



# THE DAILY TIMES

MONDAY

July 6, 2020

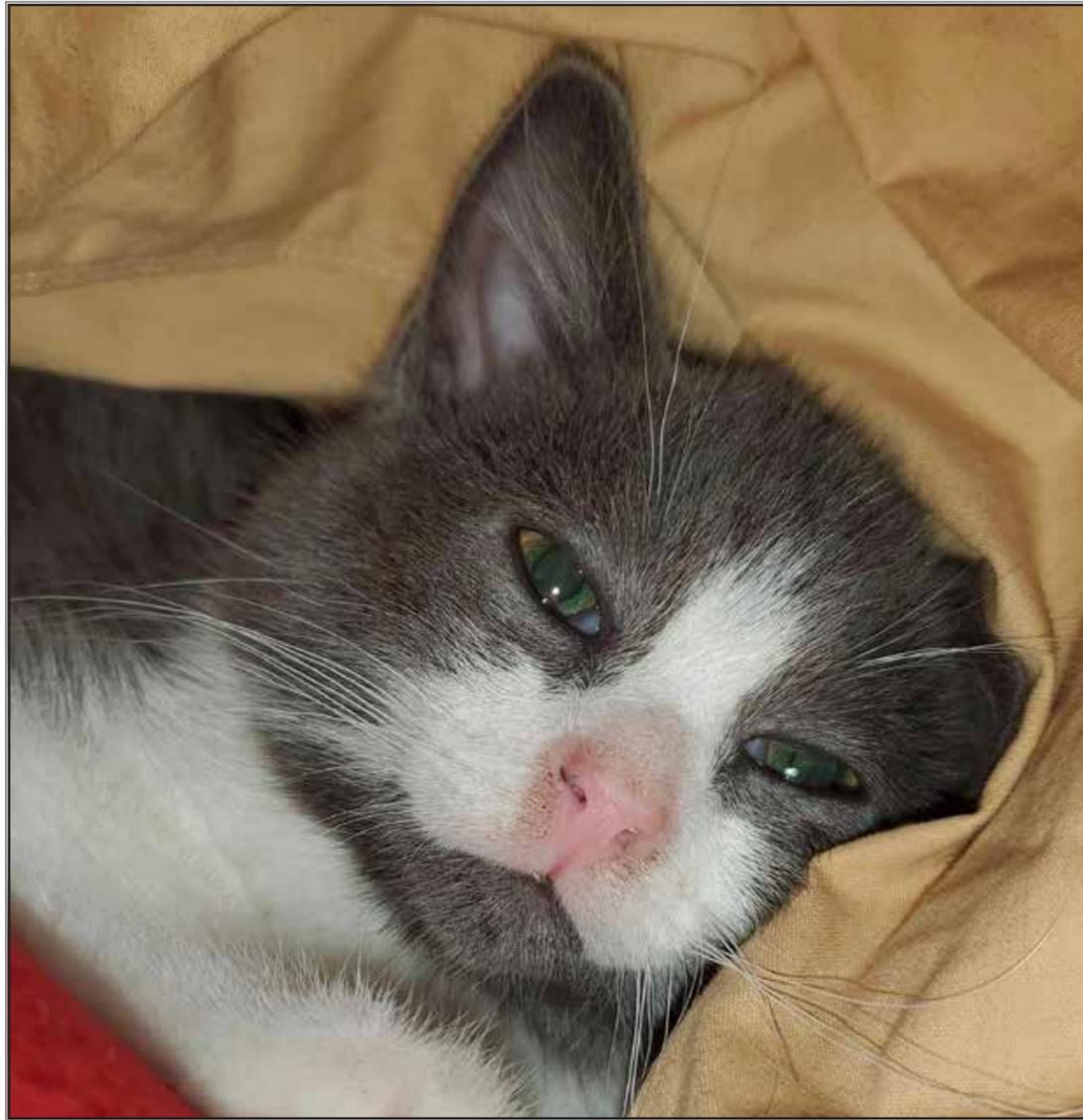
Maryville, TN

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\$1.50

WB GRAD PENS BOOK OF SUSPENSE, PARANORMAL. 1B

## Fur-ever home



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MAARC WILL HOST TWO adoption events in July in an effort to provide homes for dozens of kittens.

### MAARC to host kitten adoption events through July

BY SHELBY HARRIS  
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The Maryville Alcoa Animal Rescue Center will host two kitten adoption events in July in the hopes of getting nearly 70 kittens currently under its care into new homes.

The adoption events, which will take place on July 11 and 25, will be

by appointment only and will have strict guidelines to help protect adopters from COVID-19.

“Since we’re taking precautions, we’re hoping that people will still want to come in and take home a kitten,” MAARC President Jenn Eanes said.

The animal center currently has 50 kittens in foster care and three litters in the shelter. Each of the

litters have between four and five cats, MAARC volunteer Kerrie DeFalle said. A lone kitten without a litter also is living at the shelter at 410 Home Ave. in Maryville.

