



PHOTO BY MIKE STOEY

5th District school board member and candidate Amber Rountree addresses a large crowd at the South Knox Alliance candidate forum last week at Dogwood Elementary School.

discussed her accomplishments and her vision for Knox County Schools.

Amber Rountree, who currently represents the 5th District and is serving a second term as vice-chair of the Knox County Board of Education, returned to Dogwood Elementary for the candidate forum. As the school board member representing the Community

district, she said, "Education is important to our kids," she emphasized.

Rountree talked about the benefit of the community school program such as Dogwood. "This model brings services, partnerships and mentors to our school, which has contributed to our students' success."

Another recent success she mentioned has been

improving the school's performance. She is also proud of the work accomplished by the educational disparity in educational outcome task force of which she was a member.

Rountree believes that there is still much to be done and said she has great plans for the future of Knox County Schools and the schools in South Knoxville. A top priority that she

highlighted was safety throughout Knox County.

Candidates for county commissioner at-large seats present were Ronnie Rochelle, Larry Smith, Justin Biggs and Tim Gels. Donor Gels was represented by Danny Whitliff and Lamar Jay was represented by Scott Boyles. The candidates were asked to

____Continue on page 2

Questions answered at mayoral candidate debate

By Mike Stoeley
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Campaign supporters

that money is "better in your pocket than in some politician's hands."

Jacobs agreed some departments could be consolidated and said he "has

system, safety, teachers pay and the need for drug education at an earlier age

Early voting starts Wednesday

By Mike Stoeley
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Early voting in Knox County begins Wednesday and the races for sheriff and county mayor seem to be driving the turnout. There are lots of other