School Board votes to require masks

Board also censures member

Staff Reports

The Wilson County School Board voted Monday night to require facial coverings in schools, prior to students returning to schools Aug. 17.

Chad Karl made a motion to require face coverings or face shields for all staff and students until the board rescinds it at a future meeting. The board approved the motion 5-2.

The district will not require children 12 years or younger to wear a face covering. The requirement also will not apply to those who have trouble breathing due to an underlying health condition or health-related reason.

Wilson County Schools said that it is feasible.

Donna Armistead, Bill Robinson and Paula Interni made a motion to make it a priority. Taking specific direction from the Tennessee Pledge (Guidelines for Attractions, Large Venues and Large Community Events) and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture’s guidance for Livestock Shows, visitors will be encouraged to social distance (stay 6 feet apart), wash hands frequently and wear masks. There will be signage posted reminding all visitors to “do your part and stay apart.”

Safety of the Wilson County Fair’s volunteers, participants, visitors and community remains the highest priority. Taking specific direction from the Tennessee Pledge (Guidelines for Attractions, Large Venues and Large Community Events) and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture’s guidance for Livestock Shows, visitors will be encouraged to social distance (stay 6 feet apart), wash hands frequently and wear masks. There will be signage posted reminding all visitors to “do your part and stay apart.”

Livestock shows to be held at Fairgrounds

Staff Reports

Livestock exhibitors will have an opportunity to show their animals at the Wilson County Fair Livestock Shows from August 13-23, 2020, at the Wilson County Fairgrounds.

The Livestock Shows will include over 50 national, state, and county shows for cattle, goats, sheep and swine with over 20 Junior Shows during the 11-day event. More details and pre-registration (which is highly encouraged) for the various livestock shows can be found at www.wilsoncountyfair.net.

Gov. Lee signs executive order allowing school sports

Gov. Bill Lee signed an executive order July 31 allowing contact sports to resume and extending local authority to require masks, among other provisions.

“Athletics is an important part of our way of life and provides many benefits. It is highly encouraged) for the various livestock shows can be found at www.wilsoncountyfair.net.

Early voting sees record turnout

By Sarah Tate

Managing Editor

Early voting in Wilson County ended Saturday with a record turnout. Election Day is Thursday, Aug. 6.

In total, 15,418 Wilson County residents voted early for the Republican and Democratic Federal and State Primary and County General Election. More votes were cast during the first five days of early voting than the entire 14-day period for the August 2016 election.

On Election Day, county residents can cast their vote at one of the 18 voting locations in Wilson County. A full list can be found online at the election commission’s website www.wilsonvotes.com.

Voters are encouraged to do their part on Election Day by wearing a face covering and maintaining a 6-foot distance from poll officials and other voters. They can expect to see signs with further safety instructions at their polling locations.

For more information about voting in Wilson County, or to see a sample ballot, visit the election commission’s website.

Additional Information

Community Calendar

July 30

Work Session

BOE Office

Aug 3

Board Meeting

BOE Office

Aug 6

Election Day

Wilson County

Additional Information

Page 3

www.tcomj.com

The Chronicle

Celebrating Our 40th Year as the Leading Newspaper in Mt. Juliet & West Wilson County

Largest circulation in Wilson County • August 5, 2020 • Volume 40, Number 31

COMMUNITY CALENDAR • pg 3 • OBITUARIES • pg 8 • CLASSIFIEDS • pg 10

Newspaper in Mt. Juliet & West Wilson County

Largest circulation in Wilson County • August 5, 2020 • Volume 40, Number 31

Page 3

See LIVESTOCK, PAGE 2

See WCS, PAGE 5
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.

Life is good.

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.

Come Join Our Family
Rhonda Hoida, Executive Director

Carrick Glen Senior Living Community
100 Carrick Court | Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 | 615-758-0953 | carrickglenseniorliving.com
Wilson Co. enhances 911 services, emergency notification with new app

Staff Reports

Public safety officials in Wilson County recently announced that Smart911 is now available to all individuals. Smart911 is a free service that allows individuals and families to sign up online to provide key information to 911 call takers during an emergency.

“Smart911 saves critical time in an emergency and has proven to save lives nationwide,” said Wilson County 911 Director Karen Moore. “The additional information provided in a Smart911 Safety Profile enables us to know exactly where we are going and who we are looking for in a house fire or at the scene of a vehicle accident, those details can help us respond faster and more efficiently.”

