



UT running game having its best season under Heupel in this category

SPORTS, 1B

THE LEAF-CHRONICLE

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Amid chaos, defense left in dark

Pike's lawyers: Officials didn't respond promptly

Evan Mealins
Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Minutes after 8 p.m. Sept. 30, sitting in a dark room with the curtain shut, Christa Pike's only lawyer inside the prison could hear her breathing after she received the state's final round of lethal drugs.

The lawyer, Randy Spivey, demanded to call the rest of Pike's defense team. To

do so, he would have to leave the one place he could tell if she was dead or alive.

Spivey was led through a locked door. Then another. Then four more locked doors, he said. At about 8:22, after seven minutes away from the execution chamber, during which Pike was also separated from her spiritual adviser, Spivey reached the phone, he said.

Spivey was led back to the witness room after the call, and the rest of the legal team began trying to contact the people with the power to order immediate lifesaving measures.

See PIKE, Page 4A



Witnesses to the attempted execution of Christa Pike exit the administration building at 9:09 p.m. at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution on Sept. 30. Pike had not been declared dead when the witnesses were asked to leave.

DENNY SIMMONS/THE TENNESSEAN



Checking into a legacy

Inside Dolly Parton's SongTeller Hotel, her final vision for Nashville

Hadley Hitson
Nashville Tennessean | USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

When I walked into Dolly Parton's new SongTeller Hotel in downtown Nashville during its opening week, her legacy captivated me. From top to bottom, every inch was unmistakably hers: the sparkly tiles, airbrushed glamour shots hanging on the walls and the hum of banjos and acoustic guitars playing over the sound system. Parton's presence commands the entire 11-story building, embodying the "gaudy and flamboyant" style on which she prided herself.

I was lucky enough to be one of the very first guests to stay overnight at the SongTeller. What I found was more than her name slapped onto a place for tourists to stay; it was an authentic ode to the girl from Appalachia who became the Queen of Country Music.

A large patchwork-patterned guitar stat-

ue hangs over the front entrance on the corner of Commerce Street and Third Avenue. After handing my car over to the valet for \$65 per night, I walked beneath it, into a pristine lobby lined with screens playing a montage of Parton images and lyrics.

See DOLLY, Page 4A

Dolly Parton's records hang on the wall of The Listening Lounge, an area inside the SongTeller Hotel where the hotel hosts daily "sip and sparkle" events. PHOTOS BY HADLEY HITSON/NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN

BBQ Fest Across the River returns

Event planned for RichEllen Park on Oct. 9-10

Kenya Anderson
Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

BBQ Fest Across the River will return to RichEllen Park Oct. 9-10 with barbecue tasting, a cooking competition, live music, food trucks and a new corn hole tournament.

The Montgomery County Parks and Recreation event, presented by First Federal Bank, will run from 5-9 p.m. Oct. 9 and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 10, according to a community announcement.

Admission to the festival is free. Other activities listed for the event include football and family entertainment.

BBQ contest and People's Choice tasting

Barbecue teams can compete in a contest Oct. 10 for cash prizes and bragging rights, with judging scheduled to take place rain or shine.

Teams are also encouraged to enter the People's Choice competition, for which meat will be provided. Members of the public can sample the competitors' barbecue and vote for a favorite.

Wyatt Johnson's People's Choice tasting tickets cost \$10. Tasting begins at 11 a.m. Oct. 10, and the awards ceremony is scheduled for 2 p.m.

Registration for the barbecue competition and People's Choice tickets are available at montgomerytn.gov.

Corn hole tournament joins festival

A corn hole tournament sponsored by Providence Builders has been added to the festival this year.

Teams will compete Oct. 10 for cash

See BBQ, Page 5A

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