

INVISIBLE
DIGITAL HEARING AID FREE TEST 30 DAY TRIAL BATTERY SALE EXPIRES 4.21.09
BAKER HEARING SERVICES CALL 276-386-9990 OR 1-800-786-9841
 117 EZRA MCNUTT ALLEY, GATE CITY, VA

BRIEFLY

Kingsport men charged in stabbing

• **KINGSPORT** — Kingsport police say two friends stabbed a man in the neck and threatened a woman with a baseball bat during a fight about 8 p.m. Monday outside Stratford Manor, 1433 Stratford Road. Travis Dishner told police Roderick Boggs, 52, 1208 Malabar Ave., stabbed him in the neck while he was talking to Brenda McGhee in the parking lot. Boggs' friend, Walter Sanchez Jr., 45, a resident of Apt. 22-B at Stratford Manor, then allegedly threatened McGhee with a baseball bat he'd taken from her car. Boggs and Sanchez each were arrested and charged with aggravated assault. Boggs was also charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. Boggs' bond was set at \$15,750. Sanchez was being held in lieu of a \$15,000 bond.

Hawkins Election Commission meets

• **ROGERSVILLE** — The newly appointed Republican-majority Hawkins County Election Commission held its first meeting Tuesday morning and will meet again next Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Election Office to discuss, among other things, the June 6 Rogersville election. The new Election Commission is composed of Democrats Teresa Greer and Tina Crownover and Republicans Carl K. Bailey, Kyle L. Lee Jr. and Chairman Tommy J. Dykes — the former Hawkins County Schools superintendent. Dykes said Tuesday the Election Commission may also discuss the future of Elections Administrator Patricia Lumpkins at next week's meeting. Dykes said he's not aware of a plan to oust Lumpkins for political reasons, as occurred to the Sullivan County elections administrator Tuesday. "I hope not, but I don't know what will happen," Dykes said of a potential ouster. "That's part of it, though. You know when you take these jobs that things can change."

Alexander to speak to Kingsport Rotary

• **KINGSPORT** — U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., will visit Kingsport today. He is scheduled to speak at the Rotary Club of Kingsport's weekly meeting at the Quality Inn, located off Stone Drive. The meeting begins at noon.

Anti-tax 'Tea Party' rally scheduled

• **KINGSPORT** — The Northeast Tennessee anti-tax "Tea Party" rally will happen today from 3 to 5 p.m. at Memorial Park. Former U.S. Rep. David Davis, the event's keynote speaker, is scheduled to begin his remarks at approximately 4:30 p.m. The Johnson City Republican is expected to speak out against taxpayer-funded bailouts and massive federal government spending. "Our national leaders are growing the size and scope of government at an alarming rate," Davis said in a prepared release. "It is amazing that over half of the United States Congress had the nerve to increase some income taxes by 90 percent! Who is next? Which hardworking citizen or group will be singled out next by the Congress for a punishment tax? Unfortunately, today's leaders in Washington view the tax code as a tool for social engineering. They use it to control our behavior, steer our choices, and change the way we live our lives. Our elected representatives should put a stop to both social engineering and corporate handouts by simplifying tax policy, eliminating special deals, and putting those saved dollars back into the taxpayers' pockets." For more information, go to www.meetup.com/netnteparty/.

Senate panel kills added statewide votes

• **NASHVILLE** — A proposal to amend the Tennessee Constitution to popularly elect the lieutenant governor and secretary of state failed in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday. The panel voted 2-2 with three abstentions on the measure sponsored by Sen. Andy Berke, D-Chattanooga. Proposals need at least five of nine committee members' votes to advance. Republican Sens. Mae Beavers of Mt. Juliet and Diane Black of Gallatin said they voted against Berke's measure because it did not include the election of the attorney general. A similar proposal that also didn't include the attorney general earned unanimous Republican support when it passed the Senate 20-10 last year. That measure ultimately died in the House. "I was surprised there was a different answer this year than there was last year," Berke said after the vote. But Republicans weren't the only ones to change their tune on the measure. Democratic Sens. Jim Kyle and Sen. Beverly Marrero, both of Memphis, voted against last year's proposal on the floor, but for Berke's proposal on Tuesday. The Senate speaker, who is elected by the membership of the upper chamber, also carries the title of lieutenant governor and is first in the state's line of succession. The secretary of state is elected by a joint session of the House and Senate.



