



Grand Opening!
Saturday,
May 1st

Ralph Stout Park 9AM-12PM,
Junior Gardner Class 10:30 AM

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THE TOMAHAWK
LITTLE LEAGUE
BASEBALL & SOFTBALL
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THE TOMAHAWK

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COUNTY OFFICIALS ASSOC. OF TENN.

Johnson. County Clerk to represent TN

By Meg Dickens
STAFF WRITER

Johnson County is a small area full of potential. In the last few years, the county seems to be earning notice from the surrounding areas. Tammie Fenner is the newest county official to secure a coveted spot in government, being appointed to the 2022 County Officials Association of Tennessee (COAT) board this month.



Tammie Fenner is the newest county official appointed to the 2022 County Officials Association of Tennessee (COAT). File Photo

Fenner explained that she was one of two officials chosen to represent county clerks across Tennessee, with the other appointee from Knox County. "It's not very often that an elected official from our county gets recognized," County Mayor Mike Taylor explained. "Our county clerk has been appointed to the County Of-

ficials of Tennessee board. We're always happy to have local representation. She'll See Fenner Page A8

Community responds to Drug Take-Back Day

By Tamas Mondovics
EDITOR

Area residents had the opportunity to demonstrate their interest in the betterment of the community after being called on to take part in the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Initiative.

overdose in just one year (August 2019-August 2020). It is the largest number of drug overdoses on record in the United States within one year and a 27 percent increase in deaths year after year. Synthetic opioids, such as illicit fentanyl, are the primary driver of the increase in overdose deaths.

The effort is under the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration jurisdiction and addresses a vital public safety and public health issue.

This month's event was scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2021, and has once again allowed the public the opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs.

Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the United States are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses because of these drugs.

That the local effort was a sure success, there is little doubt. According to Kandas Motsinger, nearly 80 pounds of expired, unused, See Drug Page A4

In the United States, 85,500 people died of a drug

Senior Center to reopen its doors

By Meg Dickens
STAFF WRITER

The COVID-19 pandemic caused many businesses and organizations to close, and those that remained open had to readjust and limit numbers. Seniors in Johnson County faced a sizeable adjustment after the local senior center, reaching 1,350 members in 2019, closed to the public. The Johnson County Senior Center announced its plans to reopen at partial capacity on Monday, June 7.



Johnson County Senior Center Director Kathy Motsinger

"We are excited to announce that our reopening date is just around the corner on June 7 with new hours of

operation from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and closed on Wednesday for cleaning and disinfecting," said Director Kathy Motsinger. "We are here for you with your safety in mind and look forward to reopening our doors and serving our senior center members with love COVID style."



Unlike before, participants need to call ahead to sign up See Senior Center Page A8

LOCAL MASK ORDER AUTHORITY

Lee pushes reopening, focus on economic recovery

Gov. Lee ends Public Health Orders and local mask authority.

By Tamas Mondovics
EDITOR

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee announced on Tuesday (4/27) the end of statewide public

health orders and signed Executive Order 80, lifting the local authority to issue mask requirements in the 89 counties directed by the state health department.

Lee's decision focuses on addressing the economic and regulatory functions of the current statewide orders.

aged public health issue in Tennessee and no longer a statewide public health emergency," said Gov. Lee. "As Tennesseans continue to get vaccinated, it's time to lift remaining local restrictions, focus on economic recovery and get back to business in Tennessee."

According to a press release See Masks Page A4



Lee

JoCo Robos legacy continues



JoCo Robos Team 3075D shows off its most recent award. This May, students Jackson Clifton, Lanie Mink, Charlie Norris, and Owen Taylor will compete against 300 teams worldwide at the Vex Robotics Live Remote World Championship. Submitted photo

By Meg Dickens
STAFF WRITER

Johnson County started offering robotics and competing approximately six years ago. Out of those years, this is the fourth time JCMS students dominated the competition and qualified to compete in the world competition. Now JoCo Robos Team 3075D will compete against 300 teams nationwide. Team

3075D is made of the following students: Captain Jackson Clifton, Journalist Lanie Mink, Programmer Charlie Norris, and Driver Owen Taylor.

"For the first time ever, along with our partners at VEX Robotics, we're excited to announce that qualified teams from around the globe will be part of an exciting event: Live Remote VEX Robotics World Championship presented by Northrop Grum-

man Foundation, in May 2021," the Robotics Education Competition (REC) Foundation announced. "This won't be like any VEX Worlds ever experienced but will go down in history as the first of its kind."

Because of COVID-19, competing in robotics has temporarily changed. Students usually travel all around the region, competing in competitions. This school year, that was not

See Robotics Page A8

Anonymous donor gives \$10k towards women's health

By Meg Dickens
STAFF WRITER

Johnson County citizens came together on Friday, April 24, to help each other help others. Members of the Watauga Watershed Alliance (WWA) presented a \$10,000 check to Women of Mountain City members to help fund the annual Women's Health Fair set for June 24 and June 25. According to WWA member Linda Carlough, the anonymous donor was a WWA supporter that took a lifelong interest in advancing women's lives in Johnson County. He is no longer around, but the donation was to honor his wishes.

"We're not aware of it," WWA Chairman Bob Carlough told Women of MC Grassroots Specialist Ellen Watkins and Operations Manager Hannah Dunn. "We're back in the hollow, so we See Donation Page A8



Members of the Watauga Watershed Alliance (WWA) present a check to Women of MC representatives to aid in free health care opportunities for local women. Left to right: WWA Chairman Bob Carlough, WWA Treasurer Cindy Johnson, Women of MC Operations Manager Hannah Dunn, Women of MC Grassroots Specialist Ellen Watkins. Photo by Meg Dickens