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NEWS & NEIGHBOR

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A section of Boone Lake at Winged Deer Park as it appeared in April of 2014. In October of 2014, a sinkhole was found near the base of an embankment at Boone Dam, which has forced an extended drawdown of Boone Lake in recent years. Last week, TVA officials expressed optimism that the reservoir could be filled at or near its ordinary high water mark next summer. PHOTO BY DAVE ONGIE

On the Rise

Boone Lake on track to be at or near full pool next summer

BY DAVE ONGIE, NEWS EDITOR

Labor Day has come and gone, and with it another summer.

But if all goes well in the coming months, next summer could very well bring something many folks around our region have longed for since 2014 – Boone Lake at or near its typical summer pool. Sam Vinson, principal project manager of TVA's Boone Dam Project, told the *News & Neighbor* last Wednesday he is cautiously optimistic the Boone Lake reservoir could be back up near the ordinary high water mark of 1,382 feet next summer.

"We're doing everything short of saying we're going to be at summer pool," Vinson said, adding that reaching that goal will be dependent on the amount of rainfall received in the spring and early summer as well as data gained during a controlled raising of the water level in the spring.

Last week, the TVA released its monthly newsletter outlining plans to begin fluctuating the lake level in October. Beginning the week of Oct. 15, TVA will begin raising the lake an average of two feet per week



A drone shot of the construction taking place on the earthen embankment next to Boone Dam. Crews have been working to complete a cutoff wall, which was designed to provide a long-term solution to seepage problems.

until it rises 7 or 8 feet about the current level of approximately 1,352 feet.

This initial increase will provide important data to the project team, but it will also allow reservoir restoration efforts to hit high-gear in anticipation of a return to normal operations. Previously inaccessible coves will

become accessible, allowing debris to be removed and hard-to-reach vegetation to be trimmed.

"There are some coves we cannot get our barge into, and by going to 1,360 (feet), it lets us access those and

SEE BOONE, 9

Veterans' secretary uses Johnson City visit to praise VA staff, Roe



Robert Wilkie, the United States Secretary for Veterans' Affairs, and Congressman Phil Roe walk through the Mountain Home VA campus during a tour last week. PHOTO BY DAVE ONGIE

BY SCOTT ROBERTSON

The United States Secretary for Veterans' Affairs, Robert Wilkie visited the James H. Quillen VA Healthcare System and National Cemetery at Mountain Home last week, accompanied by U.S. Congressman Dr. Phil Roe of Tennessee's 1st Congressional District. Roe, who is retiring from Congress at the end of the current term, is currently the ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The two were at Mountain Home, Wilkie said, to salute the staff of both the medical system and the national cemetery for going above and beyond the call of duty during the COVID crisis.

"In terms of the COVID response, it's been probably one of the best stories in the country," Wilkie said of the Quillen team. "They were one of the first to implement emergency procedures, to triage veterans before they even entered the facility. That's a way to protect veterans but also to protect the staff. They had to make some very hard decisions because they had to keep veterans' families out of the hospital. But, by so

doing, their infection rates were amongst the lowest in the United States. So, they responded magnificently.

"They have done so without complaint. They have done so with an eye toward making sure the warriors of east Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia are taken care of.

"I'm really here to thank them, not only at Quillen, but at the cemetery, because very few people took leave during this crisis," Wilkie said. "They stayed on post. So, this is my way of saying thank you to them for everything that they do."

Wilkie said he was also at Mountain Home to tell the staff directly that this region will be playing a larger role in the Veterans Administration's plans moving forward, if for no other reason than demand. "It's uplifting to be in a place where you don't have to explain military service to anyone. People here are proud of the flag. They're proud of the military. Everybody's connected to the armed forces," Wilkie said. "That's what you see, and that's why they set records at

SEE SECRETARY, 6

Welcome Lauren C. Rushing, MD



A legacy of eye care excellence since 1942

We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Lauren C. Rushing to the team of comprehensive ophthalmology specialists at Johnson City Eye Clinic. In addition to routine ophthalmology and cataract surgeries, Dr. Rushing will specialize in treating a wide array of retina and vitreous disorders.



