



Contract talks
 Taking control of DEL, his late father's company, might come at too high a price for Dale Earnhardt Jr. Page 5B.

Like a Dream



Boundless playground opens at Warriors Path

■ **'One out of** every nine children in the Tri-Cities has a disability, and most of those have spent years watching instead of participating on the playground. That waiting stops today.

— Betty DeVinney

By KEVIN CASTLE
 kcastle@timesnews.net

KINGSPORT — Two children carefully slid their fingers around the features of the brick-sculptured face.



"Who is that?" one child questioned, tracing around the figure's glasses.

"That's the special guy," the other answered.

There could not have been a more fitting tribute to the late Darrell Rice, but his works were lifted up Monday as hundreds of children

crowded the circuit of the Tennessee park system's first-ever "Boundless" playground.

Rice's likeness, a three-dimensional sculpture crafted by area artist Stanley Garland, is at the core of "Darrell's Dream," a \$3 million complex that Rice began working in 2002 and was still involved with until his death in 2004.

The playground features raised sandboxes. Please see BOUNDLESS, page 2A



Erica Yoon — eyoon@timesnews.net

Kara Parish, 12, enjoys a push on a swing from her mother, Jeanne Parish, at the 'Boundless' playground at Warriors Path State Park Monday. At left, project chair Betty DeVinney claps during the playground's grand opening, which drew hundreds to the park, top.

Dog owner gives fake name after woman attacked

■ **Anyone** with information about the man whose pit bull attacked Paula Kendrick Sunday is asked to contact the Hawkins County Sheriff's Department at 272-4848.

By JEFF BOBO
 jbobbo@timesnews.net

CHURCH HILL — Paula Kendrick is hoping the owner of a pit bull that mauled her Sunday afternoon at Laurel Run Park will find his conscience and contact her before it's too late.

The man gave Kendrick bogus identification and then left the park. Although he said the pit bull had its rabies shots, there's no way to confirm that unless the dog and its owner are identified.

Kendrick, 43, of Mount Carmel, was at the park Sunday with her family, and while the others were doing their own thing Kendrick decided to sit by the shore of the Holston River with her 11-year-old dog Sammy.

She was getting ready to work a crossword puzzle when she looked up and noticed a pit bull running straight toward her and Sammy.

"I grabbed Sammy by his collar and pulled him back," Kendrick said. "Well, that pit bull came right up and the next thing I know he attacked Sammy, and



David Grace — dgrace@timesnews.net

11-year-old Sammy helped Paula Kendrick fend off a pit bull when the two were attacked at Laurel Run Park on Sunday.

where I had my hand around his collar it just mutilated my arm. (The pit bull) had a chain around his collar that wrapped around my legs and I couldn't get up.

Please see OWNER, page 7A

New study: Aspirin may lower risk of cancer

■ **For decades**, scientists have chased the hope that aspirin could be an easy way to prevent certain cancers, but studies so far have had mixed results.

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
 AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON — The research could give you whiplash: Aspirin prevents cancer, one study says. Oops, maybe not, says another.

Now comes word that aspirin may fend off cancer only if people take much more than is used to fight heart disease, suggesting some of the earlier back-and-forth may have been due to confusion over the right dose.

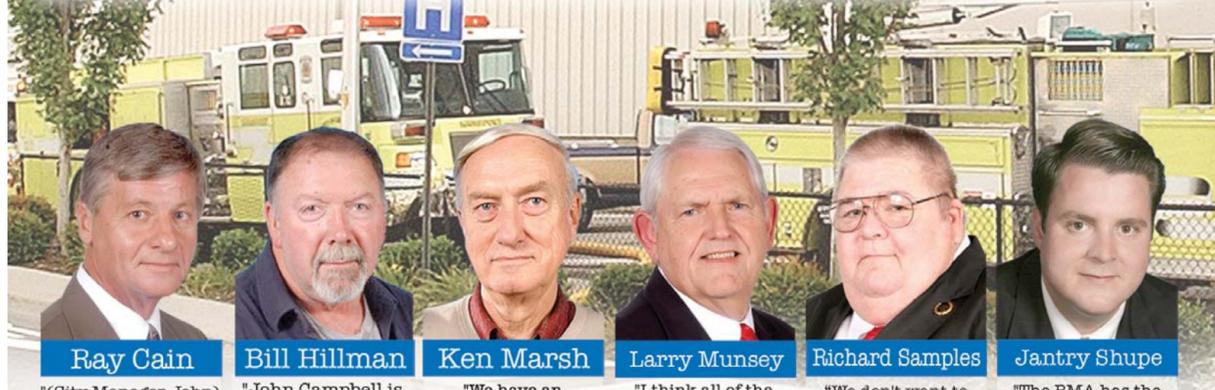
Even that evidence is circumstantial, offering no end to the competing headlines.

