



# THE COUNTY CONNECTION

A Monthly Newsletter from Mayor Randall Hutto  
Mt. Juliet | Lebanon | Watertown



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## *A Word from Mayor Hutto...*

The new year certainly has flown by, and it is difficult to believe that spring will soon be here! My office and I have been working diligently on a new series of community events called “Looking into the Future.” Our first event was held last month at the Farm Bureau Exposition Center. I was joined by Mayor Rick Bell (Lebanon), Mayor Mike Jennings (Watertown), and City of Mt. Juliet representatives. Together, we spoke about the state of Wilson County’s infrastructure and our plans for the future. These events would not be possible without MTE’s Chuck Barber, the Farm Bureau Exposition Center, and the Chambers of Commerce. My staff and I truly appreciate everyone who worked so hard to make this possible. This session was the 1st of a 3-part series, which is free for the public to attend. The 2nd meeting will be held on April 30th at College Hills Church of Christ, and its topic will focus on Utilities and Broadband. The 3rd meeting will be held on October 1st at Providence Church in Mt. Juliet, and its topic will be Planning and Growth. Be sure to mark your calendars. We’d love to see you there!

**Commissioner Spotlight:  
Tyler Chandler  
District 10**



*Contact*  
**INFORMATION**

Phone: 615-697-9020

**Wilson County  
LANDFILL**

**MONDAYS - FRIDAYS  
7:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**ALL LOADS MUST BE  
CHECKED INTO THE SCALE  
HOUSE BY 2:30 P.M.**

**FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE  
CALL 615.449.6684**

**EMP  WER ME CENTER**

**TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

**SAVE THE DATE**



**DARING  
TO  
DREAM**



**LUNCHEON**

**APRIL 25, 2024**

**MADE IN TENNESSEE BUILDING  
JAMES E. WARD AGRICULTURAL CENTER  
LEBANON, TN**

MARCH 3, 2020

*We remember*



# 2024 WILSON COUNTY AG HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES NAMED



In 2007, a group of concerned Wilson Countians came together to form the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame. Since Wilson County was founded back in 1799, Agriculture has been a cornerstone of this community. To recognize the contributions of the many folks involved in agriculture to our community, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame was organized. Each year, at least four (4) Wilson Countians are recognized during a banquet designed to bring attention to Agriculture's prominent place in our county.

The 17th Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame Banquet will take place on April 2, 2024, in the Farm Bureau Expo Building at the Ward Agricultural Center in Lebanon with a reception at 6:00 pm and the actual banquet at 6:30 pm. Area FFA and 4-H Members will serve as ushers for the evening. The following individuals will be part of 17th class of inductees into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame:

*Bill Ligon*  
*Johnny Ricketts*  
*Don Simpson*  
*Nelson Steed*

"The purpose of the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame is to recognize citizens of Wilson County who have made a significant impact on agriculture in Wilson County, Tennessee, nationally or worldwide" states Keith Harrison, Chairman of the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame. "We feel the time is right to pay tribute to these very deserving individuals." Other members of the Board of Directors of the Wilson County Agriculture Hall of Fame are Jeffrey Turner-Vice Chairman, Ruth Correll-Secretary, Diane Major-Treasurer, Ben Powell, Louis Fletcher, Isabel Hall, Lucas Holman & Neal Oakley.  
*Continued on page 08.*



*Human Resources is doing a monthly employee giveaway. Winners will receive a Wilson County pullover, please let us know your size. All Wilson County Employees will have a chance to win each month. Please contact HR at 615-206-5065 to claim your prize.*

## *March Winners*

**Amanda Oliver**  
Sheriff's Dept.

**Auston Hite**  
Sheriff's Dept.

**John Lafavor**  
Judicial

**Jared Fuller**  
WEMA

**Alexander  
Armstrong**  
WEMA

# A TRIBUTE TO OUR LATE AG CENTER DIRECTOR, QUINTIN SMITH *by Mayor Randall Hutto*

Our agricultural community suffered a great loss due to the recent passing of Ag Center Director, Quintin Smith, who passed away on February 25th.



