



Runaway

Milligan's Segrave defends 800 title by seven seconds / 1C



Comeback

ETSU climbs back from early deficit to top Mercer / 1C

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Darlene Jesse speaks at a meeting of the Multiple Myeloma Support Group in The Mall at Johnson City.

Advocates seek parity for cancer treatments

Bill addresses co-payment gap between treatment types

By NATHAN BAKER Assistant News Editor

Darlene Jesse stands at the front of a horseshoe of about 20 people gathered in a community room at the back of The Mall at Johnson City.

Sitting and eating their choices from the buffet brunch, the members of the Multiple Myeloma Support Group, patients and caregivers, share their latest experiences in coping with the various blood cancers that afflict them.

A few tears fall as members list the drugs they're on, the symptoms they're experiencing and the effects of their last bone marrow transplants, but laughs are more common and more welcome.

Directing it all is Jesse. She asks questions about new medications mentioned, she knows about a number of clinical drug trials and she even runs to get a microphone from mall management when some members say they can't hear the conversations well.

The group says she's their "greatest resource," and she willingly and graciously accepts the responsibility. Jesse lost her husband to the disease, but continued on as the group's caregiver afterward.

"These people are strong, they fight," she said after the monthly meeting broke up and as people chatted in groups before heading home.

Jesse, along with caregivers Jamie Povlich and Mark McCalman, are working with national advocacy groups and state legislators to enact laws to help cancer patients like those in the group.

They've convinced some local legislators, like Matthew and Timothy Hill, to co-sponsor filed legislation.

See PARITY, Page 2A

JOHNSON CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tax 'loophole' in city's sights

By TONY CASEY Press Staff Writer

Moves are being made to close what members of the Johnson City Board of Education call a legislative "loophole" that keeps money from going toward city schools' needs.

For more than six months, Richard Manahan has been bringing up Washington

School board members want bigger share of county property taxes collected in city

County Mayor Dan Eldridge's use of Tennessee Annotated Code 3-15 as unfair to Johnson City taxpayers.

In June 2016, the county voted to increase property taxes by 40 cents on every \$100 of assessed value,

which includes Johnson City property owners, who pay both city and county taxes. But when that money is cut up, because of the way the county handles the funds, Johnson City Schools only receives three of those 40 cents.

The bulk of the increase — 32 of those 40 cents — goes into the general capital projects fund, after which it's typically divided up depending on the populations of taxpayers in the city and in the county.

Pam Cox, director of finance for Johnson City Schools, explained the money breakdown.

See TAX, Page 2A

'If they can't come up with a diplomatic solution, there could be a lawsuit.'

— State Rep. Matthew Hill

Solar panels, go-karts, teens and innovation straighten the

Learning Curve

By ZACH VANCE Press Staff Writer

Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines.

Students from 20 local schools assembled Saturday morning for a solar-powered go-kart race around a makeshift track at Grandview Elementary.

"We're just glad the sun is shining," said Bill Flanary, assistant director of Washington County Schools.

"This is true engineering the way NASA does it, making it up as you go. Trial and error. They had a budget and a deadline. Real engineering, the way it should be."

With two karts leaving the starting line at once, teams competed in speed and endurance races.

The speed race began at 11 a.m. with drivers taking eight laps around the track, attempting to post the fastest overall time.

Being his first time driving the kart, Sullivan North driver Adam Nelson was elated with his team's performance in the speed race, finishing with the third-fastest time.

"It felt good (and) fast. Everything went great," Nelson said after stepping from his go-kart.

Hampton High School's day at the track was stopped abruptly during the first speed race.



Zach Vance/Johnson City Press

Solar-powered go-karts negotiate a curve at Grandview Elementary Saturday in a showdown between 20 teams from area schools.

Student teams hit the track to test their 'make it up as you go' engineering

next time," Flanary said.

"All the power they're getting from these solar panels, they're not allowed to plug in their vehicles at all today. It's all coming from the sun."

Flanary said if it had been a cloudy day, most of the teams wouldn't have been able to finish the race.

"We've found that these (solar) panels will charge batteries twice as fast as a plug-in A/C charger. These aren't toys. These are the same panels that somebody might put on their roof to energize their home."

Each school was allocated about \$900 to spend on solar panels, with some teams opting for two small panels while others went with a single large panel.

See CURVE, Page 8A

Press examines region's progress

Wow, look at us now! There's no doubt that the greater Johnson City area is rapidly evolving into a more vibrant place to live, work and play. New businesses, restaurants, recreational facilities and other new amenities seem to pop up every week.

Over the next four Sundays, the Johnson City Press is showing our readers just how far this community has come with special

Progress sections devoted to the good news in our region. Today, we look at progress in banking, retail,

industry, automotive & business. In the following weeks, we will examine real estate, education, recreation, dining and more.

