

New Directory Coming Soon
Dining with the Locals
The Tomahawk Restaurant Guide
\$15/week for a color ad
 • in print • on Facebook • and on our website
 adsales@thetomahawk.com | (423)727-6121 ext. 22

INSIDE:

Community Calendar.....A2	Sports.....B1
Education.....A3	Faith.....B2
Public Safety.....A4	Features.....B3,6
Community Matters.....A5	Obituaries.....B4
Service Directory.....A4,5	Classifieds.....B5
From Page One.....A6	

FBS FARMERS STATE BANK
Your Community Bank

We are praying for a safe and healthy school year for our students and teachers!

www.fsbankmctn.com | 423-727-8121

THE TOMAHAWK

www.thetomahawk.com

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 Vol. 146 No. 33 *Your Community Newspaper, Established 1874* 75 cents Mountain City, Tennessee 37683

CITY COUNCIL

City tank leak could lead to lawsuit

By Meg Dickens
STAFF WRITER

During its monthly meetings, the Mountain City Council has been discussing making repairs to a private property allegedly damaged by city equipment.

The issue has again raised its ugly head during the Council's last meeting on Tuesday, August 4.

According to City Council members, the property owner has been patient, but the problem involving a city-owned water tank across from Suba's

restaurant reportedly goes back to nearly two years.

Now officials have expressed concerns that the long-running issue may "turn into a lawsuit."

City officials mentioned that the tank had not worked correctly since a damaged

valve was replaced on it more than five years ago.

"We're liable, in my opinion," said Vice Mayor Bud Crosswhite, who has been an advocate for fixing the issue since the beginning. "If we don't do something to fix this,

See Council Page A6

Mountain City awarded \$1.5 million grant

By Meg Dickens
STAFF WRITER

Mountain City received a \$1.5 million Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant as part of the United States Department of Commerce's \$4.4 million investment in local Tennessee business and job growth. City officials already have a project planned for these funds.

City Recorder Sheila Shaw applied for a large grant near the end of 2019. Fast forward to the Tuesday,

August 4 City Council meeting, Shaw announced "the largest grant the town has received at one time."

"The Town of Mountain City, Tennessee, will receive \$1.5 million to diversify the region's economy by upgrading water lines and wastewater collection system infrastructure to attract new businesses and support the ongoing operations and future expansion of a flooring manufacturing firm and other firms in the area," said U.S. Department of

See Grant Page A6

Fresh coverage



The Tomahawk Newspaper Editor Tamas Mondovics, pauses for a moment while painting the finishing touches on the newspaper's front signage at 116 Church Street in the heart of Mountain City, TN last weekend. To complete its timely facelift, the building's front entrance will also receive some more fresh paint and cleanup, befitting the newsroom's 146-year history and service to the community. Photo by David Holloway

Johnson County recognized in national magazine

By Meg Dickens
STAFF WRITER

Johnson County is one of the few areas recognized in a recent feature spanning the nation thanks to work done by nonprofit Women of Mountain City.

The organization's work towards providing free Wi-Fi in Ralph Stout Park landed Johnson County a spot on Medium's move-to destination list in the article "Want free Wi-Fi and a better life? You might need to move." The publication also features photos of Johnson County from local photographer Tia

See Recognition Page A6



Medium magazine featured Mountain City in the article "Want free Wi-Fi and a better life? You might need to move." Medium contributor Lauren Lovett explains that the COVID-19 pandemic has increased job flexibility, which makes remote workers more common. File photo by Tia Thomas



Johnson County Schools has approximately 800 mobile devices for their 2,100 students to use. With funds from the CARES Act, the school board has ordered 1,100 plus Chromebooks to help students start this year's virtual learning. The devices are on back order and expected to arrive at the end of September at the earliest.

Johnson County Schools plan around virtual learning obstacles

By Meg Dickens
STAFF WRITER

Johnson County Schools decided to go fully virtual from August 17 to August 28 and then re-evaluate later during a called School Board meeting on Wednesday, August 5. Virtual learning seems to be the safest option during the COVID-19 pandemic but comes with its own unique set of problems. Right now, the main issue is availability.

Johnson County is considered a poor county. The nonprofit organization Women of Mountain City is in the process of expanding WiFi availability in the area by offering free access at Ralph Stout Park. Executive Director and President Olivia Stelter explained during an interview that roughly only 35 percent of people in Johnson County have access to secure WiFi.

Johnson County Schools See Schools Page A3

Unofficial election results announced

By Jill Penley
FREELANCE WRITER

The August 6, 2020 election, which served as Johnson County's General Election as well as party primary elections for state and federal offices, saw a total of 3,587 of Johnson County's 10,364 registered voters who cast ballots in the election, for a voter turnout rate of 34.61 percent.

There was a crowded field seeking the District 1 race for the U.S. House of Representatives, a seat being vacated by Republican Rep. Phil Roe, who chose not to seek a seventh term.

Although Johnson Coun-

ty overwhelmingly chose Timothy Hill to fill the seat with 58% of the local vote, Kingsport pharmacist Diana Harshbarger came out on top with 19 percent of the overall vote in Tennessee Congressional District 1, which includes all of Carter, Cocke, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington counties and parts of Jefferson and Sevier counties. Harshbarger will face Democratic nominee Blair Walsingham and independent candidate Steve Holder in the November 3rd general election.

Bill Hagerty, Former U.S. See Election Page A6



We help you hear what you've been missing.

Watauga Hearing In Affiliation With **EAR, NOSE & THROAT ASSOCIATES**

423-928-1901 423-929-9101
 2340 Knob Creek Rd. • Johnson City, TN