Eanes said at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, people were eager to adopt and foster animals, but that desire has faded as the

SEE ADOPTION, 5A

## Asbury in Maryville reports only one new COVID-19 case

BY SHELBY HARRIS  
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Nearly two weeks after reporting five positive cases of COVID-19 at Asbury Place in Maryville, the retirement home appears to have effectively contained the virus — reporting only one new positive case in 11 days.

On June 22, Asbury Executive Director David Wildgen released a statement that three residents and two employees had tested positive for the coronavirus.

As of July 3, that number had grown by only one, and it was an Asbury employee, according to Asbury’s website.

“We remain incredibly proud of the work our associates are doing to safeguard the more than 325 residents on our campus,” Asbury Director of External and Marketing Communications Cathy Canning emailed.

In addition to the five positive cases confirmed June 22, Asbury reported that 50 others had been potentially exposed to the virus at that time.

According to Asbury’s COVID-19 data from July 3, that number had grown to 212.

Exposure, Canning explained, means that a person has qualified as at risk by standards outlined by the state or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Per state and federal regulations, all newly admitted residents in a nursing home are required to self-quarantine. Most of the 29 residents listed as exposed fall into that category, Canning said.

As for the 183 staff members, she said the reasons vary as to why they are list-

ed as exposed.

A person also could be coined as a “potential exposure” if he or she has visited a family member in the hospital. That person would be asked to quarantine upon returning to Asbury.

Additionally, if either a resident or staff member reports any sign of illness or indicates participation in a situation in which they could have been exposed to the virus, they are considered potentially exposed.

“People fall into these categories for a number of reasons due to the abundance of caution with which we are operating,” Canning said. “Any of these may result in us asking them to self-quarantine for a period of 14 days.”

Staff members are required to participate in several screening checkpoints throughout the workday. All vendors entering Asbury buildings also are required to be screened for the virus.

Officials at the retirement facility, which consists of an assisted living center, a health care center and independent living apartments, have been testing for the virus for nearly a month, Canning said.

During the week of June 8, Asbury tested all residents and workers at the assisted living center. No positive results were found during that round of testing.

On June 18 and 19, all associates and residents of the health care center were swabbed for the virus, with no positive cases returned.

After two employee tests eventually came back positive on June 22, Canning said Asbury implemented weekly testing of nursing center employees.

SEE CASE, 5A

## For Black Tennessee artists, protests are a lifelong pursuit

BY DAMON MITCHELL  
WPLN-FM

NASHVILLE — There are more paintings than furniture in Omari Booker’s studio in Nashville. His works are bursting with color, illuminating images of family and Black men. One painting, “The Black Bird,” captures his time in prison.

“That’s what a lot of days look like — sitting, reading a letter,” says Booker on a recent tour. “I wanted people to be able to feel like they were really interacting with someone in the space of a prison cell.”

Booker says his talents were born through a mix of education

and life experiences, many of which were rooted in racism and engaging with police as a young Black male.

“This thing that became popular and hashtag-worthy in the past month ... Is the reality I had since I was 4, 5, 6 (years old).”

Now, at 39, Booker is part of a long line of Black artists whose works respond to injustices, from sculptor Augusta Savage to jazz legend Miles Davis.

In the 1930s, Savage rose to prominence for blending art with racial issues. One piece, The Harp, was inspired by “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” often referred to as the Black national anthem. Before that, Savage was known as a self-

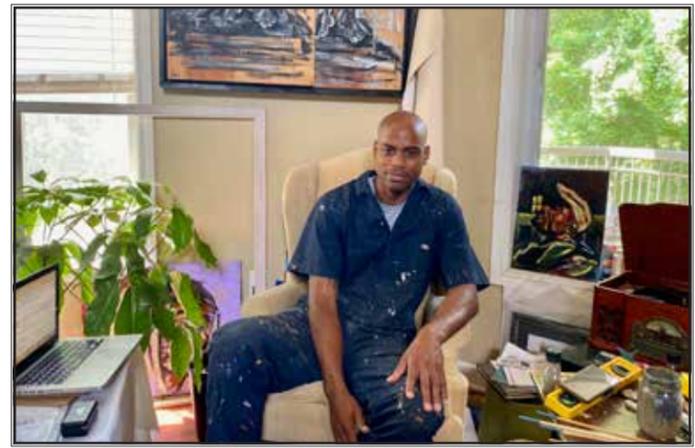
made Black woman who paved the way for the Harlem Renaissance.

Then there’s Davis, whose now acclaimed 1971 soundtrack album paid tribute to Jack Johnson, the heavyweight fighter whose win against a white boxer sparked a series of race riots in 1910.

Black music, especially hip-hop, has become an inspiration for Booker and the way he views his paintings.

“People might look at a Mos Def or Common and Talib Kweli. You could put those artists in 2020, (along with) all of their albums from 1998,” says Booker. “Or take a Marvin Gaye from

SEE ARTISTS, 5A



DAMON MITCHELL | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OMARI BOOKER, 39, POSES for a photo in his studio on June 15 in Nashville.



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