City offers drive-thru COVID-19 testing

A drive-thru COVID-19 testing site has been set up behind Mt. Juliet Middle School | Photo submitted

Staff Reports

The City of Mt. Juliet is partnering with Kroger Health to facilitate a free drive-thru COVID-19 testing opportunity for qualifying individuals. The three-day event began Tuesday, May 12, and runs through Thursday, May 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. See TESTING, PAGE 11

Sample ballot available ahead of August election

Staff Reports

Sample ballots for the Aug. 6, 2020, Republican and Democratic Federal and State Primary and the Wilson County General Elections are available online. The sample ballots may be viewed and are able to be printed on the Election Commission website at www.WilsonElections.com.

These primary elections are nominating elections for Tennessee’s political parties. Voters participating in a Primary Election consider themselves Republicans or Democrats — there are no Primary Elections for Independents.

Tennessee is an Open Primary state and voters do not register as members of a political party. Tennessee has two recognized parties, the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. In order to vote in the primary, voters need to declare their party affiliation.

See BALLOT, PAGE 6

City commission holds first public meeting since reopening

By Sarah Tate
Managing Editor

The Mt. Juliet Board of Commissioners held its first meeting since phased reopening began. Though the public meeting was held at City Hall, audience seating was limited in order to adhere to social distancing and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

The commission approved the first reading of an ordinance to adopt the annual budget, property tax rate and sewer rates for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2021.

An amendment to the ordinance was also approved.

See BOC, PAGE 6

Photo courtesy of MJPD

Police investigating crash near MJHS

Staff Reports

Detectives are actively investigating a crash after two vehicles exchanged gunfire on Saturday prior to entering Mt. Juliet.

Around 7:30 p.m. May 9, officers responded to the area of Golden Bear Gateway near Mt. Juliet High School after it was reported a yellow Chevrolet Came-
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Grace United Methodist Church • Mt. Juliet, TN
Carrick Glen tests all residents and staff for COVID-19

Staff Reports

Long before any state directives, Carrick Glen voluntarily initiated and completed testing of the residents and staff for COVID-19 caused by coronavirus with all negative results.

While there were no residents or staff with symptoms of COVID-19, there was always the concern of an asymptomatic infected resident or staff member. Asymptomatic conditions mean that there are no symptoms but the person could still be contagious. The virus has proven to be more threatening to older adults. This threat has been evidenced at many senior communities around the country and has developed into a major crisis.

Testing options of asymptomatic residents or staff was generally unavailable from state or local health departments. In March, the Center for Medicare Services also facilitated testing through the introduction of new billing codes. The leadership of Carrick Glen searched for a voluntary option that could test all residents regardless of symptoms. Some available tests have questionable accuracy and all tests are only an indicator of conditions at the time of the test. However, the leadership of Carrick Glen located a testing process that generated a highly credible result.

On April 13, Carrick Glen retained Blue Sky House Calls and Vikor Scientific Laboratory to provide on-site molecular testing of all residents and staff for coronavirus. After specialized training, the facility nurses executed the testing. Carrick Glen and its parent company, GoodWorks Unlimited, LLC, was the first and only senior community provider to initiate and complete testing of all of its residents and staff in Tennessee and Kentucky.

“The test was very comfortable and only took a few minutes,” said Rhonda Hoida at Carrick Glen. “It makes our residents and staff very confident and secure to know that they have tested negative.”

After training, the Carrick Glen nurse executed tests of residents and staff. The completed tests were then sent to Vikor Scientific for molecular processing. Results were returned within one to two days. All tests at Carrick Glen were negative, meaning that there were no residents or staff with evidence of coronavirus.

“I am thrilled. It is wonderful to know that all residents and staff at Carrick Glen have been tested and that all are free from infection from the coronavirus,” said Ken Holland, director of operations, GoodWorks Unlimited, LLC, parent company of Carrick Glen. “Carrick Glen is one of the first senior communities to initiate testing of all residents and staff. This testing has generally been unavailable to the senior community. However, the leadership of Carrick Glen took the initiative to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the residents and staff. "Loving our residents is our mission, so providing this test is a critical initiative to fight the spread of the coronavirus," said Gary Keckley, chief executive officer, GoodWorks Unlimited, LLC. "The staff are the real heroes and we are honored to be able to provide them and their families with this test is a real benefit."
Stumbling in the Darkness