Smart911 allows individuals to create a Safety Profile for their household at www.smart911.com or on the Smart911 App that includes any information they want 911 and response teams to have in the event of an emergency. When a citizen makes an emergency call, their Safety Profile is automatically displayed to the 911 call taker, allowing them to send the right response teams to the right location with the right information.

The Smart911 app is reported to provide greater access to the lifesaving benefits of Smart911 and targeted location-based information to all individuals. The Smart911 App is available on the Apple Store or Google Play.

“Individuals that create a Safety Profile will be better prepared in all towns and counties across the country that support Smart911,” said Moore. “The Safety Profile travels with you and the additional information provided allows us to send the right response teams faster.”

With Smart911, individuals can link both home and work addresses to mobile phones, which can be passed on to responders in the field for a more detailed, rapid response. Additional information including pets in the home, vehicle details in the event of an accident, and even emergency contacts can all be included in a Safety Profile. All information is optional, and the citizen has the ability to choose what details they would like to include.

“The benefits of this information on a 911 call from a cell phone are immeasurable,” said Moore. “Mobile phones do not provide an address to the 911 call taker. These emergency situations are often the worse of a person’s life, and the Safety Profile can speak for you when you might be unable.”

Smart911 is currently available in 40 states and more than 1,500 municipalities across the country, and has been credited with positively impacting emergency outcomes including a missing child in which the girl’s photo and physical description were immediately available to 911 and responders, as well as a heart attack victim where an address and medical notes allowed responders to be dispatched to his location quickly.

Individuals are encouraged to create their Safety Profile with Smart911 to have their information immediately available to 911 and to receive emergency notifications. Smart911 is private and secure, is only used for emergency responses, and only made available to the 911 system in the event of an emergency call.

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The Lighthouse Fellowship
Mays Chapel
Mt. Juliet Missionary Baptist
Mt. Olivet Baptist
Music City Baptist Church
New Life Baptist Church
Rutland Baptist Church
Silver Springs Baptist
Truth and Free Will Baptist
Victory Baptist Church

Catholic
Holy Comforter Anglican (ACC)
St. Stephen Catholic Community

Church of Christ
109 Church of Christ
Belinda Parkway Church of Christ
Center Chapel Church of Christ
Corinth Church of Christ

Gladeville Church of Christ
Green Hill Church of Christ
Leeville Church of Christ
Mt. Juliet Church of Christ
Nonaville Church of Christ
Vesta Church of Christ

Church of God
Living Water Fellowship
Mt. Juliet Church of God
The Pointe Church

Church of Jesus Christ
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Episcopal
Church of the Epiphany

Jehovah’s Witness
Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses

Lutheran
Celebration Lutheran

Methodist
Cook’s United Methodist
Gladeville United Methodist
Grace United Methodist

Mt. Juliet African Methodist Episcopal Church
Pleasant Grove United Methodist
Providence United Methodist*
Scott’s Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Williamson Chapel CME Church

Nazarene
Covenant Fellowship Church of the Nazarene
Pentecostal
Church Alive

Presbyterian
Clydes Cumberland Presbyterian
Hickory Grove Church
Suggs Creek Cumberland Presbyterian

Seventh-day Adventist
Mt. Juliet Seventh-day Adventist

Unity
Unity of Music City

Non-Denominational
Abundant Life*
The BARN Church

Bridge Fellowship Church
Cedar Ridge Church
The Church at Pleasant Grove
Connect Church
Faith is the Victory Church
Cross Point Church
Friendship Community Church
Gateway of Hope
Generation Changers Church
Global Vision Bible Church
Grace Bible Fellowship
Grace Fellowship Ministries
Greater True Faith Community Church
Holy Temple Church
The Journey Church
Joy Church International
LifeChurch of Mt. Juliet
Living Hope Church
Mending Fences Cowboy Church
New Heart Christian Church
New Tribe Church
Our Father’s House Community Church
The Rock of Nashville
Royal Life International

As I perused the news this morning, there were simultaneous articles on shootings in El Paso, Texas (not Houston) and Dayton, Ohio (not Michigan). There were killings in both instances and injuries in both. This is mind-boggling as we consider how and why this could happen. We all try to make some sense of these type of violent actions, but the truth is there is no sense to be found — just anger and destruction.

