Leaders of Vanderbilt University Medical Center announced plans Friday to purchase Tennova Healthcare-Lebanon, a two-campus facility licensed for 245 beds, from subsidiaries of Community Health Systems.

A definitive agreement has been signed for the sale of the facility and related businesses, including physician clinic operations and outpatient services, to Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

The transaction is subject to regulatory approvals and is expected to close in the third quarter of 2019. Terms of the transaction will remain confidential. Officials said patients will experience no interruption in care while leaders with Vanderbilt and Community Health Systems work closely together to ensure a smooth transition of ownership.

Vanderbilt officials also said they are committed to hiring substantially all employees of Tennova Healthcare-Lebanon who are in good standing when the hospital’s transfer of ownership is complete.

The hospital is currently

See HOSPITAL, PAGE 7

By Sarah Tate
Managing Editor

Sweet Cece’s opened in Mt. Juliet in January, offering a variety of frozen yogurt and sweet treats.

Even though they opened in the middle of Winter, that hasn’t stopped business.

“From the day we’ve opened our doors, we’ve had such a good reception,” said Dinah Ross, one of the partners who opened Sweet Cece’s Mt. Juliet. “Everybody’s so excited that we’re here... We’re very optimistic on what our summer’s going to be like if our winter is this good.”

Sweet Cece’s uses premium Dannon yogurt and has a variety of toppings to choose from. There are eight flavors to choose from and they are regularly switched out to provide new options.

See SWEET, PAGE 10
TN Promise students exceed FAFSA record

More than 53,000 TN Promise students filed the 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by Feb. 1, 2019, breaking the previous year’s record and making it the largest number in tnAchieves’ history to date.

The FAFSA, a federal application, is the primary financial aid application that any student enrolling in post-secondary must complete in order to determine some state and federal scholarship and grant qualifications.

“The FAFSA application process can often times be the most challenging application families will face prior to post-secondary enrollment,” said tnAchieves Senior Director of Communications Amanda Bolden. “Students who file the FAFSA have access to more financial aid and have more post-secondary opportunities. tnAchieves is excited for every student and family that has filed the 2019-2020 FAFSA because this helps the student to be one step closer to enrolling in college.”

According to Data Insight Partners, Tennessee is leading the country in FAFSA completion rate for the 2019-2020 academic year, with more than 74 percent of current high school seniors completing a FAFSA as of March 8, 2019. Tennessee has been the leader in FAFSA completion three of the last four years, tying with Louisiana for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Collectively, 93 percent of the tnAchieves TN Promise college cohort filed the FAFSA to continue receiving aid for the 2019-2020 academic year.

tnAchieves is the partnering organization to TN Promise in 84 of Tennessee’s 95 counties and is responsible for all non-financial components of the program.
Gators of the Month

Staff Reports

Gladeville Elementary School’s Gators of the Month for March are pictured above left to right.

Front row: Andrew Aguillera, Scotty Trapp, Hudson Aguilera, Jaxson Powell, and Ellery Cassell.

Middle row: Isabella Hill, Audrey Mccaleb, Caroline Shoulders, Brooklynn Hart, Kaber, Grace Price, Kenston Stoner, Hudson Walz, Cooper Maddux, Isabella Hill, Audley Mccaleb, Caroline Shoulders, Brooklynn Hart, Kaber, Grace Price, Kenston Stoner, Hudson Walz, Cooper Maddux.

Back row: Isabella Hill, Audrey Mccaleb, Caroline Shoulders, Brooklynn Hart, Kaber, Grace Price, Kenston Stoner, Hudson Walz, Cooper Maddux.

Not pictured: Sydney Karber, Grace Price, Kenston Stoner, Hudson Walz, Cooper Maddux.

The Free Clothing Store

Open Pantry

Cloyd’s Cumberland Presbyterian Church is offering groceries for 15 families April 12 at 9 a.m. until noon and will offer clothing, toiletries, breakfast and chiropractic adjustments. It is open to everyone and everything is completely free. It is located at Life Church at 3688 Highway 109.

The Wilson County School District is preparing to hold a Teacher Recruitment Fair from 3:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 4 at the Administrative and Training Complex at 415 Harding Drive in Lebanon. Principals from every school in the district will be present to meet and interview candidates. Attendees should come dressed professionally and bring copies of their resumes. Visit www.wcschools.com/hr to register.

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BRITT, Jerry Wayne


A funeral service was held March 29 at Sellars Funeral Home in Mt. Juliet, and interment followed at Underwood Cemetery in Lafayette, Tennessee. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to either Alive Hospice (1718 Patterson St, Nashville, TN 37203) or to The Metro Nashville Police Department’s Police Christmas Charities.