Have you ever woken up in the middle of the night and needed a drink of water? Sleepily, you stumble around to the kitchen, unsure of your next step. I remember a night like this, waking up when my daughter was still sleeping in our room. In this particular season, I was especially tired when I would wake up. I remember tip toeing around the swing she slept in, feeling like merely walking by her my scent would wake her in an instant. I stumbled down the hall and made it to the kitchen, my eyes still barely adjusted to the darkness. As was inevitable, as I tried desperately to quietly make my way back to bed, I hit my leg hard on the bed corner and the baby awoke. Amidst the pain of my leg, I lulled her back to sleep, crawled back in bed, breathed a sigh of relief feeling the mattress again. How is it that we know where everything is in our house and yet, even in the darkness, we’re not always sure of where to go? In our lives, at times, it can feel as if we are stumbling through darkness searching for the light. As Christians we know that Jesus Christ is the Light in the world. In the moments where we stumble, are unsure of where the light switch is, are uncertain of turning it on, we are uncertain of where to turn. As Christians, we know that Jesus Christ is the Light in the world. In the moments where we stumble, are unsure of where the light switch is, are uncertain of turning it on, we are uncertain of where to turn.

See F & M, PAGE 5
REFLECTIONS FROM AN OLD FRIEND

Attitude and decision making

Jesus Christ’s life brings life to humankind. But, this can be hard to believe, can’t it? Believing in a great light that drowns out darkness in each and every moment of our lives is hard. It can feel downright impossible. We walk through death of family, death of our spouse, job loss, fast-paced lifestyles, infertility, miscarriages, divorce, depression, anxiety. All of these things can leave us feeling like we are stumbling in the darkness and honestly sometimes frozen in the darkness, unsure of which step is a safe one to make.

Have you ever stared at a light before? If you close your eyes before looking at the light it seems pretty dark. But if you stare at the light and then close your eyes there’s still pieces of that light making your darkness not nearly as dark as it was before. I know there’s science behind that … but, what it proclaims loudly to me is that once a glimmer of light has entered a dark room it’s never as dark as it once was. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not understood it. Because the light, the light of Christ, is stronger than the darkness.

The beginning of the book of John reads, “In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God. He was with God in the beginning. The light of Jesus has been since the beginning.” The light of Jesus is now and forever will be.

Not one ounce of darkness can drown out the light. And even in the moments where it can feel like Jesus has left the building, we can remember that as we battle the darkness around us, Jesus’ light to renew our hearts is one door ahead of us waiting to be opened.

on for fear of the jarring feeling it may invoke, the moments when we’re too tired or weak to even open our eyes … Jesus Christ can show us the way forward.

John 1:5 reads, “The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.” This means the darkness of evil has never and will never overcome or extinguish God’s light.

From F & M, PAGE 4

Camero and an occupant or occupants of a gray Infiniti 4-door car. A citizen’s dash camera captured the Infiniti chasing the Camero before the crash. It is not clear yet if anyone was hit by gunfire.

Mt. Juliet police said that the gunfire and chase began in the Hermitage area before entering Mt. Juliet. As of Monday, both individuals injured in the crash are in stable condition at the hospital.

Anyone who witnessed the vehicles driving in a reckless manner or any activity related to this investigation 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 CRASH, PAGE 1

Kenny Martin
City Manager
Mt. Juliet, TN

Life brings lots of both easy and tough decisions and choices. Some decisions are very easy to make and can be made without much thought, while other decisions require lots of thought, examination and questioning. What we choose to do or not do for the most part is up to the individual. For example: A criminal can decide to go straight and stop being a criminal. An intoxicated person can decide to call a cab and not drink and drive. Such simple decisions based on easy-to-understand, right and wrong choices that really shouldn’t require much thought at all. Stealing, committing crimes or drinking and driving should be very easy decisions to make. Simply don’t do it!

Doing the right thing is something most of us are taught as children. However, some children, because of harsh and misleading influences and upbringings, are led astray from the get-go. But that still doesn’t excuse wrongdoing and criminal behavior. We are still responsible for who we are and who we become. It doesn’t take rocket science to realize right from wrong. There are always plenty of people around us to give us good examples of the right thing. Using the excuse, “I was exposed to this or that” will not cut it, nor should it be a cop out, loophole or excuse for being responsible for one’s actions.

