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See Complete Schedule back page A & B sections!

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Beer ordinance passes, local events discussed

By Bethany Anderson
FREELANCE WRITER

The Mountain City Board of Aldermen met on Tuesday, May 7 to a packed room of onlookers from the town. Many were there with great interest in the proposed beer ordinance but were quickly disap-

pointed when it was announced that the ordinance would not be read aloud, but instead available in print form the following week.

City Attorney George Wright said, "There's no need to read it. We can just make it available in a packet for people to pick up if they want it." Alderman Bob Morrison made

a motion to pass the ordinance, which was seconded by Alderman Lawrence Keeble. It was then voted on by all and passed unanimously.

Any interested parties can request an information packet from Sheila Shaw at City Hall starting this week. The packet is expected to cover the beer ordinance as well as require-

ments on becoming an authorized sales location.

The town of Mountain City has purchased and posted a public legal notice for Ordinance No. 1630 (Alcoholic Beverages Ordinance of the Town of Mountain City) and Ordinance No. 1632 (Beer Ordinance

See Council Page A5

Hwy 67 road project open to new bids

By Bethany Anderson
FREELANCE WRITER

Senior Project Manager, Dean Helstrom from Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers was on hand at the last City Council meeting earlier this month to go over a submitted bid for the now infamous, and already lengthy construction project along Highway 67 and Pedro Shoun Ln in the Doe Valley area.

A bid from King General Contractors of Bristol, VA was the only one submitted at this time.

Helstrom said, "Based on the bid received, the project is \$347,490.93 more than the proposed construction budget.

See Hwy. 67 Page A5

Supporting local heroes



JCB officials and staff as well as members of Johnson County law enforcement and emergency fire and rescue personnel join Johnson County Bank president Bonnie Reece, front left, last week during a Johnson County first responders appreciation ceremony. As a way of saying thanks, JCB donated \$2,600 divided equally between 13 departments including JC Sheriff's Office, Mountain City Police Department local volunteer fire departments, the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, and Rescue Squad. Photo by Tamas Mondovics

JCB honors first responders

By Tamas Mondovics
EDITOR

Hot dogs, cupcakes, balloons and, of course, a who lot of "thank-you's" greeted members of local law enforcement, rescue squad, volunteer fire

departments, and emergency management during a first responders appreciation celebration.

The event hosted last week by Johnson County Bank in Mountain City honored the men and women who are first on the scene of an incident or emergency, often putting their lives

on the line.

"This is the first time we have hosted this event, which includes the donation of \$2,600 to our local first responders," said Megan McEwen with Johnson County Bank.

See First Page A6

Johnson County students earn presidential award

By Meg Dickens
FREELANCE WRITER

Students and proud family members made their way to Johnson County High School on Monday, May 6 to celebrate a momentous achievement. Sixty-five local students qualified for the Presidential Academic Excellence Award.

Qualifying students sustained a

3.5 - 4.0-grade point average, have no suspensions during the school year, achieve test scores in the 85th percentile or higher, and maintain a rigorous curriculum.

Students have three opportunities to receive this award: on the 6th, 8th, and 12th-grade level.

"The Presidential Academic Awards Ceremony is one of my favorite nights of the year. It is so nice to see the entire school system come together to recognize the high academic achievement of our students," said retiring JCHS principal Lisa Throop. "I also love that we recognize their parents during the

See Award Page A6



Mountain City Elementary School students gather together after the ceremony. Left to right: Tara Schoolcraft, Ghania Baig, and Ariana Spencer. Photo by Meg Dickens

Call for respect

National Nurses Week draws attention in the wake of Senator's comments

By Tamas Mondovics
EDITOR

Celebrated each year in May, National Nurses Week may have been one of the most significant this year, thanks to the derogatory comments of state senator, Maureen Walsh, a Republican, made on the Senate floor on April 16 while denouncing a bill that would allow nurses to get mandatory, uninterrupted meal and rest breaks.

Walsh's suggestion that nurses "probably play cards for a considerable amount of the day" resulted in outrage on both sides of the aisle and met with backlash by nurses around the country.

A nurse in Chicago, Juliana Bindas, 27, reportedly started a petition on Change.org asking Ms. Walsh to spend a day shadowing a nurse so she could gain a deeper understanding of a nurse's basic shift. Walsh has since made some corrections to her comments indicating that she will accept the invitation.

Not missing a beat to express his dismay Tennessee State Representative Timothy Hill's (R-Blountville) led the charge on the disapproval and outrage over Walsh's comments, in a letter, including a deck of playing cards, signed by his colleagues to the Washington Senator.

To put things in perspective National Nurses Week begins each year on May 6 and ends on May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday.

These permanent dates enhance planning and position National

See Nurses Page A5



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