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THE JOHNSON CITY

NEWS & NEIGHBOR

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Virtual Reality

Washington County students start new school year from home

At the close of the 2019-20 school year, there was a sense of hope that the new school year would usher in a return to normalcy – school buses, car lines and noisy cafeterias.

But the COVID-19 epidemic has refused to loosen its grip, even during the dog days of August. And so, this Monday students around the county found a quiet corner in their homes, fired up their Chromebook, computer or tablet and met their new teachers virtually.

It wasn't ideal, but it was a milestone nonetheless, and parents took a moment to snap photos of their kids as they embarked on a new adventure.



Ridgeview students Mason and Cora Salyer prepare for their first day of the new school year. Mason is beginning seventh grade while Cora is starting second grade.



Theodore Berry prepares for his first day of second grade at Ridgeview.



Trey and Eva Marler step out on the front porch for Back to School photos before ducking back inside to do their schoolwork virtually.

'Fluid situation'

ETSU's Noland lays out current plan for fall semester

BY SCOTT ROBERTSON

When ETSU President Dr. Brian Noland spoke with the *Business Journal* in May regarding planning for the fall semester, Noland said, "there are unlimited things for which we have planning uncertainty." Time, however, waits for no institution of higher education, and planning uncertainty has had to give way to the certainty of the university offering fall classes.

This should not, however, be interpreted to mean ETSU knows exactly how the semester will play out, Noland said in a virtual town hall July 31. In fact, Noland intimated, the one certain is a level of uncertainty. "We look forward to the energy that emerges when this campus is able to engage in our teaching, research and service missions, but we recognize that this fall is going to look different than falls prior."

The most obvious difference will be the marked increase in the number of sections and courses making extensive use of online learning. ETSU is a campus of roughly 14,500 students. This fall, the greatest number of students scheduled to be on campus at any one time is 3,300. "That will happen around 11 a.m. on Thursdays," Noland said.

"Around 18 to 20 percent of our courses will be on the ground. The bulk of those are courses that by virtue of the instruction embedded within the course, have to occur on-ground," Noland said. "I have a family member who has a career desire to be a welder, and as he reminded me earlier this year, you can't learn to weld online. You have to do it on the ground. Many of our courses have that similar type of relationship."

Most of the courses on campus will be taught with a hybrid mix of online and on-ground coursework. "But the significant volume of our courses, almost half, will be provided in an online format," Noland said.

If the low density of students on campus is to be the most noticeable change for the fall 2020 semester, then the ubiquity of masks will be close second. Noland announced in late July a policy change mandating masks for everyone on campus.

"People are motivated to change when the ask to change comes from a place of kindness, and we've all

SEE ETSU, 3

Sign of the times: Johnson City landmark masks up to stop COVID-19



Johnson City employees and members of the Johnson City Fire Department teamed up last Friday to help put a mask on the iconic Johnson City sign at the edge of King Commons.



The mask was designed to help remind residents to continue wearing their masks in order to help curb the spread of COVID-19.

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EASTMAN CREDIT UNION

Cyclist riding coast-to-coast to raise money for Appalachia Service Project

Appalachia Service Project hosted a brief reception for cross-

country cyclist, Erik Andrews, on Monday. Andrews, a volunteer with

ASP for the past 24 years, was in Johnson City as he prepares to wrap up a coast-

to-coast bicycle ride that will end up raising at least \$20,000 for ASP, which provides home repairs and replacements for those in need across our region. During a ceremony at ASP headquarters Monday morning, Andrews received the Medal of Distinction from ASP President and CEO Walter Crouch.

Crouch commended Andrews "for doing something incredibly creative and wonderful" by embarking on a cross-country bike ride to raise money for ASP. Andrews was disappointed that he couldn't volunteer with ASP this summer due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of sitting at home, Andrews dipped his bicycle tires in the Pacific Ocean

on June 7, the date his group would have been starting their volunteer week with ASP.

Since then, Andrews has been riding across the United States to raise money for ASP. He started on the Gold Coast of California and rode south on the Pacific Coast Highway before heading north for Riverside and the beginning of Route 66. He followed that famed ribbon of blacktop to US 64 and rode across the country roughly tracking with I-40.

By Sunday night, Andrews had made it to Johnson City, where

he rode his bike into the ASP headquarters for a ceremony on Monday morning. He will conclude his trip by riding to the Atlantic Ocean.

Andrews' journey and fundraising progress has been documented at give.everydayhero.com/us/ridetoserve-warmersaferdrier. He has raised more than \$8,000 so far, and the first \$10,000 will be matched dollar-for-dollar. With over 700 miles to go, Andrews expected to raise at least \$20,000, and possibly more.



Appalachia Service Project President and CEO Walter Crouch (right) presents Erik Andrews with the Medal of Distinction. PHOTO BY DAVE ONGIE

Washington County mayor extends mask requirement

Washington County Mayor Joe Grandy is extending the requirement of face coverings for all residents, visitors and businesses in Washington County through Aug. 29.

"Epidemiology data from the Tennessee Department of Health indicates wearing a face covering does make an impact in the number of cases of COVID-19," Grandy said. "Masks, physical distancing, keeping hands and frequently touched surfaces disinfected are proven measures. By extending the mandate the hope is to keep us on a downward trajectory with regards to cases."

The last mask order began on July 14 and was set to expire Monday. Governor Bill Lee extended Executive Order 54, which allowed Mayor Grandy to extend our local face covering requirement.

The mandate states that masks must be worn by people in public places. Unless extended or repealed, Washington County will remain under this order until 11:59 p.m. on Aug. 29. Governor Lee signed Executive

Order 54 on July 3, granting county mayors in 89 counties the authority to issue local mask requirements in the event of a significant rise in COVID-19 cases.

