



THE TOMAHAWK

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COVID-19 UPDATE

Pandemic spreads, policies change

By Meg Dickens
 STAFF WRITER

The COVID-19 pandemic took center stage in 2020, pushing many people to tire of the subsequent and often controversial restrictions.

Work on the COVID-19 vaccine seems hopeful, but it is paramount not to get lax with protection. Numbers are soaring and spreading in

"I implore you to do your part to help keep Johnson County healthier by following all the recommended guidelines, such as hand washing, hand sanitizers, and social distancing."

Johnson County Mayor Mike Taylor

rural areas like Mountain City and urban areas like Washington, DC. "November 8-14 marked the larg-

est number of weekly cases (3,246) the region has had, representing a 30 percent week-over-week increase,"

Ballad told The Tomahawk.

Ballad Health's Scorecard between November 15 and November 16 shows a .2 percent increase in positive cases in the week prior. Johnson County rose from staying stagnant at two, with no deaths to 1,324 confirmed cases and 17 deaths.

The state of Virginia recently See **COVID-19** Page A8

Assistance available for Johnson County residents amidst crisis

By Meg Dickens
 STAFF WRITER

The COVID-19 pandemic hit small businesses hard, leaving many people without a job, far fewer hours, or profits sinking into losses.

Government assistance seems to have helped, but areas like Johnson County, where the norm sits below the poverty line, is another story.

There are programs and organizations around that specialize in assistance, and many groups are stepping up to help those COVID hit hardest financially.

See **Assistance** Page A8

LONGHORNS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Player Ads, Team Previews and Roster see Pages A6, B1,3,6



Johnson County High School senior Sadie Stout (23) drives the ball, down her home court against Providence on Monday. Stout and the Lady Horns walked away with a 54-35 win maintaining a 3-0 record for the season. Photo by Joey Icenhour.

Longhorns split with Providence

By Tim Chambers
 SPORTS EDITOR

The Lady Longhorns remained undefeated and ran their record to 3-0 while the boys

dropped their home opener to a very talented Providence Academy squad on Monday night inside of Ray Shoun Gymnasium.

The girls rode the play of Sadie Stout and Emmy Miller to a 54-35 win.

A late turnover allowed Providence to take a 48-45 win over the boys.

See **Boys Opener** Page A6
 See **Lady Horns** Page B1

Mountain City man fatally shot during argument

By Tamas Mondovics
 EDITOR

A man was fatally shot following an altercation last week on the 300 block of Industrial Drive in Mountain City, TN.

According to Mountain City Police Chief Denver Church, officers were dispatched to 333 Industrial Dr. in Mountain City, around noon last Saturday and found Teddy Street, 49, on the ground dead on arrival. Street lived just a few houses over at 336 Industrial Dr. in Mountain City.

"The shooting was the result of a verbal altercation between Street and Jimmy Morefield," Church said.

Church confirmed that Morefield, 55, of 791 J Shoun Road was subsequently questioned about his involvement in the shooting by

See **Shooting** Page A8

Local organizations in need

By Meg Dickens
 STAFF WRITER

Johnson County is full of non-profits and charitable organizations working hard to improve the area. Despite their best efforts, something often stands in the way. Local organizations need funding to continue to grow and foster growth in the community.

As we all know, Johnson County is below the poverty line, meaning that family income is below a specific benchmark denoting the area as poor by government standards. This is why students receive free meals in Johnson County Schools. According to the US Census, 20.7 percent of people in Johnson Coun-

See **Need** Page A8

A time to be thankful, a time to reflect

By Veronica Burniston
 FREELANCE WRITER

Today most Americans celebrate Thanksgiving in a home overflowing with family and a table brimming with delicious food from turkey to mashed potatoes and gravy to green bean casserole and a warm slice of pumpkin pie.

Although the holiday has become more commercialized over the years, the shared meal with friends and family still stirs reason to rejoice and be thankful for the blessings received throughout the year.

The origin of Thanksgiving

Day reaches back to the year 1620 when the Pilgrims fled religious persecution in England. Aboard the Mayflower, the Pilgrims set sail from Plymouth, England, and, after three months at sea, landed in what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts.

The Pilgrim's first winter in the land was treacherous, leaving many malnourished and nearly half of them dead.

With the help of local Native Americans like Squanto of the Pawtuxet tribe and the neighboring Wampanoag tribe, the Pilgrims learned how to cultivate corn, catch fish in the nearby rivers, and better thrive in their new landscape.

The harvest of 1621 was pleasantly successful. In celebration, Governor William Bradford declared a three-day feast. The Pilgrims in-

See **Thanksgiving** Page A8

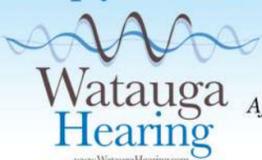


Mountain City residents celebrate Thanksgiving with a meal at last year's Danny Herman Trucking Community Thanksgiving Meal. Things will be a little different thanks to the CDC's guidelines encouraging all to host small dinner gatherings with close family only or, outdoor events. Submitted photo.



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