It reminds me of an instance when Jesus instructed His disciples to get into the boat and go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Take note of the fact it was Jesus who directed them across the water where a storm came up and endangered their lives ... or so they thought. This story reminds us that when Jesus came to earth, He was born in the likeness of men and took on human form. As a result of this, He was tired and went to sleep while they were sailing to the other side of the sea. Coincidentally (yes, right!) a storm developed and the wind and waves were so bad, the water began to come into the boat. The disciples made a good move and a not so good move as they panicked, afraid for their lives. The good move was recognizing that Jesus was their source for salvation, even salvation from drowning as a result of a storm. They immediately turned to Him, even as He was enjoying a good nap. The not so good move was when they cried out in their panic, “Don’t You even care that we are perishing?” How could He sleep in a time like this? They were perishing! Actually, they weren’t, but it was getting...
Bullying is not cool

8 out of 10 children bullied at some point in their childhood. Bullying happens at school, at home, on the streets and on every level of social media. A lot of young people don’t even realize they are making other people’s lives miserable. They think they are just joking in making fun of or bullying someone. The truth is it hurts to be bullied and can change someone’s life forever. Bullying has even led to murder and suicide.

Bullying happens when someone picks on someone and makes their life miserable for no real reason but meanness. Bullying can come in many forms from kicking, smacking, tripping, making fun of, threatening or sending out false messages and rumors about the person over the computer and so on. People have been bullied because of their size, accent, weight, color of their skin, stance on certain issues, interests, or just because they are the new kid on the block or at school. Bullies are often insecure and pick on others to make themselves feel more important and powerful.

The sad thing is what a bully doesn’t see. Their bullying can lead to low self-esteem, suicide, revenge and even assault or murder. These are all things that can be avoided. If you or someone you know is being bullied, there is help. If you’re bullied, you should tell someone. It’s very important to get other people involved and to ask for advice or help.

If you are being bullied it can feel like the whole world is against you and that you are on your own. Not true! The worst thing to do is to sit back and accept it. It won’t get any better unless you do something about it. If you are the victim of bullying at school you should contact your teacher, the principal or the guidance counselor for help. If the bullying occurs on the streets or away from home, you can contact your parents or the police. And if the bullying takes place at home, you need to advise your parents. Bullying is also a problem with adults. Most child bullies simply grow up to be adult bullies. The only thing that changes is the age of the people they bully.

Bullying is not just a kid’s game. It is a practice that ruins lives and causes scars that can last a lifetime.

In closing, help and advice is out there. Don’t accept bullying.

Did you know that bullying is one of the biggest concerns of young people today? Bullying is a serious problem with

and offensive, under the law it does not constitute sexual harassment. The findings of the investigation state that it is an ethical violation of a board member.

The law firm gave three recommendations: 1) Based on the conclusion of the investigation, to recommend a public censure for an offensive comment to an employee of the Wilson County School System; 2) Remind the Board that no retaliation or hostility for Mrs. Hyder or Mr. McNeese shall take place and if it does, the School Board will promptly act to remedy it; 3) Remind the School Board

From F & M, PAGE 4

more and more dire. In their panic, they made their situation like many of us do; God’s fault.

When we consider the recent events and others like them, we often respond by asking, “Does God really care? And if so, where is He?” There is no real easy answer, but as I often say, we live in a fallen world surrounded by fallen people (sometimes they are in our mirror) doing fallen things and regardless of our level of holiness, we are sometimes affected by all this fallen-ness. Regardless of how it looks at the moment, God may seem to be asleep and without compassion toward us, but He is on the job and doing what only God can do. As Jesus spoke to the storm and calmed the sea, He rebuked the disciples for succumbing to fear and not relying on their faith — a faith they learned by hanging out with the Son of

by law to ensure that all employees are free from all forms of discrimination and harassment.

All personnel will receive training on unlawful harassment and procedures to be used if harassment occurs. Armstrong made a motion to the School Board during its meeting to follow the recommendations of Owens. During the discussion, McNeese asked to speak and stated, “I go along with the public censure, but sexual harassment as clearly defined was not determined to have occurred.” The vote for the public censure passed 6-0 with McNeese abstaining.

From LEE, PAGE 1

fits for our student athletes, but common-sense precautions must be taken to combat COVID-19,” said Gov. Lee. “We have worked directly with the TSSAA to coordinate a framework so that football season and soccer seasons can begin while keeping student-athletes, staff and fans safe.”

After signing the new order, Number 55, teams can now make contact during practice in football and girls’ soccer. Other fall sports, including golf, cross country, and volleyball were not affected by the State of Emergency Order that had prohibited contact sports.

