

Supply chain issues shackle consumers

P.4

St. Jude unlocks gold mine of virus data

P. 5

THE WEST TENNESSEE NEWS

FORMERLY THE MEMPHIS NEWS

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Art calling back to the early days of Overton Square hangs in the lobby of The Memphian Hotel.

(Patrick Lantrip/The West Tennessee News)

THE MEMPHIAN

New hotel in Memphis surrounds visitors with with color and art

P. 2



SOLID WASTE DIVISION

Director leaves Memphis' solid waste division

P. 5



YMCA

New YMCA offers promise of rich resource for Whitehaven

P. 6

The Memphian surrounds its 'pilgrims' with color and art



An array of colors and textures greets visitors arriving at The Memphian.

(Patrick Lantrip/The West Tennessee News)

TOM BAILEY

The West Tennessee News

A decade ago, after Loeb Properties bought and renovated Overton Square, brothers Bob and Louis Loeb commissioned and installed colorful and lively public art — murals, sculpture and more — in seemingly every nook and cranny of the entertainment district. Artist Mary Seay Loeb, Bob's wife, has now turbocharged the family's bent for enlivening space with luminous, often whimsical artwork.

But this time the setting is inside The Memphian, the Loeb's first hotel.

Mary created the ideas for the interior look and feel, dismissed some out-of-town design firms reluctant to work from her vision board, selected the works of 15 Memphis artists, and created some of the art herself.

"It was a real struggle," she said of gaining acceptance from interior design firms.

"Because people don't believe that by adding that many layers, that many colors, that you get a different energy. And it feels very welcoming and homey.

"It's eclectic," she said. "But people

are really uncomfortable doing it. I felt like that was what the space needed more than anything because Midtown is so layered and so eclectic. It's not just Bohemian or off-beat or theater. It's all of those things. But there's an elevated nature to it."

After firing a Dallas firm, the Loeb's hired one from Nashville. "We asked 'Will you listen? Will you follow instructions?'" Bob recalled.

"And they did the exact same thing. 'They want to do stuff from the last couple of quarters of the trade journal because they want their stuff to be photographed,'" he said.

The 106-room, seven-story boutique hotel opened last week on the Square at 21 S. Cooper. The building's stately, vanilla exterior sets up the surprise: An explosion of bright colors, shapes and materials greeting visitors the moment they step into the lobby.

An evening's stay is more like a night at the museum. Only, the feel of this museum is hardly institutional.

"She is an artist and wants to elevate Midtown with Memphis artists," Bob said of Mary. The lobby is a sensory experience

of vibrant hues. At every turn is neon or jewel tones or a pastel pallet or animal prints or earth tones or flat finishes or high-gloss finishes.

Mary declined to label the look she created. "It's not something that is one thing," she said.

"I think it's something you just have to experience." Guests tread on a lobby floor with sections of zebra-inspired tile.

Above them hangs the feature chandelier, a work from the Netherlands that comprises eight or nine concentric circles of colorful fishing bobbers. It's one of the hotel's few pieces not Memphis-made, but the art relates to the river.

The walls behind and flanking the lobby desk display large black-and-white photographs framed in what appears to be clear acrylic with colored edges. The images are spot-colored, and show classic scenes from Overton Square's first heyday, in the 1970s.

One lobby corner serves as the guests' business center. Its two leather chairs are substantial, but instead of classic brown the leather is a rich, bright green.

At another corner, these gold-leafed words are framed on the wall behind

the grand piano: "All Drama Must Remain on Stage." That's more a reference to the nearby Playhouse on the Square, Hattiloo Theatre, Circuit Playhouse and Ballet Memphis than a warning against any fisticuffs at The Memphian's Tiger and Peacock. That's the hotel's rooftop bar that opens in June and where drinks and tapas will be served under a hand-painted ceiling.

The Square's legacy as an entertainment and live-performance district is just one of the hotel's themes.

The celebration of Memphis-made art is another. Those psychedelic and zodiac years of the '70s — a seminal time for the Square — also inspires the interior.

And the globe standing in one lobby corner signals yet another theme: The traveler, or pilgrim.

"You always want to come back to home," Mary said of travel. "We wanted to embrace travelers and locals alike and have them always feel like they are at home there. If you stay at The Memphian you are a Memphian for life." Invoking the "pilgrim" spirit only partly explains the

MEMPHIAN CONTINUED ON P7

Pristex's heart for medical community starts with family ties to St. Jude



Pristex product workers Rosalba Herrera (left) and Alicia Hernandez place lids on disinfectant wipes on Monday, May 3, 2021.

(Mark Weber/The West Tennessee News)

CHRISTIN YATES

The West Tennessee News

The early days of the pandemic saw shortages of health care essentials from personal protective equipment (PPE) to disinfectant wipes, surgical

gowns and many other products. Institutions all over the city, especially in the Medical District — Shelby County's health care epicenter — were scrambling for medical-related supplies. "It put us in a position where

we started looking for suppliers making germicidal wipes and hand sanitizer," Latasha Harris, program manager for the Memphis Medical District Collaborative's (MMDC) Buy Local initiative, said.

The Buy Local program was launched in 2014 to increase the amount of local goods and services that Medical District institutions procure from Memphis area businesses.

Some of the Medical District's anchor institutions include St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Regional One Health.

In 2020, the anchor institutions spent \$32.2 million in medical supplies and services with local companies — a 26% increase from what they would normally spend.