Quintin first started working with the county in 1976, when he served as the district 12 county commissioner for two years. Back then, Wilson County had 50 county commissioners, two for each district. Quintin also served on the ag committee in 1976, which he would continue to do off and on for decades.

Agriculture was Quintin's bread and butter. He received his bachelor's degree from M.T.S.U. as a double major in animal science and plant and soil selection, and he also studied biology at Cumberland University. In the 1960's, Quintin began showing Angus cattle, and he would go on to make quite a name for himself. Over the years, he received numerous awards and was a member of many agricultural organizations.

He and his family owned and operated Quintin Smith Family Angus cattle farm. Needless to say, he had all the agricultural experience that you could think of. So, when Larry Tomlinson retired as Ag Center Director in 2017, Quintin was hired. He truly enjoyed his work and the Ag Center flourished under his direction.

Quintin's co-workers, friends, and family will miss him deeply. We ask that you please keep his wife, Vicki, and the rest of the Smith family in your prayers during this time.

*"The Heart of a Farmer"*  
*by Unknown*

The heart of a farmer, strong and kind, A life of love, you left behind, Through drought and storm, you never wavered, Your spirit unwavering, a love we savored. Your hands, weathered and worn, A testament to the life you've borne, A great person, a soul so pure, Your legacy of love, forever to endure. In the fertile soil, where seeds take root, We'll remember your greatness, a love so resolute, The heart of a farmer, eternally, A beacon of hope, guiding us to see.



## Wilson County to Celebrate its 225th Anniversary Year

Wilson County was established on October 26, 1799 and was named after Major David Wilson, a North Carolina hero of the American Revolution. Our area was originally part of a much larger Sumner County. However, this caused problems for citizens, as it took more than one day to travel across the county, often making it difficult to do necessary business. Thus, a portion of Sumner County was divided, and Wilson County was established.

Wilson County has a rich agricultural and historical background. By 1875, most Wilson County farmers owned farms less than one hundred acres, but our county ranked first in the state in the production of wheat, sorghum, butter, and

horses and second in cedar, lumber, grass seed, hay, barley, clover, hogs, sheep, and mules. Even today, Wilson County has the most Century Farms of any other county in Tennessee!

Since its founding in 1799, Wilson County has been known for its traditions, schools, and businesses, along with its rich agricultural roots.

Later this year, a 225th Anniversary celebration will be held. We will celebrate Wilson County's 225 years of traditions, family, community, and the wonderful feeling of home. There are more details on that to come, so stay tuned! Until then, we wish Wilson County Tennessee a very Happy 225th Anniversary!

### March Holidays:

*March 01*

**World Day of Prayer & Employee Appreciation Day**

*March 04*

**Nat'l Sons Day**

*March 08*

**International Women's Day**

*March 19*

**Nat'l Agriculture Day**

*March 21*

**World Down Syndrome Day**

*March 24*

**Palm Sunday**

*March 29*

**Good Friday**

*March 31*

**Easter Sunday**

**American Red Cross Month**

**Nat'l Women's History Month**

# COST SHARE FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY BUSINESSES

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) has announced the third round of funding for the Tennessee Forestry, Agriculture, and Rural Markets (FARM) cost share program. FARM will provide financial assistance to agricultural, food, forestry, and nonprofit agricultural entities in Tennessee.

The FARM cost share program will fund projects that promote stabilizing and strengthening the supply chain to prevent future challenges. Businesses that receive financial assistance from the FARM program are not required to repay the funds. Funding is disbursed on a reimbursement basis.

Applications are accepted online from March 1 until March 31, 2024. FARM cost share details can be found online at [www.tn.gov/FARM](http://www.tn.gov/FARM). Contact TDA's Business Development Division at [business.development@tn.gov](mailto:business.development@tn.gov) with questions.



## Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30, 10am-12n

The Jimmy Floyd Center



Developmental Disabilities  
Awareness Month

# DAIRY PROCESSORS WIN THE BEST OF TENNESSEE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR THE 2024 WILSON COUNTY - TENNESSEE STATE FAIR

*submitted*

*The Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair proudly announces the Best of Tennessee State Champion Dairy Processors in sixteen categories of dairy products. Dairy Processors from across the State of Tennessee entered their products to be judged for the prestigious title of the Best of Tennessee State Champion for the 2024 Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair. The Fair partnered with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture*

*and the Tennessee Dairy Products Association to host the competition on February 9-10, 2024, in the Made in Tennessee building at the James E. Ward Agriculture Center also known as the Wilson County Fairgrounds in Lebanon, TN. Seventeen Tennessee Dairy processors entered a total of 66 products in the dairy categories for the contest that was implemented by the University of Tennessee Center for Dairy Advancement and Sustainability. Winners in each category were selected based on their overall judges' score then the Best of Tennessee State Champions were announced at a luncheon on Saturday, February 10. Winners included: Mayfield Dairy Farms, Heritage Farms Dairy (Kroger), Flower's Creamery, Cruze Farm, Sweetwater Valley Farm, and Bonnie Blue Farm. "We congratulate the winning Tennessee Dairy Processors on their remarkable success," said Randall Clemons, President of the Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair. "Their impressive performance exemplifies the spirit of excellence that defines Tennessee's dairy industry, and we are proud to celebrate their achievements at our Fair by awarding the Best of Tennessee State Champions." The Best of Tennessee State Champions will be exhibited at the 2024 Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair that runs Augst 15-24, 2024. For more information on events, competitions and happenings at the 2024 Fair, visit [www.wilsoncountytntstatefair.com](http://www.wilsoncountytntstatefair.com). We'll see YOU at the Fair!*



*Photo caption: Mark Ezell, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development; Dr. Charlie Hatcher, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture; Andy Holt, Assistant Commissioner for the Business Development Division of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture; and Randall Clemons, President of the Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair proudly presented the Best of Tennessee State Championships to the winning Tennessee Dairy Producers who were in attendance from Mayfield Dairy Farms, Heritage Farms Dairy (Kroger) and Sweetwater Valley Farm. University of Tennessee Center for Dairy Advancement and Sustainability's Dr. Elizabeth Eckelkamp along with judges Dr. Charlie White and Eric Goan conducted the competition.*

# 2024 WILSON COUNTY AG HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES NAMED

Continued from page 03...The organizers have established a non-profit status for the organization to enable them to raise money to be used for a building on the Ward Agricultural Center to be dedicated to the individuals inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame. "Any funds raised over and above the costs of putting on the annual banquet will be set aside for the building," states Diane Major, Treasurer of the Hall of Fame, Tickets for the April 2 banquet can be purchased by calling 615-444-1890 ext. 3.

The cost is \$30 each. Jordan's Catering will be preparing the meal that evening, which is another reason to join in on the festivities. "We want folks to come together to recognize these deserving individuals on April 2," says Harrison. "We owe these folks a great deal of gratitude for everything they have done for agriculture as well as Wilson County." For information, please visit [www.wilsoncountyyaghalloffame.org](http://www.wilsoncountyyaghalloffame.org).



# WILSON COUNTY KIND SPOTLIGHT

submitted by the Wilson County Emergency Management Agency



*The Wilson County Emergency Management Agency (WEMA) sent a shoutout to West Elementary student, Danny Jenkins and his mother, Traci, for including WEMA in their "Thankful Project." Danny's recognition of the team was incredibly appreciated and meant so much to everyone at Station 4's C-Shift!*

*Here's what the WEMA crew had to say: "It's young people like you who motivate us every day. And Traci, thanks for supporting Danny in this wonderful gesture. Cheers to the staff at West Elementary for fostering such community spirit! Thank you from all of us! We're proud to be part of this community!"*