The Mayor's face covering mandate includes the following:

- A face covering over the nose and mouth shall be worn by employees and visitors inside businesses, organizations or venues in use by members of the public.
- Children age 12 and under are not required to wear a face covering.
- Persons who have trouble breathing due to an underlying health condition or those who have another bona fide medical or health-related reason are not required to wear a face covering.
- Face coverings are not required in situations in which wearing one poses a safety or security risk.

Washington County Schools receives donation



Kristan Spear, President and CEO of United Way of East TN Highlands, presents Washington County Schools Director Bill Flanary with a check for \$2,500.

United Way of East TN Highlands donated \$2,500 to the Washington County School system from the COVID-19 Response Funds. The organization is trying to mitigate the negative effects the pandemic is having on our region by supporting programs that are focused on health, education, and financial stability.

The Washington County School System plans to use this money to help the students and teachers start the school year in a digital setting. It will provide extra funding for the schools to purchase extra Chromebooks, laptops, and Wi-Fi service for students and teachers to connect with each other online for the first few weeks of school.

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Lee announces state's recommendations to reopen schools

Last week, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee announced the State of Tennessee's recommendations to reopen schools for the 2020-2021 school year. "Providing parents a choice in their children's education is incredibly important," Lee said. "In-person learning is the medically sound, preferred option. Our state is doing everything we can to work with local school districts and ensure that in-person learning is made available

in a way that protects the health and safety of our students and educators, and this plan helps us accomplish that goal."

Lee released a detailed list of recommendations from the Department of Health and the Department of Education last Tuesday designed to give school systems around the state a roadmap for welcoming students back to campus in the midst of the COVID-19 epidemic. However, the state is also committed to providing resources for parents and students engaged in virtual learning.

Last Tuesday, Johnson City Schools announced its intention of starting the school year remotely, joining Washington County Schools and University School as cases of COVID-19 continue to mount. All students in the Johnson City system will start school learning virtually on Aug. 10 and continue through the first three weeks of the school year before the situation is reassessed on Aug. 31. "There is no perfect

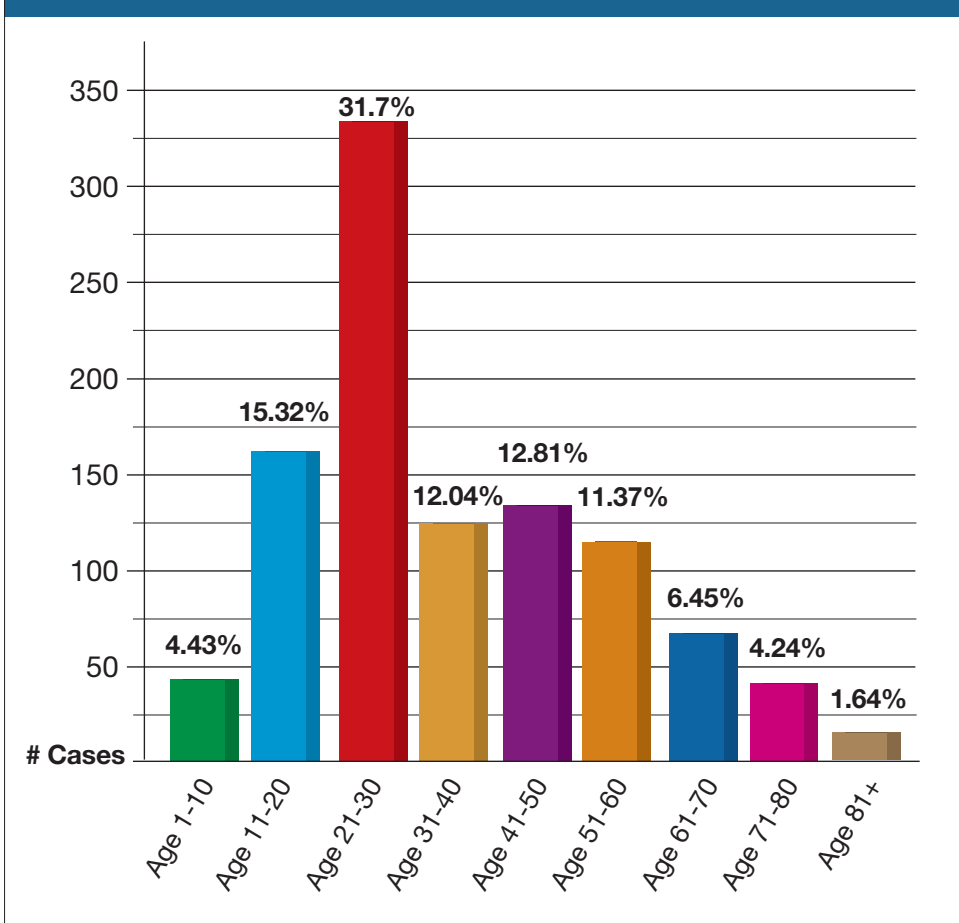
solution for how to provide in-person instruction while also providing a 100 percent guarantee of safety for all students and staff members given the current community COVID-19 cases," said Steve Barnett, Johnson City's Superintendent of Schools. "We are choosing to start remotely as a precautionary measure. Our priority remains to open schools for in-person learning when it is safe. All schools are in the process of organizing instructional materials and devices for deployment to students."

Tennessee Commissioner of Health Dr. Lisa Piercy said the state's urgency to get school-aged kids back into school buildings is based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics, and National Academies of Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering.

"The Department of Health has worked with Department of Education to establish a protocol to keep school buildings open safely and cause minimal disruption when positive cases occur," Piercy said.