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Aviation Celebration taking place at Tri-Cities Airport



Aviation and history enthusiasts can catch a glimpse of Sentimental Journey, one of the last B-17G Flying Fortress aircraft still in operation, during this week's Flying Legends of Victory Tour at Tri-Cities Airport



Several aircraft will be on display at this week's aviation celebration, which runs through Sunday, Sept. 13. Visit www.triflight.com/aviationcelebration2020/ for more information on the event.

University School student earns 36 score on ACT exam



University High senior Reilly Wells was recently notified that she had scored a perfect 36 on her ACT test.

Reilly Wells, a senior at University School, was notified that she earned a perfect score of 36 on the ACT exam.

Fewer than half of 1 percent of students who take the ACT earn a top score. In the U.S. high school graduating class of 2019, only 4,879 out of nearly 1.8 million students who took the ACT earned a top composite score of 36.

Originally from Sullivan County, Wells lives in Johnson City with her parents, Tamie and Warren Wells. Her grandparents, Larry and Karen Daniels, live in Kingsport. This is her second year at University

School where she is a member of the Beta Club and the Scholars Bowl Team.

She is also very active in competitive cheerleading through East Tennessee Cheer (ETC) in Kingsport and is a volunteer on the ETC CheerAbilities team. In addition, she supports global outreach efforts for the Love-Share non-profit organization that strives to break the cycle of poverty by providing educational opportunities to youth.

Wells says her two older brothers are a primary source of inspiration for her and that she is extremely grateful for her support system, which includes her

parents, closest friends, teachers and professors. "The classes I have taken at University School and through dual-enrollment at ETSU have had a great impact on my life," Wells said.

Her hobbies include spending time outdoors with her two dogs, doing DIY challenge projects with her family, and finding a great cup of coffee. Wells' college plans include pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering while continuing to cheer.

FRIENDS to hold virtual Buddy Walk to mark 20th anniversary



The start of the 2019 Buddy Walk. This year's event, which is designed to raise awareness of Down Syndrome, will be held virtually during the week of Sept. 20. PHOTO BY DAVE ONGIE

host celebrations of their choosing.

The FRIENDS 2020 Buddy Walk can be celebrated with family, friends, classmates and neighbors on the block outside their house, right inside their home, at a local business or a favorite park. We look forward to having you join us for the FRIENDS 2020 Virtual Buddy Walk.

Buddy Walk Registration Admission prices includes t-shirts and medals.

- \$20 – Adult (ages 13 and up) 1 mile walk
- \$25 – Adult (ages 13 and up) 3.21 mile run/walk
- \$10 – Youth (ages 3-12) 1 mile walk

- \$5 – Individual with Ds – 1 mile or 3.21 run/walk

Includes T-shirt, medals, and a combination of yard signs and choice of novelty items.

- \$50 FRIENDS supporter
- \$100 sponsorship
- \$150 sponsorship
- \$250 sponsorship
- \$500 sponsorship
- \$1000 sponsorship

Registration - www.classy.org/event/virtual-buddy-walk-2020/e289934

Also - www.classy.org/event/virtual-buddy-walk2020/e289934/register/new/select-tickets

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This year, 2020, marks the 20th anniversary of the FRIENDS Buddy Walk for Down syndrome awareness.

The safety and health of our community and our members is top priority. For this reason, we are bringing to you our first-ever virtual Buddy Walk, and we are proud to have Johnson City Mayor, Jenny Brock, as the Grand Marshal of our event.

We hope you will consider joining us wherever you are sometime during the week of Sept. 20 through Sept. 26 and walk with us for Down syndrome awareness. Teams will have the flexibility to create and

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BrightRidge partnering with Silicon Ranch, TVA for new 9 MW Solar Farm

BrightRidge is partnering with Silicon Ranch to build a new 9 MW solar farm in western Washington County under the flexible terms of BrightRidge's new 20-year Partnership Agreement with the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Historically, local power companies were required to sell all electricity they generated directly to TVA. This year, TVA included a flexible generation provision in its new contracts with local power companies that enables LPCs to generate clean energy to lower costs and support their communities.

"Generation flexibility is something we have strongly encouraged for quite some time as a way to allow local power companies to respond to the specific needs of our business and residential customers," BrightRidge CEO Jeff Dykes said. "We know an important segment of our community is very interested in alternative forms of cleaner energy generation. At the same time, we are seeing across the country that having adequate solar generation available is a critical economic development recruitment tool."

