



# The Sequoyah SCRIBE

A student publication of John Sevier Middle School, Kingsport, Tennessee

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An otter has died at Bays Mountain Park. **PAGE 4**



Video game addiction is a health problem. **PAGE 10**

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Abe Hatfield reports on sixth grade students adjusting to their new school.

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Emma Kimbler reports on Sevier Middle's Open House event.

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Talon Huff reports on the impact of the Scholastic Book Fair on Sevier.

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Olyvia Fleming explores the dangers of vaping for teenagers.

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## New Kingsport mayor takes office

BY MICHAEL FANNING

There is a new mayor in town and his name is Patrick Shull. He is a Kingsport native and attended school in Kingsport. He graduated from Dobyns Bennett High School in 1971, and his two grown children, Tucker and Margaret, both attended John Sevier Middle School

Shull graduated from Dobyns-Bennett High School in Kingsport and went on to The Citadel military school in Charleston, South Carolina. After graduating in 1975, he was commissioned as a second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

"I did 26 and a half years in the army and I was stationed in several different places," Shull said. "During those many years, I was also

able to go back to graduate school at the University of Tennessee and got a Master's Degree in Public Administration. This included an internship in city management, which I did right here, in Kingsport."

Shull is a combat veteran of the First Gulf War.

"I met my wife overseas; she ducked into my work tent to get out of a sand storm," he said. "Later on, I told her it was love at first sight. She told me I must have been in the desert for too long."

After retiring as a colonel, Shull, his wife and two kids moved back to Kingsport. Shull later worked as a Sullivan County Commissioner.

Shull has many values that inspired him to become mayor.

See **NEW MAYOR** page 4



Scribe Photo/MICHAEL FANNING

## Harriet Tubman's \$20 bill delayed

BY ELLIE JACKSON

In 2016, the Treasury Department proposed that the seventh president of the United States, Andrew Jackson, would be replaced with an accomplished black woman, Harriet Tubman, on the \$20 bill. Although many citizens believed this would be a positive change, the current Secretary of the Treasury, Steven Mnuchin, delayed the new \$20 bill.

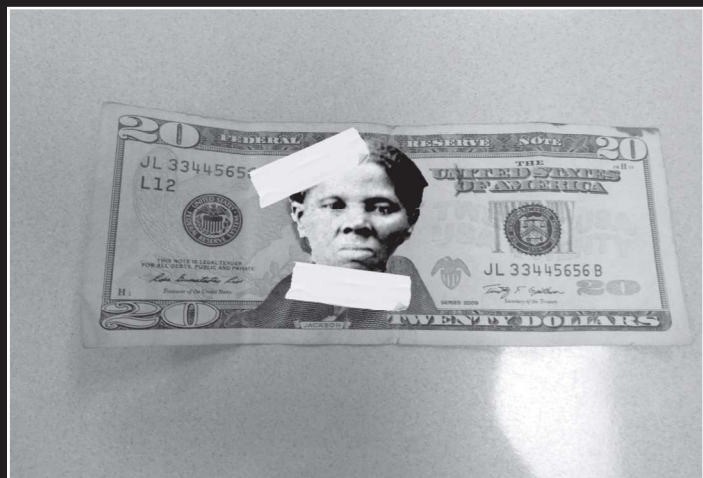
The current figure on the bill is Andrew Jackson. He was the seventh U.S. president from 1829 to 1837. Jackson

was from Tennessee and created the city of Memphis.

"He became famous for marching the Tennessee militia down into Louisiana during the War of 1812, and helped defeat the British in what became known as 'The Battle of New Orleans,'" history teacher Christopher Carr said.

Jackson did some things for the worse of the country, as well. He organized the Indian Removal Act, which sought to move all Native Americans west of the Mississippi River.

See **TUBMAN** page 5



Scribe Photo Illustration/SHAYLEIGH HONAKER

**LONG WAY OFF.** Adding Harriet Tubman to the \$20 bill has been delayed from 2020 until at least 2028.

## KCS teacher pay change coming

BY SHAYLEIGH HONAKER

For the last few years, Kingsport City Schools has based teacher pay in part on students' TNReady scores. Next year, this is set to change. TNReady scores will no longer count towards teachers' overall pay.

"Several years ago, the Tennessee Department of Education laid out rules that some school systems were going to follow," Andy True, the Assistant Superintendent for Kingsport City Schools, said. "They made a rule saying that school systems were going to have to incorporate TNReady scores in teachers' salary."

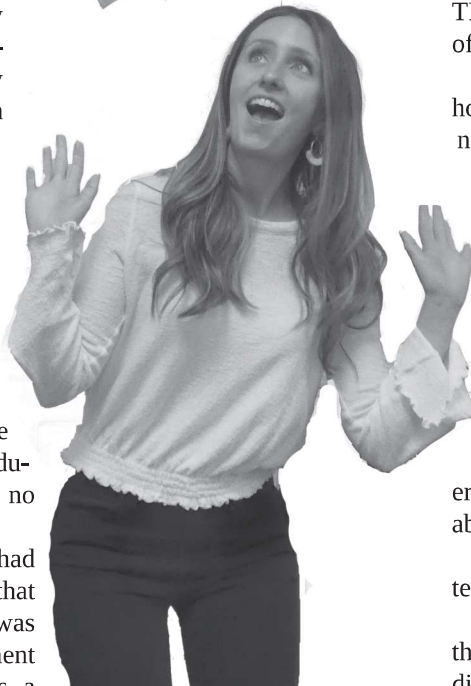
Kingsport City Schools got lots of teachers together and figured out what this was going to look like in Kingsport. A lot of work went into this effort. Then, the Tennessee Department of Education said that this was no longer a rule.

"Kingsport City Schools had spent so much time on it that what we were working on was just added into the payment method," True said. "It was a little harder to get more teachers because of the way we pay teachers. That is also one of the reasons why this had to change."

Marci Mims is a seventh

grade student at Sevier Middle.

"I think this is wrong, because if a student fails, it should not affect someone else's paycheck," she said. "I'm very



Scribe Photo/SHAYLEIGH HONAKER

excited for this change to come, and I think it is a change that has been necessary for a long time."

Nyla Jemes, an eighth grade student, disagreed.

"The system the school board has now is kinda strange, in my opinion, but overall seems fair because it shows what the teachers taught their students," she said. "In think the system is perfectly fine just how it is."

There were not really any complaints from teachers when the system originally changed. Still, teachers seem happy that TNReady scores will not be part of their pay anymore.

"In some cases, teachers have honors classes and others do not," Carole Long, a 6th grade teacher, said. "This probably influenced pay because of students' work ethic. Although we all want to be accountable for a student's learning, I feel it is a good change for the next school year. A student's grade on one test is not always an accurate reflection of a teacher's knowledge of content and ability to teach."

John Mallick, an 8th grade teacher, agrees with Long.

"I was unsure of my pay until the scores came out; I really disliked that," he said. "I like that the test scores will no longer count toward teachers pay for the next school year."

See **PAY CHANGE**, page 4