

Wednesday, September 15, 2021



Midweek

The Rogersville

Review



**Volunteer, Cherokee
harriers compete
in Knoxville race**

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Honored and happy

Students ambush retiring RCS principal with love and cheers during 'Popsicle Parade'

BY JEFF BOBO, EDITOR
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Retiring Rogersville City School principal Rhonda Winstead was ambushed Thursday afternoon with an outpouring of love from students and staff who are sad to see her go.

Students were enjoying a new popsicle event on the front lawn of the school.

When Winstead went outside to see how it was going they sprung their trap,

and she was forced to walk a gauntlet of cheers, hugs and applause as students lined the sidewalk surrounding the front lawn.

"I feel honored and happy," Winstead said upon completing a lap around the lawn.

When asked if she'd changed her mind about retiring however, Winstead replied, "No" without hesitation.



Retiring RCS principal Rhonda Winstead walked a gauntlet of love, cheers and hugs Thursday afternoon as students and staff ambushed her with a "Popsicle Parade".

SEE PARADE, PAGE 3A



Dr. Blaine Jones

I HIGHLY recommend you get the COVID 19 vaccination series, and then the booster

BY DR. BLAINE JONES

It is Friday, Sep. 10 as I type this – one day before the 20th anniversary of the worst terrorist attack ever on United States soil.

That attack does not come close to the catastrophic attack we are currently seeing currently in our country.

The SARS-Co V-2, or COVID 19 virus is a threat that is terrorizing our country and our world right now. Just this morning, I learned of a 45 year old, otherwise healthy, friend passing away from complications of the virus.

This was not the first time our community has been struck by the death of a young, healthy soul because of this virus, nor will it be the last. Many of my former patients, and just folks in general ask me my opinion on the virus, treatments and the vaccine. What do you think? What do you recommend?

I really miss my patients and my practice, and even with all my health issues I would love to go back to my office and be there for those who entrusted me for their care.

As it is, I have kept up my medical licensure, my continuing medical education credits and I read medical journals daily – not just about COVID issues, but medical advancements in general.

My wife works at Holston Valley in Kingsport, so I am aware each day of the status of the hospital beds available and staff to care for those beds. Let me say right off the top, thank you to all the nurses, respiratory therapists, physicians, and all other ancillary health care professionals who provide unending, compassionate care to each individual brought into their realm.

Our local hospitals are literally about to burst at the seams because of COVID. There are not enough nurses or other ancillary staff available in our area to take care of all those who are sick – and it is all uncalled for. Not the staffing or bed availability, the amount of COVID illness is what is unnecessary!

So, what do we do about that? In my opinion, and if you were my patient, and many of you were, I would HIGHLY recommend you get the COVID 19 vaccination series and then the booster when it is made available to you.

This is in no way a political, religious or any other statement other than medical reasoning and statistics. The latest statistics from the CDC (and nearly the same numbers in our local Ballad Health System) show that 93 out of 100 admissions to the hospital have not been vaccinated or have been only partially vaccinated. 95 out of every 100 people in the ICU have not been vaccinated and 97% of those on ventilators have not been vaccinated. 99% of those who die from the COVID 19 virus have not been vaccinated!

These numbers do not lie! Yes, if you are young, healthy and get COVID 19 there is a 95% chance you survive it. You may have long term symptoms or "long COVID", but you may survive it. Those with secondary, advanced medical conditions are less likely to survive. The issue is not just sickness and death however. At last count, there had been over

SEE COVID-19, PAGE 2A



RANDY BALL

Approximately 80 youngsters spent Saturday morning fishing for prizes, trophies and mostly for fun during the annual Church Hill Trout Rodeo in Alexander Creek at Jaycees Park.

Youngsters pull out 'keepers' during Church Hill Trout Rodeo

STAFF REPORT

Approximately 80 youngsters spent Saturday morning fishing for prizes, trophies and mostly for fun during the annual Church Hill Trout Rodeo in Alexander Creek at Jaycees Park.

Every year the city builds a series of dams in the creek to trap hundreds of "eating size" trout that are dumped in courtesy of Buffalo Springs Hatchery.

Saturday morning boys and girls ages

4-16 competed in three age groups for first to catch a fish, first to catch the limit of three and biggest fish.

The winners in the first fish category included Madelynn Walker and Jayden Lovell (ages 4-7); Makayla Walker and Tristan Smith (ages 8-11); and Braylee Evans and Matthew Walker (ages 12-16).

The winners for first to catch their limit were Jayden Lovell (4-7 boys); Addyson Lovell (8-11 girls); Braylee Evans (12-16

girls); and Lucas Hall (12-16 boys).

Audrey Henley had the biggest overall fish award at 2.21pounds.

Several bicycles and other prizes were also awarded in drawings. The Trout rodeo is sponsored by the VFW Post 9754, Buffalo Springs Hatchery, CASVA Angus Farm, and Food City.

All photos by Randy Ball.

SEE PHOTO GALLERY, PAGE 3A

Half-kilo of meth seized from biker who fled Mount Carmel traffic stop

BY JEFF BOBO, EDITOR
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MOUNT CARMEL — Police seized a half kilo of meth valued at \$6,000 from a Hawkins County man who fled a traffic stop in Mount Carmel Thursday night, and then crashed his motorcycle in Stanley Valley.

Christopher Levi Belcher, 27, 2180 Stanley Valley Road, Surgoinsville, was initially being stopped for a registration

violation.

MCPD Officer Hunter Jones stated in his report that when he attempted to conduct a traffic stop on the motorcycle, Belcher led him on a high speed pursuit into Scott County, Va., and then back into Hawkins County into Stanley Valley where Belcher lost control attempting a turn and landed in a residential back yard.

Shortly before 11 p.m. Thursday Jones reported observing a spray-painted gray

Kawasaki motorcycle traveling west on Carters Valley Road near Big Elm Road coming from an area known for recent motorcycle thefts.

The license plate wasn't illuminated and was mounted improperly, and Jones attempted a traffic stop at the Waycross Road intersection.

Jones stated in his report that the motorcycle then turned onto Waycross Road and accelerated, crossing into



Christopher Levi Belcher

SEE METH, PAGE 2A

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