



THE SEWANEE MOUNTAIN MESSENGER

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Abigail Shipps: A Lesson in Giving Back

by Leslie Lytle, Messenger Staff Writer

The last couple months of Abigail Shipps' senior year at the University of the South are turning out to be quite different from what she expected.

"Being a graduating senior right now is pretty devastating. You were really looking forward to those last months, and you're in this really weird time. You're away from your friends. The economy, especially small businesses are really at risk."

"I'm a small business," Shipps found herself thinking. "How can I help other small businesses?"

Shipps decided to turn a minus into a plus. The Sewanee Business Alliance (SBA) established a fund to help Sewanee businesses survive the loss of commerce occurring as a result of the pandemic. The SBA fund will receive the sale proceeds from prints of two of Shipps' pen and ink sketches, All Saints' Chapel and the Sewanee Gates.

"I've always been an artist, always been creative," Shipps said. "I went through different phases, crafts, origami, knitting, painting, drawing. I did it in my spare time. I'd do drawings for friends, and they started saying, 'You should sell these.'" Visit Shipps' Etsy and Instagram pages to preview the work she offers for sale.

Like the two prints for sale that will benefit the SBA, most of Shipps' drawings depict Sewanee architecture. She describes these pen and ink sketches as "simple, charming drawing of your favorite Sewanee buildings." Other prints feature scenes from nature like the Natural Bridge and sunsets.

Staying busy during the COVID-19 stay-at-home order hasn't been a problem for Shipps. She's received a large number of requests for commissions. People frequently ask her to draw their homes or a favorite academic building or theme house. She even received a request to draw the Sewanee Market.

Shipps lives in Sewanee with her family. Her father David Shipps is director of the Babson Center for Global Commerce, and her mother Sydney Shipps volunteers to help coordinate programs for Lifelong Learning. Her brother David is a rising sophomore.

"The Sewanee community loves the Sewanee community," Shipps said.

The Frame Gallery is providing the matts for all her prints at no charge. And three of the Greek organizations have joined her SBA fundraising project. Theta Kappa Phi, Phi Kappa Epsilon, and Theta Phi will buy prints of Shipps' drawings of their houses for all their graduating seniors. The proceeds from these sales will also go to the SBA fund.

Shipps has already raised more than \$1,000 for the SBA.

An English major and French minor, Shipps looks to a career in journalism. New York City is on her horizon.

But home is where the heart is. "I love Sewanee," Shipps said.

To buy prints of Shipps drawing to benefit the SBA, go to <www.sewaneevillage.com>. Select Donate and Shop Now, then Items to Buy to Show Your Support, followed by Abigail Shipps Sketches.

FC Schools: Sports, ESP Resuming Undecided; Budget Highlights

by Leslie Lytle, Messenger Staff Writer

At the May 4 working session, the Franklin County School Board caught up on business. After not meeting in April, the May 4 meeting addressed when sports and the Extended School Program would resume, COVID-19 policies, and the 2020-21 budget.

"I haven't picked a date when athletics will resume," said Director of Schools Stanley Bean. "I'm thinking June 15. Other schools are looking at June 1. There has been no guidance from the Tennessee School Board Association." Bean said regardless of the sport, no more than 10 participants could interact. This might mean several groups practicing in different areas on a playing field. The TSBA canceled all spring sports for the 2019-20 school year.

Likewise, there is no decision about when and if the Extended School Program (ESP) will resume. "Resuming the ESP will require some very difficult things," said Bean. In keeping with CDC directives, children of first responders and health care workers must be kept separate, staff must take every child's temperature on arrival, and

facilities must be disinfected every 30 minutes.

"Is this doable?" asked Board Chair Cleijo Walker.

"We'll need more rooms and more staff," Bean said.

ESP coordinator Kim Nuckolls said Tullahoma schools were leaning toward not resuming their program until the fall. In addition, for an ESP site to be financially viable, 15 students need to register and attend. Summer registration came to a halt when the schools closed. The number of parents who have returned to work and need childcare is not known. Nuckolls will ask each site director to contact parents to get a solid number of possible attendees and report to the board at the regular meeting May 11. A tentative ESP reopening date of June 8 is being considered.

The board moved three COVID-19 policies to the May 11 consent agenda. The TSBA recommended policies provide for "telework," employees working from home; establish directives in keeping with federal law for paid

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Sewanee Fourth of July Celebration Canceled

Jade Barry, board chair of the Sewanee Fourth of July committee has announced the cancelation of the annual celebration in Sewanee.

"It is with great sadness that I must announce the cancelation of the 2020 Sewanee Fourth of July Celebration," said Barry. "This collaborative decision has been made with our community's health and safety at heart. This popular day in Sewanee poses too great a risk for increasing the spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19, and our celebration does not need to be a reason for further contributing to the growth of this pandemic."

"We encourage community members and businesses in town to decorate patriotically, and families to observe this day of remembrance more intimately so as to continue the spirit of celebrating our nation's independence."

"Our dutiful fire department will continue to hang our nation's flags along University Avenue on Flag Day. It is a wonderful reminder of our freedom."

"This news will most likely resonate some disappointment in most of our hearts and I am no different," said Barry. "I personally have not missed a single Sewanee Fourth of July celebration since I was 4 years old. It is my favorite day of the year. But, we have plans of coming back much stronger next year."

"Even though we are apart, we can still celebrate together," said Barry. "The Sewanee Mountain Messenger will be accepting submissions of pictures and family celebration ideas of past and present to help keep the town spirit alive and ever present."

'Floating Needles' Online

by Bailey Basham
Messenger Staff Writer

Anna Douglas Smith is on track to complete her degree in just a few days. A student at the University of the South, Smith has studied art for the last four years.

Art has always been vital to her, and she said she always anticipated being a creator. However, what she did not anticipate was trying to complete her degree in the midst of a pandemic.

As is tradition for the senior art majors at the University, Smith and her classmates were prepared to exhibit their works in the University Art Gallery this month. Due to COVID-19 and the resulting closures, the exhibition has been moved online.

Smith is one of six students whose work is currently being exhibited online. Collectively, the six bodies of work make up "Floating Needles," which refers to the phenomenon resulting from surface tension, of that moment when

(Continued on page 5)



Members of the Sewanee Neighbors Helping Neighbors Communications team have been delivering the Messenger to those who do not have reliable internet or email service.

New Studio Space at Fine Arts at the Mountain

Michael and Netta Karr with Fine Arts at the Mountain in Sewanee are finding new and innovative ways to support their customers and keep their business open.

Since the start of the pandemic, they have been offering virtual music lessons to their customers. "Some of the internet connections were so bad for the students," said Michael, "that we had to come up with another solution."

They began by knocking down a wall in the shop in order to create a private studio space. A plexiglass wall will be between the student in the studio and the instructor. Michael said this added another 80 square feet to the footprint of the shop.

"This will be a limited contact studio," said Michael. "The student will have a private entrance at the rear of the building. They will be encouraged to wash their hands before picking up the instrument. After the session, the entire room and the instruments will be cleaned and sanitized." Hand sanitizer will also be available.

The session 2 music instruction begins on Tuesday, May 12. Students are encouraged to apply online at <www.fineartsatthemountain.com> or by calling the store at (931) 463-2400.

Fine Arts at the Mountain will also be celebrating its first year anniversary later this month with several promotions and special discounts.

The shop is also open for retail business and repairs. Customers may also request appointments. There is an option to shop online for instruments, sheet music and accessories from the website. Hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fine Arts at the Mountain is located at 91 University Ave., Sewanee.



A wall was removed in the Fine Arts at the Mountain shop in order to create a private music studio.

P.O. Box 296
Sewanee, TN 37375

Letters

NEWS FROM THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

To the Editor:

Due to the ongoing pandemic, we previously decided to postpone the Sewanee Civic Association's annual meeting. Under normal circumstances, the bylaws of the SCA require that this meeting be "held in the Spring" to be used to elect new officers and vote to approve the coming year's budget. We hope to re-schedule this meeting in August, but, unfortunately, we do not know when we may be able to have this meeting. Because of this current situation we are posting materials in advance on our website if you so choose to review them.

We shared our proposed 2020-21 budget during our February meeting. Our fiscal year ends on August 31, so we must have the budget approved by then. The proposed budget can be found here: <<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OSN1taOs15OZtebG5yQJs2LDFiE3MnDBajrEP-K38ewQ/edit?usp=sharing>>.

Additionally, the SCA board has spent some time cleaning up the bylaws and would like to have the changes approved by members during the annual meeting, as well. The proposed changes to the by-

laws can be found here: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1z3xHZeLsLHIdSD0FVJ1JNkP_sKRW-Woq5>.

Both of these proposed changes have also been shared on the Sewanee Civic website: <<http://sewaneecivic.org/2020/05/2020-by-law-and-budget-update-proposals/>>.