Ned Jilton II — njilton@timesnews.net

On the trail of a tale

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and Friends of Warriors Path State Park dedicated The Lions Narnia Braille Trail at Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground at Warriors Path State Park on Tuesday. At top: Josiah Heimbach, in goggles to simulate sight impairment, checks out the Beaver House. At right, Timothy Heimbach and Callie Gray try to read a Braille sign with help from guide Rachel Snodgrass. Visitors can follow the Narnia story in Braille as they move through the trail, which is based on 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' by C.S. Lewis. Eight sensory stations along the quarter-mile wheelchair-accessible trail tell visitors the story of Aslan, the lion. Each station has an exhibit, a large-print sign with Braille, and a speaker with a button that activates an audio theatrical recording.



see Video Report
www.timesnews.net

Early rains help TVA lake levels after drought years

■ **'We are** right where we need to be.'

— Chuck Bach

By **KEVIN CASTLE**
 kcastle@timesnews.net

Two consecutive years of drought led the Tennessee Valley Authority to perform serious water reductions in its reservoir system in East Tennessee.

But a TVA official said Tuesday that water levels at those reservoirs are "much improved," with rain in December and January building water levels up to near normal. TVA officials hope traditional water levels can be reached by the June 1 peak time.

Chuck Bach, TVA river scheduling and operations general manager, said operations at facilities like those at Fort Patrick Henry Dam and South Holston are still running at conservative depths, with minimum flows being allowed downstream.

But according to current calculations of reservoirs and tributaries, the rain from earlier in the year has headwater elevations moving toward full pool levels seen in June.

"We are right where we need to



Erica Yoon — eyoon@timesnews.net

Robbie Krug of Kingsport fishes near the Fort Henry Dam on Tuesday. TVA lake levels are up with the recent rains.

be," said Bach. "If we have enough rainfall and runoff continuing through the spring — and maybe a little extra to help where we have been short because of the drought — we will have

adequate levels for usages in recreation, hydroelectricity generation and other uses. Keep in mind that we have been dealing with deficits that measure around 30 percent."

Boaters who use those waterways became concerned after drawdown operations last year brought potential

Please see **EARLY**, page 2B

Archives fund-raiser features postcards of Kingsport's past

For the past 10 years or so, the Friends of the Archives has been publishing an annual calendar with vintage photos of the city as a way to raise money for the City of Kingsport Archives. This year the group has added a new fund-raiser, a set of postcards — actually two sets — of photos from Kingsport's past. Each set contains five postcards and sells for \$5.

You might call the postcards downtown street scenes. All the postcards are of downtown buildings and date from the 1920s to the 1960s.

Postcard No. 1 in Series 1 is a shot of the train station in the 1920s when Broad Street was a real parkway with a grassy median. That series also includes postcards of the Homestead Hotel, Kingsport Inn, old Post Office (now the Kingsport



Vince Staten

Public Library) and the old power company building (soon to be TriSummit Bank's downtown office).

Series 2 includes the First National Bank at the corner of Broad and Center, the Freels Drug and Sobel's men's clothing store building across Broad from the bank building, a long shot of the corner of Market and Broad when The Baby Shop occupied the space where Wallace News is today, the Montgomery Ward building next to the bank, and a stretch of upper Broad

featuring the old Palace News with a trio of vintage Edsels parked in front.

Of the 10 buildings featured on the postcards, eight are still with us, having been remodeled numerous times. You can carry these eight with you downtown and compare the old to the new.

But two are gone forever and much mourned. The Kingsport Inn stood at the corner of Broad and New for 43 years before being torn down in 1960 to build a parking lot. It's now the site of a Regions Bank.

The Homestead Hotel, Kingsport's economy-priced inn, was at the corner of West Sullivan and Clay streets, beginning in 1918.

You can buy the postcard sets at the library and at these fine merchants:

Berry's Pharmacy, Carriage House, Downtown Kingsport Association, Hagle Shop, Mary's Kitchen Shop, Nooks & Crannies, P&J Antiques, and Up Against The Wall Gallery.

'AMERICAN PIE'

Bob Carney noticed that there were no country and western tunes on the list of songs used to torture Guantanamo prisoners in my Friday column.

"The military must have a heart after all. If they would have played Buck Owens' 'I've Got A Tiger By The Tail,' the terrorists would have probably spilled their guts in less than an hour or committed suicide."

Calvin Sneed's reaction to the list demonstrates the power of memory.

"Most all of them I can agree with although ANYTHING by Eminem would

be fine by me), but I will take issue with 'American Pie.' When I worked my first broadcasting DJ job at WKPT-FM in the early '70s, 'American Pie' was a mainstay of the play list arsenal. Not because it was a good song, mind you. The length of 7 minutes and 53 seconds, allowed us student DJs just enough time to run to the restroom. No other song provided us that luxury. Even if I don't need to go nowadays, just a couple of verses of the chorus, and I'm off to the races!"

YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM ...

I spoke to Jennifer Emmette's freshman English class last week about local history. In my honor they had prepared a list of You Know You're From Kingsport items.

Please see **HIGH SCHOOL**, page 2B