GIBB, Ernestine Roma “Romy”

Romy Gibb passed away on March 28, 2019 at age 80. No public services scheduled at this time. Mrs. Gibb is survived by children Charles (Joyce) Goodman, Lisa Gayle Goodman (Kyle) Draper, Gabrielle Gibb (Allen) Allums, and Jacob (Stacy) Gibb; grandchildren Josh Goodman, Christopher Allums, Jacob Allums, Sara Beth Allums, Jacob Gibb, and Jackson Gibb; and brother Claude (Sandy) Dishmon of Haymarket VA. She is preceded in death by first husband Charles Joyce Goodman, second husband Steven Mathias Gibb, and third husband Thomas Turner, father Jacob Henry Kinman, and mother Besie Bell Arnold Kinman. Sellars Funeral Home, Lebanon TN, 615.444.9393.

LEE, Virginia

Virginia Lee, age 78 of Mt. Juliet, passed away March 28, 2019. A funeral service was held April 1 at Sellars Funeral Home in Mt. Juliet, and interment followed at Mt. Juliet Memorial Gardens.

She was preceded in death by her parents Clayton Burbas and Nettie “Jane” Hardin Rich, and sisters, Rema Story and Ruby Glass. She is survived by loving husband of 60 years, Herman Lee; sons, James Alan (Kate) Lee and Brian Scott (Paige) Lee; grandchildren, Jacqueline Danielle Lee, Tristan Scott Lee, and Mallory Reese Lee; sister, Emogene King; brother-in-law, Jack (Jery- ley) Lee.

Memorial Donations may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association (225 N. Michigan Ave., Floor 17, Chicago, IL 60601).

SHARRER, Dianna Lynn

Dianna Lynn Sharrer, age 47, of Woodbury, Tennessee, died March 28, 2019. She was the daughter of the late Richard Nedrow and Dorothy Ward Nedrow Nichols. Dianna was also preceded in death by her uncle, Ron Nedrow, and aunt, Emily Stier.

She is survived by: Husband of 27 years – Troy Sharrer; Children – Kaylie Nikkol (Matthew) Johnson and Chace Allen Sharrer; Siblings – Rick (There- sa) Nedrow and Jennifer Nedrow; Step-father – Roy Nichols; Step-mother – Beverly Nedrow; nieces – Amanda Munro, Aishah Nedrow, Briana Nedrow and Lilly Nedrow; Aunts – Jan Nedrow, Mary Hawkins and Lilly Nedrow; Cousins – Ron (Kathy) Nedrow and Elaine (Jim) Sayre; Mother-in-law – Roxie (Ed) Casale; Many other family members and friends.

A Celebration of Life service will be conducted from 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, 2019, at the Cedars of Lebanon State Park, Pavilion 7.


THACKER, Peggy L.

Peggy L. Thacker, age 69 of Lebanon, passed away March 26, 2019. Mrs. Thacker was preceded in death by parents, John and Jessie Gianoulis; and brother, Tony Gianoulis. She is survived by husband of 38 years, Charlie Thack- er; children, Chris (Samra) Burch and Jon (Mindy) Burch; step-children, Tan- ya Chandler, Charlie (Su- zanne) Thacker, Jr., and Jeff Thacker; sisters, Alice (Ed) Everhart and Jackie Gianoulis; 10 grandchild- ren; and 2 great-grand-children.

A funeral service was held March 31 at Sellars Funeral Home in Mt. Julie- et, and interment followed at Mt. Juliet Memorial Gar- dens. Memorial contribu- tions may be made to: St. Jude Children’s Hospital at www.stjude.org.


WARREN, Peggy Jo

Peggy Warren passed away on March 26, 2019. A private entombment service was held March 30.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 53 years, George Ned War- ren; sons Travis Gregory Warren and George Dar- rin Warren; grandchildren Travis, Holden, Evan, and Ashley; sisters Sue Ann (Sonny) Eaton and June (Wayne) Braiser; and broth- er: Milton Watson. She is preceded in death by father Coy Watson, mother Ruby Watson Sevier, step-father Joe Sevier, and sister Reba Skelton.

In lieu of flowers, please make Memorial Donations to the Sarah Cannon Can- cer Research Center in Nashville TN. Sellars Fu- neral Home, Lebanon TN, 615.444.9393.
Tiner received her degree in art education from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. After graduating, she worked in graphic design and was the art director at a company in Chattanooga before beginning her teaching career. Throughout her career, Tiner has been blessed to be a working artist who has never had to push her passion to the side. Before teaching, she worked in graphic design, but she has always enjoyed hands-on art.