TVA is a national leader in carbon reduction – double the national utility average. And TVA is implementing a plan to further reduce carbon emissions by 70 percent from 2005 levels over the next 10 years.

"TVA is building the energy system of the future, and we're thrilled for our partners at BrightRidge to lead the way employing this newly enabled option to grow renewables in the Valley," said Doug Perry, TVA Senior Vice President of Commercial Energy Solutions. "Together, we'll

chart an innovative path to meet local customer needs with local renewable energy."

BrightRidge led the way in Northeast Tennessee solar production under the former TVA Distributed Solar Solutions program, partnering with Nashville-based solar producer Silicon Ranch for the region's first 5 MW Solar Farm in Telford, which went online early in 2019. BrightRidge's share of production from the Telford Solar Farm is distributed under a Community Solar program with residential and commercial customers.

"Silicon Ranch is a proven and skilled operator, and by pooling customers' alternative generation needs, customers can reap the benefits of solar power while avoiding costly long-term upkeep and maintenance," Dykes said. "Flexibility in generation contracts was the key to making this happen in our region on a much larger scale."

The new project, nearly double the output of the Telford farm's production, will be offered to area schools and institutions interested in offsetting some of their electricity needs with cleaner energy sources, while avoiding ongoing maintenance and operational concerns. "If approved, our area school systems could save



BrightRidge is partnering with Silicon Ranch to build a new solar farm in western Washington County. BrightRidge CEO Jeff Dykes sees solar energy as a critical economic development recruitment tool.

significant dollars on their power costs, lowering the cost to taxpayers who support those systems," Dykes said. "This is truly a win-win project for the community."

For the Martin Solar Farm, located on 100 acres in western Washington County, Silicon Ranch will install more than 25,000 solar modules capable of producing up to 9 MW AC power. The project is anticipated to be completed and online at the end of 2021.

The project is named after the late Ralph Martin, who served many years as director of the Johnson City Power Board, which became BrightRidge in 2017.

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Ashe Street Courthouse in running for historic designation

The Tennessee State Review Board will meet to examine proposed nominations to the National Register of Historic Places on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 9:00 a.m. At that time, the Johnson City Postal Savings Bank and Post Office – known by many as the Ashe Street Courthouse – will be among six sites in Tennessee nominated for inclusion in the historic register.

Despite being over 100 years old, the Ashe Street Courthouse remains a jewel in the West Walnut Street corridor thanks to its intricate architecture. The building started its life as a post office in 1910.

In 1939, Washington County acquired the building and it was used as a county courthouse for decades before becoming the headquarters of the county's 911 service in the late 1980s. The building is currently

empty, but local government officials from Johnson City and Washington County and groups of private citizens are working on plans to renovate the building.

Those nominations that are found to meet the criteria will be sent for final approval to the National Register of Historic Places in the Department of the Interior. The Tennessee State Review Board is composed of 13 members with backgrounds in American history, architecture, archaeology, or related fields. It also includes members representing the public. The National Register program was authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The public is invited to attend the WebEx meeting, which can be found on the state website, www.tn.gov.

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State of Franklin OB/GYN Specialists delivers affordable, patient-centered care

Every woman will face her share of tough decisions over the course of a lifetime, but no decision is more crucial than choosing the medical professionals responsible for providing high quality care throughout a pregnancy and ultimately delivering a healthy child.

At State of Franklin OB/GYN Specialists, that responsibility is not taken lightly. In fact, the practices and protocols put in place to ensure the health of area mothers and newborns are examined and refined three Wednesdays out of each month around a long conference table located inside the practice.

Around this table, our doctors with well over 100 years of combined experience pour over the latest data and discuss current cases to ensure they are offering the best care to their patients. This commitment to the health of its patients has allowed the group to reduce patient costs while increasing access to care that consistently ranks among the best in the state across several key metrics.

Partnering with insurance payers, the doctors at State of Franklin are able to see where they stack up against their peers locally and statewide.

"We're running reports constantly, and this is population health at its best because we're looking at this one population for a defined time during an episode of care (pregnancy)," said Dr. Grover May, who is beginning his 24th year at the practice.

