

by Laura Cole, was postponed in a vote of 10-5 and that wasn't the only split vote of the long session. MFC Director Gerald Green had told the appointed commissioners that late comments were received about the proposed rules prompting the postponement.

Voting NO on the postponement were Art Clancy, Elizabeth Eason, Chris Oden, Scott Smith and Janice Tocher.

Another split vote, 9-5 with one abstaining, came on a concept plan for Westland Oaks subdivision on the Northwest side of R. Campbell Station Road which was also postponed until next month.

Trying to adopt standards for the approval of indoor and outdoor paintball and air soft ranges was denied by the commissioners in an 8-7 vote. The ordinance would have made indoor facilities require a use-on-review before approval in Agricultural Districts.

Caroline Greenwood of Bloomington Lake spoke against the idea saying it didn't give communities enough protection and said the use of a large building in an agricultural area crosses over into a commercial use.



Athletes from Amherst Elementary School march in the Parade of Champions in the opening ceremonies of the 2017 Special Olympics Track and Field Invitational last week at Hardin Valley Academy. The event played host to 600 competitors.

Student athletes compete in Special Olympics at HVA

By Kevin Lay

Hundreds of elementary and



Education adopts budget

By Peter Gaudin

After much discussion the Knox County Board of Education approved a general fund budget of \$471,145,000 which is an approximate 4% increase over the current budget year. This budget includes a 3% pay increase for teachers and a \$1 an hour increase for teaching assistants.

With no discussion the board unanimously approved a school nutrition budget of \$28,570,000 which included a three percent raise for food service personnel. There was also no discussion and a unanimous vote for the school system's capital improvement budget. This budget includes \$5 million for the start up of the two new middle schools, \$1.75 million for physical plant upgrades, \$250,000 for modular classrooms, \$200,000 for environmental testing and remedial projects and \$1.5 million for improvements to the libraries at Powell and Blount.