



The Knoxville Focus

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PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

The Spangler team didn't win, but they had a good time playing as a family in the Tom Spangler Golf Classic, a fundraising tournament for the Knox County Sheriff. From left, brothers Bobby, Bruce and Tom and nephew Brady.

Spangler Golf Classic 'blessed' by friends, family, weather and turnout

By Steve Williams

The second Tom Spangler Golf Classic "doubled" in size and the weather Friday at Three Ridges Golf Course to benefit first-year Knox County Sheriff Spangler couldn't have been better. Spangler's first tournament was in October of 2017 at Gettysville Country Club and had one afternoon shotgun start. That was prior to his election as Knox County Sheriff. Last week's tournament had two shotgun starts - one in the morning with 18 four-player teams and one in the afternoon with 17 teams. "It is a fund raiser," said Sheriff Spangler in between the two flights.

"We've got some campaign debts to fulfill and we want to just get things ready." "Obviously, I plan on wanting to run again with things that are going on, and this way we are able to get those finances in hand early." Sheriff Spangler said what made his fundraising tournament special was the turnout. "The support that people come out, that they have that much faith in me to do the job that we are doing," he said. "And it's a team effort, it's not just me. It's all the people and the men and women in that Sheriff's office." "I've been elected to lead that agency and I'm very honored and blessed to be

able to do that. But I have a lot of good people that make my job a lot easier." Sheriff Spangler emphasized he was not responsible for the weather. "No sir," he chuckled. "It's been a glorious day and we are blessed." He didn't sugarcoat his team's play either in the best-ball event. "We played. That's all I can say. We had a good time. I was with my family." Brothers Bobby and Bruce and nephew Brady joined Tom to make up the Spangler foursome. Sheriff Spangler was asked if he had any memorable shots in the morning round. "I couldn't say that I have, so unfortunately no.

But what I will say, I was blessed to be able to spend time with my family. I'm a hacker. I'm not a golfer, but we had a good time."

BEST OF THE BUNCH: Morning Flight. First Place Team (Score 56 on the Par 72 course) - Josh Brummerstedt, Conner Froning, Brandon Workman, Scott Tidwell. Second Place Team (Score 58) - Tyler Wyatt, Dave Thomas, Luke Whitworth, Wes Covington. Afternoon Flight. First Place Team (Score 54) - Jeremy Cox, Joe Hovater, Barry Collins, Will Collins. Second place Team (Score 55) - Matt Lawson, Richard Van Kirk, Dustin Dunagan, Jerry Glenn.

Council to talk community improvement

Budget amendments, low-barrier shelter and urgent care funding on city agenda

By Mike Steely
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In addition to voting on approval of the amendment of the Fiscal Year budget and transferring surplus funds into the upcoming year, the Knoxville City Council will consider several community improvement projects when it meets Tuesday.

The council may vote to approve Mayor Madeline Rogers to sign an agreement with Volunteer Ministry Center to allot \$245,000 for improvements to the former Salvation Army building beneath the Broadway Bridge. Creating a "Low-Barrier Shelter" for homeless people there will involve retrofitting the building with restroom facilities for use during daytime hours.

The Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center may get \$560,000 in city funds in an amendment of a tri-party service contract with Knox County and Helen Ross McNabb Center. The resolution calls for services to be provided at other locations on an as-needed basis and conduct individual assessments at the Roger D. Wilson Detention Facility.

An agreement with Bell & Associates Construction will also be considered for \$6.4 million for the Jackson Avenue Ramp Construction Project.

Three separate grant applications may get approval with the federal and state governments for funding portions of Knox Area Transit. That includes \$3.3 million request to the state to fund the system in 2020.

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Knox County's sex education curriculum under scrutiny

By Anne Primm

The June 12, 2019 Knox County School Board meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Susan Horn at 5:04 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon. Chair Terry Hill was out-of-town. All the other eight school board members were present.

Vice Chair Horn recognized Boy Scout Troop 757 for attending the meeting. Next, Superintendent Bob Thomas and the other board of education members acknowledged and thanked Dr. Clifford Davis, Melissa Drinnon and Cheryl Hickman for their tenures with Knox County Schools as they retire.

As was discussed at the June 5, 2019 meeting, the school board voted to approve increasing the proposed 3.5% raise to 4% for both certified and classified personnel.

The Knox County School Board also approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Knox Area Urban League for

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Recode dominates planning commission meeting

By Bill Howard

At the Knoxville-Knox Co. Planning Commission's monthly meeting June 13, one issue took center stage: the comprehensive update of the City of Knoxville Zoning Ordinance. The plan is particularly known as Recode and is, unsurprisingly, controversial. Originated some three years ago, the plan seeks to update - some say overhaul - how property is zoned, and therefore used. Two obvious

points of contention are how it will affect development, and whether it will raise property taxes. The commission's debate was whether to approve the plan in its current form, or send it back to the city council for further revisions. Mixed opinions abounded. Commissioner Tim Hill was ready to approve the plan and send it on. Commissioner Jeffrey Roth disagreed. "I think this thing needs a

lot of work before I'm comfortable sending it back to city council," Roth said. "I've received a lot of phone calls from people who were concerned about how their property would be rezoned. We worked on the hilltop overlay (concerning development on hillsides, depending on their slope) for a couple of years and couldn't come up with an agreement." Among those in opposition was Danny Kirby, a property

manager at 1st Commercial Real Estate. Kirby spoke against the very existence of Recode.

"I never thought this ordinance was necessary to begin with," Kirby said. "The zoning ordinance is made to live and breathe with the city. It's done this for 50 years and has produced a great city."

Kirby further thought the public wasn't adequately notified of the plan or the

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