

# Lending a hand



**Volunteers worked on the latest Habitat for Humanity house on Saturday, March 24. The home is located on Mt. Leo Heights. Among the workers were representatives from Breakfast Rotary, McMinnville Church of God, East End Church, Westwood Church of Christ, TCAT, and Motlow. Pictured is Rotary member Jeff McKinley installing a window.**

## Lawsuit

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According to court documents filed in February 2015, Sweat is claiming he was fired due to his “outspokenness” about the new restrictions that he called “stringent” and about other changes within the department he claims threatened the safety of firefighters.

The city denied the allegations and requested a summary judgement in January 2017, arguing Sweat was fired for his “inability to work with

effective leadership, for making sexually harassing phone calls from the firehouse to a private citizen, and going outside the chain of command.”

In May 2017, the trial court granted the city’s motion, finding “Plaintiff (Sweat) has failed to establish that the city’s explanation of his discharge is pretextual or unfounded.”

Sweat appealed that judge’s decision.

On March 23 of this year, Judge Frank G. Clement Jr., upheld the trial court’s decision.



**Pelina and Hollis Marsh were parents to 10 children, including Dottie West. The family includes, first row from left, Owen Marsh, Edith Copley, Diane Poss, Everett Marsh and Barbara Davis. Middle row, Kelton Marsh, Betty Redmon and Ozle Marsh. Back row, Nell Estes, Dottie, Pelina and Hollis. All are deceased but Everett Marsh and Diane Poss.**

## Dottie West

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Later that decade, Dottie teamed with Kenny Rogers for a series of duets. This sent her popularity skyrocketing toward the moon. The duets included “Every Time Two Fools Collide,” “All I Ever Need Is You,” and “What Are We Doin’ in Love.”

Dottie would soar to No. 1 on her own in 1980 with “A Lesson in Leavin’.”

The oldest of 10 children, Dottie played guitar and sang during her high school years before attending Tennessee Tech on a music scholarship. Only two of her siblings survive.

“The family is very happy and pleased with this decision,” said sister Diane Poss on Tuesday.

Dottie is credited with launching the music careers of Steve Wariner and Larry Gatlin, among others, as well as helping many young songwriters make their stamp on the country music industry.

“I was a senior in high school and playing on the west side of Indianapolis when Dottie heard me singing and playing,” said Wariner in a recent interview

with the *Standard*. “She offered me a job that night.”

That was in 1973. Wariner would go on to enjoy two stellar decades in country music, highlighted by the 1998 Song of the Year, “Holes in the Floor of Heaven.”

Longtime songwriter Jacky Jack White said he first met Dottie in 1984 as an aspiring artist. He said after he had a chance to meet Dottie, she instructed her manager to give Jacky Jack her phone number in case he needed guidance.

“She was a friend of the American songwriter,” said White. “I’m very thankful this is happening now, but she should have been inducted long ago.”

Thomas Vaughn echoed those comments and said he long advocated for Dottie to make the Country Music Hall of Fame when he was organizer of the Dottie West Fest.

“This is long overdue,” said Vaughn, who also helped provide information for a televised documentary about Dottie West. “Her life was like a Greek tragedy. Her career hit the heights of stardom and she saw her fortunes rise and fall.”

Vaughn recalls attending Fanfare in Nashville in 1985

and seeing about 500 people swarming Dottie for her autograph. Not far away was Randy Travis, who had about five people waiting in line for his autograph.

Dottie won Vocal Duo of the Year honors with Kenny Rogers at two consecutive CMA Awards. Her final studio album, “Just Dottie,” was released in 1984.

She died Sept. 4, 1991, several days after sustaining serious injuries in a car accident on her way to the Grand Ole Opry. She will be the first female artist posthumously inducted into the Hall of Fame since Tammy Wynette in 1998.

McMinnville Mayor and county historian Jimmy Haley said West’s Hall of Fame induction is a great announcement for our community as we are now home to a Hall of Famer.

“It is a great day across the city of McMinnville as we celebrate this long overdue recognition of our hometown country icon, Dottie West,” said Haley. “Dottie was a trendsetter and a trailblazer who helped many artists get their start in country music. For years, McMinnville’s residents have worked to memorialize the contributions of our

‘Miss Country Sunshine’ in various public displays, including a wide scale campaign to secure her induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame. This honor ensures Dottie’s legacy will be remembered by generations of music fans.”

Joining Dottie West in the Class of 2018 are Ricky Skaggs and Johnny Gimble.

Skaggs became a Grand Ole Opry member in 1982, and in 1985, he won the Country Music Association’s top award, Entertainer of the Year. He has more than a dozen Grammys to his name and is a member of the Gospel Music Hall of Fame and Musicians Hall of Fame

Gimble, a Western swing fiddler who played with artists including Bob Wills, Willie Nelson and George Strait, has a career that spans over 60 years. Gimble won two Grammys for his work with the Western swing outfit Asleep at the Wheel, five Instrumentalist of the Year Awards from the Country Music Association, and Fiddler of the Year Awards from the Academy of Country Music.

Gimble died in 2015 at age 88.



**Jack White, pictured during an appearance at Cumberland Caverns in 2017, was announced Tuesday as the headliner for the Pilgrimage Music and Cultural Festival set for Sept. 22-23.**

# Pilgrimage Music and Cultural Festival coming Sept. 22-23

**NASHVILLE (AP)** — Jack White, Chris Stapleton and Lionel Richie are headlining the Pilgrimage Music and Cultural Festival in Tennessee this September.

The festival is scheduled for Sept. 22-23. The lineup, announced Tuesday, includes Hozier, Brandi Carlile, Counting Crows, Amos Lee and the Bleachers. The festival has been held for the past three years on a park in Franklin, about 20 miles south of Nashville.

White, who lives in Nashville, released his latest solo album, “Boarding House Reach,” last week, while Stapleton gets his own headlining slot after appearing as a special guest during Justin

Timberlake’s performance at the festival last year.

Additional artists scheduled to perform include Lord Huron, Dawes, Maggie Rogers, Elle King and Matt Kearney.

Pilgrimage Music & Cultural Festival was inspired by friendship, history, experience and the desire to create an authentic music festival. Three years ago, musician and Franklin resident Kevin Griffin was on a September morning run through The Park at Harlinsdale, a century-old horse farm recently purchased by the city of Franklin.

Griffin was so taken by the rolling hills, natural amphitheaters, and

breathtaking vistas of the 230-acre farm, he envisioned it as a natural fit for a music festival venue. Considering Franklin’s music and cultural history, he wanted the community to further appreciate combining this with the beauty and rustic quality of Middle Tennessee in the fall, and with the blessing of the city, began to dream up a music festival to do it justice.

Tickets go on sale this Friday, March 30, at 10 a.m., Central.

Two-day passes start at \$185 and climb to \$975 for VIP and \$2,500 for Grand Champion Experience.

Tickets can be purchased at pilgrimagefestival.com/tickets.

# TN:Save A Life

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