

# NEWS & NEIGHBOR

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After making the treacherous climb up to the Bone Valley campground, the reward is a seat around the 'great ring of fire.' From left, David Anderson, Jim Hunter, Owen Thigpen, Jim Thigpen and Bryan Averett enjoy some time around the campfire.

# Fire & Rain on Hazel Creek

Local fishing club treks each year to a remote mountain fishing camp

Editor's Note: This is the second installment of a twopart story chronicling the annual journey a local fishing club has made for over 30 years to a remote mountain stream in the mountains of North Carolina. The first part can be found at jcnewsandneighbor.com.

#### BY HAROLD ROSS, JR.

We made it to our campsite!

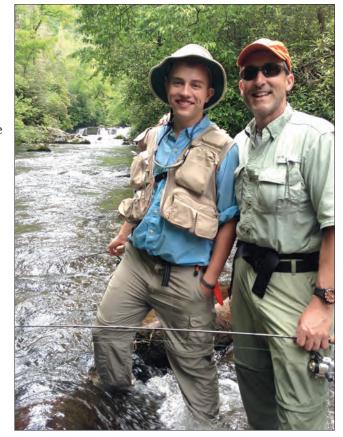
After a seven mile trek up a steep old logging road we reach our home for a week. A backcountry campsite is just that – a flat place in the woods with maybe remnants of a fire ring from previous campers. That's it! Close by we can bathe in a deep translucent pool. Each day we fill a seven-gallon jug from a freshwater spring that flows straight out of the side of the mountain.

After unpacking the carts, putting up tarps, tents,

years we have had many run-ins with bears. Luckily no one has ever been harmed, but there have been some close calls with some of the hungry beasts.

Each year has its own stories - some hilarious, some downright scary. In 1999, Phil Scharfstein joined our group for his first trip, and we quickly learned his dislike of thunderstorms. It was the second night of the trip when a good old-fashioned severe thunderstorm rolled in, and Phil asked, "Where do you go when a bad storm hits?" We all laughed as we were digging trenches and pushing bulges out of the tarp to combat the torrential rain as lightning popped all around the campsite.

On another trip in 1995, we had an aggressive bear that kept coming back to our camp over 27 times over a three day period. We pelted him with rocks time and time again to no avail. The only thing that gave us relief was when another less experienced group of campers came in and



kitchen and building the "great ring of fire," we all grab a chair and sit down to take a load off our feet. "Ahh … the great outdoors," one member states as he inhales and exhales the scent of green floral aroma of this little Garden of Eden.

This year will mark our 34th trip to Hazel. What makes this year even more special is this particular campsite has been closed for the past two years because of "aggressive bear activity." This is the park's name given for bears that have lost their natural fear of humans and will come into camps to terrorize campers in search of food. Yes, over the set up. By the next morning, they were hightailing it back down the mountain after being harassed all night.

On a trip in 2006, we were all settled in around the campfire after a long day of fishing. Our bellies were full from eating a big meal of fresh fried trout, hush puppies and good ole macaroni and cheese. It was a full moon around 11:30pm, and we all had a case of quiet content when out of the blue we hear a God-awful scream coming off the ridge above camp.

Just happens there is a graveyard about 200 yards away on a ridge above our camp, which made our minds

Harold Ross Jr. and his nephew Ross Bradshaw fishing on Hazel Creek.

wonder even more. We were all questioning if we really heard anything – and what it might be if we had heard

SEE FIRE & RAIN, 5

# Lack of fall sports could take financial toll on ETSU, Johnson City



ETSU athletic director Scott Carter said on Friday that the school was in favor of the Southern Conference's decision to delay the start of the conference's fall sports season until next spring. PHOTO COURTESY DAKOTA HAMILTON/ETSU

#### BY DAVE ONGIE, NEWS EDITOR

Last Thursday afternoon, the Southern Conference Council of Presidents made the decision to move all fall conference athletic competition to the spring. The move means ETSU's football, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer and volleyball teams will spend this fall in limbo with hopes of competing in the spring provided the situation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic allows competition to resume at that time.

"This decision was made with extensive evaluation and conversation," Southern Conference Commissioner Jim Schaus said on Thursday. "Ultimately, we felt it necessary to ensure the health and safety of studentathletes, coaches and staff. This decision was also supported by the conference's medical advisory committee."

During a conference call with local reporters the following day, ETSU athletic

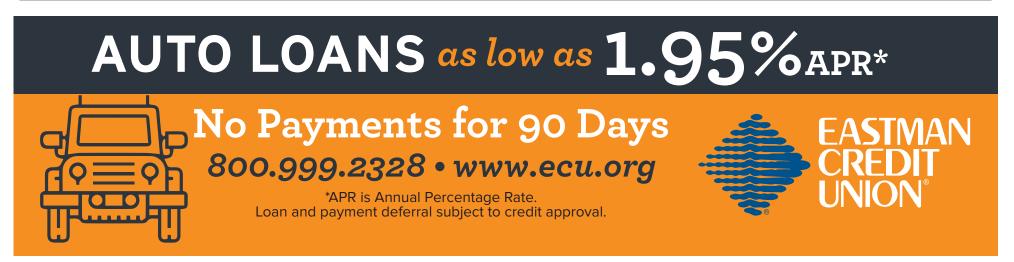
director Scott Carter said ETSU voted in favor of the decision to move athletic competition to the spring.

"We stood in support of the movement to the spring," Carter said. "We have been exploring this for quite some time with the advice of our doctors and everyone here at ETSU. There is incredible work that has gone into this. It was a very difficult decision, but in the name of health and safety, it was the right decision."

While the decision applied to all inconference competition, the league left the door open for SoCon teams to participate in non-conference competitions this fall. That decision makes it possible for Samford to play a football game at Florida State on Sept. 19, which will reportedly earn the school a \$450,000 payout as stipulated in a contract signed in November of 2019.

ETSU was supposed to play a game at Georgia on Sept. 12 that included a \$550,000

SEE DECISION, 9



# **Mountain Home National Cemetery marks end of WWII**



Mountain Home National Cemetery director Kirk Leopard and Liz Cole from Bugles Across America during a ceremony held on Aug. 14 to mark the day President Truman announced Japan's surrender, which signaled the end of World War II.