For the past five years, the data has shown that State of Franklin is consistently among the top practices in the state in terms of quality of care, but the cost of this care always ranks among the lowest 10 percent in the state of Tennessee. "We're maintaining high quality at a lower cost," May said. Taking ownership in each patient's health has led the practice to build a knowledgeable team of doctors, midwives, nurse practitioners and physical therapists who work in unison to ensure the health of the expectant mothers and their babies.

Every healthy pregnancy starts with a healthy mother. Our midwives and advanced level nurse practitioners serve a vital role in starting expectant mothers and their children off on the right foot. They obtain in depth information at the first appointment, which allows the doctors to quickly identify any health issues the mother may have and to prepare the appropriate plan of care to ensure a healthy pregnancy. Our team approach also allows us to set



Sherri Hutchins, Director of Women's & Children's Services for State of Franklin Healthcare and Dr. Grover May of State of Franklin OB/GYN Specialists.

up systems by which we can duplicate a high quality standard of care every time, not just most of the time," May said.

Glucose screening, Group B Strep screening, and the administration of a Tdap vaccine guarding against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough help ensure each expectant mother gets off to a healthy start. Nurse practitioners and midwives play key roles in patient education, and the development of an obstetrical app, which is available to all expectant mothers' further aids efforts to improve patient health and health literacy ahead of childbirth.

Dr. May is quick to point out that pregnancy is a state of wellness, but some patients do have disease states that could lead to problems during pregnancy. Armed with complete background information, doctors can more easily identify any potential disease states and get started addressing those early in the pregnancy.

Midwives are also an invaluable part of the team at State of Franklin. When many people hear "midwife," they think of home births and natural birthing techniques, but the certified nurse midwives at State of Franklin are highly trained specialists with extensive medical training who are able to help in many aspects of care in conjunction with deliveries.

May says doctors are "high-tech while midwives are high-touch". Prior to childbirth, our midwives

and team of pelvic health physical therapists can help teach pushing techniques and educate patients on positioning, thereby improving labor experiences and outcomes.

Sherri Hutchins, Director of Women's & Children's Services for State of Franklin Healthcare said the "team" approach allows State of Franklin OB/GYN Specialists to provide the highest quality of care while supporting and empowering the women of our region throughout their pregnancy, birth and post-partum journey.

While the doctors at State of Franklin use metrics as a guide, May said there is nothing more valuable than a healthy mom and a healthy baby. State of Franklin OB/GYN Specialists strive to ensure this mission with each and every patient. At the end of the day, the entire team at State of Franklin is dedicated to consistently delivering healthy babies while ensuring the health and wellbeing of the mother and baby throughout the pregnancy, delivery and postpartum period.

Year after year, data gathered by insurance payers shows State of Franklin is succeeding in that mission. 🌸

I forgot the itch but remember the scratch

*Leaves of three, let it be.
Hairy vine, no friend of mine.*

*Berries white, run in fright or Berries white, danger in sight.
Red leaflets in the spring, it's a dangerous thing.*

*Side leaflets like mittens will itch like the dickens.
If butterflies land there, don't put your hand there.*

It's been at least 35 years since I've had the itch and I mean a big old bad itch. Poison Ivy came 'a creepin.'

Our home is blessed or cursed with the creeping English ivy. The stuff will grow a foot in a day. You can almost see it move. We've managed to keep it cut back in front of our house but on our little side hill, it vigorously grows. For years I've worn long sleeve shirts and blue jeans pulling it off the house, cutting out the roots and squirting a little weed killer on the stuff. Cornwallis probably brought it over during the Revolution.

Last week Judy and I were determined to pull out a bunch that had crept around the front of the house. It was hot and I decided to wear shorts and tee shirt. That was stupid as I found out later the next night. "Look here Judy, something bit me while we were pulling weeds," I explained.

The next day there was no doubt that included in the English ivy were the poisonous three leaf poison ivy plants. Judy had on a long sleeve shirt and pants and protected



by **Bill Derby**

Publisher

editor@jcnewsandneighbor.com
herself. Today, over a week later my arms and legs are covered in red itchy, I mean itchy red welts.

It's been a long time since I have had a case of poison ivy. I had forgotten hope the darn stuff itches, especially at night. As a kid growing up, a case of poison ivy each summer was a natural occurrence. It's hard to keep a kid out of the bushes while playing hide and seek. When we were growing up my sister, Marcia, once made a flower arrangement out of poison ivy. She learned how to identify the nasty leaf after that ordeal.