Regarding the Classifieds mailing list, we've fielded a number of your ideas and concerns and have approved a few temporary changes to the rules governing it. They are documented here: <<http://sewaneecivic.org/sewaneeclassifieds/acceptable-use-policy/>>.

The Sewanee Community Chest stills needs your support. We have raised over 85 percent of our goal of \$105,140. Our community needs your tax deductible donations to meet and exceed this goal. These needs have shifted since the grant process began last fall, and we are working with our grantee's with respect to that. Keep in mind all funds raised above the Chest goal can and will be used to address other needs within our community that were not considered at the time of grant requests last fall.

Finally, we are hopeful that we can find a way to hold the annual Spring meeting in a safe way such that the SCA can continue to move forward. We will keep members updated as decisions are made.

We're always happy to hear from you—please email <sewaneecivic@gmail.com>.

*Brandon Barry, President,
Sewanee Civic Association*

NOTE OF THANKS

To the Editor:

I want to add my appreciation for all the Sewanee businesses who continue to serve us under these most trying circumstances. Particularly, I had a wonderful experience calling into the Lemon Fair for some gifts for grandchildren we were unable to visit due to COVID-19. They were so helpful, giving me suggestions and helping me choose, even gift-wrapping and shipping the gifts for me. Also, I want to recognize the outstanding efforts the South Cumberland Farmers' Market is making to keep everything and everyone sanitary and safe.

*Yolande McCurdy Gottfried,
Sewanee*

MORE SEWANEE ANGELS

To the Editor:

I was recently looking into the sports side of Sewanee's past, and specifically the history of Sewanee's baseball park.

I want to give a shout-out to Sue Hawkins, the legendary softball coach, for her years of coaching, and also for her years of service as a Registered Nurse at Sewanee's hospital. If you see her I hope you will give her a big smile and wave, and thank her.

And for decades of playing softball on Hawkins' team, my thanks go to players, Peggy Green, Cindy and Jan Hankins; Sandra and Rita Turner; Jan, Belle and Sandy Bennett; Loretta, Alice, Diane and Bonnie Hill; and Gwen and Diane Newell, the umpire crews headed up by Mrs. Hazel Hawkins, as well as anyone whose name I haven't mentioned, plus all their family members.

Thanks, all of you! You are all Sewanee Angels!

*Carl P. Hill,
Sewanee*

BIRDS-ON-MY-HEAD STORY

To the Editor:

Some time ago I wrote you of a titmouse pulling hairs out of my head as I quietly sat on our front porch. It has happened again—twice, just this morning. I write because I believe The Messenger

is the only publication that would appreciate this as news, as I do.

This morning I was again sitting on the porch near some birdseed scattered at my feet, when a titmouse landed on my scalp and began pulling hair. I allowed this to go on awhile, but it hurt, so I slipped my hand to my head. The titmouse flew away.

After a few minutes of peace, it happened again. The bird wanted more hair. I felt happy that I still had enough hair to connect with the titmouse, but the hair plucking was painful, and I don't have as much hair to lose as I did the first time.

Perhaps other readers will enjoy this. Perhaps some of them even have "Birds-on-my-head" stories to share.

*Francis Walter,
Sewanee*

Messenger Break Ahead

The Messenger will be on break May 25–29. We will return to the office on Monday, June 1 and in print on Friday, June 5.

During the summer, a number of organizations and churches change meeting schedules. Please let the Messenger know either by phone 598-9949 or email <news@sewaneemessenger.com> if your organization's schedule will differ from the one published regularly in our printed and online calendar.



— THE SEWANEE MOUNTAIN — MESSENGER

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Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor are welcome at the Sewanee Mountain Messenger and are a vital part of our community's conversation. Letters need to be no longer than 250 words and may be edited for space and clarity. We make exceptions from time to time, but these are our general guidelines. We strive to print all letters we receive, but publication is not guaranteed. Letters should be factually accurate. Letters that are deemed unsuitable for publication shall not be printed elsewhere in the newspaper, including as a paid advertisement.

Letters and/or their author must have some relationship to our community. We do not accept letters on national topics from individuals who live outside our print circulation area. Please include your name, address and a daytime telephone number with your letter. You may mail it to us at Sewanee Mountain Messenger, P.O. Box 296, Sewanee, TN 37375, come by our office, 418 St. Mary's Ln., or send your email to <news@sewaneemessenger.com>. —KB

The Lemon Fair

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SERVING WHERE CALLED

Please keep the following individuals, their families and all those who are serving our country in your thoughts and prayers:

Blaze Cassidy Barry
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Mark Gallagher
Nathaniel P. Gallagher
Peter Green
Zachary Green
Steven Tyler Jeffery
Cheyenne N. Kelly
Gabriel Lloyd
Forrest McBee
Andrew Midgett
Jose D. Ramirez III
Troy (Nick) Sepulveda
Zachary Sherrill
Nick Worley

If you know of others in our Mountain family who are serving our country, please give their names to American Legion and Auxiliary member Louise Irwin, 598-5864.

MESSENGER CONTACTS

Phone: (931) 598-9949

News and Calendar

Tuesday, 5 p.m.
Kiki Beavers
news@sewaneemessenger.com

Sports

Tuesday, 5 p.m.
sports@sewaneemessenger.com

Display Advertising

Monday, 5 p.m.
ads@sewaneemessenger.com

Classified Advertising

Wednesday, noon
April Minkler
classifieds@sewaneemessenger.com

MESSENGER HOURS

Monday, Tuesday and
Wednesday
9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Thursday—Production Day
9 a.m. until pages are
completed
(usually mid-afternoon)

Friday—Circulation Day
Closed

Upcoming Meetings

Franklin County School Board

The Franklin County School Board will meet at 6 p.m., Monday, May 11, at the Board of Education. Board members, principals, supervisors, and the media will have Zoom available to join the meeting. Doors to the building will be closed, but a recorded version of the meeting will be made available to the public later. Items on the agenda will include 2020-21 budget, Board policies, BEP funding, among other items. A link to the full agenda can be found at <www.fcstn.net> under School Board.

Rotary Club Meeting

The Monteagle-Sewanee Rotary will meet via Zoom on Thursday, May 14, at 8 a.m. Non-Rotary members may contact John Solomon, Club President, and request an invitation to the meetings. Email <jc-solomon@sewanee.edu>.

Franklin County Library Board

In cooperation of the recommended guidelines for social distancing, The Franklin County Library Board of Trustees will meet on Wednesday, May 13 at 4 p.m. via phone as provided by <www.freeconferencecall.com>.

To join the meeting at the appointed time, please call the following number and follow the prompts: Dial-in number (US): (701) 802-5241, Access code: 8582146#

For additional assistance connecting to the meeting text 'Call Me' to the Dial-In number above and you will be called into the conference. Message and data rates may apply.

The line will be open promptly at 4 p.m. Chairman Kathy Bennett will share some guidelines for the meeting for effectiveness.

Sewanee Community Council

The next meeting of the Community Council is scheduled for Monday, June 22, 2020, at 7 p.m.

Apply Now: Become a Summer VISTA at Sewanee

The South Cumberland Plateau VISTA Project is now accepting applications for Summer Associate VISTAs. This volunteer opportunity pays a bi-weekly stipend of \$479 and an education allowance of \$1,300 upon completion of service.

Our summer VISTAs serve the plateau community in a variety of functions—from delivering meals to children, to developing websites and social media. The mission of the Summer Associate VISTA Program is to alleviate poverty and improve health and educational outcomes for the plateau's children. Safety is our top priority and we've re-structured our work in order to operate safely in the face of COVID-19.

The program operates from June 8 through Aug. 2 and the application deadline is May 13. To learn more, contact Vicki Borchers at <vmborche@sewanee.edu>. To apply online, google "Summer Associate VISTA 86456" and use applications posted on the AmeriCorps VISTA site, LinkedIn or Glassdoor.

The South Cumberland Plateau AmeriCorps VISTA Project is additionally accepting applications for year-long service positions. We are seeking VISTAs to serve at Grundy County Schools, the South Cumberland Health Network, SETHRA CASA, Mountain TOP and other local non-profit organizations. To apply, google "South Cumberland Plateau VISTA Project 64500" or contact Vicki Borchers at <vmborche@sewanee.edu>. The South Cumberland Plateau VISTA project looks forward to hearing from all interested applicants.