Art and music were a significant part of her life growing up. Both her mother and grandmother were artists, and one of the most influential people in her life was her band director who taught her to strive for excellence and do things the right way.

Tiner is appreciative of Wilson County Schools' commitment to the arts, especially when she started her career, many schools were cutting out the arts.

Besides teaching, she is also the coordinator for Wilson County Schools' exhibit at the Frist Art Museum in Nashville. Two pieces of student art are selected for each grade level and displayed at the Frist.

"It really promotes the arts for our county, and it gets our county's name out that we promote the arts," said Tiner. "It's a really good feeling knowing you can help that happen," she said.

Vela was moved to be named MJHS Teacher of the Year and said it was a very big surprise, but it was nice to know her peers appreciate what she does for her students. "Knowing that you are thought of highly by your peers is always a nice recognition," she said.

Richard Lewis currently teaches chemistry at Wilson Central High School but has taught many science subjects throughout the years. He was also the department chair at the school for years.

Lewis is in his 25th year teaching. He previously taught at Mt. Juliet High School but moved to Wilson Central when it opened in 2001.

After working in his family's business for years, he went back to Cumberland University and received his degree in secondary education. Though hadn't considered being interested in education, it was his sister, who is also a teacher, who helped persuade him.

"My sister told me for years and years you're a teacher, you just don't know as much as you think," he said.

Lewis said he enjoys teaching chemistry because of his students. "It's the feeling you get when you explain something to a student and the student gets it," he said. "It's that moment when the light comes on. It's a really good feeling." Lewis said chemistry is important for students to learn because millions of chemical reactions are going on in their bodies at any point in time.

"The world that they live in is based in chemical reactions," he said. "The more they can understand what's going on with that the more they understand what's going on with them and the world around them."

"We have a lot of students going into the health field now which requires them to have at least one or two years of college chemistry, and I do what I can to help prep those students so they can be successful and on that level." He likes Wilson Central because of the people he works with and the mix of students from rural and urban areas of the county.

"We work together as a team here, especially the science department," he said. He was humbled to be chosen Wilson Central's Teacher of the Year because of the many great teachers he works with at the school. "I didn't expect it, at all," he said. "Just to be nominated is an honor, and the other teachers who were nominated with me are as good a teacher or better than I am."

Wilson County's Teacher of the Year will be announced at banquet Friday, April 5, at Cumberland University.
Inviting Everyone to the Table

I don’t remember ever sitting at the cool kids’ table in the middle school cafeteria. It’s not that the cool kids didn’t like me. Maybe they didn’t notice me. Maybe they didn’t need any more friends. Or maybe they just didn’t have the energy to go out of their way to include me. Their elitism was not intentional. It was just easier.

Thankfully, excluding me devastated no one. I survived. No therapy was required. No one got hurt. But it doesn’t always work out so well.

Wilson County, Tennessee, is located in a four-seasons, financially prosperous, suburban community just minutes away from the job-rich, culturally eclectic Music City, USA. We are living at the cool kids’ table. We look around and new homes are being built, businesses are locating here, and schools are rising to the top. We are the popular kids with the Air Jordans and Members Only jackets.

Like in middle school, however, the cool kids aren’t always as cool as we think. In Wilson County, for example, teen violence is on the rise. Alcohol and opioid addiction devastates a growing percentage of families. Twenty-five percent of students in our county schools struggle to have enough food on the weekends and

See F & M, PAGE 7
Human Abilities

As humans beings we possess many talents, skills and abilities. One such ability we all possess is the ability to always do the right thing no matter what we are faced with in life, and no matter how disappointed, frustrated or upset we may be.

Life will throw us all many challenges in our lifetimes, but doing the right thing is always the right thing to do no matter what. We all face challenges, but some will face far more severe challenges in their lives and will unknowingly show us how we too can better face our challenges with grace and understanding.

Take a moment to reflect upon a time in your life when you caught yourself complaining about something or someone over real or nothing. Or a time when you caught yourself not realizing just how very blessed you truly are. Now think about those moments you witnessed someone facing far more difficult challenges than yourself, but they didn’t complain, fuss or let it cause them to lash out or blame others for their challenges and disappointments in life. They courageously chose to accept and endure what they faced with courage, dignity, grace and a true desire to be happy and to spread happiness and goodwill to others.

Those moments are called life’s teachable moments and you’ve witnessed them just like I have and they are absolutely awesome. For example, the person facing extreme hardships and challenges decides, instead of complaining or lashing out, to share love, laughs, smiles and to be happy.

