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### Returning retirees addressed at pension board meeting

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Knox County Sheriff Tom Spangler sat in on a Zoom meeting of the Knox County Retirement and Pension Board last week to address a matter dealing with retired department salaries. employees coming back to

former employees may be granted supervisory positions but the sheriff clarified that after 120 days of retirement, former employees may come back to work for the department "on entry-level positions and

The returning employees' pay would not affect their There was some mis- Uniformed Officers Pen-

they would not be putting in the plan. additional funds into their plans

The UOPP is no longer open for enrollment but plan are still enrolled and are planning retirement. "It's a good thing and a

supplement to their retirement," the sheriff said.

The board voted to add understanding that those sion Plan retirement and the "entry level" wordage to

The UOPP is the centerpiece of the lawsuit brought by citizens against the county last September some who started with that after the county mayor and commission authorized payment of vacation days into retirement payments. The suit is still before the Chancery Court after pension board attorney John Owings and the board's

outside attorney filed a motion to dismiss

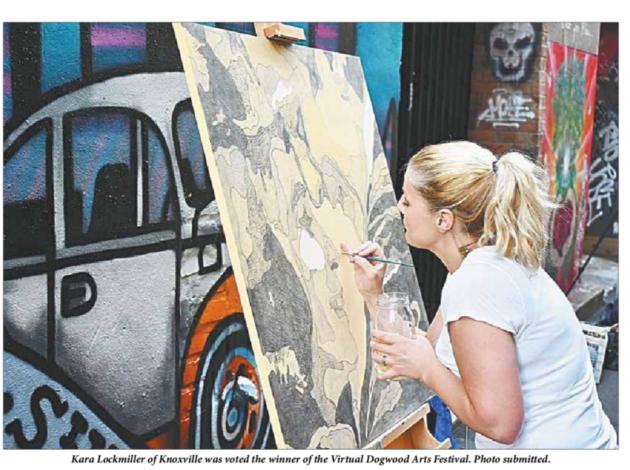
Because of filings and the coronavirus outbreak the matter is now in limbo.

the Tennessee Supreme Court has extended a court shutdown through May.

"We'll not be hearing something until June, if then," Owings said, adding, "None of us have ever

witnessed anything like this before."

In introducing the pension board's budget for the coming fiscal year Pension Owings told the board that Director Jennifer Schroeder noted that \$25,000 was added to support an outside attorney, upping funds for outside representation to \$52,000. The current year has \$27,000 designated for that.



## **Dogwood Arts** announce winners of annual contest

The COVID-19 pandemic has played havoc with the 2020 Dogwood Arts Festival, causing many of its signature events to be canceled or postponed. But the festival still went on virtually and the organizers still kept up the tradition.

On Friday the festival officials announced the winners of the annual art contest, which was held online this

Kara Lockmiller finished in first place and won \$500. Vicki Love claimed second place and earned \$300. Tina Burnetti came in third and won \$200.

Voting was held from March 31 through April 30 and Shannon Herron, Dogwood Arts Festival Media Coordinator, said that 1,245 votes were cast and that represents the most ever

He also noted that over 6,000 people

Continued on page 2

### **Beeler votes** against constituents on zoning matter

By Mike Steely Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.com

Knoxville's 8th District is huge in territory-stretching from Forks of the River all the way to beyond Gibbs and Corryton. Starting just east of downtown Knoxville the district borders on Sevier, Jefferson, Grainger, Union and Anderson Counties

Commissioner Richie Beeler represents the 8th District, having been appointed to replace Dave Wright, who now serves as the area's state House representative, on the Knox County Commission. He has a beef with the fact there is no district representation on the Knoxville/ Knox Planning Commission.

During the recent zoning portion of the Knox County Commission meeting, Beeler, who seldom speaks up on issues, delivered a short address. The commission was being asked to approve a rezoning from Agricultural to Planned Residential in the Gibbs schools area.

The planning commission had Continue on page 4

# **Donations sought for Lions Mobile Vision Lab**



Mobile Vision Lab.

The Fountain City Lions Club is looking for help to repair the

Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.com

One of the many things that Lions Club members do for the community is those who need them. Fires the club made three trips there to help.

Jim McFarland of the Fountain City Lions Club he said. told The Focus that damage done to the Labon March 3rd set the charity back. McFarland

the lab did some major

Since then the Lions Clubs in the region have been raising money to to provide eyeglasses for repair the damage. He said that the non-profit During the Gatlinburg charity had a \$1,000 deductible and has been working to raise \$1,200.

"We're almost there,"

The lab is used to manufacture glasses Smoky Mountain Lions for patients served Charities Mobile Vision through the various East Tennessee Lions Clubs.

"We've moved all

churches, schools, etc., anyplace where we have the room," he said

"Before the damage, we were doing 80 to 90 patients each month and since we started with the mobile lab we've provided more than 6,000 pairs of glasses."

The mobile lab was parked behind the Fountain City Lions Club and because of the damage, the manufacturing of glasses has been suspended.

mobile. We can set up in that because of the restrictions during the coronavirus outbreak and the repairs needed to the lab it may be June or July before eye exams and glasses are available

Donations can be made by mail to Smoky Mountain Lions Charities, P.O. Box 70276, Knoxville, Tn. 37938. McFarland said anyone can do a credit card donation by calling him at (865)556-





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