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April Lease Committee Meeting Summary

The following items were approved: March minutes; request to transfer Lease No. 921 (Octopi), located at 36 Ball Park Rd., to David Boyd Williams; request to transfer Lease No. 904 (Henley), located at 251 Hat Rock Rd., to Anne Metz, Betsy Miller, and Kathryn Miller; request to build a new Pilates studio on Lease No. 1063, located at 115 University Ave.; request to remove existing carport and build a garage at Lease No. 562, located at 722 Georgia Ave.; request to hang new shop sign on storefront at Lease No. 585, located at 24 University Ave.; request to replace roof and paint exterior at Lease No. 825, located at 36 Bratton Ln.; request to replace windows at Lease No. 971, located at 277 Wiggins Creek Rd.; request to replace roof and paint exterior at Lease No. 659, located at 147 Louisiana Cir.; request to install metal shed behind home at Lease No. 806, located at 915 Lake O'Donnell Rd.; request to replace roof at Lease No. 953, located at 209 Carpenter Cir.

Leasehold information is available online at <leases.sewanee.edu> or by calling the lease office at 598-1998.

Please be sure and contact the Franklin County Planning and Zoning for any needed permits as well as the local utility companies to ensure there are no issues before beginning your project.

Planning and Zoning office, (931) 967-0981; Duck River Electric Membership Corporation, (931) 598-5228; Sewanee Utility District, water and sewer, (931) 598-5611; Elk River Public Utility District, natural gas, (931) 967-2110.

Agenda items are due by the fifth of each month for Lease Committee meetings. If the fifth falls on a weekend, then items are due the following Monday. Lease Committee meetings are normally the third Tuesday of the month.

Free Legal Clinics

The Legal Aid Society is planning to hold all monthly free legal clinics over the phone due to the official recommendations in response to COVID-19. Local attorneys will offer advice on questions about housing and renters' rights, bankruptcy, medical bills, debt collection, domestic violence, applying for SNAP benefits and applying for unemployment benefits.

Please call 1-800-238-1443 on one of the following dates to join.

Saturday, May 9, 8:30–11 a.m.

Tuesday, May 12, 4:30–6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 14, 3–4:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 16, 8:30–11 a.m.

Tuesday, May 19, 3–4:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 23, 8:30–11 a.m.

Thursday, May 28, 3–4:30 p.m.

For more information please contact Andrae Crismon at acrismon@las.org, or Kendra Cheek at kcheek@las.org or (615) 780-7131.

We're glad you're reading the Messenger!

Voting Information

Aug. 6, 2020 is voting day for the State Primary and County General Election. Early voting in Franklin County takes place July 17-Aug. 1. You may request ballots to be mailed from May 8–July 30.

If you are unable to appear at your polling place on Election Day or during the Early Voting period, you may request an absentee ballot.

Voter registration deadline is July 7.

Offices up in the Election State Primary are United States Senate, United States House of Representatives, Tennessee State Senate, and Tennessee House of Representatives. Offices up for Election County General in Franklin County include winners from primaries, and School Board Members Districts 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

For more information, go to Franklin County <www.franklin-county.us>, or call (931) 967-1893. In Grundy County <grundycountyttn.net>, phone (931) 692-3551. In Marion County <marionvotes.com>, phone (423) 942-2108.

Contact information for election offices, samples ballots and more can also be found at <<https://sos.tn.gov/elections>>.

Tennesseans voting on Election Day should remember to bring valid state or federal photo identification with them to the polls. For information about what types of ID are acceptable, visit GoVoteTN.com or call (877) 850-4959.

Voters can also download the GoVoteTN app. Voters can find early voting and Election Day polling locations, view sample ballots, see names of elected officials and districts, as well as access online election results through the application. Go to <GoVoteTN.com>.



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St. Mary's Sewanee Announces Online Offerings

In response to the social distancing recommended during Covid-19, St. Mary's Sewanee: The Ayres Center for Spiritual Development is pleased to announce that it is offering retreat options in an online format at no charge.

"At St. Mary's Sewanee, we are exploring new ways of finding peace together, even when we must stay apart," said John Runkle, interim executive director. "It feels a bit surprising, but these new ways of connecting work!"

Using Zoom technology, St. Mary's Sewanee is offering a weekly Centering Prayer support group on Tuesday afternoons. For information about how to participate send an email to <admin@stmaryssewanee.org>. There are also links on the St. Mary's Sewanee website to Contemplative Outreach's online Meditation Chapel, which has links to more than 45 other online meditation groups, some of which are in other countries and languages.

Gordon Peerman, a long-time teacher at St. Mary's Sewanee and leader of the Mindfulness on the Mountain retreats, is making his online programs available through St. Mary's Sewanee. His teachings and meditations through One River Wisdom Nashville are available on-demand and in real-time on Wednesday evenings. A link to these programs is on the St. Mary's Sewanee website.

Writer and speaker Susan Packard, co-founder of HGTV, will be offering two online retreats this summer about Spiritual Healing in the Time of Covid-19. More details about these events will be forthcoming.

St. Mary's Sewanee wants to assure everyone: we will be here when this crisis passes. We will be here for you to rest, renew, and reconnect. We eagerly await your arrival when it is safe for us to gather again.

For more information about any of these events, go online to <www.stmaryssewanee.org>.

St. Mary's Sewanee: The Ayres Center for Spiritual Development is dedicated to providing spiritual hospitality to persons of diverse religious and spiritual backgrounds, in a place of natural beauty, simplicity, silence, tranquility and warm spiritual rest through retreats, renewal and learning. For more than 30 years, St. Mary's Sewanee has welcomed individuals and groups from across the United States and around the world to a place to rest, renew and reconnect.

Church News

Christ Church

Morning Prayer and Sermon will be the form of the service on May 10th at Christ Church Monteagle. The second Sunday in May is the American Mothers' Day, and we will keep that as well. So far we have had no trouble honoring extreme Social Distancing, but we respect those who are still not comfortable with attending a service in a building yet. With that in mind, we invite people to stop by and cut an Iris or two for yourself, or as a gift. We have a lot of blooms.

Our Sunday our services begin at 10:45 a.m. and conclude well before noon. We have a booklet entitled "A newcomer's guide to Morning Prayer" which should be helpful to anyone who is unfamiliar with this particular service.

Otey Memorial Parish

Sunday worship services will be online at the Otey Memorial Parish Facebook Page and YouTube channel starting at 8:30 a.m.

Christian Formation for children and youth is being offered online, as well. For more information on how to participate, please contact <oteyformation@gmail.com>.

CAC continues to serve the needy while observing sensible precautions, 9-11 a.m., Monday through Friday. Please call (931) 598-5927.

The parish office is closed and staff are working remotely. The office phone (598-5926) and email <oteyparish@gmail.com> are being monitored and messages responded to.



Obituary

Ralph Edward Johnson

Ralph Edward Johnson, age 70 of Winchester, died on April 20, 2020, at his home. He was born on Aug. 30, 1949, in Sewanee, to Frank and June Haney. He served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Jerry Johnson and Anthony Johnson, and grandchildren Kassie Garner, Kasey Allen Garner and Jayden Hill.

He is survived by his daughters, Kimberly Hill and June Johnson, both of Winchester; brother Michael Haney of Stevenson, Ala.; step-daughter, Kelley Walls; uncle and aunt, James and Pat Roberts; aunt, Hazel Hawkins; seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Graveside Services were on May 2, 2020, at Franklin Memorial Gardens with military honors bestowed. For complete obituary go to <www.moorecortner.com>.

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Church Calendar

5:15 p.m. Wednesday Suppers, Wednesday
6 p.m. Bible Study, Wednesday

Mountain of God Tabernacle, Monteagle
(online worship services via Zoom. Info: call (931) 924-5339 or go online, <www.WildfireOnTheMountain.com>)

11 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday
New Beginnings Church, Monteagle

10:45 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday
5 p.m. Worship Service, Sunday

New Beginnings Church, Pelham
9:45 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday

New Creations Ministries

4 p.m. Prayer Meeting, Sunday

New Hope Church of God in Christ, Cowan

11 a.m. Sunday Service, Sunday

6 p.m. Sunday Service, Sunday

Otey Memorial Parish Church

8:30 a.m. (and available afterward)—Sunday service on the Otey Memorial Parish Facebook page and the Otey Memorial Parish YouTube channel. For info on how to participate in Sunday School or Forum, contact <oteyformation@gmail.com>. Repeats at 11 a.m.

