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TENNESSEE ADVANCES TO NCAA REGIONAL FINAL. 1B

WELL-KNOWN TRAVELER GARNER IS TOPIC OF PROGRAM. 13A

Library funding in question; board talks loss options

BY ANDREW JONES

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Budget troubles threatening the Blount County Public Library have gone under the microscope as city officials and library board members gathered last week to discuss funding options.

The Library Board of Trustees met Thursday to discuss potential options if they do not receive adequate funding for the 2020 fiscal

and two part-time adult services positions.

Total amounts taken from these salaries would reach \$104,789.82, the proposal shows.

Library Director K.C. Williams and Schneibel told Maryville city officials and The Daily Times that staffing cuts inevitably would lead to a reduction in library operating hours, but Schneibel emailed that after "three weeks of operating with this lev-



ing for the 2020 fiscal year. The library is facing a consultant's recommendation of more than \$370,000 annually in raises to employee salaries and benefits.

The increase was introduced by a Blount County compensation study published in March and is more than \$100,000 less than the combined Maryville, Alcoa and county budgets have proposed providing.

Library board Chairwoman Susan Schneibel of Maryville provided The Daily Times with an outline of one of three options the board has discussed to mitigate the issues a lack of funding might create.

"The director and her administrative staff thought this option would be the least disruptive to service, but we are not sure if this solution will prove feasible," Schneibel emailed.

That option entails the library dismissing one full-time maintenance position, seven part-time patron services positions

operating with this level of staff reduction, we should know if we must cut back on operating hours as well."

Non-staff related cuts in the proposal included a 53% decrease in materials budget and a reduction of available hot spots and potentially phone lines and email accounts.

The library also would defer any technology upgrades and halt outreach and organizational memberships for staff, the option states.

Finally, the proposal suggests cutting three or more online database subscriptions, limiting staff travel and training, reducing operational building improvements by as much as 87.5% and reducing capital funds that help with building renovation by 91%.

Amounts taken from operations would add up to \$218,815.18, with amounts taken from capital totaling \$35,250.00, the outline states.

All told, this option

SEE LOSS, 5A



CARYN TRAMEL | MTSU/SEIGENTHALER NEWS SERVICE

VOLUNTEER RUSSELL DERBY FASTENS one of the trusses into place on a Habitat for Humanity home in Alcoa.

Building up hope

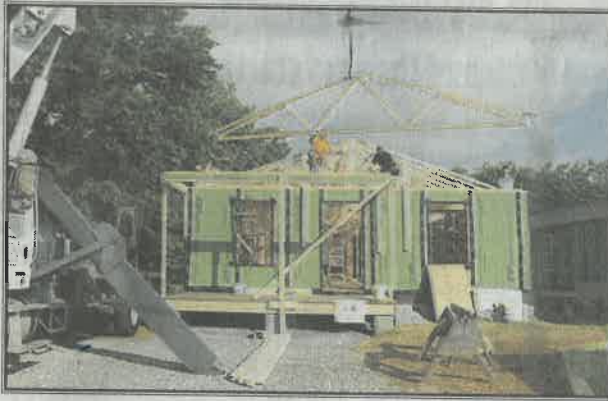
Habitat for Humanity makes 162nd home in Alcoa

BY STEPHEN THOMAS
and CARYN TRAMEL
MTSU/Seigenthaler News Service

As volunteers watched, a crane carefully lifted trusses into place on the latest house to be built by Blount County Habitat for Humanity.

Ken Sorenson, a veteran Habitat volunteer, was on top of the home giving directions to the crane operator. "Slow ... back it up a little bit," Sorenson shouted.

One by one the trusses, more than a dozen, were aligned and nailed



KEN SORENSON GUIDES A truss into place at the latest Habitat for Humanity build in Alcoa.

into place. In two hours the house was no longer

as the last one was nailed into place.

"Slow and steady, that's our motto," said Doug Jenkins, Habitat construction supervisor. "We usually do half days, so we don't burn out."

