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Hardin Valley, other area soccer teams assist Cookeville's cleanup effort

By Ken Lay

The Coronavirus pandemic has halted area high school athletics but several area soccer teams recently came together to help in the relief effort after recent tornadoes wrought heavy damage on Cookeville.

The city and other parts of Middle Tennessee were hit by tornadoes on Tuesday, March 3, just days before the Hardin Valley Academy boys soccer team was scheduled to play its final preseason scrimmage against Cookeville.

The Hawks made their scheduled trip to Cookeville High School on Saturday, March 7.

But they didn't play the Cavaliers on the pitch.

Instead, Hardin Valley's players helped with the relief effort.

"We canceled our game with Cookeville," said HVA second-year coach Brad Delano said. "We went down and helped with the cleanup."

And Hardin Valley's work didn't stop there.

The Lady Hawks also assisted as they gathered supplies and gift cards for the victims.

Other area teams also joined in the effort. Those schools included Catholic Central, Farragut and Bearden. Area coaches including the Admirals' Ray Dover, the Bobcats' Chris Quinn, the Bulldogs' Ryan Radcliffe and the Irish's Gordon Hairs took different roles in helping with the relief effort.

"We had a lot of people get involved,"



PHOTO BY BRAD DELANO

Members of the Hardin Valley Academy boys soccer team assist in the Cookeville cleanup effort after the city was hit by a tornado earlier this month.

Delano said.

"Between them, our team and our girls teams, we donated supplies and hundreds of dollars worth of gift cards.

Dover and his wife made a trip to deliver relief supplies to Cookeville.

"Our parents got together with some parents from Catholic and gathered the supplies and I drove them down there with my wife," Dover said.

The 2020 high school boys soccer season is on hold due to recent

happenings but area teams began the campaign before students departed for Spring Break and it was Central that made the final donations for the effort before the season came to a standstill.

The Bobcats played their home opener against Seymour on Thursday, March 12 at Dan Y. Boring Stadium, and in lieu of paying for tickets, fans were encouraged to donate supplies and non-perishable food items to the Cookeville tornado victims.

Commission workshop cancelled, agenda moved to next meeting

By Mike Steely

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Knox County Commission Chairman Hugh Nyström has called off the commission's work session scheduled for today.

"While I don't say this enough, I wanted to share how much I enjoy working with all of you. Our commission has come a long way in demonstrating leadership to the community. We debate, review, pass legislation, and ultimately act in a manner that reflects what we each believe to be in the best interest of our community. With that in mind, I have made the decision to cancel this month's work session and Chairman's briefing scheduled for March 23, 2020," Nyström notified the commissioners.

"I am in contact with the Mayor's office to review the items on this month's agenda that need to be passed to insure the operations of Knox County Government. Suffice to say that any items that are not essential to operations will be postponed. Based on the outcome of this determination, I will make a decision on the need for us to have the full commission meeting that is scheduled in two weeks on March 30th, 2020.

"Ultimately, our first and foremost concern is for the health and well-being of our constituents and our community as

Continued on page 2

Master Sergeant Roddy Edmonds to be honored

By Mike Steely

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The Knox County Commission has a resolution agreement with Knoxville Jewish Alliance to honor an East Tennessee Jew who saved more than 200 American Jewish soldiers.

Master Sergeant Rodrick (Roddy) Edmonds was not a Jew but his actions as a prisoner of war in a German prison camp in World War II were heroic and the corner of Market Street and Clinch Avenue will soon see a marker in his honor.

Edmonds was captured in 1944 and imprisoned at Stalag IX. On a bitter cold January morning Edmonds, the highest ranking non-commissioned officer there, was ordered to assemble every Jewish soldier. The Germans were separating the soldiers for "special treatment."

American Jewish soldiers were warned that, if captured, to remove their dog tags.

Edmonds ordered all 1,275 soldiers to assemble outside and the German commander was frustrated. Edmonds was told to identify the Jewish soldiers immediately.

"We are all Jews here," Edmonds replied. He said that if the Nazis wanted to shoot all the Jews he would have to shoot all the soldiers. The German commander backed off and no one was separated or shot.

Three months later Allied Forces



Master Sergeant Roddy Waring Edmonds will be honored with a memorial marker at the corner of Market Street and Clinch Avenue. The Knoxville native stood up to a German commander and saved at least 200 Jewish American soldiers.

liberated the prison camp. Edmonds returned home and never spoke of the incident and his actions were never recognized by the Army nor did he receive a medal.

Edmonds died in 1985 and was buried with military honors. His son, Chris Edmonds, pastor of the Piney Grove Baptist Church in Maryville, began researching his father's history.

In 2015 Edmonds was recognized by Yad Vashem as a "Righteous Among the

Continued on page 2

Help Keep Illness from Spreading

Take actions every day to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds —especially

after using the bathroom or blowing your nose, and before eating.

If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.



Cover your cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue.



Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.



Stay away from people who are sick.



Stay home when you are sick.



Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces regularly.

From the TN Department of Health

Knox County Health Department hotline

KCHD has launched a COVID-19 Public Information Line. The hotline number is 865-215-5555 or individuals may call toll-free at 888-288-6022. The information line will be available from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Call volume is expected to be high. Callers are urged to be patient if they receive a busy signal and try their call at a later time. People with concerns about their health should contact their health care providers.

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