“We appreciate being able to work with Gov. Lee and his staff on this,” said Bernard Childress, Executive Director of the TSSAA. “I am pleased that we were able to develop some very specific guidelines for every sport that will allow our kids to get out on their fields and fully participate in football and girls’ soccer this fall.”

TSSAA officials said that although contact practice is now permissible, the regulations and requirements for practice and competition adopted by the Board of Control at their July 22 meeting are still in place for all sports and must be followed. “Children across the state are counting on us — school administrators and coaches—to proceed with practices and competitions safely while being very mindful of the requirements and modifications that we have put in place,” Childress added. “Our return to play is a partnership, and it’s important for everyone to do their part.”

Executive Order Number 55 also extends local authority to issue facial coverings through Aug. 29 and strongly encourages schools to adopt policies regarding face coverings. The Wilson County School Board voted on Monday night to require masks and facial coverings in its schools.

“This order will also continue to give local governments the authority to determine mask requirements for their respective constituencies,” he continued. “Adopting mask requirements at the local level has helped achieve greater community buy-in as Tennesseans adopt a new habit to protect lives and livelihoods.”
Green bows: A symbol of hope

Staff Reports

Tracy Underwood, who owns A.J.’s Florist with her mother Marcia Pruitt, has always loved seeing green bows hanging in support of Sherry’s Run throughout the community. As a longtime run participant and bow-making volunteer, she knows that those green bows represent hope, that her town fights with those who are fighting cancer. Little did she know that in 2019, just two weeks after finishing tying a batch of bows for Sherry’s Run, it would be her family’s turn to receive that hope.

In October 2019, Tracy’s husband, Michael, was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma of the throat.

“Our world came to a stop and we were blindsided,” said Tracy. “The couple turned immediately to their faith and to prayer. “We were so scared and didn’t know what to expect. I was worried about work, finances, and all the holidays that were coming soon.”

Michael’s doctors at Vanderbilt came up with a treatment plan which included 30 rounds of radiation and six rounds of chemotherapy.

“We were so scared with all the treatments and Michael’s immune system being so fragile,” said Tracy. “We were headed right into flu season, and he was weak. He battled to be able to eat and swallow food.”

The family had made a paper link prayer chain with words of encouragement for Michael, and every time he had a treatment, he cut a piece of it off as a countdown. As the chain got smaller, the family looked forward to Michael’s treatments being over. Throughout his treatments, Sherry’s Run was able to help the Underwoods with groceries, mortgage payments, and medical bills. It was not lost on Tracy that the organization she had lovingly poured into with the making of green bows in the months before was the very ministry providing help for her family.

Even after all the treatments were complete, it took many weeks for Michael to recover his strength. They continued to lean on their faith, their church family, and each other. Three months after his treatments were complete, Michael underwent a scan which showed that Michael’s cancer was completely gone. In July 2020, Michael had another CT scan which confirmed that all the cancer is gone, and he was pronounced cancer free.

One might think this journey would come to a close here, but Tracy Underwood is not the type to stop giving back. Before Michael’s cancer diagnosis, Tracy had planned on donating a kidney to a friend who was in kidney failure. The transplant was postponed; Tracy needed to know her husband was OK before she could proceed. On July 7, 2020, she was finally able to donate her kidney to her friend. The transplant went well. Both Tracy and the recipient are recovering, and the kidney in the recipient is working beautifully.

“Our faith, family, church and Sherry’s Run are the reasons we are able to keep our heads lifted and our hearts full of love,” she said.

Tracy looks forward to the day she is fully recovered from donating the kidney and able to return to making green bows for Sherry’s Run.

“My heart has always been with Sherry’s Run when I make bows for them,” said Tracy. “But now when I make them, I will always remember that they helped us while we were facing the unknown.”

See BOWS, PAGE 9
Parents worried their child has an undiagnosed mental health condition

Staff Reports

One-third of Tennessee parents with children ages 6-17 are worried their child has an undiagnosed mental health condition, a new poll from the Vanderbilt Center for Child Health Policy found.

“The findings in the poll, led by researchers at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt and Vanderbilt University Medical Center, also found that about 30% of parents said their child had been diagnosed with a mental health condition, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), anxiety or depression.

“Mental health conditions are common among children and adolescents,” said S. Todd Callahan, MD, MPH, associate professor of Pediatrics and director of the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Health. “Mental health symptoms can be a serious threat to a child’s health, growth and development. The good news is that these symptoms usually improve with intervention and treatment.”