Pelham United Methodist Church
(services online)

9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Sunday

11 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday

St. Agnes' Episcopal Church, Cowan
(www.facebook.com/saintagnescowan1899)

10 a.m. Sunday School, Sunday

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Sunday

St. James Episcopal Church
(services canceled until further notice)

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Sunday

10:30 a.m. Adult Education, Sundays in Lent

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, Alto
(all masses/gatherings canceled until further notice)

8 a.m. Mass, Sunday

Sewanee Church of God

10 a.m. Sunday School, Sunday

11 a.m. Morning Service, Sunday

6 p.m. Evening Service, Sunday

Sisters of St. Mary's Convent
(Convent and Chapel closed until further notice)

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Sunday

5 p.m. Evensong, Sunday

7 a.m. Morning Prayer, Tuesday–Friday

7:30 a.m. Eucharist, Tuesday–Friday

noon Stations of the Cross, Friday

5 p.m. Evening Prayer, Tuesday–Sunday

7:45 p.m. Compline, Tuesday–Friday

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, Saturday

8 a.m. Eucharist, Saturday

St. Mary's Sewanee
(all activities canceled until further notice)

3:30 p.m. Centering Prayer, Tuesday

4 p.m. Centering Prayer, McRae Room,
Wednesday

Tracy City First Baptist Church
(services canceled until further notice)

9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Sunday

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship, Sunday

6 p.m. Evening Worship, Sunday

6:30 p.m. Gospel Project for Children, Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Youth, Wednesday

7 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Wednesday

Tracy City First United Methodist Church
(services canceled until further notice)

8:30 a.m. Early Service, Sunday

9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Sunday

11 a.m. Morning Worship, Sunday

6 p.m. Evening Bible Study, Sunday

5:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship, Wednesday

Trinity Episcopal Church, Winchester
(services canceled until further notice)

9:15 a.m. Adult Forum, Sunday

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Sunday

United Pentecostal, Monteagle

10 a.m. Sunday School, Sunday

11 a.m. Worship, Sunday

7 p.m. Worship, Wednesday

Unitarian Universalist, Tullahoma
(services canceled until further notice)

10 a.m. Service, Sunday

6 p.m. Tullahoma Sangha, Wednesday

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'Floating' (from page 1)

water supports heavier substances.

Similar to needles afloat on water, the works in this exhibition point in different directions, but together exist in a delicate and tense state of balance.

"The works deal with contradictions and resistance, and vulnerability and resilience. By doing so, this group of art majors manifests an almost prescient awareness of the stresses and strains precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic," according to the UAG press release.

Smith's body of work is called "Photosympathy" and is meant to represent an investigation of the female experience and how it relates to a flower.

"Historically, women have been associated with a flower's beauty and delicacy, but our experiences have also always been associated with the flower. For example, we bloom and we blossom. My work takes these ideas into consideration but also adds its own as well," she said. "Like flowers, women get rained on, we get picked apart, we get trimmed and snipped, we feel the need to present ourselves like a perfect bouquet of roses."

Smith said it is the aim of her work to push the viewer to consider how exactly a woman is 'grown.'

"Overall, the work is an attempt to evoke empathy for the female experience through a floral, 'feminine' language," she said.

Pradip Malde, associate professor of art at the University, said all of the senior art majors arrived at the themes of their work on their own.

"One of the core objectives of the Art major is to consider and bring about an understanding of the relationship between self and society. We ask each major to place their work in the broader realm of human experience and to assess this by writing about the work, giving a public talk and presenting an exhibition. We could not have a physical exhibition, but going online brings us part way to fulfilling this important objective," he said.

Smith said as far as what inspires her work, the sources are endless. But for "Photosympathy," she channeled her own experience transitioning from adolescence to young adulthood.

"I am trying to pin down where I am, who I am, and how I feel now in the present moment through art. That is why art is such a gift because I can just do, and then what I do becomes a document or a relic of how I once did," she said.

To view the seniors' works, visit <http://art3.sewanee.edu/class/430/> and go to the blog page.

Help for Sewanee Businesses

by Leslie Lytle, Messenger Staff Writer

"These are trying and scary times for business owners," said Joseph Sumpter, featured speaker at the May 5 Sewanee Village Update meeting. "As the president of the Sewanee Business Alliance (SBA), it has been challenging to see the suffering going on."

Like Sumpter, who owns Joseph's Remodeling Solutions, the businesses represented on the SBA's rolls are all small businesses, not franchises or corporate entities that can rely on financial assistance from the parent company. SBA business owners operate restaurants, hair salons, filling station and specialty stores.

With a goal of enabling area small businesses to continue to "support their clients" and ultimately "to stay alive and survive" during the ongoing pandemic, the SBA has established a General Fund fueled by donations.

Explaining the process, Sumpter said businesses needing assistance submit an application via email. A board made up of non-business owners evaluates the applications and makes confidential recommendations for disbursements. Sumpter credited business owners Kiki Beavers and Aaron Welch for designing and streamlining the General Fund project.

To donate to the fund, go to www.sewaneevillage.com and select "Click here to help." Sumpter noted that although the SBA is a nonprofit, donations are not tax deductible under the provisions of its 501(c)6 status.

"We are on our second round of giving grants," Sumpter said. "We have received a huge outpouring of support from community members and alumni." The tax-deduction issue does not seem to have discouraged donors. The fund has collected more than \$26,000 in donations in amounts ranging from \$10 to \$5,000.

Sumpter lauded Sewanee area business for the ways they have adapted to the pandemic. Shenanigans has reopened in a "cautious manner" where ordering occurs through a plexiglass barrier. The Blue Chair offers take out and limited seating outside. Fine Arts on the Mountain interacts with students both online and through a plexiglass wall.

"Sewanee area businesses want your advice and support," Sumpter stressed, urging community members to reach out to them with suggestions or concerns.

"Our goal is to still be in business when the pandemic ends, to keep calm and keep going."

Sewanee Village project coordinator Frank Gladu read an update from Eric Hartman, chair of the Emergency Management Executive Team charged with overseeing the response to the pandemic on the Domain. Summer school and other programs will operate remotely, Hartman said. Students would be returning a few each day to collect their belongings and were allowed to have only one other person accompanying them.

Gladu also announced the Tiger Tuesday fundraiser, which will begin May 19. Donations help purchase amenities that enhance the attractiveness of downtown. The Village project has received a \$5,000 matching gift and set its goal at \$10,000. Proceeds from last year's fundraiser bought Adirondack chairs and banners.

The Sewanee Village Update meeting was held via the Facebook live stream format. In a report on key initiatives, Gladu said right of way work continued for the Highway 41A road-narrowing project, and "the bookstore is coming along nicely." Gladu hopes to live stream the June meeting from the bookstore.

We're glad you're reading the Messenger!



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**School Board** (from page 1)

sick leave and leave when a parent is absent from work to care for a child; and provide for paying employees during emergency closing of the schools.

"All the employees who had contracts with us were paid through the end of the school year, certified employees, classified employees, bus drivers and cafeteria workers," Bean said. "Cafeteria worker who put in extra time doing preparations for the meals program received a bonus."

"The food service bonus was paid out of the food service budget," Walker explained.

The board also moved a resolution on temporary policy modification to the consent agenda. The resolution suspends and provides for modifications to policies governing testing, grading, graduation, teacher evaluation, and attendance for online courses. For full details, see [https://go.boarddocs.com/tn/franklin/Board.nsf/files/BP4MKP5BA51D/\\$file/Resolution%20-%20Emergency%20Suspension%20of%20Board%20Policies.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/tn/franklin/Board.nsf/files/BP4MKP5BA51D/$file/Resolution%20-%20Emergency%20Suspension%20of%20Board%20Policies.pdf).

Leading into the budget discussion, Assistant Superintendent Linda Foster updated the board on expected Basic Education Program funding from the state. Franklin County Schools anticipates receiving an additional \$238,000 for the 2020-21 school year. The state has mandated the school system spend an additional \$240,000 on certified employees' salaries. To that end, Foster proposed amending the certified pay scale to increase salaries for teachers with 21-25 years' experience by one percent with an additional one percent for those who have served 25 years or more.

"This group got nothing last year," Foster said, explaining her recommendation. The salary increase for the 21-25 years' experience group would cost \$259,882.

County Deputy Finance Director Cindy Latham provided an overview of the proposed 2020-21 budget. In addition to the step increases for the 21-25 years' experience certified employees, the budget calls for a 1.6 percent wage increase for classified employees; no increase for contract bus drivers; a projected 3 percent increase in health insurance premiums beginning in January 2021; and a .36 percent decrease in retirement insurance for certified employees.

For 2020-21, projected revenue increased by almost \$800,000, Latham said. The largest portion of the anticipated revenue increase will come from property taxes, local option sales tax, and the BEP funding increase.

Looking to the bottom line, Latham said the budget shortfall required drawing only \$500,000 from the reserve fund balance. For 2019-20, the anticipated draw was \$1.2 million, but only \$1 million was needed. By law, the reserve fund must contain at least three percent of operating costs, \$1.36 million for 2020-21. At the end of the 2020-21 school year, projections show \$3.23 million remaining in the fund.

"It's a good budget," Bean said.

Happy Mother's Day!

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In the coming weeks, the University will be removing an area of white pine from a firelane that historically has been part of the Caldwell Rim Trail. In an effort to minimize disruption to recreation from this activity, a new return loop has been added to the Caldwell Rim Trail that bypasses this section of firelane. The firelane will be closed while harvesting is in operation. Please see the map above for the affected area and the new trail option.