Over 85% of us are allergic to poison ivy. Urushiol, the substance in poison ivy that makes you itchy, is a sticky oil that is hard to wash away. Mom's home remedy was Clorox mixed with a little water dabbed on with a cotton ball. Clorox kills everything and stings like crazy.

Luckily, the stuff is just on my arms and legs. It's been over 12 days and the stuff still drives me crazy, especially at night. I carry a bottle of calamine lotion with me everywhere except I forgot it today. I'm itching right now as I write this. While I was looking up remedies in addition to the calamine, I found a number of home remedies that have been used over

the years and a 1950's song that sums up the itchy stuff. Here are the lyrics:

Poison Ivy by the Coasters

*She comes on like a rose but everybody knows
She'll get you in Dutch
You can look but you better not touch
Poison iv-y-y-y-y,
poison iv-y-y-y-y*

*Late at night while you're sleepin' poison ivy comes a'creepin'
Arou-ou-ou-ou-ound
She's pretty as a daisy but look out man she's crazy
She'll really do you in
If you let her under your skin
Poison iv-y-y-y-y,
poison iv-y-y-y-y*

*Measles make you bumpy
And mumps'll make you lumpy
And chicken pox'll make you jump and twitch
A common cold'll fool ya
And whooping cough can cool ya
But poison ivy, Lord'll make you itch!!
You're gonna need an ocean of calamine lotion
You'll be scratchin' like a hound
The minute you start to mess around...*

Not-So-Fun Fact:
Urushiol remains active for up to 5 years. So even a dead poison ivy plant can cause a rash!

Science Hill student collecting funds, items for St. Jude



Science Hill sophomore Julia Gilmore is raising money and items for the kids at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Julia Gilmore, a sophomore at Science Hill High School, is currently conducting a fundraiser to help the kids at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The drive will run through Sept. 15.

Gilmore is in her seventh year of raising funds and collecting items to benefit the children at St. Jude. This year's fundraiser is called "Project Play-Doh" since the folks at St. Jude said this item would be greatly appreciated by the patients.

Gilmore is collecting new Play-Doh sets and \$10 Amazon gift cards for the patients. She's also collecting cash donations, which will go directly to the St. Jude research team working with international partners to learn how COVID-19 affects children who also have cancer. At the conclusion of her fundraiser, Gilmore will deliver the items and money to St. Jude.

If you'd like to contribute to Gilmore's fundraiser, or for more information, text or call 847.302.6449 or send an email to juliagilmore0212@gmail.com.

Patriot Day observance set for Friday

The fourth annual Remembrance & Patriot Day Celebration, hosted by the American Legion, Post 24, Johnson City, will be held on Friday, Sept. 11 at 8:30 a.m. in the amphitheater at Memorial Park Community Center

(MPCC), 510 Bert Street.

The amphitheater is located behind the MPCC, on East Main Street. The guest speaker is a retired Army Colonel who was in the wing of the Pentagon when it was struck by one of the aircraft.

Obituaries

- Dorothy Ruby "Granny" Tipton, 92, Johnson City, 9/03/20
- Florine Buck Lick, 92, Johnson City, 9/03/20
- Lena Mae Perego, Gray, 9/04/20

- Mary Street Davis, 95, Johnson City, 9/04/20
- James Doyle Hoilman, Sr, 61, Jonesborough, 9/04/20

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PUBLIC NOTICE

WASHINGTON COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD PUBLIC NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Industrial Development Board of Washington County will hold its Annual Meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 17, 2020, in the 1st Floor Conference Room of the Historic Courthouse, 100 E. Main Street, Jonesborough.

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Hello from Hogan Holler: A Jungle of Gibberish

My wife Margo has stopped watching television. Full stop. Cold turkey.

Since my retirement, one of my pleasures is watching morning TV. Most of my adult life, I assumed a vertical position at 4 a.m. to do a radio show, preventing me from ever watching morning television.

But Margo and I differ on which morning show to watch.

So, we caffeinate and watch in separate rooms. Or, I should say, we once did.

A few weeks ago as I walked past her "TV room" for a coffee refill, I noticed her television wasn't on. Same the next morning. And the next.

"Is something wrong with your TV?" I asked.

"No," she said. "I just don't watch it anymore."

Naturally, I asked for an explanation.