The findings were collected before the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted children’s academic and social lives in unprecedented ways. This underscores the importance of addressing and understanding mental health challenges in children to better keep them healthy and safe,

said Stephen Patrick, MD, MPH, a neonatologist and director of the Vanderbilt Center for Child Health Policy.

“COVID-19 disrupted the routines of children across the state, creating stress for parents and children alike. Now more than ever, parents should not be afraid to talk to their kids about mental health and well-being,” Patrick said.

The Vanderbilt Child Health Poll asked a statewide sample of 1,100 Tennessee parents about their concerns related to children and mental health (social, emotional and behavioral health) before coronavirus began to spread in the state.

Attention deficit disorder/hyperactivity disorder (16%), anxiety (11%) and depression (8%) were the most common mental health diagnoses, often in combination with another of these three conditions. Nearly 20% of parents reported that their child had been diagnosed with two or more mental health conditions.

A notable finding for researchers is that 10% of parents reported they were unsure how to talk to their children about suicide and couldn’t identify warning signs. Over 500 young Tennesseans have died from suicide in the past 10 years, and suicide was recently declared a state crisis by the Tennes-see General Assembly.

Parents were mostly afraid that talking about suicide would lead to more thoughts of suicide (16%), were worried others would judge them (13%) or didn’t know how to help (13%).

“Parents are often afraid to discuss depression and thoughts of suicide with their youngsters and may not realize they don’t know how to express their feelings,” said Catherine Fuchs, MD, professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, and Pediatrics at VUMC, who helped craft the survey. “Even though kids don’t admit it, knowing that parents are interested in how they are feeling and modeling how to talk about it can provide tremendous relief.”

Fuchs recommended using art activities, reading books about emotions or watching shows about appropriate expression of emotions to help guide the conversation.

Over 30% of parents surveyed said they would turn to their child’s physician for help with concerns about their child’s mental health. If parents have concerns about their children, they can talk to their physician. Parents can also call the National Suicide Prevention Helpline at 1-800-273-8255 or the Tennessee Crisis Line at 855-CRISIS-1 in emergencies or with general questions.

New mural unveiled in Wilson County

Staff Reports

The Wilson County Convention and Visitors Bureau, in conjunction with the Wilson County Murals Committee, recently unveiled the newest mural in the county-wide mural initiative PaintWilCo. This mural is the fifth of 10 murals projected to be completed by the end of 2020.

The mural, called “Messages of Hope,” is located at 129 S. College Street, Lebanon, on the side of the Wilson County Clerk’s Office. This mural was sponsored by Keller Williams-Lebanon in anticipation of their brand new office opening soon.

When asked about why this mural is so important to the county, Scott Harris, Keller Williams Realtor, said, “Keller Williams is honored to be opening a new business center on the Historic Lebanon town square. We feel privileged to partner with the Wilson County Murals Committee in sponsoring the ‘Messages of Hope’ mural. Offering messages of hope and inspiration is what we strive for daily and are proud to be able to share this with all of Wilson County.”

Scott Harris and Deanna Purcell, both members of the Wilson County Murals Committee, painted the new mural. When asked about the importance of the mural, Purcell said, “My wish is that the whimsical design will inspire a lightheartedness that we could all use right now. I am hopeful that the messages of the mural will encourage the viewer with the words within it: love, hope, trust, believe…”

Wear a mask to keep Tennesseans working.
OBITUARIES

BARTOLO, Jaime Gabriel Jr.

Jaime Gabriel Bartolo, Jr., age 16, passed away July 30, 2020. A Funeral Mass was held July 30 at Sellars Funeral Home in Mt. Juliet.

Jaime Gabriel Bartolo, Jr. was born Nov. 14, 2003, to loving parents, Jaime Bartolo and Stacey Paris. In addition to his parents, he leaves behind his sister, Alyssa; brother, Antonio; and stepfather, Oscar Vanegas.


BROWN, Debbie

Debbie Brown, age 62 of Old Hickory, passed away July 26, 2020. A funeral service was held Aug. 3 at Sellars Funeral Home in Mt. Juliet, and interment followed at Hermitage Memorial Gardens.

She is survived by sons, James Ramsey, Joseph Ramsey, Adam Brown, and Thomas Brown; granddaughters, Aurora Ramsey and Delilah Ramsey; mother, Myra Caruthers; brother, William Thomas (Lee-ann) Caruthers, Jr.; sister, Catherine (John) Joor; father of her children, Ed Brown. She was preceded in death by father, William T. Caruthers.


