Schools battling COVID-19

By Kenny Howell
Managing Editor

Wilson County Schools released a video Friday with Director of Schools Jeff Luttrell talking about the battle the system has had with COVID-19 so far this year.

“It has hit us again,” said Luttrell to Wilson County Schools Public Information Officer Bart Barker.

As of Thursday afternoon, Luttrell said there had been 168 total positive COVID-19 cases in the school system. That has forced 850 students to go into quarantine because of contact tracing, which is roughly four percent of the student body.

Mt. Juliet population surpasses Lebanon

By Kenny Howell
Managing Editor

The 2020 census numbers are in and Mt. Juliet is now the largest city in Wilson County by population.

Mt. Juliet’s numbers came in at 39,289, up from 23,671 in 2010. It is a 65 percent jump since 2010. Mt. Juliet added one new resident every six hours from 2010 to 2020. The growth from a percentage standpoint was actually greater from 2000-2010, as Mt. Juliet saw a 91.42 percent increase in population during that time. Mt. Juliet was the third fastest growing city over a population of 10,000 and sixth fastest overall. Almost 5,000 single family home permits have been issued during this time.

WILSON COUNTY FAIR-TENNESSEE STATE FAIR

Tennessee Governor Bill Lee cut the ribbon Thursday at the Grand Opening of the Wilson County Fair-Tennessee State Fair as the Tennessee State Fair became part of the award-winning Wilson County Fair. Those participating in the ribbon cutting were Wilson County Mayor Randall Hutto, First Lady Maria Lee, Governor Bill Lee and Commissioner of Agriculture Charlie Hatcher surrounded by State Leaders, Board of Directors of Wilson County Promotions, Advisory Board of Wilson County Fair-Tennessee State Fair, and members of the former Tennessee State Fair.

The portables for Stoner Creek Elementary’s ‘Bobcat Village’ started to arrive Monday.

By Kenny Howell
Managing Editor

The portables for Stoner Creek Elementary’s ‘Bobcat Village’ started to arrive Monday.

The original plan was to...
Middle Tennessee has been rapidly growing for many years and MJ is no different,” said Mt. Juliet City Manager Kenny Martin. “MJ and its citizens are awesome, and I am not surprised in the least that our great city is growing as well. MJ is one of the most desired places to live, shop, play and work. People are moving from across the country and beyond to call MJ home.”

Mt. Juliet passed Lebanon as the largest city in Wilson County. Lebanon’s population was 38,431. Mt. Juliet was the 21st largest city in the state, and Lebanon was 23rd. The Wilson County population is 147,737, the 10th largest county in Tennessee. That is a 29.6 percent jump since 2010.

The Planning Commission has a packed agenda Thursday night. A Preliminary Plat for Stonehaven Subdivision on Mays Chapel Road is on the agenda. A preliminary plat for the neighborhood was approved by the City in 2018, but has since expired. It will have 133 lots, with 1.26 lots per acre. It is outside the city limits, but within the City’s urban growth boundary which makes it subject to compliance with the City’s Subdivision Regulations.

Another subdivision, Curd Road Subdivision, is seeking Annexation, Plan of Services, Preliminary Master Development Plan and Rezoning Approval for a property located between Curd Road and Beckwith Road. There will be 208 lots on 88.88 acres. Some of the amenities will include a pool/cabana and parking, pocket park, trail head and park trailhead.

Chandler Road Subdivision, another one on the agenda, is seeking Annexation, Plan of Services and Master Site Development Plan. The subdivision will be 35 single family lots on 19.18 acres.

The commission will review a Site Plan Modification for the Golden Property at 4591 Beckwith Road. The applicant is looking for a modification to a plan that was originally approved in November of 2020. The plan has a two-story building with a convenience store with six fuel pumps, a restaurant and office development. The project is short six parking spaces, and is seeking a variance.

Also on the agenda is a Site Plan for MJ Elite Gymnastics on Clemmons Road. The site will have a gym building and five commercial buildings, all those compatible and complimentary with a gymnastics studio.

The commission is also hearing a Land Use Amendment to the U-Haul on Lebanon Road. The applicant is seeking a change to the piece of property on the corner of Lebanon Road and Grandview Circle from Thoroughfare Commercial to Light Industrial so they can build a self-storage building.