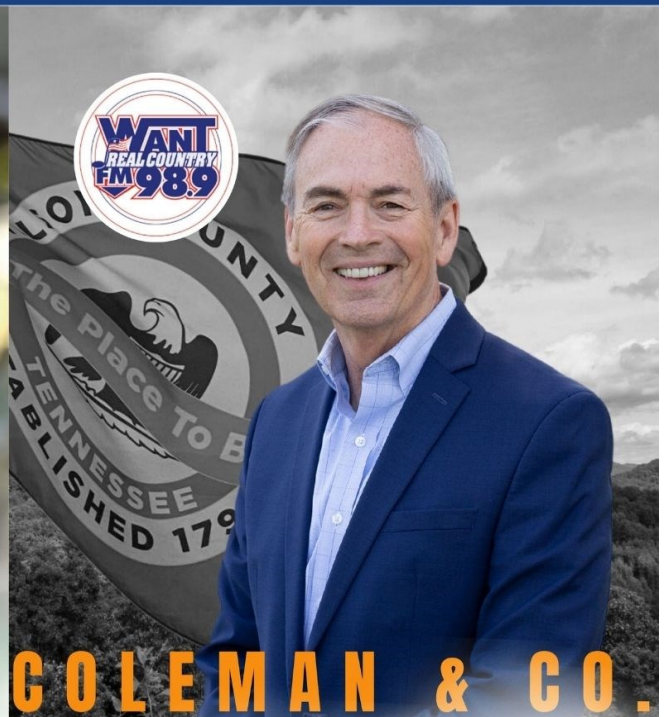




**K-9**

*Veterans Day*

*March 13, 2024*



**COLEMAN & CO.**  
**TALKSHOW**

**WANT 98.9 FM / WCOR AM 1490**

**GUEST, MAYOR RANDALL HUTTO**

**MARCH 18TH | WITH COLEMAN WALKER**

**TUNE IN AROUND 7:40AM!**

*Spring Forward*

**Daylight Savings Time**

**Begins March 10, 2024**



H A P P Y



UPCOMING HOLIDAY  
CLOSURES:

*Good Friday, March 29  
Wilson Co. Government Offices &  
Landfill Closed*

*Easter Sunday, March 31  
Convenience Centers Closed*

*April 1, Back to Regular Business  
Hours*

*We wish you all a blessed Easter  
holiday!*

Wilson County Health Council



March 24 – April 20, 2024

Walk 36 miles, the equivalent of walking across Wilson County, while improving your health, by simply walking or being active for 30 minutes per day, six days each week, over the course of four weeks.

School and community-based teams are encouraged to participate. Team members will log their minutes of activity online using a google form to track the team's participation throughout the event. School and community team participants who log in at least six times will earn a t-shirt and qualify for bonus rewards. Bonus rewards will be awarded to the top schools and community teams.

To view program updates and registration information, and to log event activity, visit [Facebook.com/walkacrosswilson](https://www.facebook.com/walkacrosswilson) or scan the QR code. Registration goes live on **Sunday, March 24, 2024.**

**Event Contacts**  
Jacqueline Guerra, Wilson County Health Department, [Jacqueline.guerra@tn.gov](mailto:Jacqueline.guerra@tn.gov)  
Chuck Whitlock, Wilson County Schools, [whitlockc@wcschools.com](mailto:whitlockc@wcschools.com)  
Brenda Harper, Community Teams, [bsharper@comcast.net](mailto:bsharper@comcast.net)



Title Sponsor:

Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 27th, 2024

Wilson County  
Heart Walk

NASHVILLE SUPERSPEEDWAY

4847F MCCRARY ROAD | LEBANON, TN



American Heart Association.  
Healthy for Good™



# WILSON RIDES, INC. HOSTS VOLUNTEER DRIVER TRAINING

*submitted by Gaye Lynn Wilson*

Wilson Rides is hosting Volunteer Driver Training every month in both Lebanon and Mt. Juliet. **Registration is required.**

## **Lebanon Wilson County Chamber of Commerce**

2nd Monday every month (Registration required).