"Our Buy Local work is usually focused on non-medical spend because there are so many categories," Harris said.

"We always kept medical spend, supplies, equipment and service on our radar, but we don't have a huge supplier list for those types of purchases (in Memphis)."

Meanwhile, Gabe Velasquez and his business partner both had networks in logistics and health care who needed to move health care-related products to areas where they were needed most.

They decided to form Pristex, a local manufacturing and sales operation, to put products in the hands of health care professionals.

At the time it was formed, Pristex was a sales-only entity, and the organization would connect with manufacturers to secure the products needed.

However, the organizers soon realized there were real gaps in the supply chain. To really manage the supply chain, Pristex started to shift into

production. "Over time, that production has really focused on disinfectant wipes," said Bill Ganus, a partner to Pristex. "Pristex opened a plant with a single production line producing one type of disinfectant wipe in October 2020, and that has ramped up quickly enough that they have now started a second production line with plans for five production lines." Pristex reached out to Harris at the ideal time.

"What we're seeing in this partnership with Pristex is a manufacturer located in Memphis who is making a product that our businesses need," she said. "That's a powerful relationship."

Velasquez and his family came to Memphis in 1997 as immigrants. His brother was a childhood leukemia patient at St. Jude. "His family has really stayed here and dedicated themselves to health care," Ganus

PRISTEX CONTINUED ON P7

Hard labor, donations transforming White Station High's tough courtyard

TOM BAILEY

The West Tennessee News

Some White Station football players, attorney Richard Myers and other school volunteers thrust pickaxes with all their might into the hardpan.

They were among a dozen adults and 40 students who on Saturday, May 8, dug 13 big holes for planting trees, set out hundreds of plants, and wheelbarrowed into place 20 yards of fill dirt.

All in an effort to transform what was a prison-like courtyard into an oasis that benefits White Station, which is among Shelby County's most storied and racially diverse high schools. Stout linebacker Daniel Gwin crouched into a wide stance and typically struck nine mighty pickaxe blows per 15-second increment to make the holes wide and deep enough for a newly planted tree to thrive in the packed soil.

Nearby, Myers gouged another tree hole. By just 10:15 a.m., sweat already soaked the last dry patches of his University of Chicago T-shirt. As project leader, the Glankler Brown litigation attorney had arrived at 6:10 a.m. and would not leave until the last volunteers departed at 6:30 p.m. "I've dug through hard dirt before with that yellow pickaxe, but I've never experienced anything like two of those holes," Myers recalled on Monday, May 10. "That blade at full down-force would go in maybe a

quarter-inch. After about 4 to 5 inches, it'd ease up a little," he said.

As challenging as the long day was, raising the last \$300,000 of the \$550,000 needed to complete the courtyard project has proven more difficult. "With Phase 1, we got a handful of large donations," he said of the \$250,000 for the first 6,500-square-foot section completed two years ago. "We did not get those large donations this time. We had to raise the money 150 bucks at a time," Myers said, referring to the sale of inscribed brick pavers to donors. Completing the fundraising has been harder than the hardpan. "Exceedingly difficult," Myers said, adding that if one in 20 requests result in a donation "we're doing well."

As of Monday, May 10, \$255,000 of the \$300,000 had been raised for the second phase. The mission: Transform an ugly, L-shaped courtyard that was a worn walking area hemmed in by the walls of the school auditorium, main building and the East Annex Building. The project comprises concrete paths, brick pods, cistern irrigation, seating areas, and a wall-size mural by artist and White Station alum Rachel Briggs.

The parents, faculty, administration and students are closing in on finishing the 8,500-square-foot Phase 2 that costs \$300,000. "Our goal is to have the ribbon cutting on June 5, the Saturday before graduation," Myers said. He's the parent



Richard Myers digs a hole for a tree on Saturday, May 8, at White Station High School. Volunteers spent the day working on landscaping in the school's courtyard as part of a half-million dollar project led by Myers.

(Brad Vest/The West Tennessee News)

who, with principal Carrye Holland, continues leading the campaign even though his two sons graduated from White Station in 2015 and 2017.

Holland's take on Myers is that he is a man of his word and who felt it important to follow-through on the project.

"He is literally the most tenacious, the most dedicated person I have ever met," Holland said of Myers. "Richard has no real ties to the school; his boys had a great experience at White Station, and they graduated." Some might argue that in cash-strapped public schools, every cent available should be spent on programming and academics. But, said Holland, "Appearance is important. If people don't respect the space they are in, they don't necessarily

believe it has anything to offer them."

The roots of the project go back to 2013 when Myers had a son at White Station.

"I've had two (school) board members tell me, 'As soon as your boys graduate you will check out. And you will never raise any money,'" Myers said. Asked why he persists four years after his oldest graduated, Myers said he doesn't play golf, doesn't watch a lot of TV, and "everybody has to have something to do in their spare time, and mine is this kind of stuff."

"I really like the nonprofit work," he said. "It makes life worth living."

The volunteers have a bit more work to finish, both with the manual labor and fundraising.

COURTYARD CONTINUED ON P7

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Supply chain issues shackle consumers

BLAKE FONTENAY

The West Tennessee News

During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, people flocked to grocery stores to stock up on toilet paper, hand sanitizer and other household items they suspected might soon be in scarce supply.