A Land Use Amendment is also being sought for Velocity Motorcars on 100 NW Rutland Road. The Future Land Use Plan identifies the site as Neighborhood Commercial and the site is zoned Commercial Town Center. Auto service is not permitted in CTC. Velocity Motorcars is a by appointment only, fully enclosed auto dealership, repair and service center for high end luxury and exotic cars. The commission will also hear the Preliminary Master Development Plan for the project.

The planning commission will also readopt Design Guidelines for the City to be more in line with Tennessee House Bill 749, which states the state fire code “shall not discriminate against or in favor of particular construction materials or techniques.”

The Planning Commission meetings are held at City Hall. You can also watch them via the city’s website, www.mtjuliet-tn.gov, or on their YouTube page.
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Fugitive wanted for crime in MJ believed to be in Dallas

Staff Reports
Mt. Juliet Police Department gave an update this past week on 43-year-old Randall Wayne Brewer, the man wanted for allegedly assaulting and holding two women against their will in July.
MJPD said that detectives have developed information that Brewer has fled to the Dallas, Texas area. He remains wanted and is a fugitive with a contiguous United States full extradition.
On July 23, dispatchers received a call from a distraught female saying she was being held against her will while traveling west on I-40 through Mt. Juliet. After a struggle, the phone was taken from her hand and thrown out the window.
MJPD officers later located the phone.
After investigation, it was determined there were two women in the car, and they were able to escape in Nashville.
Brewer is wanted on two counts of Aggravated Kidnapping, two counts of Aggravated Assault, Interference with an Emergency Phone Call, and Vandalism. He is known to drive a gold/GMC Envoy SUV. He remains wanted and is a fugitive with a contiguous United States full extradition.

TRAFFIC STOP LEADS TO ARREST OF WANTED MAN
At a traffic stop Saturday for a vehicle equipment violation led to the arrest of a man wanted out of Arkansas and Wilson County.
The stop was made on Devonshire Drive just before midnight. According to Captain Tyler Chandler, the 40-year-old man lied about who he was, and the officers found out he was lying. They then discovered who he was and the warrants for his arrest related to drug charges and a parole violation. He had been on the run from these warrants for over two years.

ELECTION COMMISSION MEETING
The Wilson County Election Commission will have its regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday, Aug. 24, at 7 a.m. at the Election Commission Office at 203 East Main St, Lebanon, TN to conduct election business which comes before the commission pursuant to its duties listed in, but not limited to, TCA § 2-12-116, and to conduct any other business that may come before the election commission at that time.

FIGHT LAUGH FEAST CONFERENCE
Farm Bureau Expo will be hosting a Fight Laugh Feast Conference Sept. 10-11. For more information, visit Farmbureauexpo.com.

LIFE RECOVERY RUMMAGE SALE/ FUNDRAISER
Life Recovery rummage sale/fundraiser is Saturday, Sept. 11, 7 a.m. to noon at 11888 Lebanon Rd. They are now accepting items you think they might be able to sell. life-recovery-MtJuliet.

If you have a calendar event, send it to editor@tcomj.com
turning to those around us. Are their eyes bright? Are they encouraged by you? Do they believe that God might have something better for them? Or are they angry, cynical, and unhappy? Just as important (and intrinsically connected) is the question, “Are you being built up or torn down?” Jesus made sure that there were leaders in the church who were set on building people up.

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-12

Jesus is focused on the building up of the “body of Christ”—the church. He works against its destruction, and in fact, has already ensured its victory. The building up of the body of Christ, is not foremost about drawing crowds—it’s about the strengthening of faith and the reflection of the coming Kingdom of God to a broken world that needs healing. It’s about surrendering your own will for the sake of someone who has been torn down. (A Jesus-lifestyle which may in fact draw crowds.) What about you? What messages are you hearing? What voices create your sense of the world intrinsically connected)

What about you? What messages are you hearing? What voices create your sense of the world? We can typically find the answer by turning to those around us. Are their eyes bright? Are they encouraged by you? Do they believe that God might have something better for them? Or are they angry, cynical, and unhappy? Just as important (and intrinsically connected) is the question, “Are you being built up or torn down?” Jesus made sure that there were leaders in the church who were set on building people up.

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REFLECTIONS FROM AN OLD FRIEND - The Little Ones

Kenny Martin
City Manager

What would we do without kids? I know we would get more rest. However, life just wouldn’t be the same without them. Kids without a doubt always keep us on the go. Kids without a doubt always cause us to spend money.

