

wasn't the only split vote of the long session. MPC 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 Esson, Chris Ooten, 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 N. 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 Boomerang Lane spoke against the idea saying it didn't give communities enough protection and said the use of a large building for paintball and air soft



PHOTO BY KEN LAY

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 Ken Lay

adopts budget

By Pete Gawda

After much discussion the Knox County Board of Education approved a general fund budget of \$471,146,000 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 includes 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 proj-