TAYLOR, Matthew Lee

Matthew Lee Taylor, age 20, passed away suddenly on July 24, 2020. A Celebration of Life was held Aug. 1 at Sellars Funeral Home in Mt. Juliet.

Matthew will be missed everyday by his mother, Dawn Taylor (Rand) LaMontagne; father, Joseph D. Taylor; siblings, Christopher A. Taylor and Jessica Padilla; step-siblings, Seren LaMontagne and Cheyenne LaMontagne; maternal grandparents, Pam Thompson and Kenny and Carol Thompson; paternal grandparents, Don and Mary Ann Taylor; step-grandparents, Johnny and Brenda Allen; many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends also survive.

The family knows Matthew is now with his grandparents, Allan and Judy Breeneis, and is loved here on Earth as well as in Heaven.


TURNER, Annie

Annie Turner passed away July 25, 2020, at age 88. A funeral service was held July 31 at Sellars Funeral Home, Lebanon, and interment followed at Wilson County Memorial Park.

Mrs. Turner is survived by her loving daughter Phyllis (Jay Dee) Haralson, daughter in love Brenda Turner, grandson Cory Turner, great-grandsons Aidan Kade Turner and Hudson Reed Turner, and sister Ina Moore. She is preceded in death by her husband Bratten Turner and son Rick Turner.

Sellars Funeral Home, Lebanon TN, 615.444.9393.

WARRION, Nancy Toy

Nancy Toy Warrion, age 75 of Mt. Juliet, passed away July 27, 2020. A graveside service was held July 30 at Tiptonville City Cemetery in Tiptonville, Tennessee.

Preceded in death by father, William Foster Strader; brother, Jerry Strader; survived by husband, Thomas Warrion; daughter, Lee Toy; son, Bobby (Christy) Toy; mother, Onice Strader; step-children, Kara (Robert) Hinson, Eri- Carion and Kurt Warr- ion; grandchildren, Dylan Johnson, Gray Toy, Faith Anderson, Kelsey Toy and Brittany Timmons; and step-grandchildren, Har- per Hinson, Hyram Hinson, Penelope Warrion and Sloan Warrion.


Page 8, The Chronicle of Mt. Juliet, AUGUST 5, 2020

See OBITIS, PAGE 9
TELLING TALES

By Angel Kane
Wilson Living Magazine

It’s our youngest child’s last year of high school and as I gave him a hug before he left for school, I told him to “finish strong.”

To which he responded, “You too, Mom!”

At first I laughed a little thinking about that and then as I watched him get into his car and drive down the driveway, I thought to myself, “Yes, sir, I will!”

In a blink of an eye, I went from a Mama of three young kids that I was always strapping into car seats, running to the doctor for ear infections and ordering chicken nuggets for, to a 49 year old staring out a window, watching my last one drive away, in an eerily quiet house.

Being he is Number 3, I know how this will go. It will go fast!

And then before we know it, it will be his last game, his last class, his last dance and then finally graduation day. The summer will pass even quicker and then we’ll help him move into his new dorm room and finally drive away ourselves.

Each time we did this with one of our older girls, I told myself it was fine. I still had two more, then one more, left at home to raise.

But with Number 3, that won’t be the case.

So, as our wise boy said, it’s time to finish strong!

That said, I’m going to tell him to wake up each and every morning, louder and louder until he finally rolls out of bed to make sure he gets where he is going on time!

I’m going to remind him his room is utterly disgusting every time I walk by it and promise him his car is mine if it’s not clean within the hour.

I’m going to make him get a haircut every chance I get because no one will ever hire him with hair like that!

It’s my last year to nag like only a mother can and my goal is that he never gets the sound of my voice telling him to live right out of his head!

I’m also going to make his favorite meals whenever he asks so that he always knows who makes it best and where he can always come to find them.

I’ll wash his clothes with detergent that smells like home all this year and then pack it with him when he leaves, so he’ll know he is never alone.

I won’t bother him and his Dad when they spend hours watching football or basketball because I know those two are going to miss each other more than I can ever imagine. But, I’ll sit quietly with them both soaking it in.

It’s my last year to love him like only a mother can and my goal is that he never gets that feeling out of his heart.

I’m not only finishing strong but finishing big.

And then we are taking a vacation — without any kids! To a place where other people can’t bring their kids either. I’ve heard places like that exist!

