METRO B

Sports 4-8
Scoreboard 5
Classified 8-10

Tribe's bats heat up on a cold day

Dobyns-Bennett broke open a close game and stormed to a 15-2 victory over Volunteer on Monday. **Page 4B.**

BRIEFLY

I-26 crash sends two to hospital

• KINGSPORT — An early morning wreck on Interstate 26 sent two people to the hospital with injuries and spurred three additional crashes. The first occurred at 4:51 a.m. Monday near mile marker 6.8. Kingsport police report a westbound 1998 Honda CRV ran off the left side of the road and struck a cable barrier in the median. It then rolled and came to rest in the westbound lanes of I-26. The driver of the Honda, Johnnie Wayne Adams, 38, of Athens, Ala., and passenger Scott Binaghi, 44, of Afton, Tenn., were transported to Holston Valley Medical Center. Police listed their injuries as non-life-threatening. Due to the Honda sitting in the roadway, three additional crashes occurred in the vicinity. Police say no one was injured in those incidents. The Kingsport Police Department Traffic Unit is investigating the crash. Charges are pending.

Armed man robs Kingsport market

• KINGSPORT — A man armed with a small black handgun robbed a Kingsport convenience store early Monday morning. Kingsport police said the robbery occurred at 3:32 a.m. at the Sunoco at 1205 Lynn Garden Drive. The clerk reported the suspect, a white male, demanded money from the register and ran away with cash and cigarettes. The suspect is described at 6 feet to 6 feet 2 inches tall and between 175 and 180 pounds. He was wearing a black hooded sweatshirt, black toboggan, red and black bandanna on his face, black pants, white shoes and white gloves. Anyone with information is asked to contact Kingsport Police Department detectives at 229-9429.

'Shake and bake' meth lab explodes

• PENNINGTON GAP — A one-bottle "shake and bake" meth lab exploded late Sunday night in a Pennington Gap apartment, located directly across the street from the police department. Pennington Gap Police Chief Brian Young said officers originally responded to the residence on Kentucky Street due to a small fire around a window seal. They then discovered the meth lab components and placed two people in the apartment under arrest. On Monday afternoon, Young declined to identify the suspects and said an investigation is continuing. No neighboring apartments or residents were harmed in the incident.

Police release names in JC shooting

• JOHNSON CITY — Johnson City police Monday morning released the names of two Elizabethton residents shot over the weekend outside a West Market Street business. One of the two later died. Police found Jennifer N. Cable, 46, and Ulysses G. Cable, 58, both of 215 Short Coal Chute Road, Elizabethton, lying in the parking lot at Discount Tobacco, 608 W. Market St., at 12:03 a.m. Saturday. Both were taken to Johnson City Medical Center, where Ulysses G. Cable died from a self-inflicted wound about 4:45 a.m. Based on a witness statement and evidence from the scene, police said the shootings apparently resulted from a domestic altercation between husband and wife. Jennifer Cable remained in serious condition at JCMC.

Auction to benefit Small Miracles

• KINGSPORT — Small Miracles Therapeutic Equestrian Center Inc. will hold its 16th annual online benefit auction beginning Saturday and ending May 12 at noon. Items up for grabs this year include restaurant and golf gift certificates, Picsee Studio and other photography sessions, admission tickets to Monticello and Dollywood, GBC Wellness Center memberships, Longaberger baskets, and autographed NASCAR No. 14 Tony Stewart memorabilia. Items can be viewed at www.small-miracles.org, or request a printed booklet by contacting Gwen Keeling at 349-1111 or smiracles@chartertn.net. Bids will be accepted at the Web site, e-mail, U.S. mail (P.O. Box 6429, Kingsport, Tenn. 37663), fax (349-8003) or phone (349-1111). Online bids will close by noon on May 12. See Web site for specific closing times for each category. All mailed bids must be received by May 10. All phone or faxed bids must be received by May 11. Successful bidders will be notified via phone or e-mail following the closing of the auction. A reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, May 12, at the Small Miracles facility located at 1026 Rock Springs Drive, where auction items can be claimed. All proceeds will provide assistance for Small Miracles, a Christian-based, nonprofit organization that enhances the physical, emotional, social and cognitive growth of individuals with special needs through equine-assisted activities.

Hawkins regulatory resolution fails

■ **'It opens up** doors that we don't even understand and we cannot foresee.'

— Charlie Newton

By JEFF BOBO
jbobo@timesnews.net

ROGERSVILLE — A resolution that would have allowed the Hawkins County Commission to regulate certain businesses fell one vote short Monday of achieving the two-thirds approval required for adoption.

The resolution was introduced by Commissioner John Metz, along with another resolution limiting seasonal fireworks sales to volunteer fire departments. When the regulatory resolution failed, the fireworks resolution was withdrawn.

Last year, the County Commission approved the sale of fireworks in the county after receiving a private legislative act. The goal was to increase county sales tax revenue, as opposed to having county residents purchase their fireworks in border counties.

What commissioners learned after last year's experience, however, was that not all seasonal tent fireworks retailers were collecting sales tax. Based on commission discussion on the topic in the past two meetings, apparently Hawkins County has no policing authority to ensure seasonal retailers are collecting sales tax.

Before the county can regulate fireworks sales, it must first approve by two-thirds vote a resolution adopting local option regulatory powers set out in the Tennessee Code Annotated.

They are the same powers granted to municipalities by state law for the purpose of "regulating businesses, promoting general welfare pursuant to health, morals, comfort, safety and convenience of its inhabitants, prescribing limits which business occupations and practices may be established, conducted or maintained, exercising general police powers..."