We also possess the following abilities:

- Forgiveness
- Compassion
- Understanding

When faced with a fork in the road, take the high road. Doing what is right will never feel wrong and you will never regret it. As a matter of fact it will only serve to make you a happier, healthier and stronger human being.

I have never regretted saying I’m sorry, I forgive you and I love you and nor will you.

God bless us all for we are only human, and humans will never be perfect no matter how hard we try.

From HOSPITAL, PAGE 1

staffed by more than 200 community physicians and employs approximately 600 administrators, nurses and support personnel offering patients of Lebanon, Mt. Juliet and other nearby communities a comprehensive array of services. On April 1, the hospital celebrated its 40th anniversary of service to Wilson County.

Through this acquisition, Vanderbilt University Medical Center will have a substantial presence in four of Tennessee’s fastest growing counties: Davidson, Rutherford, Williamson and Wilson. Already under construction in Rutherford County is a 37,500 square-foot facility that will be a part of Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt and will significantly expand pediatric specialty care, outpatient surgery and imaging services for children in Murfreesboro and surrounding communities.

“This hospital is an important addition to our health system as we continue to increase its size and scale to meet the needs of Middle Tennessee’s rapid growth and the diverse population we serve,” said Jeff Balser, president and chief executive officer for Vanderbilt University Medical Center and dean of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. “Central to our mission as an academic medical center, we will be able to bring new clinical services and other initiatives, such as programs in population health, to the citizens of Wilson County and surrounding communities, improving health throughout the region.”

In 2017, Tennova Healthcare-Lebanon admitted more than 5,000 patients and provided more than 65,000 outpatient visits. That year, nearly 6,700 surgeries were performed, and more than 600 babies were delivered at the hospital.

“We look forward to welcoming the hospital’s physicians, nurses and staff, along with the patients and families they serve, into the VUMC family,” said C. Wright Pinson, deputy chief executive officer and chief health system officer for Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

“Wilson County is a thriving, growing part of Middle Tennessee, and the addition of this facility will help VUMC more directly meet the area’s increasing healthcare needs. Today, we are able to provide the services of a large academic medical center but know that we need additional resources like those provided by this hospital to expand our ability to serve patients in communities outside the downtown Nashville metropolitan area in an even better fashion,” he said.

“Working with the physicians, nurses and staff, we want to maintain and grow the hospital’s services. After a period of weeks to months we will develop plans to bring additional services consistent with the needs of the community and the capability of the facilities to support them.”
First artificial heart patient gets permanent replacement

Staff Reports

Tim Lowell of Hernando, Mississippi, received the first total artificial heart in the state of Tennessee when the cardiac surgery team at Vanderbilt Health placed the device in his chest on Sept. 26, 2018.

The mechanical heart kept him alive for nearly three months until a matching human donor heart became available and he was transplanted on Dec. 16, 2018, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Lowell, 57, who was at the end stage of congestive heart failure before receiving the artificial heart, was recently released from Vanderbilt Stallworth Rehabilitation Hospital and is continuing to recover at a private apartment in Nashville. In addition to a new human heart, he also has a new kidney, transplanted the day after his heart.

“The staff over at Vanderbilt did everything in the world to get me better,” said Lowell. “The nurses did everything to get me comfortable. There are a lot of good people over there.”

The cardiac surgery team used a SynCardia Total Artificial Heart, a mechanical solution for a patient’s failing heart, whereby surgeons remove the patient’s heart and replace it with an artificial device, eliminating risks associated with leaving a diseased heart in place.

Artificial heart technology has been around for several decades, but now advanced teams have the expertise to understand which patients benefit most from implantation, said Ashish Shah, MD, professor and chair of Cardiac Surgery.

“The device is not currently intended for use as a permanent replacement for a heart; rather it is a temporary implantation that can save a patient’s life before a permanent donor heart becomes available for transplant. “Mr. Lowell was a first for the state of Tennessee and Vanderbilt,” Shah said. “He really is a great example of how complex care is delivered. He was supported with artificial systems and ultimately received a heart and kidney transplant. Moreover, he was expertly managed through a challenging postoperative time. There are few places where that is possible. Our goal of saving his life certainly brought out the best in what is already a world-class group.”

“Patients with advanced heart failure are one of the sickest groups of patients that we take care of,” said Sandip Zalawadiya, MBBS, assistant professor of Medicine and medical director of Vanderbilt’s Ventrilcal Assist Device program. “Understanding their complex pathophysiology and making life-saving clinical decisions at critical times are of vital importance. Equally important is that we have a great team that works cohesively and offers the mechanical heart option to help patients.”

