

REVIEW



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STYLE

Frazier twins celebrate 92nd birthday **6A**

SPORTS

DCHS baseball off to perfect start **1B**

Aldermen take aim at Mayor Poss

Censure for nepotism on table

DUANE SHERRILL
News/Sports Smithville Review
Smithville, Tennessee

Aldermen plan to censure Mayor Jimmy Poss Thursday night in a special called session of the city council, saying he violated the municipal charter's nepotism ban by hiring his son.

"Immediate family members shall not be hired by the city," Alderman Gayla Hendrix quoted from the city charter

during a meeting held this past Thursday in which the mayor was not present. "That is a clear violation of the charter and the city's personnel policy."

The controversy began when it was learned that the mayor had hired his son, Tony Poss to work at the city's golf course and swimming pool despite Smithville paying over

“That is a clear violation of the charter and the city's personnel policy.”

Alderman Gayla Hendrix

\$70,000 to contract Riverwatch personnel to care for and ready the facility for its expected April 1 opening.

Alderman Jason Murphy noted that the mayor terminated his son once the hire became public knowledge, raising eyebrows of many in the community.



Duane Sherrill photo

Alderman Gayla Hendrix reads the rule in the city charter banning nepotism as Aldermen Sean Jacobs and Danny Washer listen.

Continued on **3A**

Signs of spring



Duane Sherrill photo

Shades of green can be seen on the banks of a babbling brook near Keltonburg. Spring officially began Tuesday and will conclude with the arrival of summer June 21. Heavier than normal rains over the late winter and slightly warmer than normal temperatures have contributed to the perfect timing of the spring bloom.

Are schools proper place for politics?

DUANE SHERRILL
News/Sports Smithville Review
Smithville, Tennessee

School policy which has banned posting political signs on school property may extend to political parties having rallies at schools.

The question was brought up during the recent meeting of the board of education by Jim Beshearse who said he felt that logically, if materials and signs are to be banned from school property then political meetings should also go.

"Why are we letting the Democrat and Republican parties use the schools for their meetings," Beshearse asked during the board's workshop meeting.

Board Chairman W.J. (Dub) Evins echoed his sentiment, pointing out there is a county complex that could host such events.

"The county spent \$5 million to fund the county complex," he noted.

The policy that specifically mentions politics and schools is 1.806 which reads: "Advertising and Distribution of Materials in Schools" states that, "No part of the school system, including the facilities, the name, the staff, and the students, shall be used for advertising or promoting the interests of any commercial, political, or other non-school agency or organization. There are exceptions but those apply mainly to non-profit or governmental agencies that promote education or are pertinent to students' interest and not for political purposes."

Continued on **8A**

TDOT announces Highway 56 plans

Alexandria improvements will have to wait

DUANE SHERRILL
News/Sports Smithville Review
Smithville, Tennessee

It was a case of good news, bad news for DeKalb County this past week when TDOT officials announced progress is going forward on Highway 56 from Warren County but the dangerous stretch of road near Alexandria still remains on the drawing board.

"We hope to let the bidding to construction this fall," announced Joe Gerhig of the Tennessee Department of Transportation in a meeting hosted by State Senator Mark Pody and State Representatives Terri Lynn Weaver and Clark Boyd. "It will start with two lanes."

While starting with two lanes with extended shoulders and a middle turn lane,

the long-range plans are to extend the entire road, from Highway 287 in Warren County to south Smithville into a four-lane. A public meeting concerning the project is expected to be called in June where they will talk about all three phases beginning with the stretch from 287 in Warren County to the county line then to Magness Road and then finally to south Smithville.

While it was good news for Highway 56, the news was mixed for a section of road near Alexandria which includes Highway 53 and Highway 96.

"The right of way was acquired already," revealed Wes Hughen of the TDOT, saying that, while there was preliminary work in obtaining land for the project nearly 10 years ago, there is no funding for it.

Continued on **3A**



Duane Sherrill photo

State Senator Mark Pody looks over plans for Highway 56 expansion with TDOT representative Joe Gerhig during a public update on DeKalb road projects Thursday.



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