Additionally, Lee charged Tennessee Commissioner of Education Penny Schwinn with convening a 38-member COVID-19 Child Wellbeing Task Force, which uncovered quite a bit of data

COVID-19 Cases in Washington County by Age (August 2, 2020)



advocating for the return of in-person learning despite the spread of COVID-19. The group's findings identified mental health care and food assistance as two main services families depend on schools to provide.

"Tennessee is prioritizing health and safety of our school communities," Schwinn said. "Ensuring schools, teachers, families, and students have the critical resources and supports they need to start the new school year strong is paramount, and I am thankful to Governor Lee for continuing to support education in Tennessee as schools reopen across the state."

The main health recommendations from the state were for school

systems to establish a 10-day sick window for anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 and a 14-day quarantine for anyone who has been within 6 feet of a person who has COVID-19 for more than 10 minutes. The state also identified contact tracing as a crucial tool for keeping schools open and recommended a texting platform as an efficient way to handle the task of informing families of students who came in contact of an infected person.

As part of the reopening plan, the state committed to assisting parents, teachers and school districts. Parents will have access to free learning resources, and the state has committed to provide every classroom teacher with a full-year classroom disinfecting kit to

ensure teachers don't have to pay for these supplies out of pocket.

At the district level, the state announced a \$50 million grant initiative will help with the direct purchase of instructional devices such as laptops or tablets to facilitate remote learning. The state is also providing districts with a decision tree, which will include recommendations on how to keep schools open safely when a case or cases of COVID-19 is confirmed among students or staff.

Additionally, an \$11-million grant program will help bolster programming at the district level. For more information on the state's recommendations, visit www.tn.gov/governor/covid-19.

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An Open Letter to the Voters of East Tennessee

"He who pays the fiddler calls the tune."

The current campaign for the 1st Congressional House seat being vacated by Dr. Phil Roe has unfortunately brought out the true character of some of the candidates running for his old job. We've seen everything from "snake oil" ads to outright lies from several of the candidates and I'm sick of such tactics and blatant disregard for the truth. **Read on if you want the TRUTH.**

DIANA HARSHBARGER IS SPENDING OVER 1.3 MILLION DOLLARS OF HER OWN MONEY TRYING TO GET ELECTED.

(as reported by WJHL TV from Federal Election Commission, 7/17)

This is the same Diana Harshbarger whose husband pleaded guilty to health care fraud by substituting a cheaper Chinese drug used for dialysis patients for the American FDA approved drug. He was sentenced to **FOUR YEARS IN PRISON** and ordered to pay about **\$1,000,000** in restitution and fines. (source: U.S. Attorney's Office press release May 21, 2013) **She was the official corporate secretary of this company (source: Tn. Secretary of States Office) and she's a licensed pharmacist yet she claims she didn't know anything about substituting Chinese pills for American made ones. Yeah, right.**

TIMOTHY HILL IS SPENDING OVER \$881,000 OF OUTSIDE SPECIAL INTEREST "PAC" MONEY TRYING TO GET ELECTED.

(as reported by WJHL TV from Federal Election Commission 7/17)

What's up with that? **\$881,000** of outside money trying to buy our election! **DRAIN THE SWAMP? THIS IS THE SWAMP!!** What promises has Hill made to get that kind of money from outside special interests? **Is the 1st Congressional seat for sale to the highest bidder?** Not for me it isn't. This is the same Timothy Hill who has already been reprimanded for **unethical practices** when he worked for a former congressman and whose advertisements talk of draining the swamp. Give me a break. (source: Kingsport Times News, August 23, 2007)

SO WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER CASH RICH CANDIDATES?

Josh Gapp? Self funding at \$825,000. WOW. Doesn't even live inside the District! Lives in Knoxville! Raised about zero in the district. Nuff said.

John Clark? Self funding to the tune of about \$500,000. Another attempt to buy the seat.

State Senator Rusty Crowe? ZERO DOLLARS IN SELF FUNDING!! Has raised **\$267,725** in small donations from the district he intends to represent. **Now that's more like it! WHEN HE GETS ELECTED HE'LL BE WORKING FOR US! You and me.** Rusty, a guy that helped defeat the proposed Tn state income tax, voted to lower the sales tax on food, voted to eliminate the gift tax, voted to repeal the Hall tax, voted to lower the manufacturing tax, voted to eliminate the water tax on agricultural operations, voted to eliminate the cable TV tax, voted to lower the tax on professionals, voted for property tax breaks for the elderly and disabled veterans and a guy that has **balanced the Tennessee budget for 30 straight years.** That's my kind of guy!

RUSTY'S RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF!

All the other candidates tell you what they're gonna do for you once elected. Rusty has already done a lot for us in East Tennessee and if we're smart enough to send him to Washington, he'll keep on doing it. He's earned my vote. I hope he has yours.

Paid for by Ben Paduch, a concerned private citizen

ETSU from page 1

talked about being good neighbors, of grace and patience and compassion, and not trying to take this from a place of shame and blame and argumentation.

"I think all of us need to recognize that we're trying hard to be good neighbors, but we also need to recognize that our general rule is that base covenants are required on campus, both within our classrooms as well as other indoor areas – as well as outdoor areas where physical distancing cannot be maintained by at least six feet," Noland said. "This policy was put in place for the health and safety of everyone who calls ETSU home."

As for how the administration will handle potential changes in the COVID environment during the course of the semester, Noland has already put forth a four-stage plan, with stage four being "wide open" and stage one being "shut down."

