**Sunday storms leave many without power**

Severe storms and strong winds came through Tennessee on Sunday afternoon, leaving a path of downed trees.

See **STORMS**, PAGE 6

**Breeden’s store destroyed by fire**

A fire at Breeden’s Orchard last week destroyed the general store but left the orchard intact.

Since acquiring the orchard in 2017, the Dorfman family has planted new trees and renovated the store to pay homage to the Breedens and honor the past. Materials used to update the store included wood from the house that had stood on the property for years.

In a Facebook post, Breeden’s owners said they were heartbroken but they were thankful for the firefighters who controlled the fire and contained it to the store, allowing the trees to be spared. The cause of the fire is unknown.

“The fire destroyed our store but not our spirit,” one post said.

See **FIRE**, PAGE 3

**School board approves plans for 2020-21 year**

The 2020-2021 education plan for storm affected schools, West Wilson Middle and Stoner Creek Elementary, was presented to the Wilson County Board of Education on Monday night. Both schools sustained extremely heavy damage following the devastating tornado on March 3. The schools immediately became displaced as a result of the damage. Reconstruction and repairs to those facilities will take a significant amount of time, which extends well beyond the scheduled August start date to begin the 2020-2021 school year.

After considering several options, which included valued feedback from administrators, teachers and parents/guardians, Director of Schools Dr. Donna Wright also took numerous and complicated factors into account before presenting this viable and sustainable plan. The Wilson County School Board approved the plan across the board with a 7-0 vote.

The main points of the housing plan are as follows:

- Mt. Juliet Middle School will be converted into a K-6 site which will house SCE K-5, 6th grade WWMS, and 6th grade MJMS
- Green Hill High School will house MJMS 7th and 8th grade students (feeder zone), in addition to its 9-12 students

See **SCHOOLS**, PAGE 6

**Man arrested, charged with sexual battery**

Mt. Juliet officers quickly apprehended a man after reports that he unlawfully touched an adult female while she was exercising on the Providence Trail greenway.

Around 3:50 p.m. on Sunday, May 3, 2020, officers were summoned by the 27-year-old victim to the area of Providence Trail near Bridge Mill Drive after she provided a detailed description of the man who assaulted her and ran.

Within seven minutes, officers found and apprehended the man behind Rutland Elementary School. He was identified as 28-year-old Esquivel Rene Perdomo of Nashville and was also wanted out of Metro-Nashville for failure to appear on driving without a license and simple possession charges.

Further investigation revealed that Perdomo approached the victim from behind...
Teacher-led supply drive helps SCE, WWMS

By Phyllis Robinson
Chronicle Contributor

Last Friday, more than 90 teachers from Stoner Creek Elementary and West Wilson Middle School received classroom supplies to help rebuild their classrooms after the destruction from the tornado on March 3.

The drive was organized by Audrey Hamblen and Lori Parlier, teachers at West Elementary. The supplies and gift donations gathered by this dynamic duo is estimated to be worth $15,000. Cooks United Methodist Church stored and provided space for weeks during the collection process to help the teachers in Mt. Juliet.

“This really did help a lot of people,” said Hamblen. She could not imagine how it would be to have lost her classroom and thinking about all of the teachers saddened her so much that she had to do something.

“It takes a lot of time and money to build a classroom and all of their hard work was wiped out in a 10-minute time frame,” she said. “I have learned that teachers stick together and lean on each other and they needed as much help as they could get, and I couldn’t not help them.”

Parlier and Hamblen began putting out the message on social media and immediately started getting responses. Classroom supplies came from everywhere — Washington State, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Alabama, Virginia, New York, Texas, and all over Tennessee.

“This was about helping as many teachers as we could at both schools,” said Palmer. “Never did I imagine the wonderful response and all the people from all over the country who would reach out. It was a blessing to see all the teachers who came and to see their faces when they got gift cards or found items that they loved. The best part was when they realized they could have whatever they wanted, and it was free.”

The teachers and staff at both schools arrived to see tables of books and classroom supplies.

“I have been overwhelmed by the generous outpouring of support for our school from across the country,” said Beverly Sharpe, principal at West Wilson Middle. “And when those offers to help have come in, it has been an extra special blessing to be able to simply send a ‘thank you’ in reply and cc Lori Parlier. She and Audrey Hamblen collected and organized all the supplies that were sent to us. Their assistance has been invaluable and so deeply appreciated.”