Liz Cole plays Taps during a wreath-laying event that was held at Mountain Home National Cemetery last Friday to commemorate the event.

# Local Girl Scouts to honor Ferguson at Virtual Trefoil Society Luncheon

The Girl Scouts of the Southern Appalachians will honor Carol Ferguson at this year's north-area Virtual Trefoil Society Luncheon.

This event will take place on Aug. 27, via Zoom, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Each year, Trefoil Society luncheons are held in the north, central, and south areas of our Council to honor a woman who exemplifies a G.I.R.L. (Gogetter, Innovator, Risk-taker and Leader).



**Carol Ferguson** 

"I'm really humbled by being honored by this group," Ferguson said. "I know a lot of the women who are members of the Trefoil Society and have an enormous amount of respect for them. I wish my scouting career had been longer, but I think I've always been an advocate for women's rights and empowerment of women, and Girl Scouts do a wonderful job of that."

When a girl becomes a Girl Scout, she receives a pin in the shape of a Trefoil, symbolizing her acceptance of the ethical leadership values she will learn. Members of the Trefoil Society commit to support Girl Scouts of the Southern Appalachians through generous annual financial support, so girls can discover their leadership potential and take action in their communities.

Carol's community involvement included serving on the Board of Appalachian Girl Scout Council in Johnson City. She has served as the President of the United Way of Johnson City/Washington County, the Board of Directors for the Johnson City/Washington County Chamber of Commerce, and as President of the Johnson City Board of Realtors. Carol has served as President of Northeast State's Foundation. She is presently serving on the Executive Board as the Scholarship Committee Chair for Northeast State and on the Johnson City/ Washington County Health & Education Board.

If you are interested in attending the north-area Virtual Trefoil Society Luncheon on Aug. 27, you can register by visiting *www.girlscoutcsa.org/*. Interested in hosting

a virtual table? Please contact the Girl Scouts of the Southern Appalachians at *Philanthropy@ girlscoutcsa.org* or

#### 1.800.474.1912 x2007.

The local Girl Scouts would like to thank their generous event sponsors: Eastman Credit Union, East Tennessee Foundation, and Public Information Associates.





# Auditions for 'Something Rotten!' at the JRT

The Jonesborough Repertory Theatre will hold auditions for the hilarious musical – Something Rotten! – on Sat and Sun, Aug. 22 and 23, at 3 p.m. at the theatre located at 125.5 W. Main St. in Jonesborough. The show dates are March 4-21 with full capacity seating or Feb 25-

jazz shoes for the dance portion of the audition. Auditions will be conducted in a manner that allows for social distancing.

The show rehearsal calendar will be provided at the audition. Auditions and rehearsals will follow protocols for safely gathering including

Mar 21 with social distancing capacity.

This is the funniest show ever about the birth of a musical. For a synopsis and character breakdown, check out JRT's website and/or Facebook event page.

Auditionees need to prepare a song selection no longer than 60 seconds. Bring an accompaniment track or sing a cappella. Cold readings and a dance audition will also be required. Bring tap shoes and character/ temperature checks, hand sanitizer, and social distancing in the theatre. All persons associated with the production and JRT are required by the Town of Jonesborough to sign a release waiver.

Video auditions will be accepted. Please contact the director, Jennifer Bernhardt, at *JRTartisticdirector@gmail.com* if you are interested in submitting a video or for more information.

# Crumley House donation days set for Aug. 19-21

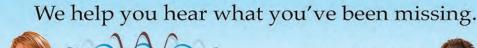
Challenging times often provide unique opportunities. After being forced to sacrifice its two major 2020 fundraisers due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The Crumley House Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center certainly faces obstacles, but the non-profit organization continues to move forward and today announces, "Crumley House Donation Days," set to take place Aug.19-21.

The three-day fundraising event, temporarily taking the place of the

popular Polynesian Beach Party, will welcome general monetary donations, and more importantly will feature partnerships with regional businesses in an online auction format, providing the chance for local business exposure while raising money for a worthwhile cause.

Items on the bidding block may now be previewed by clicking on the event banner at the top of the page at *www. crumleyhouse.com*, with the official kickoff and bidding slated for Aug. 19.







# **ETSU Advancement, Alumni offices to relocate to Model Mill Development**

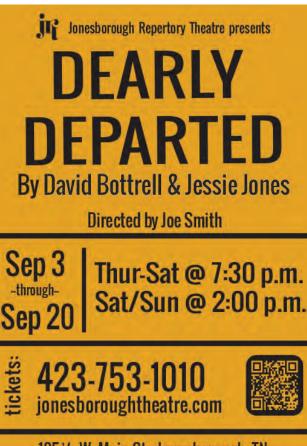
The ETSU Foundation will lease space at the Model Mill Development that will become the new home for the Office of University Advancement at East Tennessee State University as well as the ETSU National Alumni Association.

ETSU anticipates relocating the offices to the Model Mill Development sometime in October of this year. "The restoration of the Mill has been a long anticipated project for this region and we are honored to have a presence in the beautiful new facility and to be part of this historic move," said Pam Ritter, ETSU Vice President for University Advancement and President/CEO of the ETSU Foundation. "Our advancement and alumni staff are engaged within the community 365 days each year, and our presence at the Mill positions us closer to our donors, alumni and other friends within the community."

The Model Mill was constructed in the early 1900s and is located on the corner of Walnut and Sevier streets near the ETSU campus. Local business leaders Grant Summers and Rab Summers purchased the Mill in 2016 and began a massive renovation of the facility that will become the new headquarters for Summers-Taylor construction company and also provide space for other tenants.

Grant Summers, who is president of Summers-Taylor, says his longstanding dream was for ETSU to have a presence at this facility.

"ETSU is an important leader in our region, and from





A rendering of the new Model Mill Development, which will house ETSU's offices of University Advancement as well as the National Alumni Association. ETSU officials expect to move into the new building in October of this year.

the beginning President Brian Noland has been very supportive of the university partnering with us, and that commitment gave us the confidence to move forward with this project," Summers said.

The designer for the Model Mill Development is Thomas Weems Architect.

"Our students, faculty, staff and alumni have an active presence in Downtown Johnson City throughout the year, and we recognize the potential that Walnut Street offers in forming deeper linkages between the university and the downtown area," said Whitney Goetz, who became Executive Director of the Alumni Association on July 1.