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Attend a local meeting and meet some of our Monteagle-Sewanee Rotarians. Our Rotary Club often hosts programs of interest to our community at large, including presentations by artists, business leaders and government representatives. Visitors are always welcome!

Breakfast Meeting Thursday, 8 a.m., Sewanee Inn
(please check the Messenger for occasional location changes)

This month's events:

May 7: Glenn Czarniecki, TN Dept. of Health, COVID-19 Testing and Tracing

May 14: Kiki Beavers, Sewanee Mountain Messenger

May 21: Jennifer Keaton, St. Thomas Mobile Health Unit

May 28: Judge Claudia Haltom, The Step Ahead Foundation

For more information, or to plan a visit,

email John Solomon <jcsolomo@sewanee.edu>

MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE VIA ZOOM

website: www.monteaglesewanee Rotary.org

Move-out Process for College Students

College students began arriving on Sewanee's campus—in very limited numbers—on May 6. Students and families will return to Sewanee to retrieve their belongings over the next several weeks.

Many students did not have the opportunity to pack up their rooms when the university was forced by the COVID-19 pandemic to move to remote learning. The move-out process is being carefully regulated through the Office of Student Life, and is scheduled according to the current travel restrictions in specific states. The number of students who can move out of any particular residence hall is limited to 10 per day, and those students will be allowed on campus from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. only. In order to protect the community, all individuals involved with move-outs are required to practice social distancing and wear face coverings and gloves.

In order to minimize waste, the university's Office of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability is collecting, decontaminating, and donating specific items (plastic, metal, or wood, for example) that students do not wish to keep.

The move-out process is scheduled to last through the end of June.

Sewanee Community Funding Requests

The Sewanee Community Funding Project Committee, in conjunction with the Sewanee Community Council, is seeking proposals for COVID-19 related community needs on the Domain using funds previously allocated for improvements and projects on the Domain. Only existing organizations serving local residents of Sewanee may apply; we are unable to accept applications from individuals. The total funding available is \$15,700. To apply, please complete all required fields and email supporting documents; complete applications include supporting documents emailed to sewaneeCFproject@gmail.com and specific detailed information. Applications will be reviewed weekly. Go to <https://new.sewanee.edu/offices/university-offices/leases-and-community-relations/community-council/>.

Justin Taylor Named Director of the Sewanee School of Letters

Dean of the College Terry Papillon has announced that teacher, writer, and editor Justin Taylor has been named the next director of the Sewanee School of Letters at the University of the South. Taylor has taught writing at the graduate and undergraduate level in programs across the U.S., including most recently in the University of Montana M.F.A. program and at Willamette University as the 2018-2019 Presidential Distinguished Visiting Scholar.

Taylor is the author of the story collections "Everything Here Is the Best Thing Ever" and "Flings," and the novel "The Gospel of Anarchy." His next book, the memoir "Riding with the Ghost," is forthcoming this year. He serves as the fiction editor at the Literary Review.

"Justin will bring a new energy to the Sewanee School of Letters that can lead us into the future, building on the strengths created by previous directors John Grammer and John Gatta," said Papillon. "His experience and professional stature as a writer will be very valuable, and I am awfully pleased to have Justin join us."

Taylor's work has appeared in The New Yorker, Harper's, and the Sewanee Review, among other publications. "From the first time I set foot on the Domain (for the Sewanee Review's 500th issue celebration), I knew that it was a special place, one with a strong commitment to both creative writing and the study of literature," said Taylor.

"As the new director of the School of Letters, I hope to build on the School's record of success, find new ways to recruit and support students, and also to support the work of my counterparts at the Review and the Sewanee Writers' Conference. Together, we'll write the next chapters of Sewanee's rich, storied literary history."

Adam Ross, editor of the Sewanee Review, praised the decision to appoint Taylor: "This is enormously exciting, and will only bolster the program's reputation. For one, he's a writer of the first order, having distinguished himself as a critic, as an author of multiple story collections, and as a memoirist. He's also a great literary citizen, someone who has connections throughout the entire American literary community, and I'm certain he'll continue to bring remarkable teaching talent to the Mountain. Most importantly, he brings a vision to an already great program that will not only broaden its appeal but make it an even more decided leader in the field."

The School of Letters is an innovative summers-only MA in English and MFA in creative writing program at the University of the South, home to a long-standing literary tradition. The School enrolled its first summer master's degree students in 2006 and granted its first degree in 2009. Among its 112 graduates are Dana Award and Sinclair Award recipients, Pushcart Prize finalists, and a Grammy Award winner. For six weeks every summer, students and faculty have worked and lived on Sewanee's mountaintop campus. This year, the summer session is being designed for remote learning to accommodate the challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. An expanded roster of writers, scholars, and publishing professionals will "visit" the program throughout the 2020 session.



Justin Taylor

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Sewanee Parks Closed

As part of the continuing effort to promote physical distancing and protect the well-being of our community, the following Sewanee parks are closed: Elliott Park, the Community Center playground, the Phil White Dog Park, the Woodlands playground, and the ball field park. The playgrounds at Sewanee Elementary School, Orey Parish, and St. James/Midway Community Park are also closed.

Trailhead parking areas on the Domain of the University of the South are closed. This includes Breakfield Road, parking lots near the University Gates, the Memorial Cross, the end of Green's View Road, near Morgan's Steep, both sides of Lake Chestion, and Caldwell Rim/Potter's Ridge Trails.

Until further notice, the St. Andrew's-Sewanee School campus, including all trails and the Res, is closed to visitors.

Sewanee residents and families are encouraged to use other outdoor options for physical activity that have fewer potential points of contact. Remember to practice physical distancing—stay 6 feet apart from others—on the trails and sidewalks.

Tennessee Pledge: Next Steps for Small Group Recreation

The Economic Recovery Group will issue guidance for Tennessee's small group recreation businesses to begin a safe reopening starting Friday, May 8. The group will also issue guidance for businesses that have remained open during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as offices, manufacturing, and construction industries that require critical supplies to safely operate.

The State recommends safeguarding protocols for all businesses in Tennessee, including those that are reopening and those essential businesses that remained open during the Safer at Home order. These safeguarding protocols are based on the recommendations of the CDC and OSHA. To support the Tennessee Pledge, all employers and employees should take steps to reopen safely, help other industries be able to open more quickly, and allow Tennessee to remain healthy and open for business.

Go to <<https://www.tn.gov/governor/covid-19/covid-19-daily-bulletin/2020/5/5/covid-19-bulletin-31---may-5--2020.html>> for more information.



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St. Andrew's-Sewanee To Welcome CFOO

St. Andrew's-Sewanee School recently announced that Jennifer Dillon will join the school as Chief Financial and Operations Officer (CFOO) in mid-July. This is a new position that combines the positions of Chief Financial Officer and Director of Physical Plant.

Dillon, who attended SAS parent schools St. Andrew's School for a year and Sewanee Academy for three years, is a seasoned accounting and operations executive with a passion for small business and educational not-for-profit organizations. She is strategic-minded and has a proven track record of establishing necessary policies and procedures to enhance compliance and productivity.

Dillon is currently CFOO at the Highlands School, a pre-K through grade 8 school in Birmingham, Ala. At Highlands School, Dillon oversees finance, human resources, facilities, food service, transportation, administrative support team, risk management, legal support activities, information technology, development, and marketing. She was previously Director of Finance and Operations of the Congressional School in Falls Church, Va., and Powhatan School in Boyce, Va. and worked in private industry as a CPA, controller, and accountant.

Dillon holds an AA in Accounting from New River Community College and a BA in Public Relations from Otterbein College. She is also licensed as a CPA in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of Alabama.

Dillon succeeds CFO Sarah Lodge who will retire at the end of this fiscal year and former Director of Physical Plant Karen Singer who accepted the position of Vice President for Facilities Management at the University of the South early this year. Dillon will join the SAS community on July 13.



Jennifer Dillon

Responding to the Census

The 2020 Census is happening now. You can complete your questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail.

Most households received their invitation to respond to the 2020 Census between March 12–20. These official Census Bureau mailings will include detailed information and a Census ID for completing the Census online.

The 2020 Census will ask a few simple questions about you and everyone who is living with you on April 1, 2020. You have the option of completing the questionnaire by phone. To begin, call 844-330-2020.

The 2020 Census counts everyone living in the United States and its five territories. One person should respond for each home. They should live in the home or place of residence themselves and know general information about each person living there.

You should be counted where you are living and sleeping most of the time as of April 1, 2020. If you are responding for your home, count everyone who lives and sleeps there most of the time as of April 1, 2020. This includes young children, foster children, roommates, and any family members or friends who are living with you, even temporarily.