Margo doesn't take to the pulpit often, but when she does, it's usually fire and brimstone! And you'd best not interrupt. So I listened.

"What was it that man called TV years ago? A vast wasteland? Well, now it's a thousand times worse. The same thing over and over. I'm sick of it. I don't need to be inundated with a jungle of gibberish! That's what TV has become—a jungle of gibberish—people



by **Dave Hogan**
Guest Columnist

talking on top of each other all the time. Half the time you can't understand what any of them are saying. And they continuously run the same stories. Like that poor man who died in Minnesota. Over and over. So depressing.

"And everything's 'Breaking News.' That used to mean something. Now, somebody finds a flea on a dog, they shout 'Breaking News'!"

"We have a subscription to the local newspaper, and I can check their website to get all the local news. Plus, all the other websites I can access, like *News & Neighbor* and WJHL, for the news from back home in Tennessee. I just don't need the noise of TV. I can start my day in the quiet of the morning with my devotional, some meditation, a little reading, and my entire day is so much better.

At this point, she was pacing the living room. I continued to listen patiently from my recliner.

"Another thing. Our cable bill came yesterday and it's over two hundred dollars a month! Do you realize what we could do with an extra twenty-five hundred dollars a year? Why can't we cut the cable like our kids did? And you pay for satellite radio and those out-of-town digital newspaper subscriptions. No one person needs all that!"

After Margo's sermon ended, I attempted to plead my case: "You knew I was a media person when you married me. I love sports and following the news, and I need cable for channels like Discovery and History."

"Your Mom warned me. She said I needed to know what I was getting into, that you sit around much of the day with your nose in a newspaper, usually listening to the radio and watching TV all at the same time. You know, the time's coming when you're going to have to give up much of that. We can't afford it."

I reminded her a part of our cable bill is for the Internet.

"Oh, yes," she said. "There's not only newspaper, radio, and TV. But now you're also on your iPad all day." She threw her hands up and left me alone with my iPad propped on my chest.

Mark Twain told the story of a doctor at the bedside of a very sick, elderly lady. The doctor told her she must stop drinking, cussing, and smoking. The lady said she'd never done any of those things in her entire life. The doctor responded, "Well that's your problem then. You've neglected your habits." Twain added, "She was like a sinking ship with no freight to throw overboard."

I'm trying to hold on to my media habits so I'll have something to throw overboard when the time comes. Margo says that'll be soon.

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

Mary Duke Cooks! Sassy Southern

Crusty French Garlic Bread is the easiest bread to make. People love the crunch. I've listed the ingredients without measurements because you just sprinkle

everything on top then bake in the oven until the bread is lightly browned and crisp. If you prefer a lot of garlic- pour on the garlic powder! More cheese? Go for it! Just go easy on the garlic salt. You don't want the bread to be too salty.



Mary Duke McCartt
Food Editor

Online at marydukecooks.com

Crusty French Garlic Bread

- 1 loaf French Bread, sliced in half lengthwise

- Squeeze margarine or melted unsalted butter (I used squeeze Parkay margarine)
- Garlic salt
- Garlic powder
- Paprika
- Shredded Parmesan -Romano cheese (not the powder kind)
- Fresh Italian flat leaf parsley leaves

Cut French Bread in half lengthwise. Spread a generous amount of squeeze margarine or melted butter on top of bread. Sprinkle lightly with garlic salt. Sprinkle with garlic powder, paprika and Parmesan-Romano cheese, to taste. Top with parsley leaves. Bake 350°F until lightly browned and crisp. Enjoy Friends!



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The Johnson City Lions Club will be holding its 70th annual Turtle Derby on Oct. 10. Due to COVID-19, the event will be conducted virtually.

Lions Club planning 70th Turtle Derby

The Johnson City Lions Club will reach a major milestone this year as the 70th Annual Johnson City Lions Club Turtle Derby is set for Oct. 10.

Because of COVID-19, the Derby will be run virtually on FaceBook this year. Tune in live streaming Oct. 10 at 10 a.m. and join the fun. For a \$50 donation, you can name a Turtle and put him/her in the history-making race.

100 percent of the funds raised will go to the Lions Club Sight Conservation Program, which purchases eyeglasses for needy kids and elderly adults. The Johnson City Lions Club spent over \$14,000 last year. These folks would not have the benefit of improved sight without your help.