“When we first learned that some teachers from West Elementary were organizing a supply drive for SCE and WWMS, we never dreamed it to be what it really was. Stoner Creek teachers and office staff were able to collect huge totes of supplies to start rebuilding their lost space. Hearing their excitement was priceless,” said Amanda Smith, principal at Stoner Creek. “We are forever grateful to Lori and Audrey, fellow Wilson County teachers at West Elementary, for organizing this event and for all of the generosity that others across the country sent in to support our teachers. We consider ourselves the lucky ones.”

One teacher, after loading her car with goodies, said this was the first time she felt like she was going to be OK.

“The generosity and support of both West Wilson Middle and Stoner Creek have been incredible and overwhelming,” said Paige Beziat, a teacher at West Wilson Middle. “I cannot thank everyone involved enough. I am so grateful to everyone for their help to restart our classrooms. A huge weight has been lifted.”

The teacher supply drive expanded to help the Wilson County Resource Center, the Lebanon Special District Resource Center, and the Mt. Juliet Help Center after receiving donations from Sumner County. Six carloads of canned foods, diapers, wipes, toiletries, and paper goods were delivered by Hamblen to help additional families in need.

After teachers in Mt. Juliet were able to shop for classroom materials, there were enough supplies to share with East Brainerd Elementary in Chattanooga, who recently lost their building. Hamblen took these supplies to a teacher at East Brainerd who will distribute to the Chattanooga teachers.
Wilson County Schools announce new supervisors

**Staff Reports**

Wilson County Schools will welcome two new Instructional Supervisors and a new Career and Technical Education (CTE) Supervisor this summer, but all three are familiar faces within the district.

W.A. Wright Elementary Principal Bryan Adams will take over the role of Elementary Supervisor, while Lakeview Elementary Principal Tracey Burge will move into the Middle School Supervisor position. Mt. Juliet High School Assistant Principal Jake Hammond will take over CTE Supervisor duties.

These Instructional Supervisors positions are responsible for coordinating support efforts with principals, as well as teachers in their respective areas. For the Elementary and Middle School Supervisors, they are important in helping coordinate areas of study involving English, Reading and Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and other primary course offerings. In addition, these Instructional Supervisors are highly involved in planning and implementing professional development related to the curriculum, instruction and student achievement. The same applies to the CTE Supervisor, however those programs and courses are mainly confined to the high school level.

These three positions are being filled due to upcoming planned employee retirements. All three will begin their new roles on July 1, 2020. The replacements for their current roles will be announced soon.

Over the past five years, Bryan Adams has been a key piece to the overall success of W.A. Wright Elementary, serving as the school’s principal. Having nearly 15 years of experience in education, Adams has been in administrative roles for over eight years. That experience will be beneficial when he takes over his new position.

“I’m looking forward to working with all faculty and students in our district by helping them make academic gains while providing opportunities to help students be competitive in the future,” he said.

Adams has a Master of Education degree with emphasis in Administration and Supervision. Utilizing his past experiences while combining his area of expertise makes for a solid fit as he transitions into his new role.

“It is an honor to serve the teachers, students, staff and community of Wilson County,” said Adams. “This opportunity will allow me to work alongside the great administrators in our district and be a part of this successful team on a more comprehensive level.”

Tracey Burge will take over the Middle School Supervisor role following her successful stint as Lakeview Elementary Principal. While at Lakeview, she was able to see continued growth among her students and staff. Their overall efforts helped produce another Reward School banner for the 2018-2019 school year. Before landing at Lakeview, Burge was a Special Education teacher and eventually went on to serve as Assistant Principal at W.A. Wright Elementary.

She is excited to get started with her new role as Middle School Supervisor.

“I am looking forward to gaining new insights and experiences in my career as well as serve our district in a broader capacity,” said Burge. “I had always anticipate-
Is God mad at us?

Pain has a way of getting our attention. Sometimes, if you believe in God, it makes you wonder what in the world he's doing. If God is so loving, strong and wise, then why does he allow so much suffering? That’s not a new question, but to answer it we often run to the assumption that God must be mad at us. Maybe he’s judging us.

Sometimes preachers propose that the sufferings we face are God’s judgment on America. It’s as if we are pointing our fingers at others, assuming our pain is the result of guilt by association. The tone often suggests that God is just fed up, he’s lost patience, and now we’re really going to get what we deserve.