TELLING TALES - Modern Love

Becky Andrews
Wilson Living Magazine

In these days of uncertainty and conspiracy-fueled arguments over EVERYTHING, it’s imperative that you do something, anything, to take your mind off the fact that toilet paper seems to be dwindling from the shelves once again. I recommend unplugging, grabbing your favorite snack, and binging a new show. That’s what I’ve been doing. I highly recommend Modern Love. You can stream it online. It’s based on a newspaper column of the same name, and it explores “love in its multitude of forms.” While simultaneously watching an episode and scrolling through photos of my niece’s wedding on Instagram, I thought about how different love looks for everyone.

We are sold some version of love as kids, and that sets the stage. Our parents, Disney, Stephanie Meyer, and now online influencers are the retailers. We buy them because we’re kids or bored adults.

Since most of us have the attention span of a gnat these days, and social media caters to that, the love story arch is short. We only see the good stuff. Mainly because the good stuff is all anyone posts. And truth be told, we only want to see the good stuff. What if life was like a social media feed where you could just scroll past the crappy times? Haven’t you ever silently prayed that you could skip over the company party, or that yearly mammogram, or your 4th graders recorder recital? But we can’t. I guess there’s always knowledge to be gained from moments of discomfort, except for the recorder recital. That instrument is pointless. My apologies to my elementary school music teacher Tony Cook.

The good stuff is always fun. The good stuff is uncomplicated. As much as we would like to bubble wrap our kids, we know that is neither possible nor practical. The hard stuff is just yuck. Especially when it involves the offspring! Like when your oldest got his heartbroken for the first time. You know it’s not the worst thing in the world. You don’t dare say it (out loud) in front of him, but you know it. There’s nothing you can do. You can’t make it go away. Although, never mind. He’ll be fine. He will cry, and that’s ok. Those tears will make him softer, and that’s where he will learn the most.

It was much different when I was growing up and WAYYYYY different when my parents were growing up. My parents were part of the generation where divorce started to become more prevalent. Growing up, most of my friends’ parents were divorced. As a teenager, I secretly envied those kids. It seemed like one parent could always be steamrolled. That was the parent I’d want to live with if I were them. Although, it would be a moot point as neither Ralph nor Jane were steamroll material.

Believe me, I tried.

Ralph and Jane stuck it out. Their love story was made up of good and bad times. They scoured used bookstore shelves, went to cool concerts (Hello! Ray Charles and Tony Bennett!), wrote each other love notes on post-its, never missed an episode of Jeopardy, watched every season of Murder She Wrote, worked crossword words, and danced to Otis Redding while any of their six children watched in embarrassment or awe. They packed a lot into those 42 years. After my
I received a letter from my current plan called an ANOC, what does this mean?

In late September, if you are on Medicare Advantage or a Part D plan, you will receive what is called an Annual Notice of Change or ANOC. This change lists line by line the new changes if any to your current plan for the new year. After receiving this notice, one can then begin to think about whether they want to change plans during Open Enrollment or stay with their current plan. If you would like a review of new plans and how they compare to your current plan, please call us at IMS, we would love to help.

Alicia Burns | 615-758-8100 | aburns@imsbenefits.com
2365 N. Mt. Juliet Road, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

I am concerned about my daughter’s teeth but she is only 6 years old, when should I take her to see an orthodontist?

Great question! Many parents are unsure of the right time to see an orthodontist. The good news is that if you ever have a concern, please call the office and we would be happy to see your daughter and assess what is going on with her teeth and jaw development. The American Association of Orthodontists recommends that all children be seen by an orthodontist no later than age 7. No referral is needed by your general dentist. Please call anytime and get some peace of mind about your daughter’s smile!

Eric Oxford, DDS
Orthodontist
5002 Crossings Circle, Ste 200, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

Does Muscle really weigh more than fat & how should I gauge progress effectively?

I’m sure you’ve all heard it before, whether from a friend or a loved one: “I know the scale number increased, but it’s because muscle weighs more than fat.” Well, let’s examine this statement a little further. Weight is a unit of measurement, so in actuality, muscle and fat weigh exactly the same. I always say that a pound equals a pound, whatever way you look at it. The best way to explain the difference between muscle and fat is really through density. Think of a pound of muscle as “crushed up brick” and a pound of body fat as “a pile of feathers.” The pound of crushed up brick takes up little to no space, therefore very dense, and the pound of feathers takes up a significant amount of space, carrying no density. In the health/fitness industry, it’s important to train our minds to pay attention to non-scale victories like clothing fitting looser and extra notches being used in your belt as these are the greatest indicators of a loss in body fat that equates to the visible changes in the mirror that matter most.