Look at us now! Johnson City has come a long way.



Milligan student Ashlyn Jackson created "The Autism Cube" with ways to assist children.

Autism Society launches local programming

By ZACH VANCE Press Staff Writer

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Facing a growing number of diagnoses, the Autism Society of East Tennessee will launch a weekly educational and social program to better serve the local autistic

population.

On Saturday, the Johnson City chapter invited autism professionals to begin accumulating a list of programming, such as music therapy, parent support groups and life skills training.

See PROGRAMMING, Page 2A

WEATHER/2A High 61 Low 35

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DEATHS/4B, 5B Ruth Russell Master Sgt. William Lyle "Bill" Sams, Ret. JOHNSON CITY Margaret Maxine Hickman Blakley Matthew Woods Angela "Angel" D. Yates ELIZABETHTON Jerry Arden Gouge Chris Northmore GRAY Dorothy Elizabeth "Betty" Craddick Jack S. Fletcher Hampton girls capture hard-fought sectional win/1C

LOCAL/3A Elizabethton High School freshman Brianna Barnette wasn't looking for anything in particular during the Cinderella Project prom dress giveaway Friday evening in Allandale. She was hoping one of the dresses would "wow" her.

INSIDE Celebrations 16E Classified ads 1D Community briefs 8B, 12E Editorial 1B-3B For the Record 6B Health 13E Local 3A Lottery 2A On the Air 2C Puzzles 15E Scores 2C



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Dave Ongie/Johnson City Press

Hannah Segrave easily beat the field, clocking 2:07.49 in the 800 meter race.

Segrave repeats as champ

By **DAVE ONGIE**
Press Staff Writer
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NAIA NATIONAL INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

By the time Milligan's Hannah Segrave hit the first straightaway in the women's 800 meter final at the NAIA National Indoor Track & Field Championships on Saturday, the sound of her competitors' footsteps had already faded away.

Segrave was alone out front, pushed only by the clock that ticked steadily next to the finish line. As the gap between

Segrave and the field continued to grow, the seconds kept accumulating on the clock, and the only suspense left inside the MiniDome was how Segrave would fare in her race against time.

"That's one thing that's really hard is running in a race where you're by yourself," Segrave said. "I think you have to try to chase time, and that's what I was trying to do. It's hard."

When it was all said and done, the senior easily defended her

800-meter championship by crossing the finish line nearly seven seconds ahead of her nearest competitor. But when Segrave saw the time of 2:07.49 flash across that clock, it was hard to tell whether the performance was enough to satisfy her own lofty set of expectations.

Still, Segrave said a national title is never anything to be taken for granted.



Dave Ongie/Johnson City Press

Hannah Segrave, center, won her second consecutive 800 meter national title.

▶ See **CHAMP**, Page 3C



Folds of Honor Quiktrip 500

Sunday, 2:30 p.m. (Fox)

No transition for SHR after switch to Ford

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAMPTON, Ga. — So much for a transition period at Stewart-Haas Racing.

The NASCAR team hasn't slowed since switching from Chevrolet to Ford. Kurt Busch captured the season-opening Daytona 500, and Kevin Harvick followed up by earning the pole for Sunday's Monster Energy Cup race at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

"Hopefully this is the start of something great," Harvick said.

There was plenty of speculation about how the change would go, especially for a driver such as Harvick who had a long relationship with Chevrolet.

Turns out, he had no trouble getting back up to speed.

"It's fun to open Pandora's box," Harvick said. "You have to turn every leaf over and look at everything in your company. Everything is different from top to bottom. But one thing that stayed consistent was very good people. It's been fun to see a group of people come together and try to make things better. It's a major undertaking to do what we did."

Busch is still savoring the high from his Daytona victory. It may take a while to come down.

"You take it all in, you absorb it," Busch said. "Years ago, when I won the (2004) championship, you look at it and you think, 'Aww, man, this is a lot that goes along with it.' And maybe I didn't soak it all in. This time around, my phone is still 400 texts deep. I can't get caught up."

While Stewart-Haas is showing early dominance, don't forget about seven-time Cup champion Jimmie Johnson.

He's the two-time defending race winner in Atlanta.

"It's been a great track for me," Johnson said. "The last two races we won here, we didn't really get ourselves situated until late in the going. But able to come out on top. Just because you have a slow Friday or a slow start to the race, I don't think you can count anybody out. We have a lot of chances to work on the car and make big stuff happen here, which is really neat."

Here are some other things to watch for Sunday on the 1.54-mile tri-oval track:

ROCKET MAN: Ryan Newman showed signs of bouncing back from a disappointing 2016 season, qualifying on the outside of the front row.

While saying the No. 31 team still had a long way to go, Newman's fast lap was a huge boost for the crew's morale.