The house at 225 Bessie Harvey Ave. in Alcoa is the 162nd home built by the Blount County homebuilding nonprofit since it was established in 1992.

The Blount County volunteers for the build range in experience from first-time builders to veterans

SEE HOME, 3A

All of Greenback knows Miss Jean; just don't take her seat at the local diner



BY MORGAN BRANTLEY, BRANDON CASTEEL
and ABIGAIL CREW
MTSU/Seigenthaler News Service

GREENBACK — "Greenback people's hard to beat," says 90-year-old Jean Burnett, "Miss Jean," to everyone she meets, as she sips her coffee at the Greenback Drug Store & Diner.

Regulars at the brick eatery, with large picture windows in the front, will hear her say these

fourth red-and-white-checked table from the entrance. This is her table.

If someone else is sitting there, "She don't like it," says Tammy Tallet, the owner.

Accompanying her is Ronnie Goodwin, her nephew and full-time caretaker now that dementia prevents her from living on her own.

Miss Jean is always greeted by her second family, the grill

smile and proceed to explain why she's there: to eat. She doesn't have to place an order. The staff knows what she wants. For breakfast, it's always biscuits and gravy, a side of scrambled eggs and a mug of black coffee that she grips with both hands.

"I've drunk coffee ever since I was that high," Miss Jean said. She used her ring-covered hand (nine between the two hands) to indicate the size of the coffee

Blount Memorial to offer info session on picky eaters to parents

From staff reports

Blount Memorial Total Rehabilitation's pediatric speech and language staff will host an informational session for parents of picky eaters and problem feeders next month to provide ideas and tools to help children become better eaters.

Many children only eat certain things and refuse to try other foods, the hospital said in a press release. Others may refuse to eat altogether.

In this session, Blount Memorial speech language

pathologists will discuss the characteristics of picky eaters and problem feeders, identify red flags and provide information to help parents determine if feeding therapy is necessary.

This free, one-hour event will take place on Tuesday, June 4, at 7 p.m. in the Blount Memorial Health Center at Springbrook's upstairs conference room, 220 Associates Blvd. in Alcoa. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information, call 865-980-7171.

HOME: House to be completed with roof by Monday

FROM 1A

of hundreds of Habitat homes. The most-experienced builders teach the inexperienced volunteers how to properly drive a nail, attach siding and even how to put a roof on a house or shed.

Families selected to partner with Habitat pledge to accumulate at least 300 hours of sweat equity during the construction phase. Prior to construction, Habitat partners must complete classes on financial budgeting and home maintenance. The program is not a "handout but a hand up," Jenkins said. Participants have to pay back an affordable mortgage.

The current house under construction is sponsored by Altar'D State, a national Christian women's clothing boutique with headquarters in Maryville.

"Altar'D State is the best-kept secret," said Brad Lunde, one of the Habitat regular workers. He's referring to Altar'D State's company policy of encouraging employees to volunteer their time around the community every week. Currently, employees are spending much of their volunteer time at the Habitat site.

This is the second house that Altar'D State has fully sponsored.

"I've worked on three houses so far," said Russell Derby, an employee for Altar'D State, which,



CARYN TRAMEL | MTSU/SEIGENTHALER NEWS SERVICE

VOLUNTEERS FROM ALTAR'D STATE wrote messages on the wall studs in the Habitat for Humanity home the company is sponsoring on Bessie Harvey Avenue in Alcoa.



VOLUNTEER ROB STEVENSON NAILS a truss into place on a Habitat for Humanity home in Alcoa.

always be in the home. Another prayed that the foundation would remain

'For a lot of folks, it's about building a home ... To me, it's about building community.'

Doug Jenkins
Habitat construction supervisor

with the Blount County Habitat organization for about four years.

"These three houses are Habitat houses," Jenkins said as he pointed across the street to other homes

BRIEFS

Gov. Lee appeals federal denial of individual flood aid

NASHVILLE — Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee has filed an appeal after the federal government denied his request for individual aid for residents in five counties battered by flooding and severe storms.

