



Lisa Hobbs photo

Children visiting the downtown fountain can now stop at the Little Free Library and select a book to read. The library offers a "take a book, return a book" free exchange aimed at improving reading achievement in children. The box was placed by the 2017 Leadership McMinnville class on Court Square next to the clock. Pictured are siblings Wyatt and Caroline Tanner placing the first books in the library.

Fountain of knowledge

Leadership McMinnville adds Little Free Library downtown

BY LISA HOBBS
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

A Little Free Library has made its way onto Court Square.

The colorful box was placed by the 2017 Leadership McMinnville class. Placement of the library box was selected as a community service project by the group and expenses were paid from fundraising efforts.

According to Leadership McMinnville president Justin Tanner, the class wanted to provide reading opportunities because a longitudinal study by Donald J. Hernandez shows 1-in-6 children who are not reading proficiently in third grade do not graduate from high school on time, a rate four times greater than that for proficient readers.

"One of the most successful ways to improve the reading achievement of children is to increase their access to books," said Tanner. "Our Leadership McMinnville class wanted to provide access to books in a highly visible public place that a lot of children visit like the downtown fountain. In this way, we can create public awareness while combating the issue at the same time."

The library, as well as others similar to it, are meant to be a "take a book, return a book" free

exchange.

"As your children age, you can bring their used books and take more age-appropriate books," said Tanner. "You don't have to return the same book."

Offering the first set of books were Tanner's children, Wyatt and Caroline, who donated some of their gently used books for the enjoyment of others.

The 2017 Leadership McMinnville class includes Tanner, Jessica Bost, Kelly Kell, Kim Henegar, Anne Vance, Dale Stauffacher, Candace Roland, Jason Pitts, Amy Tittsworth, Scott Romzek, Jennifer Heathcock, Nichole Mosley, Tammy Price, Cody Merinar, Michelle Hutchins, and Laura Herman.

Leadership McMinnville is a Chamber of Commerce program that runs from November until the Autumn Street Fair in October the following year. Along with selecting a service project, class members can donate the funds raised.

The 2017 class provided Hamilton Street Activity Center, Warren County Animal Control and Adoption Center, and Books from Birth with \$300 each.

For more information about Leadership McMinnville or how you can join, the Chamber can be reached at 473-6611.

FBI's mishandling of school shooting tip brings added pressure to agency

WASHINGTON (AP) — The revelation the FBI botched a potentially life-saving tip on the Florida school shooting suspect is a devastating blow to America's top law enforcement agency at a time when it is already under extraordinary political pressure.

Even before the startling disclosure the FBI failed to investigate a warning that the suspect, Nikolas Cruz, could be plotting an attack, the bureau was facing unprecedented criticism from President Donald Trump and other Republicans, who have accused it of partisan bias.

The agency and its supporters had been able to dismiss past criticism as just politics, but this time it had no option but to admit it made a disastrous mistake.

The FBI's acknowledgment that it mishandled the tip prompted a sharp rebuke from its boss, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and a call from Florida's Republican Gov. Rick Scott, a Trump ally, for FBI Director Christopher Wray to resign.

The shooting provides fresh grounds to criticize the FBI. First it was revealed the FBI failed to delve into a YouTube comment posted by a

"Nikolas Cruz" that said, "I'm going to be a professional school shooter." The FBI said it could not determine who made it.

On Friday, the bureau said it had failed to act on a tip that Cruz had a "desire to kill people," disturbing social media posts and access to a gun. Cruz is charged with killing 17 people in the school he once attended.

Sessions, a Trump loyalist who has at times seemed to welcome criticism of the FBI, called the massacre a "tragic consequence" of the FBI's failure. He ordered a review of Justice Department procedures.

The House Judiciary

and Oversight committees, whose Republican leaders have been some of the strongest FBI critics, demanded Wray brief them on what went wrong.

Sen. Marco Rubio, a Florida Republican, said it was "inexcusable" the FBI did not follow protocols and urged Congress to launch its own investigation. Democratic Rep. Ted Deutch of Florida promised to be in "close communication with the FBI so we can get to the bottom of this."

Wray apologized in a rare statement admitting the FBI's missteps. But Scott, the governor, said that "isn't going to cut it."

OBITUARIES

James Kenneth "Peanut" Cantrell, 82



James Kenneth "Peanut" Cantrell, 82, a McMinnville resident and DeKalb County native, was born Oct. 8, 1935 and died Feb. 10 at his residence following an extended illness.

"Peanut" was an avid NASCAR fan and loved restoring Model T cars and showing them. He was Warren County road superintendent for six years and in construction all of his life. He retired from Custom Construction. His tales and stories shall surely be missed by all who knew him.