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As always, feel free to email us your questions for a personal response! Send those to davidwcowan@poolkrafters.com

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Aug. 20
Gallatin

Aug. 27
Maplewood

Sept. 3
at Hunters Lane

Sept. 10
at Warren County

Sept. 17
at White County

Sept. 24
Wilson Central

Sept. 30
at Station Camp

Oct. 8
at Lebanon

Oct. 22
Hillsboro

Oct. 29
Green Hill

Good luck to all the coaches & players this season!

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15  CALEB  SMITH
19  BRENDEN  DUNN
20  LUCAS  OTTO
21  COOPER  SHOTTS
23  ANDY  GRIFFIN
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30  J.D.  MOORE
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34  JERIEL  BEROLET
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37  MAX  BEATY
38  BRICE  SIMPSON
39  JAYDEN  SCHILDT
40  J.D.  MOORE
41  SILLIVAN  SWORDS
42  ETHAN  KANE
43  JERIEL  BEROLET

Aug. 20
at Lookout Valley
Aug. 27
Friendship Christian
Sept. 3
Webb School
Sept. 10
MTCS
Sept. 17
at Grace Christian
Oct. 1
Columbia Academy
Oct. 8
at Sale Creek
Oct. 15
at DCA
Oct. 22
at Nashville Christian
Oct. 29
Clarksville Academy

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KY’RON WASHINGTON
CARTER SUTTON
ELI FAWBUSH
NATHANIEL PARKER
ZACH LOLLI
DYLAN MOSES
JAKE WOGAN
MCCABE MELTON
JONAH BRITTON
HAYDEN SUTTON
JEREMIAH CURTIS
DEANDRE MARTINEZ
KEANDRE HATFIELD
DUSTIN DANILAITIS

THE CORLEY FAMILY

Aug. 13
at Christian Community
Aug. 21
at Sacred Heart
Aug. 28
Red Boiling Springs (Heat)
Sept. 2
at Zion Christian
Sept. 10
at Clarksville Academy
Sept. 17
Providence
Sept. 24
Monterey
Oct. 8
at Cannon County
Oct. 15
Evangel Christian
Oct. 22
Lighthouse Homeschool
Oct. 29
IB-Freedom Cowboys

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From SCE, from PAGE 1

put the portables back at the Stoner Creek Elementary site, but Director of Schools Jeff Luttrell asked for permission from the School Board at the special called meeting Tuesday, Aug. 10 to look into placing them outside the “West Wing” of West Wilson Middle School where SCE has started their school year.

Wilson County Schools Public Information Officer Bart Barker confirmed Tuesday that Luttrell received approval from department heads that the project would work in the parking lot at WWMS. Issues like sewer, water and electricity were among the issues being discussed.

It is still early in the process, so Barker said he wasn’t sure how the classrooms would be used or divided up, but SCE Principal Amanda Smith and others would decide how to use the extra space.

“They will utilize those buildings the best way they know how,” said Barker.

At that meeting, Board Member Jamie Farough asked if it was a possibility to use some of those portables for either of the West Wilson Middle School sites to help alleviate some crowding since not all might be needed for SCE. West Wilson Middle School is holding their classes at Mt. Juliet Middle School and Mt. Juliet High School. Luttrell said that is definitely something they could look into, but Barker said Tuesday nothing has been decided on that as of yet.

In that same meeting, the School Board approved the bid from R.G. Anderson to rebuild Stoner Creek Elementary. The board approved the base bid plus two extra wings that will make the school able to house 1,000 students when it is complete. Their current enrollment is 680. The price for all of it plus all the furniture, fixtures and equipment would be roughly $30.2 million. The project completion date is Sept. 30, 2022.

From SCHOOLS, PAGE 1

the school’s population. In quarantine this year, students are able to remote into the classroom for instruction and complete assignments on their Chromebooks.

“That is one of the tools in our toolbox that can stop the spread,” said Luttrell about quarantining.

Luttrell went over the other steps the school system was using to help slow the spread of the virus. The first is asking everyone, students and staff, to stay home when they are sick. If they have any symptoms of what could possibly be COVID-19, they need to stay home.

Face coverings are optional for students and staff, but they are available to any students, staff and visitors at no cost. Wilson County Schools encourages the use of face coverings. Also, social distancing guidelines of three feet will be used in schools when possible. If it is not, cohort grouping will be recommended so contact tracing will be easier. Also, school will continue to disinfect high touch surfaces and objects and practice good hand washing. Hand sanitizer is available at all schools.