▶ See **TRANSITION**, Page 8C

Southern Conference tournament

SATURDAY'S QUARTERFINALS

UNCG 76, The Citadel 67
Wofford 79, Chattanooga 67
Samford 67, Furman 63
ETSU 73, Mercer 66

SUNDAY'S SEMIFINALS

UNCG vs. Wofford, 5 p.m.
Samford vs. ETSU, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Semifinal winners, 7 p.m. (ESPN)



Joe Avento/Johnson City Press

Devontavius Payne tries for a shot against Mercer's defense Saturday.

Close call

Bucs survive day filled with upsets

By **JOE AVENTO**
Press Staff Writer
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ASHEVILLE, N.C. — On a day of upsets at the Southern Conference basketball tournament, East Tennessee State University avoided the bug. Desonta Bradford keyed a second-half rally and the third-seeded Bucs held off No. 6 Mercer 73-66 in the quarterfinals Saturday night at U.S. Cellular Center.

ETSU (25-7) will face seventh-seeded Samford in Sunday's 7:30 p.m. semifinal. Samford authored one of the upsets earlier in the day, surprising No. 2 seed Furman, 67-63.

No. 5 Wofford beat No. 4 Chattanooga, 79-67, and top-seeded UNC Greensboro defeated No. 9 The Citadel, 76-67 to set up the other semifinal. Sunday's winners

will meet in Monday's 7 p.m. championship game with the SoCon's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament at stake.

Bradford, who spent a few minutes on the bench after picking up his third foul, rejoined the fray and scored nine points in an 11-0 ETSU run that turned the tide for good.

The decisive rally came when the score was tied 45-45. It began with Bradford tipping in a miss and reached a crescendo when he threw down an alley-oop dunk for a 56-45 lead.

"One of the assistants told me about being aggressive, just staying aggressive," Bradford said. "They called some plays for me."

Mercer didn't score a point for a span of 4:17.

▶ See **SURVIVE**, Page 7C

HIGH SCHOOL SECTIONALS

Lady Bulldogs top Oneida for spot at state

By **GENE RENFRO**
Press Correspondent

ONEIDA — It's not how you start, but how you finish and the Hampton girls' basketball team proved that Saturday at Oneida.

The Lady Bulldogs missed their first five shots in the Sectional meeting at Oneida, but Hampton rebounded for the 42-41 victory. The win punched the Lady Bulldogs a ticket to this week's TSSAA Blue Cross Basketball Championship which begins Thursday. Hampton will be going to Murfreesboro for the first time since 2013 with a record of 21-13.

The Lady Bulldogs are winners of nine of their last 12 games with all three setbacks against defending champion South Greene, which also qualified for state quarterfinal round. South Greene was a 94-48 winner over Meigs County on Saturday.

Hampton was up 42-37 with just over a minute left and held on despite the best

efforts of Oneida.

"Turnovers and missed shots, they missed on their last five possessions and Megan (Garland) got the rebounds. It doesn't have to be pretty, but have to have one more point than they do," Hampton head coach Bud Hazelwood said about the closing stretch.

It was Shyanne Tuelle who hit two free throws to put the road squad up by five, but Hampton could not add to their margin as the clock wound down.

"Part of the problem late in the game was the atmosphere, it was a loud gym. They couldn't hear me on the bench," Hazelwood said about the packed house in Oneida. "My hats off to Oneida. They're classy here."

Tuelle finished with 11 points. Alexis Grubbs paced Hampton with 15 points, and Garland added eight points.

Early on Hampton couldn't buy a bucket and ended the

▶ See **BULLDOGS**, Page 3C

LADY 'BLAZERS FINISHED



Douglas Fritz/Johnson City Press

Daniel Boone's Makenzy Bennett drives as Oak Ridge's Mykia Dowdell, left, and Jaymi Golden (32) defend in the Lady Trailblazers' season-ending 61-44 loss in Saturday's sectional round. For more see **Page 3C**.



The Associated Press

UT' Robert Hubbs III, Grant Williams (2) and Admiral Schofield (5) celebrate the Vols' come-from-behind win over Alabama.

Vols rally past Alabama

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KNOXVILLE — Tennessee was staring at a double-digit halftime deficit and the likelihood of a fourth straight loss Saturday when Admiral Schofield made a bold prediction.

As the Volunteers gathered in the locker room, Schofield said if they played stronger defense, their shots eventually would start falling.

That's exactly what



happened.

Schofield made a 3-pointer with 1:58 left to put Tennessee ahead for good as the Vols rallied from 16 points down to beat Alabama 59-54 in the

regular-season finale for both teams. Tennessee snapped a three-game skid and produced its biggest comeback of the season for a major confidence boost heading into next week's Southeastern Conference Tournament in Nashville, Tennessee.

"I hope that we start getting our confidence back, our swagger back and start playing with a little more

▶ See **RALLY**, Page 6C



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