Although the Sherry’s Run 5K Run/Walk will be virtual this year, the community can still show support by helping Paint the Town Green for Sherry’s Run. Bows are available at the Sherry’s Run Office, located at 110 Babb Drive, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The recommended donation price for the bows is $10, and any donation to Sherry’s Run benefits families in the community, like the Underwoods, who are battling cancer.

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

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THE CHRONICLE OF MT. JULIET, AUGUST 5, 2020 Page 9

Finish strong

By Becky Andrews and Angel Kane

Kids, husbands, careers... It can be a mother of a tale!

THE CHRONICLE OF MT. JULIET, AUGUST 5, 2020 Page 9

From OBIT, PAGE 8

WITT, Charles Thomas Jr.

Charles “Charlie” Thomas Witt, Jr. of Old Hickory, passed away in Roane County, Tennessee, on July 26, 2020 at the age of 63.

He is survived by his wife, Tracy (Gibbs) Witt; four children: by blood: Christina Witt George (Kevin), Charles Michael Witt (Cassie Pekar- skii), Elizabeth Grace Witt, and Andrew Thomas Witt (Melissa Spier); four children by heart: Amy Edwards Stanz, Jason Edwards, Christy Edwards, and Megan Dahl; five grandchildren: Jack Parker George, Ansel Ambrose George, Bri- anna Clouse, Gavin Stanz, and Katie Stanz; three sib- lings: Cynthia “Cindy” Witt, Alfred Witt (Patty), and Wil- liam Preston Witt; three nephews: Rocky Hutton (Michelle), William Witt, and Zachary Witt; a niece: Deanna Witt; two grandnephews: Jacob Hutton and Joshua Hutton; a grandniece, Michayla Hutton, sisters-in-law, Gayle (Paul) Pulcher and Jackie (William) Little- john; and his mother, Doris (Fulford) Witt-Jones.

He was preceded in death by his father, Charles Thomas Witt, Sr., and father- and mother-in-law, Dale and Martha Gibbs.

Due to concerns about COVID-19, a memorial ser- vice will be held at a later date.


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- Ron Warren

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Audiologists over the
CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Mt. Juliet will have a Public Hearing on Monday, August 24, 2020 at 6:15 p.m. to hear comments on the following item to be considered: Annex and rezone approximately 0.85 acres, property known as Landmark Homes, located at 6020 Central Pike, from Wilson County Limited Office Commercial (LOC) to Mt. Juliet Commercial Mixed Use (CMU), Map 097, Parcel 011.08, and being located within the City’s Urban Growth Boundary. The public is invited to attend and comment.

Kenny Martin, City Manager
City of Mt. Juliet

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Mt. Juliet will have a Public Hearing on Monday, August 24, 2020 at 6:15 p.m. to hear comments on the following item to be considered: Annex, approve the Preliminary Master Development Plan PMDP-PUD, and rezone from Wilson County R-1 to Mt. Juliet RS-15 PUD for approximately 72.2 acres, property known as Cawthon Farms, located at 780 and 1367 S Rutland Road, Map 096, Parcels 13.00, 16.00 & 32.03, and being located within the City’s Urban Growth Boundary. The public is invited to attend and comment.

Kenny Martin, City Manager
City of Mt. Juliet

PUBLIC NOTICE

LAND WANTED: Want to buy land!! If you have land and want to sell please contact 754-2019.

PUBLIC NOTICE


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Kenny Martin, City Manager
City of Mt. Juliet

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Mt. Juliet Alcoholic Beverages Board will meet in City Hall at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 to consider the following:

Grant Beer Permit to Wasabi Japanese Steakhouse, located at 401 S. Mt. Juliet Rd. #155, Mt. Juliet Grant Beer Permit to Residence Inn located at 5004 Crossings Circle, Mt. Juliet

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

Sheila S. Luckett, MMC
Deputy City Manager

Sealed bids for “Animal Care & Control Vet Services” 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 2:00pm on August 19, 2020. Details are available at http://www.mtjuliet-tn.gov/bids.aspx.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Tennessee State Parks host virtual bicycle ride across state

Staff Reports

Tennessee State Parks has announced that the Bicycle Ride Across Tennessee (BRAT) will be a virtual event this year for the health and safety of riders and park personnel.

“This is a great event for cyclists across our state, and the virtual format will allow everyone to participate while still practicing social distancing,” said Jim Bryson, deputy commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. “It’s a way to maintain personal goals but still follow safety guidelines in light of COVID-19.”