"A general perspective that people have is, 'Why is it so difficult to get a clear answer on a pill that costs a few pennies and is available over-the-counter and taken by millions of people?'" says the American Cancer Society's Dr. Michael Thun, a co-author of the newest study.

For decades, scientists have chased the hope that aspirin could be an easy way to prevent certain cancers. The idea: As-

Please see STUDY, page 2A

Which capital improvement projects do you support and/or what other quality of life projects do you think Kingsport should support?



Ray Cain

"(City Manager John) Campbell says these can be done without a tax increase, so the debt we would take on now would save the city money in the long run."

Bill Hillman

"John Campbell is a highly qualified city manager, whose credentials are well known. I support these projects, especially the new fire station."

Ken Marsh

"We have an abundance of worthy capital projects on a partial list, the administration has failed to afford a discussion of which should be done and in what order."

Larry Munsey

"I think all of the projects that you have mentioned are worthy projects and would contribute significantly to the economic viability and quality of life in Kingsport."

Richard Samples

"We don't want to overextend the city debt to the point of losing our credit rating or having to raise taxes to cover more debt."

Jantry Shupe

"The BMA has the final vote, but we should give our city manager the autonomy to propose investments that are in the best interest for the future of Kingsport..."

Q&A BMA candidates discuss Kingsport's capital needs

Third in a series

By MATTHEW LANE
 mlane@timesnews.net

KINGSPORT — The city of Kingsport has undertaken an aggressive five-year capital improvement plan to repair some aging features in the city and to embark upon some new projects. But what do the candidates for the upcoming city election think about the projects?

On May 15 Model City voters will go to the polls to elect three people to the Board of

2007 election

Mayor and Aldermen. Their choices include two incumbents — Vice Mayor Larry Munsey and Alderman Ken Marsh, and four challengers — Ray Cain, Bill Hillman, Richard Samples and Jantry Shupe.

The Times-News recently asked the candidates a series of questions addressing is-

suess facing the Model City, including annexation, education and the proposed higher education center in downtown Kingsport.

This story is part three of the series and will highlight the answers to the following question.

Q: City Manager John Campbell has suggested a list of capital improvement projects, including renovations to the V.O. Dobbins Center, replacing Legion Pool with an aquatic center, the construction of a new fire station on Stone Drive, and money for the King's

Please see BMA, page 12A

Kingsport BMA begins budget talks

■ **A balanced** budget has to be approved by June 30.

By MATTHEW LANE
 mlane@timesnews.net

KINGSPORT — The Kingsport Board of Mayor and Aldermen held a special budget work session Monday afternoon where City Manager John Campbell gave an overview of the proposed \$139 million budget.

A balanced budget has to be approved by June 30 for the new fiscal year, beginning July 1.

Campbell kicked off the presentation by stating the proposed budget is balanced with no increase to the property tax rate.

"This budget is a very disciplined approach to try and make the city more competitive," Campbell said.

The proposed budget has no increase on the water rate for city residents. However, county residents on Kingsport water will see a 4 percent increase. Campbell said this increase would equate to about \$1.28 on a typical bill and generate approximately \$245,000 in revenue for the city.

As for the sewer rate, the percent increase dropped from 3.8 percent to 3 percent for city residents. County residents on city sewer will see an 8 percent increase next fiscal year. The increase will generate around \$355,700 in revenue.

Campbell said city staff had been reasonably conservative in revenue estimates for the coming fiscal year.

Please see KINGSPORT, page 2A

Good morning from:
 Abigail Simmons of Kingsport.

Weather
 Mostly cloudy today with a 50% chance of rain and a high of 76.
 Complete weather report on 8A.

Happy Musings
 by Sally Huss
 Every mountain is to be enjoyed -- some from atop, some from afar.

Political battle
 Last week's tragedy at Blacksburg was unexpected, but the responses to it have been all too predictable. The identity of the shooter hadn't even been released before the editorial cartoons and op-ed pieces began hitting my in-box. Page 1B.

Index

Business.....	5A	F.Y.I.....	4A
Classified.....	9B-14B	Horoscope.....	13B
Comics.....	13A	In View.....	4A
Crossword.....	14B	Metro.....	1B-3B
Dear Abby.....	7A	Scoreboard.....	6B
Deaths.....	10A-12A	Sports.....	4B-8B
Editorial.....	6A	Sudoku.....	12B
Fast Track.....	5B	Television.....	12A

