



**Campbell County Public Library
News Release**

For Immediate Release
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**Smithsonian Exhibit captures impact of sports on American culture
Hometown Teams opens Saturday at Library**

NEWPORT (April 27, 2017) – The Smithsonian Institute will call the Newport Branch of Campbell County Public Library home from **Saturday, April 29, through June 3** for a special traveling exhibit celebrating the importance of sports to society in general and Newport in particular.

The Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition: Hometown Teams shows how sports are more than just games; they stoke our passions and help shape who we are as Americans. On a local level, a companion exhibit includes highlights of Newport’s rich sports history. The kickoff event to celebrate the opening will be Saturday, April 29. The Newport High School Drumline, directed by Ian Stokes, will perform, and Gold Star Chili will serve free Coneys from noon-1 pm.

“Sports is a dominant part of our culture, from little kids playing T-ball and soccer to professional athletes who become role models,” said Chantelle Phillips, assistant director and Newport branch manager. “Sports touches all of our lives, whether we participate or cheer for those who do. Sports also encourages excellence, helps us challenge stereotypes and rewards success both on and off the field.”

Among the national exhibit’s highlights:

- A look at 10 sports venues;
- Commercial objects (such as Air Jordan shoes and Soccer Barbie);
- Sights and sounds of game day activities, from cheerleaders and marching bands to mascots and tailgating;
- Serious topics such as the Civil Rights Movement and Title IX.

Highlights for the companion Newport exhibit include:

- The career of former Newport resident Eddie Arcaro, the only rider to be aboard two Triple Crown champions at the Kentucky Derby;
- Achievements of Donna LJ Murphy, who played basketball at Newport High School and was named the first Miss Kentucky Basketball;
- The history of Knothole in Newport;
- Early baseball clubs, including the Wiedemann Baseball Club, the semi-professional team sponsored by the Wiedemann Brewing Company in the early 1900s.

The exhibit is the result of a year-long effort by the Smithsonian, the Library and local historians and experts, and contributions from current and former Newport athletes and their loved ones.

“I love hearing people tell their personal stories about sports and to hear how all those stories connect us,” Ms. Phillips said. “So many memories revolve around participating in sports or watching your kids play sports, or hanging out with friends watching and playing sports. Parents who have spent entire weekends watching their kids play have a common bond regardless of how they might differ in other ways.”

Regular hours the Smithsonian exhibit will be open to the public are 1-5 pm Sundays (except closed May 28); 11 am-4 pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays; and 1-7 pm Fridays. To arrange for a group tour at a different time, contact Chantelle Phillips at cphillips@cc-pl.org or call her at 859-572-5035, ext. 9.

The Hometown Teams traveling exhibition was made possible at the Campbell County Public Library in Newport by the Kentucky Humanities Council. Hometown Teams is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and State Humanities Councils nationwide. Support for Museum on Main Street has been approved by the United States Congress.

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In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, there were 590,265 visits to the Library and more than 1.2 million items were checked out. More than 84,000 e-materials were downloaded, there were more than 655,000 website page views, and about 19,000 calls were made to our free children’s story telling phone line.

The Library makes every reasonable effort to provide equal access to all patrons. Contact access@cc-pl.org or call 859-781-6166 ext. 31 at least 72 hours before an event to arrange for accommodation. All facilities and meeting rooms are ADA compliant.

The Campbell County Public Library operates three branches. The Cold Spring Branch is located at 3920 Alexandria Pike in Cold Spring, phone 859-781-6166. The Carrico/Fort Thomas Branch is located at

1000 Highland Ave. in Fort Thomas, phone 859-572-5033. The Newport Branch is located at 901 E. Sixth St. in Newport, phone 859-572-5035.

Hours for all three branches are 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; and 1-5 p.m. Sunday. The Web site address is www.cc-pl.org.

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