The Great Charmin Famine of 2020 never fully materialized. However, for months the pandemic and other factors have disrupted the supply chains businesses use to get their products into market.

This problem is affecting consumers in a number of different ways: People buying refrigerators or other large household appliances might have to wait months instead of weeks for delivery orders.

Those shopping for new cars might have not be able to find their preferred models on showroom floors. Buyers of new homes might experience sticker shock over the high cost of lumber and other building materials.

"It is the most out-of-balance situation I've seen in 30 years of being in this business," said Satish Jindel, president of SJ Consulting Group Inc., a Pennsylvania-based company that provides information services for the shipping industry.

Simply put, what is out of balance is the relationship between supply and demand, one of the most basic concepts taught in introductory economics classes.

Demand for products is high, particularly as the economy recovers from the effects of the pandemic. And supply, for a variety of reasons, is struggling to keep pace.

Doug Session, general manager at Mercedes-Benz of Memphis, said his dealership is selling cars on pre-order because of a lack of available inventory to show customers.

"Everybody is having the same issues," Session said. "Our inventory is very low right now."

For car dealers, one of the factors disrupting the supply chain was a fire in March at a Japanese manufacturing plant that produces about 30% of the microcontroller units used in vehicles worldwide. That fire is expected to disrupt production for much of the summer, if not longer.

Other industries are experiencing problems for different reasons.

When the pandemic forced communities into lockdowns, the market for new home construction dried up.

When lockdown restrictions ended, there was pent-up demand for new housing, which fueled a building boom.

That, in turn, has made it more difficult to get lumber, a problem felt by everyone from professional contractors to do-it-yourselfers who want to repair their decks or build summer treehouses for their kids.

Jim Whittington, owner of Jimmy Whittington Lumber Co., said his business has been able to manage its inventory through long-term contracts for lumber and plywood.

The company also has its own tractor trailer, which it can use to pick up wood from sawmills in the region.

"The biggest issue our industry has been having is with trucking," Whittington said. "It's a backlog of not just lumber,

but all building materials." Woodson Dunavant, senior vice president of enterprise business development and marketing for Dunavant Logistics, said many truck drivers have chosen to take better-paying jobs. That means there are fewer trucks available to offload goods arriving at ports like those in Los Angeles and Long Beach, California.

Those delays create a domino effect throughout supply chains.

"It's created a real bottleneck," Dunavant said. "Companies are having a lot of trouble moving products around."

There are other issues contributing to the slowdowns, such as lack of availability of large shipping containers in Asia and shortages of wheeled chassis used to transport those containers over land once they reach America.

"It feels like this is a new normal we're in," Dunavant said. "We haven't seen a reduction in freight rates in six months."

Inventory management has also been tougher for manufacturers and retailers due to uncertainty created by the pandemic. Consumers still want to buy products, but in some cases, their buying habits have shifted from visiting bricks-and-mortar stores to ordering online.

Greg Costa, president of Delta Materials Handling Inc., said some manufacturers shut down or severely scaled back their operations when the pandemic hit.

Now those manufacturers are trying to ramp production back up to meet demand, but that's a process that takes some time.

"Nobody knew what was going to happen" when the pandemic hit, Costa said. "We rebounded more quickly than many people anticipated."

Costa said the worker shortage isn't limited to truck drivers. His company rents forklifts and other warehouse equipment, but some companies are having trouble finding employees willing and able to operate that type of equipment.

"The demand for employees is extremely strong," Costa said.

Jindel, the shipping industry consultant, said action taken by Congress to ease the effects of the pandemic have contributed to the supply chain problems in two ways.

For one, by issuing stimulus checks, Jindel said Congress encouraged more consumer spending.

At the same time, however, Congress agreed to continue enhanced unemployment benefits through September, which Jindel said has created a disincentive for people to return to work.

That applies not only to truck or forklift drivers, but package handlers and other workers needed to keep supply chains strong.

"If people can make \$15 an hour sitting at home, why would they want to go to work for \$12, \$13 or \$14 an hour?" Jindel said.

Until that imbalance between supply and demand is corrected, Jindel said consumers can expect higher shipping costs and delivery delays for the foreseeable future. "There is no relief from it, in my view, until next year or 2023," Jindel said.

St. Jude unlocks gold mine of virus data

JANE ROBERTS

The West Tennessee News

With more than a year of data from its own employees, researchers at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital have evidence that COVID vaccines prevent infection among people who have no symptoms.

When the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was authorized for use in the U.S. in early December, it was reported to be highly effective at preventing lab-confirmed COVID-19.

Clinical trial data suggested the two-dose regimen reduced symptomatic disease, including hospitalization and death. But the association with reduced asymptomatic infection was unclear.

St. Jude's research was published May 6 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"While further research is needed, by preventing infections, including in people who have no symptoms, there is a high possibility that vaccination will decrease transmission of SARS-CoV-2," said Dr. Diego Hijano, who works in the hospital's infectious disease department. The study involved 5,217 St. Jude employees, eligible under state guidelines for vaccination between Dec. 17, 2020 and March 20, 2021. More than 58% of employees were vaccinated during that period. Most workers received both doses.

Overall, vaccination reduced the risk of asymptomatic and symptomatic COVID infection by 79% in vaccinated employees compared with those who were not vaccinated. An analysis of asymptomatic infections alone found vaccination reduced the

risk by 72%. Protection was even greater for employees who completed two doses. A week or more after receiving the second dose, vaccinated employees were 96% less likely than unvaccinated workers to become infected.