Please note that if someone is staying with you temporarily on April 1 due to the COVID-19 situation, they should be counted where they usually live. This includes college students, who should still be counted at school, even if they are home early because of the COVID-19 situation. If they live in student housing, the college will count them. If they live off campus, they should respond for the off-campus address and include any roommates or other people living there.

If someone is staying with you on April 1 who doesn't have a usual home elsewhere, please include them in your response.

People in some living situations—including students, service members, and people in health care facilities—may have questions about how to respond or where they should count themselves. You may also have questions if you are moving, have multiple residences, or have no permanent address.

For complete information go to <www.2020census.gov>.



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Free Stress Relief Class

Bodyworks Youniversity is offering our community members a free Stress Relief class, Friday's at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Participants should warm up bath towels in the dryer for about 20-30 minutes before the class. You will also need a strap of some sort for stretching and a tennis or massage ball for fascial release. Instructor Kim Butters will verbally take you through each part of your body, relaxing tensions using visualizations, deep breathing and fascial release techniques. You will finish feeling refreshed, taller and more open and easy in your body.

Please email Kim Butters at <kim_butters59@hotmail.com> for the Zoom link. The normal class price is \$12 and participants are encouraged to donate the class price or amount of their choice to the Sewanee Village Fund at <sewaneevillage.com> to help our small businesses.

Bodyworks Youniversity is also offering a physical and mental health break to all our citizens sheltering at home. Beginner and Intermediate Pilates classes are being offered Monday-Friday in Angel Park (weather permitting) where there is plenty of "social distancing" space as well as sunshine to help your body create immune boosting Vitamin D and fresh air to keep your respiratory system in tip top shape. Classes are also being simulcast on Zoom.

Contact Kim Butters, <kim_butters59@hotmail.com> or (423) 322-1443 for more information.



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MLS 2145687 - 72 Maxon Ln., Sewanee. \$479,500



771 Breakfield Rd., Sewanee. \$489,000



BLUFF - MLS 2063145 - 185 Turning Point Ln.,
Sewanee. 12+acres. \$698,000



MLS 2143607 - 2230 Sherwood Rd., (renovated)
Sewanee. 1 acre. \$179,000



MLS 2133351 - 112 Maple St., Sewanee.
\$223,000



MLS 2136495 - 222 Lily Ln., Jasper. \$99,500



MLS 2116520 - 394 Dykes Hollow Rd. 10+/- acres.
\$245,000



MLS 2142189 - 283 Green's View Rd., Sewanee. \$389,000



MLS 2112396 - 1020 Sherwood Rd.,
Sewanee. \$192,000



Bear Court - Monteagle \$29,000



MLS 2101257 - 149 Gudger Rd., Sewanee.
5 acres. \$269,000



MLS 2138387 - 1528 Monteagle Falls Rd., six rental units.
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Bear Ct., .58 ac, #20		2130058	\$29,000
13 Browbend Dr., 1.9ac		2130040	\$54,000
14 Browbend Dr., 1.5 ac		2130051	\$54,000
8 Jackson Pt. Rd. 5 ac		2115740	\$36,000
1159 Sassafra Ct., 5.27 ac		2072615	\$59,000
57 Edgewater Ct. Win.		2062210	\$28,900
0 Gipson PENDING		2089624	\$499,500
Will divide into tracts, 15 acres +			

BLUFF TRACTS			
9 Jackson Pt. Rd. 12.66 ac		2105112	\$159,000
36 Long View Ln. 2.57 ac		2073074	\$75,000
2 Jackson Pt. PENDING ac		2014037	\$88,000
16 Laurel Lake Dr.		1989467	\$97,500
14 Jackson Pt. Rd 18.6 ac		1803643	\$129,500
3 Horseshoe Ln. 5.6 ac		1608010	\$60,000
15 Saddletree Ln. 6.12 ac		1978549	\$68,000



MLS 2134567 - 83 Bryan Dr., Winchester.
\$315,000



MLS 1983502 - 174 Carpenter Cir., Sewanee.
\$460,000

SEWANEE NOW AND THEN

Sewanee Trust for Historic Preservation

Little Oscar: A Sewanee Mummy Mystery

by Owen LeGrone

The presence of a mummy at the University of the South is one of the lesser-known aspects of its history. Today, even many seasoned Sewanee denizens do not remember that the creature known as Little Oscar ever existed, and fewer still know of his intriguing history, which spanned at least two decades in the first half of the 20th century. Oscar was closely linked to the Beta Theta chapter of Delta Tau Delta fraternity, which owned him. I heard fragments of the story when I pledged Delt in 2015 and have sought to unearth more ever since. What follows is a brief synopsis of my research, with the hope that additional details will someday come to light.

Who, or what, was Little Oscar? While there is no definitive proof, evidence generally suggests that he was a macabre artistic creation, probably crafted from papier-mâché or plaster, in the rough shape of a human body. Photographs show him to have been around three feet tall and curled in a fetal position, with a bizarre elongated head bearing a strangely melancholy expression. His skin was patterned with odd cracks, and his limbs and other features had a baked and molded look to them. As related to me by Dr. David Hurst, the curator of the “Mummies” exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History, these details indicate that Little Oscar was a “deliberate creation” rather than an actual dead person. He may have been built on a flexible frame, because photos suggest re-posing or even re-molding of his features over time.

While the photographic evidence can give us an inkling of Oscar's composition, his origin remains far more mysterious. The first mention of him appears in a 1931 Beta Theta alumni newsletter. In the middle of a section titled “Reminiscences”, the author asks if we remember “how the chapter acquired ‘Little Oscar’ the mummy.” The question hangs in the air, unanswered. Oscar could have been donated by a student, purchased (or stolen) from a carnival sideshow or museum, or created as a spooky art project. Fraternal organization suppliers of the time, such the Illinois-based DeMoulin Bros. and Co., provided papier-mâché skeletons, skulls, dead bodies, and many other items for ritual purposes - though an inquiry to their staff turned up no leads regarding a mummy.

The Delt fraternity advisor in Oscar's time, Spanish professor William Waters Lewis, may provide another clue. Lewis, affectionately known as “Señor”, had been teaching for nine years when the 1931 newsletter was printed. He lived in the Delt chapter house, where the mummy was most often photographed, and in one case they even appeared in a yearbook together. Before entering academia he also spent many years in Peru, a country known for indigenous mummies, which, like Oscar - and unlike the stiff, bandaged Egyptian mummies of American pop culture - are often found curled in a fetal position. If Señor brought home a spooky souvenir, however, he always stayed “mum” about it. There are no indications of such a thing in his extensive personal papers in the Archives, and so this theory, however intriguing, remains just that.

Oscar's first years at Sewanee appear to have been relatively low-key. After 1931, he did not appear again until a 1936 group photo of the fraternity in the Cap and Gown. From this time forward, the members of the organization appear to have become bolder in marketing their mummy. The next year, one of them wrote to the Rainbow, the fraternity's national magazine, of a highly questionable practice. “Beta Theta has a tradition,” he related triumphantly, “that when a girl first enters the Shelter, she must kiss either Oscar, the Delta mummy, or her escort. Boy, which did she choose!”

The mummy's greatest moment came in the fall of 1940, when Life magazine visited Sewanee for a short piece on its fraternity rush system. The photographer assigned to the story was Alfred Eisenstaedt, an Austrian Jew who had fled Nazi persecution five years earlier for the United States. Today Eisenstaedt is known for some of the most iconic photographs of the 20th century, including the famous capture of a sailor kissing a woman in Times Square on V-J Day, 1945. Indeed, an echo of that couple's passionate embrace appeared in one of his shots of Sewanee, taken within the Beta Theta house - and Little Oscar was behind it. The boy and girl, whose faces cannot be seen, are posing to illustrate the results of the brothers' “tradition”, which is explained in the caption: “Delta Tau Delta mummy is a useful stooge. Girls are told, ‘Kiss mummy or kiss me.’ Only one ever chose mummy.” There is no mention of Oscar in the accompanying text. Likewise, the girl who apparently chose to kiss the mummy, perhaps out of well-justified spite at such a coercive



Snapshot from the 1946 Cap and Gown featuring Mr. Lewis standing behind Little Oscar.



The famous photograph from the October 21, 1940 issue of Life magazine



A costumed Oscar in the tiger's “mouth.”

practice, went unnamed. No other records survive of Eisenstaedt's visit, either at Time-Life headquarters or the Sewanee Archives.

It was not only at the dances that Oscar was treated with less than extreme respect. In some photos he was held aloft like a trophy. Another boy placed a cigarette in his desiccated mouth. One image, taken from the collection of a member of the class of 1952, shows him atop the painted paw of a wood-framed Sewanee Tiger in front of the fraternity house, a crude facsimile of a Native American headband around his head - probably as part of a Homecoming decoration.