Luttrell said there is a lot of frustration in the community because of the resurgence of the virus and the effect that has had on schools. He says he understands how that is for parents.

“When you send them to school you want them to be in the safest place they could possibly be,” said Luttrell.

Luttrell encourages people not to listen to him on what to do about the virus, but reach out to their doctor to help make the best decision for their families.

SCHOOL EVENTS

Aug. 18
BLUE COAST BURRITO SUPPORTING GES
Blue Coast Burrito in Mt. Juliet is supporting Gladstone Elementary Wednesday, Aug. 18, 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. Just say “We’re here for Gladieville” when you order and Blue Coast Burrito will donate 10 percent of you sale to GES PTO.

Aug. 21
W.A. WRIGHT ELEMENTARY BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH
W.A. Wright Elementary will be having their BackToSchool Bash Saturday, Aug. 21, from 9 a.m.-noon at the school. There will be games, booths, Pals the puppy and awesome back to school fun.

Aug. 23
GOLDEN BEAR DRAMA CLUB AUDITIONS
The Golden Bear Drama Club is holding auditions for the fall drama production The Diary of Anne Frank on Monday, Aug. 23 and Tuesday, Aug. 24. Callbacks will take place, Wednesday, Aug. 25. Signups are on the door of Mr. Vantrease’s room, Room 171A. You’ll receive details for preparations when you sign up.

Aug. 28
BLUE COAST BURRITO SUPPORTING GES
Blue Coast Burrito in Mt. Juliet is supporting Gladieville Elementary Wednesday, Aug. 18, 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. Just say “We’re here for Gladieville” when you order and Blue Coast Burrito will donate 10 percent of you sale to GES PTO.

Aug. 28
GMS DRAMA AUDITIONS
Auditions for Gladieville Middle School’s presentation of The Murder Mystery at the Murder Mystery by Brian D. Taylor are Aug. 19 and 20, with callbacks Aug. 23. Everyone is welcome to audition. It is a comedy play about zany characters, odd circumstances and shocking twists. For more information, talk to Mr. Hutton in room 307.

Sept. 6
LABOR DAY
No School.

Sept. 8
WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
The Wilson County Board of Education will meet in a Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Wednesday, Sept. 8, at 6 p.m., at the Wilson County BOE Administrative & Training Complex, 415 Harding Drive, Lebanon TN 37087. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss any matters legally brought before the Board. You can stream the meeting via the Wilson County Schools website.

Sept. 13
ADULT EDUCATION ANNUAL OPEN MEETING
The Adult Education Advisory Council will hold their annual open meeting on Sept. 13 at the Adult Learning Center from 12-1 p.m. This meeting is open to the public.

If you have a school event, send it to editor@tcomj.com
OBITUARIES

GRAVES, Beverly Joyce
Sutton


Beverly was born in Nash-ville and was the daughter of the late, John Ben Sutton and Grace Reed Sutton. She was a graduate of Mt. Juliet High School. Beverly was a member of Center Chapel Church of Christ where she taught Sunday School for over 25 years. She was the Cafeteria Manager at Stoner Creek Elementary school for 20 years. Beverly enjoyed gardening and canning. She was a great cook from unwritten recipes and was proud to fix Sunday dinner every week for her family whom she adored. Beverly was also preceded in death by her brothers, Johnny Sutton and Harold Sutton.

She is survived by: Husband of 47 years Eddie Graves; Children Heather (Brandon) Clark and John (Barbara) Graves; Siblings Betty Barrett, Lucy (Dave) Stephens, Herbert (Connie) Sutton, Mary Smith and Janie (Jimmy) Smith; Grandchildren Kaetlyn Johnson, Kolby Graves, Maddie Graves, Gracie Clark, Presley Clark and Kegan Clark; Many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were Friday, Aug. 13, at Bond Memorial Chapel with Darrell Duncan and Andy Connell officiating. Interment followed at Mt. Juliet Memorial Gardens. Active pallbearers were Mike Barrett, Rob Campbell, Chris Graves, Stephen Graves, Mark Ferrell and Aaron Davis. Honorary pallbearers were Barry Graves, Lee Lannom, David Stephens, Joe Barrett, Jimmy Smith and Herbert Bar-rett.