# **Ballad Health announces fourth-quarter, year-end results**

Last week, Ballad Health announced fourth-quarter and year-end results from its 2020 fiscal year, and that report illustrates the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the healthcare provider. During the fourth quarter of the 2020 fiscal year, net patient revenue fell \$139.1 million, a 26.8 percent decline from the same period during the previous year.

Some of those losses were mitigated by \$82.5 million in incremental federal funding provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. In a press release announcing the financial results, Ballad presented a timeline of when and how the COVID-19 outbreak affected operations.

On March 10, Ballad Health executed its disaster plan, which includes the activation of its Corporate Emergency Operations Center (CEOC) to coordinate efforts across the system and around the region to rapidly plan for, and execute, ongoing response to the issues resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beginning on or about March 17, Ballad Health began experiencing an organic and material slowing of elective procedures and diagnostic services. Effective March 23, Ballad Health complied with the federal and state guidance to cease all non-emergent, the implementation of a new electronic medical record and the COVID-19 pandemic) totaled \$2.031 billion, down slightly from \$2.060 billion in FY 2019.

Aside from the impact of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), Ballad's results reflected significant capital investments as well as a number of new initiatives.

During the fourth quarter, Ballad Health reported it has successfully deployed the first phase of a more than \$200 million technology conversion, bringing more than 80 care sites live on the new Epic electronic health record platform. According to Epic, despite deploying the system during a global pandemic, Ballad Health's successful conversion was among the best the electronic health Tennessee."

The Virginia Department of Health agreed with the State of Tennessee's findings, citing, among other benefits, Ballad Health's increases in nursing salaries of more than \$100 million over 10 years, "the implementation of multiple billing and charging policies to reduce the burden of health cost to the region's residents," Ballad Health's engagement in cost-reducing value-based programs, a majority of quality measures that demonstrate improvement and the likely financial jeopardy of several rural hospitals in Virginia existing prior to the creation of Ballad Health.

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VIRTUAL TOURS AVAILABLE! elective procedures. Beyond the deferral of these procedures and diagnostic testing, Ballad Health experienced a decline in other types of medical treatment similar in effect to that experienced by most health systems and physician organizations – physician practice, urgent care and other routine medical service visits declined precipitously.

Ballad Health's decline in overall volume was accelerated due to the pandemic, with some recovery during the fourth quarter. Acute discharges in the quarter declined by 22.6 percent. Surgeries performed in the hospital setting decreased by 29.3 percent to 10,575 cases. Inpatient surgeries declined 26.9 percent, while outpatient surgeries declined 30.6 percent. Emergency department visits decreased by 34.7 percent.

For FY 2020, total revenues were \$1.993 billion, compared to \$2.104 billion during FY 2019. Ballad's total expenses (prior to the incremental expense associated with record company's staff had observed, with Ballad Health achieving 100 percent of the key performance indicators for success.

Also, Ballad Health reported that, as a health system approved under a Certificate of Public Advantage (COPA) in Tennessee and Letter Authorizing a Cooperative Agreement in Virginia, both the State of Tennessee and the Commonwealth of Virginia have found the advantages stemming from the creation of Ballad Health are evident and demonstrable.

"It is the Tennessee Department of Health's determination that the Ballad Health COPA continues to provide a public advantage," stated the Tennessee Department of Health in a recent finding, citing, among other things, improvements in a majority of quality measures. "We appreciate, perhaps at this time more than ever, the important role Ballad Health plays in helping TDH fulfill its mission: to protect, promote and improve the health and prosperity of people in

Commonwealth of Virginia are doing to help health systems respond to the current pandemic, while at the same time working to ensure the creation of Ballad Health continues achieving the policy goals set by both state legislatures," said Ballad Health Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Alan Levine. "Rural hospitals and health systems all over the nation continue to struggle, and Ballad Health, as a regional system, continues to work hard to provide high-quality care to a rural region that likely would have faced the same loss of hospitals and access other rural communities have faced."

Levine reiterated that, despite the financial challenges presented by the pandemic, Ballad Health remains committed to reopening a previously closed hospital in Lee County, Virginia.

A fuller overview of Ballad Health's fourth-quarter and year-end results can be found at: www.balladhealth.org/news/fourthquarter-and-year-end-results.



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# **Opinion** —

# Due to my isolation, I finished three books yesterday. And believe me, that's a lot of coloring!

More stupid thoughts during this home confinement.

• I thought the dryer made my clothes shrink. Turns out it was the refrigerator.



editor@jcnewsandneighbor.com

• Does swimming in debt count as cardio?

• Common sense is so rare these days it should be considered a super power.

• When a pig has gas, does it smell like bacon?

• That terrifying moment when your cat enters your room, stares at something you can't see, and then runs away in panic.

• Anyone who says their wedding day was the best day of their life has obviously never had two candy bars fall down at once from a vending machine.

• What do people do with all the extra time they save by writing "K" instead of "OK"?

• Had a bad mix up at the store today. When the cashier said strip down facing me, apparently she was referring to my credit card.

• You never realize what you have until it's gone. Toilet paper is a good example.

• Crushing pop cans is soda pressing.

• Turning vegan would be a big missed steak!

• When I say "the other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.

• I just bought my husband a 'Get better soon' card. He's not sick....I just think he could be better.

I'm no cactus expert but I know a prick when I see one. Have you ever listened to some folks for a minute and

thought..."Their cornbread ain't done in the middle."Chocolate is to women what duct tape is to men. It

fixes everything.

• You're not fat! Come on, chin up. No, the other one.....

• Time to get up and get going....Today's bad decisions aren't going to make themselves!

• Told my wife I wanted to be cremated. She made me an appointment for Tuesday.

• Not only did I fall off the diet wagon, I dragged it into the woods, set it on fire, and used the insurance money to buy cupcakes.

• Two little old ladies were attending a rather long church service. One leaned over and whispered, "My fanny is going to sleep."

"I know," replied her companion, "I heard it snore three more times."

## How To Lie To The Bathroom Scale (While trying to get through this crisis)

1. Weigh yourself with clothes on, after dinner... as well as in the morning, without clothes, before breakfast,

because it's nice to see how much weight you've lost overnight.

