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The Daily to cus

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Returning retirees addressed at pension board meeting

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

There was some misunderstanding that those

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 salaries."

The returning employees pay would not affect their Uniformed Officers Pen sion Plan retirement and they would not be putting in additional funds into their

The UOPP is no longer open for enrollment but some who started with that plan are still enrolled and are planning retirement

"It's a good thing and a supplement to their retire ment," the sheriff said.

The board voted to add the "entry level" wordage to

the plan.
The UOPP is the centerpiece of the lawsuit brought by citizens against the county last September 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

motion to dismiss. Because of filings and

the coronavirus outbreak the matter is now in limbo Owings told the board that 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 penon board's budget for the coming fiscal year Pension Director Jennifer Schroed-Director Jennifer Schroed-er 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.

Beeler votes

constituents on zoning

Knoxville's 8th District is huge n 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 Dis trict, 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 rep-

against

matter By Mike Steely Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.co



inner of the Virtual Dogw ood Arts Festival. Photo submitted.

Dogwood Arts announce winners of annual contest art contest, which was held online this

By Ken Lay

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

Dogwood Arts Festival Media Coordina-tor, said that 1, 245 votes were cast and

He also noted that over 6,000 people

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.

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commission was being asked to approve a rezoning from Agricultural to Planned Residen tial in the Gibbs schools area

resentation on the Knoxville/ Knox Planning Commission.

tion of the Knox County Com

mission meeting, Beeler, who

seldom speaks up on issues

delivered a short address. The

During the recent zoning por-

The planning commission had Continue on page 4

Donations sought for Lions Mobile Vision Lab



Mobile Vision La

By Mike Steely

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

Jim McFarland of the Fountain City Lions Club told The Focus that damage done to the Smoky Mountain Lions Charities Mobile Vision Labon March 3rd set the charity back. McFarland

said that a tree falling on he lab did some major damage

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

he said.

The lab is used to manufacture glasses for patients served through the various East Tennessee Lions Clubs. "We've moved

"We're almost there,"

mobile. We can set up in churches, schools, etc., anyplace where we have the room," he said "Before the damage, we were doing 80 to 90

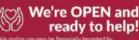
patients each month and since we started with the mobile lab we've provided more than 6,000 pairs of glasses."

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

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)556-9091







Fountain City Auction
4109 Central Ave Pike | Knoxville, TN 37912

ONLINE AUCTION

FRIDAY, MAY 8 See pictures at fountaincityauction.com (865)474-9931