Flowers accepted or memorial contributions may be made to Short Mountain Bible Camp. Visitations were Thursday and prior to service time Friday at Bond Memorial Chapel, N. Mt. Juliet Road and Weston Drive, Mt. Juliet, TN. (615) 773-2663. www.bondmemorial.com.

SEAGRAVES, Howard Jr.

Howard Seagraves Jr. passed away Aug. 9 at age 63.

Howard Allen Seagraves Jr. was born in Lebanon to Ima Mae Gracie Lester and Howard Allen Seagraves Sr. Seagraves worked in the loading area at Famous Footwear for almost 25 years. He was a fisherman and a practical joker.

He is survived by his wife Dawn Seagraves, children Floyd Allen Seagraves, Erika Faye Seagraves, Jasper Luis Seagraves, Katie Mariea (Scotty) Seagraves, grandchildren Kody Allen Wright, Mia Grace Wright, Haylie Marie Seagraves, siblings Pam Seagraves, Jimmy Seagraves, Donnie Seagraves, Connie Hawkins, and Mark Seagraves, numerous nieces and nephews, and a host of friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents and special friend Mark Greer.

Memorial Donations may be made to the funeral home for expenses. Sellars Funeral Home, Lebanon, (615)444-9393.

Pett Of The Week

Simon says... PICK ME! This sweet boy came to the shelter as a stray and was never reclaimed. He does great with the staff, volunteers, and children who care for him. He’s a quiet fella and seems to be a bit of an introvert, but we are learning more about his personality every day. He does great on a leash and melts when you scratch behind his ears. Simon says... be my FOREVER family!

Please call the shelter at 615-773-5533 to schedule an appointment to meet Simon, or come during OPEN HOURS Monday – Friday from 11:30-5.

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Election Commission works with Hargett, local high schools to earn new voter registration award

Staff Reports

The Wilson County Election Commission is working with local high schools to earn the Secretary of State’s new Anne Dallas Dudley Award, which recognizes Tennessee high schools that reach at least 85 percent voter registration of eligible seniors, 18 years or older by the next election.

“We are excited about Secretary of State Tre Hargett’s newly launched Anne Dallas Dudley Award,” said Phillip Warren. “We hope this new program and Anne Dallas Dudley’s incredible story will inspire Wilson County students to register to vote.”

Renowned suffragist Anne Dallas Dudley helped lead the successful effort to get the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ratified nationwide and in her home state, Tennessee. On Aug. 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th and final state needed to pass the amendment giving women the right to vote.

“We launched this new award because we believe our state and our nation are stronger when every eligible Tennessean is registered to vote and casts a ballot on Election Day,” said Secretary of State Tre Hargett. “We are working with county election commissions across our great state to make sure students know that it has never been easier to register to vote in Tennessee and then to participate in our elections.”

High schools across the state that register 100 percent of the eligible students, who will be 18 or older by the next election, to vote will earn the Anne Dallas Dudley Silver Level Award. High schools that register at least 85 percent of the eligible students, 18 or older by the next election, will earn the Anne Dallas Dudley Gold Level Award. High schools that register at least 80 percent of the eligible students, who will be 18 or older on or before the next election to register to vote.

The Secretary of State’s office will present high schools that earn the Gold Level Award with a commemorative plaque and recognize students who led the registration efforts with certificates. For Anne Dallas Dudley Silver Level Award schools, the students who led the registration efforts will earn certificates recognizing their work.

All Tennessee public, charter, private school or home school associations are encouraged to participate in the Anne Dallas Dudley Award program. Participating schools must submit an Anne Dallas Dudley Award application by March 31, 2022. For award rules and guidelines, visit sos.tn.gov/programs/Anne-Dallas-Dudley-Award.

The Anne Dallas Dudley Award is the newest effort from the Secretary of State’s civics engagement initiative to promote voter registration among Tennessee students and prepare them to be actively engaged citizens.

For more information about the Anne Dallas Dudley Award or voter registration in Wilson County, contact Phillip Warren at info@wilsonelections.com or (615) 444-0216.

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From TALES, PAGE 5

mom passed away, my dad was obviously grief-stricken. I expected it. We all expected it. After a few years, my sisters and I usually mentioned that it might be nice if he had a friend to go to lunch with or have coffee with. He got mad… at me for suggesting it. He made it clear that he had no interest in that. He said that he would not do that to our mother and that it would not be fair to any other woman because “who could compare to my Janie?” We never brought it up again.

