



Jo. Co. Fall Sports
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COVID-19 UPDATE

Gov. Lee issues continuation of state of emergency until August 31

By Tamas Mondovics
EDITOR

That the COVID pandemic and its effects on the country, state, and county is far from over became real last week for Tennesseans after Governor Bill Lee issued an executive order that temporarily continues the limited state of emergency for the state of Tennessee on Friday.

Lee first declared a state of emergency in Tennessee to receive federal funds to help fight

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Johnson County Senior Center host Veterans Cafe Kickoff

By Tamas Mondovics
EDITOR

The Johnson County Senior Center was honored to host the first monthly meeting of its Veterans Cafe last Wednesday.

According to event organizers, any veteran who is a Senior Center member is invited to join fellow veterans at 10:30 a.m. on the last Wednesday of each month for a free lunch while socializing with fellow veterans.

At our July meeting Robert Hensley, our Veterans Cafe Coordinator, was recognized as "Veteran of the Month" and was presented with an engraved plaque for his dedication and service.

"We are truly blessed by Johnson County Bank's generosity and sponsorship to honor a "Special Veteran" award each month," said Johnson County Senior Center

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Local road improvements slated for early fall completion

By Tamas Mondovics
EDITOR

Motorists in and around Mountain City cannot ignore the road improvement currently underway on a nearly 3-mile section of US421.

The project is under the supervision of the Tennessee Department of Transportation, involving a number of specific upgrades and improvements to the section of the roadway.

According to TDOT Community Relations Officer Mark Nagi, Region 1 (East Tennessee), the paving of US 421 in Mountain City was let

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Legislation rulings affects local schools

By Meg Dickens
STAFF WRITER

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a concern worldwide. Now the Delta variant has many people growing more fearful as what

seemed to be a lull in the pandemic appears to be more of the eye of the storm. Most groups are continuing as usual, with a new normal focused on increased cleanliness and normalized social distancing. Johnson County Schools will be returning to

school on August 10 with this type of plan and in the absence of a paid COVID-19 leave program.

Because of circumstances like sickness and quarantine, organizations and government entities allowed qualified, paid time off

through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), which expired at the end of 2020. Local organizations extended benefits through internal funding through May 2021, but Johnson

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Annual Back to School Bash serves more than 500 students



Volunteers fill up backpacks last week at the Johnson County Crewette building to support local students for the 2021-2022 school year. The event was organized by Old Mill Ministries' Pastor Andy Zeggert and his wife Lisa, and the support of more than 50 volunteers from North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia. Photo By Tamas Mondovics.

By Meg Dickens
STAFF WRITER

Old Mill Ministries Annual Back to School Bash has been a staple in Johnson

County for many years. What started as a one-time outreach to help students at Laurel Elementary who could not afford a sweet treat at an ice cream party became an event providing 525 kids with necessary supplies

this year alone. Local donors and approximately 40 churches of assorted denominations raised thousands of dollars to ensure local kids have what they need for the

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WMCT Radio welcomes youngest station manager in its 54 year history

By Karla Prudhomme
FREELANCE WRITER

WMCT Radio first signed on the air in December of 1967 when the FCC approved Thomas Atkinson's application to broadcast on AM 1390, giving Mountain City its first and only local radio station.

Though a lot has changed in WMCT's 54-year history, including an FM station (102.9 FM) and a state-of-the-art recording studio, another significant change occurs- the announcement of a new Station Manager.

Christian Phillipi, a Johnson County native and 2018 graduate of Johnson County High School, will take over as Station Manager from well-known and well-loved Jim Gilley, making him the youngest

station manager in recent East Tennessee radio broadcasting history.

At seventeen years of age, while in his Junior year at Johnson County High School, Christian, 21, started working at WMCT as the weekend DJ. Due to his solid work ethic and dependability, Christian was subsequently promoted to a full-time position in 2020, working as the station's daytime radio personality. Christian's early start in radio made it easy for him to choose his academic major. He earned his Associate's Degree in Mass Communications from Northeast State Community College last year and has future plans to continue his education by earning a bachelor's degree in Broadcasting from East Tennessee State University.

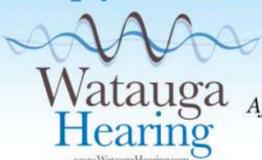
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Johnson County native and JCHS 2018 Graduate, Christian Phillipi will be WMCT 1390's new Station Manager. Phillipi will be the youngest Manager in WMCT's 54 year history. Photo by Karla Prudhomme



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