Staff Reports

Drug court program holds graduation

The 15th Judicial District Drug Court Program recently held its Spring graduation.

The program, established in 2002, recognized seven participants for their hard work in achieving and maintaining a positive lifestyle change. Each participant made a minimum two-year commitment to drug court that combines treatment and community based intensive supervision.

Also recognized were two drug court team members: Logan Rossen, a former graduate of the program who is now an active team member, and James Lea, Jr., assistant district attorney general with the 15th Judicial District Attorney General’s office. Both men received the J.O. Bond Memorial Achievement Award for their continued commitment to helping others.

The Honorable Judge John D. Wooten, Jr., Drug Court Judge, is always quick to point out that drug court is not a get out of jail free card. This year’s graduates demonstrated compliance not only with program structure and accountability, but they also noted a “new self” and having direction in life.

Drug Court members include: Judge John Wooten, Jr, Assistant District Attorney General Jimmy Lea, District Public Defender Shelley Thompson Gardner, Director of Cumberland Mental Health Nathan Miller, State Probation Officer with the Board of Probation and Parole Jeremiah Smith, Veterans Representative, DVOP Mr. Peter Pritchard with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Former Drug Court Graduate Logan Rossen, Drug Court Coordinator Jeff E. Dickson, Sr. Case Manager Paula Langford, and Case Manager Shelly Allison.

The 15th Judicial District Drug Court program serves Wilson, Trousdale, Macon, Jackson and Smith counties and has seen much success during the past nearly 17 years.
TDCI warns of nationwide social security, homeland security scams

Staff Reports

The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance (TDCI) is advising Tennesseans to be wary of callers purporting to represent the Social Security Administration (SSA) or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in light of recent warnings from both agencies about nationwide telephone impersonation scams.

Both agencies separately said they are currently investigating reports of individuals fraudulently claiming to represent the respective agencies in order to acquire consumers’ sensitive personal information, such as their Social Security numbers or banking information.

The callers are using Caller ID cloaking technology to “spooﬂ” the agencies’ legitimate numbers in order to make it appear as if the caller is an actual representative of the agency.

“As fraudulent phone calls have become more common, scammers have adapted their tactics in order to trick unsuspecting consumers into answering their phones,” said TDCI Commissioner Julie Mix McPeak. “While a threatening call from what appears to be the government is undoubtedly scary, consumers should always remain calm and remember that scammers often use emotion-provoking tactics to get your information and money. If you’re called by a scammer, don’t give out your personal information, immediately hang up and report the call.”

Scammers have used technology to increase the sophistication of their attacks. They have turned to “spooping” phone numbers of people you may know, government agencies, or even your own phone number. Spoofing is when a caller intentionally falsiﬁes the information transmitted to your caller ID to disguise their identity.

To prevent falling victim of a scam, many consumers simply don’t answer the phone and review any voice mail messages to determine if a return call is appropriate.

While both scams are similar, there was no indication from either agency that the scams were related. To help Tennesseans avoid falling victim to either scam, TDCI shares the following information from both agencies and their Ofﬁces of Inspectors General (OIG):

• The DHS scammers are falsely claiming they represent “U.S. Immigration” or other government entities. By altering Caller ID systems, they make it appear that the call is coming from the DHS HQ Operator number (202-282-8000) or the DHS Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) number (202-401-1474). These scammers have frequently threatened victims with arrest unless they make payments to the scammers using a variety of methods. Anyone who believes they may have been a victim of this telephone spoofing scam is urged to call the DHS OIG hotline (1-800-323-8603) or visit the DHS OIG website www.oig.dhs.gov.

• The SSA says its employees do occasionally contact people generally those who have ongoing business with the agency — by telephone for business purposes. However, the SSA says its employees will never call and threaten to suspend a person’s beneﬁts or promise to give benefit approval, or increase beneﬁts, in exchange for the consumer’s personal information. The SSA says scammers are using technology to make it appear as if they were calling from the SSA’s national customer service number: 1 (800) 772-1213. If a person receives these calls from a scammer, he or she should hang up and report the information to the SSA’s fraud hotline at 1-800-269-0271 or online at https://oig.ssa.gov/report.

About the Tennessee Department of Commerce & Insurance: TDCI protects the interests of consumers while providing fair, efficient oversight and a level ﬁeld of competition for a broad array of industries and professionals doing business in Tennessee. Our divisions include the State Fire Marshal’s Oﬃce, Insurance, Securities, Consumer Affairs, Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy, Regulatory Boards, Tennessee Emergency Communications Board, Tennessee Corrections Institute, and TennCare Oversight.