I think there’s more than one arch to the love story. It’s kind of like the stock market with constant ups and downs. We live in a world exposed to how wonderful everyone is living now. That means the expectation of what love is and should be is no longer something intimate experienced between two people. Instead, it seems like the expectation of what love is and should be is something that’s only real if it can be seen by others. What is felt by the people involved in the transaction is secondary to what those on the outside are seeing.

For so long, I thought my parents were weird. I wanted them to be like everyone else. Vacation with friends. Go on double dates. That just wasn’t them, though. After mom died, I wanted dad to find happiness again. But I had it wrong. He didn’t need to find happiness. He had it. He was fine.

All this time, I thought maybe they were weird and old-fashioned. Turns out, they were the modern love story.
The City of Mt Juliet Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing on September 9, 2021, at 6:15 PM on August 23, 2021 at City Hall to consider the following on 2nd and Final Reading:

- Approve Out of City Sewer Extension 1082 Cedar Creek Village Road, Map 050, Parcel 042.03
- Amend the Mt. Juliet City Code Section 24-176 Fee-Parks & Recreation to allow changes to the Fee Schedule to allow the fee schedule to be set by the Parks & Greenways Board and approved by the Board of Commissioners, removed from the Code and posted on the website and at the Community Center.
- Adopt a policy by Ordinance for organizations requesting grant funding and biennial audit for organization receiving $15,000.00 or more in any Fiscal Year
- Amend Noise Ordinance Section 16-22 of the Mt. Juliet City Code to extend the hours to 11:00 PM on Friday & Saturday evenings on the evening prior to and on a federal holiday

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The Public is invited to attend and comment.

Kenny Martin, City Manager
City of Mt. Juliet

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Mt. Juliet Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing on September 9, 2021, at 6:15 PM inside City Hall, 2425 N Mt Juliet Rd. Mt Juliet, to hear the following requests.

Conditional Use Permit, for the following applicants:

- Shawn and Dayna Smith 2320 N. Mt. Juliet Rd. Mt Juliet TN, 37122 Map 072I, Parcel 008.00
- Emad Abraham 2863 Park Knoll Dr. Mt Juliet TN, 37122. Map 054J Parcel 012.00

The public is invited to attend/comment. For more information, please call the Planning & Zoning Department at 773-6283.

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The Public is invited to attend and comment.

Kenny Martin, City Manager
City of Mt. Juliet
Emissions testing to end Jan. 14, 2022

Staff Reports

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) announced today that vehicle emissions testing in five Tennessee counties will end on Jan. 14, 2022 now that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved a revision to the state’s air quality plan.

EPA’s approval, which was published in the Federal Register on Aug. 17, 2021 and becomes effective on Sept. 16, means vehicle emissions testing will end on Jan. 14, 2022 in five counties – Hamilton, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson and Wilson. Davidson County has chosen to continue its testing program.

“This decision by EPA is a major step that means an end to mandatory tests of vehicles for many Tennesseans,” TDEC Commissioner David Salyers said. “It’s a recognition of the improvement of our state’s air quality and demonstrates the diligence Tennesseans have shown toward achieving and maintaining this goal.

The Tennessee General Assembly passed a bill in 2018 that eliminated vehicle emissions testing in the state 120 calendar days following EPA approval. In February 2020, the state submitted to EPA its revision to the state’s air quality plan requesting removal of the vehicle emissions testing program.

“Emissions testing has been an unfair burden not only on Tennessee taxpayers, but particularly our poorest residents who are forced to remedy auto issues they can’t afford,” Sen. Bob Watson, R-Hixson, said. “The testing no longer served a purpose as most modern vehicles are aligned with emissions standards. This long-awaited decision is a tremendous win for the people of Tennessee. My only regret is Rep. Mike Carter, who also worked relentlessly to end this now unnecessary government program, did not live to see this day.”

“Emission testing is not only time-consuming for taxpayers, but also completely unnecessary,” House Speaker Cameron Sexton, R-Holladay, said. “Today’s vehicles are environmentally cleaner than ever before and Tennessee’s air quality is exceptional. I’m very proud we have finally eliminated this obsolete test that put a terrible burden on lower income families and small business owners by forcing them to pay for needless repairs.”

“I am pleased to learn that the vehicle emissions testing program is finally coming to an end,” Rep. Joan Carter, R-Ooltewah, widow of Rep. Mike Carter, said. “More fuel and energy efficient vehicles meant the program had large meltdowns of useflessness, yet the financial hardship on the very Tennesseans who could least afford it remained in place. Thanks to Senator Watson, Leaderer Lamberth, TDEC, and all the great people across Tennessee who worked so hard to make this happen. Mike would be proud.”