When researchers looked just at asymptomatic infections, vaccination reduced the risk by 90%.

"These numbers are in keeping with what was reported in the original Pfizer dataset and suggest that the vaccine functions similarly in the 'real world' compared to a controlled clinical trial," said Dr. Scott Strome, executive dean of the College of Medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

"These data add to the growing body of evidence supporting the amazing efficacy of this vaccine in preventing symptomatic and asymptomatic disease," Strome said.

The research stems from efforts St. Jude took at the beginning of the pandemic to protect patients and employees. Besides testing employees with symptoms or known exposures, the hospital instituted routine testing for employees who had no symptoms or exposure.

"This study was possible because St. Jude invested in resources to determine how best to control the disease and protect our patients and employees," said Li Tang, one of the authors who works in St. Jude's biostatistics department.

In the study, 236 of the 5,217 employees included in the analysis tested positive for COVID. They included 185 unvaccinated employees and 51 of the 3,052 workers who had received at least one dose of the

vaccine. Almost half of the positive cases, 108, reported no symptoms.

They included 20 employees who had received one vaccine dose and three who tested positive within seven days of the second dose.

"The results are a reminder of the many hidden cases in the population, which makes containing the virus a big challenge," Tang said. In the early days of the pandemic, St. Jude leaders knew that the precursor to keeping the hospital open was knowing the status of every front-line worker, every week. So, it put together a testing regime big enough to test and analyze hundreds of employee samples a day.

The hospital stayed open.

In the process, a handful of its immunology researchers realized what a gold mine it was amassing — a large, ongoing database of people whose COVID-19 illnesses were all over the charts, from a few who were severely ill to dozens and dozens who tested positive but had few or no symptoms. "They have been able to do this because of their capabilities to do screening on every asymptomatic employee under their roof almost every week," said Dr. Stephen Threlkeld, medical officer of infectious disease at Baptist Memorial Health Care.

The study, which Threlkeld described as "elegantly designed," stemmed from St. Jude's need to protect its patients, many of whom are immunocompromised and could not develop antibodies to the infection. "They used this to protect patients in ways that everyone would have loved to have done," he said. Because of the size

of St. Jude's research and technical capacity, Threlkeld said, the hospital was able to quickly organize its own PCR testing when much of the U.S. health care system was trying to get testing supplies. "They have thousands upon thousands of data points; they kept track of more than 5,000 people," Threlkeld said.

"That adds a very strong point that shows the vaccine is dramatically effective at knocking out asymptomatic infections and transmission too. That's a huge deal when you are in a pediatric cancer hospital.

"People who choose not to get the vaccine will be at risk, and they have that right. One hopes, though, that through studies like this, it might inspire people to say, 'You know what, I can give it somebody else and harm them, and so, I'm going to get the vaccine, not just to protect myself, but it's clear I am protecting others by doing it,'" Threlkeld said.

With similar employee data, other St. Jude researchers are looking at the high degree of immunity among the hospital staff to see if it could be linked to their exposure to children with common colds, also caused by a coronavirus.

Over months, St. Jude has compared the reaction of up to 250 employees who tested positive for COVID-19, plus 1,267 who had no history of infection, to patients — children through adults — from other medical centers who got extremely sick.

It is collaborating on the study with Washington University in St. Louis and Boston's Children's Hospital. It also is monitoring pediatric COVID-19 cases in Nicaragua, Los Angeles and New Zealand.

Director leaves Memphis' solid waste division

BILL DRIES

The West Tennessee News

Al Lamar, Memphis' director of solid waste, has left the division responsible for garbage and trash pick-up following problems with the private contractor that collected in parts of the city.

Lamar's exit comes two and a half years after he took the helm of what became a separate division of city government as Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland overhauled the trash collection system.

The area had been part of the city's division of public works before that time.

The administration said Monday, May 10, that Lamar had left the post to "pursue

other opportunities and is no longer employed with the city of Memphis." City Deputy Chief Operating Officer Chandell Ryan is serving as interim city solid waste division director.

Lamar leaves after renewed problems starting in March with Waste Pro, the private contractor hired by the city to make curbside garbage pickups in Area E — an area of 35,000 households taking in Cordova, Hickory Hill and East Memphis.

Lamar was noticeably absent as city Chief Operating Officer Doug McGowen and Strickland canceled the city's contract with Waste Pro and answered questions from City Council members whose emails, text



A garbage truck picks up an overflowing trash bin in Cordova on March 23. (Patrick Lantrip/The West Tennessee News)

messages and voice mails were inundated with complaints. Memphis is using Team Waste in Area E under an emergency

contract as it weighs whether to undertake another long-term contract or use city solid waste crews in Area E as it does in the

other four areas of the city. Lamar came to City Hall from being senior operations manager at Williams Sonoma for five years.

New YMCA offers promise of rich resource for Whitehaven



A rendering shows how the YMCA facility in Whitehaven will look. It will include an indoor pool, early childhood learning center, teen and community resource space, wellness center and gym.

(Courtesy Self+Tucker Architects)

OMER YUSUF

The West Tennessee News

Better late than never is probably the most popular sentiment in Whitehaven about the newly proposed YMCA that will replace the one that's served the community since 1959.