Decisions are not always ours. We can’t control the temperature, weather, clouds and season, but we can control our attitudes. An attitude can be what you make it. It’s sort of like a home; your home can be modest and clean or extravagant and dirty, it’s your choice. Attitude is entirely up to you. Each day can be perceived as a gift or as a burden. It’s your call. I personally awake each day and thank God for allowing me another day with the people I love. Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time.

A small house is a castle to the man who lives in a cardboard box on the street. A rainy day to a farmer can at times be a blessing, while at other times a burden. Attitude is everything. Life is what you make it. As mentioned, many times before, if life gives you lemons, make lemonade, not excuses.

You can either control your attitude and actions or your attitude and actions will control you. Maturity has more to do with what types of experiences you’ve had and what you’ve learned from them and less to do with how many birthdays you’ve had.

In closing, attitude is everything. Please make the right decisions in life and all will be well.

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Eligible voters can now request absentee ballots

Staff Reports

Eligible Tennesseans can now request a ballot to vote absentee-by-mail for the Aug. 6 State and Federal Primary and County General election without ever leaving their home.

“Election offices are already accepting absentee-by-mail ballot requests for the August election. One of the most popular reasons to vote absentee is being 60 years or older,” said Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett. “I encourage those voting absentee-by-mail this year to make their request now.”

Tennessee state law provides numerous ways to vote absentee-by-mail. In addition to a voter being 60 or older, other popular reasons allowed under state law to vote absentee-by-mail are as follows:

• The voter will be outside the county where they vote during the early voting period and all day on Election Day.
• The voter or the voter’s spouse is enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited college or university outside the county of registration.
• The voter will be unable to vote in person due to service as a juror.
• The voter is hospitalized, ill or physically disabled and because of such condition, cannot vote in person.
• The voter is a caretaker of a person who is hospitalized, ill or disabled.
• The voter will be working as a poll official.
• The voter is a member of the military and out of the county where they vote.
• For a more exhaustive list of statutory reasons to vote absentee-by-mail go to GoVoteTEN.com. Voters who meet a reason under Tennessee law to vote absentee-by-mail can submit a written request to their local election commission by mail, fax or email.

Your written request must include:
• Your name; address; full social security number; date of birth, address to mail the ballot to; for August election, specify Republican or Democratic primary, or else you will only receive a general election ballot; which qualifying reasons you meet to vote absentee by jail; you signature.

While not required, a phone number is recommended in case your election commission needs any additional information. To submit a request by email, attach a document with all the necessary information and your scanned signature. Requests must be received by your local election commission.

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Schools to receive award from governor’s initiative

**Staff Reports**

On Monday, the Tennessee Department of Education announced Governor Bill Lee’s Future Workforce Initiative will award $10,000 to each of the 22 schools that received the Tennessee STEM School Designation for 2020.

In 2019, Gov. Lee announced the Future Workforce Initiative to increase science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) training in K-12 schools. The initiative aims to put Tennessee in the top 25 states for creating technology jobs through launching new CTE, STEM-focused programs in public schools.

“Investing in our students’ futures starts with preparing them for the jobs of tomorrow,” said Lee. “The Future Workforce Initiative will increase the number of career and technical education for students at all levels, and we’re glad the state can help our STEM designated schools build upon their great work. Funds allocated for the first time through the Future Workforce Initiative will provide 2020 and 2021 STEM Designated Schools with a $10,000 grant intended to continue to sustain and expand these schools’ STEM and/or STEAM programs. In the past, STEM Designated Schools received a small stipend with the award. With remaining allocated funds, 2018 and 2019 designated schools will also receive an additional grant of $4,230 this year.

“We are so excited to see our STEM designated schools receive these additional funds to continue building upon these essential programs. Each of our schools earned the STEM Designation through a unique STEM and/or STEAM program that is equipping students with the necessary skills for their futures,” said Commissioner Schwinn. “STEM education is fundamental for students to ensure they are prepared for postsecondary opportunities and the future of the workforce.”

The 2020 Tennessee STEM designated schools were selected for their STEM and/or STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) integrations into learning experiences for all students, which prepares them for success in post-secondary opportunities and the workforce. Each of the schools awarded this designation were evaluated upon these essential programs, including a self-evaluation, interviews, and hosting site visits with the Tennessee STEM Designation review team.