It’s true that God hates our sin. But it’s also true that he loves you and me. So what does a perfect God do about sinners that he loves? The Bible says, “But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

In an act of grace, God did not give us what we deserved. Instead, he poured out his wrath on the sinless Son of God, Jesus, who willingly took it on our behalf. This amazing grace removes the barrier of sin and reconciles everyone who trusts in Jesus as Lord to God. That’s good news!

So why do we still suffer? Because this is not heaven. All suffering is the result of sin and reconciliation has not yet been fully completed.

See F & M, PAGE 7
example, with the increasing Mt. Juliet population there will be an increase in vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic and an even greater need to share the roadways safely.

Routine complaints are received about both vehicular and pedestrian safety and the need for more citizen awareness. One citizen reported a concern about pedestrians walking, jogging or riding bikes along the roadways and streets. The concerned citizen spoke of a near miss with a citizen walking at night along the roadway in very dark and less than reflective clothing.

I advised the citizen that I would help spread the word and assist in educating as many citizens as possible about both pedestrian and bicycle safety and the need to be highly visible when on or near the roadways.

Therefore, I would like to urge any citizen utilizing the roadways for walking, jogging, running or riding bikes to please wear proper safety equipment when on or near the roadways.

Below are just a few tips to keep you and your family safe and visible when walking, jogging, running or bicycling.

1. Walkers, joggers and runners are always encouraged to use flashlights and wear highly reflective and visible clothing.
2. Bicyclists are encouraged to wear proper safety equipment as well, including helmet, gloves, eye protection and highly reflective and visible materials on both the clothing and bicycle.
3. If walking, jogging or running with your pets, don’t forget to include them in your safety plan as well. They won’t need a helmet, but they will need to have highly visible and reflective markings. Note: most pet stores carry reflective collars and vests for pets.
4. If you have a cell phone, carry it in case of an emergency.
5. Other safety materials include reflective arm bands, vests and ankle straps, just to name a few.

As you can imagine, these are only a few safety measures that you can use to make yourself safe while walking, jogging or riding a bike on or near the roadway. Our roadways are becoming busier every day and we must do all that we can to make sure that we are always safe and visible. The sooner a motorist spots you while driving down the roadway the sooner that motorist can process the needed information in order to make a safe maneuver around you.

Far too many pedestrians are struck and either seriously injured or killed because a motorist didn’t see them until it was too late. We must do all that we can to prepare and protect ourselves. So please be safe and visible out there.
Stoner Creek Elementary School was severely damaged in the March 3 tornado. | Photo submitted

From STORMS, PAGE 1

and power lines throughout Mt. Juliet and beyond. The storms came exactly two months after a deadly tornado cut a path through Middle Tennessee on March 3.

According to the National Weather Service, a complex of severe thunderstorms called a meso-scale convective system (MCS) developed across Kansas on Saturday, then tracked its way east. It made its way through southern Missouri and western Kentucky before reaching Middle Tennessee.

“These storms produced widespread straight-line wind damage across nearly every county of Middle Tennessee, with numerous trees, power lines, and buildings damaged,” said the National Weather Service in an overview of the storms.

Nashville saw winds between 60-80 mph that knocked out power for more than 130,000 customers, the worst power outage on record for the city. The Nashville International Airport measured a peak wind gust of 71 mph, the fifth highest on record at that location. On Sunday night, more than 22,000 were without power in Mt. Juliet, according to City Manager Kenny Martin. According to MJPD, no injuries or deaths were reported, but many residential structures were damaged and power lines fell across streets, causing several road closures across the city.

City officials said the public works department soon will begin collecting vegetative debris in an “all hands on deck” effort to assist residents in removing debris piles from the roadside.

Vegetative debris must fit within the following criteria to be removed: • 10-inch round diameter logs or smaller • Branches and limbs less than 15 feet in length • Material is placed within 10 feet of the public roadway

“The City will not be able to collect any root balls or logs over 10 inches in diameter.” The NWS anticipates that the windstorm will be considered a derecho, a unique form of MCS that causes major wind damage over hundreds of miles. They also said it is likely that Sunday’s storms are the worst straight-line wind event across Middle Tennessee since the July 13, 2004, derecho.

According to NWS, one man was killed and three other people were injured by falling trees.

Dr. David Gnewikow & Dr. Samantha O’Leary

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consequences. When oth-

reaching their full

leaders.