11:30 - 1:00pm

The next training will take place on March 11th.

## **Mount Juliet Chamber of Commerce**

2nd Wednesday of every month (Registration required).

3:30 - 5:00pm

The next training will take place on March 13th.



Wilson Rides is also hosting "**Curiosity & Coffee**" on the 1st Friday of every month from 9:00am - 10:00am. We are alternating between Lebanon and Mount Juliet. This is designed for those interested in learning more about Wilson Rides, joining or volunteering. Current volunteers are also welcome to attend to ask questions and share stories and experiences. We'd love to see you there! **Registration for this is not required.**

Pop's Coffee Shop (Lebanon) - March, May, July, September, November

Just Love Coffee Cafe (Mount Juliet) - April, June, August, October, December

## **Also Coming Soon:**

The 36th Annual Rotary Club of Lebanon Foundation Golf Tournament, presented by Wilson Bank & Trust, will be held on May 6th at Tennessee Grasslands Golf and Country Club - Foxland Course.

Individual Player Fee \$175.00, Team Registration \$700. Sponsorships are available at all levels.

Visit [vdgm.in/rotarygolf2024](http://vdgm.in/rotarygolf2024) to register and learn more or email [gayelynn@wilsonridesinc.org](mailto:gayelynn@wilsonridesinc.org).

# WISHING JIMMY WATERS A VERY HAPPY RETIREMENT!

James (aka “Jimmy”) Waters retired on February 29, 2024. Jimmy worked for Wilson County Government as a custodian for nearly sixteen years. During that time, Jimmy worked in several county buildings, including the Courthouse, the Annex, the Archives Building, and the Stone Building. Over the years, Jimmy has brought so much joy and laughter to his fellow coworkers. He is known to be a big cut up and loves to play jokes on others. Sometimes, Jimmy tries to scare the ladies in the Clerk’s and Register of Deeds offices when they leave in the afternoon! “I could always just about tell when Jimmy hit the side door in the afternoon. I could hear him singing or talking to someone. He always seemed to be in a good mood, and he could put a smile on your face,” said Robert Baines, Building Maintenance Director. And here’s another fact about Jimmy - He’s a big Los Angeles Rams football fan! “Jimmy has been a solid employee and a good worker. We will miss his excitement and his hard work around here. I wish him all the best in his retirement.”

Jimmy, we wish you a very Happy Retirement! You certainly will be missed!



# St. Patrick's Day Themed "Dad Jokes"

Answers located at the bottom of this page.

1. HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN A SHAMROCK IS JEALOUS?
2. WHAT TYPE OF SANDWICHES SHOULD THEY SERVE ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY?
3. WHAT KIND OF SPELLS DO LEPRECHAUNS USE?
4. WHY DO LEPRECHAUNS HATE RUNNING?
5. WHY SHOULDN'T YOU IRON A FOUR-LEAF CLOVER?



1. IT WILL BE GREEN WITH ENVY!
2. PADDY MELTS!
3. LUCKY CHARMS!
4. THEY'D RATHER JIG THAN JOGI!
5. YOU MIGHT PRESS YOUR LUCK!

## St. Patrick's Day Word Search



H	O	R	S	E	S	H	O	E	S
M	N	G	Z	Z	X	Z	C	L	Y
D	D	H	S	Y	H	G	F	K	D
I	U	Z	H	H	C	N	C	J	R
R	X	C	A	A	E	U	O	D	A
E	C	G	M	E	L	Y	X	K	I
L	E	P	R	E	C	H	A	U	N
A	T	G	O	L	D	U	X	P	B
N	P	D	C	L	O	V	E	R	O
D	J	H	K	D	W	C	N	G	W
M	N	S	E	S	Y	X	K	X	S

IRELAND  
CLOVER  
GOLD

GREEN  
HORSESHOE  
LEPRECHAUN

LUCKY  
RAINBOW  
SHAMROCK

## S U D O K U

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