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## Local News

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### The Long Way Home - Boone Trail marker rededicated

By James Brooks  
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The Daniel Boone highway marker that once stood in front of the old Science Hill High School was rededicated Tuesday on South Roan Street outside Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church.

The marker's new home is near its original site. The marker was once at the base of the stairs in front of the original Science Hill High School that was on the hill behind the church.

It was removed 25 years ago and the plaque was salvaged by an anonymous person who kept it in his basement until it resurfaced recently following pleas from the



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## WEEKLY POLL

**Was it proper for state lawmakers to approve a last-minute increase to their retirement benefits before the 104th Tennessee General Assembly came to a close on May 27?**

- Yes
- No
- Undecided
- I don't care

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Daughters of the American Revolution and others.

An effort led by the John Sevier Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, resulted in the restoration of the plaque and the construction of a new arrowhead-shaped monument.

Science Hill vocational students under instructor Brent Sluderfrom made a new support framework for the marker of rebar and set it into a concrete pad several weeks ago.

About 360 Daniel Boone markers were erected around the country in 1916 by philanthropist James Rich, usually with the plaque mounted on a cast concrete arrowhead with real arrowheads embedded on it. The likeness of Boone on the plaque is from a painting by Alonzo Chappel in 1861.

The metal for the plaques contains some of the metal salvaged from the battleship USS Maine, sunk in Havana Harbor in 1898. The markers' function was to memorialize and pay homage to Boone rather than to mark Daniel Boone's trail from North Carolina to Kentucky. For instance, another marker is in front of the Washington County Courthouse in Jonesborough and it was the model for the reconstructed one in Johnson City.

"We tried to make it as near to the original as possible," said Lois Whetsell of the DAR.

The plaque itself has been restored at a shop in Abingdon, Va., with the rust removed, a hole repaired and a new primer coat put over it to prevent new rust.

The marker's new home is near its original site. The marker was once at the base of the stairs in front of the original Science Hill High School that was on the hill behind Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church. (Ron Campbell / Johnson City Press)

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