“Finally we will see an end to the unnecessary stress, long waits and financial burdens placed on hardworking families in Williamson, Sumner, Rutherford, Hamilton and Wilson counties where emissions testing is required,” Senate Majority Leader Jack Johnson, R-Franklin, said. “This action puts in motion the legislation our General Assembly passed in 2018 to end emissions testing and I appreciate the efforts of all of our legislators and state officials who have worked hard to end this burdensome requirement.”

EPA determined that the removal of vehicle emissions testing in Tennessee is consistent with the federal Clean Air Act and all applicable regulations. EPA’s technical analysis concludes that after removal of vehicle emissions testing, Hamilton County and the Middle Tennessee area will continue to comply with all National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Since the NAAQS are set to protect public health and welfare, and EPA’s technical analysis shows that the areas will continue to comply with all NAAQS, public health and welfare will continue to be protected once vehicle emissions testing is removed from Tennessee’s air quality plan.

The approval becomes effective on Sept. 16, 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. Tennessee law states the elimination of vehicle emissions testing is effective 120 days following EPA’s approval. Therefore, the effective end date of the program is Jan. 14, 2022. In counties where vehicle emissions testing is ending, persons registering their vehicles on or before Jan. 13, 2022 will still be required to get the vehicle emissions test.

Residents in those counties who register after Jan. 13, 2022 will not have to undergo vehicle emissions testing. Tennessee law provides an option for local agencies with their own air pollution control program to continue vehicle emissions testing. Davidson County opted to continue vehicle emissions testing.

Those who have questions regarding the elimination of vehicle emissions testing may visit the TDEC website. Tennesseans may also send questions to TDEC via this link.

SPORTS WRITERS NEEDED

If you like to write about sports, The Chronicle of Mt. Juliet is seeking help for football coverage this fall.

WRITERS NEEDED FOR:
- Wilson Central High School
- Mt. Juliet Christian Academy

Contact Kenny Howell at: editor@tcomj.com for more information.

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Old Friend Dog Game debuts

**Staff Reports**

Award-winning games studio known for its progressive mobile experiences inspired by nature, Runaway Play, Thursday released its latest feel-good title for iOS and Android devices. “Old Friends Dog Game” is a narrative-driven, free-to-play adventure inspired by the rescue stories, everyday antics and personality quirks of the real-life furry residents of Old Friends Senior Dog Sanctuary (OFSDS).

“We set out to create something meaningful to bring happiness, hope and comfort during difficult times,” said Zoe Hobson, CEO at Runaway Play. “At its core, ‘Old Friends’ is a game about friendship, for people who love dogs.”

“Old Friends” transforms the famed canine retirement home based in Mt. Juliet, into a fun and highly interactive game. Players name and design their own sanctuary, build bonds with each dog that joins their pack and take on tasks to ensure their happiness.

“Old Friends Senior Dog Sanctuary has millions of highly engaged fans across the globe, many of which tune into their social channels daily to catch up on the furry residents’ latest adventures,” continued Hobson. “Accurately capturing the essence of what makes the sanctuary, its dogs and supportive community so special is paramount for success.”

**Key Game Features:**

- **Unleash the Love - Rescue and take care of your very own senior squad.**
- **Spend your days playing and caring for your furry friends to make each your most loyal companion.**
- **Unlock Heartwarming Adventures - Your choices uncover new story chapters to advance your adventures with your pals.**
- **Decorate Digs Fit for a King (Charles) - Visit your backyard workshop to design and decorate your indoor and outdoor paradise with furniture and plants that your dog residents will love.**
- **Bake Drool-Worthy Snacks - Show your dog some extra love by baking them homemade tasty treats, like donuts, cupcakes and biscuits.**
- **Play Dress Up - Outfit your dogs in stylish, fun accessories.**
- **Livestream the Fun - Produce livestream performances with your senior pals to receive in-game sanctuary donations, rare crafting and baking items and the opportunity to jump to the next level.**

Every month, Runaway Play will sponsor a new sanctuary dog resident with profits from in-game purchases, covering expenses for a full year. “Old Friends Dog Game” is available now for iOS and Android as a free download. To view and download the official game trailer and supporting assets, please visit: [https://tinyurl.com/Old-FriendsDogGameAssets](https://tinyurl.com/Old-FriendsDogGameAssets).

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