"I can assure you as a campus we are planning for multiple contingencies," Noland said. "But at this juncture, we are moving forward in the manner with all the safety protocols we've spent the summer working on. We have spent the summer procuring PPE, misters to clean the campus – the work we've done from an academic preparation perspective and from a housing perspective. As we're working through this for the fall, there's not one data metric alone that will inform our decisions. They'll be informed in a holistic manner, but in the event that we need to adjust course, we'll do so accordingly."

"But, I don't see us adjusting course as abruptly as we did in March," Noland continued. "We cannot close our research laboratories...so I do not envision us transitioning to a hard phase one as we did in March, but we are preparing structures and protocols if we have to move between phases."

Part of Noland's confidence the campus can avoid shutting down entirely is the planning that has gone into dealing with students who live on campus and test positive for COVID-19. "We have more than 4,000 tests that are on campus now through our ETSU healthcare services, and our direction with those tests is to ensure that any student, faculty or staff who desires to be tested can be tested here on campus." Tests are not mandatory for students arriving on campus, Noland said, but, "I think you'll see a depth and breadth of random testing this fall."

And with test results now taking as long as 20 days to come back from the largest commercial labs, the university has set aside entire buildings for students who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are awaiting the results of COVID tests. "We have structured services for students so that there will be meal delivery service and daily check-ups so that we are closely monitoring and student who has tested positive and is in quarantine, or a student who is deeply concerned about displaying symptoms."

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Dr. Sarah A. Schumaier **Dr. Dan Schumaier**

OPINION

I wonder what's growing on all those snacks students left in their lockers last March...

We have been eating avocados lately. Judy decided to start planting the hard round seeds in her flower pots inside and outside. Maybe it's a science project for her. Most of the seeds have sprouted single narrow stems of green and are growing in our house and also outside. The little boogers are getting tall. She anticipates a grove of avocado trees. I see a bunch of plants I'll have to cut or chainsaw in a year or so. It's amazing what happens during a quarantine period.

During this quarantine, social media asks the question, "Have you become a skunk... a monk... a chunk... a hunk... or lastly, a drunk?" I decided I've become a hunk. No wait, that's after two glasses of wine.

It's time to stay fit. I've noticed a large number of people working in their yards, cleaning up, cutting old bushes and trees. As you drive, notice the piles of dead limbs and bushes lining the streets. I've cut half our jungle but there is still plenty to cut. I may wait until the fall. As I was cutting overgrown bushes this past Saturday I swear the birds were cussing me out since they had not seen me in a couple of years.

Our street crews are doing a fantastic job in keeping our neighborhoods cleaned. People aren't sitting on their duffs. Many are completing home projects, painting, moving furniture, cleaning out the garage. I can tell you it's killing me. Twenty minutes in the blistering heat is my max.

Humans are not good at change and no one has experienced the changes we are going through today.



by **Bill Derby**
Publisher

editor@jcnewsandneighbor.com

We will get through this pandemic and be better for it. In the meantime people are coping with humor.

- Where is your next destination vacation going to be?
 - Las Kitchenas
 - Los Lounges
 - Santa Bedrooms
 - Porto Gardenas
 - Los bed
 - Costa Del Balconia
 - St. bathroom
 - La Rotonda DeSofa

2. Day 1 of quarantine: I'm going to take this an opportunity to improve my health.

Day 2 of quarantine: Due to personal reasons, I am eating lasagna in my shower.

3. Here's a Pro Tip: For couples suddenly working from home together! Get yourselves an imaginary coworker to blame things on. In our house, Cheryl keeps leaving her dirty water cups all over the place. We really don't know what to do about her.

4. A guy drinking Home Alone 2019: Sad...Disturbing... Loser.

A guy drinking Home Alone 2020: Citizen... Inspiration...Hero

5. All our dogs think we quit our jobs to spend more time with them.

All our cats think we got fired for being the loser they always knew we were.

6. I base most of my clothing decisions on what doesn't itch.

7. Whoever stuck the s in "Fast Food" was a very clever little jerk.

8. I did a push-up today. Well, actually I fell down and had to use my arms to get back up so...you know, close enough.

9. A. Going to bed early.
B. Not leaving my house.
C. Not going to a party...

My childhood punishments have become my adult goals.

10. I was just diagnosed with O.C.D. Obsessive Cupcake Disorder.

11. Beauty comes in all sizes...small, large, circle, square, thin crust, thick crust, stuffed crust, extra toppings.

12. My first day back at work has inspired me to book my next vacation.

13. A recent study has shown that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.

14. Thank goodness I don't have to hunt for my food. I don't even know where Tacos live.

15. The most popular break up text of 2020... "Sorry, I'm social distancing."

Warp Speed to a Vaccine

Earlier this year, the Trump administration launched a partnership between the federal government, scientific community and private sector called Operation Warp Speed. The goal of this partnership is to develop 300 million doses of a safe, effective vaccine by January 2021 to fight the COVID-19 coronavirus. Congress has already provided nearly \$10 billion to develop a vaccine through emergency legislation like the CARES Act, which I proudly supported, and thanks to the Trump administration's leadership and American ingenuity, our country is well on its way to developing a vaccine in record time.

The name "Operation Warp Speed" refers to the incredible speed at which we are developing a vaccine. Typically, the development process from start to finish takes about four years. However, just months after the coronavirus reached U.S. soil, we already have a number of vaccine candidates nearing the final stages of clinical development. Earlier this week, the National Institutes of Health announced the beginning of a Phase 3 clinical trial with 30,000 patients for a possible vaccine candidate, and more are expected to start soon. This is the fastest that a vaccine for a novel pathogen has been developed. Ever.