A news release from the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency says the counties that were denied the individual assistance for storm dam-

knew each other and the resident told investigators she previously had problems with McMurtry.

An investigation is still ongoing.

Mississippi man convicted for rapes

MEMPHIS — A Mississippi man has been convicted in federal court in Memphis of raping or trying to rape seven women between 2008 and 2015.

The jury found Michael D. Love of Horn Lake

the counties that were denied the individual assistance for storm damage in February and March are Decatur, Hardin, Humphreys, Perry and Sevier.

Last month, the Federal Emergency Management Agency denied Lee's request to make the federal aid available to help impacted residents in those counties cover certain expenses.

Currently, 59 counties are already eligible for the federal public assistance program, which helps governments recoup the costs of responding to the floods.

Suspect, victim dead in Tenn. murder-suicide

MORRISTOWN — Police say a Tennessee man shot two people in an apartment, one of whom died, and then he shot and killed himself.

In a Facebook post, Morristown Police identified the suspected shooter in the incident early Saturday as 30-year-old Brandon Michael McMurtury.

Police say 30-year-old Angel Robert Garcia died from his wounds, while the 29-year-old resident of the apartment was taken to the hospital with injuries not expected to be life-threatening.

Detectives believe McMurtury forced his way into the apartment and shot the two others with a handgun before turning the gun on himself.

Police say the three

between 2008 and 2015.

The jury found Michael D. Love of Horn Lake guilty on Wednesday following a six-day trial.

Prosecutors say Love chose some victims at random from streets in nearby Memphis while others agreed through social media and chat websites to meet Love.

After kidnapping the victims, the 45-year-old would rape and abandon them in deserted areas without wallets and phones.

Prosecutors say a sample of Love's DNA was taken after an arrest in 2015, leading to his arrest after it matched evidence taken from victims.

Love is scheduled for sentencing on Aug. 15. He faces up to life in prison. He faces additional charges in Tennessee state court.

houses so far," said Russell Derby, an employee for Altar'D State, which, he said, is always looking for new ways to give back where they can.

After the trusses were securely in place, several of the volunteers took time to pray over certain areas of the house. One said a prayer in the pantry so the family would never want for food. Another said a prayer in the living room that love would

always be in the home. Another prayed that the foundation would remain strong.

"For a lot of folks, it's about building a home," said Jenkins, who became a volunteer in the 1980s.

Although he has held jobs as a teacher, construction contractor and a city school board member, Jenkins has remained with Habitat. His first build in Blount County was a one-week blitz build with

a church in 1994. Jenkins has been a construction supervisor since 2011 for Blount County Habitat.

"To me it's about building community," Jenkins said. "It's about relationships we build with these families, these volunteers and Altar'D State."

Jenkins said theirs is one of the few Habitat organizations to use a crane on their build sites. That's because Brimer Steel Erectors has partnered

Habitat houses," Jenkins said as he pointed across the street to other homes he has helped build.

Jenkins said the house will be dried in with a roof in place by Monday.

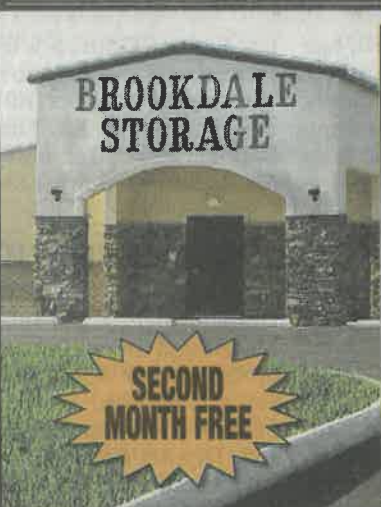
STEPHEN THOMAS and Caryn Tramel are Middle Tennessee State University journalism students. They are in Blount County to work with The Daily Times as part of a feature writing class call the Road Trip Class.

Newspaper*



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