



Sawyer Dyer awaits the start of his homecoming parade with his family and Knox County Sheriff's deputies.

Faith, family and community converge to celebrate a miracle

By Richie Beeler

Johnny Sawyer Dyer just wanted to go home. But even the imagination of a seven-year-old could not have envisioned what was waiting for him when he got there. Last Tuesday night when Sawyer and his family returned to the Gales community after a

from leukemia.

Smiling faces lined both sides of Tazewell Pike all the way from Fairview Road to Harrison's Crossroads - a distance of nearly half a mile. Sawyer, his sister Maddie, and parents Ron and Mabel rode in a convertible, as grandparents and other family

Backy who came up with the idea and plan for the homecoming celebration.

"The inspiration for the parade came from Sawyer himself," she said. "His faith and that of his family has not only touched the hearts of our church family at Fairview, but also of Gales (le-

has gone well beyond the borders of the Gales community, and is even touching people throughout the U.S. But, in the end, she said, it was home that meant the most to Sawyer and his family.

"The reason we chose to invite the Gales community to Tazewell Pike to welcome him home is

the current agreement doesn't expire until September of next year.

The discussion last week pitted some commissioner members against each other and saw various representatives of AMR Rural/Metro responding to questions about billing, service, response time and company ownership brought up, initially, by Commissioner Charles Busler. Commissioners Evelyn Gil, Camron Dickey and Michelle Carringer also had some pointed comments about the matter.

Commissioner Busler said that he wants to know more about AMR, the possible new owners of the parent company AMR, how 911 calls are distributed, and why an EMS Cost Review Board hasn't been named to oversee the agreement. AMR Rural/Metro provides ambulance service in Knox County and the parent company also provides fire response.

Busler made a motion to re-bid the contract instead of approving the renewal. Commissioner Brad Anders responded with a "point of order" and moved to approve the proposed agreement. Com-