Operation Warp



To the 1st District, Tennessee

Congressman
Phil Roe

Contact info online at roe.house.gov

Speed has also created an expedited process for distributing the vaccine. Normally, vaccine producers wait until after a vaccine is approved to start developing a process for mass production and delivery. However, this process can take a long time. Operation Warp Speed is shaving months and years off this process by allowing these vaccine development steps to occur simultaneously, rather than one at a time. This means that once a vaccine is approved, we will have doses available for immediate distribution.

It's important to understand that this quicker process will not affect the safety of the vaccine. The vaccine will still go through a rigorous testing and trial process to ensure it is safe and effective. This quicker process simply ensures that there is no delay between approval and distribution to the public once the vaccine has been declared safe and effective.

I look forward to being vaccinated against COVID-19 once a vaccine is readily available. The sooner our population is vaccinated, the sooner we can all return to our normal

lives. In the meantime, we all must do our part to keep our friends and neighbors healthy. Cover your mouth and nose when you will be in close proximity to others in public, stay home if you feel ill, and get tested if you believe you have been exposed to the virus. You can find the testing site nearest to you by visiting the state of Tennessee's website at www.tn.gov/governor/covid-19/get-tested.

In addition to developing a vaccine, we have made incredible progress toward developing treatments and therapeutics. It's important to remember this is a brand-new virus we have never seen before and that for the first few months of the pandemic our doctors and nurses were still learning the best way to treat patients. By learning more about the virus and how it affects people, we can ensure that patients who do get sick have better care and better outcomes. We have made significant strides in developing treatments already, and we will continue to do so.

One of the key lessons we have learned from this crisis is how important it is for our country to have stable, reliable sources of medicine. For years, our country has relied on countries like China to produce drugs and medical supplies. However, earlier this year, China threatened to cut off the supply of medicine to United States during this crisis, which would have

had a devastating impact on our country's health. Relying on other countries for vital prescriptions leaves our country vulnerable – especially during a global pandemic. That's why I'm a proud cosponsor of H.R. 6708, the Securing America's Medicine Cabinet Act, which was introduced by Representative Vern Buchanan (R-FL). This legislation would bring pharmaceutical manufacturing back to the U.S. and ensure that our country isn't reliant

on countries like China for life-saving drugs. This isn't just a health issue – it's a national security issue.

Our country is working

at warp speed to defeat the COVID-19 coronavirus, and I have no doubt that together we will be able to defeat this invisible enemy.

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I'M ASKING FOR YOUR VOTE!

Dear Friends and Fellow Voters,

I'm asking you to trust me with your vote on Thursday for the U.S. Congress. I started washing dishes at our family restaurant, the Rainbow Corner, when I was 8. It taught me to work and to serve others and that's what I've been doing ever since.

I earned my accounting and law degrees at U.T. Otherwise, I've chosen to live here my whole life. This is the best place to live, work, worship and raise a family that I know of. But there's always room to improve and to make folks' lives better.

In 2001, when Johnson City was struggling with 56 audit findings, a finance department in shambles, and a sullied reputation, I answered the call and was elected to the City Commission. After Reverend C.H. Charlton and I were inaugurated in May of 2001, things turned around. The Tweetsie Trail, other great projects, and job growth followed. My leadership is one of the main reasons why. I've been a difference maker in everything I've ever done. I will put my skills to work for you in Washington. Making relationships there to benefit us here. Working with local officials and leaders to bring the power of the federal government as an ally. Using my mediator training to create win-win outcomes for your family and our country.

I've run a clean campaign. I've shared my vision and addressed the issues rather than linking myself to someone else. These times call for leadership, problem solving, trustworthiness and optimism. We are poised in the 1st Congressional District of Tennessee to make tremendous progress with the right leader in place. That's me. Electing the wrong person means we either tread water or go backward. It's fair to question the motives of those who have poured hundreds of thousands and millions of dollars of their own money toward buying the seat. We should be equally worried about hundreds of thousands of dark money from a super PAC on behalf of its handpicked candidate. I'm proud that the money I have raised, ranging from a \$7 contribution, has come almost entirely from individuals in our Congressional District.

I'm the only candidate who combines small business ownership with local elected service. I'm not a career politician and will never become one. I've met payrolls and created benefit packages as a small business owner and balanced 10 budgets as a government leader. There are many other Darden Differences. Let's send a professional to do a complicated job, someone who is prepared to serve and passionate about our promising future. I'm asking for your vote so that I can be a Congressman for everyone, not the special interests.

Thank you, and may God bless you and yours.

Steve

Steve Darden

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Paid for by Steve Darden For Congress, Bill Argabrite, Treasurer

Steve Darden, A Representative For Us All

Johnson City celebrates 30th anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act

The City of Johnson City and the Tennessee Disability coalition are excited to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Signed by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990, the ADA gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. It ensures equal opportunity for individuals with

disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, government services, and telecommunications. "The Americans with

Disabilities Act was a crucial achievement for the civil rights of people with disabilities across the nation," said Johnson City Mayor Jenny Brock.

Obituaries

- Betty Peterson Smith, 77, Johnson City, 7/30/20
- Jack Wayne Page, 74, Jonesborough, 7/31/20
- Audrey Ellen Dupay Thompson, 98, Johnson City, 8/1/20
- Norma Jean McInturff, 76, Jonesborough, 8/2/20
- Sammy "Sam" Barnes, 65, Gray, 8/2/20

ETSU College of Nursing presents DAISY award to Nicholas Shortridge

East Tennessee State University's College of Nursing presented a DAISY Award to Nicholas Shortridge, a 2020 alumnus of ETSU's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

Dr. Wendy Nehring, dean of the College of Nursing, presented the award to Shortridge in the presence of nursing faculty and staff, who joined the ceremony via Zoom due to social distancing guidelines.

DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System. The DAISY Foundation was formed in January 2000 by the family of J. Patrick Barnes, who died at age 33 of complications of idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP), an autoimmune disease. Touched by the care and compassion of the nurses who took care of him, his family developed recognition programs to honor and celebrate direct care nurses, nursing faculty and nursing students.

Shortridge is ETSU's second recipient of the DAISY Award and the first ETSU student selected for the award.

"This spring, the faculty unanimously voted that Nicholas should receive this award for all that he's done, not only for his accomplishments in academics, but also the social activities and leadership roles he took on during his time at ETSU," Nehring said. "But

most of all, he was chosen for the kindness that he shows to others."

While at ETSU, Shortridge served as a peer mentor, in various roles with the Student Government Association, and as a leader in ETSU's Preview Orientation Leaders Organization, where he welcomed and guided incoming freshmen and transfer students.

In the College of Nursing, he was a peer ambassador, offering support for students seeking entrance into the nursing program and assisting with orientation events, open house events and during the advisement period.

"Nicholas is exceptional and an example for all nursing students," said Dr. Melessia Webb, associate dean in the College of Nursing.

Shortridge was inspired to become a nurse after his own experience as a pediatric cancer survivor brought him into contact with countless nurses throughout his many treatments and hospital stays from ages 15-17.

"I lived in health care; I lived in hospitals for two years, so this is why I am here," Shortridge said. "At the end of the day, I want to be my patients' advocate. Their health is the most important thing."

After graduating from ETSU in May 2020, Shortridge passed his NCLEX-RN exam and accepted a nursing



Dr. Wendy Nehring presents the DAISY Award to recent ETSU graduate Nicholas Shortridge.

residency position at the VA. He will begin his nursing career on Aug. 17.

"I will miss my student experience at ETSU," Shortridge said. "I had phenomenal professors. Everything they have done for me has allowed me to get to the point where I can accept this award."

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Thank you to Congressman Dr. Phil Roe

BY BILL DERBY, PUBLISHER

As Congressman Roe's 12 years of dedicated service to Tennessee's 1st Congressional District comes to a close the *Johnson City News & Neighbor* would like to thank him for his regular weekly columns he prepared for this newspaper week after week. It's not easy to pen a weekly column much less taking the time out of his busy schedule.

A few months after Congressman Roe was settled in Washington as a hometown native, we thought it would be good for him to keep our readers up to date on what he's working on and other issues facing Washington County locally and regionally.

Phil presented the program at my Rotary Club meeting early in his new career, and I asked him if he would consider writing a weekly column in the *News & Neighbor*. He immediately responded, "Sure, I would be happy to and if it gets too long you can cut it down."

Soon after that meeting, Congressman Roe began sending us his weekly columns and today, that is over 600 he has written for us. Most have been published in our paid subscriber edition and I don't think he missed sending more than a couple of times.

As a fellow Army veteran, he has also shared stories of his military career with us and what it means to serve in the military. We were both stationed in Korea, then a third world country. He was a physician at Camp Casey not far from I Corps headquarters where I was serving. Veterans who served overseas during the Vietnam War era can relate, and appreciate his help to all veterans, including his tenure as chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

Thank you Congressman Roe for your dedicated service and for the columns you have written for our community newspaper and readers.

KEEFAUVER STATE HOUSE
Rebecca ALEXANDER

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Don't delay childhood vaccinations



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Prevent
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Complete
all recommended doses to provide the best protection



On-time
vaccinations protect family, friends and the community

Did you know?

The following vaccines are recommended from:

Birth–6 years

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Varicella
- **DTaP**
Diphtheria
- **Flu**
Influenza
- **Hepatitis B**
- **Hib**
- **MMR**
Measles, mumps, rubella
- **Pneumococcal**
PCV13
- **Polio**
IPV
- **RV**
Rotavirus

7–18 years

- **Flu**
Influenza
- **HPV**
Human papillomavirus
- **Meningococcal**
MenACWY
- **Tdap**
Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis

This list of recommended vaccines by age group is intended to be a guide. Please speak with your pediatrician to plan the best course of action for your child.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Mary Duke Cooks! Sassy Southern

This is a great party dessert. People love crème brûlée with its creamy cold custard and brittle caramelized sugar topping that cracks when hit with a spoon. The best part is the show when you caramelize the sugar with a torch. Have your guests gather to watch. As you pull out a welding butane torch and light it, everyone's attention will be focused as they watch the sugar melt, turn brown, and harden. Expect a lot of accolades! This recipe is from my dear friend, Jayne Long. Enjoy!



Mary Duke
McCartt
Food Editor

Online at marydukecooks.com

- Hot Boiling water for water bath
- 9 x 13-inch glass Pyrex pan plus 8 x 8-inch glass Pyrex pan and 8 (4-ounce) round ramekins
- Butane welding torch

Bring 4 or more cups of water to a boil. Keep simmering on stove while you make custard. In a medium saucepan, bring cream to a simmer over medium high heat. While cream heats, mix egg yolks, sugar and salt with a mixer in another bowl until thick and color just begins to lighten. After cream simmers, mix 1/4 cup of hot cream into egg mixture. Whisk until smooth. Add

remaining cream slowly to egg mixture whisking the whole time, to temper eggs so they won't curdle (turn into scrambled eggs).

Place 9 x 13-inch and 8 x 8-inch pans on counter. (Please be careful, it is easy to burn yourself trying to get boiling hot water into the pans around the ramekins.) To not get burned, place empty ramekins in both Pyrex pans. Then pour the boiling water around the ramekins until the water goes half way up the side of the ramekin. Remove ramekins from pans. If any water gets inside the ramekins, dry them out with a paper towel. Place ramekins back in hot water.