The only firsthand account of Little Oscar I have been able to obtain comes from Waring McCrady, C'59, who saw him as a child during an annual fraternity open-house event in the 1940s. Oscar was, in his memory, housed in a glass case on a table in the back room of the first floor. During World War II, almost every aspect of the campus life that Eisenstaedt captured in his article was uprooted. But the mummy survived to make appearances in the 1946, 1947, and 1950 Cap and Gown.

Like his provenance, the fate of Little Oscar is unknown. He is last mentioned by name in an article in the Purple dated April 30th, 1952. In hijinks typical of college students then and now, unknown persons stole him, as well as other items, from various Greek organizations. However, it also relates that he was recovered after “a short stop at the Kappa Sigma house and an extensive tour of the Sewanee Inn.” If he didn't disappear then, where did he go? No later references exist in student publications, and none of the graduates I contacted about him from 1954 onwards have any memories. To this day Oscar remains a strange and fascinating being, and I can only hope that more about his odd Sewanee career remains to be discovered.

If you have heard of Little Oscar or know any stories about him, please contact the author at legroow0@sewanee.edu or (615) 499-0992.

Access to Materials from duPont Library

The Jessie Ball duPont Library building is closed to the public. The library will offer a weekday pick-up service for library materials requested in advance.

To request library materials from the collection, please email the following information to our circulation staff by noon each day. These items will be available for pickup from 2–4 p.m. the same day. To make a request, email <reserves@sewanee.edu>, or call the circulation staff at (931) 598-1664.

Be sure to include: The title of the material(s) you want; a call number would be appreciated, but not required. Your contact information: name, phone number, and email address.

Materials will be checked out to your account by the Circulation staff and then shelved alphabetically by your last name on the book truck. Items will be available for pick up between 2–4 p.m. on a book truck on the library's

covered front porch. Materials not picked up during that period will be reshelfed. If the pick-up time does not work for you, please let us know. We will contact you about an alternative method or time to get materials to you.

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We want to remind you about our Overdrive service for easy access to our ebooks and electronic audiobooks. Go to <https://sewanee.overdrive.com/> to learn more. You can make recommendations for purchase through this website.

Food News from the Area

Community Action Committee will distribute food to anyone who needs it. Betty Carpenter will be in the office Monday–Friday, from 9–11 a.m. as usual, but no volunteers will be coming.

The Folks at Home/Community Collaborative is available to help any elder or high-risk member of the community with grocery orders and/or Monday and Thursday deliveries to your doorstep. Please contact Folks at Home, (931) 598-0303 or <folksathomesewanee@gmail.com>.

Mooney's Market & Emporium will be offering curbside pickup. Hours are Monday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Mooney's is now only allowing two people in the store at one time and you must wear a mask. Call them at (931) 924-7400.

Piggly Wiggly in Monteagle is not offering delivery, but is stocked with a variety of food and products.

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Hildi



Ruckus

Pets of the Week

Meet Hildi & Ruckus

Hildi is a two-year-old grey tabby cat. Hildi is a sweet girl, but also shy until she gets to know you and spends more time with you. She loves her time spent outdoors on our cat patio where she posts on the highest shelf to gaze down at everything around her. She would love a home where she can lay in a window and watch birds. Hildi is friendly with children and other cats. She is so soft and cuddly, and we think she would make a variety of families a great loving companion. Hildi is up-to-date on all vaccinations, FIV/FelV negative, spayed, and microchipped.

Ruckus is a two-year-old shar-pei mix with an extremely sweet personality and true southern charm. Ruckus will require a patient and nurturing adopter. Ruckus is considered a special needs dog for a couple of reasons. First, Ruckus suffers from separation anxiety, and needs to be with a family that understands the condition, that spends time training him and making him feel comfortable in his new space. Ruckus also suffers from a medical condition that requires him to be on an enzymatic medication so he can absorb all the nutrients he needs to thrive. Ruckus is great with other animals, and we think being in a home with another pet could really improve his anxiety. Ruckus is in a dire need to be out of the shelter, for the shelter environment is very hard on a dog with his condition. Ruckus is up-to-date on vaccinations, heartworm-negative, neutered, and microchipped. If you have a place in your heart and home for a very special furbaby, please come meet Ruckus today and show him someone really cares.

Animal Harbor is located at 56 Nor-Nan Rd., off AEDC Road, in Winchester. Call Animal Harbor at 962-4472 for information and check out the other pets at <www.animalharbor.org>. Enter their drawing on this site for a free spay or neuter for one of your pets. Help Animal Harbor continue to save abandoned pets by sending your donations to Animal Harbor, P.O. Box 187, Winchester, TN 37398.

Local, Fresh Food at Area Markets

The Sewanee Gardeners' Market, open every Saturday, 8–10 a.m. in the summer, will have its opening day Saturday, June 6. The Market is located on Highway 41A, next to Hawkins Lane and the Mountain Goat Trail.

The South Cumberland Farmers' Market has breads, fruits and vegetables, eggs, coffee and meats available. Learn more online at <<http://sewanee.locallygrown.net>>.

The Franklin County Farmers' Market is open 7 a.m.–1 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday on Dinah Shore Boulevard, Winchester, next to the Franklin County Annex building. Meats, eggs, baked and canned goods, arts and crafts and more are available.

Read what you have been missing!
<www.sewanee-messenger.com>

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Join Tennessee State Parks as we celebrate World Bee Day on May 20 by doing a virtual 5K!

The race kicks off when you are ready to go on any day between May 17 and May 23. Whether your course is a treadmill or your neighborhood sidewalk, this event is open to all skill levels who like to run, walk, or a combination of both! You can log your time at any point during the week. We encourage everyone to complete your miles on May 20 in the spirit of celebrating World Bee Day!

A portion of the proceeds from this virtual 5K will benefit our Tennessee State Park Honey Project, which helps establish honey bee hives in parks across the state.

The registration fee is \$20. This fee includes a virtual bib, finishers medal, and a certificate for donating to the Tennessee State Park Honey Project.

Check out the Honey Project at this link for more information, <<https://tnstateparks.com/honey-project>>.

WEATHER

DAY	DATE	HI	LO
Mon	Apr 27	69	48
Tue	Apr 28	75	57
Wed	Apr 29	64	46
Thu	Apr 30	65	46
Fri	May 01	71	60
Sat	May 02	80	59
Sun	May 03	81	61

Week's Stats:

Avg max temp =	72
Avg min temp =	54
Avg temp =	63
Precipitation =	1.85"

Reported by Sandy Gilliam
Domain Ranger

State Park Use Reminder

The South Cumberland State Park is open for day use only, 7 a.m.–6 p.m. Please note overcrowding may cause entire parks or portions of parks to close again.

Facilities and gathering areas, including pavilions and playgrounds will remain closed. Cabins, lodges, restaurants, campgrounds, and group camps remain closed.

For up-to-date information on park closures go to <www.tnstateparks.com>.

NATURENOTES

by Yolande Gottfried



Phoebe

We heard the Eastern Wood Pewee last weekend for the first time this spring. And the Eastern Phoebe is nesting once again on our porch. A Phoebe has nested on our porch near the back door since 1999, before we even moved into the house, except for a year or two when house finches took over all the nesting sites. This year they moved the nest site around the corner to a less trafficked area of the porch and a little away from the cats' usual perches. Phoebes are noted for their tameness and they didn't seem much bothered by our going in and out. In fact, a Phoebe may have been one of the first birds ever banded, by Audubon in 1840. Phoebes and Pewees are birds whose songs are easy to learn, because they say their names. Phoebes call loudly and often, saying "fee-be" and "fee-blee." Pewees whistle a slower, sweeter "pee-oo-wee" with an upward lilt, and "pee-oo," with a downward. The Phoebe is with us year-round. It does flick its tail, but downwards, differing from other flycatchers. It hunts from conspicuous perches and often nests on buildings or other manmade structures, so we see it often. The Pewee is around the same size as the Phoebe and is also in the flycatcher group, but it doesn't have the tail-wagging behavior of most flycatchers. It does forage and nest in the middle to upper canopy of the forest, which explains why we haven't seen it. Its arrival in spring, heralded by its song, is one of the highlights of the season.

On Wednesday **Paula and Clay Yeatman** noticed colorful birds at their feeder, the Rose Breasted Grosbeaks. "They are migrating and will probably continue further north."

John Palisano reported on Saturday that he has had three to five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at his feeder for a couple of weeks. "While they are sharing the suet with hairy and downy woodpeckers, red-bellied sapsuckers, flickers, and three pileated woodpeckers, the red-breasted grosbeaks are mainly feasting on sunflower seeds from sunup to sunset."

