

Cool treats for summer

Ice cream pies that please the palate

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Second-team duo in All-SEC

UT's Walker, Stocker make coaches' preseason team

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Pellissippi project foes speak out

By Joel Davis
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Citizens opposed to the proposed Pellissippi Parkway extension took the spotlight during a question-and-answer session about the project on Tuesday.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation held a public hearing at Heritage High School to gather comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposal, which examines how the proposed alternatives stack up against each other.

The long-planned project would tie Old Knoxville Highway to East Lamar Alexander Parkway. The state is looking at

four alternatives, including a no-build option.

The DEIS looks at how the two routes under consideration, called Alternatives A and C respectively, would terminate at either Kensington Place Mobile Home Park or across from Hubbard School Road.

The state is also considering Alternative D, which would upgrade an existing network of two-lane roads in the area, as well as the no-build option. The EIS will not be completed until fall 2011.

Although many people in the audience wore green stickers indicating their support for the project, only Terry Nichols stood up to voice his opinion. "I (See Project, Page 5A)



Tom Sherlin/The Daily Times

Tom Robinson voices his opposition to the Pellissippi Parkway extension during a hearing Tuesday night.

A Pearl River Map Turtle rests on a log. The new turtle species was found in portions of Mississippi and Louisiana with the help of research by Maryville College graduate Josh Ennen.



NEW SPECIES FOUND



Photos courtesy of Maryville College
Maryville College alumnus Josh Ennen holds a Gopher Tortoise in Mississippi. Ennen makes the case for a new turtle species endemic to the Pearl River drainage basin in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Maryville College alumnus makes turtle discovery

From Maryville College

Setting traps and documenting reptile populations in the Great Smoky Mountains back in 2001, Josh Ennen never dreamed he'd one day be credited for discovering a new animal species.

Ennen, then 20 years old and a Maryville College student, was assisting with the All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) inside the Park. He, classmate Jimmy Webb and Dr. Ben Cash, professor of science, collected snakes, salamanders and turtles.

Nine years later, it would be a turtle that put Ennen's name among the annals of wildlife biology.

Printed in the June 2010 issue of *Chelonian Conservation and Biology* is Ennen's research that makes the case for a new turtle species endemic to the Pearl River drainage basin located in Louisiana and Mississippi. The name he's given the species is *Graptemys pearlensis*, or Pearl River Map Turtle.

Chelonian Conservation and Biology is an international journal of turtle and tortoise research.

Co-authors of the paper — titled "Genetic and Morphological Variation Between Populations of the Pascagoula Map Turtle (*Graptemys gibbonsi*) in the Pearl and Pascagoula Rivers with Description of a New Species" — are biologists Jeffrey Lovich, Brian Kreiser, W. Selman and Carl Qualls.

"Of course, I never thought I'd name a species," said Ennen, who is now a wildlife biologist with the United States Geological Survey in Flagstaff, Ariz., "but

(See Species, Page 6A)

Maryville teen recovering from snakebite

By Hillary Lake
WBIR-10 News

A Maryville teen is home healing after being bitten by a poisonous snake Friday evening.

thedailytimes.com

Snakebite victim video: Read the story online and view the WBIR-TV video of Laura Jones.

She spent the weekend at University of Tennessee Medical Center being treated and observed. Laura Jones, 17, said she was at the Townsend "Y" in the Smokies hanging out with friends.

She said she went to set her shoes down next to a rock and that's when the snake appeared and struck her index finger.

"It felt like somebody stung me, just like with something really hot. It didn't feel like anything," she said.

(See Snakebite, Page 6A)



Photo courtesy of WBIR
Laura Jones, 17, is recovering at her Maryville home after being bitten by a poisonous snake at the Townsend "Y" Friday evening.

Jail inmate briefly escapes

From Staff Reports

An inmate who was receiving treatment at Blount Memorial Hospital Tuesday escaped from police custody before he was apprehended about a mile away after a brief foot chase.

According to a Blount County Sheriff's Office release, Michael David Word, 44, Word was about to be released from the hospital when he ran out of his room and fled the hospital on foot. During the course of his alleged escape, Word reportedly closed a corrections officer's hand in the door of his hospital room, injuring the officer.



Despite his injury, the corrections officer chased Word and apprehended him a few minutes later on Elizabeth Street, about a mile from Blount Memorial. Both men returned to Blount Memorial Hospital, where the corrections officer was being treated for his injuries Tuesday afternoon.

Word was being returned to the Blount County Jail, according to the Sheriff's Office release.

Word is facing a charge of felony escape in connection with the incident, and there is the possibility he could face other charges as well.

Word was booked into the Blount County Jail on Sunday on a charge of violation of probation granted after a misdemeanor conviction, the Sheriff's Office release said.



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Back in Blount

Trip to Africa spurs local woman into action

In Thursday's edition

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