Jake Hammond just fin-

herself as an admin-

first as an admin-

agriculture teacher and FFA advisor.

Career and Technical Education is very im-

and world leaders.

Hammond is an Auburn

University graduate where

earned two Bachelor’s
degrees, one in Agriculture
Economics. Most recently, he completed
his Master’s in Educational
Leadership at Carson-New-
man University.

My goal is to continue to

in efforts to prepare all CTE
students to enter the work-
force or attend a post-sec-
ondary institution,” he

said. “We will strive to help

enthusiasm around these

them to enter the work-

County,” said Hammond. “I

office and career ready.”

Hopes to build even more

and his first as an admin-

and Agriculture in the other

in Agriculture Economics.

and Career and Technical

for only $15/year

in the Amazon building on Golden Bear Gateway. | Photo by Phyllis Robinson

Prevented from reaching

goals they have for their

Burge is passionate about her community and her career in education saying, “We must work to-

together to educate and pre-

our most precious treasures to become our fu-

future community and world

ers and sisters, whenever you

rials, because you know that

testing of your faith

As long as we live in a

and broken by sin, there

destructive and death. Those

school years for an Agriculture

Education and the other

in Agriculture Economics.

Most recently, he completed

in Agricultural Economics.

students as the

areas and industry certifi-

Careers and Technical Education

and Technical Education teachers and

students here in Wilson

County,” said Hammond. “I

are to support our

students to ensure all CTE students are

college and career ready.”

Hammond is an Auburn

University graduate where

Newman University.

Career and Technical Education is very im-

important to Hammond, and he

hopes to build even more

enthusiasm around these

programs and courses for

high school students as the

district moves forward.

I am looking forward to working with the excel-

lent Career and Technical

Education teachers and

students here in Wilson

Despite all of the recent storms and the March 3 tornado that demolished nearby structures, progress
continues to be made on the Amazon building on Golden Bear Gateway. | Photo by Phyllis Robinson

THE CHRONICLE OF MT. JULIET
IN YOUR MAILBOX WEEKLY!

1400 N. Mt. Juliet Rd., Suite 201,
Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

5pm Monday

THE CHRONICLE OF MT. JULIET

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- Ron Warren

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was a lifelong resident of Mt. Juliet. She is preceded in death by her parents, Lelan and Louise Phillips Williams; her husband, Joseph Edwin Brown; her son, Thomas Anthony “Tony” Brown; and brother, George Williams. Left to cherish her memory and forever miss her presence are her sons, Joe (Kay) Brown and Bob (Jody) Brown; several aunts, uncles; several cousins also survive. Graveshides services were held May 3 at the Mt. Juliet Memorial Gardens. Services were conducted by Sellars Funeral Home at Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 or to the YMCA.

MATHERS, Phyllis L.

Phyllis L. Mathers, age 79 of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, passed away Monday, April 27, 2020. Linda was a member of Victory Baptist Church. She was the daughter of the late Herbert C. and Edith M. Hammar Pennington. She was preceded in death by her brother, Herbert L. Pennington, nephews, Jerry Allen Pennington and Jeffrey Scott Kiley, and great-nephew Joshua Kiley.

SMITH, Kathryn Nichols

Kathryn Nichols Smith, age 90 of Lebanon, passed peacefully May 3, 2020, after a sudden illness. Kathryn was the daughter of the late, Luther F. and Gladys Wheatcroft Nichols. She and Walter Ray Smith were sweethearts from a young age. They married on Aug. 26, 1946. They were united for over 64 years until Walter’s death on March 20, 2011.

BOYD, Barbara Ann

Barbara Ann Boyd, age 66 of Old Hickory, and formerly of St. Louis, Missouri, died peacefully May 1, 2020. Barbara was the daughter of the late Doris Matthew and Gwenlee Irene Ebert Boyd.

BOYD, Walter Richard Jr.

Walter Richard Sharpe, Jr., age 81 of Mt. Juliet, died May 1, 2020. Mr. Sharpe was the son of the late Walter Richard Sharpe, Sr. and Linnie Louise Washburn Sharpe. He was also preceded in death by his siblings, Ann Bancroft and Henry Earl Sharpe.