Maybe, the \$11.5 million capital campaign for the new Georgette and Cato Johnson YMCA could have gone quicker (and smoother). Maybe, the Thomas B. Davis YMCA didn't have to celebrate 60 years near Shelby Drive and Elvis Presley Boulevard before being replaced. Maybe, the wait for an indoor pool accessible for neighborhood residents didn't have to last this long.

On April 7, as the YMCA of Memphis & the Mid-South, Methodist South Hospital and other community leaders gathered for a groundbreaking ceremony at the site — the dream finally didn't feel so distant anymore.

"There are a lot of Ys in the country that need facility improvements," said Jerry Martin, YMCA of Memphis and the Mid-South CEO. "Frankly, for a long time, we've had the folks that supported Whitehaven in a building that we were not really proud of."

The new facility, located at 4727 Elvis Presley Blvd., will offer a community resource center, early childhood learning center, wellness center, gymnasium — and, yes, a new public pool. The Davis YMCA is currently closed.

From the names honored at the new YMCA to what's proposed for the new facility — the nonprofit hopes it leaves a stronger legacy in Whitehaven for future generations. Memphis City Councilwoman Patrice Robinson knew her senior constituents needed a new place to exercise and a public pool to utilize.

While representing Whitehaven on the City Council and being a Davis YMCA member herself, Robinson understood

the importance of this project to her community.

"We've got to move this on pretty quickly," Robinson said on the project's urgency. "The citizens in the district deserve to have a place where they can go and have a pool. Of all the districts and the communities in Memphis, the area of Whitehaven does not have a public pool. When they closed (the Davis YMCA), there was an outdoor pool, but there was no indoor pool during the off months in the community at all."

Discussions about a new Whitehaven YMCA date to about 2015, Martin said. Robinson became one of three honorary co-chairs, along with Beverly and Howard Robertson, on the capital campaign committee to raise the \$11.5 million required for a new Whitehaven YMCA.

Raising the funds was the toughest part of the project, Robinson said. Eventually, the project became a public-private partnership with donors ranging from the city of Memphis, Shelby County government to corporate supporters such as FedEx and AutoZone. "This was a learning experience for all of us," she said. "It was an opportunity for us to work together for the betterment of our community."

Cato Johnson doesn't know how he and his wife were selected as the names on the new YMCA. He just remembers being called into a meeting by YMCA officials.

They told him this possibility was discussed internally because of the Johnsons' longtime support of the nonprofit.

Johnson is senior vice president of public policy/regulatory affairs & chief of staff for Methodist Le Bonheur. His connection to the YMCA dates back at least a decade in various capacities including as an executive board member of the Cordova branch.

"I can tell you this, I'm honored and extremely humbled, because I do understand quite honestly none of us is good as we

think we are and none of us deserve these honors like we think we do," Cato said. "It's only by God's grace, believe me."

If his connection to the YMCA is strong, his connection to South Memphis — and Whitehaven — is even stronger. He grew up in South Memphis, has family in Whitehaven and Methodist South is near the YMCA.

He agreed to YMCA's request — on one condition: his wife of 45 years, Georgette, had her name listed ahead of his. She worked for the state of Tennessee for 40 years in various capacities including field management director one for the Department of Human Services.

"I know what she's meant to me and my family," Cato said. "My wife has been a strong rock for the family." For Georgette, it didn't matter whose name was listed first. As she stood near the new YMCA, Georgette said she's proud to share this latest honor with her husband.

"It's just not for us," she said. "We have a little granddaughter. We want to leave

a legacy for her. This is for generations to come. This isn't just about Cato and Georgette. This is about Memphis and giving back to the community and putting a footprint in Memphis and where we are in the world today."

Those associated with the new YMCA believe the project's impact in Whitehaven can go far beyond the brick-and-mortar building set for construction over the next year.

It's also the first YMCA built in the Greater Memphis area since the Olive Branch location in 2005, Martin said.

Whitehaven native Mary Olds is the Davis YMCA director and will hold the same title when the Georgette and Cato Johnson YMCA opens.

When the opportunity first arose three years ago, Olds was just searching for a volunteer opportunity at the YMCA. That quickly changed, she said.

Olds wasn't a "Y kid" growing up, but she understood the importance of it, even more so after serving as the center's director the past three years.

"Being an adult working there and listening to those experiences people had, you do have a little bit of like, 'Man, I wish I didn't miss out on that experience,'" Olds said. "It's something I can definitely experience as an adult now. I'm happy for that."

The YMCA's mission-driven impact on the community lured Olds to that job and aligned with her personal mission of seeing Whitehaven thrive economically. That inspired her to open Muggin' Coffeehouse in Whitehaven with her husband, Ken, in 2019. Growing up in Whitehaven during the 1980s and 1990s, she remembers not having to leave the area because everything Olds needed was on Elvis Presley Boulevard. She hopes that can happen again with the new Y and other businesses coming to the community.

"Economic injections like that spark growth," Olds said. "My hope is that as businesses start to come back to Whitehaven, then residents will start to come back to Whitehaven. Then you'll have a community that's vibrant, rich and able to have resources that you need there."



The Georgette and Cato Johnson YMCA will include an indoor swimming pool.

(Courtesy Self+Tucker Architects)

MEMPHIAN CONTINUED FROM P2

unusual name given the main, ground-floor restaurant, Complicated Pilgrim.

"The 'complicated' piece: We really want simplistic food options and recipes and ingredients," said Bobbie Peppers, the hotel's director of sales. "And sometimes to be simplistic is complicated.