So join in the fun and

put Oct. 10 at 10 a.m. You'll find it on Facebook at Johnson City TN Lions Club. But more importantly, if you want to help this great cause, sponsor a Turtle. Just send your name, billing address and the name you want for your Turtle to donfraines@comcast.net. You will receive a bill after the race.

Secretary from page 1

Quillen for the number of appointments, and it's only going to get bigger. The states of Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia – we're going, over the next few years, to see the movement of resources and people into places like Quillen to meet the growing demand of veterans."

When asked about a grassroots campaign to have the newly opened Veterans Administration Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Johnson County, Tenn., named for Roe, Wilkie made no commitments, but said, "I am in that process, and I'm not supposed to prejudge, but I could not think of a finer outcome. That's particularly the case in a place like east Tennessee where there are so many heroes."

Wilkie, who called Roe, "the perfect combination of patriot and public servant," went on to praise the congressman for his understanding of veterans and appreciation for their



Rep. Phil Roe and Robert Wilkie chat after a press conference at Mountain Home last week. PHOTO BY DAVE ONGIE

service, something Wilkie said is not always present in Washington. "I'm going to miss him because there are still very few people in Congress who have put on the uniform, which means they're not as familiar with the culture and the language

of military service. It's a unique culture and Dr. Roe understands it.

"He's been very helpful to me in the two years I have been at the VA. We talk a lot. His service will be missed, particularly by me, but really by veterans across the country, because

he traveled up and down the country talking to veterans and going to VA hospitals. You don't meet too many people in Congress who have done that. So, without prejudging the process, I couldn't think of a finer tribute."

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DERMATOLOGY ASSOCIATES

Welcomes Dr. Kelley Ramsauer

For over 50 years, Dermatology Associates has provided the most up-to-date dermatologic treatments, skin care techniques, and procedures. We have grown and adapted our medical business to become the largest dermatology practice in the Tri-Cities region. In keeping with this mission, we are excited to announce the newest addition to our healthcare team: Dr. Kelley Ramsauer.

Dr. Ramsauer is originally from Johnson City, TN and grew up in Bluff City. She received her undergraduate degree from East Tennessee State University. After college she attended medical school at ETSU Quillen College of Medicine. She then completed her intern year at the University of Louisville in Louisville, KY. She completed her dermatology residency at Geisinger Health System in Danville, PA receiving multiple honors and awards from highly respected experts in the field of dermatology. Dr. Ramsauer is excited to have the opportunity to return to the Tri-Cities area to join Dermatology Associates.

With the addition of Dr. Ramsauer, Dermatology Associates has 12 ABD board certified/board eligible dermatologists, three fellowship-trained Mohs surgeons, seven nurse practitioners, and two physician assistants. Our offices are located in Bristol, Johnson City, and Kingsport. Dr. Ramsauer will begin seeing patients at our Bristol and Johnson City offices in September. To schedule an appointment to see Dr. Ramsauer for all of your dermatologic needs, please contact our office. Bristol (423) 764-7131, Johnson City (423) 928-9014, Kingsport (423) 246-4961. Thank you.

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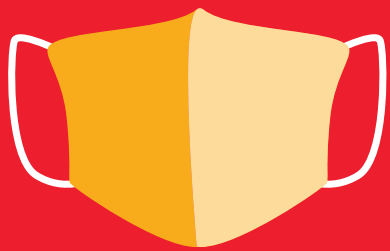
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Donna Henry
Chancellor,
The University of
Virginia's College
at Wise



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That's why I - along with everyone else on our campus - will Mask Up this fall, and for as long as it takes to overcome the COVID-19 threat. Because when we protect the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff, along with that of everyone in the Appalachian Highlands, we're protecting our futures.

Please join me, and Mask Up!



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Now & Again | Memorable photos from Sept. 9-16

This week is a memorable one as it marks the five-year anniversary of the return of ETSU football.

Five years ago, the Bucs kicked off a new era at Kermit Tipton Stadium on the campus of Science Hill High School. While the Bucs came up on the short end against Kennesaw State, nothing could dampen the spirits of the capacity crowd that showed up to cheer on the Blue & Gold after a 12-year absence.

Five years later, COVID-19 has sidelined the ETSU football team temporarily, but the Bucs plan to be back in action at some point next spring.