He was a veteran of the United States Army, member of the Church of Christ and son of the late James Richard and Catherine Arnold Cantrell.

Mr. Cantrell was married July 3, 1955 to Gilda Gipson Cantrell, who survives. In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons and daughter-in-law, Scott and Tammy Cantrell and Brent Cantrell, all of McMinnville; two grandsons, Garrett Cantrell and Jessica Hagar and Davis and Courtney Cantrell, all of McMinnville; great-grandson, Journey Cantrell of McMinnville; and several cousins.

Graveside service and inurnment were Saturday, Feb. 17, at Gardens of Memory Cemetery with Harold Cook and David Costello officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Cantrell family or your favorite charity. Online condolences may be made at www.highfuneralhome.com.

High Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tenn.) Feb. 18, 2018

Dorothy Louella Solomon, 83

Mrs. Dorothy Louella Solomon, 83, of McMinnville passed from this life Wednesday, Feb. 14, at Saint Thomas MidTown Hospital in Nashville.

Dorothy was born on Wednesday, March 14, 1934 in McMinnville, the daughter of the late Hackett Settles and the late Betty Walling Settles. She was the wife of Sherman Edward Solomon. She was a member of Church of Christ at Mt. View and she was a homemaker.

Dorothy is survived by her husband of 58 years, Sherman Edward Solomon, two daughters, Sylvia Lorraine Solomon of McMinnville and Vivian Yvonne Solomon of McMinnville, one son Joe Edward and Veronica Lynn Solomon of McMinnville, two brothers, Zollie Settles of McMinnville and Rollie and Lillie Settles of Midway, Texas, and three grandsons, Casey Andrew Solomon, Joesiah Edward Solomon, Joelah Sherman Solomon, all of McMinnville.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Hackett Settles and Betty (Walling) Settles, three brothers Charles Edward Settles, Joe Brown Settles, and James Franklin Settles.

Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Gardens of Memory Funeral Home, 415 North Chancery Street, with the Bro. Jerry Rutledge officiating. Interment will follow at Gardens of Memory Cemetery in Smart.

The family will receive friends from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, at Gardens of Memory Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at gardensofmemory-funeralhome.com.

Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tenn.) Feb. 18, 2018

Roy Lee Haley, 75



Mr. Roy Lee Haley, 75, of McMinnville died Friday, Feb. 16, at St. Thomas River Park Hospital.

He was born Oct. 9, 1942, in McMinnville, was a retired employee of A.O. Smith (formerly Magnetek Century Electric), served his country with the U.S. Army, and was a member of Smyrna Church of Christ. Mr. Haley was preceded in death by parents Malcolm R. and Dorothy Roberta Smith Haley and his wife Brenda Sue Tate Haley.

Survivors include several family members and many friends including Mike Green, Terry (Tina) Green, Stacy Turner, Bobby (Lois) Green, and Charles S. Haley.

Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 19, at McMinnville Funeral Home Chapel. Bro. Bill Walkup will officiate. Interment will follow at Smyrna Cemetery. Military grave rites will be conducted by American Legion Post 173 and VFW Post 5064. The Haley family will receive friends Sunday from 4 to 8 p.m. and again Monday from 9 to 11 a.m. at the parlors of McMinnville Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Smyrna Cemetery Fund. Online condolences may be made at www.mcminnvillefuneralhome.com.

McMinnville Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tenn.) Feb. 18, 2018

William Carl Tobitt, 77



Mr. William Carl Tobitt, 77, of McMinnville died Friday, Feb. 16, at Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital in Murfreesboro.

He was a self-employed bulldozer operator and truck driver, served his country with the U.S. Army, and attended Bates Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Mr. Tobitt was preceded in death by parents William Albert and Eileen Duggin Tobitt, wife Davidene Shockley Tobitt, sister Treva Tobitt, and great-grandson Bentley McCoy.

Survivors include his sons William Darrell Tobitt and Carl Ray Tobitt, stepchildren Alvin Lawson and Debbie Garrison, sisters Nancy Gann, Peggy Shelton, and Patricia Brymer, brothers Hubert, R.C., and Malcolm Tobitt, grandchildren Jessica McCoy, Beth, Kylie, Mckenzie, and Heather Tobitt, and Ashley Cope, two step-grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and special friends Carol Gunter, Sherrie Smith, and Dale Lemon. Other family members and friends also survive.

Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, at McMinnville Funeral Home Chapel. Robby Black will officiate. Interment will follow at Whitlock Cemetery. The Tobitt family will receive friends Sunday from 4 to 8 p.m., Monday from 1 to 8 p.m., and again Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the parlors of McMinnville Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.mcminnvillefuneralhome.com.

McMinnville Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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(McMinnville, Tenn.) Feb. 18, 2018

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