2. Never weigh yourself with wet hair.

3. When weighing, remove everything, including glasses. In this case, blurred vision is an asset. Don't forget the earrings, these things can weigh at least a pound.

4. Use cheap scales only, never the medical kind, because they are always five pounds off...to your advantage.

5. Always go to the bathroom first.

6. Stand with arms raised, making pressure on the scale lighter.

7. Don't eat or drink in the morning until AFTER you've weighed in, completely naked, of course.

8. Weigh yourself after a haircut, this is good for at least half a pound of hair (hopefully).

9. Exhale with all your might BEFORE stepping onto the scale (air has to weigh something, right?).

10. Start out with just one foot on the scale, then holding onto the towel rack in front of you, slowly edge your other foot on and slowly let off of the rack. Admittedly, this takes time, but it's worth it.

You will weigh at least two pounds less than if you'd stepped on normally.

# Johnson City group marks centennial of 19th amendment, announces mural plans

On Aug. 18, 1920, Tennessee became the "Perfect 36" and necessary state to ratify the 19th Amendment, giving women in the United States the right to vote.

Harry Burn, the Tennessee Senator from Niota, received a letter from his mother, Febb Burn urging him to "be a good boy" and vote for the Suffrage Amendment. Johnson City was a central hub of suffrage activism and organizing activities and an integral part of a national movement for women's enfranchisement in the early 1900s, hosting a statewide meeting of the Tennessee Congressional Union Party at 113 Spring St. in 1917.

Inspired by the 1913 Washington, D.C. suffragist parade, Johnson City suffragist Eliza Shaut White led a parade supporting women's suffrage through downtown Johnson City on Oct. 7, 1916. Following White on her horse were several automobiles and a drum and fife band from Mountain Home. The event ended in a pro-suffrage rally near Fountain Square.

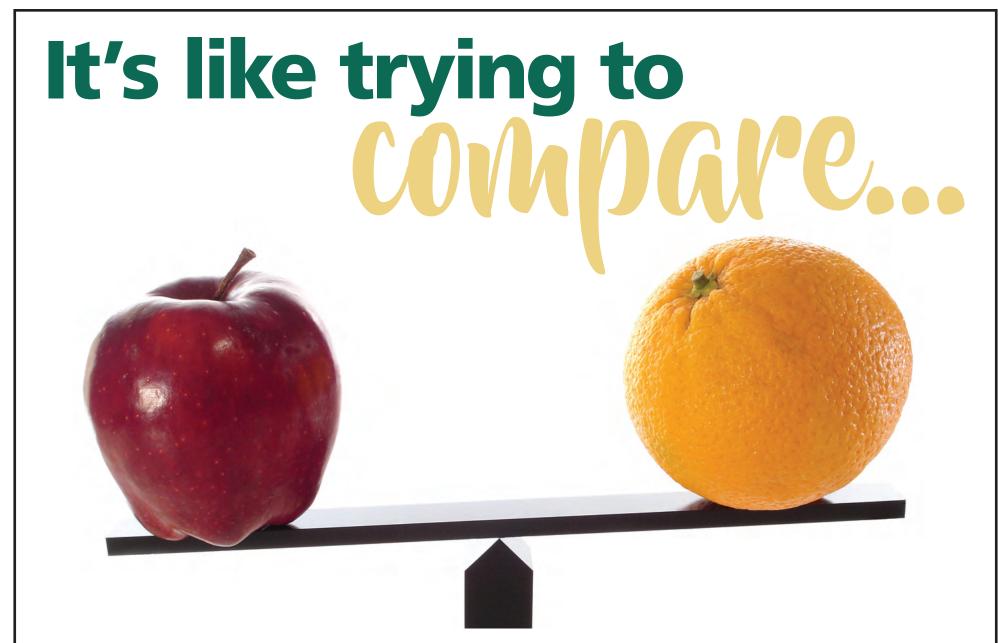
To recognize the Johnson Citians who fought for suffrage and to honor all those who passed the torch for voting rights to other disenfranchised Americans throughout history, the Centennial Suffrage Celebration Coalition of Johnson City has commissioned a mural by artist Ellen Elmes. Located at 400 Buffalo St. (facing Ashe Street), the mural commemorates this centennial anniversary through the depiction of a diverse and cohesive movement that continues to impact the social standing of women in our society today.

The mural will be presented to Johnson City at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10, during a ceremony livestreamed from the Centennial Suffrage Celebration Coalition's Facebook page (@ *jctnsuffrage*). Stacey White Ferren, granddaughter of Eliza Shaut White, will lead a procession of Coalition participants in Suffragist attire, replicating segments of the Oct. 7, 1916 Johnson City suffrage parade. Historical vignettes will be presented by participants from Girls Inc. of Johnson City followed by a visit from Harry Burn and his mother, Febb Burn. To end the event, artist Ellen Elmes will present the mural to Mayor Jenny Brock.

Those in attendance will be required to follow CDC and local health guidelines, including wearing masks and maintaining proper social distance. More information can be found at *www.jctnsuffrage.org*.



**Eliza Shaut White** 



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# Fire & Rain from page 1

something – when another scream came off the ridge even closer to camp. This was a scream that could only be described as someone skinning a 90-year-old woman. To say the least, no one slept very well that night. When we got back home, we found out that this was a noise caused by a bobcat searching for a mate.

"You've got to love the great outdoors and have an appreciation for Mother Nature, because you are at her mercy." Other members of the Hazel Creek Fly Fishing Club include David Anderson, Jim Thigpen, Jon Henry, Bryan Averett, Jim Hunter and Ross Bradshaw, who will make the trip this year.

There is an abundance of wildlife that we see each year in this most remote area of the Smokies, including bear, deer, coyote, turkey, grouse, wild boar, rattle snakes, copperheads and an abundance of bird and insect life. The variety of insect life is so vast we see bugs each year that we have never seen before.

Each day we wake up at sunrise to the melodic call of the Wood Thrush. The first person out of the tent has the responsibility of putting a pot of fresh coffee on the stove. As the sun kisses the ridges above and the fog rises off the creek each fisherman grabs a cup of joe and settles in around the morning campfire while the aroma of sizzling bacon in the iron skillet drifts across camp. After finishing a breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon, toast, coffee and Tang, the group decides where everyone is going to fish for the day. Around 9:30 a.m., day packs are filled with peanut butter crackers, trail mix, beef jerky and fresh bottles of spring water, the members pair up for safety to head out to their favorite sections of the creek.

