie Adams) Beazley and Dave (Connie) Carver; step-children, Kaye Bills and Danny (Julie) Ware; grandchildren, Michele (Jeff) Savage, Jarrod (Shannon) Beazley, and Rachel (Robert “Easy”) Posey; great-grandchildren, Jason (Jennifer) Denby Savage, Shelby (Dyann) Webb, Miles Posey, Anna Posey, Mackayla Posey, Leah Grace Beazley, and Dalton Beazley; sister, Christine (Clifford) Collier; sister-in-law, Sue Bennett; numerous nieces and nephews also survive.

She was preceded in death by husband, Joseph Daniel “J.D.” Ware; parents, Robert and Laura Bennett; sisters, Myrtle Berry, Lula Scott, Dovie Bennett, Dorothy Bennett, Naomi Groves, and Sadie Vandohlen; brothers, Robert Bennett, Wilbert Bennett, Bobby Bennett, and Grady Bennett; special friend, Johnnie Daniels.

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Detectives searching for missing Mt. Juliet woman

Staff Reports

Mt. Juliet detectives and family are concerned about the whereabouts of a missing woman, and all are hoping to find her safe. Deavin Nicole Walker, age 34, has not been heard from since Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020, and she was last known to be walking in the Willoughby Station neighborhood after telling a family member she was going to the store.

Walker left her residence wearing a white shirt with green sweatpants, and she had a cell phone that is no longer working. She is a black female, 5’3” in height, weighing 125 pounds, having brown eyes, and brown hair in dreadlocks with highlighted tips. She frequently visited the Lebanon area in the past.

If anyone has any information about the whereabouts of Deavin Nicole Walker, they are urged to call the Mt. Juliet Police Department at (615) 754-2550. Information can also be given anonymously by calling (615) 754-TIPS (8477) or via the Mt. Juliet Police Department website at http://www.mjpd.org/.

Wilson County prepares to reopen

Staff Reports

With Gov. Bill Lee’s announcement that the Stay at Home order will expire April 30, Wilson County Mayor Randall Hutto’s office addressed the county’s preparedness to reopen.

On April 7, Mayor Hutto extended the declaration of a State of Emergency to May 4, 2020, due to COVID-19, at which time the declaration will be reviewed again.

Hutto’s office said Wilson County will continue honoring Gov. Lee’s executive orders for emergency management of COVID-19, and they are awaiting to hear more information from the governor later this week regarding guidelines for reopening.

As Wilson County prepares for the eventual reopening of businesses, county officials realize it is important for business owners and residents to be prepared for changes to current activities as the county returns to a new normal. Everyone should continue to follow procedures that safeguard personal health and welfare and be mindful of the most vulnerable population in the elderly.

In data released April 28 by the Tennessee Department of Health, there are 249 cases of COVID-19 in Wilson County. Tennessee has a total of 10,052 confirmed cases with 161,928 total tested. There are 894 hospitalizations, 4,921 recovered, and 188 deaths.

Wilson County government will continue monitoring COVID-19 and tracking the number of cases in the county. Officials said they will push for increased testing for all Wilson County residents and prepare for adequate healthcare capacity by working with Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital and the State of Tennessee for surge facilities when and if needed.

Hutto’s office also requested that employers screen all employees reporting to work for COVID-19 symptoms by asking the following questions:

- Have you been in close contact with a person who had a confirmed case of COVID-19?
- Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
- Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
- Have you have a new loss of taste or smell?
- Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?

If they answer “yes” to any of the above questions, employers should ask them to consider seeking medical attention or go to the Wilson County Health department for a free COVID-19 test. They should call 615-444-5325 for an assessment first and schedule an appointment for the test.

In addition to businesses beginning to reopen, local services are also moving forward. State Parks partially reopened last week for daytime visitors. Wilson County libraries are expected to open for curbside service on May 4. Patrons can request books through the website, email or phone.

“We will continue to keep you informed and provide all the citizens of Wilson County with the best services possible,” said Mayor Hutto’s office in a statement released April 27. “Although we are beginning to reopen, we must continue to be careful and to stay the course on protecting ourselves and our loved ones. As we have said before, if you treat everyone as if they have it, you will protect yourself and those around you.”
HCA to provide ventilators as part of public-private collaboration to battle COVID-19

Staff Reports

HCA Healthcare, one of the nation’s leading healthcare providers, recently announced it will provide as many as 1,000 ventilators as part of the American Hospital Association’s collaboration with the federal government and health systems to distribute this critical piece of equipment to hospitals experiencing a surge of patients with COVID-19.

HCA Healthcare chief executive officer Sam Hazen participated in a White House briefing with President Donald Trump on April 14 to announce the launch of the Dynamic Ventilator Reserve. This new public-private collaboration will distribute ventilators to critical areas of need in the fight against COVID-19.

The Dynamic Ventilator Reserve will include an online inventory of ventilators and associated supplies, such as tubing and filters, to support the overall needs of combating the COVID-19 pandemic. Hospitals and health systems will input into the database available equipment that they are able to lend to others. Providers are then able to request access to this virtual inventory should their need for ventilators increase. The AHA will manage the inventory with full transparency to those participating in the effort and work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to determine when ventilators might be needed to supplement the national emergency stockpile.

“I stand here before you in front of our 285,000 colleagues who provide care to patients every day across the country,” Hazen said when addressing President Trump, officials and members of the media at an announcement of the public-private effort in the White House Rose Garden. “One of the guiding principles we had when we went into this COVID-19 battle was to find partnerships — partnerships with other components of the healthcare industry, partnerships with other health systems and partnerships with governments, both local and federal. We’re proud to be part of this public-private sector partnership, and I think it’s going to do great good for the community.”

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