"Our motto: 'Eat well, roam free.'"

Outside in the square, art greets you in unexpected places, even in the alleys. The Memphian takes the same approach.

Even in the lobby's bathrooms, custom-made lighting fixtures and specially designed wallpaper welcome all who enter.

Guests working out in the fitness center will find inspiration on the wall, which displays a giant, 100-word quote. It's Theodore Roosevelt's admiring take on those who have the courage to enter the public arena to try to accomplish something.

Should the exercisers step out into the hallway to drink from a water fountain, above it they'll see three Elvis-inspired lightning bolts.

Original art including custom-made wallpaper covers the walls of the Complicated Pilgrim, too. The restaurant is open for breakfast and dinner, but not for lunch.

The Square has many other restaurants, and the idea is to encourage guests to get outside and explore, Peppers said.

Upstairs in the guestroom hallways, the floors transition from the lobby's zebra tile to carpet inspired by the speckled coat of antelopes.

The spots give the hallways a celestial quality, as if the white specks were stars. The guestrooms have an unusual layout. The doors open to a broad space instead of the typical short hall with the bathroom off to the side.

Just inside the door is the quartz vanity next to shelving with a Lavazza single-serve coffee machine.

Opposite is a tiled shower and a private toilet stall. Eliminating the hallway door creates more space. Between the sink and the beds is a second, sliding door, which provides an extra buffer against any hallway noise. Just above the coffeemaker are two empty water bottles. Guests can fill them at the end of the hall at the "hydration station." The water bar offers chilled or room-temperature water, which is free.

Every other floor has a freezer with ice that is already bagged, eliminating the noisy ice machines.

Bob Loeb said he learned that boutique hotels need a story. He conferred with his friend, author and native Memphian Hampton Sides for help in creating one for The Memphian. Sides referred Loeb to Memphis' Grammy Award-winning writer and filmmaker Robert Gordon.

The Loeb's engaged Gordon, who wrote a 10-page story for the hotel. "We wanted to be authentic, real Memphis, real Midtown," Bob Loeb said.

Gordon suggested calling the hotel The Memphian, in reference to the nearby Memphian movie theater that would later become Circuit Playhouse.

"Elvis used to rent the place exclusively and watch shows," Loeb said.

The hotel's theme is "building on the history of Overton Square and going forward to today and where we go from here," Bob Loeb said.

The Memphian is part of the Marriott Tribute Portfolio network of hotels.

PRISTEX CONTINUED FROM P3

said, noting that the Velasquez family has since been serving the Memphis medical community as part of their "ethos," to give back for the support they received from St. Jude. In addition to partnering with the MMDC, Pristex has joined forces with TNEX, a minority-owned business formed to promote local manufacturing, sales and contracting.

The company is spearheaded by Ernest Strickland and Calvin Anderson.

Rather than focusing on one specific area, such as the MMDC, TNEX looks at the needs of the entire Shelby County market. Strickland noted Pristex's strong relationships within the Medical District, but he also wants to offer opportunities for companies, schools and health care facilities throughout Shelby County.

"I like that Pristex is very conscious of the investment that they're making in the Memphis market and the desire to grow jobs by way of those investments," said Strickland, a longtime executive at the Greater Memphis Chamber before heading up TNEX.

"That attracted me to their business model. I'm looking at how we develop a go-to-market strategy that really incorporates showing the value proposition of sourcing from a local manufacturer and leveraging the fact that we have the manufacturer here and the ability to have a stronger supply chain and the insurance of on-time and available products."

Pristex's goal is to employ up to 400 Memphians through its facilities once all the lines are up and running, which Velasquez said is one of the "most meaningful things" the company is doing.

"Always being able to employ people is the most gratifying thing — to create jobs and contribute to the local economy," he said. "It's one of the things we're most proud of." Pristex, the MMDC and TNEX all echoed the sentiment of supporting local manufacturers, which not only helps build job and economic growth, but it also helps with supply chain issues and lead times for receiving products.

"I think we've got three essential elements that all come together in this deal," Ganus said. "One is the importance of the Memphis health care community to Memphis economic development. The other is local production and being able to connect local producers to anchor institutions is an important project.

"The third is bringing in TNEX to ensure that minority-owned businesses are participating in all of the transactions and deals that flow through these health care institutions — it's that third element that we feel is really essential to the economic development of the region."

COURTYARD CONTINUED FROM P3

"We still have about one-third of the planting to do," Myers said early this week. "The last couple of trees have sunk a little, so we have to lift them about 6 inches."

He's making a special request of donors who are willing to sponsor brick pavers inscribed with the names of 2021 graduates.

Only 180 of the usual 2,000 students are on campus because of COVID-19. "These kids have been screwed out of their senior year" by the pandemic, Myers said.