Pour hot custard into a measuring cup with a spout. Divide custard evenly between the 8 ramekins. Bake 300°F for 40- 50 minutes. Remove pans from oven. To keep the creamy texture don't cook the Brulee's until they are completely done. The custard should still

jiggle in the middle. (It will continue to cook until the ramekins are cool enough to handle and get out of the pan while still hot. Ramekins should still be hot enough that you will think you will burn yourself when taking them out.) Cool then refrigerate ramekins overnight or up to 3 days.

Jayne doesn't use the oven's broiler to caramelize the sugar. She says it heats up the custard and causes it to cook more and not be creamy. Instead she uses a butane welding torch. She doesn't like the small hand held torches because they won't caramelize many ramekins! Remove ramekins from refrigerator and place on a rimmed metal sheet pan. Remove any moisture on top of custard with a paper towel. Sprinkle each ramekin with 1 teaspoon granulated sugar. Turn on torch. As you caramelize the sugar, keep torch in constant motion to prevent burned spots. The sugar will turn



into a brittle glaze of melted sugar that cracks when hit with a spoon. Run to the table and enjoy a fabulous dessert! Makes 8 Crème Brulee's.

Tip: Garnish the crème brûlée with whipped cream and fruit. You can use other liqueurs in place of the Grand Marnier (example: Kahlua). Vanilla bean paste can be found at the grocery store or online. If you

would rather use a vanilla bean in place of the vanilla bean paste; cut the vanilla bean lengthwise and scrape out seeds with a knife. Place vanilla bean and seeds in the cream and bring to a simmer. Remove from heat, cover and let steam 15 minutes. Remove vanilla bean and bring mixture back to a simmer before proceeding with the recipe.

VOTERS IN FAIRHAVEN PRECINCT

Fairhaven United Methodist Church Precinct **HAS MOVED** to Cherokee Elementary School, 2100 Cherokee Road, Johnson City.

This Change of location will be for **BOTH** the August 6, 2020 and November 3, 2020 Elections.

Deadline for Youth Leadership program Aug. 14

Youth Leadership, a leadership development program for rising junior and senior high school students, is accepting applicants for the Class of 2020-2021.

The Youth Leadership program is an effective tool for educating, training, and inspiring our community and business leaders of tomorrow. Youth Leadership meets one Saturday a month, August through April. The program ends in May with graduation. Tuition for the program is \$50.00.

"I urge high school students who would like to get involved with Youth Leadership to act quickly," said Jennifer Keller, Chair, 2020 Board of Directors. "It is a great program that offers tremendous opportunity for young men and women to expand their leadership skills

through a variety of experiences."

"Students who participate in the program learn about becoming leaders through a wide variety of activities designed to help them develop leadership skills, broaden their individual talents, and participate in community service," said Tammy Gorzka, Vice Chair, Workforce Education Industrial Council.

Those interested in participating in the program can receive further information by contacting The Chamber of Commerce at 423.461.8000 or talking with their high school guidance counselor. Youth Leadership is a program of the Chamber of Commerce serving Johnson City/Jonesborough/Washington County. Deadline for applying is Friday, Aug. 14.

The Care You Deserve... A Cost You Can Afford.



Planning a funeral is hard enough to deal with, let alone worrying about the cost.

Total Price for Casket, Complete Service, Stationery/Memory Package and Sales Tax

Casket Name	Morris-Baker	Tetrick	Savings at Tetrick
Winston 20 Gauge Steel	\$7,758	\$6,329	\$1,429
Dean 20 Gauge Steel	\$8,875	\$7,315	\$1,560
Carnation 18 Gauge Steel	\$9,313	\$7,534	\$1,779
Parsons 18 Gauge Steel	\$10,386	\$8,519	\$1,867
Last Supper 18 Gauge Steel	\$11,043	\$9,067	\$1,976
Praying Hands Stainless Steel	\$12,329	\$9,176	\$3,153
Princeton Copper	\$16,627	\$10,709	\$5,918
Providence Cherry	\$14,218	\$10,271	\$3,947
Southern Pecan and Veneer	\$11,234	\$9,176	\$2,058
Dakota Poplar	\$10,468	\$8,410	\$2,058

Morris-Baker prices for services include the following charges taken from their General Price List dated February 12, 2020: Basic Services of Funeral Directors and Staff Overhead-\$2,975, Embalming-\$595, Other Care of the Body-Cosmetology-Dressing and/or Casketing-\$295, Use of Facilities and/or Staff for Visitation-\$295, Use of Facilities And/Or Staff For Funeral Ceremony-\$425, Use of Equipment and Staff For Committal Service-\$295, Transfer of Remains to Funeral Home-\$350, Transfer of Remains to Final Disposition-\$350, Family Car-\$75, Utility Vehicle-\$55 Total Charges-\$5,710

Morris-Baker prices for caskets include the following charges taken from their Casket Price List dated February 12, 2020: Winston 20 Gauge Steel-\$1,675, Dean 20 Gauge Steel-\$2,695, Carnation 18 Gauge Steel-\$3,095, Parsons 18 Gauge Steel-\$4,075, Last Supper 18 Gauge Steel-\$4,675, Praying Hands Stainless Steel-\$5,850, Princeton Copper-\$9,775, Providence Cherry-\$7,575, Southern Pecan-\$4,850, Dakota Poplar-\$4,150

Stationery charge of \$195 as quoted by Morris Baker staff member and on the funeral home website.