Saturday, May 9, is Global Big Day for observing and reporting birds. Anyone with 5 or 10 minutes can contribute, even from inside the house. Go to <www.eBird.org> to find out how.

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census facts

2020 Census data will help inform how billions of dollars are distributed to states and communities every year for the next 10 years.



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5:00 PM



Show your support of our hospital and EMS employees by making some noise this Sunday!

Step out at 5:00 pm and ring bells, blow a whistle, or just make some joyful music! The plan moving forward would be to do this every Sunday.

Maintain all precautions and stay six feet or more from your neighbors and wear your masks if you have them. This is also a great way to wave from a distance to your neighbor and do a quick check in.

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Mary Priestley: 598-0157
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THE SEWANEE MOUNTAIN
MESSENGER

We are grateful for the advertisers, subscribers, and supporters, including the University of the South and the Sewanee Community Chest... and *you*, the readers of this weekly publication.

Thank you!



BARDTOVERSE

by Phoebe Bates

Mother's Day, May 10

Sonnets are full of love, and this my tome
Has many sonnets: so here now shall be
One sonnet more, a love sonnet, from me
To her whose heart is my heart's quiet home,
To my first Love, my Mother, on whose knee
I learnt love-lore that is not troublesome;
Whose service is my special dignity,
And she my loadstar while I go and come.
And so because you love me, and because
I love you, Mother, I have woven a wreath
Of rhymes wherewith to crown your honoured name:
In you not fourscore years can dim the flame
Of love, whose blessed glow transcends the laws
Of time and change and mortal life and death

by Christina Rossetti, [Sonnets are full of love, and this my tome]

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Community Calendar

Friday, May 8

- 8 a.m. Walking Program, F@H, Fowler Center, (canceled until further notice)
- 8:30 a.m. Deep Stretch Yoga, Daryllann, Community Center (canceled until further notice)
- 9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
- 9 a.m. Pilates, golf/tennis, Angel Park/Zoom; email <kim_butters59@hotmail.com>
- 10 a.m. Game day, Senior Center (canceled until further notice)
- noon Stretch and Straighten, Angel Park/Zoom; email <kim_butters59@hotmail.com>
- 6:30 p.m. Stress Relief Class, Kim, (free), Angel Park/Zoom; email <kim_butters59@hotmail.com>

Saturday, May 9

- 8:30 a.m. Free Legal Clinic, by phone, call 1 (800) 238-1443, until 11 a.m.
- 8:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga, Robie, (\$8), Community Center (canceled until further notice)

Sunday, May 10 • Mother's Day

- 8:30 a.m. Vinyasa Yoga, Community Center, until 9:45 a.m. (canceled until further notice)
- 2 p.m. Knitting Circle, Mooney's, until 4 p.m. (canceled until further notice)
- 4 p.m. Hatha Yoga, Helen, Community Center (canceled until further notice)
- 5 p.m. Ring to Honor Frontline Workers (ring bells, bang pots, or otherwise make a joyful noise while respecting social distancing requirements) until 5:15 p.m.

Monday, May 11

- 8 a.m. Walking Program, F@H, Fowler Center, (canceled until further notice)
- 9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
- 9 a.m. Body Recall, Judy, Monteagle City Hall (canceled until further notice)
- 9 a.m. Pilates, intermediate, Angel Park/Zoom; email <kim_butters59@hotmail.com>
- 9:30 a.m. Yoga, Daryllann, (\$8), St. Mary's Sewanee (canceled until further notice)
- 10:30 a.m. Chair Exercise, Ruth, Senior Center (canceled until further notice)
- noon Pilates, beginners, Angel Park/Zoom; email <kim_butters59@hotmail.com>
- 5:30 p.m. Gentle Yoga, Robie, DuBose Conference Center, upper room, until 6:45 p.m. (canceled until further notice)
- 6 p.m. FCBOE, via Zoom for Board members, principals, supervisors and the media
- 6 p.m. Karate, youth, Legion Hall; adults 7 p.m. (canceled until further notice)

Tuesday, May 12

- 7 a.m. Qi Gong on the Bluff, Wall, St. Mary's Sewanee (canceled until further notice)
- 8 a.m. GC Food Bank, Tracy City, until 10 a.m.
- 8:30 a.m. Deep Stretch Yoga, Daryllann, Community Center (canceled until further notice)
- 9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
- 9 a.m. Pilates, beginners, Angel Park/Zoom; email <kim_butters59@hotmail.com>
- 10 a.m. SAIL, Community Center (canceled until further notice)
- 10:30 a.m. Bingo, Senior Center (canceled until further notice)
- noon Pilates, intermediate, Angel Park/Zoom; email <kim_butters59@hotmail.com>
- 4:30 p.m. Free Legal Clinic, by phone, call 1(800) 238-1443, until 6:30 p.m.

- 4:30 p.m. South Cumberland Farmers' Market, curbside pickup, Community Center, until 6:30 p.m.
- 5 p.m. Yoga, Daryllann, (\$8), St. Mary's Sewanee (canceled until further notice)
- 6 p.m. Acoustic Jam, Water Bldg., Tracy City (canceled until further notice)

Wednesday, May 13

- 8 a.m. Walking Program, F@H, Fowler Center (canceled until further notice)
- 8:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga, Robie, (\$8), Community Center (canceled until further notice)
- 9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
- 9 a.m. Pilates, intermediate, Angel Park/Zoom; email <kim_butters59@hotmail.com>
- 10 a.m. Senior Writing Group, 212 Sherwood Rd. (canceled until further notice)
- 10:30 a.m. Chair Exercise, Ruth, Senior Center (canceled until further notice)
- noon Pilates, beginners, Angel Park/Zoom; email <kim_butters59@hotmail.com>
- 4 p.m. FC Library Board of Trustees, via phone
- 5:30 p.m. Hatha Yoga, Helen, Community Center (canceled until further notice)

Thursday, May 14

- 7 a.m. Qi Gong on the Bluff, Wall, St. Mary's Sewanee (canceled until further notice)
- 8 a.m. Monteagle-Sewanee Rotary, via Zoom
- 9 a.m. Body Recall, Judy, Monteagle City Hall (canceled until further notice)
- 9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
- 9 a.m. Pilates, beginner, Angel Park/Zoom; email <kim_butters59@hotmail.com>
- 9 a.m. Yoga, Daryllann, (\$8), Community Center (canceled until further notice)
- 10 a.m. SAIL, Community Center (canceled until further notice)
- 10:30 a.m. Chair Exercise, Judy, Monteagle City Hall (canceled until further notice)
- noon Pilates, intermediate, Angel Park/Zoom; email <kim_butters59@hotmail.com>
- 1 p.m. F@H Caregiver Group, Brooks Hall, Otey (canceled until further notice)
- 2 p.m. Knitting Circle, Mooney's, until 4 p.m. (canceled until further notice)
- 3 p.m. Free Legal Clinic, by phone, call 1(800)238-1443, until 4:30 p.m.
- 5 p.m. Yoga, Daryllann, (\$8), Community Center (canceled until further notice)
- 5:45 p.m. Vinyasa Yoga, Community Center, until 7 p.m. (canceled until further notice)
- 6 p.m. Karate, youth, Legion Hall; adults 7 p.m. (canceled until further notice)
- 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Flow Yoga, Emily, (\$8), Community Center (canceled until further notice)

Friday, May 15

- 8 a.m. Walking Program, F@H, Fowler Center, (canceled until further notice)
- 8:30 a.m. Deep Stretch Yoga, Daryllann, Community Center (canceled until further notice)
- 9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
- 9 a.m. Pilates, golf/tennis, Angel Park/Zoom; email <kim_butters59@hotmail.com>
- 10 a.m. Game day, Senior Center (canceled until further notice)
- noon Stretch and Straighten, Angel Park/Zoom; email <kim_butters59@hotmail.com>
- 6:30 p.m. Stress Relief Class, Kim, (free), Angel Park/Zoom; email <kim_butters59@hotmail.com>

Local 12-Step Meetings

- Friday**
7 p.m. AA, open, Christ Church, Tracy City

Saturday
7 p.m. NA, open, Decherd United Methodist

Sunday
6:30 p.m. AA, open, Morton Memorial, Wesley House, Monteagle - canceled

Monday
5 p.m. Women's Recovery, Brooks Hall, Otey Parish - canceled
7 p.m. AA, open, Christ Church, Tracy City

Tuesday
7 p.m. AA, open, First Baptist, Altamont

Wednesday
10 a.m. AA, closed, Clifftops, (931) 924-3493
7 p.m. NA, Decherd United Methodist
7:30 p.m. AA, open, Holy Comforter, Monteagle

Thursday
6 p.m. Al-Anon, Morton Memorial, Wesley House, Monteagle - canceled
7 p.m. Al-Anon, First UMC, Winchester



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