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The Board of Commissioners of the City of Mt. Juliet will have a Public Hearing on May 11, 2020 at 6:15 PM on the following items to be considered on 2nd and Final Reading:

- Amend Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Budget for Monitoring and Removal of Debris from Tornado Damage
- Amend Fiscal Year 2018/2020 Budget for insurance recovery and replacement of two police vehicles (one destroyed in the tornado – one involved in a crash)

Social distance guidelines will be followed. Restriction on the number allowed in the room will be maintained to allow social distancing. The meeting may be viewed on: Comcast channel 3, TDS Channel 6, live streamed from the cities webpage www.mtjuliet-tn.gov or on YouTube at http://tiny.cc/CMJYT.

The Public is Invited to Comment to: sluckett@mtjuliet-tn.gov / Go to Government / Agendas and Minutes then log into the agenda portal in the upper right hand corner. Please submit all comments by 4 PM on Monday, May 11th and provide your address so it can be forwarded to the Commissioner representing your district.

Kenny Martin, City Manager
City of Mt. Juliet

The City of Mt. Juliet Alcoholic Beverages Board will meet in City Hall at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 to consider the following:

- Terms of revocation of beer permit for Kat’s Bar & Grill, located at 2037 N. Mt. Juliet Rd. #103 Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

And any other topics arising therefrom or generally related thereto. The public is invited to attend and comment.

Shelia S. Luckett, MMC
Deputy City Manager

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TANNER, Margaret Ann

Margaret Ann Tanner, age 76 of Mt. Juliet, passed away April 24, 2020, at Summit Medical Center. She was born Nov. 9, 1943, in Crossville, Tennessee, to the late Carl ton Marcum and Mabel Pierce Cook. In addition to her par ents, she was also preceded in death by brothers, Jimmy Cook, Gary Cook, Bobby Cook, Billy Cook and Ron Cook. She is survived by husband of 57 years, Ross Tanner Sr.; son, Ross (Jennifer) Tanner Jr.; daughters, Tonia (Donnie) Cranford and Sonya (Carl) Enoch; brother, Gayther (Sharon) Cook; sisters-in-law, Linda Cook, Tina Cook and Bobbie Sue Cook; grandchildren, Adam (Shelby) Cranford, Hunter (Julia) Cranford, Dillon Cranford, Houston Tanner, Austin Tanner, Dakota (Chris) Gillette, Savannah (Grant Parklow) Enoch; great-grandchildren, Hadley Cranford, Cooper Cranford, Oakley Gillette; and several nieces, nephews, cousins and other loving family members.

There will be a private graveside service at Hermitage Memorial Gardens.

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

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From OBITs, PAGE 9

TATUM, Justin Keith

Justin Tatum passed away April 26, 2020, at age 35. A memorial service was held May 2 at Sellars Funeral Home, Lebanon.

Justin is survived by parents Stephen and Jackie Tatum, sister Brooke Tatum, and aunts and uncles Charlie (Jimmy) Ballinger, Linda (Wayne) Thompson, Barbara Summitt, and Jill Lattimore. He is preceded in death by wife Brittany Tatum, beloved grandparents Charlie and Elizabeth Tatum and Wilma Reed, and uncle Frank Latti more. Sellars Funeral Home, Lebanon TN, 615.444.9393.

WHITE, Eric

Earl White, age 56 of Mt. Juliet, passed away May 1, 2020. The Graveside Service was held May 5 at Mt. Juliet Memorial Gardens.

He is survived by wife of 27 years, Teresa White; children, Tammy Potts, Chris (Stacy) White, Tiffany Stroupe, and Ashton Holliman; grandchildren, Ethan Pitts, Kelly Pitts, Jessica Pitts, Jayce Avila, Levi Holliman, and Kayley Holliman. He was preceded in death by parents, Allie and Helen Williams Root.


WRIGHT, Robert Douglas

Robert Wright passed away April 29, 2020, at age 81. No services are scheduled. Buri al will be in Wright Hughesley Cemetery in Mt. Juliet. Please make Memorial Donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis TN 38105).

Mr. Wright is survived by children Christopher Wright, Cheri Wright Baltz, Lynn Scott, and Heather Wright Petree; grandchildren Christian Baltz Orman, Ronald Baltz, John Robert Dakota Petree, and Perry Baltz; great-grandchildren Colin, Hazel Jolene, Roman, Jackson; and siblings Rebecca Bogle and Willie and Marshall Wright. He is preceded in death by wife of 55 years, Jolene Wright, and parents Thomas Marshall and Flora Bell Roberts Wright.

Sellars Funeral Home, Lebanon TN, 615.444.9393.
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