Over the years our goal has changed as far as this fishing is concerned. In the early years, it was how many fish you could catch in a day. Some of the club members have caught as many as 200 fish after a short rain shower clouds the water. Cloudy water gives the fisherman the edge because he can get closer to a particular spot for more accurate casting without spooking the trout.

These days it is more about the quality of the fish and the total fishing experience. When fishing in the Smokies, an angler is required to have a Tennessee or North Carolina fishing license. The Hazel Creek watershed is a wild stream and basically means the stream is self-supporting with no stocking programs. The first seven miles contains mostly all rainbow and brown trout. If you head upstream from our campsite on Hazel Creek or Bone Valley Creek, you will start catching brook trout. The brook is the most colorful and the only native trout of the Smokies. These trout can only survive in the coldest and most pristine of aquatic conditions.

Fly fishing on this stream can be one of the most relaxing experiences one can imagine for a seasoned angler. Standing knee-deep in a long run looking upstream you must choose the location where you would think a trout may be holding. Stripping line off your fly reel, you start the methodical 10 o'clock, 2 o'clock casting until there is enough line out to softly drop your fly in just the right spot.

Bam! These wild trout rise and suck in the fly with the intensity of a fish five times its own size compared to a stocked fish. Some of the favorite dry flies for streams in the Smokies would include the Elk Hair Caddis, Yellow



Every evening, a 500-pound cart full of firewood must be collected in order to keep the 'great ring of fire' roaring. Harold Ross (foreground) Bryan Averett, Jon Henry, Ross Bradshaw, Roger Catlette, David Anderson and Jim Thigpen help complete the task.



The terrain around Hazel Creek requires fly fishermen to make precise casts in order to hook the trout that inhabit the water.



A long day of fishing concludes with fantastic food and fellowship around the "great ring of fire."

Cayhill Dunn, Yellow Quill Dunn, Parachute Adams and the traditional Royal Wullf. During April, May and June, terrestrials like the Black and Cinnamon Ant, Black Beetle, Grasshoppers and the famous Green Worm all work fantastic. The average fish size is going to be 6 to 12 inches, but when you hook into one of the wild trout you will think each catch is much larger.

Over the years there have been many larger fish

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caught. A trophy fish for these waters would be an 18 inch fish or larger. Most of the larger fish are caught in dark water late in the evening (6 p.m. until dark). Dark water is anywhere the water runs deep and is sheltered by large structures in the water or covered by overhead canopy of trees and Mountain Laurel. In the 25 years we have been fishing, a 21-inch brown still holds the record for the largest beast caught in these wild waters.

Around 5 p.m., all the

guys start drifting back into camp. Before anyone can get comfortable for an evening of cooking, storytelling and laughing, we all grab the saws and axe and head out for firewood duty. I and another seasoned woodsman act as the spotters of the best dead hardwood to cut for the evening fire. This may seem like a simple act in camping, but to this day I am amazed at some of the wet decaying crumbling wood brought back to camp as firewood. The amount of firewood needed for an evening is like purchasing asphalt sealer for the driveway. You think four five-gallon cans will cover your driveway but after you put down two you realize you need twelve five-gallon cans. To say the least, we get a 500-pound cart full of wood for the evening's affairs.

After cutting wood and arriving back at camp hot, sweaty and just plain tuckered out, it's time for the Hazel Creek spa bath! Yes folks we strip down to our fishing boots and a towel for a refreshing 58-degree plunge into a new realm mountain washin'. Upon disrobement one plunges into the 10-foot deep pool with childlike screams. One emerges from the creek back up on the beach shuttering with goose bumps from head to toe. You soap up and then it's time for one more plunge into the icy water for a rinse. The creeks polar water not only refreshes but also brings one's body temperature down to an invigorating level of cool comfort.

> The evening's fivecourse dinner starts with some famous deer summer sausage made by my

> > EWS & NEIG

father-in-law, Jim Hunter. We slice the delicious sausage onto a Ritz cracker with a slice of cheddar cheese and a dab of mayonnaise to top it off-- mmmm good! The second course for the evening consist of sliced potatoes deep-fried in the iron skillet, making some of the best Hazel Creek tater chips you ever sunk your teeth into. We make a special dipping sauce of ketchup and Tabasco sauce that makes these delectable treats slide down with a spicy bite.

Meanwhile, the fire is roaring to make a good bed of coals to be used for the main course of beef filets, baked potatoes and baked onions. My mouth is watering just typing this menu. Bryan Averett cuts up some garlic, onions, mushrooms, salt and pepper with a stick of butter. He places all this into a handmade aluminum foil boat to roast and melt near the fire. This will be the most unbelievable sautéed concoction that will be poured over our baked potatoes when ready for eating. Dinner is topped off with some homemade Key lime or Kahlua cake made each year by my wonderful wife Jennie.

The last course of the evening is made up of storytelling, laughing and rekindling of friendships, which fills a man's soul full of wonderful memories. The fishing is always the common denominator, but the beauty of this trip is to remove all the distractions of life, go "off grid" and get back to enjoying the peace, beauty and serenity that God has to offer in the natural world. I think Henry David Thoreau stated it best in his quote, "Many men go fishing all their lives without knowing it is not fish they are after." And come September, the tradition continues.



sement

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# #SafeWithUs

All Ballad Health facilities are taking crucial safety precautions, including enhanced physical distancing measures, increased infection control and new processes and systems to safeguard patients' care journeys. Whether you choose to visit one of our urgent care clinics or emergency departments, be assured, you are safe with us.

# How do I choose?

Urgent care clinic

Hospital OR emergency room

**Minor illness** or injury

- Ear and eye infections
- Fevers that respond to
- EMERGENCY

Serious or life-threatening problems

 Any condition you believe is life, limb or vision threatening

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- Flu
- Migraines
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- Minor cuts and burns
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- Sudden loss of vision
- Sudden, new numbness in the face, arm or leg

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For serious or life-threatening emergencies, go to your nearest emergency room or call 9-1-1.





Neck gaiter



Bandana

Homemade





# Mary Duke Cooks! Sassy Southern

Marinade over Coleslaw.

