

Wednesday, May 19, 2021



Midweek Review

The Rogersville



Salyers, Metz & Miller earn state track meet berths

SEE PAGE 1B

\$1

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Kingsport man killed in local wreck

A Kingsport man lost his life last week in a car crash in Rogersville. According to the Tennessee Highway Patrol, at 1:26 on Thursday afternoon, a Freightliner tractor-trailer driven by Gregory Noe, 59, of Russellville had stopped at the traffic light at Highway 11W and Park Boulevard.

Nicholas Key, 23, was traveling the same southbound direction behind the tractor-trailer but failed to stop. Noe was not injured in the accident.

Key's 2021 Nissan Altima struck the trailer and ended up underneath it. No skid marks were visible at the accident.

Although the speed limit is 55 m.p.h. at the intersection, overhead signs warn of the traffic light before it is reached.

An additional report is expected to follow.



Hawkins County Memorial Gardens now under new management

Broken contracts, broken promises and criminal theft have left many citizens of Hawkins County and their relatives distraught over conditions in Hawkins County Memorial Gardens, but a newly formed nonprofit promises to heal the wounds.

In early 2020, Hawkins County Memorial Gardens Inc. was incorporated as a non-profit, community-based organization with the sole intent and purpose of establishing, operating, and maintaining a community cemetery at the existing Hawkins County Memorial Gardens.

The board of directors has announced that effective May 13, 2021, the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance has transferred ownership of Hawkins County Memorial Gardens to the non-profit corporation HCMG Inc., who will immediately begin operating the cemetery.

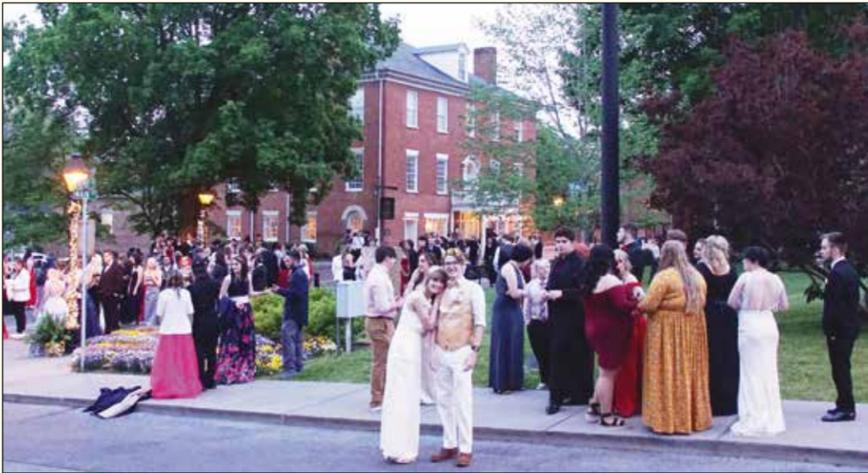
Those owning cemetery plots in Hawkins County Memorial Gardens have suffered through an unimaginable decade of broken contracts, broken promises, and broken hearts. The fallout of the actions and inactions of the prior owners and operators of the cemetery are truly in the past, the HCMG board says.

On June 10, 2020, the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance approved HCMG Inc.'s request to operate the cemetery as a community cemetery pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 46-1-106(b), subject to several specific conditions and subject to final approval of the court.

SEE GARDENS, PAGE 6A

Cherokee High School celebrates prom night

Cherokee High School held its prom Saturday in downtown Rogersville. Below are Nathaniel Johnson and Silver Schneider, Madelyn Hogan and Hunter King, and Hannah Hammonds and friend.



SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 8A



PHOTO BY ALLISON F. GOLEY

Surgoinsville Vice Mayor Bob Jarnigan (left) told the BMA that he will not vote in favor of the final 2021-2022 town budget unless it includes a raise for the town's employees. Mayor Merrell Graham (right), suggested that the board work to include a raise in the second draft of the budget.

Surgoinsville Vice Mayor insists 2021-2022 town budget include employee raises

BY ALLISON F. GOLEY
STAFF WRITER

Though the Surgoinsville Board of Mayor and Aldermen did approve the first reading of the proposed 2021-2022 town budget at their May 10 meeting, Vice Mayor Bob Jarnigan noted that he will not vote for the final proposed budget unless money is allotted for employee raises.

When Mayor Merrell Graham explained that there was currently no money allotted in the budget for these raises, Jarnigan replied, "there's got to be."

Jarnigan explained that the town's revenue will actually increase by roughly \$10,000 during the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as it was recently discovered that some Surgoinsville businesses' sales tax revenue was mistakenly going to other jurisdictions.

SEE RAISES, PAGE 6A

CDC lifts requirements for fully vaccinated people

BY LINDA THURSTON
EDITOR

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released radical new guidelines last week for controlling the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those who are fully vaccinated (which in most cases means two injections, and a waiting period of two weeks for them to take effect), you can return to a normal life as you choose

"Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local,

tribal or territorial laws, rules and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance," the CDC stated in an official statement updated May 16.

Other exceptions to the guidance include healthcare settings, public transportation and special requirements for detention centers.

"If you live or work in a correctional or detention facility or a homeless shelter and are around someone who has COVID-19, you should still get tested, even if you don't have symptoms," the CDC recommends. Otherwise, people who are fully vaccinated don't

need to get tested or quarantined just due to being around someone who has COVID.

Although Hawkins County Mayor Jim Lee allowed the county's mask mandate to expire in September 2020, he has continued to encourage mask wearing and social distancing, but emphasizing it more heavily after he himself tested positive for COVID-19 in December.

"As this virus rages," Lee wrote on his Facebook page in December, "my positive test is a reminder that no one is immune from COVID, that following all precautions as I have done is not a guarantee,

but it is what we know to be vital to stopping the spread of the disease and so I ask everyone to wear a mask, stay home as much as possible, socially distance yourself from those not in your household."

Lee did not respond to a request for comment on the CDC's new guidelines.

At press time, many major retailers, including the Rogersville Wal-mart, had removed mask requirements for fully vaccinated shoppers and employees, but most smaller businesses will be making individual decisions.

SEE CDC, PAGE 2A

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