Designated schools will also be invited to share promising practices at the next Tennessee STEM Innovation Summit and become a member of Tennessee STEM Innovation Network’s group of schools.

Refusal to work could jeopardize benefits

**Staff Reports**

Federal guidelines for the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development follow to administer the Tennessee Unemployment Compensation (TUC) program state an individual must be willing and able to work to receive unemployment benefits.

Not returning to work when there is available employment may be considered a “refusal of work” and could potentially disqualify claimants from receiving TUC benefits.

The federal CARES Act provides provisions for individuals who have traditionally been ineligible for state unemployment benefits, but those provisions do not apply to employees apprehensive about returning to work because of health concerns.

Under federal law, workers who have been placed on a temporary layoff related to COVID-19 who can work, and do not qualify for any other Unemployment Insurance provisions through the state or under the CARES Act, must return to work if called back. The following are the COVID-19 eligibility requirements to receive Pandemic Unemployment Assistance provided through the federal CARES Act:

- Are diagnosed with COVID-19 or have COVID-19 symptoms and are seeking diagnosis;
- Have a member of the household who is diagnosed with COVID-19;
- Are providing care for a family or household member diagnosed with COVID-19;
- Are the primary caregiver for a child whose school or care facility closed, due to COVID-19;
- Are unable to reach their place of employment due to an imposed quarantine, or because avoided by a medical provider to self-quarantine, due to COVID-19;
- Were scheduled to start new employment and cannot reach the workplace as a direct result of COVID-19;
- Became the major breadwinner because the head of household died from COVID-19;
- Quit their job as a direct result of COVID-19;
- Had their place of employment closed as a direct result of COVID-19;
- Meet any additional criteria specified by the U.S. Secretary of Labor

Employees and employers can find answers to commonly asked questions about returning to work on the Department’s website, www.tn.gov/workforce.

Employers will also find a “Refusal to Work Form” on the website. They can use this form to notify the Department of an employee’s refusal to return to work. The Department will investigate the claim to determine if the employee is no longer eligible for unemployment benefits because they are able and available to earn income.
I've been to a few Audiologists over the years but Dr. Jennifer is as good as it gets. The hearing aids have changed my life because I haven't heard much out of my right ear in over 60 years but now I can! I would highly recommend Dr. Jennifer to my friends and relatives.

- Ron Warren

PHOTO CREDIT: 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.

OPEN HOURS: Tues–Thurs from 11:30-5:30
Mt. Juliet Animal Care & Control
115 Industrial Drive, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

Pet of the Week
Buddy
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.
COX, Marjorie Mollie

Marjorie Mollie Cox, age 99 of Mt. Juliet, and Ontonagon, Mich., died May 8, 2020. Mollie was born near Birmingham, England, and was the daughter of the late Tom and Ester Brown. She is survived by: daughter – Cynthia (Ken) Williams Root; grandchildren – Sean (Joyce) Haney; sisters, Nancy Hollis and Juanita Hunter; brother, James Myers. She is preceded in death by her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John Joseph “Palmer” Palmer, age 76 of North Venice, Florida, passed away on May 3, 2020. He was born on Sept. 23, 1943, in Swanton, Vermont, to Fred and Julie Palmer. John retired in 2007 from NES as a Meter Controller and then moved to Florida two years ago from Mt. Juliet, TN. He was a veteran of the US Air Force, American Legion Post 88 in Nashville, TN and was involved in so many activities including being a Little League Coach, Big Brother, State Champion Basketball “All American” Athletic Scholarship, dancing champion and was also a champion in billiards, ping pong and skating.

John Joseph “Palmer” Palmer, age 76 of North Venice, Florida, passed away on May 3, 2020. He was born on Sept. 23, 1943, in Swanton, Vermont, to Fred and Julie Palmer. John retired in 2007 from NES as a Meter Controller and then moved to Florida two years ago from Mt. Juliet, TN. He was a veteran of the US Air Force, American Legion Post 88 in Nashville, TN and was involved in so many activities including being a Little League Coach, Big Brother, State Champion Basketball “All American” Athletic Scholarship, dancing champion and was also a champion in billiards, ping pong and skating.

