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Midweek Review

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Dykes' hat trick leads Volunteer over Chiefs

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PHOTO COURTESY OF DEBBI PRESSNELL

(l to r): Walmart Neighborhood Market of Lynn Garden King-sport's Manager Scott Kenkel, Hawkins Co. Schools Director Matt Hixson

Hawkins County Schools receive Walmart grant to fund VHS, CHS turf football field

BY ALLISON F. GOLEY
STAFF WRITER

Hawkins County schools recently received a \$1,000 environmental sustainability grant from the Walmart Community Grant program that will help fund the artificial turf football fields of Cherokee and Volunteer High Schools.

The Walmart Community

Grant Program is a highly competitive program receiving more than 150,000 applications per year.

"Walmart is committed to the communities we serve, and we want to be a part of them," said Scott Kenkel, who is the manager of the Walmart Neighborhood Market, located in King-sport's Lynn Garden.

Readers may remember

that the Hawkins County School board voted 5-2 in June of 2020 to approve the \$1.25 million cost to install artificial turf at both VHS and CHS.

The board had discussed the idea of artificial turf for over a year before they officially voted to purchase it.

The VHS field had also experienced numerous drainage problems through

the years. In fact, Hawkins County Extension Agent Jack Price and Dr. Tom Samples, Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee Turfgrass Science and Management Department, actually examined the VHS field in the spring of 2020 and concluded that it was unsafe to play on.

SEE GRANT, PAGE 2A

Locals celebrate Easter at sunrise services

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SHELDON LIVESAY

Easter Sunrise Services scattered across Hawkins County joined with millions around the world Sunday morning proclaiming what they call the "best news in all of history." According to Pastor Fred Dimond, who was invited to offer the sunrise service at Ebbing Flowing Springs United Methodist Church, "Resurrection Sunday validates the fact that Jesus Christ, worshiped by Christians, is the hope of the world."

Dimond continued in an interview to say, "Resurrection Sunday is the most important day of the year for Christians. Between the writings of the Apostle Paul and the historian Josephus, between 400-500 people witnessed seeing Jesus after his death on a Roman cross, his burial and resurrection. That is why we gather in churches and cemeteries on this morning to give thanks and worship back to God."

Dimond finished by stating, "Christians believe Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven, but the good news is every person is invited to put their trust in him to become a Christian. On this day, we are reminded how many people in our nation



Worshippers gather outside Ebbing Flowing Springs United Methodist Church for Easter sunrise services.

have lost hope, because their hope is in something that is temporal. Christians believe Jesus is the only promise we have that is eternal and offers us an eternity in heaven when we die. Now that's real hope."

Kathy Lafallete, pastor of Ebbing and Flowing Springs, remarked that this little church was the continual site for worship going back to the 1700s. Members stated they were pretty sure that the tradition



Fred Dimond leads Easter sunrise services at Ebbing Flowing Springs UMC.

SEE EASTER, PAGE 2A

Motorcyclist runs up string of charges in Beech Grove area

A man on a motorbike who attempted to drive through a working crash scene on Sunday was wrestled to the ground and arrested by highway patrol officers.

Brian Kelly, 43, of Kingsport was spotted by Hawkins County Deputy Billy Begley passing a truck on a double yellow line while southbound on Goshen Valley Road. As he pursued the motorcyclist Begley reportedly clocked him at 60 m.p.h. in a 45-m.p.h. zone.

Begley ended the pursuit due to the high rates of speed and the fact that the Tennessee Highway Patrol was working an accident on Beech Creek Road, where both Kelly and Begley were traveling.

Begley soon received a report that Kelly had been stopped at the previous accident scene. THP Trooper Chris Vaughan said he had been able to tackle the driver and drag him off his bike.

Begley said the driver smelled of alcohol, had slurred speech and was unsteady on his feet. He also reportedly failed a field sobriety test.

Vaughan said he recovered two glass pipes, commonly used for narcotics, and a quantity of what appeared to be methamphetamine when Kelly was searched.

Officials said the bike was not registered and not insured.

A motorist who was stopped for the original accident said Kelly almost hit her as she was standing outside her car and trying to warn him to slow down.

Kelly was charged with driving a vehicle in the left lane, speeding more than 21 miles over the speed limit, running a stop sign, reckless driving, reckless endangerment, sixth offense of driving on a revoked license, driving an unregistered vehicle, violation of financial responsibility laws, evading arrest by motor vehicle, fifth offense driving under the influence, possession of methamphetamine, driving while in possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Afterschool program expanding to eight sites

BY LINDA THURSTON
EDITOR

The afterschool program provided by the YMCA is expanding this year thanks to a grant.

Elizabeth Chappell told the Hawkins County School Board on Thursday night that the Y has received a grant allowing it to open new sites at St. Clair, Bulls Gap, Mooresburg, Joseph Rogers and Carter Valley. Two established sites at Church Hill Elementary and Mt. Carmel are funded by the same type of grant.

"Our goal for the program is to reach 230 students in Haw-

kins County, between the eight sites," Chappell said. She is the director of youth development for the Greater Kingsport Family YMCA.

Students qualify for the program based on four qualifying areas: attendance, grades/academics, home life and behavioral concerns.

"While our main focus in the afterschool program is to increase the students' literacy and math skills, we also working on building social and emotional skills," Chappell said.

The Y's programs operate from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and will continue throughout the

summer. Students are given a healthy snack and offered homework help, tutoring, enrichment programs and activities, and physical activities.

Staff members monitor student's grades and report their progress to the University of Tennessee College of Social Work, which forwards the data to the state for funding and accountability purposes.

A STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) coordinator visits the afterschool sites on a rotating basis to provide STEM activities, too. And once a month staff offers engagement activities for the students' parents or guardians.

The grant requires that the program recruit volunteers within the county who help expose students to experiences they would not otherwise have access to, sometimes conduct workshops for parents. Partners can be individuals or businesses, and can work with one school or all schools.

The Hawkins County School System already partners with the Y, but more partners are always welcome.

The program also has staff positions available at Church Hill Elementary, Mt. Carmel, St. Clair and Carters Valley. Applicants can apply for the positions on Indeed.com.

Rabbit disease spotted in West Tennessee

NASHVILLE — Tennessee's State Veterinarian wants to make citizens aware that an outbreak of rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus type 2 (RHDV2) has been detected near the Tennessee border in Arkansas. There have been no cases found in Tennessee, but rabbit owners should be mindful of the heightened risk.

Rabbit hemorrhagic disease does not affect humans or other animals. However, it is highly contagious and fatal to domestic rabbits, wild hares, and pika. RHDV2 can be transmitted through direct contact with infected rabbits or carcasses, meat or fur, feces, bodily fluids, bedding material, feed and water bowls, and hay.

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