

SPORTS

Checkout player profiles of the Horns Dynamic Duo Miller and Jackson... see page 1B



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TOWN OF MOUNTAIN CITY COUNCIL

City fights with phone system, considers upgrade

By Meg Dickens
STAFF WRITER

The town of Mountain City is considering changing to a different phone system in the area. Officials report that ineffective phone lines have led to damages in the past.

According to staff, departments from within the town have reported issues related to their phone systems. The issue led to a discussion during this month's Mountain City Council meeting.

"In the past years, we've had a lot of trouble with our phone line

system," said Wastewater Plant Manager Chris Atwood while explaining the issue. "I'm just going to be honest with you all. You can't rely on it."

The phone systems are integral to different city departments. For example, Wastewater Plant

employees use these systems for reporting back and automatic notifications from the plant itself through telemetry. These alerts show that there is a problem and notifies someone to fix said problem.

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Mayor Mike Taylor COVID-19 Announcement

"As Johnson County moves into vaccination Phase 1B along with our 75+ population, I am encouraging churches and other organizations that are computer accessible to help get this age group (75+) registered for the COVID-19 vaccine.

If you have any questions, please call my office at 727-9696."

County Health Depts. offer COVID-19 vaccination by appointment

Staff Report

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Tennessee county health departments are now booking appointments for people in Phase 1 populations of the Tennessee COVID-19 Vaccination Plan and those aged 75 and up who wish to receive COVID-19 vaccinations.

Tennesseans can follow a simple, three-step process to learn when they're eligible for vaccination and register for a vaccination appointment:

Find Your Phase

Tennesseans can find out what phase of the vaccination plan they're in by visiting <https://covid19.tn.gov/covid-19-vaccines/>
 See COVID-19 Page A6

Local non-profit provides sanctuary for animals in need



A pack of K9s available at Rescue D.O.G. & End of Life Sanctuary pose for a photo last year. Operated by Melissa Gentry, the facility strives to rehabilitate and re-home as many animals as possible. Online photo.

By Veronica Burniston
FREELANCE WRITER

For twenty-one years, Rescue D.O.G. & End of Life Sanctuary has fought to save abused, abandoned, and unwanted animals in Johnson County.

Receiving neither government nor local funding, Rescue D.O.G. is a non-profit organization, which operates solely on donations.

In addition to rescuing and catching animals, the organization pulls from "kill shelters before

ethanasia" and strives to rehabilitate and re-home as many animals as possible.

"Our goal is for no animal to feel hunger or never to be loved," Melissa Gentry, the head of Rescue D.O.G. & End of Life Sanctuary, said. "Growing up, my family always taught me to keep Christ first, and He is the center of this rescue. We are Rescue D.O.G., which is Dependent on God, for without Him we would have nothing."

Since 2000, Rescue D.O.G. has helped over 16,500 animals in Johnson County. It has pro-

vided countless vaccinations, de-wormings, spaying and neutering, and surgeries for the animals in its care. These costs come in addition to the price of maintaining the Rescue D.O.G. barn's heating, electricity, water, and supplies. Everything is "out of pocket."

Donations of blankets, towels, sheets, paper towels, cleaning supplies, and pet food are always needed.

Along with the non-profit's rescue services, it also operates as an End of Life Sanctuary for

See Rescue Page A3

Civil dispute leads to city concerns

By Meg Dickens
STAFF WRITER

Acorn Street resident Patti Clark, age 82, joined the Mountain City Council's Zoom meeting on Tuesday, January 5, to discuss escalating issues with her neighbor spanning 20 years. Through a chain of related events, now others on Acorn Street are suffering from the consequences. What started as a series of disagreements is now obstructing emergency service access, impacting city work, and inconveniencing Acorn Street residents.

The matter hinges on property rights and right-of-way boundaries. But the main question the council had to consider was whether this is

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A.C.T.I.O.N. receives \$2K in funding

By Meg Dickens
STAFF WRITER

Many groups have been struggling for funding amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, which limited activities used for fundraising. The A.C.T.I.O.N Coalition is no contradiction. More funding generally means more resources. Now A.C.T.I.O.N has received a contribution from fraternal financial group Modern Woodmen to help continue its work.

Modern Woodmen is no stranger to charitable giving. In 2019, the group contributed \$45.3 million in the United States through fundraisers and matching donations. A.C.T.I.O.N's funding falls under the latter category. A.C.T.I.O.N members raised \$2,354.02 between August and October of 2020 with

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Modern Woodmen Director Derrick Paduch (left) presents a large check to A.C.T.I.O.N Coalition Executive Director Trish Burchette (right) as part of a matching fund donation. Submitted photo.

UPDATE:

Possible damage lawsuit put to rest

By Meg Dickens
STAFF WRITER

Throughout 2020, the Mountain City Council discussed issues with a malfunctioning water tank on the hill across from Suba's that caused and continued to cause damage to personal property for up to two years. Officials feared this could end in a lawsuit. During the January 5, 2021 meeting, City Council members announced that repairs should be complete, and Water Collection and Distribution Superintendent Chris Hook confirmed the news.

Alderman Bud Crosswhite headed the discussion from the very beginning and was adamant that the

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