

LIFE

ROTARY CLUB NAMES NEW PRESIDENT, HONORS PAST PRESIDENTS. 12A

FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2017

THE DAILY TIMES 10A



Walls go up



Volunteers begin construction of Women Build project

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When Jameelah Mostella's children get a little older, she can tell them they live in a home that love built.

The love of neighbors and strangers alike who came together in the summer of 2017 to volunteer on behalf of Habitat for Humanity.

On Thursday morning, just after fast-moving showers passed through, Mostella stood on her home's foundation with many of these volunteers who signed up to help with Blount County's Habitat for Humanity Women Build. They were all there to lift exterior walls and hammer them into place. And they did.

Three months from now, this home on West Newcomen Street in Alcoa will be completed and a family who once doubted they would have a home of their own, will be ready to move in.

Mostella and her two children, ages 1 and 6, currently reside in a townhouse in Blount County. She said she lived in Knoxville previously and tried to get into the Habitat for Humanity program there. Her credit issues held her back.

"I started working on that," this young mother said. "I applied here after moving over here, and I got in. I started crying when I got the letter in the mail."

The homes aren't free, but Habitat is able to work with potential homeowners to secure affordable mortgages that are sometimes lower than rent payments.

For the past few weeks, Mostella has been taking required classes and doing her sweat equity,



KEN SOERENSON (CENTER), GIVES volunteers instructions on how to properly raise the first wall of a Habitat House on West Newcomen Street Thursday morning in Alcoa. The house should be completed sometime in September.

which involves volunteer service hours. Mostella said she has helped on four or five other Habitat homes in addition to hers.

The location of her new home is certainly familiar. Mostella grew up just down the street. She graduated from Alcoa High School in 2008. "I went to Alcoa Elementary, Alcoa Middle and Alcoa High schools," she said.

Blount County Habitat for Humanity does a Women Build every other year, said its Executive Director Kathy Jackson. Women from various businesses are encouraged to sign up and take part in the building process. Men are welcome, too.

The main reason for having a Women Build is of course, to encourage women to become



JAMEELAH MOSTELLA (RIGHT), HELPS raise the first wall of her Habitat for Humanity home on West Newcomen Street in Alcoa. She grew up just down the street.

SEE BUILD, 13A

BRIEFS

**Special Olympics
Burger Lunch will be
held on July 13**

The community is invited to attend the 10th annual Area 15 Special Olympics Burger Lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, July 13, at Maryville First Baptist Church family life center. The menu includes a grilled burger with all of the fixings, chips, drink and dessert for \$6 at the door.

Take-out orders will be available by calling 865-621-2896 after 7:30 a.m. on the day of the event.

This fundraising event provides an opportunity for the community to shown its support to over 300 Special Olympics athletes in the Blount County program.

First Baptist is located at 202 W. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville.

**Benefit set for
leukemia patient**

A spaghetti dinner benefit and silent auction will be held from 5-9 p.m. Monday, July 10, at the Blue Slip Winery, 300 W. Depot Ave., Knoxville for leukemia patient Kane Wasden, who will be a freshman at Heritage High School this fall.

There will be a special appearance by Glenn Jacobs, better known as Kane, the professional wrestler. He will be there from 5-6 p.m. signing pictures.

The cost of the meal is \$16, which includes salad, spaghetti and dessert. The proceeds from the event will go toward helping the family due to Wasden's mother being unable to work. Wasden will be unable to attend school because of his weakened immune system. Aaron Allen, a friend of the family, is

**Performing Arts
Camp set to begin**

An exciting, new camp for the young performing artist is being offered by Maryville-Alcoa-Blount County Recreation and Parks. Campers will develop skills that will last a lifetime as they learn a variety of performing arts - theatre, music, circus skills, production skills and more - taught by professionals in each area, led by camp director Holly Roe.

For campers ages 10-17, the daily schedule includes up to three different learning sessions as well as performance opportunities. After choosing a main track, campers select from additional electives, which may include theatre skills, creative music, physical comedy, unicycle skills, dance/movement, prop-making/design, radio theatre and more.

Class preferences will be assigned in order of registration, and some electives could fill up quickly. Camp will be held July 17-21, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily at the Springbrook Recreation Center. Cost is \$90, and the registration deadline is July 10. Early registration is recommended.

Registration is available online at www.parksrec.com or at Parks & Recreation, 316 S. Everett High Rd. For more information call 865-983-9244.

**Bus rides offered to
Symphony concerts**

Blount County residents are invited to ride a bus to the Knoxville Symphony concerts for the Moxley Carmichael Masterworks season. Tickets for the symphony are now on sale and can be purchased by calling 865-291-3310. There is a discount that will almost



JOY KIMBROUGH | THE DAILY TIMES

DOUG JENKINS, CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR for Habitat for Humanity, and Executive Director Kathy Jackson say a few words before lifting the first wall of the home that is for the Women Build project.

BUILD: Overflow of volunteers warrants waiting list**FROM 10A**

volunteers, especially those who may feel intimidated surrounded by a more experienced crew of men, said Vanessa Sparks, Development Director for Habitat. Helping build confidence is also a goal.

On this day to raise walls, about a dozen Wells Fargo employees were on hand to make this task less taxing for all. They are one of the sponsors and some of them were staying after the ceremonial lifting of the walls.

Glenda Talbott, Wells Fargo branch manager in Maryville, was busy doing her part alongside Kimberly Loeffler, an employee at the Knoxville Wells Fargo. They said they had no trouble getting people to sign up for this community service project.

As a matter of fact, they had too many. A waiting list has now been created.

GETTING ON THE SCHEDULE

Sparks said the volunteer work schedule is being finalized. Typically, volunteers work three days a week for six weeks on a rotat-

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Jameelah Mostella
Habitat for Humanity home recipient

ing basis. Other businesses besides Wells Fargo are participating.

It was easy to spot Mostella on the property; she was the one with the biggest smile, moving from place to place and checking progress. "I come down here almost every week," she said. "I am taking pictures to make a collage."

While some here on this day were first-timers to the Habitat process, many were not. Doug Jenkins is Habitat's construction supervisor. He's been part of numerous builds and dedications.

This never gets old, he said. "I can be here by myself and it's like throwing a party and nobody shows up," he said. "Then 20 minutes later all of these people show up ready for work. We have a lot of regu-

lars. I find it really gives me energy, being with a community of people."

Those regulars include people like Phil Large, Scott Dahms and Bill Mueller, all retired engineers. Large and Dahms have worked on 20 or so Habitat homes. For Mueller, the number has soared to about 100.

They were each on site Thursday adding to the list of homeowner-ship. Even before this house was started, there was a house on this lot that had to be removed.

Mostella was headed to her job at ADT Security after the walls were raised. She said being there to help was a wonderful experience. So was getting to meet the new friends who are the reasons she can call herself a homeowner.

"It makes me so excited to see this all happen," she said. "Grateful. That's what I am. I so much wanted this for my kids."

As hammers nailed and saws whizzed, Mostella looked around at the large crowd of at least 35, all there to help her. "It makes you have a little more faith in humanity when you see this," she said, smiling.