With a 21-member County Commission, the resolution would have required at least 14 votes — or two-thirds of the body — for approval. Then any businesses that would subsequently be regulated would also require a two-thirds approval by the commission.

Metz's resolution was defeated 13-6 with two commissioners absent. Commissioners Charlie Newton, Lynn Short, B.D. Cradic, Thomas Wheeler, Syble Vaughan-Trent and Dwight Carter all voted against.

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David Grace — dgrace@timesnews.net

Betty DeVinney, president of the Friends of Warriors Path organization, speaks at the grand opening of the Palmer Center Foundation Amphitheater addition to Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground Monday at the park.

Final addition opens at Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground

■ **Darrell's** Dream Boundless Playground is a unique play area that accommodates any child regardless of physical obstacles.

By MATTHEW LANE
mlane@timesnews.net

KINGSPORT — Warriors Path State Park officially opened the newest and final addition to the Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground Monday morning — a 200-seat amphitheater designed for a variety of uses, from small, lecture-style programs to full-stage productions.

Nearly a hundred people including friends of the park, elected officials and community volunteers came out to Warriors Path on an unusually cold and windy April morning to celebrate the opening of the Palmer Center Foundation Amphitheater — the fourth and final phase of the all-accessible playground complex and the only one of its kind in the United States.

"This is the final phase of a 12-year project," said Betty DeVinney, president of the Friends of Warriors Path organization and chair of the Darrell's Dream project. "I think you can understand our love of this place."

The amphitheater is located beyond the restrooms and tree house walkway on the outskirts of the playground and was built using the existing hillside and natural basin with terrace seating made of segmented blocks. The grassy aisles can host audiences from 200 to more than 1,000, accessible by an inclined walking path with cutouts for wheelchairs.

The amphitheater includes a dual-level, 900-square-foot stage and is designed for intimate, lecture-style programming as well as full-stage productions for larger audiences. Mary Steadman, a member of Friends of Warriors Path, said the park envisions many uses for the amphitheater including educational programming, lectures, outdoor movies and concerts, and possibly weddings.

Kassie Socks of Kingsport brought her wheelchair-bound daughter, Kaylee, to Monday's grand opening, thanking everyone involved in creating the boundless playground.

"So much goes into our planning when we go to a place like this, to have a chance to play with her peers and children her age. This place is amazing," Socks said. "I'm very thankful to see people come together to

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David Grace — dgrace@timesnews.net

Kassie Socks stands by her daughter, Kaylee, as she cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of the Palmer Center Foundation Amphitheater addition to Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground at Warriors Path on Monday morning.

Sullivan misses deadline in budget process

■ **Tennessee** law requires the county to submit a budget to the state no later than Oct. 1 each year or risk losing state education dollars.

By J.H. OSBORNE
josborne@timesnews.net

BLOUNTVILLE — Sullivan County government is likely to miss at least some budget development deadlines set out in state law. Some of its departments already missed one deadline.

Last week, County Commissioner Eddie Williams distributed copies of applicable sections of Tennessee law to the Sullivan County Commission's Budget Committee. As he passed them around the table at a hastily called "emergency" meeting of the group, Williams — longtime chairman of the committee — told members not to read them then and there, but to take them home and read them later.

The main purpose of the meeting, Williams subsequently explained, was what he described as a $600,000 shortfall in the county's current budget for sheriff's office and jail expenditures. Sheriff Wayne Anderson and his staff agreed there is a shortfall but estimated it to be a lesser amount than described by Williams. The two sides are expected to meet again Wednesday to talk more about the issue.

County Attorney Dan Street confirmed to the Times-News on Monday that the packet of legal information distributed by Williams matched information Street provided Williams to answer a question posed by the latter: Are departments required to bring funding requests to the Budget Committee, or may they do an end run around Williams' group and submit requests directly to the full commission?

Street said the county's budget development process is governed by a 1957 law, adopted by the

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'It was just wonderful the way people came together'

Editor's note: Friday is the one-year anniversary of the severe weather system that swept through the region, killing 10 people in Tennessee and three in Virginia.

By DON ARMSTRONG
NET News Service

CHUCKEY — One of the more than 200 Greene County homes claimed by last spring's historic tornadoes belonged to Walter and Carolyn Gunter. Out of the April 27 nightmare, a new dream home rose for the retired couple.

The EF3 twister took mere seconds to lift the roof from the Horse Creek residence Walter had lived in for 35 years. Carolyn married Walter 15 years ago and joined him at the Dunham Road residence. Both were simply thankful to be alive for a chance to rebuild, as they were both home when the 150-plus mph winds came calling.

They were out later than usual April 27, attending revival services at their Horse Creek Mission Church. Walter dismissed the warnings because he thought the storm would follow Interstate 81 and stay well away from them. He was still asleep when the tornado arrived. Carolyn had been awakened by a phone call about 11:30 p.m. from her daughter after power was lost.

"It was a sound that I've never heard before," said Carolyn, who was sitting in a living room recliner when the storm approached. "A lot of people say it sounds like a freight train. It sounds worse than a freight train to me. I knew what it was, so I got in the hallway and I started hollering for him to get up. It came so quickly it was over by the time Walter got out of bed.

"The roof of the house was gone. The windows started falling in, and the roof went. The walls started falling. It was a terrible night — just like a nightmare."

Walter awoke just in time to see the roof leaving and said he just shielded his face because he expected to be hit by debris. To his relief, he suffered nothing more than a scratched hand and a bump on the

Please see 'IT, PAGE 2B

Don Armstrong

Walter Gunter, left, and a neighbor discuss the tornado damage to Gunter's property April 30, 2011, in the Horse Creek community of Greene County.