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Started by Civil War General John Hunt Morgan, bringing Trousdale County's news for more than 150 years and counting

Wilson County Fair canceled for 2020

COVID-19 virus forces decision

BY MIKE ALEXIEFF
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The Wilson County Fair, a signature event that draws more than 500,000 people to Lebanon every summer, has been canceled because of the coronavirus.

In addition to visitors who come for the food, music, exhibits and carnival, thousands participate — raising animals for the livestock shows, growing flowers, vegetables and crops to be judged, painting, quilting and photography, and pageants for all ages. And hundreds volunteer to help run the massive undertaking.

Last Friday, longtime Fair President Randall Clemons

declined to comment on what factors led to the decision to cancel the event, saying that a news release issued Thursday would be the fair's only comment.

In that release, Clemons is quoted as saying: "The impact of the fair's cancellation will be felt far beyond the loss of our annual celebration. We are heartbroken for the effect this has had on all businesses, family farms, adult and youth competitors and

exhibitors and sponsors who rely on the income and exposure the Wilson County Fair brings to them."

In recent weeks the fair board has surveyed its volunteers and sought guidance from the state, the federal Centers for Disease Control and others.

"It became clear that not having the traditional Wilson County Fair was the responsible decision," the news release stated.

The fair was scheduled for Aug. 13-22 this year.

Ruth Correll, the Wilson County director and agriculture agent with the UT Extension office, said, "We're very disappointed that it had to be done, but we certainly understand why it had to be done."

She said the "volunteers all agreed we really shouldn't do it

SEE FAIR/PAGE A10

Pregnancy Center holding yard sale

BY CHRIS GREGORY
MANAGING EDITOR

Hartsville's Community Pregnancy Center will hold a fundraising yard sale on Saturday, June 13 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. to help support the center's operations.

Located at 783 E. McMurry Blvd., the Community Pregnancy Center offers services such as free pregnancy tests, peer counseling, prenatal education, life skills classes and parenting classes. All services provided by the pregnancy center are free to clients.

The center also has a fully stocked baby boutique with diapers, clothing and much more — all donated by members of the community. Clients can obtain 'points' to be used in the boutique by participating in various classes.

Volunteers and other members of the community have donated items for Saturday's yard sale and there will be something for everyone.

"It's a wonderful outpouring of generosity from the community," CPC Director Peg Shonebarger said, while adding that everything will be half-price from 3-4 p.m.

The CPC is also planning its Baby Bottle fundraiser, in which participating churches and businesses can obtain empty baby bottles and return them filled with coins or cash. Normally that event would have run from

SEE YARD/PAGE A10



Chris Gregory / Hartsville Vidette

Khlean Moore, left, and Skye Guimont work on their trumpet skills during the band's practice last week.

Back on a high note

Marching Yellow Jackets band able to practice after three-month layoff

BY CHRIS GREGORY
MANAGING EDITOR

The sounds of school extracurricular activities are beginning to be heard across Trousdale County once again as summer looms. The crash of football tackles, the crack of a baseball bat — and the sound of the Marching Yellow Jackets band.

Trousdale County High School's award-winning band was able to resume practicing last week after a nearly three-month layoff forced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We had not played since March 6, when we had gone to get our annual assess-

ment," said band director Rob Joines. "We got top scores on prepared music... and sight reading. "Next week, it was a combination of giving them a few days off for scoring well and a tornado watch one afternoon. Then the next week, we came to school on March 16 and that was the last day.

"It's the longest the band program has gone without playing since probably 2003."

"The band's like our second family," added field commander Ethan Boles, a junior at TCHS. "We lost out on three months and it does hurt a little. But we're starting to sound better."

Even though the band has resumed playing, there are nods to the requirements for social distancing seen during practice. Band members keep six feet apart at all times and are screened upon arriving for practice. They wash hands

before receiving an instrument and only 10 band members can be in the room at any one time. Everyone is encouraged to wear masks when practicable.

"We're following the recommendations of the CDC, the National Federation of High Schools, the TSSAA, and Dr. (Clint) Satterfield and the principals," Joines said. "Obviously if they're playing an instrument they can't wear masks then, but they do have them on when they can."

Normally as June begins, the band members would be working on their show for the fall season, which is often seen on Friday nights during half-time of football games. Instead Joines said he is working on "stopping the bleeding," or the loss of skill that comes with an unexpected layoff — much

SEE BAND/PAGE A10



Chris Gregory / Hartsville Vidette

Tracie Eversole, left, and Glenda West discuss the American Job Center and how it can assist those seeking employment.

American Job Center opens in Hartsville

BY CHRIS GREGORY
MANAGING EDITOR

Hartsville has a new resource for those entering or re-entering the job market in its American Job Center.

Located at 204 E. McMurry Blvd. (between Piggly Wiggly and Walgreens), American Job Centers provide an integrated array of high-quality services so that workers, job seekers, and businesses can conveniently find the help they need under one roof in easy-to-reach locations.

Glenda West, who works at the American Job Center in Lebanon, and Tracie Eversole, manager of the Hartsville branch, were the guest speakers at Tuesday's Chamber of Commerce meeting. The pair spoke on resources available to those looking for work.

"A lot of people don't know what the American Job Center does," West said. "We're not unemployment; we do a lot of work helping people succeed and knocking barriers out of their way."

According to the American Job Center's website, services include assessment of skills, abilities, apti-

SEE JOB/PAGE A5

Tri-County Electric working to keep trees off lines

BY STAFF REPORTS

Approximately 80% of Tri-County Electric's power outages are directly related to trees. This amazing statistic led to Tri-County Electric beginning a thorough Vegetation Management program focusing on safety, power quality and reliability for our member-own-

ers in 2010.

The Vegetation Management Program is projected to save Tri-County Electric member owners more than \$2 million per year when completed.

As part of the Vegetation Management Program, right-of-way crews will identify trees that are eligible for the "Vegetation Management Agree-

ment" Program by placing a yellow ribbon on the tree. A door hanger with contact information will also be left at the home.

Members will have the option of having the tree(s) removed or allowing the tree(s) to remain and having \$5 per month/per tree added to their electric bill. Homeowners who agree to have

the tree(s) removed must also agree not to plant any trees other than a dogwood within the right-of-way.

In addition to meeting safety, power quality and reliability goals, the Vegetation Management Program also provides economic development benefits for communities in Tri-County Electric's

service area. Businesses looking to expand or relocate to an area ask specific questions regarding power quality, reliability and rates.

"While we apologize for any inconvenience caused by our Vegetation Management program, we know Tri-County Electric member-owners will be very pleased with

the enhanced reliability and power quality once the program is complete" said Paul Thompson, Executive V.P. and General Manager of the cooperative. "I would also encourage members to visit our website at tcemc.org and click on the Vegetation Management tab for additional information."

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THE PEOPLE'S AGENDA

The Budget & Finance Committee will meet on Monday, June 15 at 6 p.m. in the upstairs courtroom of the courthouse.

The County Commission will hold its regular work session on Monday, June 15 at 7 p.m. in the upstairs courtroom of the courthouse.

MORE INSIDE

NASCAR is coming to Wilson County in 2021.

Page A2



8 0 4 8 7 9 2 4 1 3 3 1