A standing-room only crowd swarmed to Kermit Tipton Stadium on the campus of Science Hill High School back in September of 2015 to witness ETSU's first football game in 12 years. The photo appeared in the Sept. 9, 2015 edition of the *News & Neighbor*.



Three men who helped resurrect ETSU football were on hand to watch the Bucs return to action. From left, Phillip Fulmer, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey and ETSU President Dr. Brian Noland.



An edition of the *News & Neighbor* from early September of 2016 featured a new class of Healthcare Heroes. The *Business Journal*, our sister publication, has been honoring heroes in the healthcare industry for over a quarter-century. Although a ceremony wasn't possible this year due to COVID-19, be on the lookout for photos of this year's class in the October edition of the *The Business Journal*.

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Science Hill boys finish runner-up in conference golf tournament



Science Hill's Ari Madhok watches his chip shot during last week's district golf tournament.



Rachel Smith of Science Hill rips a shot out of the rough.



McKibben Teal fired a team-best 71 to lead Science Hill's boys to a runner-up finish in the Big 11 Conference tournament last week. PHOTOS BY DAWN LAMBERT, DAWN LAMBERT PHOTOGRAPHY

Boone from page 1

get ride of some of that vegetation," Vinson said. "It also allows us to get to some of the debris fields we've mapped."

The issue of rampant vegetation growth on the exposed lakebed of Boone Lake was first reported by the News & Neighbor in September of 2017. In recent years, TVA crews have done extensive work maintaining the vegetation on the lakebed, working with property owners around the lake to ensure trees and brush are trimmed on a regular basis.

Now that the lake is preparing to return to

normal operations, there is a greater urgency to remove anything that could become floating debris when the lake rises to its highest level in seven years next summer. That starts with tables, chairs and docks placed on the exposed lakebed by property owners during the extended drawdown.

"If property owners have placed temporary items below the normal operating pool, we'd like them to go ahead and remove them at this time," Vinson said. "We don't want that to become floating debris. People have placed other structures, and we'd like those moved so they don't become underwater hazards."

Vinson said the annual Boone Lake Clean-up, which is scheduled for Sept. 12, now takes on a greater sense of urgency with normal operations on the horizon. Removing trash and other debris now will ensure the lake is uncluttered when the water levels rise next spring. More information on the event, hosted by the Boone Lake Association,

can be found by calling 423.360.5057 or emailing boonelakeassociation@gmail.com.

Once the lake is raised to 1,360 feet this fall, it will remain at that height through mid-March. At that time, Vinson said the lake will rise no more than two feet per week with the goal of getting the reservoir at or near its ordinary high water mark next summer. Vinson expects the lake will look like what folks were used to seeing prior to the repair project barring any unforeseen circumstances.

Vegetation management efforts should create a safe recreational boating zone, but Vinson said boaters will need to be especially vigilant in the spring as the lake level gradually rises.

"Every week conditions are going to change," he said. "Boaters are going to have to be aware. A rock that wasn't underwater last week is now underwater. Until we get on this curve and get it up to summer pool, people are going to have to be vigilant."

A silver lining to the lengthy repair process



TVA Principal Project Manager Sam Vinson talks about TVA's vegetation management program during a media briefing last year. PHOTO BY DAVE ONGIE

might come in the form of excellent fishing in Boone Lake once operations return to normal. Vinson pointed out several initiatives by TVA and TWRA over the last few years aimed at improving conditions for the fish population in the lake. Concrete reef balls have been placed on the lakebed and 400 acres of native grasses have been planted to help promote a vibrant fish habitat.

Vinson pointed to Lake Cumberland in Kentucky, which became a premier fishing destination following the TVA's Wolf Creek Dam Repair.

"They have had a boom in their economy since they have finished that repair because of the fishing," he said. "We would not be surprised if Boone becomes one of those major fishing destinations, which would really help



TVA biologist Michael Mollish with a pair of largemouth bass from Boone Lake.

the economy following the reservoir fluctuation."

As the Boone Dam Project nears the finish line, Vinson said he hasn't really had a chance to stop and reflect on the complex repair job, but he stands behind the work done on the project, which is

on track to be completed ahead of schedule.

"We are so confident in what we've done," he said. "Really the hard spots around the repair are behind us. Now it's just making sure we communicate with all the stakeholders."

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