Encore presents a twist on fairy tales

Staff Reports

Encore Theatre Company will soon entertain audiences with “Bedtime Stories (As Told by Our Dad)(Who Messed Them Up)” by Ed Monk. The show, directed by Erica Jo Lloyd, opens Friday, April 5, and runs weekends through April 14. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2:30 p.m. The house opens 30 minutes before show time.

The story revolves around a father’s turn to tell his three rambunctious kids their bedtime stories, but when he gets fuzzy on the details, the classics get creative: A prince with a snoring problem splices up “The Princess and The Pea,” “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” cries dinosaur instead, and Rumpelstiltskin helps turn all that pesky gold into straw. You may think you know your fairy tales, but not the way Dad tells them.

Tickets can be purchased online at TicketsNashville.com; tickets are $16 for adults and $13 for youth and seniors. You may reserve seats and pay at the door by calling 615-598-8950.

Encore Theatre Company is located at 6978 Lebanon Road in Mt. Juliet, just west of Highway 109. For auditions and upcoming productions, visit Encore-Theatre-Company.org.

The show is produced by special arrangement with PlayScripts, Inc.
Pinwheels raise awareness

Staff Reports

When visiting many local businesses throughout the month, you are likely to spot a display of pinwheels, the national symbol for child abuse awareness.

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month and local merchants have agreed to be a part of the Power Pinwheel program and place the pinwheels in their businesses throughout the month of April to raise awareness of child abuse and to raise funds for the Keith Edmonds Foundation.

The Keith Edmonds Foundation is a local non-profit assisting and empowering victims of child abuse.

By adding one dollar to a purchase at any of the participating businesses, customers can help the Keith Edmonds Foundation make a difference in the lives of abused children. Purchasers of the pinwheels can also see the display of pinwheels and place the pinwheels in their own yard.

Sweet Cece's is located in Mt. Juliet at 1720 N. Mt. Juliet Road. The Mt. Juliet location is the first to have a full bakery case, which has an assortment of fudge, Christie's cookies, cakes and more. Customers can also choose from hand-dipped ice cream and sweet Belgian waffles with their choice of toppings.

“IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!”

- 40 grams of protein.

Vicky Phillips, MD | Kim Rosdeutscher, MD Elizabeth Fairbank, MD | Elizabeth Randolph, MD

615.883.2200 | CHILDMEDGROUP.COM 3786 CENTRAL PK, STE #130, HERMITAGE

From SWEET, PAGE 1

“The children just absolutely love fixing their own yogurt cup and putting all the toppings on it,” said Ross. “It’s just a great experience for all the young ones.”

However, the new store offers more than just frozen yogurt. The Mt. Juliet location is the first to have a full bakery case, which has an assortment of fudge, Christie’s cookies, cakes and more. Customers can also choose from hand-dipped ice cream and sweet Belgian waffles with their choice of toppings.

The store also offers shakes, sundaes, Italian espresso drinks and smoothies. For the health-conscious customers, Sweet Ceece’s also has Keto desserts and a protein latte in various flavors with 40 grams of protein.

“That’s our main goal, to have something for everybody, more than just yogurt.”

Sweet Ceece's offers a variety of baked goods along with their famous frozen yogurt. | Photos by Sarah Tate

Besides the frozen yogurt, one of the store’s best sellers is a salted caramel white chocolate chunk cookie, of which Ross said has sold more than 300.

New orders for the bakery case arrive every Wednesday.

Because of the success of the expanded menu at the Mt. Juliet location, other stores in middle Tennessee are following suit, offering more dessert and drink options.

All the business partners live in the area, so Mt. Juliet was their first choice to open Sweet Ceece’s.

“We just hope the customers will continue to support us so we can grow and prosper and offer quality products to the community,” said Ross.

Sweet Ceece’s is located in the City Center at 1720 N. Mt. Juliet Road.

Vol State faculty member receives statewide honor

Staff Reports

Volunteer State Community College professor, Girija Shinde, was named Community College Faculty Member of the Year at the Statewide Outstanding Achievement Recognition (SOAR) celebration in Nashville recently. Professor Shinde has been teaching Biology at Vol State at Livingston since 2002.

The SOAR Awards are designed to highlight students, college, community, and society at large.

“IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!”

The mission of our College System and each of our community and technical colleges is the success of all our students and the development of Tennessee’s workforce,” said TBR Chancellor Flora W. Tydings.

“It’s appropriate that we recognize the outstanding students — and the outstanding faculty and staff members on our campuses who work with students daily to help them succeed.”