Tetrick prices for services include the following charges taken from their General Price List dated April 17, 2020: Basic Services of Funeral Directors and Staff Overhead-\$2,715, Embalming-\$495, Other Care of the Body-Cosmetology-Dressing and/or Casketing-\$150, Use of Facilities and/or Staff for Visitation-\$300, Facilities, Equipment and Staff for Ceremony-\$400, Use of Equipment and Staff for Committal Service, \$300, Transfer of Remains to Funeral Home-\$425, Transfer of Remains to Final Disposition-\$295, Family Car-No Charge, Utility Vehicle-\$165 Total Charges \$5,245

Tetrick prices for caskets include the following charges taken from their Casket Price List dated April 17, 2020: Winston 20 Gauge Steel-\$990, Dean 20 Gauge Steel-\$1,890, Carnation 18 Gauge Steel-\$2,090, Last Supper-18 Gauge Steel-\$3,490, Praying Hands-Stainless Steel-\$3,590, Princeton Copper-\$4,990, Providence Cherry-\$4,590, Southern Pecan and Veneer-\$3,590, Dakota Poplar-\$2,890

All casket sales include complimentary Stationery/Memory Package.

Sales Tax is calculated on taxable items at the rate of 9.5%. All prices are rounded to the nearest dollar.



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14th annual Johnson City Omnium gets new date, location

The Johnson City Omnium is celebrating its 14th year in 2020 with a few adjustments from its typical format. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the event that is typically held at the end of May in Downtown Johnson City, will take place Aug. 15-16 in Elizabethton. Details regarding these changes as well as new policies concerning COVID-19 can be found at www.jcomnium.com.

The three races that make up the Omnium are known to cyclists as the most challenging racing east of the Rockies. The huge variety in terrain and type of racing has proven to be instrumental in developing bicycle racers who can be competitive both nationally and internationally.

Two of the races will follow the same routes from previous years. On Aug. 15, racers will compete in the Carter County Roan Groan. This race takes riders on as many as 80 miles and almost 10,000 feet of climbing. It's followed by the Ballard Health Time Trail in Unicoi County. This 3-mile course features a 1-mile climb. The final race in the series takes place on Sunday, Aug. 16. Spectators are encouraged to line the streets in Downtown Elizabethton to see the action up close at the Fat Tire Criterium. This course is expected to be even faster than the Johnson City course and organizers anticipate plenty of action.

Early registration for the Johnson City Omnium recently closed with a 45-percent increase over last year's early registration. These early registrants indicate not only an increase in the number of racers but very competitive fields. There are three current National Champions, four returning Omnium winners from last year and the 2018 Omnium Pro/Am winner. They represent 19 States.

"With all of the races either being postponed or



The Johnson City Omnium is set to take place on Aug. 15-16 after being moved from its traditional May dates as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic. The event will be modified slightly with the Criterium portion of the event being moved from downtown Johnson City to the streets of Elizabethton.

canceled, it's both refreshing and motivating knowing that a race as popular, and hard, as Johnson City is still going to be happening," said Pro/Am racer and current National Road Champion Luca Scuriatti. The 17 year-old from Washington, D.C. added, "I am really looking forward to the road race in particular, as I've never done a race with over 9,000 feet of climbing!"

Proceeds from the event go to the Science Hill

High School NICA (National Interscholastic Cycling Association) racing team, Northeast Tennessee Cycling NICA racing team, Johnson City Morning Rotary Foundation, Milligan Women's Elite Cycling and Carter County Amateur Radio Club.

For more information on the Johnson City Omnium visit jcomnium.com or contact director@jcomnium.com.

McKinney Center now accepting entries for annual Juried Art Exhibition

Jonesborough's Mary B. Martin Program for the Arts at the McKinney Center is now accepting submissions for the 2020 Juried Art Exhibition.

This year's exhibition will be different from previous years with several changes to account for the unique set of circumstances 2020 has presented. This has been a year of uncertainty, loss, discord, and isolation, to say the least. The McKinney Center would like for this year's exhibition to demonstrate the good that can come from persevering through the trials of such times.

Art can inspire others to work toward a better tomorrow for our community. Art can truly impact our world in a positive manner. This year's theme is, "Community, Change, & Connection." We encourage you to create something that

speaks to these three words.

Times have been difficult for everyone, especially self-supporting artists and non-profits. Therefore, the entry fee has been waived this year. A panel of three local art professionals who will jury this year's exhibition – Dick Nelson, owner of Nelson's Fine Art, Karlota Contreas-Koterbay, Director of the Slocumb and Tipton Galleries at ETSU, and Theresa Hammons, Director of the McKinney Center.

Entry fees normally cover the cost of the awards. Therefore, this year, there will be no cash awards. Certificates for Best in Show, second place, third place, and honorable mentions will be presented during a Virtual Exhibition Opening on Sept. 18 at 6 p.m. Judging will be based on the quality of the artwork and the interpretation of this year's theme.



The McKinney Center is now accepting entries for this year's Juried Art Exhibition, which is slated to open virtually on Sept. 18.

All forms of art will be accepted, such as mixed media, painting, photography, sculpture, wood, ceramic, jewelry, etc. Jonesborough and East Tennessee are rich with professional artists, and the exhibition is expected to attract entries from the many high-level and skilled artists across the region.

Entries must be original works and not copied from copyrighted or published art or photographs. Artists who submit entries must be at least 18 years of age. All entries must be original works completed within the last two years and not have been exhibited previously at the

McKinney Center.

Digital submissions are due by Monday, Aug. 24, at 3 p.m. There is no entry fee this year. Artists can submit up to three pieces.

The exhibit will be open to the public by appointment from Saturday, Sept. 19 through Oct. 10. You are encouraged to call the McKinney Center to schedule your private viewing of the show!

A prospectus and entry form can be downloaded from: www.mckinneycenter.com. Online submissions are also encouraged. For more information, contact Theresa Hammons at theresah@jonesboroughtn.org or 423.753.0562.

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Hunt's Ketchup
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