It will look like there is not

enough marinade but the

the marinade. Stir several

times to coat coleslaw then

refrigerate overnight before

refrigerator. Tip: Use coarse

cabbage will shrink into

using. Keeps 5 days in

coleslaw not angel hair.

Coleslaw Marinade

• <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup apple cider

• 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoons ground

mustard (the powder)

vinegar

## Mary Duke McCartt Guest Columnist

Online at marydukecooks.com

Refrigerator Coleslaw is crunchy, sweet, sour, and mayonnaise free. I love that it keeps for days in the refrigerator and goes perfectly with grilled fish, chicken, or BBQ! Enjoy!

#### **Refrigerator Coleslaw**

- 16 ounces coleslaw mix with carrots (about 7 1/2 cups)
- 1/2 green pepper, sliced in 1/4-inch strips then cut in half
- 1/2 red onion, sliced in 1/4-inch half-moons then cut in half
- Coleslaw Marinade

Layer one half of coleslaw, green pepper, and onion in a bowl. Repeat with remaining ingredients. Pour cooled Coleslaw



- 2 teaspoons celery seed
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon hot sauce, optional

Place all ingredients in a small saucepan. Bring marinade to a boil. Remove from heat and cool for about 30 minutes before pouring over coleslaw mixture. Refrigerate.



My thanks to all those who supported me and worked so hard in my race for Congress... I can't thank you enough... May God continue to bless our great state and nation.

Paid for by Citizens to Elect Rusty Crowe, General Ron Hite, Treasure

- Senator Rusty Crowe





The One Acre Cafe will be taking part in National Everybody Eats Week from Aug. 23-29.

# One Acre Café participating in National Everybody Eats Week

One Acre Cafe will join nonprofit cafes across the country for National Everybody Eats Week from Aug. 23–29. National Everybody Eats Week is a nationally coordinated campaign to help individuals understand the power they have to build community, ensure a table for everybody, and end hunger.

One Acre Cafe is a nonprofit pay-whatyou-can café, affiliated with the One World Everybody Eats community café network. Here, diners determine what to pay based on what they can afford, and those who can are asked to pay-itforward to help our neighbors in need.

Since mid-March, we have served over 12,500 free meals. The COVID-19

Pandemic has drastically altered the food security of families in the region. This pandemic and the struggles people are experiencing are not over, we expect to see these numbers grow as the year continues.

One Acre Cafe encourages all residents of Johnson City and surrounding areas to give back during National Everybody Eats Week. Please consider donating online at www. oneacrecafe.org/donate to help a neighbor in need.

One Acre Cafe is open for take out only from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 603 West Walnut Street.

### Friends of the Library accepting book donations

The Friends of the Johnson City Public Library are holding a book donation drop-off on Saturday, Aug. 22 from 1:30-5 p.m. Donated items should be brought to the tent set up in Johnson City Public Library's parking lot. Acceptable donations include books, puzzles and DVDs. Textbooks, reference materials, Reader's Digest and magazines will not be accepted.

This is a one-time event. The library is not accepting book and media donations on a regular basis until further notice.

Contact Friends of the Library President Kathi Cary at *tilegal2@aol. com* for more information about the donation drop-off.

# The Care You Deserve...



# A Price 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	Appalachian	Savings at Appalachian
Winston 20 Gauge Steel	\$7,758	\$6,329	\$1,429
Essex 20 Gauge Steel	\$8,546	\$6,986	\$1,560
Taylor 20 Gauge Steel	\$9,203	\$7,424	\$1,779
Graham 18 Gauge Steel	\$10,002	\$8,229	\$1,774
Hyacinth 18 Gauge Steel	\$10,714	\$8,738	\$1,976
Addison Stainless Steel	\$12,986	\$10,271	\$2,715
Princeton Copper	\$16,627	\$10,709	\$5,918
Bryce Cherry	\$11,064	\$9,714	\$1,451
Barnwood Oak	\$10,577	\$8,738	\$1,839
Lynnwood Hardwood & Veneer	\$9,592	\$8,366	\$1,226
Beverly Hardwood & Veneer	\$8,875	\$7,643	\$1,232

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 Facilities And/Or 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, Essex 20 Gauge Steel-\$2,395, Taylor 20 Gauge Steel-\$2,995, Graham 18 Gauge Steel-\$3,725, Hyacinth 18 Gauge Steel-\$4,375, Addison Stainless Steel-\$6,450, Princeton Copper-\$9,775, Bryce Cherry-\$4,695, Barnwood Oak-\$4,250, Apache Oak-\$3,695, Lynnwood Hardwood & Veneer-\$3,350, Beverly Hardwood & Veneer-\$2,695

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

Appalachian 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

Appalachian prices for caskets include the following charges taken from their Casket Price List dated April 17,2020: : Winston 20 Gauge Steel-\$1990, Graham 18 Gauge Steel-\$1,590, Taylor 20 Gauge Steel-\$1,990, Graham 18 Gauge Steel-\$2,725, Hyacinth 18 Gauge Steel-\$3,190, Addison Stainless Steel-\$4,590, Princeton Copper-\$4,990, Bryce Cherry-\$3,990, Barnwood Oak-\$3,190, Apache Oak-\$3,190, Lynnwood Hardwood & Veneer-\$2,850, Beverly Hardwood & Veneer-\$2,190

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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# Hello from Hogan Holler: Fear of the Unknown

At age 19, I fell off the turnip truck right in the center of downtown Asheville. I'd achieved my dream of getting a big city radio job. To people who grow up in far western North Carolina, Asheville

is the Big Apple! And many people think it's "somewhere down East."

I've often heard folks say, "We can't get nothin' out of those politicians in Raleigh. They don't even know where we are." (I've heard people in Northeast Tennessee express the same about Nashville politicians.) Fact is, five state capitals are closer to where I grew up than Raleigh is: Columbia, SC; Atlanta, GA; Montgomery, AL; Nashville, TN; and Frankfort, KY.

Recently, a Methodist minister who lives in Lake Junaluska, where I now live, traveled to Culberson, a community west of Murphy to preach a funeral. He said he had no idea there was that much North Carolina west of Asheville and he almost missed the funeral! While modern roads have made that part of the state more accessible than when I was a kid, it's still a very rural area.