“I felt humbled and honored when I received the award,” Shinde said. “I thought it was a recognition of my contribution to my students, college, community, and society at large. The community college student-instructor relationship is special because it extends beyond academics. It involves meeting their needs, the different ways they learn but also working with them if they have family issues, health issues, and work conflicts. It is about offering academic help, flexible schedules, supporting them emotionally at times, encouraging and inspiring them.”

“We are fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated faculty member as Dr. Shinde,” said Vol State President Jerry Faulkner.
Clemmons promoted to vice president

Josh Clemmons has been promoted to First Vice President at First Freedom Bank, announced John Lancaster, chairman and CEO. Clemmons will continue to serve as the company’s controller.

“Josh is an outstanding individual and a significant contributor to the success we have enjoyed at First Freedom,” said Lancaster. “We rely on his technical financial expertise on a regular basis and we’re excited to see his continued growth in our company.”

With a background in public accounting, Clemmons is celebrating a decade of employment with First Freedom. He was originally hired as an accounting officer before being promoted to accounting manager in 2012 and controller in 2016.

Clemmons is a summa cum laude graduate of Western Kentucky University, where he earned a B.S. in accounting. He is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants (TSCPA).

Clemmons resides in his hometown of Lebanon with his wife, Beth, and daughters, Victoria and Lily Grace. He is a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lebanon where he has been involved as a deacon and Sunday School teacher.

First Freedom Bank, headquartered in Wilson County, was established in 2006. A full service, community bank, First Freedom Bank offers personal and commercial banking services from six locations in Wilson, Putnam and Jackson Counties, and has approximately 70 employees.

First Freedom Bank has assets in excess of $460 million and is owned by more than 1,100 shareholders throughout Middle Tennessee.

First Freedom Bank is member of the Better Business Bureau, an Equal Housing Lender and Member FDIC. Additionally, First Freedom has earned the prestigious Five Star rating by Bauer Financial, the nation’s leading independent bank and credit union rating firm.

From SOAR, PAGE 10

“This honor is well deserved and appropriate for her commitment to student success.”

Eighteen finalists for the individual awards advanced through college- and regional-level competitions in East, Middle and West Tennessee to the final interviews with a panel of judges. One winner was announced in each of the three categories for the Community Colleges and for the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs) – for a total of six individual award winners.
Sealed bids for “Microsoft 365/Office 365” will be received at the office of the City of Mt Julie Finance Department at 2425 N Mt Juliet Rd., Mt Juliet, TN on or before 2:00 PM April 9, 2019. Details are available at http://www.mt juliet-tn.gov/bids.aspx.

The public is invited to attend/comment. Kenny Martin, City Manager City of Mt. Juliet

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Mt. Juliet will have a Public Hearing on Monday, April 8, 2019 at 6:15 PM on the following item to be considered on 2nd and Final Reading:
- Amend the Zoning Ordinance/Land Development Code – Professional Services “Surgical Abortion Clinics” to be allowable within Industrial Districts, and to add the use classification “Surgical Abortion Clinic” in Section 3-102 (C), and to create a new section two “Surgical Abortion Clinic” in Section 3-104.7, and to amend Table 7-102A to include “Surgical Abortion Clinic

- Approve Out of City Sewer Service for 1053 Singing Springs Road & 1154 NW Rutland Road
- Annex, Rezone and approve Plan of Services for 430 Clemmons Road to RS40
- Annex, Rezone and approve Plan of Services for 9468 Lebanon Road to CTC (Commercial Town Center) – Shevel Property

1500 sq. ft. commercial building for lease located on Mt. Juliet Rd. Call 615-754-2019

COMMERCIAL SPACES FOR LEASE. 500-3,000 SQUARE FEET. 754-2019.

GARAGE SALE
HUGE YARD SALE, THIS SATURDAY ONLY, APRIL 6, 8AM-2PM. Hermitage Church of the Nazarene, 4151 Saundersville Rd., Old Hickory

PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY YARD SALE- Saturday, April 13th, 2019. 10 Neighbor hoods, over 1200 homes! 7am until mid afternoon. Located along Providence Trail in Mt. Juliet (Behind the Providence shopping area).

