

# A new home



SHANE DUNCAN | THE ADVOCATE & DEMOCRAT

Shown here are the first shovels of dirt for the new Monroe County Friends of Animals (MCFA) animal shelter in Madisonville.

## Monroe County animal shelter holds groundbreaking

**SHANE DUNCAN**  
Staff Writer

The Monroe County animal shelter will have a new name and a new location soon after a groundbreaking ceremony last week.

The site of the new Monroe County Animal shelter is at 170 Kefauver Lane in Madisonville just behind the Walmart. The shelter will be dubbed the Eastbourne Animal Center after donor Barbara Eastbourne.

Monroe County Friends of Animals (MCFA) Executive Director Teresa Underwood led off the event by introducing the speakers, starting with Monroe County Mayor Mitch Ingram.

"What a beautiful, exciting day this is," Ingram expressed.

"While I was sitting here looking at so many people that had a part in this dream and vision I just want to remind everyone that dreams still come true."

Ingram stated that he believes that dreams have to have support, blessings and people to succeed.

"Everyone that is here today in some shape, form or fashion is a part of this dream that has come true today," he expressed. "Monroe County government has been so excited to be a part of this dream and we are so excited of the thought that is going into the future. It has been a great journey but the journey is still going. This facility will reach all portions of the county ... 47,000 people and this particular dream will touch all of us."

MCFA Board President Cheryl Ulmer summarized the journey to this point for the organization and the shelter.

"Since our inception we have saved over 25,000 animals. We have increased the save rate to 85% and we have reduced the strays by 60%," Ulmer noted. "We have made as many improvements as we can to our current shelter and throughout the years we have done a number of fundraisers to provide funds to support the shelter as well as our thrift store ... We say the need is for a more modern, healthier and a more aesthetically pleasing shelter."

She noted the new shelter will be about 9,000 square feet under

See **SHELTER, A6**

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**MICHAEL THOMAS**  
Correspondent

A Tellico Plain woman has been on second degree after she alleged her boyfriend in of last year.

Cassandra M. Unser was indicted on charges of second degree murder session of a weapon a convicted felon Monroe County Jury in April.

Monroe County Sheriff's Det. Jason P. Smith said he and other went to a home on Bert Smith Road after a woman c

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Special to The Advocate  
Democrat

The Tennessee Department of Health has announced a round of grant from its \$230 million Healthcare Resilience Program to expand Tennessee's capacity in delivering healthcare services.

TDH will make \$1 million in funds available in the first grants awarded to 54 eligible applicants. Two broad projects Among the re

## Shelter From A1

roof and 2,500 square feet outside.

"It is structured for a shelter environment and not just restructuring a farmhouse," she expressed. "A very critical aspect of shelter care is disease control, which much of that is airborne and this new facility will have no recirculating air, which is critical."

Ulmer stated they wouldn't have been able to proceed with the new shelter without the support of the community.

"The Kefauvers once again provided about three and half acres for us to build this building on and we have had over 180 donors that have provided funds to our capital campaign," Ulmer noted. "One in particular has given us this opportunity to be here. Providing a very significant donation, a very generous donation so that we can be here, Barbara Eastbourne."

Ulmer then signaled for the unveiling of the sign for the new animal shelter, which was named after Eastbourne.

"I heard about all of your struggles and I want to thank all of the volunteers for all of your work all of these years. You gave your time and your money and I really think that is wonderful," Eastbourne expressed. "I used to live out here but I moved away in 2013. A few years ago I was contacted by somebody on Facebook who kept talking about the Monroe County Animal Shelter ... He said that they needed a lot of money so I thought about it and called him back and told him that

I would give him the money that he needed. I am very thankful to everybody who has stuck with us. I love animals and I really thank all

of you for helping these animals."

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SHANE DUNCAN | THE ADVOCATE & DEMOCRAT  
Monroe County Friends of Animals (MCFA) Executive Director Teresa Underwood (left) talks about donor Barbara Eastbourne last week during the groundbreaking ceremony for the newly dubbed Eastbourne Animal Center. The new animal shelter will be located in Madisonville.