John is survived by his wife Carol of 55 years; three children, Paige Prosser, Jeff Palmer, and Travis Palmer; a great-grandson, Gavin Palmer; a sister, Jolley Chaney; a sister-in-law, Watanna Armes; nieces, De Ann Mobley, Christy Dalton, Misty Crawford, Lori Chaney, Jill Mobley and Pam Hill. He is also survived by his nephews, Tommy Armes, Michael Armes, Drew Mobley, Jake Davenport, Dylan Hill and Logan Hill.

Services will be private and burial will be held at Sarasota National Cemetery in Sarasota, Florida. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Farley Funeral Home in Venice, Florida is handling the arrangements. A message of condolence may be sent by visiting www.farleyfuneralhome.com.

PIERCY, Karen Elizabeth

Karen Piercey passed away May 10, 2020, at age 58. The Graveside Service is 12 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at Wilson County Memorial. Mrs. Piercey is survived by son Michael Piercey; siblings Susie Angus, Bonnie Wasson, Billy Angus, and Jennifer (Doug) Walpau; brothers and sisters-in-law Donna Blazer, Alex (Sherry) Piercey, Andra (Wayne) Broom and Susan Piercey; and numerous nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by husband Gwynn Piercey, son Mitchell Piercey, brother-in-law Bill Piercey.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sealed bids for “Sunny Meade Storm Drain Repair” will be received at the office of the City of Mt Juliet Finance Department at 2425 N Mt Juliet Rd., Mt Juliet, TN on or before 10:00am on May 27, 2020. Details are available at http://www.mtjuliet-tn.gov/bids.aspx.

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- Single party service;
- Access to emergency service;
- Access to operator services;
- Access to interexchange service;
- Access to directory assistance; and
- Toll blocking without charge to qualified low income customers.

Below are the monthly rates for local exchange service:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exchange</th>
<th>Residential Monthly Rate</th>
<th>Business Monthly Rate</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clifton, Cornersville, Darden       $17.00</td>
<td>$30.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobelville, Saris, Collinwood       $17.00</td>
<td>$30.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decaturville, Linden, Scotts Hill    $17.00</td>
<td>$30.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruceton, Parsons &amp; Waynesboro       $17.00</td>
<td>$30.50</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavergne                           $18.00</td>
<td>$38.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hills Crossroads                    $17.00</td>
<td>$30.15</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Juliet                         $18.00</td>
<td>$38.50</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Monthly discounts are available to residential customers meeting certain low income criteria.

For more information, contact TDS Telecom toll-free at 1-888-CALL-TDS.
We passed the test.

At Carrick Glen Senior Living Community, we limited visitors before limited visitation was mandated; we quarantined before quarantines were required; we deep cleaned before deep cleaning was recommended. Now, we celebrate the successful completion of testing residents and staff for the coronavirus.

With new ways to communicate, new activities and new clinical operations, Carrick Glen Senior Living Community celebrates a future of safe and secure residents, healthy lifestyles and connected community.

Celebrating our staff – You are our Heroes

Amanda Acosta  Sara Deane  Rhonda Hoida, Executive Director  Marjorie
Jana Anderson  LouAnn Delrose  Mitchell Holland  Pierre-Antoine
Tiearis Autry  Kelli Dunn  Robbie Humes  Coraneashia Pitts
Sheree Bailey  Elizabeth Edgemon  Kerrigan Jenkins  Lacey Pourchet
Christian Begnaud  Amber Ehrhart  Jeheok Jeong  Sharon Ridgeway
Jenny Bell  Tracey Evans  Caliya Jones  Christina Rogers
Kiana Blanks  Morgan E Glover  Heather Langley  Yolanda Roper
Laura Bone  Sherry Glover  Jodie Lovett  Jamesa Sanders
Ruth Brooks  Tanya Gordon  Michelle Gregory  Dawn Santana
Meredith Burger  Nichole Galley  Amber Mills  Ashley Searcy
Phillip Burleson  Damisha Harris  Lindsay Moons  Sabrina Seay
Carrie Capps  Kamy Hilbert  Meaghan Nix  Rae-Cheryl Shimp
Allyson Cole  Kamya Hilbert  Daniela Paz  Stephen Simmons

Carrick Glen Senior Living Community
100 Carrick Court | Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 | 615-758-0953 | carrickglenseniorliving.com