Under the virtual format of the month-long event, Sept. 1-30, riders can log their miles onLovetario.net as part of the Bicycle Ride Across Tennessee Cycling Club. The goal is for participants to ride 688 miles, the distance from Bristol to Memphis, in the month of September. Since this year is the 31st annual Bicycle Ride Across Tennessee, the club has a goal of 31,000 miles collectively.

In the past, riders would take out-and-back rides together. The virtual ride encourages riders to keep riding with shared goals in an online community and with shared routes across the state. The ride is non-competitive.


All participants will receive:

- Access to trusted routes from past BRAT rides at multiple Tennessee State Parks through Ride with GPS
- 2020 BRAT jersey and T-shirt
- Eligibility to win prizes throughout September
- Access to invitation-only small group rides located across the state of Tennessee with the BRAT director
- The opportunity to build your own cycling vacation around the provided routes with lodging at Tennessee State Parks
- The opportunity to enjoy park activities and guided programs just like you would at the normal Bike Ride Across Tennessee

Participants do not have to live in Tennessee to participate and are welcome to log their miles any way they choose, including road cycling, indoor cycling, gravel or mountain biking.

Proceeds go to the development and protection of the Cumberland Trail, a 300-mile-long footpath down the eastern edge of the Cumberland Mountains, and the Tennessee Park Rangers Association, which provides scholarships and training for park rangers throughout the state to continue education in order to provide the highest level of protection for Tennessee State Parks.

The following vehicles will be sold at Mobiletech Automotive Repair 108 West Division, Mt. Juliet, Tr. 37122 at 10 a.m. on August 20th, 2020 for towing and storage fees accumulated on vehicles if not paid in full by the time of the sale. Paperwork will be provided at the point of sale to apply for a title.

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**The Chronicle of Mt. Juliet, AUGUST 5, 2020 Page 11**
Unemployment rates decrease in majority of TN counties

Staff Reports

Unemployment rates in a vast majority of Tennessee’s 95 counties continued to drop in June, according to new data from the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Seventy-four counties had lower jobless rates for the month, as Tennessee continues to reopen after many businesses closed in the spring to help curb the spread of COVID-19.

Unemployment did increase slightly in 17 counties during the month and remained the same in four counties.

Williamson County recorded the lowest unemployment rate in June. At 6.7%, the rate dropped 0.4 of a percentage point when compared to May’s rate.

Crockett County’s rate of 6.8% was Tennessee’s second-lowest figure for the month, down 0.3 of a percentage point from May. Pickett County had the third-lowest rate at 7.2%, down a 0.5 of a percentage point.

Shelby County had the state’s highest rate of unemployment in June. Its figure jumped 1.8 percentage points to 13.2%.

Grundy County was just below Shelby County at 13.1%, which represents a 3.8 percentage point drop from May’s rate of 16.9%.

Knoxville had the lowest unemployment rate among Tennessee’s three largest cities at 9.5%, which is a 0.3 of a percentage point decrease from the month before. Nashville had a rate of 12.1%, down 0.2 of a percentage point from May. Memphis saw a 2.4 percentage point increase in unemployment between May and June to 15.3%.

Tennessee’s statewide unemployment rate decreased for the second consecutive month. The June 2020 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 9.7%, down 1.3 percentage points from May’s revised rate of 11%.

One year ago, the rate was 3.4%, very near the state’s all-time low unemployment rate of 3.3%.

Tennessee experienced record-high unemployment in April when the jobless number spiked to 15.5% at the height of business closures due to the COVID-19 health emergency. Before the pandemic, the state’s previous record-setting unemployment rate was 12.9% in January 1983.

Between May and June, the state’s employers added 108,500 nonfarm jobs. The top three sectors for job creation across Tennessee were leisure/hospitality, government, and education and health services.

As the state slowly reopens, employers are creating new job opportunities, but there is still a deficit when comparing year-to-year data. From June 2019 through June 2020, Tennessee lost 154,000 positions. The largest decrease came in the leisure/hospitality sector, followed by the manufacturing sector, and then the professional/business services sector.

Nationally, seasonally adjusted unemployment dropped by 2.2 percentage points in June, going from 13.3% to 11.1%.

Tennessee employers are hiring. Job seekers can find more than 190,000 current job openings on the state’s workforce development website, www.Jobs4TN.gov. Tennesseans can also find free assistance with improving job search skills, updating resumes, and job training opportunities on the site.