The demographics have changed little. When I was growing up, except for a smattering of Methodists and Pentecostals, the area was overwhelming Baptist. The

racial makeup was predominantly White, with less than 2 percent Black. A portion of the Cherokee Indian reservation is in Cherokee County, so a small Native American population was and still lives in the area.

This lack of diversity meant I had practically no contact with anyone except white Baptists. And like me, most of the other people in the area had little contact or interaction with another race.

People were suspicious of "outside" religions. When a knitting mill (back when we had those in the U.S.) came to town from "up north," folks were fearful that people associated with the mill would bring strange and "ungodly" religions to the area. Catholics came in for more than their share of vitriol.

Even as a youngster, I was well aware of the racial and religious xenophobia. I couldn't grasp how anybody could dislike someone they had never spent time around or talked with, someone they didn't even know.

I was 18 before I had my first one-on-one conversation with a Black person. He was a disc jockey who went by the moniker "Nat the Cat." His name was Nathaniel Lowery and he was the first Black deejay in Western North Carolina. Broadcasting from the small town of Canton, he was immensely popular, and one day I drove to Canton just to meet him.

The term "my lucky day" describes any day in which we experience extreme good fortune. I've said many

prayers of thanks for my lucky day when I fell off that turnip truck. Getting that job in Asheville was my good fortune-because for the first time in my life, I experienced religious and racial diversity.

The four people I worked closest with were: Zeb, owner of the radio station, a Christian Scientist; Al, the program director and my immediate supervisor, was Catholic; Buddy, our engineer, was Jewish; and Robert, who handled building maintenance, was Black. He attended an AME Zion Church and became my best friend and fishing buddy.

Thanks to these four dear friends, I've never had to carry the heavy burdens of religious intolerance and racial hatred.

When my daughter was growing up, I made a conscious effort to bring as much diversity to her life as possible. I'm trying to do the same with my grandchildren now.

I hope to teach them what I learned after falling off that truck: When fear of the unknown overpowers the willingness to become familiar with an idea or a person we don't understand, that fear can eventually dominate our lives.

After 57 years in the radio industry, Dave Hogan is enjoying his retirement in North Carolina. He'd love for you to say 'howdy' to him via email: *davealtonhogan@* gmail.com.

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information, please call 423.434.6020.

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Officer Examination will be scheduled. For more

When registering, a test date and time for the Police

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Graduation Date

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# Johnson City Police Department opens hiring process

The Johnson City Police Department is looking for potential officers with integrity, good judgement, and the willingness to make a difference in our community. The first step in the department's hiring process is the Police Officer Examination. Registrations for the upcoming test date will be accepted through Aug. 28.

The Johnson City Police Department currently has multiple openings. New officers receive nine weeks of paid training at the police academy, followed by 16 weeks of on-the-job training under the guidance of experienced field training officers. New officers will start on one of five patrol units, working 12-hour shifts with an uninterrupted seven-day break each month. Starting trainee pay is \$35,415.46 and moves to \$37,198.14 after completion of the probationary period.

Johnson City Police officers have the opportunity to serve on numerous specialty units such as the Canine Unit, Criminal Investigations Division, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team, Explosive Ordnance Disposal/Bomb Squad, and the School Resource Officer Program. Successful police applicants will be eligible for the following incentives:

- Tennessee POST Certification \$2,100 incentive
- Other state POST Certification (requires transition school) - \$1,000 incentive

To register for the Police Officer Examination, applicants must be 21 years of age by Sept. 9, 2020 and

have a high school diploma or GED. Applicants must not have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude other than a minor traffic violation. The Police Department has a tattoo policy that is available in full from Human Resources.

Examination registration information and requirements are available on the City website, *www*. *johnsoncitytn.org/hr*. There are two ways to register for the Police Officer Examination. Applicants can email the required documents to the Human Resources Department at *rlockner@johnsoncitytn.org* or mail the documents to Human Resources Department, PO Box 2150, Johnson City, TN 37605.

Applicants must provide copies of the following documents:

- City of Johnson City Application for Employment (available at www.johnsoncitytn.org/hr)
- Birth Certificate

# **Obituaries**

- Florence Ball, 90, Jonesborough, 8/14/20
- Paul K. Saylor, 99, Jonesborough, 8/15/20
- Joseph L. Spear, 71, Johnson City, 8/15/20 • Susan Claire Devane Carle,

Johnson City, 7/25/20

PING

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#### Public Building Authority **MONTHLY BOARD** MEETING

The Public Building Authority will hold a Regularly Scheduled Monthly Board Meeting on Wednesday, August 26, 2020, at 1:00 pm, via web conference.

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# Decision from page 1

payout for ETSU's athletic department. But unlike the Atlantic Coast Conference, the Southeastern Conference adopted a 10-game, conference-only schedule that effectively cancelled ETSU's trip to Athens. Conversely, the ACC gave its member schools the option of scheduling one non-conference game provided it was played in-state, clearing the way for Florida State's clash with Samford in Tallahassee.

Carter said on Friday that ETSU has no intention of pursuing another non-conference game this fall, closing the door on the possibility of securing a six-figure payday that would come if ETSU decided to schedule a "guarantee game" against an ACC or Big 12 opponent.

"It's left up to every school to make their own decision," Carter said. "All I can say at ETSU is that we believe it's not safe (to play) in the fall based on medical advice, and therefore, right now we're not planning to compete in the fall until we hear different from our doctors.

"I've honestly got multiple opportunities that if we wanted to go out and build several guarantee games to make a bunch of money playing football, we could try to do that, but I don't think that's the right thing to do."

Needless to say, the loss of \$550,000 from the cancelled game against Georgia will have an enormous impact on ETSU's athletic department. Carter said on Friday that discussions about a potential financial settlement with Georgia were ongoing, and in the meantime, measures were being taken to ensure the long-term financial health of ETSU's athletic department.

"When the spring sports were suspended and didn't get played, we were able to save a considerable amount of money," he said. "We put out the charge - and our head coaches and staff have been phenomenal – if it is not an emergent need right now, we're going to put it off. There's going to be a tightening of the belt. Every penny is going to matter."

But the financial impact of the Southern Conference's decision extends beyond football stadiums at member schools and out into the towns and regions that surround those facilities. In Johnson City, ETSU's fall football season is a major economic driver.