“FAMILY & FRIENDS” HUGE BACKYARD/BARN SALE/ vintage furniture, radios, cameras, jewelry, toys, lamps, antiques, JUNK, projects, etc… house, garage, clothes, shoes, handbags, accessories, etc…THURSDAY, APRIL 4-6, 7AM-6PM 13751 Lebanon Rd. Old Hickory, TN. 37138
Advertise in The Chronicle
Garage sales, help wanted, buy/sell/trade, personals, lost pets...
You name it, we’ll print it!
615-754-6111 or email ad to accounting@thechronicleofmtjuliet.com
The Chronicle of Mt. Juliet has the widest distribution in Wilson County, going out to 12,500 homes & businesses every week and has remained a free publication for the 37 years it has been in business.
Who remembers that show?
For those who don’t recall, it was a hidden camera television show capturing unsuspecting people doing something silly to only later realize they were on film, broadcast to the whole world to see.

I used to think it was soooo funny. But like all things old, the joke is now on me.

Candid Camera has become my daily life. And if you have a teenager living with you, I suspect it’s your life too.

At any given moment, that boy of mine is video-taping me and then Snapchatting it for the world to see.

“It took me a while to catch on, but pretty much anytime that phone is pointed at me now, I lose my mind.

“Stop! Don’t you dare send that to anyone. I’m in my robe and rollers! I will take your phone, your car, ...where’s your father....... Brody!!!!”

It’s not just the boy, my girls do it too. I’ll be driving complaining about this or that only to turn to see them quickly put their phone down.

“We were taping me? I swear if you send that to anyone, I’m going to stop paying your college tuition. (They blatantly then pull out their phone to catch the rant hoping I’ll go viral.) Put that phone down. I’m not kidding, I will stop this car right now, I will..., give me that phone (as I reach for it while still keeping in my lane of traffic), I’m not kidding, stop taping me!”

No longer can I walk around in holey pajamas and my hair all askew, because one of them is no doubt taping me, sending it out to their friends, captioned “Mom — looking her best.” (Yes, that was a real one that I later heard about from one of my mom friends and got the boy grounded which also made it to video.)

And the more I protest, the better the show, so I’ve learned to swat first and threaten only after I’ve confiscated the phone.

But of course, confiscating usually does nothing because these kids have a trigger finger the rivals any trained marksman. As I’m reaching for the phone, they’ve already captioned it, posted it and locked down their phone.

And then we start the new game much like another show — Family Feud.

“What have I told you about putting a code on this phone! You better give me that code!”

“What is it? Your birthday? 0714? If you don’t give me this code, I’m going to...... where is your father.......Brody!”

And to think our parents thought they had it bad when we talked back and rolled our eyes.

“What I’d give for an eye roll!

By Angel Kane
Wilson Living Magazine

TELLING TALES

Childhood memories
The unemployment rate for each of Tennessee's counties improved in February according to new information released Thursday by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Eighty of Tennessee's 95 counties have an unemployment rate less than 5 percent, a marked improvement from January's jobless numbers.

“It is encouraging when unemployment rates drop in every county across the state,” said Commissioner Jeff McCord.

Williamson County leads the state with the lowest unemployment in February. The county's 2.2 percent rate is 0.2 of a percentage point lower than the previous month.

Both Davidson and Rutherford counties have the second lowest unemployment rates at 2.3 percent. That marks a 0.3 of a percentage point drop for Davidson County, while Rutherford County is down 0.4 of a percentage point when compared to January.

Wilson County ranked seventh on the list with an unemployment rate of 2.5 percent.

With a rate of 5.9 percent, Lake County has the state's highest rate of unemployment for February. The latest statistic represents a decrease of 3.4 percentage points from the previous month's rate.

Hancock County recorded the second highest unemployment rate at 5.8 percent, which is a 1.5 percentage point drop from its January rate.

“It is heartening to see unemployment rates in some of Tennessee’s rural counties rebound from last month,” McCord said. “We will continue to align our efforts with the state’s rural counties to support economic growth.”

Tennessee’s seasonally adjusted statewide unemployment rate reached an all-time low of 3.2 percent in February. That figure bested the previous record low of 3.3 percent, which was the state’s unemployment rate between October and January.

Nationally, unemployment dropped to 3.8 percent, a 0.2 of a percentage point decrease from January’s revised rate of 4 percent.
Vanderbilt Center for Women's Health now open in Mt. Juliet

Making yourself a priority has never been easier now that experts from the Vanderbilt Center for Women's Health are seeing patients in Mt. Juliet.

Dedicated to providing the highest quality care to women in all stages of life, services range from general gynecology to pregnancy care and newborn delivery.

We are ranked among the top 10 programs in the country for obstetrics and gynecology and are the only top-ranked program in Tennessee, according to U.S. News & World Report.

Our Women's Health team is committed to caring for you and your unique needs, and if more advanced services are needed, choosing Vanderbilt's Center for Women's Health ensures continuity of care from our experts in more advanced specialties.