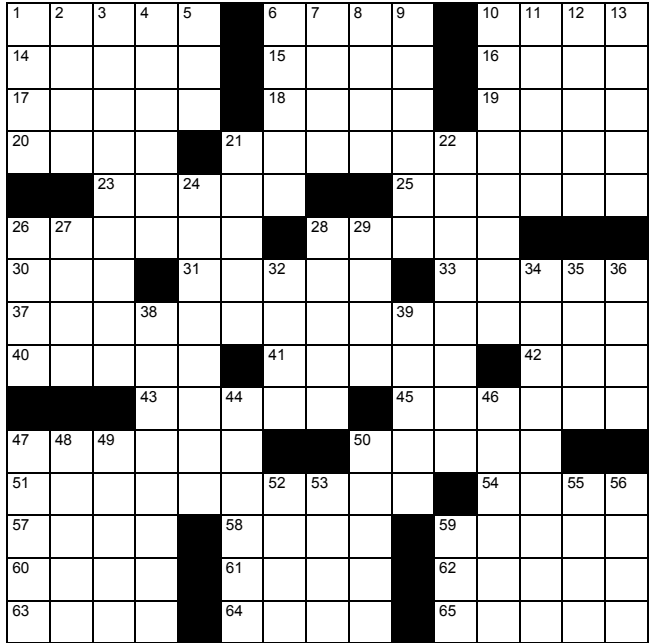
"We want a brick for every senior so they have at least that... A lot of these kids have no idea their name will be on a brick in the courtyard. These are kids who can't afford it. It's a small gesture, really small."

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Playground staple
- 6 Give a hand?
- 10 G.I. offense
- 14 Solitary sort
- 15 Colombian crop
- 16 Post-WWII alliance
- 17 Deduce
- 18 Alternative to steps
- 19 Choral voice
- 20 Chick's chirp
- 21 Luau servings
- 23 Domain
- 25 Stick together
- 26 Sometimes it's hidden
- 28 Approval power
- 30 Wayside stop
- 31 High spirits
- 33 Talk bad about
- 37 Like barcodes
- 40 State under oath
- 41 Latin dance
- 42 "Yes, ___!"
- 43 Sharply dressed
- 45 Where charity begins
- 47 Something wicked?
- 50 Danielle of romance novels
- 51 Lump in one's throat
- 54 Dennis the Menace's dog
- 57 Bread for a gyro
- 58 Indian garment
- 59 Pull strings?
- 60 Line on a map
- 61 Grander than grand
- 62 Kitchen strainer
- 63 Beach site
- 64 Latest thing
- 65 Art studio item



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- 3 Logical conclusion
- 4 Intensify, as feelings
- 5 Slip up
- 6 Theater curtain offering
- 7 Pawn shop
- 8 Top spot
- 9 Vatican rule
- 10 Literary repetition
- 11 Pixar title robot
- 12 Riverbank romper
- 13 Baggy
- 21 Not fancy at all
- 22 Write a check for later
- 24 Navy bigwigs
- 26 Draws a bead on
- 27 Nibble on
- 28 Dogcatcher's quarry

- 34 Givens
- 35 Kind of chance
- 36 Now's partner
- 38 Like craft fair goods
- 39 Slack off
- 44 Promo
- 46 Weightlifter's worry
- 47 Pants style
- 48 "So long", in Sonora
- 49 Brazilian port
- 50 Cake serving
- 52 One of a bear trio
- 53 Stuffed shirt
- 55 Prime number
- 56 Have a hunch
- 59 "What's the ___?"

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | U | S | H | W | O | K | E | P | A | S | T | A |
| A | N | O | A | H | I | N | T | R | E | L | A | X |
| I | D | L | I | E | L | E | C | T | O | R | A | T |
| N | U | I | S | A | N | C | E | E | N | A | M | E |
| S | E | D | E | R | A | P | P | L | E | T | | |
| | | | | E | N | S | N | A | R | E | E | L |
| A | C | I | D | I | C | D | E | C | I | S | I | O |
| R | O | T | C | O | D | P | A | N | A | R | T | |
| I | C | E | W | A | T | E | R | S | H | A | R | E |
| D | A | M | E | F | L | A | T | T | E | N | | |
| | | | | B | A | R | I | T | E | R | O | P |
| H | A | S | S | L | E | R | E | V | E | I | L | L |
| I | L | L | I | T | E | R | A | T | E | N | E | O |
| S | T | A | T | E | A | C | E | S | T | A | P | E |
| S | O | B | E | R | P | E | R | T | S | T | E | W |

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | 4 | | 2 | 6 | |
| | 3 | 2 | | | | | | |
| 4 | 9 | 7 | | 3 | | | | 2 |
| | | 1 | | 5 | | | | |
| | 6 | | 8 | | | | | |
| | | | 9 | 1 | | | | |
| | | | | 5 | | 3 | 6 | |
| 6 | | | 2 | 4 | | 8 | | 1 |

HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| 4 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| 5 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 6 |
| 8 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 7 |
| 7 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| 2 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 5 |
| 9 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 1 |

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CHANDLER REPORTS

public notices

Foreclosure Notices

Madison County

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms, and conditions of a Deed of Trust Note dated June 26, 2020, and the Deed of Trust of even date securing the same, recorded June 29, 2020, in Book No. 2126, at Page 1705, in Office of the Register of Deeds for Madison County, Tennessee, executed by Andrew J Melson and Taryn Phillips, conveying certain property therein described to Charles E. Tonkin, II as Trustee for Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as beneficiary, as nominee for Mortgage Investors Group, its successors and assigns; and the undersigned, Wilson & Associates, P.L.L.C., having been appointed Successor Trustee by PennyMac Loan Services, LLC.