Jenna Moore, director of sales with the Johnson City Convention and Visitors Bureau, said it is difficult to put an exact dollar figure on how much money ETSU football brings in to Johnson City and the surrounding area, but she offered a snapshot of how wide-ranging the impact is and called the economic trickledown effect "massive."

The impact begins with the loss of five home football games along with other athletic events across the other fall sports that have been postponed. Those events all bring opposing teams and their fans to Johnson City with football accounting for the lion's share of those tourism dollars.

The lack of football games will translate into the loss of hundreds of hotel room bookings around each of those five home dates, and teams also book banquet space at the hotels they stay at for team meetings and meals. Moore expects the negative impact will also extend to restaurants and bars – particularly downtown and along State of Franklin – that benefit greatly from gameday traffic.

Moore said retailers like Alumni Hall that



With football season set to kick off this Friday, the high schools in Johnson City and Washington County have released their guidelines for purchasing tickets and attending games this season. Fans at all schools can expect a much different experience with limited tickets, mandatory mask requirements and temperature checks as schools try to limit the spread of COVID-19. PHOTO BY ROBERT KELL, CREATIVE STORY VISUALS

# Schools unveil plans for football games

With high school football season upon us, local high schools are starting to announce plans for folks looking to attend games this fall. There are obviously many changes folks need to be aware of given the guidelines being put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The season opens this Friday with Science Hill on the road at Elizabethton, David Crockett at Ooltewah and Daniel Boone hosting CAK. Here are some things to remember if you plan to attend high school football games this fall.

#### **General Advice**

While the protocol will vary slightly from one school to the next, fans can expect temperature checks and mask requirements. Most schools have also eliminated pass lists, meaning faculty members and those with TSSAA passes will not be admitted to games without a ticket at virtually every school. Most schools plan to run a concession stand, albeit with a limited menu and other alterations to help avoid the spread of COVID-19.

#### **Away Games**

It is important to remember every school has its own ticket policy, and fans wanting to attend away games will need to check in advance to see if tickets will be available to visiting team fans. For example, visiting team tickets for Science Hill's season-opener at Elizabethton are limited to the parents of Science Hill players only.

#### **Science Hill**

In order to be guaranteed entrance to Science Hill home football games, pre-purchase of a reserved season ticket package is recommended. You can purchase these football tickets at the Science Hill new gym ticket booth Aug. 17-21 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. These tickets cost \$45. All seats will be sold as reserved using social distancing guidelines. If available, single reserved game tickets will be sold Thursday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon on home game weeks. These tickets are \$9 and \$7. If any tickets remain, they will be sold on game night from the stadium ticket booth facing Freedom Hall starting at 6 p.m.

#### **Science Hill Student Tickets**

There will be 350 student tickets available to Science Hill students for home games. On home game weeks, students can purchase these tickets on Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Science Hill new gym ticket booth. Tickets are \$7, cash only. These tickets are student-section specific and cannot be used by adults or non-SHHS students to enter the stadium. Students should carry their Science Hill IDs or another form of identification.

#### **Daniel Boone**

Tickets for this week's season-opener against CAK were sold to parents of football players, cheerleaders, dance team members and band students on Monday and Tuesday at the stadium ticket booth between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Any tickets remaining after that will be sold this Thursday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. or all tickets are sold out.

#### **David Crockett**

Officials at David Crockett High School will be selling tickets for all home games via Huddle Tickets: https://gofan.co/app/school/TN8186. Tickets will be \$7, and there will be a processing fee.

Seat Back chairs will be sold in groups of 2 or groups of 4. Two seats will cost \$120 for the season while 4 seats can be purchased for \$240. These seats must be purchased at the David Crockett office between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. on weekdays.

specialize in ETSU gear will likely feel the impact as fans won't be as likely to buy new ETSU merchandise with no games to attend. Additionally, grocers will be affected by the lack of tailgating, as will other local businesses that offer supplies for those gatherings.

Even though the decision will have a negative impact on the community and the region, Moore said Johnson City leaders understand why the decision was made.

"While it's tough to see another cancellation, we understand health and safety of our community is the most important thing," Moore said. "We're working hard on recovery efforts and trying to creatively find new ways to bring visitors here safely."

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# **ETSU golfers compete in U.S. Amateur**

ETSU had three golfers compete in the 120th U.S. Amateur Championship last week at Bandon Dunes, in Bandon, Oregon.

Jack Rhea, Archie Davies and Shiso Go all competed in the event with Rhea, a former Science Hill standout, advancing to an 18-way playoff for the final three spots in the matchplay draw. Rhea birdied two of his last three holes to qualify for the playoff, but he was unable to advance.

Davies, a freshman from England, was in contention after his first round before fading in Round 2. Go struggled on the first day before bouncing back with a respectable round to close out the event.



From left, ETSU golfers Archie Davies, Jack Rhea and Shiso Go competed in the 120th U.S. Amateur Championship last week in Oregon.



Thank you for your support of the Steve Darden for Congress campaign in the Republican primary. May God bless you and your family and our community.





# BrightRidge temporarily closes public lobby due to construction project

BrightRidge has temporarily closed its public lobby for four weeks beginning on Aug. 17 to allow for completion of a façade project designed to improve building access and safety.

Customers needing assistance can still access BrightRidge Customer Service by phone, website chat, social media and SmartHub mobile access. In addition, two drive-through lanes at 2600 Boones Creek Road will remain open for all payment needs.

Customer support can be reached by phoning BrightRidge at 423-952-5000. Customer service will be available by phone from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Persons needing to establish a new electric or broadband service should begin on the website. Navigate to BrightRidge. com, click "My Service" at the top of the page, and select your service need to begin the process. During regular business hours, customers may also use internet-based communications available online at BrightRidge.com. BrightRidge.com features a "Live Chat" function, which can initiate a conversation with Customer Service simply by clicking the "Live Chat" banner to begin an online conversation with a customer service representative.

Customers also may conduct business with BrightRidge 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via the SmartHub app available for mobile devices and desktop web browsers. From the app, you can make payments, contact customer service, report power interruptions, check energy usage, and much more.

If you need assistance in establishing an account or for any other business needs, please phone Customer Service at 423.952.5000 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