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable; and that an agent of Wilson & Associates, P.L.L.C., as Successor Trustee, by virtue of the power, duty, and authority vested in and imposed upon said Successor Trustee, by PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, will, on **July 7, 2021 on or about 1:00 PM, at the Madison County Courthouse, Jackson, Tennessee**, offer for sale certain property hereinafter described to the highest bidder FOR **certified funds** paid at the conclusion of the sale, or credit bid from a bank or other lending entity pre-approved by the successor trustee. The sale is free from all exemptions, which are expressly waived in the Deed of Trust, said property being real estate situated in Madison County, Tennessee, and being more

particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point in the southwestern margin of Ridgedale Drive, said point being the northwest corner of Lot 36. Section IV, of the Murphey Subdivision, a plat of which appears of record in Plat Book 3, page 336, in the Register's Office of Madison County, Tennessee: runs thence North 46 degrees 36 minutes West with the southwestern margin of Ridgedale Drive a distance of 122.51 feet to a point; runs thence in a westerly direction following a curve to the left having a radius of 15 feet a distance of 23.44 feet to a point in the southeastern margin of Murphey Drive; runs thence in a southwesterly direction with the southeastern margin of Murphey Drive a distance of 83.43 feet, more or less, to a point; runs thence South 54 degrees 47 minutes East a distance of 151.07 feet to a point in the western margin of Lot 36; runs thence North 32 degrees 47 minutes East with the west margin of Lot 36 a distance of 70.09 feet to the point of beginning, being Lot 53 and an adjacent 10' x 151.07' triangular tract. Section IV, Murphey Subdivision platted as aforesaid, and surveyed by McAlexander Engineering on July 26, 1983.

ALSO KNOWN AS: 121 Ridgedale Drive, Jackson, TN 38305

This sale is subject to all matters shown on any applicable recorded plat; any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements, or setback lines that may be applicable; any statutory rights of redemption of any governmental agency, state or federal; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; and to any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. In addition, the following parties may claim an interest in the above-referenced property:

ANDREW J MELSON
TARYN PHILLIPS
ESTATE OF ANDREW MELSON
HEIR(S) OF ANDREW MELSON

The sale held pursuant to this Notice may be rescinded at the Successor Trustee's option at any time. The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day, time, and place certain without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place for the sale set forth above. In the event of inclement weather, the trustee hereby announces that the sale will be postponed for a period of two weeks. In such situations, notices will be mailed to interested parties of record. **W&A No. 349675**

DATED May 7, 2021

WILSON & ASSOCIATES, P.L.L.C.,
Successor Trustee

May 14, 21, 28, 2021 Fqn14723

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms, and conditions of a Deed of Trust Note dated July 5, 2011, and the Deed of Trust of even date securing the same, recorded July 7, 2011, in Book No. T1907, at Page 1009, in Office of the Register of Deeds for Madison County, Tennessee, executed by Loraine Merriweather, conveying certain property therein described to Carter, Stanfill & Kirk as Trustee for Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as beneficiary, as nominee for Platinum Mortgage, Inc., its successors and assigns; and the undersigned, Wilson & Associates, P.L.L.C., having been appointed Successor Trustee by Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC.

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable; and that an agent of Wilson & Associates, P.L.L.C., as Successor Trustee, by

virtue of the power, duty, and authority vested in and imposed upon said Successor Trustee, by Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, will, on **July 1, 2021 on or about 10:00 AM, at the Madison County Courthouse, Jackson, Tennessee**, offer for sale certain property hereinafter described to the highest bidder FOR **certified funds** paid at the conclusion of the sale, or credit bid from a bank or other lending entity pre-approved by the successor trustee. The sale is free from all exemptions, which are expressly waived in the Deed of Trust, said property being real estate situated in Madison County, Tennessee, and being more particularly described as follows:

Being Lot No. 3 (erroneously referenced as Lot No. 3 I in prior deeds) of Section I of Oak Hill Subdivision, a plat of which appears of record in Plat Book 2, page 194 in the Register's Office of Madison County, Tennessee, to which plan reference is hereby made for a more complete description.

ALSO KNOWN AS: 33 Kipling Drive, Jackson, TN 38305-4602

This sale is subject to all matters shown on any applicable recorded plat; any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements, or setback lines that may be applicable; any statutory rights of redemption of any governmental agency, state or federal; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; and to any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. In addition, the following parties may claim an interest in the above-referenced property:

LORAIN MERRIWEATHER
PAMELA CROCKETT

The sale held pursuant to this Notice may be rescinded at the Successor Trustee's option at any time. The right

is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day, time, and place certain without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place for the sale set forth above. In the event of inclement weather, the trustee hereby announces that the sale will be postponed for a period of two weeks. In such situations, notices will be mailed to interested parties of record. **W&A No. 304709**

DATED May 10, 2021

WILSON & ASSOCIATES, P.L.L.C.,
Successor Trustee
May 14, 21, 28, 2021 Fqn14724

Misc. Notices

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Midgard Self Storage - Oakland TN located at 130 Pierce Rd Oakland TN 38060 intends to hold a sale of property stored from storage units in default of payment. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storageauctions.com on 5/19/2021 at 1:00pm. Robert Wilson unit #100; Christopher Wilson unit #449; Karin A Jardin unit #H027. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. May 14, 2021 Mqn14720

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Midgard Self Storage - Jackson TN located at 4355 HWY 45 North Jackson TN 38305 intends to hold a sale of property stored from storage unit in default of payment. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storageauctions.com on 5/19/2021 at 1:00pm. Drew Baker unit #316. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. May 14, 2021 Mqn14721



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